

Queen's Birthday celebrations in Glasgow's care homes



Peggy Gleeson, the Lord Provost Sadie Docherty, Nessie Johnston and Mairi Brash cutting the birthday cake at Orchard Grove

To celebrate the 90th birthday of Her Majesty The Queen, The Lord Provost in her role as Lord Lieutenant, Her Majesty's representative in Glasgow, hosted tea parties in all ten of the Council's care homes for older people.

Glasgow's Lord Provost Sadie Docherty said: "I thought it highly appropriate that the Council celebrate this historic milestone by holding tea parties for our elderly care home residents to show them how much we value them and appreciate their contribution to our communities."

The residents in each care home were keen to be involved in organising the parties and their input included choosing the theme for each party, working with an activity coordinator to make decorations for the event and helping to choose the entertainment. Some even made cards to send to the Queen. Staff also got involved, helping residents choose outfits for the event. Even the families of residents and staff got involved and donated china to be used on the day. Most of the care homes chose a 'street party' theme and some even went that step further and had a 1920s or 1940s theme.

On the day of the event, the sun was shining and hairdressing salons within the homes were fully booked as residents got ready. Elsewhere in the care homes, support staff were creating a street party atmosphere and Cordia staff were busy making sandwiches and baking cakes for the big event. Some staff also got into the spirit by dressing according to the theme.



Staff at Orchard Grove dressed for the event

The event started at 2pm and The Lord Provost and Bailies attended the tea parties, as follows:

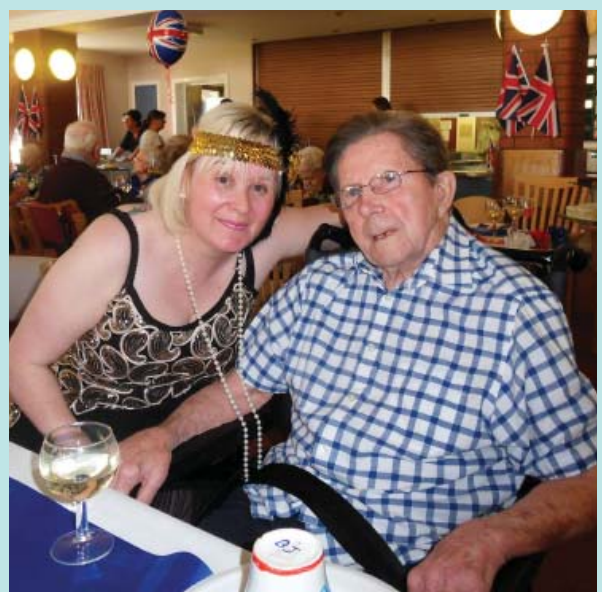
- The Lord Provost attended Orchard Grove
- Bailie Baker attended Rannoch House
- Bailie Bratt attended Hawthorn House
- Bailie Thomas attended Davislea
- Bailie Scanlon attended Drumry House
- Bailie Stewart attended Fulton Lodge
- Bailie Razaq attended Loancroft House
- Bailie Simpsons attended Peter McEachran House
- Bailie Clark attended Forfar Avenue
- Bailie MacLeod attend Crossmyloof



Bailie Stewart dancing with the residents of Fulton Lodge

To start the parties a toast was raised to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday and to 28 of our residents who also turn 90 this year. David Allen, who lives in Drumry House and is celebrating his 90th birthday later this year was grinning from ear to ear and commented that "he felt very important". Some residents were also keen to tell us that they were even older than the Queen!

Each party also had its own entertainment and there was lots of reminiscing, dancing and party games. Bill Paterson, who lives in Orchard Grove, said "it was good, I danced with everybody", and William who works



Boyd Johnstone, resident in Crossmyloof, who turns 90 this year alongside staff member, Samantha Black

there commented “it was one of his best days in social care so far”.

As the event drew to a close, the Lord Provost and the Bailies handed out commemorative coins to every resident of the care homes.

As the residents retired to their rooms for a rest after all the dancing, some of the comments overhead included:

- *It was a brilliant day*
- *I loved wearing the big fancy hat, I felt like the Queen and did not want to take it off*
- *It was very nice to meet the Lord Provost*
- *It was fantastic*
- *How lovely it was of the Baillie to take the time to come and see us*
- *The buffet was fit for a Queen.*

A number of relatives attended the tea parties and one family member Kathleen Johnston said “it was wonderful, it was a good atmosphere, the staff were excellent, the entertainer was great, the whole theme of the event was wonderful”.

The events would not have been the success they were if it were not for the staff effort. Robert Kennedy, manager at Loancroft House commented: “I’m very fortunate to lead the team in Loancroft House, staff worked together to give the residents an afternoon to remember”. One staff member from Drumry House commented that “it was great to see the residents have a good old knees up”. The final word on the staff effort goes to Irene Imrie, resident in Orchard Grove, who said “staff excelled themselves”.



Residents in Forfar Avenue with their Commemorative Coin



Residents and staff dancing in Orchard Grove



Eva Kontostavlou, who live in Crossmyloof and turns 90 this year, with her daughter and staff

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A huge **Thank You** to all for making this such a special day for everyone who attended.

The tea parties would not have been possible without the support of:

- the Lord Provost who hosted the parties
- residents who assisted with decorations and themes and also attended on the day
- families (of residents and staff) who contributed china for use at the event and
- staff, including Cordia staff, who worked hard to ensure everything was perfect on the day – although we are still not sure how they managed to arrange for the sun to shine.

While the Queen's birthday celebrations may be over, residents and staff in Glasgow's care homes are now working on organising their next 'knees up'.

Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership believes that the City's people can flourish, with access to health and social care support when they need it. This will be done by transforming health and social care services for better lives. This event is one example of how we are working to transform services to help Glasgow's citizens lead healthy and fulfilling lives. Read our Health and Social Care Newsletter for more stories.



Cathy Law, who lives in Crossmyloof, and Bailie Baker cutting the birthday cake



Annie Bradley, who live in Hawthorn House, and Natalie McGeachan celebrating at Hawthorn House party



Residents and staff from Orchard Grove attending the tea party