

THE CHARTWELL POST



10

Review score by residents and families on CareHome.co.uk



Chartwell House Holds Special Wedding Blessing Ceremony for Beloved Manager

Chartwell House by Boutique Care Homes recently hosted a heartfelt wedding blessing ceremony for Home Manager Diane Collins and her husband, Paul Blake. The day was a celebration of love, not only for Diane and Paul but also for the many cherished stories shared by residents and team members at Chartwell House.

The ceremony was led by Anna Chaplin Judith Andrews, who delivered a beautiful blessing, setting the tone for a meaningful and joyful occasion.

A particularly moving moment came when resident Gerald Gold shared reflections from nearly 69 years of marriage, offering both wisdom and humour. He reflected with warmth on his own marriage: "When I got married, my wife made me promise I would make her laugh each day. This, I did for nearly 69 years. One day, she said to me, 'I'm very cross with you.' I just smiled. She said, 'I don't want to laugh. I'm very, very cross.' And then, we both laughed. Laughter is happiness, and here at Chartwell, we've got bucketloads of laughter—and, of course, that results in happiness."

Gerald also delivered a heartfelt poem written by team members Helen and Gabriel, perfectly capturing the spirit of love and partnership being celebrated.

Guests enjoyed a buffet lunch, a beautiful wedding cake, and lively music and dancing, with charming touches like a doughnut wall and a photo booth.

After the ceremony, Diane expressed her immense gratitude to the Chartwell House community, saying: "Words cannot express how deeply touched Paul and I were by the love and thoughtfulness that went into the blessing ceremony. The Chartwell House team and residents have always felt like family, but this day truly made us realise just how special this community is. To have our love celebrated by those we care for and work alongside every day is a memory we will cherish forever. I am endlessly grateful to everyone for making this day one of the most meaningful moments of our lives."

The wedding blessing at Chartwell House was a beautiful testament to love, connection, and the strong sense of community that makes the home so special.



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Festive Food Pantry Brings Hope to Families at Christmas with c.900 Food Items Donated

The third annual Festive Food Pantry, hosted by Chartwell House by Boutique Care Homes in partnership with St Laurence Parish and Newington Primary School, once again showcased the power of community spirit and generosity.

Supporting over 65 families on the day and providing vital donations to Newington Primary School, the event spread much-needed cheer during the festive season.

Thanks to generous contributions from local residents, businesses, and organisations, Chartwell House donated a significant volume of food items to Newington Primary School. This support will aid over 700 families and ensure 93 children receive breakfast and lunch over the Christmas holidays. Every contribution, from tins and pasta to fresh produce, will make a tangible difference in the lives of local families.

The overwhelming generosity of the community was reflected in the 900 food items collected, including tinned goods, festive treats, and crates of fresh vegetables. An additional £151.73 was raised to support St Christopher's Church in their ongoing work with local families.

The event's success was made possible by the incredible support of businesses and organisations across Thanet.

Judith Andrews of St Laurence expressed her gratitude: "The generosity from so many people and businesses has been overwhelming. But none of this would happen without the incredible team at Chartwell House, who go above and beyond for both their residents and the wider community."

Jude Coveney, Admissions Manager at Chartwell House, reflected on the day: "The Festive Food Pantry has become a cornerstone of what we do at Chartwell House. Seeing the community come together to support those in need is incredibly humbling."

Chartwell House remains committed to supporting the community and looks forward to building on the success of this year's Festive Food Pantry for years to come.



Counselling Service for Carers in Thanet in Partnership with Crossroads Care Kent

Chartwell House is proud to announce a new partnership with Crossroads Care Kent, introducing a dedicated counselling space within the care home. This safe and tranquil environment will host trainee-led counselling sessions aimed at supporting Carers in Thanet, offering essential emotional and practical guidance to those who play such a vital role in our community.

