

# THE LODGE

## Dementia Care Facility

THIS PIONEERING NEW FACILITY WAS OPENED RECENTLY WITHIN THE £45 MILLION BUCKSHAW RETIREMENT VILLAGE AT CHORLEY, LANCASHIRE



# THE LODGE STRIKES GOLD

DEMENTIA FACILITY IS FIRST IN THE UK TO GAIN NEW GOLD STANDARD

**The Lodge dementia care facility at Buckshaw Retirement Village, near Chorley, Lancashire, has become the first care establishment in Britain to gain a Gold Standard under a new scheme to promote dementia friendly design in buildings.**

The accreditation scheme has been launched by the University of Stirling's internationally-renowned Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC) following pilot audits in Britain, the Republic of Ireland and Australia.

Colm Cunningham, Director of Operations for the Dementia Services Development Centre, said: "Not only has The Lodge gained a Gold Standard but it has also scored very highly within the Gold category. The Lodge is an example of best practice and will help to drive the sector towards further improvements."

The DSDC's report on The Lodge said: "This is a beautiful facility in a beautiful setting. The overall atmosphere is both supportive and purposeful, striking a good balance between stimulating and

calm. Overall this facility meets high standards of provision in design for dementia care. Of particular note is the commitment to the provision of meaningful activities as a key aspect of delivering person centred dementia care and is integral to the overall culture of the organisation and to practice. Great effort is emphasised to support the maintenance of family bonds and important relations, and staff are pro-active in supporting this to happen."

Oakbridge Retirement Villages, who have developed The Lodge, approached the University of Stirling for advice about its design from a very early stage.

Mr Cunningham said: "Oakbridge are the model for others to follow. Developers often approach us when they are too far down the line to take on board any fundamental changes, but Oakbridge came to us a number of years ago and we were able to work with them on the concept of the development."

Professor June Andrews, Director of the DSDC, added: "I'm delighted that we have completed our first accreditation, and am particularly



The Dementia Services Development Centre

pleased that the first care establishment to be audited has gained our highest standard."

"The accreditation scheme has been launched at a time when the English Government has been consulting widely in advance of the forthcoming launch of its national dementia strategy, and the consultation has made it clear that there are many areas where improvements can be made in dementia care and that care can be very expensive. However, good design in dementia care will play a significant role in reducing costs because it will provide a better and healthier environment for residents," she added.

Oakbridge Retirement Villages Chief Executive Andrew Stow said: "I'm delighted that the University of Stirling's DSDC as an external authority with a worldwide reputation has judged us to be of Gold Standard. It highlights that we are at the forefront of dementia care in the UK and, indeed, have raised the bar for standards of care."



The Courtyard at The Lodge.



The Reminiscence Room.



The Activity Room.

# Why The Lodge gained Gold Standard accreditation

The following extracts from the Dementia Services Development Centre's audit of The Lodge highlight examples of best practice which have led to it gaining the UK's first Gold Standard.

Overall there is a strong sense that activity is an integral part of life in this facility and this is to be particularly commended. This care home demonstrates one of the best examples of striking a good balance between providing a stimulating environment which is also calm and not overwhelming. The staff are skilled and attentive and happy looking; activities seem to be everybody's business.

In general the quality of natural light throughout the building is excellent. This is particularly true of the bedrooms and communal spaces. This is to be commended as it supports people to make sense of their environment, helps mitigate against falls and depression, supports the production of vitamin D, which supports the absorption of calcium and phosphate from food, and which is important in maintaining bone strength.



The large enclosed courtyard features a red phone box, a rabbit hutch, a pergola and a water feature not only to add interest but assist with way finding in the garden.

Residents are encouraged to use this area for activity, and a local brass band practices in the garden once a week to help to ensure the facility is integrated as part of the wider community, as well as providing additional stimulation for residents.

The pub has a 'sit out' space in the garden, the pet shop has its rabbit outside and these features add interest and normality to the setting. Access to outside space helps to manage behavioural systems such as wandering and agitation. Well done for prioritising this space, it contributes a great deal to keeping residents healthy.



