

# WINTER NEWS



## THERE IS NEVER A DULL MOMENT AT SOMMERLEIGH COURT

Sommerleigh Court is a very special place, not just for its excellent location, being a few footsteps away from the town centre, but for its village-like surroundings in the heart of Dorchester.

With 68 generously sized apartments and a nursing home accommodating 40 beds, Sommerleigh Court really is its own community. This retirement village offers an expert level of care, comfort, and facilities. Most important to remember is that it's also special because of the people who live and work here - there is never a dull moment.

Ellen and her Activities team ensure there is something interesting for everyone. Recently we have enjoyed visits from live reindeer, vintage cars and a band from Romania. We try to celebrate all things Dorset which this year included marking the life of Benjamin Jesty the local farmer who invented inoculation 30 years before the celebrated Edward Jenner. Looking forward, Ellen has compiled an exciting list of events in 2019 including a fire walk!

We are also pleased to say that the nursing home has been awarded with GSF 'Platinum' status for the third time.

At Sommerleigh Court we strive to continually improve and build on our excellent recent CQC report. Whether it's the use of technology - we were one of the first homes in Dorset to have the interactive Magic Table - or the use of handsets to record all care, we are always looking to get better.



**Graham Oakes**  
General Manager, Sommerleigh Court

## A GRADE 1 LISTED DAY OUT IN DORSET

Earlier this year, residents enjoyed a visit to nearby Athelhampton - one of England's finest Tudor manor houses. The journey began with a tour of the finely-furnished rooms including the Great Hall, Great Chamber and wine cellar. Art enthusiasts enjoyed the opportunity to view works by Russian artist Marevna who resided in the house in the 1940s and 50s.

No visit would be complete without exploring the Grade I Listed gardens, which date back to 1891. World-famous topiary pyramids compete with fragrant collections of roses, magnolias and lilies whilst water plays a recurring theme throughout the garden, with a number of show-stopping fountains and the River Piddle flowing through the grounds.

The day's outing culminated with a delicious lunch at the Coach House savouring locally-sourced produce.



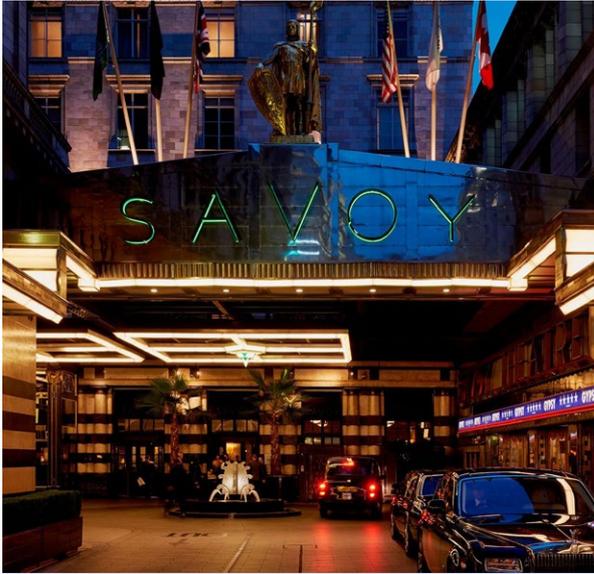
## SOMMERLEIGH COURT ACHIEVES 'HAT-TRICK' FOR QUALITY OF CARE

Sommerleigh Court has been awarded Platinum status by the Gold Standards Framework [GSF]. This is the third time the home has achieved the highest status, a feat achieved by less than 100 care homes across England and Wales. The GSF measures the quality of care received by residents, ensures professionals work across boundaries and enables people to choose where they die.

Sharon Hill, Head of Care, welcomed the award saying:

"Providing excellent care for our residents and enabling them to live well is a privilege and honour ensuring that at all times they receive 'The right care, at the right time, every time.'"





## THE HOUSE OF SAVOY

At Somerleigh Court, we are fortunate to have a diverse range of residents who have lived extremely interesting lives. In keeping with this, we host regular talks from speakers on a variety of engaging topics. We recently had the pleasure of listening to Mr Eric Beckley - a former manager of the world-renowned Savoy Hotel in London.

He regaled his audience with details of the history of the hotel which was built by the impresario Richard D'Oyly Carte with profits from his Gilbert and Sullivan opera productions. Residents were captivated with tales of notable events and famous guests, ranging from Marlene Dietrich to Noel Coward and the Beatles. A fascinating afternoon greatly enjoyed by all residents.

