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Press Release

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Notes to news desks

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St Catherine's dementia specialist care home grand opening day

St Catherine's - at the forefront of care in the region

North East based Wellburn Care homes are a family run care home provider and we have 14 homes across the region. One of those is St Catherine's Care home, located in Shipton, York.

This Saturday 11th June, marked a hugely important chapter in St Catherine's history, as we welcomed guests to celebrate with us, the grand opening of our new look home, which has been transformed into a specialist dementia care home. The complete transformation is the result of more than two years hard work and in excess of £1.5m invested, and required a deep dive into the world of specialist dementia care, with months of research, development, planning and design, before a single brick was laid. The result is a beautifully modern dementia specialist care home, with state of the art facilities including 'The Manor', which is a separate facility for younger residents living with young onset dementia, that we hope will help St Catherine's become a regional, as well as local centre of excellence - offering unrivalled support to those living with dementia, whilst furthering understanding and raising awareness of the condition.

The Grand open day attracted hundreds of guests, proving a hugely popular day, with a real carnival atmosphere. Some of the highlights included live music, food and drink stalls, an animal corner and a kids treasure hunt. All touch points had a subtle approach to dementia awareness too, so as guests filtered in and explored different areas, it was an opportunity to highlight how different aspects can help those living with dementia. Tours of the sensory garden were particularly popular, and watching the kids take part in the treasure hunt was a highlight for us, as each item on the lists introduced different aspects of dementia, such as memory, smell, sounds in a very child friendly way. To see how they interacted, took interest and learn as they went, was a lovely moment.

Our staff played their part too, helping to show guests around, explain our story and introduce them to the concept of St Catherine's. Special guests included the Sheriff of York, Suzie Mercer who officially cut the ribbon to officially announce St Catherine's open, and Care England's Chief Executive, Professor Martin Green OBE.

Of the day and our St Catherine's project, Martin Green said "This is a ground breaking project, developed specifically to offer support services for people with early onset dementia, and the partnership with Dementia Forward will ensure that St Catherine's is going to transform the lives of people with early onset dementia. I have no doubt that St Catherine's is a State of the art facility that will become a regional, as well as local centre of excellence to support people living with dementia, and I was honoured to be at the grand open day, to pay tribute to the fantastic work done by Wellburn and I want to commend Rachel and her team for the care and support they offer and for the expertise in Dementia care which has been developed over many years."

Wellburn's Chairman Rachel Beckett added "It's been a long journey to get here, but standing here, with such a fantastic turn out, amongst so many friends and guests from our local community, I just feel a huge amount of pride. We've had such incredible support from so many people throughout the journey, and all of my staff have been exceptional. The opening marks a new, exciting chapter in the history of St Catherine's, Wellburn Care homes and dementia care in the region. The future looks bright and we're looking forward to getting on with what we do best, caring."

Our homes

Craghall
Jesmond

Eighton Lodge
Gateshead

Garden House
Berwick Upon Tweed

Glenholme House
Sunderland

Grimston Court
York

Heatherdale
Northumberland

Nightingale Hall
Richmond

Riverhead Hall
Drifffield

Rosevale
York

Ryton Towers
Gateshead

St Catherine's
York

St George's
Washington

Wellburn House
Northumberland

Whorlton Grange
Newcastle upon Tyne