

carefree



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Czajka Care

Continuing life in Yorkshire

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Letter from the managing director



Welcome to Czajka Care Group's 'Care Free' 2025 Newsletter.

One of the hardest things about running a care group is finding and keeping the right people. You can have the best buildings, the best systems but without people who care deeply about what they do, you can't deliver the kind of experience we want for our residents.

You will see reading our latest newsletter that we have worked hard to make each home a place where people want to be - residents and team members alike. The little things matter, like open-door conversations, moments of celebration, and an environment where people know they matter.

I discovered very quickly all those years ago how much I loved working in care. The people you meet, from residents

and their families to dedicated colleagues and professionals across health and social care makes every day different, challenging and meaningful. Czajka Care Group pulled me in 42 years ago and I never looked back!

I hope you enjoy reading about the awards achieved over the last year, the dedication and commitment shown by our colleagues such as Allyson Butler, Sarah Chilton and Sarah Stott.

There is a great story about the wedding of Ashleigh and Wei-Kan at Staveley Birkleas and much more.

You will see that the most important part of what we do is about the very special culture we have. We want our residents to lead fulfilling lives in what we call 'their home' and as I continually say... 'we only work here'!

Konrad Czajka, Managing Director, 2025

Czajka Care Group celebrates long-standing partnership with School of Nursing



A collaboration between Czajka Care Group and the University of Bradford's School of Nursing has provided vital first-hand experience for over 200 student nurses, paramedics, and occupational therapists over the past 18 years.

Czajka Care Group has maintained a successful partnership with the university since 2007, and students have completed placements lasting between one and 12 weeks within Czajka Care Group's nursing homes, including Staveley Birkleas in Nab Wood, which is a nationally recognised provider of care for young adults with physical disabilities. Each student is supported by experienced registered nurses, who deliver hands-on training, supervision, and mentorship.

Czajka Care Group's training manager and deputy manager at Staveley Birkleas, Sam Birch, said: "We have been at the forefront of the region's care industry for over 40 years. A key element of our success is our commitment to high-quality training and ongoing professional development. Our collaboration with the University

of Bradford allows students to experience complex care in a community setting, away from hospitals. The enthusiasm and willingness to learn that students bring is inspiring, and our residents enjoy building relationships with them."

In recent years, the partnership has expanded to include placements for paramedics and occupational therapy students, further broadening the scope of professional learning opportunities available at Czajka Care Group.

Third-year nursing student Asmaa Mohamed is undertaking a 12-week placement at Staveley Birkleas. She said: "My first placement this year was in the cardiology department at Airedale Hospital, and my second is with Czajka Care Group. Initially, I shadowed experienced nurses, but under strict

supervision I've now carried out more practical tasks, including administering medication through PEG tubes and changing tracheostomies. The team is incredibly supportive, and the experience has been invaluable."

Czajka Care Group also operates its own dedicated training centre, staffed by experienced professionals who deliver a comprehensive range of care-related courses, further reinforcing the group's focus on excellence and education.

Ela Mistry-Jackson from the University of Bradford's School of Nursing said: "This milestone celebrates almost 20 years of collaboration and a shared vision to train the healthcare professionals of tomorrow. We are delighted to have developed such a strong relationship with Czajka Care Group and long may it continue!"

Top marks for taste and safety at Czajka Care Group

Czajka Care Group has been awarded the highest possible food hygiene rating – five stars – at all its care and nursing homes, as well as its leisure venue, The Clubhouse at Fairmount Park, in Nab Wood.



Staveley Birkleas Nursing Home was the latest location to be rigorously inspected by the Food Standards Agency and retained its five-star rating. Currergate Nursing Home in Steeton, Brookfield Care Home in Nab Wood and The Clubhouse all have the top accolade too.

Catering for residents, their families, and the wider community, Czajka Care Group has built a strong reputation for delivering fresh, nutritious, and locally sourced meals. The Clubhouse restaurant is open to members, the public, and residents of Fairmount Park's retirement community, and is a well-loved spot for dining and celebrations. Its themed nights, including fish and chip Fridays and festive menus for key calendar dates, including Chinese New Year and Christmas Day, are always popular.