Jude Coveney, Admissions Manager at Chartwell House, shared her thoughts on this exciting new venture. "We are thrilled to support Crossroads Care Kent in providing this essential service to Carers in our community. At Chartwell House, we understand the emotional and physical demands that come with caring for loved ones, and offering a peaceful space for counselling sessions aligns perfectly with our mission of creating environments where people can truly thrive."

The new counselling space will play a vital role in enhancing the wellbeing of local Carers, helping them manage the challenges they face on a daily basis. Vicky McGuirk, Counselling Team Mentor at Crossroads Care Kent, highlighted the importance of this new facility. "It was lovely to meet Jude Coveney and Diane Collins at Chartwell House Care Home and for their very generous offer of a safe space for our Carers in Thanet. This will help enable Carers in their roles, bringing our communities together, and we can't wait to support them from such a beautiful location."

Life Story

The Incredible Story of our Resident: May Boxall

May was born in 1930 in Bermondsey, South London, and proudly describes herself as a "proper cockney." As one of five girls, May grew up in a lively and bustling household surrounded by the love and companionship of her sisters. She had two older sisters who often took protective, guiding roles in her childhood, while her two younger sisters were twins, adding an extra layer of fun and mischief to their family dynamic.

Her mother, Alice, worked for the famous Fries biscuit company before marrying May's father, Henry. Once married, Alice devoted her time to raising her daughters, ensuring they grew up in a warm and nurturing home. Henry, meanwhile, worked for United Dairies milk company, dedicating his entire career to the role. May fondly recalls how her father found real satisfaction in his work, always returning home with a smile and a story from his day.

The Everitt family was incredibly close-knit. May often speaks of the bond she shared with her sisters, describing them as more than just siblings—they were, and still are, her closest friends. Despite the inevitable ups and downs of life, the sisters remained steadfastly united, supporting one another through every challenge and celebrating each other's milestones. Remarkably, May's eldest sister is still alive today, now aged 98, and May often reflects on the enduring strength of their family bond.

After finishing her education, May began her career in the civil service as a clerical aide. This role, which she held for an impressive 23 years, brought her a great deal of joy and satisfaction. May speaks warmly about the friendships she formed during her time in the office, describing the camaraderie and laughter they shared. The office itself was situated close to Chessington Zoo, and May fondly recalls the unique experience of hearing the lions roaring in the distance—a sound that became a familiar backdrop to her working life.

During this time, May decided to move closer to her workplace, settling in the Chessington area. It was here that fate introduced her to John, the man who would later become her beloved husband. Their love story blossomed into a marriage that spanned an incredible 71 years, a testament to their deep bond and mutual respect. Together, they built a loving home and raised two children—a son and a daughter—both of whom became their pride and joy.

May often speaks about John with a warm smile and twinkle in her eye. He was a man of great skill and creativity known for his talent with his hands and his passion for crafting. Among his creations were beautiful handmade clocks, which May still treasures dearly to this day. Each tick of the clock serves as a gentle reminder of the love and care John poured into his projects.

One of their greatest shared passions was travel. May and John owned a caravan, which became their ticket to adventure. They toured across the country, exploring scenic landscapes, charming towns, and coastal retreats. Their travels created a treasure trove of memories that May still cherishes, each journey representing a chapter in their story together.

After John's passing, May chose to move to Chartwell House to be closer to her daughter. This decision brought her comfort and connection, allowing her to remain surrounded by family and support.

May's life is a story of love, resilience, and enduring family bonds—a life filled with cherished memories, laughter, and moments of joy shared with those she holds dear.



