



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.

Marvellous May 2026

Welcome

Can you believe folks that we are in the month of May! Where is the year going?

The run up to the Easter Bank Holiday weekend was lovely. We had five eggs from Incredible Eggs, which was the same company as we had last year for our beautiful chickens (now happily ensconced in their coop in the garden!). Talk about perfect planning as every single egg hatched just in time for Easter. It was absolutely incredible to watch these perfectly formed ducklings literally come out of their little shells. After hatching in their incubator, within a few hours they fluffed themselves up and were ready to go. Vicky organised a paddling pool with some warm water and they absolutely adored it. Isn't nature wonderful. We only had them for a week but they were a delight. Residents and staff thoroughly enjoyed their company and that is not to mention all the extra visitors we had as well! A huge hit I think you'll all agree.



Our wonderful Betty with one of the ducklings



Hamish and duckling

We enjoyed some rather wonderful musicians who came in to entertain us. Our thanks to Matthew our ukulele player, Tony the accordion player and Peter the pianist. What a joy and it is so good to have a good old opportunity for a sing along.

Dawn our regular fitness instructor continues to put us through our paces for our seated exercises and all of us just love the last ten minutes when she does a very relaxing mindfulness session.

And lastly, thank you to the ever fantastic U3A Jazz Band. It's as if we are transported to a late night at Ronnie Scotts.

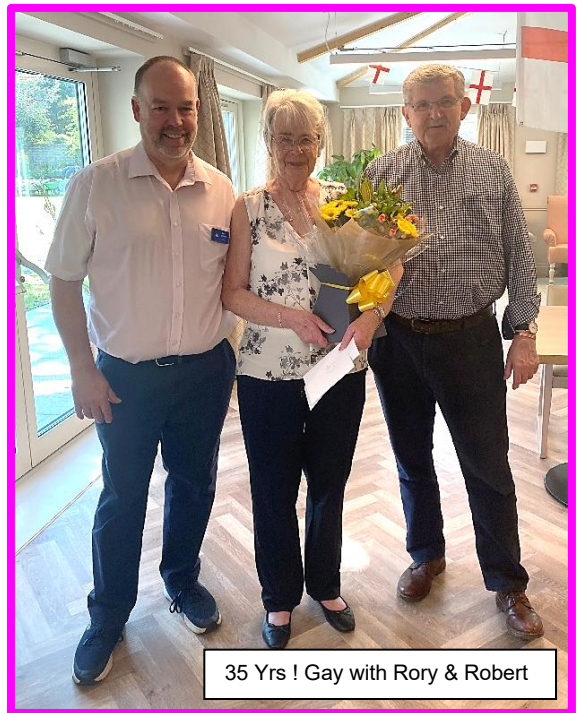
Thank you to Gay and Tina for organising some great entertainment.



Too cute for words!!!



Robert with our 10 yearer Alain



35 Yrs ! Gay with Rory & Robert

Celebrations

We had some fantastic staff celebrations recently. We started with our chef Alain, who earlier in the month celebrated 10 years' service.

Next up was Gay who had a rather extra special one. On 20th April she celebrated 35 years with the Royal Cambridge. A wonderful achievement. We really are an organisation with a lot of long termers...some might say a bit like prison (only joking folks). Huge congratulations to both Alain & Gay!

A cool dude

Tim, who is part of our lovely team of bank staff, also runs his own ice cream van. Well folks, seeing as we have been enjoying some beautiful spring sunshine, we thought what better way to get us into the new season and decided to call on our Tim. We have never seen so many people queue up! Residents and staff all enjoyed a deelyish cornet. Thanks Tim.



Tim whips up a storm



Wish we had an invite – what fun.

Amongst friends...

We love the fact that we have so many relatives and friends visit. It's great that people can drop in and enjoy some of our facilities. The picture on the left is from a recent residents and relatives impromptu wine and nibbles gathering one Sunday. Lovely stuff.



Play it again Sam

Huge thanks go out to friend of the Home Rosemary, who recently purchased a fantastic keyboard for us. Equally our thanks go out to Peter Toth who we have known for many years. Peter gives up his time to come and play for us free of charge. He always used to trudge in carrying an enormous keyboard and stand, so now we have our own here, Peter can save his energy for his brilliant performances!

