



Two years on and our care agency is flying!

TWO and half years ago, in the depths of the pandemic, Alex, my wingman, and I embarked on our most important mission yet – changing the status quo in care! Armed with nothing more than a laptop and the ambition to succeed and make a difference, we established Guardian Angel Carers Farnham.

Alex and I, both former RAF Chinook pilots who served a combined 20-plus years at RAF Odiham, found ourselves a little under-employed as the airline industry ground to a halt.

Through volunteering in our community, we re-ignited a deep sense of purpose and value from helping others. Frustrated by the poor state of care and its delivery, we set out to create a very different company, one that used our military leadership and experience to provide not just a quality service for our clients but a happy and sustainable workplace where all members of

our team feel valued.

When we started out, the *Herald* ran an article which showed us standing in front of the mighty Chinook helicopter with our banner between us.

At that time, there was a sum total of two members in our company; us two. We now employ 97 people and operate from Odiham to Guildford.

We have learnt a lot on our journey so far. Our first and most important priority is our team. We have been blessed with the most amazing team of Care Angels and it's our duty to put them first and ensure that we look after their welfare and wellbeing.

The business has been built around them and like in the military we employed the 'Leaders Eat Last' mentality to ensure that we adapted and were flexible to their needs.

The more of life's stresses we can take away from them,

the more they can focus on our clients and continue to deliver first class care.

The experience has been a whirlwind, with plenty of ups and downs. Without doubt, it has been the most rewarding endeavour that we have ever undertaken and probably equally the most challenging.

Care is an incredible industry that involves some of the most amazing and selfless people that we have ever met. It has certainly kept our feet on the ground and humbled us on many an occasion.

If asked our most important achievement so far: it has been to eradicate the commonly said phrase – "I am just a carer". There is no such thing. Carers are life savers and caring is the most rewarding thing that anyone can do. Want to make a difference? Become a carer!

Tim Corry
Co-owner, Guardian Angel Carers Farnham

Respite care at Brendoncare Alton

HAMPSHIRE-BASED charity Brendoncare celebrates its 40th anniversary this February.

During these four decades, Brendoncare has provided quality care for older people through its network of care homes, community clubs and support services.

One of the charity's most established homes, Brendoncare Alton, offers a wide range of care services – nursing, dementia, and end of life (palliative).

It also provides respite care for those who may need extra support when convalescing after an operation or illness, or during a family emergency.

Respite care is also ideal for those needing a short term break from caring for a loved one.

Whoever is seeking respite care and for whatever reason, Brendoncare Alton will tailor a



care plan specifically around their individual needs.

Those on a respite care break

have their own bedroom with en-suite bathroom, and access to communal areas including the spacious gardens. All meals are provided in the respite care plan, the catering team preparing fresh, tasty food daily.

It is entirely up to you how you decide to spend your respite stay at Brendoncare Alton. You can use it for quiet time – reading and watching television in your room, or as a chance to meet new people and make friends.

You can also try something new. Activities such as arts and crafts, and exercise sessions including seated yoga are always available. You can also enjoy the entertainers who pay regular visits. Want to find out more or arrange a visit?

Please call: 01420 550139 or visit the website: <https://www.brendoncare.org.uk/carehomes/alton/>

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Brendoncare Alton

Adams Way, Alton, GU34 2UU

The care home with a big heart in the heart of Alton

Enabling people in later life to live independent, happy and fulfilling lives. We offer nursing, dementia, end of life and respite care at our modern, welcoming home.

"Everyone from reception to the carers were outstanding and could not have done more for either my mother or her relatives. The general atmosphere within the home was a very happy one."

★★★★★ 5 star carehome.co.uk review

Contact our friendly team to find out more

Visit www.brendoncare.org.uk/Alton

Email homes@brendoncare.org.uk

Call **01420 550139**

Registered charity no: 326508