Team Recipe: *Hollies Creamy Cajun Steak*



15 mins preparation
25-30 mins cooking

INGREDIENTS

- 400g potatoes
- Smoked paprika
- Cajun seasoning
- Parsley
- Garlic granules
- Salt
- Pepper
- 200g thin-cut sirloin steak
- 100ml single light cream
- 120ml beef stock
- 1 tsp chipotle paste
- 20g parmesan
- 1 tsp garlic puree



METHOD

1. Prepare the Potatoes: Dice the potatoes into cubes and season with 1 teaspoon of smoked paprika, cajun seasoning, parsley, garlic granules, salt, and pepper. Air fry at 190°C for 25 minutes until golden and crispy.
2. Cook the steak: Season the thin-cut sirloin steak with the same seasoning blend. Pan-fry to your preferred doneness, then set aside to rest before slicing.
3. Make the sauce: In the same pan, add 1 tsp garlic puree and 1 tsp chipotle paste. Stir well, then pour in 120ml beef stock and 100ml single light cream. Allow to simmer and thicken before stirring in 20g parmesan.
4. Serve: Slice the rested steak and serve alongside the seasoned potatoes. Drizzle the creamy cajun sauce generously over the steak and enjoy!



Community Day with Kent Association for the Blind

Chartwell House was proud to host another community-focused day in partnership with the Kent Association for the Blind. Their Iris bus spent the day offering valuable advice and support to both community visitors and residents, helping to raise awareness and provide practical assistance.



I cannot recommend Chartwell House Care Home highly enough. My wife, who has dementia, has been there for 4 weeks now having respite care and has just extended to January next year. The management and care team are so caring, I cannot thank them enough. The home itself is lovely with lots for the residents to do, definitely gets 5 stars from me.

Husband of Resident

Caring for the Carers This Christmas

The team at Chartwell House were out and about delivering our Chef's delicious Christmas brownies to hospital wards and doctors, spreading festive cheer to those who will be working tirelessly throughout the holiday season. It's our small way of saying thank you to the incredible carers who give so much to others.



Festive Celebrations at Chartwell House

It wouldn't be Christmas without a Chartwell House Christmas Party—and what a wonderful afternoon it was! A huge thank you to Two's Company for their fantastic performance and to all the family and friends who joined us, making the party even more special for our residents. Laughter, music, and festive cheer filled the air, and we hope everyone enjoyed it as much as we did!

Christmas Moves at Chartwell House

Staying active is always better with a sprinkle of festive cheer! Our residents and team came together for a joyful Christmas exercise session, complete with big smiles, raised arms, and plenty of laughter. These moments of movement aren't just about physical fitness—they're about connection, energy, and embracing the season together. What a wonderful way to keep spirits high and bodies moving this Christmas!



A Festive Visit from St George's School

We were delighted to welcome St George's Church School to Chartwell House. Throughout December, the students took part in a Reverse Advent Calendar, where instead of receiving a treat each day, they generously donated items to give back to others. The students' kindness shone through, and their thoughtful gifts were truly appreciated by everyone. A heartfelt thank you to St George's School and all the wonderful students.



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 Chartwell House are:

- ★ **Outstanding Care & Compassion**
Charlotte Ashton-Higgs (Days) & Puneet Kaur (Nights)
- ★ **Outstanding Customer Service**
Kamal Kaur
- ★ **Outstanding Contribution**
Lucy Pearce
- ★ **Outstanding Leadership**
Jodie Matthews
- ★ **Values Ambassador**
Helen Orry

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, please visit boutiquecarehomes.co.uk.

Upcoming Events

At Chartwell House

October

- **Monday 20th**
Brew Monday Afternoon Tea
- **Tuesday 28th**
Stroke Awareness Day

February

- **Saturday 1st**
Greatest Showman 2nd Anniversary Party
- **Friday 14th**
Valentines Day Dance

March

- **Thursday 6th**
World Book Day
- **Thursday 30th**
Red Nose Day / Relatives Meeting

For event details and timings, please contact Chartwell House.

Nostalgia Café

1st Monday of Each Month (11:30am - 1:30pm)
Dementia friendly café and support group featuring good company and refreshments



Thanet Stroke Support Group
2nd Tuesday of Each Month (2:30pm - 4pm)
Support group for members of the community affected by stroke. £3 per person

Coffee Connections

3rd Thursday of Each Month (2:30pm - 4pm)
Delicious cakes, hot beverages and a chance to make new friends



CHARTWELL HOUSE

BY BOUTIQUE CARE HOMES

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