Rosemary has strong links to the home as her godmother was once a trustee of the Royal Cambridge many years ago and she really wanted to do something in her memory.

Both Rosemary and Peter have links to St Paul's. As you may be aware Rev. Anne comes in regularly for hymns and prayers for us. It's great being part of the community!

Thank you Both and what a tremendous photo!

A furry friend in trouble

We are very sorry to report that the incredible Luna, who is our visiting Pets as Therapy dog and drops in to see us all regularly with her best friend Claire, is in a spot of trouble. Unfortunately, whilst enjoying a walk recently she cut her paw, which has turned into Tetanus. Since it happened Luna has been in a rather serious way at the vets. If anybody would like to help Claire she would be most grateful – there is a link below for her GoFundMe page.

<https://gofund.me/616ccd9b8>

And please everybody, if you could spare a moment to send positive thoughts to both Claire and Luna for her recovery.



New Residents

We welcome to the Home two permanent new residents. Firstly, Maria came in and secondly Jean. Welcome to the Royal Cambridge ladies and what a smashing time of the year to arrive! Enjoy.

Resident Birthdays

We have four birthdays this month. Happy Birthday to the following lovely ladies and gents:

5th May – Bob
10th May – John
12th May – Joyce
24th May - Vera





Suggestions Box

We have installed a new Suggestions / Feedback Box in the Reception Foyer. We welcome any comments you may have from all residents, staff and visitors. You don't have to tell us who you are unless of course you wish to!

What's coming up

We have another wonderful diary of events coming up. Below is a snapshot of some of the items you may like to mark in your diaries. All activities take place in the main lounge unless otherwise specified.

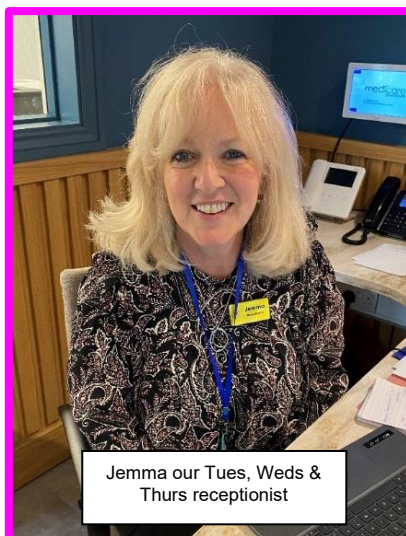
- ♥ Residents' Meeting – Tues 5th May at 11.00am.
- ♥ Hampton Court Tulip Festival – Weds 6th May (AM)
- ♥ Liam, professional singer – Thurs 7th May at 11.00am
- ♥ Chris Murrell Soul Songs – Weds 13th at 6.30pm
- ♥ Peter Toth, Pianist – Thurs 14th May at 11.00am
- ♥ Rah Rah Theatre Group (Swinging 60's) – Weds 20th May at 1.30pm
- ♥ Matthew, ukulele player – Tues 26th May at 2.00pm
- ♥ Hampton Court Tulip Festival – Weds 27th May (AM)



Tina with the residents' shopping trolley



Frances at the crafts class



Jemma our Tues, Weds & Thurs receptionist



Social Media - Follow us on Instagram for all the latest photos and news as well as our website 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.

A brief look back – Patricia Nichols



Patricia in 1986

We all know this beautiful lady as Pat. At 102, we thought it about time we had a brief glance back at her extremely prolific and glittering career as a portrait artist, in particular concentrating on miniatures. Beauty and talent certainly came together.

Patricia Nichols RMS, SWA, studied at the Central School of Art in London, studying under Ruskin Spears and is a member of the Royal Society of Miniature Painters (RMS) and the Society of Women Artists (SWA).

She began working professionally in 1963, concentrating on portrait drawings and portraits in miniature. She was elected to full membership of the RMS after only three years as an associate. She won the William Mundy Sovereign award for the most outstanding miniature portrait in the 1986 exhibition and she served for many years on the council and hanging committee. She was invited to become a member of the SWA. She taught miniature painting at the West Norfolk Arts Centre for over twelve years.

