

# Guild Care's Services

## Care Homes with Nursing in Worthing

**Ashmount**, Southey Road, Worthing 01903 528500  
**Caer Gwent**, Downview Road, Worthing 01903 536649  
**Irene House**, Parkfield Road, Tarring 01903 529060  
**Linfield**, Wykeham Road, Worthing 01903 529629

## Sheltered Accommodation

**Dolphin Court Sheltered Housing**, Shelley Road, Worthing 01903 529222

## Healthy Living Services

**Healthy Living Centre for Older people and Carers**  
including **Time Out for Carers and Time Out & About**  
Methold House, Worthing BN11 1DU 01903 528600  
**Community Partnership Team** 01903 528627  
One-to-one support for vulnerable older people in the community  
**Ashdown Club** 01903 528607  
Activities for children and young people with special needs  
**Lovett and Durrington Clubs** 01903 505236  
Community Clubs for older people in Maybridge and Durrington  
**Transport Service** 01903 528608  
Over 40 volunteers drive our minibuses over 54,000 miles each year

## Home Care & Intermediate Care

In Worthing and from Shoreham to Rustington 01903 528637

## Charity Shops & GreenHouse Charity Superstore

39/41 Rowlands Road, Worthing 01903 529777  
The Strand Parade, Goring-by-Sea 01903 524090  
35 Broadwater Street West 01903 209111  
82 The Street, Rustington 01903 773704  
54 High Street, Shoreham 01273 464793  
The GreenHouse, Meadow Road, East Worthing 01903 205302

**Head Office Methold House, North Street, Worthing BN11 1DU**  
**01903 528600** [www.guildcare.org](http://www.guildcare.org)



# History of Caer Gwent



by Edward Kellett

Registered Charity number 1044658

The Guild's first residential home was opened at 4 Church Walk on 17 September 1943. In spite of the difficulties which arose during the war and post war years, every endeavour was made to keep the home running as smoothly as possible, bearing in mind that the main priority was the welfare of the 14 lady residents under the Guild's care.

After being in existence for about eight years or so, it was becoming obvious that the home was not large enough nor viable, so steps were taken to find a larger property to rehouse the residents. Fortunately, the problem was solved in that a property, Norbury House in Selden Road, came onto the market and as its potential was obvious the purchase went ahead.

Luckily a buyer was found for 4 Church Walk, so the home was officially opened on 14 October 1953. It was renamed 'Whitcomb House' in memory of Mr Charles Whitcomb who gave the freehold of 4 Church Walk to the Guild.

The first residential home had been opened for around two years and it soon became apparent that there was a need for more residential homes and a sub-committee was formed to look into the question of opening a second home. The first meeting was held on 19 October 1945. It was proposed that such a home be established for persons who could pay a minimum of £2.2.0d weekly.

In due course some properties were inspected but none were found to be suitable. However, at the beginning of the year (1946) Caer Gwent, in Wykeham Road came onto the market. Arrangements were made for members of the committee to view the property which had been established as a Nursing Home for very many years and it was found to be suitable to accommodate 24-26 people. Its telephone number was 3.

Our grateful thanks to the late Edward Kellett for all his time researching the information which enabled us to reproduce this History of Caer Gwent. Mr Kellett was associated with the Guild for over 31 years.

the Guild did not have vacant possession as ten residents stayed on. It was just before Christmas in 1986 that Guild Care took over Newland Lodge.

It happened at about this time the Guild received its largest benefaction and after a certain amount had been used for improvements to Ashmount, the Guild's third Residential Home, the considerable residue provided the major part of the purchase price and extension of Newland Lodge which quite naturally was re-named Caer Gwent. In addition, another large bequest had also been received and was incorporated with the original legacy. There are two plaques at Caer Gwent which pay tribute to those wonderful benefactors.

When all the alterations had been completed the home was formally opened on 30 June 1988 by the Guild's Patron, the then Earl of March. There is no doubt that it became one of the Guild's most suitable properties. It is very spacious, having 37 residents; it is quite easy to run and above all it has the advantage of a most attractive garden, mainly facing south, a special amenity so much enjoyed by the residents.

The old Caer Gwent was incorporated into the Frazer Lodge complex and was known as the Gordon Wing.

