



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.



February 2026



Welcome

Welcome everyone to our February issue of Home Matters. Not only will we be celebrating Valentine's Day on 14th, the 7th is the start of the Chinese New Year, which this year is the Red Fire Horse, so we thought we would add a fiery tinge to the colour scheme.

And has anyone noticed a slight addition to our newsletter? We'll give you a clue; it's on this page. Well done to all those super observant people who spotted we now have a Mission Statement. Now that we have had plenty of time to settle into our building we thought it was about time we had something to reflect our amazing facilities and the first class care we provide. We put it out to everyone to have a think about wording and thank you to all those that submitted ideas. The winning entry went to Colonel Nigel Gilbert MBE, one of our trustees, who summed up perfectly our ethos.

We had a lovely January on the activity front. With a final nod and farewell to December's festive activities, we booked the brilliant RAH RAH Theatre Group, who came in to perform Dick Whittington. Oh no they didn't. Oh yes they did! Superb!



Ann & Gay under the parachute



Keith & Frances enjoy the panto

And talking of good times. Our Gay galvanised staff and residents in her famous (we're talking the Molesey area) parachute game. This went down a storm and not only was it a great form of exercise we had a huge amount of fun.

New to the entertainment schedule has been The Garrick's Temple Singers, who are a most welcome addition. Incredible singers who managed to enchant us all. They will be back!



Resident Birthdays

This month we have just one birthday and it just happens to be for Patricia S² (this is confusing we now have three Patricias including two Patricia S's), who is our newest resident so what better way to celebrate her arrival to the Royal Cambridge! Welcome Patricia and a very happy birthday from all of us for **Thursday 12th February**. (We will be sure to post a picture in March!)

Below are our lovely January birthday residents enjoying their special days. From left to right **Jon, Alma, Hamish & Merrill**.



Relatives & Friends Surveys

To all our relatives and friends of the Home, we really appreciate your views. Please do spend five minutes to complete our anonymous online survey. This really helps us gauge what we are doing well and any areas that need to be highlighted. The link will be sent out to everyone, but if you haven't received it, please click below, thank you:

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



Celebrating Chinese New Year

The Year of the Red Fire Horse

This year is the Year of the Red Fire Horse which starts on the 17th February 2026 ending on 7th February 2027. This symbolises energy, boldness and transformation. You are a fire horse if you were born in these years 2014, 2002, 1990, 1978, 1966, 1954 and 1942.



Characteristics of the Red Fire Horse

The Horse in Chinese astrology is associated with **energy, freedom, enthusiasm and confidence**. When combined with the Fire element, these traits are amplified, leading to a year characterised by passion, motivation and a drive for personal change, pursuing goals with vigour.

What to expect

The Year of the Red Fire Horse promises to be a transformative period filled with opportunities for those willing to embrace change and take action. It encourages individuals to harness their inner strength and pursue their ambitions with confidence and enthusiasm. As the year unfolds, understanding how this energy interacts with your zodiac sign can provide valuable insights into navigating the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Some of the traditions in celebrating the new year

Fireworks & Firecrackers

Setting off fireworks and firecrackers is a traditional way to celebrate the New Year to scare away evil spirits.

Giving Red Envelopes

It is customary to give red envelopes filled with money to children and younger family members. This tradition symbolises good luck and prosperity for the coming year.

Lantern Festival

The celebrations culminate in the Lantern festival, which occurs on the 15th day of the New Year. People hang lanterns, solve riddles and enjoy traditional foods marking the end of the New Year festivities.



If You Knew

by Ruth Muskrat Bronson



If you could know the empty ache of loneliness,
masked well behind the calm indifferent face
of us who pass you by in studied hurriedness,
intent upon our way, lest in the little space
of one forgetful moment hungry eyes implore
you to be kind, to open up your heart a little more,
I'm sure you'd smile a little kindlier, sometimes,
to those of us you've never seen before.

