



# Royal Star & Garter

Care with courage

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Maureen celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with family and friends at Royal Star & Garter**

A resident at Royal Star & Garter in Surbiton has marked her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Maureen Smith enjoyed a party with family, friends and other residents at the Home when she celebrated hitting triple figures on Wednesday 17 September.

Maureen was born in Hampshire on 17 September 1925 but moved to Tolworth at the age of eight and spent the rest of her life living in the area. In 1941, at the age of 15, she went to work at the Hawker factory in Kingston, which helped design and build the iconic Hurricane aircraft that played a crucial role in the Battle of Britain. She often jokes: "The Hurricane won the war, not the Spitfire!"



*Maureen with her son Quentin at Royal Star & Garter*

During the war she would write letters to boyfriend Colin, who was serving in the Royal Signals. The couple married after the conflict, and their son Quentin still has copies of the letters his parents wrote to each other.

Maureen worked at Hawker's until 1953, before becoming a full-time mum. She later worked for the Inland Revenue in Hinchley Wood and New Malden.

On her landmark birthday, Maureen enjoyed a lunch at Royal Star & Garter with Quentin, his wife Christine and Maureen's niece, Jacqui, before friends joined her for live music entertainment from piano and singer duo The Totties. That was followed by tea with birthday cakes and sparkling wine for residents and guests.

Afterwards, Maureen said: "I've had a fantastic day. I had a lovely lunch with my family and thoroughly enjoyed the party. I thought everyone put in a good effort."



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Quentin added: "We've had a wonderful day celebrating Mum's birthday at Royal Star & Garter. Staff have pulled out all the stops for her, and it's been truly memorable."

Royal Star & Garter provides loving, compassionate care and support for veterans and their families, living with disability or dementia, through its Homes in Solihull, Surbiton, High Wycombe and Worthing. The charity also provides services reaching into the community, including Lunch Clubs, Day Care and a national Telephone Friendship Service.



*Maureen helped build Hurricane aircraft during WWII*

Royal Star & Garter is welcoming new residents to Surbiton, and [is hosting open days in October](#). For more information on this, working at the Home or its other services, go to [www.starandgarter.org/surbiton](http://www.starandgarter.org/surbiton)

**[Ends]**

**For further information please contact:**

Press Mailbox

[press@starandgarter.org](mailto:press@starandgarter.org)

Goolistan Cooper

Communications Officer

[goolistan.cooper@starandgarter.org](mailto:goolistan.cooper@starandgarter.org)

0208 481 7669 / 07391 868796

Cally Madden

Marketing & Communications Manager

[cally.madden@starandgarter.org](mailto:cally.madden@starandgarter.org)

020 8481 7692 / 07881 017299

## **About the Royal Star & Garter group**

Founded in 1916, Royal Star & Garter provides care, support and friendship for veterans and their families so that they can live well. The charity delivers nursing and



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dementia care through Homes in Solihull, Surbiton, High Wycombe, and now in Worthing, having recently merged with the military charity Care for Veterans. It also offers a range of services reaching into the community, including Lunch Clubs, Day Care and a national Telephone Friendship Service.

**Bluesky:** @royalstarandgarter.bsky.social

**Facebook:** @starandgarter

**Instagram:** @Starandgarter

**LinkedIn:** @Royal Star & Garter

**Tik Tok:** @starandgarter

**Website:** [www.starandgarter.org](http://www.starandgarter.org)



Royal Star & Garter  
is a member of the  
National Care Forum