

THE BRAMPTON POST



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Brampton Manor Soars to New Heights: Celebrating Frank's 93rd Birthday

Brampton Manor by Boutique Care Homes recently had the pleasure of hosting the Raptor Foundation for an unforgettable afternoon with their magnificent birds of prey. The visit featured an impressive showcase of four stunning birds: Trevor the Barn Owl, Angel the Harris Hawk, Bip the White-Faced Eagle Owl, and Nova the Lanner Falcon. Elliott, an experienced falconer from the Raptor Foundation, captivated residents with fascinating insights into these incredible creatures, including a flight by Trevor the Barn Owl through the Bistro.

This event held special significance for resident William Hobbs, who celebrated his 93rd birthday during the visit. Known to his friends and family as Frank, he has had a lifelong fascination with wild birds, particularly owls, which has been a consistent joy throughout his life.

During the celebration, Frank held an owl on his arm, sharing his amazement for these beautiful creatures.

His daughter, Celia Vince, reflected on this warm and loving moment, noting how special it was for their family to reconnect with owls, especially after the passing of Frank's wife and Celia's mother. Celia also recalled a cherished memory from ten years ago when she took her parents to an owl sanctuary. This birthday celebration brought that memory full circle, allowing Frank to be photographed with his daughters and grandchildren as they celebrated together.

"We are incredibly grateful to the Raptor Foundation for bringing such a unique experience to our residents," said Akhi Goswami, Home Manager at Brampton Manor. "It was heartwarming to see Frank so engaged and happy, sharing his passion for owls and creating new memories with his family."

A heartfelt thank you to the Raptor Foundation for making this day so memorable for our residents. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed learning about the remarkable natural behaviours of these birds.

A Magical Visit from Santa Claus

Santa paid a special visit to Brampton Manor, filling the home with smiles, laughter, and festive cheer. Residents and team members enjoyed the magical atmosphere as Santa spread joy and created heartwarming moments. It was a special day, reminding us of the simple happiness that comes from sharing the festive season together.



A Heartwarming Visit from St Louis School

Residents at Brampton Manor were delighted to welcome the children from St Louis School, who arrived with beautifully crafted Christmas cards for every resident. The joy and warmth shared during their visit filled the home with festive spirit. In gratitude, our residents presented the children with a large box of books to enjoy and share with their classmates.

Flower Arranging Brings Festive Cheer

Residents have been busy creating a stunning array of festive flower arrangements to brighten up our home. With a mix of vibrant colours, seasonal blooms, and plenty of creativity, each arrangement adds a touch of warmth and joy to every corner. These beautiful displays are not only a feast for the eyes but also a testament to the talent and enthusiasm of our residents. Well done, everyone!



Ring in the New Year in Style

Residents, families, and team members at Brampton Manor came together to celebrate the arrival of 2025 with a fantastic New Year's Eve party. The afternoon was filled with joy as the wonderful Luan entertained us with music, singing, and plenty of dancing. With glasses of fizz and refreshing fruit cocktails in hand, everyone welcomed the new year with smiles and laughter.

Life Story

The Incredible Story of our Resident: Edna Clair Mead

Edna Clair Mead was born on 21st August 1936 in Kenton, Middlesex, to Gwynne and Elizabeth Sizer. Her father worked for Cable and Wireless, a role that took him across the world, while her mother served as an auxiliary nurse. Edna was the youngest of two children, with an older brother named Lewis.

The family later moved to Rayleigh in Essex, where Edna attended school. She was an enthusiastic student, with a particular passion for sport, excelling in events such as the long jump and relay racing. Unlike many children during the war, Edna remained at home and was not evacuated.

Edna's father was a member of the local Operatic Society, and she followed in his footsteps, having her voice trained and thoroughly enjoying her time as part of the society. She also formed two lifelong friendships with Mary and Thelma during her school years. The trio often went on holidays together with their husbands. Although Thelma has since passed away, Edna remains in contact with Mary.

After leaving school, Edna began working as a receptionist for a bus company in Southend. She fondly remembers the cheeky wolf whistles from bus drivers as she walked through the station.

It was at a dance that Edna met her husband, David. The couple married in 1962, and David worked for a luxury carpet retailer in London. Edna always ensured a hot meal was waiting for him after his long days at work.

Before having children, Edna took on various jobs, including working in a sweet shop. She recalls being dismissed for giving elderly customers extra sweets – a memory that still brings a smile.

Edna and David's first home was a bungalow in Benfleet, where they welcomed their daughter, Sharon. While pregnant with their son, Paul, the family moved to a house in Wickford, where they remained until David's passing from Alzheimer's in 2018.

Family holidays were a cherished tradition, with frequent trips to Norfolk and Somerset. Although they dreamed of retiring to Norfolk, it was a plan they never fulfilled. Edna has fond memories of cycling with Sharon to watch Paul play football, braving even the most challenging weather conditions.

Edna and David shared a wonderful marriage filled with shared passions. David was actively involved in the Wickford Horticultural Society, and the couple spent countless weekends gardening, growing fruit, vegetables, and flowers in their beautiful garden, complete with a long lawn and greenhouse.

They also joined the local bowls club, competing in singles competitions. However, their greatest passion was dancing, a joy they shared throughout their married life. Every Friday night, they could be found dancing with friends.

Edna was also a talented cook, known for her delicious Sunday dinners and meat pies. Her custard was a firm family favourite, loved by both her daughter and her husband.

After David's passing, Edna moved to Brampton Manor to be closer to her daughter, Sharon, who visits her every day.