Area catering supervisor, Gerard Raedcher, said: "We're incredibly proud to have these five-star ratings across all our sites. It's a real testament to the hard work of our kitchen teams and the emphasis we place on cleanliness, safety, and quality. Food plays a hugely important role in our homes – it's not just about nutrition but about bringing people together and creating enjoyable moments. We vary our menus across our homes – they are all resident led with multiple options always available to suit every taste."

Czajka Care Group is committed to using local suppliers to ensure quality and sustainability. Meat is sourced from a trusted butcher in Saltaire, and fresh produce is delivered from suppliers in Keighley. Meals are tailored to accommodate a wide range of dietary needs, including celiac,

vegetarian, vegan, diabetic, and religious diets.

Gerard added: "We regularly consult with residents and their families to ensure our menus reflect their tastes and preferences. Our goal is always to provide high-quality, varied meals that people look forward to – whether they're living in one of our homes or visiting The Clubhouse for a special occasion. Some of our most popular dishes include roast dinners, pies and traditional Yorkshire dishes alongside more adventurous foods including Moroccan and Indian cuisine for our younger residents."

Konrad Czajka added: "As a family-run business with more than four decades of experience in care, Czajka Care Group continues to set the standard not just for quality of care, but also for its culinary excellence."

Czajka Care Group celebrates decades of support from Allyson

Care worker Allyson Butler is celebrating 30 years of working at Czajka Care Group, having joined the team in the early 90s, after the nursing home she was working at became part of the group.

Allyson said: "After leaving school I attended a year-long youth training scheme at Shipley College, called Caring For People. As part of my placement, I worked alongside the physiotherapy team at Bradford Royal Infirmary for six months, working on the orthopaedic and medical wards assisting patients following surgery to mobilise them so they could return home. I found this really rewarding and after the course finished, I knew I wanted to work in the care sector.

"I therefore applied for a position as a care assistant at Fairmount Nursing Home in Nab Wood near Saltaire and worked there for five years during which time, I was promoted to senior care assistant.

"The home was part of Czajka Care Group, and I successfully applied to become a registered manager at Brookfield Care Home, holding that role for 15 years, helping to grow it from 14 to 40 bedrooms.

"In 2009 I joined Czajka Care Group's community care division as a senior manager across Bradford and Leeds for three years. After the division was sold, I moved internally again to Czajka Care Group's home for disabled adults – Staveley Birkleas. Then I returned to Brookfield Care Home as a support manager, which is right next door to where Fairmount Nursing Home was before it was converted into

retirement homes, so I have come full circle!

"I absolutely love my role, which involves supporting the whole team of 55 at Brookfield Care Home and overseeing the delivery of care to our residents. I have always been very hands on in all my roles over the years and am passionate about providing a high standard of personalised care.

"I love the fact that that Czajka Care Group is a family owned and run group – it really does make all the difference and makes everything so much more personal. I can't believe it's been more than 30 years since I started working in care – it's gone so quickly! Lots has changed in the industry over the years, but one

thing that stays the same is it's a people business – by putting residents first and honouring their wishes and meeting their needs you can make a really big difference to their lives."

Konrad Czajka added: "Allyson is like a family member and her dedication and loyalty to our company over so many years is outstanding. She has been part of our valued team for 30 years, and we are so grateful to her for all that she does. It's rare these days for people to stay at the same care company for long, but we are very lucky that people like Allyson, and many others, remain with us giving that continuity of care and consistency that is so important."



Award confirms Czajka Care Group cares for its team as well as its residents

A prestigious accreditation scheme that recognises businesses that invest in the development of their staff has been awarded to Czajka Care Group.

The family-owned care group employs a team of almost 250, and it first achieved the Investors in People (IIP) accreditation in 2015. The latest award means the firm has now held the accolade for 11 consecutive years.



