

VE Day Remembered

Eddie's Story



Eddie in uniform

On one daring mission Eddie's ship transported Russian naval officers and troops to Liverpool for the collection of ships to help in the war effort. In 2007, Eddie's service was recognised by the Russian Navy, and he received the Russian Consulate, Ushakov Medal, Russia's highest honour.

On finally leaving the Navy in 1954, Eddie resumed his job in the shipyards and was very modest about his service, daring and adventure, never really telling anyone what he did. Now at the age of 99 Eddie remains modest about all he did in the war. You can hear a little more about Eddie's experience and where he was on VE day in this [short video](#)

We would like to thank Eddie and all those men and women who have served.

There have been plenty of stories to share and activities across NHSGGC care homes celebrating the 80th Anniversary of VE Day (victory in Europe day) on 15th May.

In October 1943, at the tender age of 17, Edwin Leadbetter (better known as Eddie) bravely volunteered to support the war effort and signed-up to join the Royal Navy.

During the war Eddie's ship, HMS Fencer, was an aircraft carrier with anti-aircraft guns, which escorted convoys in waters across the world, including the Arctic Circle.



VE day Celebrations



Buchanan House in East Dunbartonshire enjoyed a full week of celebrations including sharing stories, a 1940s singalong, and a tea dance ending with a street party.



Buchanan House also shared with us some great pictures of some of their residents from the war and them today.



Then and now ❤️



Pictured above left Mr William Gillick and his daughter

Pictured above right Mr Don Laing and his wife



Tribute to Heather Molloy



As some of you may already know, our wonderful friend and colleague at the Care Home Collaborative Heather Molloy, died following a short illness on 1 May.

Heather joined the CHC in Jan 2022. Prior to this she worked for Scottish Care and had worked across Scotland representing and advocating for different Care Providers. She brought such a wealth of experience and professionalism to the CHC team and proved to be the magic ingredient in a recipe for success.

Below are some words from our Care Home colleagues who have worked with Heather over the course of her career in Social Care and the NHS.

"If anyone ever deserved a standing ovation for the life they led, it was Heather. Touching hearts and minds in the care home community, she was an example of person centredness in all that she did. As an advocate and champion for the unheard voices in social care, she will forever be remembered and her legacy will live on."

"What a huge loss this will be for everyone who knew her. My experience of Heather was incredibly genuine, grounded to her beliefs, and a true advocate for those she supported. My thoughts go out to her family, friends and colleagues, Heather was an inspirational human being, courageous in her approach to care, compassionate to people less fortunate in life, and was never shy to push back the corridors of power when required.

The world of Health and Social care will miss Heather so much, a true loss."

"Heather was truly a breath of fresh air when she came to visit us. From the moment we met her we saw that she brought a lightness, a warmth, and an unwavering passion for social care that left a lasting impression on everyone she worked with. She had a remarkable ability to connect with people and she "got us" in a way that felt rare and genuine. Her values were perfectly aligned with our own, and she lived and breathed what we stand for in this sector. Her passing will leave a massive void in the social care sector. Heather's heart was truly rooted in this work, her legacy will live on in the people she supported and the colleagues she uplifted."

Care Home Access to Anticipatory Medications



Calling Care Home
nurses, care staff and
managers.
Have your say!

Care Homes are providers of excellent care around dying but there are times when access to essential medications that ease a residents symptoms can be difficult to obtain.

Marie Curie, Royal College of Nursing and Cambridge University are working together to improve access to these medications for UK care homes. Nationally, at least 400 care home responses are needed. This is your opportunity to give your care home a voice.

A short video has been developed to give more information.
To watch this video click [here](#)

By completing the short survey you can share your thoughts and experiences and contribute to the need to work together to improve current systems.

To access the survey, click on the [link](#) or scan the QR code below



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Balquhiddar Pancake Tuesday



Every Tuesday is a “Pancake Tuesday” at Balquhiddar Care Home. Motivated by fond memories and a desire to bring joy to the residents, Wellbeing Coordinator, Laura Ann Angus, shared her heartfelt wish to start weekly Pancake Tuesdays. Isobel Stuart (Home Manager) warmly supported the idea, touched by her own memories of pancake days with her mum.

