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Forest Road Garage would like to congratulate **Summerland Nursing Home** on their 35th anniversary celebrations and look forward to being of assistance to them in the future.

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WE WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE SUMMERLAND NURSING HOME ON THEIR 35 YEAR ANNIVERSARY.

We look forward to assisting them to carry on serving the community now and in the future!

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SUMMERLAND HOUSE NURSING HOME, which has been home to 3,920 residents, opened exactly 35 years ago today. Since then, it has seen many changes, although its managing director, Paul Bailey, is not one of them. He was there right from the start, having managed the former hotel that was on the site for two years prior to it being turned into a nursing home. 'The owner of the hotel had sold to David Woodland, who at the time owned and operated two care homes in the UK, and was interested in setting up in Guernsey. There was only one other nursing home in Guernsey that was a member of the Blue Cross Registered Nursing Home Association – which David's UK homes were – and which we continue to be to this day. 'As David wasn't physically in the island, he decided to keep me on. And I'm still here today.' Mr Woodland's son Tony is managing director of Guernsey Care Homes, which owns and/or manages three care homes in the island, including Summerland, Saumarez Park Manor and Maison de Beauvoir are the other two in the group, but it is only Summerland that offers 24/7 nursing care.

Changes and expansion

Paul, who was single then, lived upstairs while overseeing the changes. All the rooms that had been double occupancy during the property's hotel days now became single occupancy, with the family rooms accommodating couples. The property has also been extended. His now-wife Cathy – who is director of nursing for the group – started working at Summerland during its first year of operation. The two met, subsequently marrying and having two daughters, one of whom now works at the home as part of the wider team. 'I was a community nurse and started doing occasional bank shifts at the home,' said Cathy. 'Within two years, David had asked me to come on board as a training officer initially. And I've been here ever since.' Cathy was matron for 23 years from 1996 to 2019. Ill health forced her to take a step back and a new matron, Sue Browning, was appointed, who Cathy says is incredible. Cathy's role now mainly covers governance, as well as assessments for residents coming to Summerland. 'I still do the occasional clinical shift to keep my hand in, but not often,' she smiled. She explained that when she first started, the workforce was predominantly local. Within five to 10 years, a number of Madeirans had joined them, working alongside the local staff. 'We never had to advertise, people came from word of mouth,' said Cathy. Now there are 75 members of staff, 31% of whom are non-local. They are grateful and fortunate to have had a number of staff that have been with



Cathy and Paul Bailey.

them for many years. 'Four have been with us for over 30 years, and another eight for over 20 years.' Around 10 years ago, even before Brexit, Cathy could see that the employment market was changing, but since Brexit that change has accelerated. 'All the European staff dried up and we have had to recruit from further afield. Currently, we're looking to Kenya and Zimbabwe. 'Recruiting registered nurses is still a challenge and will continue to be because we're not training enough staff locally. We are however proud to have supported student nurses in training for the past 20 years.'

Continuity of care

Cathy said that the staff are 'the absolute backbone' of the business. 'They are amazing. It is so important for us to have the continuity of care for our residents.' The home is dual registered, meaning that they can accommodate a small number (up to five) on a residential certificate. In practice, this usually means a couple coming in, one of whom gets a nursing certificate and the other a resident certificate, enabling them to stay together. 'When we first started, we had people staying with us for 12 to 15 years,' explained Cathy. 'People are living longer now, and are coming to us later in life and with more complex needs. When we first started, it was fairly straightforward – people might need a little bit of assistance. But now they may have multiple illnesses and conditions that need fairly specialised care.'

Highs and lows

Covid was a particularly challenging point for the nursing home, and Cathy described it as 'a low point in our 35 years'. 'It was really awful for the residents and we all did our best to keep their spirits up. People donated iPads so that they could keep in touch, but it was a really difficult time because what makes a home vibrant is the people coming in. 'Our residents were quite unscathed physically but it had a social impact on everyone. We've learnt to live with it and we have a wonderful team of people here – we're very proud of what we've built up.'

◆ To celebrate the nursing home's 35th anniversary, the residents are being treated to a barbecue today.



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We appreciate the hard work and dedication it takes to maintain a consistently high level of service and congratulate Summerland on reaching this milestone.



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celebrate WITH US!

Celebrate with us! Our valued client, Summerland Nursing Home, is marking their 35th anniversary, and we couldn't be prouder to have been their trusted accounting partner since 2001.

At Brehon, we have had the privilege of working closely with Summerland Nursing Home for over 20 years, providing them with expert financial guidance and support. We have witnessed first hand their unwavering dedication to their residents and their mission, and we are honoured to be a part of their journey.

If you're a business owner looking for a trusted partner to help you navigate the complex financial landscape, we invite you to get in touch with us today. Let us help you achieve your financial goals and celebrate your own milestones along the way.

Congratulations to Summerland Nursing Home on 35 years of excellence in healthcare, and here's to many more successful years to come!



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All the very best to the staff and management of Summerland Nursing Home!

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