Czajka Care Group's head of human resources, Daniel Czajka, said: "The last year has seen plenty of development within our group – we've invested almost £3million in expanding two of our homes and building more retirement homes, as well as investing heavily in the training and development of our much-valued team, alongside introducing new technology to support their day-to-day roles.

"We are lucky to have so many loyal and long-serving team members and we are committed to their development, so they can enjoy career progression opportunities and achieve their goals, and this was highlighted in the IIP report.

"Our values of compassion, adaptability, respect, excellence and safety run through everything we do, and the IIP accreditation underlined how they are embedded from the very start of our recruitment process."

The IIP accreditation panel interviewed team members individually and in groups, and

also surveyed the entire team. The results showed that the team at Czajka Care Group feel trusted to make decisions appropriate to their role and that they work in an environment where the culture is open and honest.

The report also praised the visibility of the leadership team, the opportunities for learning and development to support career progression, as well as job-related skills, and the excellent knowledge and skills sharing that takes place amongst the team."

Daniel added: "We are wholeheartedly committed to excellent people management practices, and with a new online, interactive training platform, we make sure that our talented people reach their full potential."

The report also highlighted Czajka Care Group's stable and experienced management team, all of whom have specific responsibilities, so that every area of the business is fully supported. It also praised its people as being very committed to delivering a high-quality service to residents.

Daniel said: "We work closely in teams to share best practice and make sure people are trusted to make the right decisions collaboratively, as well as ensuring consistent standards are always met, which means our homes are all rated as 'good' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), and we have firm plans in place to achieve 'outstanding' ratings in the near future."

Konrad Czajka said: "We are very proud of the IIP accreditation and the comments from the report. We put our people and our residents at the heart of everything we do – we are not a corporate owned company – we are a family business that has cared for people for more than 40 years, and we take our role very seriously. Having well qualified, experienced staff that love their jobs and progress with us helps us provide an even better experience for our residents and we are delighted that the IIP organisation has recognised this."

Further investment at Currergate Nursing Home

Currergate Nursing Home officially opened its stunning new orangery, with Czajka Care Group investing almost £100,000 in the 1,200 square foot sun-kissed space. This follows the recent opening of a new three-storey extension, with 15 new en-suite rooms being built at the popular nursing home.

The independent nursing home, which is rated 'good' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), can now care for up to 47 people, with anyone aged over 65 able to reserve a room.

Konrad Czajka said: "The orangery is a beautiful light, bright and spacious area for our residents to get together in and enjoy a host of activities and events. South facing, it's lovely and warm and the ideal place for our residents to relax and enjoy each other's company, entertain visitors and welcome special guests. It's large enough to host special lunches and dinners too, and we have had such positive feedback from our residents and their families."

Since opening the new extension and orangery at Currergate Nursing Home, Czajka Care Group has been

inundated with enquiries from people who live in Skipton, Keighley and further afield. Konrad added: "People are keen to move to a highly regarded nursing home with excellent levels of care and facilities. Lots of our new residents have chosen our home on personal recommendation too, which is the ultimate endorsement for what we do."

"Currergate Nursing Home is a welcoming place where people are assured of being looked after well medically, but it is also a place where they can thrive, make friends and be part of a flourishing community. The team at Currergate Nursing Home make it such a special place to live, and we look forward to welcoming even more new residents in the near future."



Holy cow - that's fast!

A team from Czajka Care Group made up of Kallie Czajka, Janina Czajka, Konrad Czajka, and Jack Raynor, took on the thrilling "Zip the Cow" challenge at the Cow and Calf Rocks in Ilkley, soaring at 35 miles per hour on a zip wire to raise funds for Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice. The event, part of Bradford 2025's Creative Health programme, was organised by

Sue Ryder and welcomed around 180 participants per day over three days. Konrad Czajka, Chair of the Bradford Care Association (BCA), praised the effort, highlighting how care providers who are members of the BCA came together to have fun whilst supporting a vital charity, and he expressed his thanks to everyone who contributed to making the event a huge success.



