

THERE was a fabulous goal scored at Springview when resident Irene McBride notched up a grand total of 106 years on her birthday this Thursday. Irene is a very special lady because she is Tottenham Hotspurs' oldest season ticket holder.



Irene has been attending games at the Premier League club since the 1920s and was there on both famous occasions when the team won the League in 1951 and 1961. As well as receiving a message from the Queen, Irene was feted by football royalty.

She was thrilled to get a video message from club legend Gary Mabbutt and to receive a congratulatory letter from head coach Jose Mourinho, who expressed the hope that she will be back in the stadium soon. The club told her they will be putting the photograph of her, dressed in her club kit, in the next match programme.

Irene was over the moon. "I had a great day – so many memories," she said as she tucked into her birthday cake, iced in the team colours, while everyone sang Happy Birthday. Congratulations, Irene – may you score many more birthdays yet!

It's always a pleasure to hear warm words from Springdene relatives and friends – and this week families of folk at Springview have been chatting to us about the experiences of their loved ones in the home.

Tricia Ellis from Enfield is delighted with the welfare of her mother, Harriet Cullen. "You're doing a great job," she says. "We're so grateful. Mum is 97 and doing really well. She's been with Springdene for two years. She's a bit deaf and it is not easy to talk to her on mobile devices, but I know she's all right because of all the little things the carers do for her. We are completely reassured. It's like being part of a big family. But it must be so hard for the carers!

"The nice thing is that everybody knows Mum so well. And she has her pen pal in Cornwall, introduced by Eirlys. We quite understand that, because of the pandemic, visiting is not possible at the moment, but Mum is very well off where she is. She probably had a better Christmas than we did!"

Tricia generously shows her appreciation by bringing in cupcakes, cookies and muffins for the staff every week. Thank you, Tricia. It is a lovely gesture.

Another very happy family are Dyann and Steve Rowe, also from Enfield. Steve's mother Joan, who is 96, has been with Springview for five years and the Rowes think her care is "brilliant".

"She's really blossomed," says Dyann. "The way she is looked after is really outstanding. Joan is a quiet person and loves all the attention she gets. The staff are so lovely and so considerate. And the food is great, too. Steve adds: "You have done so much to make my mother's life worth living." (Thanks, Dyann and Steve, for the chocolate biscuits you drop in regularly for the carers.)

We're pleased to report that folk in all three homes are flourishing. The staff have been working very hard to keep Covid at bay, and all locations are currently infection-free. We are keeping our fingers crossed that the immunity from the vaccinations is beginning to kick in – although everyone will need a second dose for it to be fully effective.

It's wonderful, too, how much everyone has been pulling together. The catering staff at Springview have even been giving up their breaks to assemble the boxes we use to send the Covid swab tests off for processing. Thank you, Dawn, Ingrid, Phil and Tom.

Meanwhile, night-carer Lillian Zhao has donated 80 boxes containing 500ml bottles of sanitising gel through the auspices of the church where she worships – the True Life Church. It's a very generous gift for which we are hugely grateful. Thanks, too to an organisation called Cards of Care, for delivering some heart-shaped bunting which brought great cheer to Spring Grove.

Life is bustling for our activities teams. We extend a warm welcome to Malwina who is joining us at Springview. Malwina, who hails from Poland but has been living in London for the past five years, specialises in drama and arts and crafts. She is also a qualified fitness instructor so will be keeping everybody on their toes!



Magda decorated the windows at Spring Lane beautifully with hearts and good wishes for Valentine's Day. She also helped residents to make little videos, sending charming messages to their loved ones. Much fun was had for the Chinese New Year, with parties at the three homes. In the picture above folk at Spring Lane play Chopsticks – a contest ably won by Lois Marie Godfrey – to her delight and surprise.

Pancakes were a speciality for everybody on Shrove Tuesday, with Steve, our Springview activities maestro, who is also a qualified chef, cooking them himself –with residents choosing their own fillings. Pancake tastings were the order of the day at Spring Grove and Spring Lane. There was also a cultural treat, with our friends at the Wallace Collection giving a fascinating live-streamed presentation on "The Rainbow Landscape" by Peter Paul Rubens.

Meanwhile, thanks to the enterprise and contacts of Jennie Muskett, daughter of Spring Grove's Michael Muskett, we've enjoyed two more live-streamed concerts. The first featured the Eos Ensemble, with the delicious harp-playing of Elizabeth Bass. This week we were treated to some favourite pieces by Gabby Lester on

violin and Elizabeth Palmer on piano. You can tune in at home for future concerts at 2.30pm on Wednesdays at www.artistsandresidents.org



Our lucky residents of the week have been having a great time. Delphine Middleton at Springview, who loves keep-fit and chatting to her family on the phone, is a big fan of our Andre Rieu concerts. She has chosen fish and chips as her special meal and is being pampered by getting a haircut from Eirllys.

Dorothy Adams at Spring Lane used to run a hairdressing salon and enjoys watching sport. She has chosen a casserole as her special meal and is eagerly anticipating a hairdo, too. Alan Thorman at Spring Grove is a classical music fan and says he is really looking forward to a full English breakfast.

With the longer days starting to unfold, we now have our eyes fixed on Easter and the possibility of some warmer weather when folk can take a walk in the gardens again. Eirllys is planning some Easter egg painting followed by egg hunts, which sound like a lot of fun.

We are very sorry to announce the death of Springview resident Ken Newman, who was a hero of World War Two, serving in the very perilous role of tail gunner in Lancaster bombers. Ken, who celebrated his hundredth birthday last month, flew 29 missions over Berlin – the most dangerous destination of all. It was poignant that he passed away in the same week as that other wartime veteran and centenarian Captain Sir Tom Moore.

Ken talked with typical modesty, about his courageous missions in an interview with James Anderson, our financial manager, who is a big fan of his: “We just went,” said Ken. But weren’t you frightened? “The point is, you had to do it. It was your job. So, you just went. I was confident with the rest of the boys that we’d get through safely. I just sat there and trusted in the rest of the crew that we would be safe and sound. You had to think like that. You had to just get on with it and get it over with.”

Farewell, Ken. You were among the last of a very special breed and we salute you!

On a lighter note, our Springview reception manager Kathy has issued a challenge to Health Secretary Matt Hancock. “You may have noticed that when he appears on the television or in the Commons, he is always wearing an NHS badge on his lapel, but never one that says CARE. So, I have written to him to say let’s hear it for the hundreds of thousands of care workers you represent, who have served so selflessly on the front line during the pandemic.”

It may be a cheeky request,” says Kathy. “But it would be great if he could wear it.” Over to you, Mr Hancock!

Finally, we offer gratitude to everyone who sent donations and tributes in memory of our staff members, Sally Neri and Mario Juco, who sadly passed away from Covid-19. Thanks, too, to the law firm Howard Kennedy who have offered to handle their estates on a pro bono basis. If you would like to support both families, you can do so here:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sally-neri?utm_id=2&utm_term=PYDddziZN

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/mario-juco?utm_term=PG5VaK5Vj

Stay safe and stay well!



Jeremy Balcombe
CEO Springdene Group
