



Staff celebrate the 25th anniversary of Summerland House Nursing Home. (Pictures by Mark Windsor, 1318408)

Silver *for* Summerland

Summerland House Nursing Home celebrated its 25th anniversary on Sunday with more than 150 partygoers made up of residents, staff, friends and relatives – and special guest Dame Mary Perkins, who cut the cake baked specially for the occasion. **Mark Windsor** went along to find out about the home, its history and what makes Summerland special

WHEN Summerland House Nursing Home opened its doors in 1988 it was only the second privately owned establishment of its type. And while it remains the sole one affiliated to the Registered Nursing Home Association (RNHA), after 25 years it's now one of eight in the private sector offering residential and nursing care. Such homes are a necessary complement to those provided by HSSD, helping to meet the needs of our ever-increasing elderly population. Summerland provides long-term nursing and residential care as well as short-term respite care and convalescence. I visited the home to hear its story

from Summerland's financial director Paul Bailey and his wife Cathy Bailey, who is the matron. Paul began his working life at Summerland in its previous incarnation as a hotel. At 26 he was the general manager under owner Alfred Taylor. Then two years later the business was bought by David Woodland, who owned two nursing homes in England. Mr Woodland had spotted a growing need in Guernsey for private nursing and residential care for the elderly. Like everywhere else in the western hemisphere, the population in this sector of our community was growing. He set out to establish a facility to help cater for this increasing need – and crucially one that would meet the high standards of the RNHA.

The association, whose logo features a distinctive blue cross, provides support for nursing home owners as well as requiring its members to meet high standards of service. David's son Tony, who was involved in the management of the UK homes, is now managing director of the local group that includes Saumarez Park Manor Residential Home. Paul, a proud Welshman with a keen interest in sport, said he fell in love with the island the day he arrived. 'And that day it was raining', he added. 'When Summerland changed hands I was part of the package, which was great. I've been part of the evolution of the home ever since, for the last 20 years as financial director'. Matron Cathy is the daughter of farmer and former douzaine

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Summerland House

Nursing Home

Your Own Private Home From Home



Summerland House is a private Nursing Home ideally situated in peaceful surroundings on the outskirts of the Town centre. A fine example of Georgian architecture, the Home has been tastefully modernised to incorporate accommodation for fifty eight residents. It offers luxury accommodation with mainly single rooms with en suite facilities.

We aim to provide a kind, homely atmosphere throughout, backed up by the very best in nursing care under the personal supervision of Matron. We offer post operative, convalescent and long stay nursing or residential care.

For a brochure or an appointment to view, please contact the Matron or Paul Bailey, Director, on 724196 during normal office hours or email summerlandhouse@cwgsy.net



Dame Mary Perkins cuts the cake with matron Cathy Bailey.

(1318436)

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representative Hirzel Dorey and his artist wife Pamela. She previously trained and worked as a registered general nurse for the then Board of Health before joining Summerland in its first year as a bank nurse. In 1992 she went full time, and has been the matron for the last 16 years.

'Summerland has dual status, being both a residential and nursing home,' she explained. 'But the greater emphasis is on nursing. We have five independent residents who need no nursing care (one of whom still drives a car) and the rest, some 53, who do need nursing care because of their varying degrees of dependency.

'Summerland is our residents' home and there is a happy atmosphere here of which we're proud,' Cathy continued.

'The reasons for this include the commitment and effort of our staff in the care of our residents and their tremendous loyalty - many have been with us for years. 'We have a very low staff turnover.'

'Summerland employs 78 active staff in all,' Paul confirmed.

The high staff to patient ratio may seem surprising, but this is integral to the home's caring philosophy. The home's 24-hour care is achieved through shifts and can only be provided by a large team.

Cathy explained that the staff comprises excellent workers made up of mainly local people, with some from Latvia and Madeira, with regular staff having attained residential status or found homes on the open market. 'All our nursing and domestic staff's focus is on the residents and their relatives,' said Cathy, 'and while Summerland will never replace the homes they have left behind, our staff do their utmost to help them relax and feel at home here while providing the nursing care that they need.'

She admitted that having a good team of staff is vital, and when job vacancies arise new staff are always very welcome. 'It's great to take on board new people with fresh ideas, but we value our regular staff's long-term loyalty too. The continuity helps maintain consistency of care, and the investment we make in training staff reaps its own reward.

'Summerland has a good relationship with HSSD. All our staff are trained to NVQ level 2 or level 3, supported by HSSD and our eight-strong team of qualified assessors.

'We provide our own regular in-house training as well, familiarising staff with modes of best practice established for the Summerland environment.'

The home also supports two or three HSSD student nurses on placement each year, as part of their training and assessment.

As matron, Cathy has a very clear idea of the value of her own role, relishing the fact that she is not a 'new-style matron' of the sort that the UK is presently trying to mould.

'I'm simply matron', she said, with the inference that she has retained all the classic values and virtues that the word matron ever had.

