



Royal Star & Garter

Care with courage

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mother's Day: Fifty-year friendship rekindled at High Wycombe care home

A friendship which began over half a century ago has been renewed at a care home in High Wycombe.

Joan Jackson and Janet Clarke are friends reunited and enjoying each other's company again at the Day Care service being run at Royal Star & Garter.

The pair met in 1974 through their daughters - who went to school together - and the mums became good friends.



Old pals Joan and Janet together at Royal Star & Garter

However, they saw less of each other as their children grew up. Joan moved to Cornwall, and even though she returned to live in the Wycombe area, they have been unable to meet up often.

That changed when Janet joined Royal Star & Garter's Day Care in September 2025, just over a year after Joan started using the service.

Their story is being shared by Royal Star & Garter ahead of Mother's Day, on 15 March. The charity provides loving, compassionate care to veterans and their families, living with disability or dementia, through its Homes in Solihull, Surbiton, High Wycombe and Worthing. Day Care is one of its services which reaches out into the community, including Lunch Clubs and a national Telephone Friendship Service. Both Janet's and Joan's husbands served in the Army.

Janet's daughter Alison has known Joan's daughter Pippa since they were four. They met at Wycombe Marsh Nursery and would enjoy playdates and



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sleepovers at each other's homes. They have stayed close friends throughout their lives.

The mums remained in touch through their daughters, but rarely spent time together – until coming to Royal Star & Garter. Alison explained: "Pippa told me that her mum uses the Day Care service at the Home and how good it was. She recommended it, so we went to an Open Day, and then enjoyed a taster session, and it was unbelievably good. She loves it and looks forward to going every week. And Mum and Joan love meeting up with each other regularly and being together."



Janet and Joan (l-r, seated) with their daughters Alison and Pippa

Joan's daughter Pippa said: "Mum loves Day Care at Royal Star & Garter and we kept saying how much Janet would also enjoy it. We recommended it and now they're here together, enjoying each other's company again after all these years."



Joan and Janet with Royal Star & Garter Day Care Coordinators (l-r) Suzie and Angie

The pair enjoy taking part in baking and crafts activities and the entertainment in the Home. Janet also comes to the Home for Lunch Club, while Joan has stayed at Royal Star & Garter for respite care.

Day Care Coordinator Suzie Bignall said: "It's lovely seeing Joan and Janet together. They have such a special bond and friendship and it's a privilege to see it continue at Royal Star & Garter."

For more information about Day Care at Royal Star & Garter, including specialist dementia care Day Care, go to www.starandgarter.org/our-homes-and-care/types-of-care/day-care



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Royal Star & Garter in High Wycombe is also welcoming new residents. For more information on this, its other services or to work at the Home, go to www.starandgarter.org/hw

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About Royal Star & Garter

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 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.

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