



# Home Matters



## The newsletter for The Royal Cambridge Home

*The Mission of The Royal Cambridge Home is to provide high quality and empathetic care to all our residents, with dignity and compassion in a safe and happy environment.*

### March 2026

## Welcome

Well folks, one minute we're creating Chinese lanterns, then we're embarking on decorating rather delicious heart shaped biscuits and the next we are face-to-face with an American Falcon. What an incredible month we had.

We had another wonderful visit from Colin from Wings of Freedom who brought along three exquisite creatures. We had a beautiful female Kestrel called Doris, a stunning American Falcon and a very handsome owl. Thank you Colin, his visits are always so popular and extremely informative. Do check out his website as he heads up a very worthwhile charity to save and protect birds of prey. Colin has also written many books about some of the creatures he has saved and fallen in love with.

[Owl \ Bird of prey Rescue | Care Home Activities](#)

Peter T came in and entertained us brilliantly with some genius piano recitals and sing alongs. Always a joy to listen to.



Mary P



Ann

We also had the amazing Harry our local opera singer in, who we are making the most of before he hits the big time.

We were invited by staff and pupils for afternoon tea at Hinchley Wood School, which was truly wonderful. On another day, some of the students at Hurst Park School came over and read to us. Yet again, we have been struck by the talent of our local pupils and leaves us most reassured for the future. Such lovely caring young people.

And in case you're wondering who these rather glamorous ladies are adorning our April front cover, well they are none other than Mary P (top right) and Ann (bottom left) who took part in the recent photo shoot. As an aside, Ann just happens to be our resident feature this month, which we are sure you will find so interesting. What a wonderful life and career. Thank you Ann and son Jim.

And finally a huge thank you to our trustee John S, wife Annie and their gorgeous dog Quin, a handsome golden retriever, who paid us all a visit.

# Resident Birthdays

This month we will be celebrating the following residents' birthdays:

- Y 6<sup>th</sup> March – Jill
- Y 7<sup>th</sup> March – Keith
- Y 18<sup>th</sup> March – Jenny

Happy Birthday everyone.



# New Residents

An official welcome to Jenny, one of our newer residents. Also, Susan has joined us for a short period of respite. A big welcome to both.

# Post

We seem to be getting more post for everyone. Apart from the obvious postcards and special cards, all other post is being put in the care team's office in a stand-up tray marked up with a label for relatives to collect. To all our relatives, we will let you know if anything comes in and then ask that you collect when you are next visiting. Thanks everyone.

# Staff Recruitment

We are recruiting for the following positions:

- Experienced and qualified **Day Care Assistants** (part-time and full-time)
- **Senior Night Care Assistant** (part-time)
- Experienced and qualified part-time **Night Care Assistant**
- **Bank Minibus Driver** – Various hours and days on a casual basis

Come and be part of our fabulous team at No. 84.



# Surveys

Thank you to all our residents who have completed our surveys and also to all our relatives and friends. We really do appreciate your views. If any of our relatives and friends have not had the time to do this and would like to we are extending the deadline to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Please click on the link below. It only takes a couple of minutes and really does help us. Just a reminder this is totally anonymous. Results will be published in April. Thanks everyone!

[Relatives / Friends / Advocate Questionnaire 2026 – Fill out form](#)

# Hairdressing

Our long-term hairdresser Grace has been on maternity leave and we are delighted to report that following the birth of her beautiful baby girl in December Grace is now ready to return. She will resume hair dressing duties on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

We would like to thank Jemma who has been covering Grace during this time. It really has been seamless; she has done a wonderful job and although we have missed Grace our hair has remained looking first class. Jemma's last day will be Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March. Thank you so much Jemma, you've been great! And welcome back Grace.



# What's coming up



Another densely packed and interesting diary. Key dates to note are below. Also, we are delighted to inform you all that **Linnies Fashion is returning on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>**, bringing with them many items to peruse and purchase if you like.

