

It's a Wonderful Life for older people at EICC's Christmas lunch

Christmas arrived early for some Edinburgh care home residents with a festive lunch and film afternoon at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC).

In collaboration with catering partner, Leith's, the event catering division of Compass Scotland, the EICC produced a special event for local people with dementia.

One hundred guests were invited for a traditional two-course Christmas lunch while they watched the Christmas classic, "It's a Wonderful Life" on the big screen.

The Leith's and EICC teams approached local care homes, agencies and charities to invite residents to attend the free event and enjoy some festive cheer in the lead up to Christmas.

Residents and carers joined the event from Home Instead, Colinton Care Home, St Margarets Care Home, Alzheimer Scotland, Viewpoint Housing Association and Re-Engage Edinburgh.

Guests were greeted with a glass of Bucks Fizz to start the celebration, before enjoying a starter of either Cock-a-leekie terrine with pickled vegetables and tomato chutney or celeriac and sun blushed tomato tartare with oatcakes, followed by

roast turkey or a roast butternut squash pave with all the trimmings, with the afternoon rounded off with coffee or tea and mince pies.

This is the third time the EICC has hosted the festive film afternoon for local care home residents. The event was carefully considered and supported to ensure it was comfortable, calm and enjoyable for all.

As part of Compass Group UK & Ireland, this activity is in line with its "Our Social Promise", which launched in 2022. This includes a Mission to a Million commitment, to provide support to one million people by 2030 through jobs, training, community engagement and development.

Claire McHardy, Leith's General Manager at EICC, said: "We understand the importance of social connections for older people, so we were pleased to be able to reach out to these organisations to help us put on this event. It was a lovely Christmassy afternoon, and it was heartwarming to see the joy that our food and the film brought to our guests."

Lisa Moodie Commissioned Service Lead for Edinburgh & Lothians at Alzheimer Scotland, said: "Alzheimer Scotland was delighted to be invited to the EICC's festive film and lunch. The people we support thoroughly enjoyed the chance to watch a classic film over a festive lunch. Thank you to the EICC for reaching out to involve us."

Marshall Dallas, EICC Chief Executive, added: "We've worked closely with Alzheimer Scotland over the last ten years, holding their annual conference here at the EICC. We have also hosted social gatherings for Re-engage, so we're really pleased to welcome guests today from these organisations, together with guests from local care homes, as we enjoy a wonderful festive occasion."

Re-engage is a charity which is making life less lonely for thousands of older people and is committed to older people

being heard, valued and engaged. To find out about **volunteering opportunities** in Edinburgh and the Lothians, [visit here](#).



Left to right: Re-engage guest Margaret, Lyndsey Rafferty of the EICC, Anne Grindley, Group-Coordinator, Re-engage.