## PART OF THE FAMILY

John and Patricia Rutherford (Barry and Pat) both moved into Somerleigh Court during the summer of August 2017. Since they've been with us for just over a year now, we thought we'd catch up with the couple, see how well they've settled in, and find out just how much their life has changed since the move.

"I still do the same things, although life has changed to a certain extent as now I don't go far because everything is on my doorstep. I've taken up new things - choir, French language, ukulele band - these were things which were hard to pursue in our old place."

Now at Somerleigh Court they feel part of the family. "We were looking for something smaller and there are the savings of downsizing and coming into a community."

Most importantly the Rutherford's expressed how Somerleigh Court allows them to feel safe and supported. "You need a secure base when you get older; somewhere with immediate access and support. It's very friendly - staff are very friendly and we've got to know most. It's a nice place to live. Like a little village with help!"

## STRIKING THE RIGHT NOTE

Somerleigh Court came alive with music over the summer with our very own music festival. Residents enjoyed a diverse repertoire of live music from classical and contemporary through to show tunes and popular music. Souls were soothed with live jazz from Saxtet, piano performances from Louise Dukes and local talent in the form of the Casterbridge Choir.

## JOIN THE COMMUNITY

Sally, Somerleigh Court's Sales Manager, recently gave us an insight into what residents say about life at Somerleigh Court.

"People frequently comment on how peaceful it is at Somerleigh Court, which comes as a surprise when you consider we are right in the heart of Dorchester. In addition to having all the attractions of the High Street on their doorstep, residents also enjoy their own outside space in the form of our gardens and terraces. All of our apartments are very generously-sized ... even down to our smallest one bedroom apartments. Most importantly, there is a wonderful sense of community at Somerleigh Court, with all residents and staff knowing each other by name."

So what can we expect by way of upcoming apartments for sale?

"We have two one-bed apartments - one large apartment overlooks the gardens and the other is totally refurbished, with a new kitchen and appliances, and new flooring. A real gem at £209,950\*!

Coming soon is a large two bedroom apartment with a very generous lounge and bay box window. This spacious living space has been recently refurbished with new decor and flooring. £340,000\*.

If you or a loved one would like to learn more about our charming retirement community, please call **call Sally on 01305 211 836**. \*Deferred membership fees and service charges apply.

**Somerleigh Court is also offering a £30 Marks & Spencer voucher\* if you book and attend a property viewing and tour of the village between 1st November 2018 and 31st December 2018. For more information, please contact Sally Stockley on 01305 211 836. Please quote "M&S offer" when booking your appointment.**

\*subject to terms and conditions available at [www.somerleighcourt.co.uk](http://www.somerleighcourt.co.uk)

## EVENTS IN 2019

- Jan** - Burns Night supper
- Feb** - Murder Mystery dinner
- Mar** - Dukes' Antiques Roadshow
- Apr** - Easter Feast, St. George's Day Feast & a charity fire walk
- May** - Memorial Service
- Jun** - National Care Home Open Day
- July** - Music Day (a whole day of live bands & musicians)
- Aug** - Summer Fete
- Sep** - Macmillan Coffee Morning
- Oct** - Trafalgar Day meal
- Nov** - Fireworks Display (with hotdogs & mulled wine)
- Dec** - Christmas Extravaganza

We also host monthly talks from guest speakers, with recent topics ranging from 'A walk through 17th century Dorchester' to 'My Family and Other Smugglers'. More enlightening tête-à-têtes are planned for 2019.

**For a short time only we are offering to cover your removal costs\* on any properties reserved at Somerleigh Court between 1st November 2018 - 31st December 2018.**

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## EXPLORING THE BENNETT'S WATER GARDENS

Bennett's water gardens, in Dorset, is home to one of Britain's most outstanding displays of waterlilies. A recent visit to this beautiful nature conservation site reinforced Claude Monet's comment on water landscapes; "One instant, one aspect of nature contains it all." No wonder he dedicated much of the last 30 years of his life to painting them.

Set over eight acres, the gardens comprise six beautiful lakes, each featuring different waterlilies surrounded by wetland plants, woodland walks and abundant wildlife. One of the main features of the garden is a blue Japanese bridge built in 1999 to celebrate 100 years since Claude Monet painted his famous 'Water Lily Pond' 1899. Residents spent a tranquil day exploring this magical garden, before dining out on a delicious, hot lunch in Café Monet.