

STAFF EXPERIENCE WHAT ITS LIKE TO HAVE DEMENTIA

LUXURY HAMPSHIRE CARE HOME HOSTS VIRTUAL DEMENTIA EXPERIENCE

Orchard Gardens, a care home in Bishopstoke Park retirement village near Winchester, will be holding a dementia information day with a virtual dementia tour on 14th July. “The National Association of Care Catering” are the organisers of this event. The day will be open to chefs and catering professionals working in care homes, so they can experience first-hand the physical and mental challenges facing those with dementia.

Throughout the day, there will be a variety of informative sessions to teach the participants more about the different kinds of dementia and the types of care available. However, the virtual dementia tour will be the highlight of the day. The tour was designed to not just tell people what it is like to have dementia, but to allow them to sense it. Participants will have to navigate a room designed by a team of scientists whilst wearing specially designed headphones and sunglasses and being confronted with an array of disorienting and stressful stimuli. The numbing of senses and ensuing confusion will be a hard hitting experience.

Nikki Toomer, Customer Relations Manager at Orchard Gardens, said: “The number of people living with dementia is growing and Anchor is leading the way with training its staff so we can help older people live well with the condition, understanding what it actually feels like, even for a short time, might give staff members a deeper appreciation for what dementia sufferers are going through”

So far over thirty six professionals from catering teams at care homes in and around Hampshire have booked to attend the event. There are a few places left for local care catering professionals to book via www.thenacc.co.uk

Ends

For media enquiries about these events, please contact Yasmin Galbraith on 02077 597242 or Yasmin.Galbraith@anchor.org.uk

Notes to editors:

About Anchor

- Anchor is a charity and England's largest not-for-profit provider of housing and care to older people.
- It serves 40,000 older people across the country.
- Formed in 1968 as Help the Aged (Oxford) Housing Association, it adopted the name Anchor in 1975 and opened its first care home seven years later.
- Today, it provides retirement housing to rent and to buy, retirement villages and residential care homes, including specialist dementia care, from more than 1,000 locations across England.
- For more information visit www.anchor.org.uk.

About Orchard Gardens and Bishopstoke Park

Bishopstoke Park is Anchor's newest retirement village in Hampshire. The village has 121 prestigious independent living apartments, 34 village centre apartments and 19 assisted living apartments giving the over 65's the opportunity to live independently and receive care by highly trained professionals should they need it. There is also a 48-bed care home on the site; Orchard Gardens care home

offers both residential care and specialist dementia support. A wide range of facilities including a bistro, delicatessen, gym and swimming pool are available in the village centre, giving all residents the opportunity to participate in social activities and village community life.