Throughout the living accommodation, the providers have ensured that every toilet door is painted bright yellow and has an appropriate sign.

This commitment to consistency will significantly enhance the possibility of older people with dementia finding the toilet.

The lounge, day room, activity area, reminiscence room, communal kitchen are grouped. While all the areas are visible from each other, the use of shelving and screening, gives some privacy, as well as adding interest as a feature in itself and being a place to display work and objects of interest. The quality of the furnishing was high, pleasant, modern but with a good sense that it would also appeal to older people.



The dining room is spacious and an integral part of the overall living area of the communal space. The area is easily visible, well furnished, of good scale and size and has good acoustics. The dining room with its proximity to the communal open-plan kitchen of each of the communities means it can function for larger scale celebrations, such as those typical of Christmas and Easter.



The bedrooms are larger than average size. There is space within the rooms to arrange the layout and move the beds to an alternative location.

Wardrobes have one glass-fronted door so that clothing can be displayed and more easily found without the need to search.

Assistive technology, which is applied in the context of an individual care plan, is unobtrusive and primarily focused on making sure staff are aware when a resident is out of bed at night, and links to ensuring lights are provided in the ensuite bathrooms.

It can be switched off if not required by a resident. Staff will not intervene at night unless an alarm indicates a person has been out of bed for an unduly long period of time. Staff can establish trends in the behaviour of residents at night to assist in developing care plans, when they become necessary.



The corridors are approximately four metres wide in some places which allow for two people to assist someone walking as well as for wheelchair access. They feature an excellent solid wooden handrail and they have been provided with pleasant places to sit.

There is good use of glass and openings with views to outside places. The area has pleasant artwork, which is themed into areas and will help with way finding.



Furnishings are pleasant and welcoming. In general the principle of avoiding heavy patterns are well met. Floor coverings have consistent colours and textures to aid minimising confusion. The colour scheme makes good use of the principles of application of tone and colour contrast, landmarks and signage for way-finding.

The Market Square is very interesting and offers much in terms of supporting families to remain involved with the people they care about. It also gives people within the community on-site recreational spaces to go to.

The Market Square includes a small scale cinema, a pub with access to the garden, a café, a pet shop, a potting shed for indoor gardening, a shop for newspapers, sweets and biscuits etc. and a beauty salon/hairdressers/barbers shop.

# Lodge representative to take part in top dementia conference



**Penni Brown, Operations Director for The Lodge, has been invited to speak at the 4th international conference of the University of Stirling's Dementia Services Development Centre at York in September 2009.**

In her presentation on delivering an effective project, Penni will outline to the 600 delegates from throughout the world how The Lodge was conceived, planned and developed.

Penni and her colleague, Lorraine Haining, Head of Dementia Services, also spoke at a Design School held in November 2008 by the Dementia Services Development Centre.

During the previous month, Lorraine also led a workshop on designing for dementia care at the UK Dementia Congress in Bournemouth. Lorraine said: "The invitations to take part in these events highlight the impact that The Lodge is making within such a short time of its opening."

■ *Professor June Andrews (right), Director of the DSDC, presents the Gold Standard accreditation to The Lodge Operations Director Penni Brown (centre) and Head of Dementia Services Lorraine Haining.*

## Three communities at Buckshaw Retirement Village

The Lodge is one of three communities within the innovative £45 million Buckshaw Retirement Village at Oakbridge Drive, Buckshaw Village, Chorley, Lancashire. The others are:

### THE COURT

The Court is for residents who are active and independent but like the idea of home ownership in a village community.

### THE GRANGE

The Grange has been designed for residents who need some support but don't want to give up their independence and move into a care home.



*The bowling green at Buckshaw Retirement Village.*

## HOW YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE LODGE

If you would like to find out more about THE LODGE please contact us on 01772 625000 or visit our website:  
[www.oakbridgeretirementvillages.co.uk](http://www.oakbridgeretirementvillages.co.uk)

For enquiries about independent living at THE COURT or assisted living at THE GRANGE within Buckshaw Retirement Village, contact us on 0845 094 50 50.