- **Residents' Meeting** – Weds 4 Mar at 11.00am.
- **Liam, professional singer** – Thurs 5 Mar at 11.00am.
- **CHIROPODIST (Andy)** – Tues 10 Mar
- **U3A Jazz Band** – Mon 16 Mar at 2.00pm
- **Communion** – Weds 18 Mar
- **Toby Carvery Lunch** – Thurs 19 Mar – Depart late am
- **Harry opera singer** – Tues 24 Mar at 11.00am
- **Residents' Easter Party** – Weds 25 Mar at 11.00am
- **Duck Eggs Arrive !** – Mon 30 Mar

As you may have noticed on the summary of key diary events, on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March we will be taking possession of a small batch of duck eggs ready to hatch over the Easter period. How exciting! You may remember we had the chicken eggs last year, results of which are now in the back garden! To manage our expectations we will not be keeping any of the ducklings. Sorry folks but otherwise we'll have to move again to accommodate the growing managerie and we love it here too much. 😊



# Today

By Billy Collins



Cool dudes  
Taku & Bob

If ever there were a spring day so perfect,  
 so uplifted by a warm intermittent breeze  
 that it made you want to throw  
 open all the windows in the house  
 and unlatch the door to the canary's cage,  
 indeed, rip the little door from its jamb,  
 a day when the cool brick paths  
 and the garden bursting with peonies  
 seemed so etched in sunlight  
 that you felt like taking  
 a hammer to the glass paperweight  
 on the living room end table,  
 releasing the inhabitants  
 from their snow-covered cottage  
 so they could walk out,  
 holding hands and squinting  
 into this larger dome of blue and white,  
 well.....today is just that kind of day.



Frances



Violet



Lesley



Liz & Beryl with Kestrel



Colin the Bird Man with owl and Toni

# Our Condolences

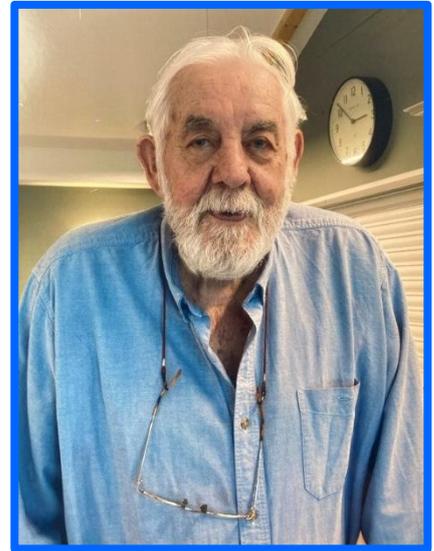
Sadly, we lost some very dear residents in February.  
Our thoughts go out to the loved ones of the following:



Merrill – 03/01/1940 – 02/02/2026



Patricia – 01/05/1927 – 04/02/2026



Jon – 08/01/1936 – 13/02/2026



***Saying goodbye is never easy but you remain  
forever in our hearts.***

***Rest in peace.***



**Social Media** - Follow us on Instagram for all the latest photos and news as well as our website [www.royalcambridgehome.org](http://www.royalcambridgehome.org)

#### Useful Telephone Contacts

We are a proud equal opportunities employer and Living Wage Employer. We value and respect every single member of our team and equally we expect that in return.  
Thank you.

*Welcoming everyone, regardless of disability, pregnancy, age, sex, gender reassignment, marital status,  
race, sexual orientation or religion*

**LGBTQ+** (Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgender, Queer (or sometimes questioning) and others) **Switchboard** – 0300 330 0630

**Citizens Advice Bureau** – 01932 248660

**Alzheimer's Society** – 01372 729988

**Safeguarding Advisor** – 07968 834157

**Mental Health Services** – 01372 203400

*A more extensive list of our local advocacy services is in the hallway and main office should you need them.*

# Resident Feature - Ann Marjorie Husain

*Fondly penned by her son with her blessing*

Ann Marjorie was born in Brighton on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 1932. The war was around the corner and her home in Ealing was vulnerable as was all of London. Although she spent a bit of time exiled to the country her mother had to come and get her because she was terribly home sick and war-torn London was where she spent her early and adolescent years. Despite a 13-year gap between herself and her youngest brother the family were close and shared stories, experiences, a sense of humour and a great devotion to their mother Lily. A photo of the siblings taken in the early 1950s shows a young Ann (second from right) known to all as Marjorie, eager to explore the world away from post-war London.

