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**The Beverley Sisters in East Finchley**

By Betti Blatman

The Beverley Sisters visited East Finchley on 27 May for the official opening of Mulberry Court retirement homes. Mike French, Regional Managing Director for MacCarthy and Stone welcomed everybody before the sisters demonstrated their famous 'high kicks'.

**60 glorious years**

The Beverley Sisters consist of Joy (the eldest) and identical twins Babs and Teddy, born 15 minutes apart. This year celebrates the Beverley Sisters' 60-year career and they're featured in The Guinness Book Of Records as the longest running pop group in the world ever.

Apart from having the best parents and the ability to entertain, they were discovered after being evacuated in 1939 and were



The Beverley Sisters Reminisce. Picture by Betti Blatman

known as "Little Ovaltines" throughout the War. In 1944 they were heard singing at school and auditioned for the BBC underground during which the red light went off over the door and Glen Miller appeared, requesting them to be signed up. But when he said that he could knock out some arrangements, they replied, "No thank you Mr Miller as we do our own".

Despite having had no training, they've appeared with a host of international

stars including Pat Boone, Bob Hope, Danny Kaye, Liberace, Elvis Presley, Cliff Richard and Norman Wisdom.

**Among my souvenirs**

When asked what it's like to sing to the Royals, they replied "rich" and that when they were kids, royalty was worshipped. They reminisced about acquiring 'souvenirs' while at Windsor Castle - soaps, towels and ER milk bottles, which made lovely gifts for neighbours.

Underneath the Queen's

window at Buck House were geraniums unavailable elsewhere so they took cuttings in a plastic bag! When they received an invitation to Highgrove, Joy didn't want to go, because of her feelings about Diana, but agreed and they were met by Prince Charles on his doorstep with a gin and tonic, when Joy decided that "he's not so bad, just a young man in the wrong job!" Prince Charles showed them around his garden, advising that "no pesticides are used here as

we leave it to nature".

**Golden Oldies**

The Beverley Sisters performed *How Much Is That Doggy In The Window* and *Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree*. During lunch, the Beverley Sisters mingled, distributing their autographed photos with requested personal messages and chatting animatedly.

A raffle was held for a Cancer Research Charity and bouquets were presented to the Beverley Sisters.

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