Her work has been shown widely, and portrait commissions have taken her as far as South Africa and the USA. Princess Diana commissioned her personally to do portrait drawings of Princes William and Harry when they were small boys at Kensington Palace. The young Prince William said “Mrs Nichols I do love you!” (She always had toys and sweets for them). She has also painted miniatures for many notable families to update their collections to include the present generation.

Her portrait drawings were done in sanguine chalk and her miniatures in oil on Ivory.

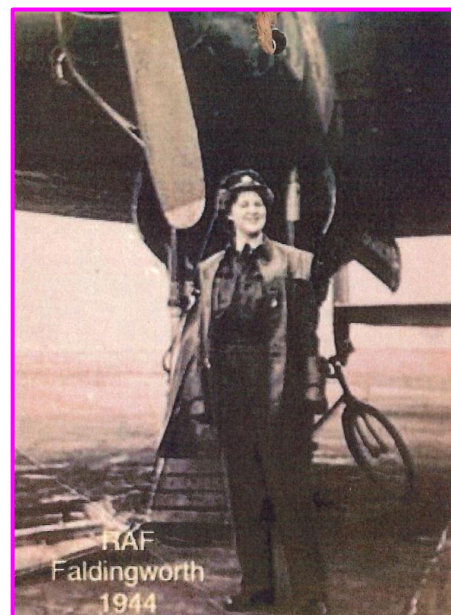


Charlotte Franks
(granddaughter)
(oil on ivory)



Wing Commander
E.T. Carpenter AFC (father)
(oil on ivory)

She served in the W.R.A.F. for four years as a military transport driver on Bomber Squadron serving on 76 and 78 Squadron.



May 2026 Diary

May	Morning	Afternoon
Friday 1	11.00am - Games	2.00pm – Residents' Choice
Saturday 2	Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones	
Sunday 3	Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones	
Bank Holiday - Monday 4	Residents' Choice	2.00pm – Residents' Choice
Tuesday 5	11.00am – Residents' Meeting	2.00pm – Manicures
Wednesday 6	AM – Hampton Court Tulip Festival	2.00pm – Dawn, G Fitness
Thursday 7	11.00am – Liam, professional singer	2.00pm – Word Games
Friday 8	Grace, the hairdresser 11.00am – Games	2.00pm – Residents' Choice
Saturday 9	Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones	
Sunday 10	Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones	
Monday 11	11.00am – Manicures & Hand Massages	2.00pm – Manicures & Hand Massages
Tuesday 12	11.00am – Gardening Club	2.00pm – Word Games
Wednesday 13	11.00am – Bingo	2.00pm – Dawn, G Fitness 6.30pm – Chris Murrell – Soul Songs
Thursday 14	11.00am – Peter Toth, pianist	2.00pm – Residents' Shop
Friday 15	Grace, the hairdresser 11.00am - Games	2.00pm – Residents' Choice
Saturday 16	Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones	
Sunday 17	Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones	
Monday 18	11.00am – Manicures & Hand Massages	2.00pm – Manicures & Hand Massages
Tuesday 19	AM – Bushy Park	2.00pm – Games
Wednesday 20	11.00am – Residents' Shop	1.30pm – RAH RAH Theatre – Swinging 60's
Thursday 21	11.00am – Coffee at St Paul's	2.00pm – Word Games
Friday 22	Grace, the hairdresser 11.00am - Games	2.00pm – Residents' Choice
Saturday 23	Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones	
Sunday 24	Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones	
Bank Holiday - Monday 25	11.00am – Manicures & Hand Massages	2.00pm – Residents' Shop
Tuesday 26	11.00am – River Walk & Coffee	2.00pm – Matthew, ukulele player
Wednesday 27	AM – Hampton Court Tulip Festival	2.00pm – Dawn, G Fitness
Thursday 28	10.00am Depart – River Boat Trip	2.00pm – Residents' Choice
Friday 29	Grace, the hairdresser 11.00am - Games	2.00pm – Residents' Choice
Saturday 30	Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones	
Sunday 31	Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones	

All outdoor activities are subject to the great British weather ! 😊