Each Tuesday, residents join in with the preparation of the batter and the flipping of the pancakes. Memories and stories are shared, with much laughter being heard. Recently, resident Nan O’ Reilly offered a family recipe tip: “Why not try self-raising flour instead of rice flour, and maybe add some banana?” She told Laura that her mum and Nan used to bake that way as it “gives a nice rise.” Since then, the pancakes have been wonderfully soft and full of flavour.

For residents who are unable to leave their rooms, Laura brings the pancake-making experience to them. The comforting familiar smell fills the air, sparking appetite, conversation, and smiles. One resident, who had shown little interest in food, surprised everyone by happily eating six pancakes.

To ensure everyone can enjoy the pancakes, Laura adapts the recipe to meet each resident’s dietary needs. Laura often fortifies them with butter, jam, and even adds a touch of cream to the batter for extra nourishment.



Laura Ann



Barbara Mills

Since the introduction of Pancake Tuesdays, staff have seen the social impact it has had for everyone involved. Residents reminisce, cheer each other on, and share pride in their creations. The atmosphere is one of encouragement and community. Staff and visiting relatives are invited to join, and laughter rings through the home.

Following the success of Pancake Tuesday, Waffle Wednesday has now been introduced—another delicious reason to gather, share stories, and celebrate the little joys in life.

At Balquhiddar Care Home, it's clear that a bit of batter and a sprinkle of creativity can turn an ordinary day into something extraordinary.

Nan’s Pancakes Recipe (makes 65 pancakes)

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ kg self-raising flour
- 5 ripe banana (mashed)
- 2 eggs
- 11/2 L milk (or as needed for consistency)
- 2 tablespoons double cream (optional)
- 400g sugar
- Jam, butter, chocolate spread, nut butter, honey, golden syrup and maple syrup for topping/fortification

Nutritional information (per pancake): 132 Kcals and 3g Protein



Nan O’Reilly

Palliative Care @ Springvale



The staff at Springvale Care Home, Lennoxtown have been busy! Not only did they host the East Dunbartonshire Palliative Care Development Day on the 24 April 2025 but they have also been busy learning about the palliative indicator tool SPAR which was launched on 1 May!

This fantastic team have embraced the tool with enthusiasm, insight and a team spirit at each session. Well done Springvale!



Level 6 Diet Poster

The Care Home and Hospice, Speech and Language Therapy Team have developed a new poster resource explaining what a level 6 IDDSI diet is and how to check if food is consistent with the level 6 texture.

Training to support IDDSI and dysphagia is also available on our website. The resources include practical short videos to show each IDDSI food and fluid level.

Both the poster and further resources are available to download from the CHC website resources section and the QR code below.

Let's Look at IDDSI
Level 6 Diet (Soft & Bite Sized) - for adults

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

What is Level 6 diet?

- Soft
- Bite-sized
- Can be squashed by your tongue
- 1.5 cm or less

How to check if food is Level 6 diet?

- You can squash it with a fork and it won't return to its original shape
- Pieces can be broken into smaller pieces with a fork
- Sauce is thick and smooth
- Pieces 1.5 cm or less

What is not Level 6 diet?

- Pureed food
- Minced / moist food
- Pieces of food bigger than 1.5 cm x 1.5 cm
- Hard crunchy foods
- Bread

How to help check if food is ok for Level 6 diet (Soft and Bite-Sized)

The IDDSI Level 6 audit tool

The IDDSI Level 6 test card

(Good for checking size of food pieces!)

For more information please go to www.iddsi.org

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[Level 6 poster](#)



[Further resources](#)

Resources



Learning Opportunities

Dementia Care Home Development Day - 4 June

Delirium Risk Reduction - 19 June, 10 July and 14 August

Essentials in Dementia - 10 June

MUST Step 5 Webinar - 30 June

Strength and Balance workshop - 5 June

Scottish Improvement Foundation Skills (SIFS) - 21 August 2025

Wound Care Study Day - 12 June

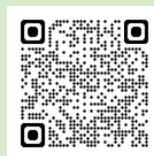


Scan QR code to access all training



Useful links to further training

Turas is available to all social care professionals



Continence Assessment - Continence Pad training Various dates visit Sphere and Bladder Website/Health and Social Care Professionals



Get involved

There are many ways to get involved and the team welcomes your input.

- Sign-up for our newsletter and updates
- Share your stories of person centred care and good practice
- Follow us on social media.

Visit our website at www.nhsggc.scot/carehomecollaborative for up to date resources and training