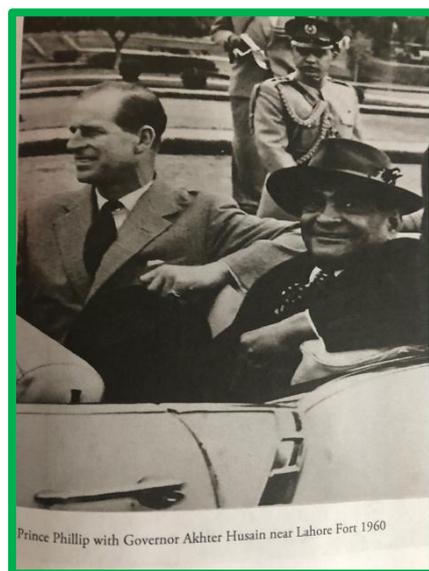


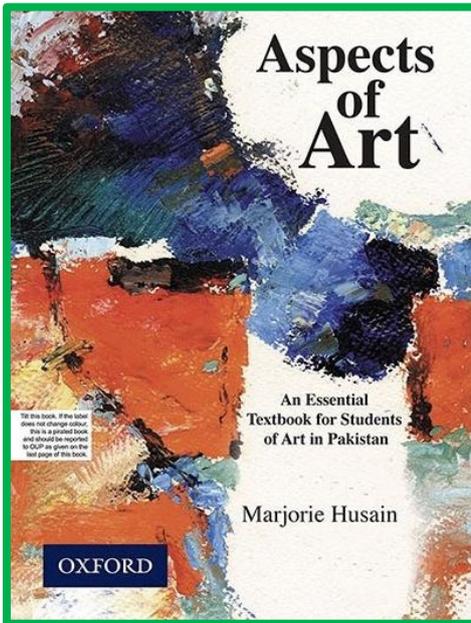
The 1950s were a revelation of new experiences and life with the marriage of Ann to Hamid Husain, the son of a high-ranking Raj era civil servant (Akther Husain OBE) and her first glimpse of the world of post-colonial South Asia. Her father-in-law's position brought her into contact with famous personages although her husband's work introduced her to the colours, culture and realities of rural Sindh Province. Spells in the magnificent Governor's House in Lahore were interspersed with uncomfortable residences in dusty far flung remote places.

During 1960, following the birth of her son, Ann was residing in the then relatively prosperous city of Karachi. She was increasingly engaged with the art scene and participated in a number of high-profile projects. She was painting while also managing one of the first major art galleries. Her easy, friendly manner and appreciation of the lives of others, made her an instant hit with local artists who would gravitate toward the gallery and tell her about their lives, interests and creative ambitions. She began to write and the

newspapers and magazines of the day were hungry for content and the insights that her affiliative approach illuminated in her writing. Over time her notes, articles, essays and column inches resulted in the collection of a curated archive of some of the most talented and pioneering artists and their works.

It was a natural progression for her to turn to writing books which were an expansion of her articles but with wonderful collections of well printed artworks and personal anecdotes that only the artist is able to relate. Each of her books focus on the works and life of a particular artist and span a very wide range of local South Asian artists from the masters of their day, high born socialites, impoverished painters to, in one case, a young male artist brought up in the red-light district of Lahore by the courtesans who nurtured him, including his mother. In many cases the books were commissioned by publishing firms or corporations but in some cases wealthier practitioners would self-fund a vanity project; in one such case 'in search of my master' about the work of Jimmy Engineer. The book is beautifully photographed and choreographed as a very large and weighty coffee table book that could easily take out a small dog! The things that her curation has in common is that alongside the artist's work she highlights their personality, their motivation and the anecdotes that make them real.





The full list of her work is too vast to present here and along with the vast body of research, articles, notes and musings represent an important archive. This will be duly passed on to the appropriate body or person to ensure it will remain available for art curation. Fortunately, her youngest brother Glen, now sadly deceased, was able to donate a large number of volumes to the library of the Tate Gallery in London by way of a record.