Valda's Recipe:

Mince Pies

 30 mins

INGREDIENTS

For the casings:

- 300g plain flour
- 150g butter
- 3tbs icing sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tbs cold water

For the filling:

- 200g dried mixed fruit
- 50g brown sugar
- 50g suet
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- Zest of 1 clementine
- 2 tbsp brandy



METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6.
2. To make the sweet pastry, rub the flour, butter, sugar and egg together with a splash of cold water until it just comes together as a dough. Do not over work the dough. Wrap the pastry in cling film and set aside to chill in the fridge.
3. Roll out the pastry to a 3mm/1/8in thickness. With a round pastry cutter, cut out 6 x 9cm/3½in discs of pastry. Press the pastry into the muffin cups.
4. Combine all the filling ingredients in a bowl and stir well.
5. Cover and leave to soak for an hour (or overnight if you have time).
6. Fill each pastry cup with a good helping of the mincemeat mixture, so that it reaches three-quarters of the way up the side of the pastry-lined cup.
7. With a fluted pastry cutter, cut out 6 x 8cm/3¼ in pastry circles for the lids (slightly bigger than the top of the muffin cups).
8. Place a lid on top of each pie and gently push down.
9. Bake for 20 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool. Dust with icing sugar and serve warm with fresh cream.

Celebrating Long Service at Brampton Manor

Congratulations to our team members who have recently achieved long service milestones. Thank you for your ongoing dedication and commitment. The following members of the team have been awarded their 3-Years Service Award from Brampton Manor:

★ Adrien Riley, Head Chef

★ Jacob Whitehouse, Kitchen / Bistro Host



We first visited Brampton Manor at Easter of this year, as a family, we were looking for respite for Mum while we were away, we walked in to find a really happy, fun atmosphere. The team and management made us very welcome and included us in all the Easter activities, we came away feeling this felt like home from home and we knew, in our hearts, this was right for Mum.

Daughter of Resident

Poppies of Remembrance

Residents came together to create beautiful handcrafted poppies in honour of the brave soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Each poppy was carefully crafted with care symbolising our collective remembrance. This meaningful activity provided time for reflection, shared memories, and conversations about loved ones. The display of poppies stood as a touching tribute within our home—a reminder that their sacrifices will never be forgotten.



Celebrating Diwali: The Festival of Lights

We came together to celebrate Diwali, the vibrant Festival of Lights. Residents created beautiful Diwali lanterns, filling our home with glowing colours and festive cheer. The celebrations continued with dancing, delicious traditional food, and sparkling moments with sparklers lighting up the evening. It was a joyful occasion filled with laughter, connection, and the spirit of togetherness.

A Spooktacular Halloween

We love a good party at Brampton Manor, and this year's Halloween celebration was truly spooktacular! Residents, families, and friends joined in the fun with pumpkin carving, creating Halloween masks, and enjoying a range of spooky treats—from Monster Munch to edible eyeballs. The little ones had a blast with classic apple bobbing, while everyone enjoyed the festive decorations. It was a day filled with laughter, creativity, and plenty of Halloween magic.



Supporting Our Local Community

We were proud to visit the Newmarket Day Centre to deliver a donation for their food bank, generously contributed by our team. The centre plays an essential role in supporting older people in the community, offering a wide range of valuable services and resources. We're delighted to be able to contribute to such an important cause and to support the incredible work they do every day.



Recognition Awards for our Outstanding Team!

Thank you to all of our team members for your ongoing dedication in ensuring the wellbeing of our residents. The winners at Brampton Manor are:

- ★ **Outstanding Care & Compassion**
Manoj Shah (Days) & Ancy Jose (Nights)
- ★ **Outstanding Customer Service**
Fay Rookard
- ★ **Outstanding Contribution**
Lingham Kathirgamanpillai
- ★ **Outstanding Leadership**
Hayley Brice
- ★ **Values Ambassador**
Danny Harris

Big Boutique Bake Off Winners



Our Big Boutique Bake Off showcased incredible creativity, teamwork, and a shared love for baking, bringing residents, families, and team members together for a delicious celebration. From cookies and cupcakes to stunning showstopper cakes, every entry told a story.

- ★ **Best Cookies & Biscuits**
The Burlington – Cookies
Brampton Manor – Biscuits
- ★ **Best Cupcakes & Muffins**
The Burlington – Cupcakes
Brampton Manor – Muffins
- ★ **Best Showstopper Cake**
Brampton Manor – Winner
The Burlington – Special Mention

A huge thank you to everyone who took part—the creativity and teamwork was truly inspiring. For the full highlights, visit boutiquecarehomes.co.uk.

Upcoming Events

At Brampton Manor

January

- **Wednesday 29th**
Chinese New Year Celebration
- **Thursday 30th**
Live performance from Pianist, Neil Colledge

February

- **Tuesday 4th**
KJ and the Katt, Live Performance
- **Friday 14th**
Valentines Day Party

March

- **Friday 7th**
Reading with Dementia Launch
- **Monday 10th to Sunday 16th**
Nutrition and Hydration Week

For event details and timings or upcoming Relatives and Residents Meetings, please contact Brampton Manor.

Coffee Connections

2nd Tuesday of Each Month – 10:00 to 12:00
Delicious cakes, hot beverages and a chance to make new friends



Fry-day Fish Club

Last Friday of Each Month – 12:30 to 13:30
Delightful lunch, great company and the opportunity to experience life at Brampton Manor



7 Days a Week Blue Light Breakfast

Refreshment breaks for busy healthcare professionals and emergency services



BRAMPTON MANOR

BY BOUTIQUE CARE HOMES

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