# Ashfields Care Home celebrates VE Day and 88th birthday with 1940s tea party



In a heartwarming scene at Ashfields Care Home in Rackheath, near Norwich, 88-year-old Jean Reeve celebrated her birthday while commemorating a momentous occasion in history—VE Day. Staff and residents marked this dual celebration with a vibrant 1940s-themed tea party, a nod to the day when Europe marked the end of the Second World War. The care home was adorned in patriotic red, white, and blue decorations, including Union Jack flags, creating a festive atmosphere reminiscent of the original VE Day celebrations held across the UK in May 1945. Many residents, like Reeve, reflected on their own memories of that significant day when the nation paused to embrace peace after nearly six years of conflict.

The celebration at Ashfields not only highlighted the importance of community and remembrance but also underscored the nurturing environment provided by the care home. Ashfields offers person-centred care within a modern facility designed to enhance the quality of life for its residents, many of whom have lived through the hardships of the war. This thoughtful approach is complemented by a range of activities tailored to keep residents engaged, from gardening to baking, fostering a sense of independence and joy.

Interestingly, Ashfields is not alone in its efforts to creatively celebrate significant anniversaries while providing emotional support to residents. Other care homes across the UK, such as Park House Care Home in Bulwell, have similarly embraced celebratory gatherings, blending current milestones with nostalgia. There, a vibrant celebration marked a resident's 91st birthday alongside VE Day, showcasing the power of music and dance to uplift spirits within the community, particularly as many residents navigate the challenges of dementia.

The need for such celebrations became particularly pronounced during the COVID-19 pandemic when numerous care facilities faced enforced lockdowns. Homes like Ashcroft Care Home in Chesterfield adjusted their plans to honour VE Day, hosting BBQs and garden parties that allowed residents to reflect on the sacrifices of the wartime generation while safely connecting with their peers. These creative adaptations were critical in maintaining a sense of community and history in an era marked by isolation.

Ultimately, the spirit of remembrance and celebration found at care homes like Ashfields serves not only to honour the past but also fosters connections among residents and staff. Events like Jean Reeve's birthday party are a reminder of the resilience and shared histories that bind generations together, ensuring that the contributions of those who lived through the Second World War are never forgotten. With the upcoming VJ Day celebrations, care homes across the country will continue to create meaningful experiences that honour the legacy of peace and community.

As Ashfields Care Home, managed by Raaj Purohit, emphasises a family-like atmosphere, it remains committed to enriching the lives of its residents through engaging activities and thoughtful care, fostering an environment where every milestone can be celebrated, even amidst challenges.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25166440.88-year-old-shared-birthday-ve-day-celebrations/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.barchester.com/home/ashfields-care-home> - Ashfields Care Home, located in Rackheath, Norwich, offers high-quality residential and dementia care in a purpose-built facility. The home features spacious courtyards, pleasant gardens, and modern amenities, providing a comfortable environment for its residents. The dedicated team focuses on delivering person-centered care, empowering residents to regain independence and choice in a safe setting. The home also offers respite care and short stays, with pre-booking available up to a year in advance. Residents can engage in various activities, including gardening, baking, and outings to local attractions. The home is managed by Raaj Purohit, who emphasizes a family-like atmosphere and is committed to supporting residents and their families throughout their journey. The care home has received a 'Requires Improvement' rating from the Care Quality Commission (CQC), with 'Good' ratings in Caring, Responsive, and Effective categories. The team is actively working on improvements in other areas to enhance the quality of care provided.
3. <https://www.hucknalldispatch.co.uk/news/people/bulwell-care-home-hosts-coronation-streetve-day-party-and-celebrates-residents-milestone-birthday-4145594> - Park House Care Home in Bulwell organized a vibrant Coronation Street/VE Day party to celebrate a resident's 91st birthday. The event was filled with nostalgia and joy, featuring decorations, memorabilia, and a birthday cake. The resident, Dave Arscott, is known for his love of music and dancing, having played various instruments throughout his life. Despite living with dementia, his passion for music remains strong, bringing smiles and a jubilant atmosphere to the home. The celebration highlighted the importance of communal events in creating an inclusive environment for residents, emphasizing the home's commitment to the well-being and happiness of its community.
4. <https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/ve-day-care-homes-lockdown-celebrating-coronavirus-never-forget-sacrifices_uk_5eb424adc5b646b73d2919f7> - In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, care homes across the UK found creative ways to celebrate VE Day, honoring the sacrifices of the Second World War generation. Despite lockdown restrictions, homes like Ashcroft Care Home in Chesterfield organized events such as BBQs, garden parties, and karaoke sessions featuring 1940s and 1950s songs. These celebrations aimed to pay tribute to veterans and those who lived through the war, ensuring that their contributions were not forgotten during challenging times. The article underscores the resilience and adaptability of care homes in maintaining connections and honoring history amidst the pandemic.
5. <https://www.hc-one.co.uk/our-news/news-and-events/88th-birthday-celebrations-at-merseyside-care-home> - Audrey, a resident at HC-One’s Leighton Court care home in Wallasey, Wirral, celebrated her 88th birthday with a delightful afternoon of baking and tea. Despite the challenges of lockdown, Audrey received numerous cards and gifts from friends and family. She spent the afternoon baking fairy cakes with fellow residents, followed by an afternoon tea featuring her homemade treats and a special birthday cake prepared by the kitchen staff. Audrey expressed her enjoyment of the day, highlighting the home's efforts to create a joyful and engaging environment for its residents during challenging times.
6. <https://www.careuk.com/news/events/mildenhall-lodge/ve-day-garden-party> - Mildenhall Lodge, a care home in Suffolk, hosted a VE Day garden party to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day. The event featured delicious food and live entertainment from Pam Daish, celebrating the spirit of the 1940s. The gathering aimed to honor the historical significance of VE Day and provide residents with a memorable experience, fostering a sense of community and connection. The care home continues to offer various events and activities to engage residents and celebrate important milestones.
7. <https://www.careuk.com/news/events/asterbury-place/ve-day-celebration> - Asterbury Place, a care home in Ipswich, celebrated the 80th anniversary of VE Day with a 1940s-themed afternoon tea and entertainment. The event aimed to honor the historical significance of VE Day and provide residents with a nostalgic and enjoyable experience. The care home continues to host various events and activities to engage residents and celebrate important milestones, fostering a vibrant and inclusive community.