



# The **WORLD** in our street

## Interview with **Staff at Chester Lodge Care Home –Jo turner, Linda Rathbone and Jan Humphries**

The Care home opened on 10<sup>th</sup> January in 1991 and is a privately owned family business. Linda's family bought the land and for a long time it was just a piece of waste ground for which they had got planning permission for a care home. There were lots of cars parked on it and a scrap metal dealer set up on the land and eventually the council was going to put a compulsory purchase order on the land when a company approached the family about building the care home.

Linda came here to do the first clean and then got a care home management book and has been here ever since! She is now the administrator.

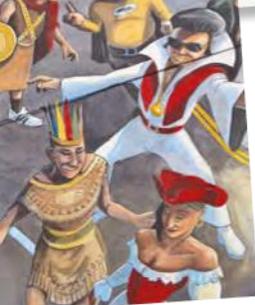
Jo is the Manager. There are 47 members of staff – some have worked there since 1995, others are more recent. There are staff from many different countries including Romanians, Nigeria, Croatia, Ghana, Jamaica, India, Irish, English, Polish and the Philippines – people come from all over, all working together as a team – really interesting mix.

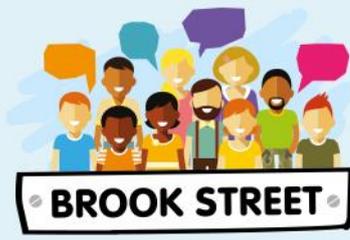
There are currently 35 residents; they can have 40 in total. They have Welsh, Irish, English and a Malawian resident. Their age ranges from 54 – 101!

Government requirements have changed over time but have always had a real mix of people. The majority of residents are from the local area. They always have a waiting list and some residents can see the roof of their houses where they used to live.

On the site used to be a pub called The Angel – a lot of people remember the pub.

The Home tries to be involved in the life of the street.





# The **WORLD** in our street

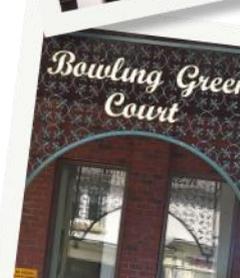
Two thirds of the residents require nursing care. They do not do dementia care. There has been a change in the context of delivery of care and legislation has had a big impact – particularly “Care in The community”.

The Home offers a variety of in – house entertainment, for example a singer. They go out once a month for example to the zoo, Llandudno, theatre, garden centres and Llangollen. They have raised funds via raffles and have bought a big screen so they can have a film night which happens every Tuesday. They have Race Days and a summer barbecue for family and friends and at Christmas they had a lunch at the Queens Hotel for 62 residents, staff, relatives and ex-relatives.

Some people come for a shorter time and go home. The staff occasionally go down the street for personal shopping and have been to some of the restaurants. Residents can come and go as they please, 1 lady for example goes to Mecca Bingo each week.

Jo who is the Manager, lived in Upton for all her life until 12 years ago when she moved to Northgate Village. She went to Acresfield primary School and then Ellesmere Port Grammar School. She went to college and trained in residential care. She has worked with different client groups but for the last 22 years have worked with the elderly. She thinks the best thing is the people they look after, it is so interesting and every day is different she says “you can’t plan your day!” She works full time (and the rest!)

Outside of work, Jo is the Scout District Commissioner for the whole of Chester which has





# The **WORLD** in our street

about 1600 members and she manages about 200 leaders so a big job!

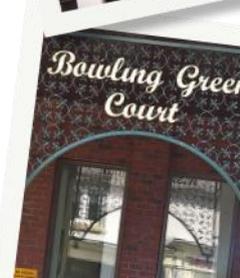
Linda who is administrator, was born in Liverpool and moved to Ellesmere Port and now lives in Little Sutton. Her favourite thing about the job is the residents, it is "home from home, fun and feel like you belong".

Jan who is the domestic Supervisor, she was born in Liverpool, moved to Moreton and moved to a hotel – her parents were licensees. Jan was a hairdresser. Many years ago she was a nanny in Regents Park, St John's Wood, London and loved being down there. She moved to Elton and worked at Loxley Hall Care Home in Helsby and this is where she met Jo and when Jo moved to Chester Lodge, Jan followed her!

She looks after all the domestic staff so people in the laundry, kitchen, porters etc. Jan is the person who shows everyone around and she has a real gift of remembering people's names and making everyone welcome. She will have been at Chester Lodge for 6 years in July. There are 4 people who come every day to the home. For example if a partner has passed away some individuals still want to come to the home.

They would all like Brook Street to be a bit more united and for it to be beautified a bit, there is a piece of land next door and it would be lovely to have some kind of sculpture or art work.

Children from the local nursery visit once a month and the residents love the opportunity to talk to children. This would be a great opportunity for the children for the 3 schools to talk to some of the residents and for them to think of "What would you ask a 100 year old?"





# **BROOK STREET** The **WORLD** in our street

