



Hazelwell celebrates International Nurses Day

Residents and staff at The Hazelwell in Oldfield Road, Heswall, recently celebrated International Nurses Day by holding a special lunch for its trained nurses.

Staff also organised the lunchtime meal for retired nurse Wendy Flindell who is a resident at the home. Wendy, who moved to the home in 2017, spent 18 years from 1970 to 1988 as a nurse at the former Liverpool Royal Infirmary and Greater Lancashire Hospital before becoming a military nurse in the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.

International Nurses Day is celebrated every year all around the world in the month of May to commemorate the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth and to mark the contribution of nurses everywhere towards people's health.

Florence Nightingale (1820–1910) is considered to be the founder of modern nursing and was hailed as a heroine in Victorian times for her work to help the wounded in the Crimean War.

The Hazelwell has itself a special connection with nurses, having been built on the site of the nurses' accommodation from the former Cleaver Hospital. The hospital treated patients living on Wirral and surrounding areas for more than 80 years.

It originally opened in 1902 and was known as The Cleaver Sanatorium, named after Mr HP Cleaver who was the inspiration behind the hospital's construction. It was a children's hospital for 17 years and during the Second World War when the children were evacuated, adults were admitted.

The site was considered hugely beneficial for long-term illness, due to its location at the edge of the River Dee. The air here was reputed to be pure and is said to have helped restore the health of patients suffering from tuberculosis.

The hospital itself closed in 1983, the land was then sold in 1988 and the hospital demolished. The remaining nurses' accommodation was redeveloped into a care home at the time and subsequently taken over and following a £5.5m investment reopened as The Hazelwell, an all-inclusive care home, in 2016.

Later that year, The Hazelwell held a reunion for former hospital employees and remains very proud of its connection to these caring professionals.

The Hazelwell care home activities co-ordinator Sandra Clarke said: "The Hazelwell has a rich heritage with nurses who worked on the former site of the home many years ago so we were delighted to be able to mark International Nurses Day with a special lunch at the home for our specially trained nurses that work at the home.

"Our nurses do an absolutely fabulous job at The Hazelwell and are highly thought of by our residents, some of who were nurses themselves, including Wendy who also came for the lunch. We felt it was important to us to show our gratitude on this special date for not only our nurses at The Hazelwell but everywhere."



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