It is quite certain that there are a few, whether residents, staff or committee members, who still hold in great affection the Guild's second home known as the Caer Gwent Residential Club.

The word 'Club' was thought to be more attractive than 'Home' and the new building, Caer Gwent, would be called an Old People's Residential Club.

The next important step was to launch an appeal for £10,000 which it was hoped would not only cover the purchase price but necessary equipment, alterations and general decorations etc.

The premises were vacated during July. This meant that such matters as fire precautions, the domestic hot water system and central heating, electrical work and alterations could now be dealt with.

It was emphasised that prospective residents must not be ill when entering but should they subsequently become ill they would not have to leave, thanks to an offer from the British Red Cross to perform a permanent rota for nursing services.

In the meantime, the appeal was gaining momentum and by the end of July had reached £7,000, a magnificent figure raised by many fundraising events such as a Grand Charity Concert, a Garden Fete organised by Worthing Central Townswomen's Guild and a Ball organised by the Mayor, Alderman J A mason. It is also interesting to note that one of the fundraising events was a Golf Tournament held at Hill Barn. The two principal players were Reg Whitcomb and Dai Rees, both professionals of high standing, and over £200 was raised. Golfing Tournaments are still important fundraising events today.

All the necessary work was now well in hand and it was hoped that the opening would take place before the end of the year. Two important decisions were made at the Management Committee Meeting held on 1 October 1946, in that Dr Gusterson had agreed to

become the Club's Hon Medical Officer and Miss Ballard, who was at present Matron of 4 Church Walk, was to be offered the matron's post which she accepted. Dr Gusterson was the driving force behind the opening of the St Barnabas Hospice which was opened on 1 January 1973.

Some concern was now becoming apparent over the delay of the official opening. Several well-known personalities had been approached including Royalty but none had accepted. In December the appeal reached £10,117.

In spite of a few hold-ups all the necessary work was proceeding very satisfactorily and a number of residents had been chosen. These were both male and female, and as has already been mentioned, they had to be well when they entered the Club and have very little income, say a maximum of £3 per week. The selection had not been easy to select 24 out of approximately 150 who had applied. All were deserving causes.

At a meeting of the Residential Club's Committee on 10 February 1947 it was announced that the Club would be officially opened on 7 March at 11.30am by Sir Ernest Rock Carling, Consultant Surgeon and Vice President at the Westminster Hospital. The opening was to be followed by a luncheon given by the Mayor, Councillor C S Green, at the Town Hall. At 2.30pm there would be a public meeting with invited subscribers and members of the public. Sir Ernest would speak on old people's needs.

And so perhaps the second great historical occasion in Guild Care's history took place on the opening of its second home, to be known as the Caer Gwent Residential Club. Everything went according to plan and speaking at the Assembly Hall afterwards, Sir Ernest Rock Carling said "You have a number of small homes in Worthing and

you have that very important thing, a club for the elderly, but there is room for others, particularly clubs for men and opportunities for the elderly to meet the young. I must congratulate Worthing on setting an example to the rest of the country."

The appeal had reached the magnificent sum of £10,993.13.10d and it was decided that it should close.

Incidentally, in the early 1950's, Lord Callaghan (Jim) used to visit his mother when she was resident in Caer Gwent.

For the next 35 years the home fulfilled its purpose in that countless numbers of its residents enjoyed a happy life looked after by a caring staff. As they grew older, some of them became frail and needed nursing attention and eventually, unless they required urgent hospital care, they ended their days in peaceful surroundings and always receiving tender loving care.

However, unfortunately the situation regarding the running of Caer Gwent began to cause concern to the Guild. Apart from new regulations set out by West Sussex County Council Social Services Department, such concern was felt on account of the increasing age and physical frailty of many of the residents. The building which was on three floors was now becoming unsuitable and difficult to run. Some of the bedrooms were undersized and a lift was needed. The estimated cost was £150,000 and it was decided that it would not be prudent to spend such a large amount.

A search began to find a suitable property to which Caer Gwent residents could be moved. After about two years a deal was struck with the North London Homes for the Blind to purchase Newland Lodge in Belsize Road. There were 16 residents but some did not want to transfer to the Society's property at Rustington, therefore