

# enjoy the best of both worlds

**A blend of on-site and local amenities is a good recipe for retirement living, says Cheryl Markosky**



**T**empted by a retirement development with an all-singing, all-dancing pool, gym, spa, billiards room, treatment zone, restaurant, bar, cafe, library, cinema, concierge and chauffeur service?

It might sound alluring to reside in what's essentially a hotel resembling The Ritz for people of a certain age. But it's worth examining all the glamour and razzmatazz before you put down a hefty deposit.

One problem is likely to be the service charges. The more goodies there are on offer, the more eye-watering the annual maintenance fees. If you can afford it and you're pretty sure you'll end up using all, or most of the features, then go for it. But if you'll only dip your toes into the swimming pool once a year and aren't really fussed about buying a pint in the bar, then it might be a waste of money.

Equally, a scheme able to support a long list of niceties, which are sometimes there to help market the project rather than directly benefit the homeowners, will be large and not as homey as a more bijou arrangement.

Also, there's something to be said for being part of the community. If you don't venture out of doors because everything is provided for you in your building, you could be missing out on what's going on in the rest of the neighbourhood.

The answer to the perfect retirement lifestyle could be a mix of taking advantage of what's available in a quaint, friendly Churchill Retirement Living development along with events in your town or village.

A good example is Churchill Retirement Living's Simmonds Lodge in Drayton, near Portsmouth. Lodge Manager Tracy Drake explains that a wellbeing suite, fitness room, Owners' Lounge and guest suite comes as part of the package.

"We have a mini-gym, including a treadmill, bikes and mats, as well as a hairdresser and chiropodist giving treatments in the wellbeing suite," she says. "And the guest suite is the equivalent of a lovely hotel room, costing only £15 for a single occupant or £20 for a couple."



Wellbeing Suite

## “ The answer to the perfect retirement lifestyle could be a quaint, friendly Churchill development ”

It's all happening in the Owners' Lounge, too, where aerobics, monthly quiz nights, fish and chips Friday's and afternoon tea is served.

A 10-minute drive away is Port Solent, a marina with restaurants, shops, a cinema and a terrific shoreline for a stroll; while Gunwharf Quays is only 20 minutes from Simmonds Lodge.

Goings-on at Tregolls Lodge in Truro are very Owner-led, reports Lodge Manager Cheryl Hinton, who says her job is to facilitate the Owners' lifestyles. "We have indoor bowls, aerobics, a four o'clock coffee and film club, and social evenings offering rummy, draughts and bridge."

Cheryl says the Churchill lifestyle is knitted into the community. A local café brings Owners two-course meals twice a month, interesting locals come to speak and "we all give each other lifts to the theatre, cinema, shops and to the swimming pool in Truro".

By incorporating the comforts at home in the Lodges with home-grown facilities in the nearby towns, Churchill Owners are getting the best of both worlds.



Tregolls Lodge, Truro

