



Royal Star & Garter

Care with courage

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Remembrance 2020: Veterans pay respects at care homes

Royal Star & Garter has marked Remembrance with the veterans at its care homes.

The charity provides loving compassionate care to veterans and their partners living with disability or dementia.

Despite nationwide restrictions put in place to tackle the pandemic, socially distanced services took place at the charity's Homes in Solihull, Surbiton and High Wycombe on Armistice Day, 11 November. They included readings, buglers and observing the two-minute silence.



Resident Eric lays a wreath in the Home's Remembrance garden

It was the culmination of Remembrance events and activities taking place at the Homes in November.

Remembrance is one of the most important annual events for the charity, allowing its military family to pay their respects and remember loved ones and friends.

At Solihull, a bugler stood outside the Home to perform The Last Post and Reveille during the service.

In Surbiton, there were separate services on each of the Home's three floors, to allow for social distancing. Tea and cake was later served to residents. There was also support from the local community, with nearby Shrewsbury House School laying a wreath outside the Home.

At High Wycombe, residents laid poppies and wreaths they had made in the Home's Remembrance Garden, ahead of their Armistice Day service.



One of the poppy wreaths made by residents at the Solihull Home



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On Remembrance Sunday (8 November), veterans watched the annual service at the Cenotaph on TV. The charity was unable to have residents or representatives at this year's service due to COVID-19 restrictions.



A poppy display, made by residents, at Surbiton

In the days leading up to the services, residents got involved in activities including war poetry readings and arts and crafts. At Solihull, residents took part in poppy crafting, while the Home in High Wycombe was decorated with poppies, wreaths and soldiers' silhouettes, made by staff and residents. At Surbiton, veterans listened to Dame Vera Lynn in Music Club and made poppies which were displayed around the Home.

Royal Star & Garter marked Remembrance with its 'Every face tells a story' campaign.

Andy Cole, Royal Star & Garter Chief Executive, said: "As a veterans' charity established during the First World War, Remembrance is always such an important time for us. We could not let the disruption caused by the pandemic stop residents and staff paying their respects in each of our Homes."

This year marks the centenary of the burial of the Unknown Warrior, at Westminster Abbey. Former WWI veteran and Royal Star & Garter resident Horace Hannan survived the Battles of Loos, Ypres and the Somme, and witnessed the burial of the Unknown Warrior at the Abbey in 1920.

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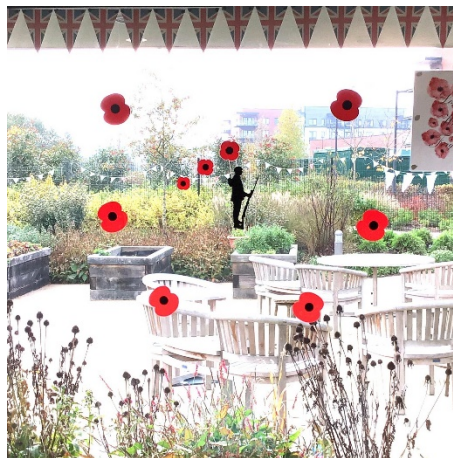


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HW Remembrance 1: Resident Eric lays a wreath in the Home's Remembrance garden



HW

Remembrance 2-5: Residents made the Remembrance decorations at the High Wycombe Home



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Solihull Remembrance Activity 1: A resident with a home-made poppy wreath



Solihull Remembrance Activity 2: One of the poppy wreaths made by residents at the Solihull Home



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Solihull Remembrance Activity 3: Arts and crafts activities took place at the Solihull Home in the run-up to Remembrance



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Solihull

Remembrance Activity 4-9: Solihull residents transformed plastic bottles into poppies, and took part in other poppy crafts



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Surbiton Activities 1-5: Veterans made poppies at the Surbiton Home



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SHS Wreath: The wreath left by Shrewsbury House School at Royal Star & Garter Surbiton (credit Shrewsbury House School)



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Horace Hannon 1990: The former resident witnessed the burial of the Unknown Warrior at Westminster Abbey, exactly 100 years ago, in 1920.

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About Royal Star & Garter

Our charity provides loving, compassionate care to veterans and their partners living with disability or dementia.

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