If you could know the eagerness we'd grasp
the hand you'd give to us in friendliness;
what vast, potential friendship in that clasp
we'd press, and love you for your gentleness;
if you could know the wide, wide reach
of love that simple friendliness could teach,
I'm sure you'd say "Hello, my friend," sometimes,
and now and then extend a hand in friendliness to each.



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.

What's coming up?

Please check the main diary at the back of this newsletter for the full schedule. However, below are a few highlights worth noting in your diaries.

Something new: We are hosting a couple of evening gatherings this month for residents. The first on the evening of Wednesday 4th February from 6.00pm will be a pub night. We are turning our salon on the first floor into a bar for the evening. Please let the team know if you would like to attend. There will be nibbles, drinks, good company and conversation.

The other evening will take place on Wednesday 25th Feb at 6.30pm for a cheese & wine evening. Both of these are open to all residents who would like to attend.

Please do let us know what you think of these.

Other highlights worth noting in your diaries:

- **Residents' Meeting** – Monday 2nd February at 11.00am.
- **Hurst Park School Readers Session** – Monday 2nd February at 2.00pm
- **Tony the accordion player** – Thursday 5th February at 2.00pm
- **Hinchley Wood School Tea Party** – Friday 6th February at 2.00pm
- **Birds of Prey Experience** – Thursday 12th February at 10.00am
- **Communion with Rev. Anne Farmer** – Wednesday 18th February at 11.00am
- **Peter Toth, pianist** – Thursday 19th February at 11.00am
- **Whiteley Village visit** – Tuesday 24th February – depart at 10.00am
- **Harry the opera singer** – Thursday 26th February at 11.00am



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.



February 2026 Diary



February	Morning	Afternoon
Sunday 1	Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones	
Monday 2	11.00am – Residents' Meeting	2.00pm – Hurst Park School Readers Session
Tuesday 3	11.00am – Luna PAT Dog visit	2.00pm – Activities Table
Wednesday 4	Jemma, the hairdresser	2.00pm – Dawn, G Fitness 6.00pm – Pub Night
Thursday 5	11.00am – Knitting Club	2.00pm – Tony, the accordion player
Friday 6	11.00am – Residents' Choice	2.00pm – Hinchley Wood School Tea Party
Saturday 7	Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones	
Sunday 8	Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones	
Monday 9	11.00am – Manicures	2.00pm – Residents' Choice
Tuesday 10	11.00am – Bingo	2.00pm – Quiz
Wednesday 11	Jemma, the hairdresser	2.00pm – Dawn, G Fitness
Thursday 12	10.00am – Birds of Prey Experience	2.00pm – Residents' Choice
Friday 13	11.00am – Games	2.00pm – Residents' Choice
Saturday 14	Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones	
Sunday 15	Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones	
Monday 16	11.00am – Manicures & Hand Massages	2.00pm – Manicures
Tuesday 17 Shrove Tuesday	11.00am – Chinese Craft Day AM – Luna, PAT Dog Visit	2.00pm – Residents' Choice
Wednesday 18	Jemma, the hairdresser 11.00am – Anne, Communion	2.00pm – Dawn, G Fitness
Thursday 19	11.00am – Peter Toth, Pianist	2.00pm – Board Games
Friday 20	11.00am – Keep Fit	2.00pm – Residents' Choice
Saturday 21	Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones	
Sunday 22	Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones	
Monday 23	11.00am - Manicures	2.00pm – Bingo
Tuesday 24	10.00am – Whiteley Village Trip	2.00pm – Activity Table
Wednesday 25	Jemma, the hairdresser	2.00pm – Dawn, G Fitness 6.30pm – Cheese & Wine Evening
Thursday 26	11.00am – Harry, the opera singer	2.00pm – Residents' Choice
Friday 27	11.00am – Higher or Lower Game	2.00pm – Residents' Choice
Saturday 28	Residents' Choice / One-to-Ones	

Here's to a fabulous February...