News from across the homes

Since the last newsletter was published, it's been a busy and fulfilling time for residents across all three Czajka Care Group homes. The loyal and dedicated teams of carers, nurses and support staff all work together to make sure residents live life to the fullest – on their terms, with dignity and joy – and there has been plenty of joy, thanks to all the events, trips and special celebrations that have taken place.

Key events have included Father's Day, Mother's Day, VE Day, Easter celebrations, International Women's Day, Valentine's Day, Chinese New Year, Halloween, Remembrance Sunday, Bonfire Night, and Christmas.





Brookfield Care Home

At Brookfield Care Home the team have helped celebrate a plethora of big birthdays including a special party for Betty who turned 100 years old! In addition to all the key calendar dates, there have been trips along the Leeds Liverpool Canal, live music sessions and exercise classes, plenty of baking and a wonderful visit from the young children at neighbouring Kiddie Creche Nursery.

A key highlight for residents was the wild animal experience, with everyone enjoying petting and holding lots of exotic animals. Another day a flock of spring lambs visited and were bottle fed by residents.

Currergate Nursing Home

It's been a busy and enriching time at Currergate Nursing Home. Several boat and canal trips have proved popular with residents and a trip to Blackpool Zoo was another highlight.

Special celebrations for Kevin who turned 100 years old and Clifford and Vera who both turned 102 years old were enjoyed by all. Regular trips to Tong Garden Centre, shopping at Boundary Mill, and plenty of gardening in the accessible raised beds have kept residents busy and purposeful.





Staveley Birkleas Nursing Home

It's been a very special time for our residents at Staveley Birkleas Nursing Home, some of whom shook the hand of King Charles when he visited Bradford. The team always go all out for Valentine's Day but they also arranged fabulous celebrations for St Patrick's Day, Eid and Christmas.

Halloween is always a big hit with residents, with everything from pumpkin carving to baking and a spooky spectacular party. In addition to all this, picnics in the park, bowling trips, canal boat trips, visits to Blackpool and Bridlington, as well as a special outing to the snooker World Championships and even a trip to Majorca for two of our residents meant lasting memories were created.

The culture day, duck challenge, York Christmas market, visits from pet pooches, as well as all the regular baking, cooking, games and quizzes create a wonderfully independent and playful life at the home.





Love is in the air at Staveley Birkleas Nursing Home

This year saw the first ever marriage between residents at Staveley Birkleas.

Ashleigh Marlow and Wei-Kan Cheung got married at The Priestley Suite in Bradford City Hall and held the reception at Staveley Birkleas.

Both Ashleigh and Wei-Kan have cerebral palsy and other medical conditions which mean they use wheelchairs. Ashley moved into Staveley Birkleas in May 2021 and Wei-Kan moved into the popular home in December 2023.

Ashleigh, who is from Bradford, said: "We first met at Whetley

Hill Resource Centre and have been together 16 years. Wei-Kan is so kind and in June last year he asked me to marry him! I was so surprised and didn't have any inkling that he would propose, but I said yes straight away! I enjoyed everything about our wedding day – it was very special."

Wei-Kan, who was born in Nottingham but moved to Leeds when he was seven years old, said: "I had been thinking about proposing for a long time - we love each other – and we had the

best day."

Konrad Czajka said: "We are so happy to see Ashleigh and Wei-Kan get married in a beautiful ceremony. Both require round the clock care but live fulfilling lives with us at Staveley Birkleas. We hosted a huge party for the couple, their families and all the other residents, staff and management with a DJ, disco and barbecue. It was also a delight to welcome Wei-Kan's surgeon and social worker, who were among the guests."



Dynamic and caring duo qualify as nurses

Czajka Care Group is celebrating the success of two of its team, having supported them to become fully qualified registered nurses.

Sarah Chilton and Sarah Stott started working for Czajka Care Group, which places huge emphasis on training and development, in care roles and they have always been keen to progress in their careers.

