

# Ron Smith Care Centre

@ Elphin Lodge



April 2025 No. 110



## Ron Smith goes Highland!

Ron Smith Care Centre transformed into a wee corner of Scotland on March 14!

Tartan, thistles and lively Scottish tunes set the scene. The festivities started with four lucky residents winning chocolates by drawing from a selection of Scottish-inspired pictures. Residents reminisced about past Scottish adventures while Debbie Christen – recreation and training facilitator, chatted about Edinburgh, tradition-

al Scottish foods, drinks, tartans and kilts, famous Scottish symbols, and Burns' Night festivities.

A video of the Highland Games and Robert Burns' poetry, recited by Irvine Sinnett and Charles Power, filled the rest of the day. A move-along to 'Scotland the Brave,' followed by home-made shortbread, capped off the journey.

Irvine, with heartfelt thanks, toasted the team's bonnie efforts.



**CEDAR PARK RESIDENT: MARGARET GARDEN**

I was born in 1936 at Jeppe Nursing Home as the second-born of three children. I went to Leicester Road Primary and then did typing and shorthand at Commercial High School. My mother worked hard to support everyone and basically 'ruled the roost'. After school I started working at Barclays Bank DCO where I met my husband, Neil, who was also working for the bank. However, just as we began dating, he had to move away for two years to work in London and Gibraltar. He was worth the wait, and we got married sometime after his return in 1962. I worked for a short while

after we got married at Thomas Nelson and Sons, which was in the same building as Barclays Bank. Neil worked downstairs and I worked upstairs. We have 3 wonderful daughters, Mandy, Tracy and Jenny. While they were all in high school, we moved to London for 2 years for Neil's work. The girls were overjoyed on the day Neil told us we were moving back to South Africa. We went on to live in Pietermaritzburg for 2 years, which is the place I enjoyed the most, before moving back to Joburg. We are now blessed with 6 grandchildren and one great grandchild.



FAVOURITES

Helping where I can | Reading | Movies that make me think | Gentle music | I always enjoyed cooking and baking; shortbread was my specialty | Bread and butter pudding | Enjoying grilled hake at Elphino's with Neil on Fridays | Watching athletics, rugby, tennis, soccer and cricket | Knitting and embroidery | The wonderful memories of our travels, including our trip around the world with our daughter Tracy | I am grateful for good parents, my husband (who spoils me rotten) and my 3 supportive daughters | My happy place is with my husband

**CEDAR PARK RESIDENT: NEIL GARDEN**

I was born in 1937 in Cape Town and attended schools in Cape Town and Johannesburg. My mother, brother and I for years experienced the effects of a father's alcohol misuse. My mother was a committed Christian and she imbued the values and ethics that have carried me through my life. She divorced my father when my brother and I were in our early teens and had to rely on her family for financial support. I matriculated in 1954 and joined Barclays Bank DCO (now FNB) where I met my wife, Margaret Farmer. In 1959, I was sent to London for training, and it was only in November 1962 that we were married. I am extremely proud of my daughters, who are all

highly respected in their fields. My wife has been wonderfully supportive over the years, allowing me to participate in rugby (12 years) and the Active Citizen Force attached to the Light Horse Regiment (14 years). In my career, I rose from a teller to the GM responsible to the board of directors for the quality of total lendings in FNB. I retired in 1998 after 42 years of service. We were founder members of Inyoni Creek in 2007. I joined the village committee and was later appointed to the board of Rand Association (for 12 years) and was also appointed a trustee to the RA Welfare Development Trust (14 years), which owns all the Rand Aid Association properties.



FAVOURITES

My family fondly remember the many holidays spent in the Nxaxo river mouth in the Transkei in the 1970s | Our two years living in London enabled us to travel extensively, including one week spent travelling on a canal boat | Just before my retirement, my wife and middle daughter accompanied me as we flew around the world, stopping over in some of the famous cities | Over the past two years my health has deteriorated, and I am lucky to be accommodated in Cedar Park where the staff has gone out of their way to provide care.

**CEDAR PARK RESIDENT: MARIA LONGLEY**

I was born in 1949 in England. My father grew up in Italy, but left for England after the war. He met my mother in England, and we moved to South Africa when I was 3. We lived in Bramley for most of my childhood. My father had a motor mechanic and panelbeater business, and my mother was a housewife. I have always had a passion for helping others, so after finishing school, I pursued a degree in social work at Wits. I went on to do my postgraduate diploma in business administration at GIBS Business School. After my studies, I worked in England for a year. I then worked at various places, including Tara

Hospital, Civilian Blind, Joburg Hospital and Sunshine Centre Association. I also lectured at Wits for a few years. I met my husband, Brian, at the age of 15, while walking back from school. He was my first and only boyfriend, and we were married from 1972 until he passed away in 2020. We had three children: Melissa was born prematurely at six months but sadly passed away after three days. Nicholas lives in England with his wife and 3 daughters, while Jonathan resides in Slovenia with his wife. I am blessed with 3 lovely grandchildren: Hannah Rose, Juliet Mae and Florence Paige.



FAVOURITES

My faith | Music, especially the Beatles | The florist shop, Chelsea Florist. I owned | Gardening | I completed a landscaping course that helped me run a garden maintenance business after retiring | Interior decorating, reading, watching movies and rugby | My husband was an avid canoeist | We travelled to Canada, America, Switzerland, Sweden and Spain, and went skiing in Austria | I love the Kruger National Park | I am most grateful for having had a wonderful life with my husband and sons | My happiest place is being in the garden with the ones I love around me

**RESIDENTS**

11 Apr	Maria Da Silva	87
12 Apr	Esme Frenkel	96
14 Apr	Sylvia Lasarow	97
14 Apr	Helmut Gschnaidtner	87
16 Apr	Joan Boule	91
17 Apr	Ellen Quinn	102
22 Apr	Patricia Ann Duncan	87
23 Apr	Elaine Cohen	96
24 Apr	Amy Wright	90
26 Apr	George Lai	90
27 Apr	Basil James	91

**STAFF**

04 Apr	Machueue Kgatla
05 Apr	Pascaline Kamela
06 Apr	Vulani Nkuna
06 Apr	Phyllis Ntimana
06 Apr	Pinky Tshayisa
08 Apr	Maite Zongo
09 Apr	Dikeledi Molepo
17 Apr	Nonhlanhla Mabuza
27 Apr	Thembisile Mthembu
28 Apr	Mapula Matshaba

Staff members must please remember to collect their birthday chocolate from reception.

*Fondly remembered*

Marrion Simmonds	RL2
Valda Strauss	RL3
David Francis Scott	RL3
Maria Dal Lago	RL2

*Welcome to*

Eyong Lo	RL3
Claude Easter	RL3
Hubert Cunningham	CP

**A breath of fresh air**

Beautiful surroundings and time spent in nature promote well-being, as can be seen by the happy smiles of Johanna Sebata, Molly Matroos and Elene Bohnenkamp-Blaensdorff (above) and Pamela Mills (below).