Cathy has responsibility for the day-to-day running of the home, which involves the overseeing of all aspects of nursing care and the domestic, practical, in-house logistics of running the home and all the staff.

'In this I am assisted by my two excellent deputies, Debbie Presland and Ann Mead', she stated proudly.

Summerland caters mainly for elderly people of varying dependency who have come into care because of age-related problems and illnesses.

Typically, new residents may have been finding it increasingly difficult to cope physically around the home, perhaps struggling to feed and take care of themselves, becoming prone to falls, or simply suffering from an illness that puts them out of kilter for a while. The solution can be anything from short-term convalescence with assessment of their long-term care needs to full-time care within the home.

While Summerland caters mainly for elderly people, it has had residents of widely varying ages. Paul revealed that the youngest resident ever was a three-day-old baby and the eldest a 102-year-old woman.

'We've had younger people on a longer-term basis,' confirmed Cathy.

'While waiting for a younger disabled facility to become available, such as the Guernsey Cheshire Home, we have been able to accommodate a few people in their 30s and 40s.'

For many people, going into a nursing home can come as a shock.

They might have been leading perfectly independent lives when an unexpected fall or illness renders them unable to care for themselves.

'We know that losing one's independence is never easy,' said Cathy, 'and in some cases it happens so quickly it becomes especially difficult. When new residents come in, our staff are very mindful of this.'

While it can be a shock for some, going into a nursing home for many others is seen as a lifesaver and a social boon - providing the sort of company and stimulation from which they may have long been deprived. Also, it affords them their own privacy.

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Summerland House Nursing Home. (1318401)



Above: Founder and chairman David Woodland made a speech. (1318385)



Le Quartaette provided the music. (1318403)



Residents and friends enjoying the celebration. (1318399)



Joan Fisher, 94, and Jean Behaut, 81, enjoying the party. (1318436)



Cathy and Paul Bailey. (1318404)



Assistant matrons Debbie Pressland and Anne Meade enjoy a glass of bubbly (1318405)



Left: Former matrons Brenda Wall, left, and Barbara Bott, with receptionist Carolyn Le Poidevin, right, and former carer Gloria Guillou, centre. (1318470)

Below left: Care assistant Michelle Le Noury. (1318434)

Below right: Anita and her mother Pearl Zabiela. (1318414)





Henry Phillips, 89, left, with his brother-in-law Leonard Robert, 90, and his wife Olive, 85. All three are residents at Summerland. (1318438)



Wife and husband healthcare assistants Alison and Dusty Miller. (1318433)

Right: Staff nurse Martina Shevlin with resident Lucille Hamilton and assistant practitioner Jake Williams. (1318437)



Summerland is set in lovely grounds and benefits from an extensive patio area. (1318430, 1318429)



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 Each resident is accommodated in mainly single rooms (almost all with en-suite facilities) – and all with their own telephone and television. Summerland also has a number of double rooms where couples can be accommodated. Each also has their own registered nurse as their key worker, together with a named carer. This gives residents someone to relate to and represent their needs. Unsurprisingly, many relish each other's company and the visiting relatives also make friends too. Cathy recalled how one elderly lady in care at the home sadly died just over a year ago, but her husband still comes to visit the friends he made here. 'It's a lifeline for some,' she said. On top of the company there are a wide range of activities to pursue, with a full programme arranged by the activity co-ordinator. A number of volunteers attend on a weekly basis to assist with knitting circles, euchre and scrabble groups. They also welcome visits from the Healing Music Trust, other musical mornings and various outings. One surprise is the ratio of men to

women. Paul said: 'It's almost equal, unlike the days when I first started, when women clearly outnumbered the men.' He said that much of this was to do with the knock-on effects of male mortality, arising from the Second World War. These days, residents come from all walks of life, from privately funded retired individuals to locally born people, from retired growers – possibly the last of a dying breed – to retired bankers, from Telegraph to Sun readers. And their relatives can visit them at any time. The home takes special care to look after their needs as well and to involve them in any decision-making.

Private nursing and residential homes are an important part of Guernsey's care of the elderly and the States would be hard-pushed to provide all the services required on its own. However, homes such as Summerland receive support from HSSD and collaborate closely with it. There is also a local association of

nursing and residential homes, which meets on a quarterly basis. 'We're competitors in theory, but when it comes down to it we work closely with each other and HSSD to keep up to date and between us do our best to provide the service that Guernsey needs.' 'Right now, we think the balance of nursing and residential homes is just about right for Guernsey's current needs, but they are increasing. We are one of several members of the Guernsey Care Managers Association, which is in discussion with HSSD about fulfilling Guernsey's future needs.' All nursing care has to be paid for, but for those with local housing qualifications on a full Guernsey pension much of the cost – even in a private nursing home – can be offset by the Long-term Care Benefit, according to Paul. He explained that full information on this can be obtained from the Social Security Department.

● For more information on Summerland House Nursing Home, call Cathy Bailey on 724196.