



# Royal Star & Garter

Care with courage

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **World Sight Day: Blind Veterans UK praise for Surbiton care home**

A care home has been praised for the care and support it is providing a blind RAF veteran.

Staff at Royal Star & Garter's Surbiton Home invited Blind Veterans UK to give them support and advice after former RAF policeman Jeremy Sellwood became a resident.

According to Jed, as he is known, and his family, it has helped him to settle in and enjoy life at the Home.

The praise for Royal Star & Garter comes on World Sight Day, 9 October, and during World Blindness Awareness Month, which is running throughout October.

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. It also provides services reaching into the community, including Lunch Clubs, Day Care and a national Telephone Friendship Service.



*Jed with Royal Star & Garter Wellbeing  
Coordinator Lesley*

Blind Veterans UK supports anyone who has served in the Armed Forces and is now living with significant sight loss.

Jed lost his sight after sustaining a serious head injury in 1987, aged 25. It happened while he was based at JHQ (Joint Headquarters) Rheindahlen in West Germany, and he was off-duty at the time.

With the support of Blind Veterans UK, he was able to live independently for more than 20 years. However, a series of falls resulted in Jed, now 63, coming to Royal Star & Garter in 2024.



# Royal Star & Garter

Care with courage

It was after moving in that the Home's dedicated Wellbeing Team reached out to the sight loss charity. Wellbeing Coordinator Lesley O'Driscoll said: "The team haven't had to support someone who is totally blind and we wanted advice and to know what we can do to help his wellbeing."

Blind Veterans UK provided a box of activities and advised on the set-up of Jed's room. A case worker also meets Jed each month and Lesley added: "We've definitely been able to improve the support and wellbeing we provide Jed since contacting Blind Veterans UK."



*Jed (right) passing-out as an RAF police officer*

Jed said: "I think it's excellent that Royal Star & Garter got in contact with Blind Veterans UK.

It's refreshing to see two organisations working together this way. Staff here always go the extra mile for every single resident."

Jed's sister Kim said: "Blind Veterans UK has been supporting Jed for a long time, so I was thrilled when Royal Star & Garter reached out to them to help with the support they can provide him."

Mark Wheeler, from Blind Veterans UK said: "We are proud to have been supporting Jed for many years. It was fantastic to work with Royal Star & Garter to share our expertise and support them to provide to best care possible. It's great to see two veterans' charities working together for Jed's benefit and we're grateful that staff at the Home reached out to us. It's good to know that Jed is now receiving such wonderful care and that he is happy."

Speaking about Royal Star & Garter, Jed added: "This place feels like home, it's absolutely fantastic. Everybody's friendly and helpful, and I feel lucky to be here."

Royal Star & Garter in Surbiton is also welcoming new residents. For more information on this, its other services or to work at the Home, go to:

[www.starandgarter.org/surbiton](http://www.starandgarter.org/surbiton)



# Royal Star & Garter

Care with courage

**[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 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