

It's All Change at Prebendal

Dora Gurnett, fairy godmother to all at the Old Prebendal House, has retired after 11 years of devoted service. Dora was always in perpetual motion, so it is not too surprising that one morning she showed up for work, and rushed in the door. She looked and said a cheery "Good Morning" to someone in the armchair, as she raced past ... but the occupant was a large teddy bear. Quick as a flash the night nurse said to her "should someone have gone to Specsavers?"

Dora has made it her special focus to maintain a personal rapport with each and every resident. She will be missed.

First Class Care

The emphasis at Prebendal is on the care and happiness of the 35 residents, about 18 of which are on the nursing side and the others in apartments across the driveway. No resident is called by their first name, all are called by their title and surname. Coffee is served on a tray with a milk jug and sugar bowl, cold drinks on a doily covered special saucer. The residents have become used to a certain style of living, and Prebendal cares about retaining that standard. No dementia patients are admitted initially, but if mental health problems develop after admission the person is cared for.

New Man for the Job

Nael Shibli, born in Israel, where he studied and worked in agricultural research, has been recruited to replace Dora. He came to England in 1987 and completed his nursing training in 1996 at the West of England University in Bristol.



Nael Shibli with Dora Gurnett

In 2000 he attended Karlstad University in Sweden for intensive tutoring on the 'Care of the Elderly in Nursing Homes'. He was previously employed by BUPA care homes in Dorset, but looks forward to relocating here. He is separated and has a son, 18 and a daughter 15. Nael is very impressed with Prebendal, and says it is a delight to work in a facility in which the emphasis is not on cost cutting and box ticking, but rather on the well being of the residents. Nael's interests include walking, cooking and cycling.

Happy Place

It would be hard to find a care home manager who was more popular than Dora, and Nael knows it will not be easy to step into her shoes.

He is pleased that the Prebendal staff are a happy group who are already delivering service to such an exemplary standard, and he realises that replacing someone as popular and well loved as Dora will be a very tall order.

Peggy Walmsley