She was and is still well known to the universities and to the art authorities, and of course, the artists. It became apparent to her that there were no textbooks for budding artists to refer to nor an easily accessible summary of the works of local artists. She took it upon herself to create these works and her textbook “Aspects of Art” in collaboration with the Oxford University Press was translated into several local languages and is still very much in print and used by art students, as is a book with a collection of her essays of prominent artists and their works entitled ‘Art Views’.

Ann was much feted during her 65 years in South Asia. She lectured, judged art, and won awards for her books and for her promotion of local artists and the art movement. Her awards are many and varied including an award in 2014 that included prominent Karachi based heroes. This included Zia Mohyeddin the actor and Hanif Mohammad the batsman known as ‘the little master’ and still holding the record for the slowest ever test 100! The prize was a lifetime of free electricity which she promptly gave to an artist in need and who has assured me that the electricity company has never kept up with the pledge!

Following the death of her husband in 2019 Ann returned to the UK and her London roots where, after a fall and related mishaps during 2025, she very fortunately ended up in the newly opened Royal Cambridge Home. Although she misses her exciting life and her friends (many sadly no longer with us) she very much appreciates the comfort and attention that she receives and she loves her private space where she is able to array her books. She is always pleased that to see her name as the author and this often prompts reminiscences and fond memories.



# March 2026 Diary

March	Morning	Afternoon
<b>Sunday 1</b>	<b>Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones</b>	
Monday 2	AM - Manicures	PM - Manicures
Tuesday 3	<b>11.00am – Luna PAT Dog visit</b> AM - Bingo	2.00pm – Residents' Choice
Wednesday 4	<b>Jemma, the hairdresser</b> <b>11.00am – Residents' Meeting</b>	<b>2.00pm – Dawn, G Fitness</b>
Thursday 5	<b>11.00am – Liam, professional singer</b>	2.00pm – Activity Table
Friday 6	11.00am – Bean Bag Game	2.00pm – Board Games
<b>Saturday 7</b>	<b>Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones</b>	
<b>Sunday 8</b>	<b>Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones</b>	
Monday 9	11.00am – Manicures	2.00pm – Manicures
Tuesday 10	<b>Andy, the chiropodist</b>	2.00pm – Activity Table
Wednesday 11	11.00am – Keep Fit	<b>2.00pm – Dawn, G Fitness</b>
Thursday 12	<b>Jemma, the hairdresser</b> AM – Shopping Trolley	2.00pm – Spot the Difference
Friday 13	11.00am – Target Games	2.00pm – Activity Table
<b>Saturday 14</b>	<b>Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones</b>	
<b>Sunday 15</b>	<b>Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones</b>	
Monday 16	11.00am – Manicures & Hand Massages	<b>2.00pm – U3A Jazz Band</b>
Tuesday 17	<b>AM – Luna, PAT Dog Visit</b>	2.00pm – Bingo
Wednesday 18	<b>11.00am – Anne, Communion</b> 11.00am – Easter Crafting	<b>2.00pm – Dawn, G Fitness</b>
Thursday 19	<b>Toby Carvery Lunch</b>	2.00pm – Residents' Choice
Friday 20	<b>Grace, the hairdresser</b>	2.00pm – Residents' Choice
<b>Saturday 21</b>	<b>Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones</b>	
<b>Sunday 22</b>	<b>Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones</b>	
Monday 23	11.00am - Manicures	2.00pm – Manicures
Tuesday 24	<b>11.00am – Harry the opera singer</b>	2.00pm – Easter Crafting
Wednesday 25	<b>11.00am RESIDENTS' EASTER PARTY</b>	<b>2.00pm – Dawn, G Fitness</b>
Thursday 26	11.00am – Keep Fit	<b>2.00pm – Linnies Fashion</b>
Friday 27	<b>Grace, the hairdresser</b>	2.00pm – Residents' Choice
<b>Saturday 28</b>	<b>Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones</b>	
<b>Sunday 29 *</b>	<b>Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones</b>	
Monday 30	AM – Duck Eggs arrive 😊	2.00pm – Residents' Choice
Tuesday 31	<b>AM – Luna, PAT Dog Visit</b>	2.00pm – Bingo

*\* Do not forget we will be winding our clocks forward by one hour – long bright days await us folks.*