LEAVE THE STRESSES OF LIFE BEHIND
BECOME A CHELSEA PENSIONER
King Charles II was determined that his soldiers would have a fitting home in their retirement. He commissioned Sir Christopher Wren to create the Royal Hospital Chelsea, which was completed in 1692.

Over the past 320 years the Royal Hospital has been home to over 25,000 Chelsea Pensioners who, in their distinctive scarlet uniforms, have become icons in London and around the world. They are the living embodiment of the Nation’s Covenant with her old soldiers.

Today, the Royal Hospital is home to veterans who served in Korea, the Falklands, Cyprus, Ireland and World War II and is making itself ready to receive soldiers from the current campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq when they retire. As its name suggests, the Royal Hospital continues to have close links with the Monarch, and each year a member of the Royal Family comes to Chelsea to review the Chelsea Pensioners.

The Royal Hospital Chelsea has been my home for 17 years. I’d prefer to have my wife back with me, but this is the very next best thing.

JOE BRITTON, 100 YEARS OLD
LIFE AS A CHELSEA PENSIONER

Sheltered, independent living, supported by full medical care and catering services, in some of the most beautiful buildings and grounds in the UK, gives you and your family piece of mind with financial security.

Our state of the art Infirmary with its resident Matron, Doctor and care teams enables Chelsea Pensioners to be among the fittest of their generation.

The social life of the Royal Hospital is rich and varied. The tranquil 66 acre site gives Chelsea Pensioners an exclusive post code from which to explore and experience the colourful life of London.

Chelsea Pensioners are regularly invited to attend high profile events such as Wimbledon, Chelsea football matches and various race meetings. The Hospital Bowls Team travels the world taking on all comers.

“Wearing the scarlet coat changes people’s perception of you, they recognise all that you have done and respect you for it.”

MICHAEL ALLEN, 69 YEARS OLD
At home, there is a full programme of social activities orientated around the Chelsea Pensioners’ Club, which, with its bar, lounges and restaurant, makes a convivial meeting area for pensioners to socialise with comrades, family and guests.

For gardening lovers, the 66 acre grounds include many gardens, parks and allotments which pensioners can enjoy at their leisure with their families and guests. Once a year the Royal Hospital hosts the Chelsea Flower Show, where Chelsea Pensioners are welcome.

The Royal Hospital is in its final stages of refurbishment to make it fit for the 21st century. Designed by Sir Christopher Wren, the traditional rooms, known as ‘Berths’ are being replaced by modern en suite bedrooms with a private study. Three meals a day are provided and served by waitresses in the beautiful dining rooms. The Café and its gardens provide a sanctuary for Chelsea Pensioners, guests and family and serves light meals and snacks throughout the day.

The Royal Hospital has a beautiful Wren designed Chapel which holds annual music concerts and a service every Sunday. There is also a fully operational library and all bedrooms have internet access.

A DAY AT THE ROYAL HOSPITAL

The other pensioners say I’ve got Scarlet Fever because I love it. I’m very proud to wear it.

PADDY FOX BEM
78 YEARS OLD
THE INFIRMARY

HRH The Prince of Wales opened our new state of the art care home with nursing and a GP medical centre. We have our own gymnasium with a full physiotherapy and occupational therapy service for all pensioners at the Royal Hospital.

The Infirmary can accommodate 100 pensioners with en suite facilities. Each room has an excellent view and all pensioners have access to beautiful gardens. There are communal lounges and dining rooms in all Infirmary wards and there is a café with conservatory on the ground floor for pensioners, staff and visitors.

Some of our pensioners live permanently in the Infirmary and others stay for short periods when they are unwell or convalescing following treatment or surgery in local hospitals. Families are welcome to visit at any time and accommodation is available for close relatives visiting pensioners who are seriously ill.

A wide range of social activities are provided for pensioners who wish to take part. We aim to support all pensioners living in the Infirmary and allow them to live their lives to the full.

On-site GP services are available for all pensioners and the Matron has an excellent team of nurses, therapists and carers who provide care and treatment for pensioners living in the Infirmary and in the sheltered accommodation of the Long Wards.
To be eligible for admission as a Chelsea Pensioner, a candidate must be:
- Over 65 years of age.
- Either a former non-commissioned officer or soldier of the British Army; or a former officer of the British Army who served for at least 12 years in the ranks before obtaining a commission; or have been awarded a disablement pension while serving in the ranks.
- Able to live independently in the sheltered accommodation (known as Long Wards). The Royal Hospital Chelsea does not usually accept direct entries into the Infirmary.
- Free of any financial obligation to support a spouse or family.

If you are in receipt of an Army Service Pension or War Disability Pension you will be required to surrender it upon entry to the Royal Hospital. Please note that if your Army Service or War Disability Pension does not meet a minimum threshold you will be required to ‘top-up’ to that amount, providing it does not place you in financial difficulty.

**ELIGIBILITY**

**HOW TO APPLY**

Download an application form from our website: www.chelsea-pensioners.co.uk/application-form

Contact the Chelsea Pensioner Recruitment Officer:
Call: 020 7881 5204
Email: saraaddelsee@chelsea-pensioners.org.uk
Write to: Royal Hospital Chelsea, Royal Hospital Road, London. SW3 4SR.
The Royal Hospital is perfectly situated for all of London’s attractions and is well serviced by Sloane Square underground station just 5 minutes away and a number of bus routes that you can catch from right outside the Royal Hospital gates.
For more information and to arrange a visit please call:

Royal Hospital Chelsea
Royal Hospital Road,
London SW3 4SR
T. 020 7881 5204
E. saraaddelsee@chelsea-pensioners.org.uk
www.chelsea-pensioners.org.uk