



Amberleigh House is ... CIC's champion

Last year's Grand National winner Amberleigh House looked every inch the hero when he attended a very special ceremony at a CIC specialist care home on Merseyside.

you first joined residents, colleagues and guests at the event to celebrate their change of name from; Longmoor Lodge to... Amberleigh House!

Home to 38 residents, Amberleigh House residential home provides specialist care and support for people with dementia, including Alzheimer's.

"Our home has undergone a massive transformation and has recently been re-furbished to top hotel standards." Explains service manager, Janice Morris.

"In developing an innovative service that provides specialist care and support for local people with dementia including Alzheimer's, our home is leading the way in our region. We believe that this heralds a new beginning for us."

To mark the start of this new beginning, they decided to change the name of their home.

"Residents and colleagues got together and agreed that we needed a new and

memorable name for our home. We all felt that Amberleigh House was perfect." adds Janice.

The champion racehorse Amberleigh House, won the Grand National in 2004. Trained by Red Rum's trainer Ginger McCain and owned by local businessman Mr Halewood - the horse is a local hero.

"Amberleigh House is our hero, not just because he won the Grand National last year, but because he has local connections and presents a positive message." Janice explains.



Despite being one of the oldest horses in the race Amberleigh house came back to the National this year to try again.

"Amberleigh House's determination meant that he managed to finish in the top ten at the world's hardest and best racecourse this year. He left the younger horses standing!



We all agree here, if that doesn't qualify for hero status, what does!" Janice said.

Owner John Halewood brought the horse to meet residents and colleagues in April after they were invited by CIC Chief Executive, Charles Eggleston, to officially re-name the home.

They were also joined by the Mayor of Knowsley, Councillor Tommy Quirk, family and friends of residents and local care professionals.



John presented Charles with a framed picture of the horse; signed by the jockey, the trainer Ginger McCain and the owner himself.

"Colleagues and residents are delighted with the picture which we will proudly display inside our home." Says Charles.

"We are also thrilled that Amberleigh House attended our ceremony, the appearance of the horse has made the day really special!" he says.

"This is such an exciting time for the home, it looks great and it has just been awarded a further three

year contract to work in partnership with Central Liverpool PCT and Liverpool social services". Charles adds.

Colleagues at Amberleigh House have developed expertise in the area of dementia and are providing an innovative service for local people.

Janice explains: "Each person who develops dementia experiences it in their own individual way.

Colleagues at Amberleigh House work closely with residents and their families to provide excellent care and support.



"We believe that caring and supporting an individual with dementia should be based on respect for dignity and quality of life. Janice says. "Effective communication and co-ordination between everyone is essential and certainly crucial to our homes success."

Charles agrees "We have a dynamic team of carers in place and Amberleigh House is leading the way in the region in the development of its specialist service."



What is Dementia?

Dementia is the term used to describe a progressive brain disorder. There are over 100 different types of dementia – the most common is Alzheimer's, making up 55 per cent of all cases of dementia.

Dementia results in a loss of brain function, which is usually progressive and eventually severe. Symptoms include memory loss, confusion and problems with speech.

Statistics

- It is estimated that over 750,000 people in the UK suffer from dementia.
- Dementia affects one person in 20 over the age of 65 and one person in five over the age of 80.
- The number of people with dementia is steadily increasing.
- Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia, making up 55 per cent of all cases of dementia.
- There are nearly 18 million people with dementia in the world.