

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



History of Frazer Lodge

formerly on the site now occupied
by our latest home ~ Linfield



by Edward Kellett

Registered Charity number 1044658

Since the Guild was started in 1933, it has been very fortunate in receiving great financial help particularly by way of legacies and donations. Without the great generosity of the people of Worthing, there is no doubt, whatsoever, that the Guild's story would be vastly different to what it is today. It is so gratifying to learn of the recognition shown to the Guild in the important part it plays, not only in its provision of necessary aid to the elderly and lonely, but in all aspects of its work.

In the majority of cases, such donations have always been given anonymously, but with a proviso as to how the money was to be used. Where anonymity was not specifically mentioned, a suitable plaque has been placed in situ on a building or extension recognising the source of the donation.

Two of the Guild's Residential Homes were named after their benefactor, Whitcomb House, in Selden Road, was so called after Charles Whitcomb – a very well-known local businessman who gave the property, 4 Church Walk, which became the Guild's first Residential Home. The other home was "Fraser Lodge" in Wykeham Road on the site where Linfield now resides.

The short history of Frazer Lodge began on 20 August 1965 when the Executive Committee was informed that a Mrs Florrie Frazer, of Knaresborough, Yorkshire, owned a property, "Little Curt", West Parade. It represented her lifelong ambition to have a home for retired nurses in reduced circumstances. It opened in June 1965. As Mrs Frazer spent a great deal of her time in Yorkshire she got in touch with the Worthing Council for Voluntary Service (Guild Care) and it was eventually agreed that it would take over the home and contents with vacant possession under a trusteeship of which Mrs Frazer would be a member. She also endowed it with the sum of £10,000.

After very careful and full investigations of all aspects that would be involved, regretfully it was decided that these premises did not lend

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

elderly. This decision was accompanied by much soul searching. However the high cost associated with such a facility together with the difficulty in recruiting specialist staff as many of the residents were becoming mentally ill left the Guild with little alternative. This was possibly the saddest and most difficult decision that had to be made in the whole of the Guild's history.

For some while the Richmond Wing was used for nursing cases, but in 1993 with the difficult operational problems, caused by the unsuitable nature of the building, it was finally decided to close the Wing.

Edward Kellett, the writer of this piece would have been thrilled today to see the new Richmond Wing for residents with dementia at Linfield, the newest of Guild Care's homes. Linfield is built on the site of Frazer Lodge and the old Caer Gwent in Wykeham Road.

themselves as suitable for provision of a home for the care of the frail elderly, which was one of the Guild's great ambitions, and would be uneconomical to run. It was decided therefore to sell "Little Court" and invest the proceeds until a more suitable property could be found. Mrs Frazer had accepted the situation and had no objection to the house being sold and hoped all would go well. She did, however, request that any name should include the word "Frazer" in memory of her late husband.

The next few months were concerned with the sale of "Little Court", the search for another suitable property and a sub-committee was formed to deal with this.

In due course, after protracted negotiations, "Little Court" was eventually sold.

In the meanwhile, a property had come on the market which might be suitable. A considerable amount of time elapsed until March 1967 when it was announced that, all being well, negotiations would soon be satisfactorily finalised for the purchase of a property. It was "Pulborough House", a large house in Wykeham Road, which was quite by coincidence next to "Caer Gwent". Possibly it was originally built as a large private house and had subsequently been converted into two self-contained flats. If the premises were purchased, a great deal would need to be spent on it including the installation of a lift and oil-fired central heating. Eventually agreement was reached and contracts were exchanged.

The first step was to engage architects to draw up plans for the necessary work. This was a mammoth task and took some time, particularly as it was decided to build a new wing. The idea being that this would be used for the staff thus leaving the whole house to accommodate 14-16 residents. An ad hoc sub-committee had been formed at the outset to deal with the project. On exchange of contracts this committee became the Frazer Lodge Management Committee and it met for the first time on 6 March 1968.

Some months elapsed before planning consent was finally granted. Tenders for the work had been sent out and subsequently one was accepted and it was hoped that the work would start on 19 August.

Whilst all the work was under way the conclusion was reached that as a single storey was being built it would be economical to add a first floor at the same time rather than leave it some years later and then have to move the residents out and strip the roof to build on again. This suggestion was agreed to and the necessary estimate was obtained, which was accepted and the additional work put in hand. In the meantime the front lawn was made into a car park and ambulance turning space.

Another alteration was agreed. The present dining room was small and it was decided that an adjoining large bedroom would make a much better dining room and the present one could be used as a two-bedded bedroom. This meant that this would reduce the number of residents to 20.

Incidentally it should be mentioned that a legacy of £4000 had been left to the home which was a very welcome surprise. At their May meeting the Committee discussed the official opening. The names of several well-known celebrities including royalty were considered. It was then decided to approach Mrs Frazer once again.

As the home was to be registered under Part III of the National Assistance Act of 1948 the first budget was discussed and this was agreed at £12.6.2d per head per week or £1.15.2d per day.

The first matron of Frazer Lodge was Miss S Holloway. As regards the residents it was reported that a total of 55 applications had been received for 20 places. After a great deal of deliberation and investigation all the rooms were allocated.

Once all the important work had been completed, the first residents eventually moved in at the beginning of October 1969. The large

building had been converted into the Guild's fourth Residential Home and its first for the frail elderly. It was believed at the time to be the only home in the country run for the frail by a society or body. Everything was done to achieve this aim.

There was a redesigned kitchen; all the rooms were specially fitted out thus obviating the necessity of having a sick bay. Every bed was fitted with hospital curtains on silent runners so that sharing residents could have privacy. The front of the building had been made more attractive because it had been built up in the form of a veranda and a double ramp. It was at that time the only Guild home which had a lift installed.

Several presentations were made to the home including some electric clocks, a garden seat, a television set and three geriatric chairs.

It was agreed that the official opening would be carried out by the Guild's President Mr A G Linfield CBE JP (later Sir Arthur) and this important function took place on 22 April 1970. Unfortunately, Mrs Frazer could not be present at the opening but she sent a letter of good wishes. There is no doubt that she would have been very proud to have been present particularly as the home was named after her late husband.

In early 1987 the residents of Caer Gwent were moved to much larger premises in Belsize Road, which meant that the building was empty. This gave the Guild the opportunity to have it completely modernised, which included additional accommodation and a lift. As the two buildings were already connected to each other, the site became known as "Frazer Lodge", the original became the Richmond Wing and the old Caer Gwent the Gordon Wing, both named after the Guild's Patron, the Duke of Richmond and Gordon.

The year 1990 was one of great distress and sadness in that it was decided to close the Richmond Wing as a specialist unit for the frail