

May's Newsletter



May Gilbert – 100th Birthday!

Turning 100 is a cause for big celebrations and May, who is one of our longest serving residents, turns 100 on the 26 November!

Unfortunately, May could not have the big party she had planned due to coronavirus restrictions, but I'm sure she will receive lots of birthday cards from her family, friends and neighbours at Edgecombe Gardens.

The Charity will be planting a Malus Floribunda tree in her honour to mark this milestone birthday opposite the hall on the 26 November at 11am. The tree has crimson and pink flowers to match the other two young trees near the car parking opposite May's home. It would be great if you could join us as we plant it for her, but please remember to keep a safe distance from one another.

May has kindly agreed to share with you a potted history of how she came to Edgecombe Gardens as well as a few photos that made the Bournemouth Echo down the years, which also has a few other familiar faces.

May was born in Bedworth in the Midlands, on the 29th November 1920, the 7th of Violet & George Davis' eight children. May's eldest sister and husband moved to Bournemouth and opened a shop. As the family visited often a number of the family members also moved to join their elder sibling, this included May and her husband Cyril.

May worked at Beales in the ladies' fashion department and then as a chambermaid in a local hotel. May & Cyril lived locally to Strouden Park & Throop and when St Pauls Church was relocated in the 1980s and its doors opened for the first time, they joined the regular congregation with Cyril also becoming the church warden.

May & Cyril moved to the Eventide Homes in March 1992. Shortly after this they were invited by the Trustees at the time to become the deputy wardens, a role they both loved and thoroughly enjoyed, retiring when the care line systems were installed at the homes.



Together, they made many friends and helped organised regular events some of which were still running right up until recent Covid restrictions forced them to be suspended. May was widowed in 2006, she has and still remains to be a respected and cherished member of the community having lived at the homes for a little over 28 years.

Photo Year - 1997



A little unknown fact, anyone who knows May, knows that she is a prolific knitter knitting all manner of items however, there is one item May is best known for at the homes, bed sock/booties having knitted over 500 pairs for all ages, in an array of colours, currently - AFC Bournemouth Black & Red!

Photo Year – 2003



Apparently May had never lifted a pair of knitting needles until she moved to Eventide in 1992 at the age of 72! - Where she met Florrie, who taught her everything she knows about knitting.

Photo Year - 2020