

There can surely be few challenges as heart-wrenchingly difficult as deciding how best to care for an elderly loved one who's struggling to cope. If that describes your current situation then I sympathise with the sense of upheaval that you must now be experiencing.

A change from 'life at home' however, needn't necessarily mean a change from 'home life'. And loss of function should *never* have to mean loss of dignity.

At Oaklands Nursing Home we offer nursing and palliative care to forty-three clients. From a purely practical point of view that means we provide 24-hour on-site nursing cover, dietary expertise, regular activities, and a clean and safe environment. But that's really only where it starts.

Our main priority is to develop a positive relationship with clients and their families, to be honest, supportive and reassuring, and to allow clients, their families and friends to come and go as they please. Only by doing that can we help all concerned lead happy and fulfilled lives.

This is our clients' *home*, and we treat it – and them – as such.