Sarah Stott, who is from Shipley, said: "Care is something I have always been interested in and I started at a company that trained me up and then I also worked in home care for three years. I then decided to apply to Czajka Care Group, as working with younger adults really appealed to me.

"I started at Staveley Birkleas in 2016 as a carer and was promoted to a care practitioner in 2019. After that promotion I was keen to keep progressing and before I knew it, I had signed up to a university course with my colleague Sarah! It has been extremely hard work, I was a single parent, working full time and doing a degree, but I don't regret any of it! Czajka Care Group funded the course and provided me with a mentor at work and the other nurses in the team supported my learning, so I had a brilliant support network, and I feel very proud of what I have achieved."

Sarah Chilton, who is from Bingley, said: "I have been in the care industry nearly 40 years working with young disabled people initially at the Leonard Cheshire Foundation. After having my children, I returned to caring and started at Czajka Care Group in 2013 looking after a young lady on a one to one basis. Later I was promoted to senior carer and then care practitioner. After three years I wanted to develop further, and I started the nurse training in 2020.

"Applying to Leeds Beckett University, Sarah and I were two of 200 applicants for the course and only seven of us were accepted! The last time I was in education was back in 1984, so it was a big step, but my motto is 'never say never' and I believe you can always achieve your goals.

"Czajka Care Group has been fantastic – having already supported me through three NVQ's before paying for this four-year course too. Having already achieved the NVQ Level 4, it stood me in good stead for the first year of the university course, and as we get so much training and on the job experience at Czajka Care Group, Sarah and I felt really well prepared and lucky to have that solid base to work from. Czajka Care Group also gave us a day a week to study which was invaluable, with a day a week in university and then two full shifts – it was a pretty busy time! With lots of assignments and a dissertation too, we couldn't have done it without those study days."

Both Sarahs graduated at a ceremony at the O2 Academy in Leeds. They are now nurses at Czajka Care Group's Currergate Nursing Home in Steeton, which recently opened a three-storey extension with 15 new en-suite rooms, following a £1.5 million investment. The home cares for up to 47 people aged over 65.

Sarah Chilton added: "We were welcomed with open arms at Currergate, and the team there are amazing. They are all very caring people, and we all believe good care can't be manufactured, it's something within you. I'm a stickler for good care and after graduating to become a nurse at



55 – I feel the same now as I did when I started aged 17 – I want to help people and there is no better place to do that than in the care industry where you feel like you make a real difference."

The duo will now take a vaccinators course followed by a prescribers course. Sarah Stott added: "Once you start learning more it whets your appetite, and you want to keep going, and we are lucky to work for a company that supports you every step of the way."

Konrad Czajka said: "We are so proud of Sarah and Sarah – they are a dynamic duo, and both are wholeheartedly committed to their careers and our residents.

"Over the years we have supported the training of hundreds of nurses through our partnerships with universities and having been at the forefront of the local care industry for more than 40 years, we understand that much of our success is based on our ability to train our team to an exceptionally high standard. With our own training centre which is managed by a team of highly experienced care professionals who are qualified to deliver an extensive range of courses, we are committed to addressing the frightening shortfall of carers and nurses and doing our best to encourage as many people into the industry as possible."



Retirement living at its best



Fairmount Park, Nab Wood near Saltaire

Forty five purpose-built retirement houses and apartments in total, all set within four acres of meticulously kept, private grounds.

We now have eight new purpose-built, high quality, assisted retirement homes with limited availability for people aged over 55, following a multi-million pound investment.

Residents can enjoy fabulous facilities at The Clubhouse at Fairmount Park including a swimming pool, gym, bar, restaurant, crown green bowling and putting greens.

If you want to find out more about starting a new chapter in your life at Fairmount Park, please call 01274 599564 or email info@czajka.co.uk and we'll gladly arrange for you to visit and experience the development for yourself.

Fairmount Park Retirement Houses, off Nab Wood Drive, Nab Wood, Shipley, BD18 4EJ

www.czajka.co.uk