

## Local housing scheme takes home gold!

**Hawthorn Mill, a sheltered housing scheme for over-55s in Lower Wortley, Leeds, has won a Gold Award in a UK-wide search for the best in elderly accommodation.**

The Ascot Races hosted the awards ceremony on 3 February 2010, with over 350 guests in attendance for an event which saw Hawthorn Mill scoop the Gold Award in the category of 'Best Retirement Home 20-44 Homes'.

Winners were decided by tenants from across the UK, who used special decks of cards supplied by the Elderly Accommodation Council (EAC) to stimulate discussion. Schemes were then rated on design, services and wellbeing.

Senior Scheme Manager Sue Hendry said, 'Hawthorn Mill tenants nominated us for this award, which makes it even more special. Bringing home a Gold Award made everyone so proud of the place where they live, and the choices they are able to make,' adding, 'I applaud the EAC for recognising tenants' views with the innovative card nomination game.'

Sue accompanied a group of Hawthorn Mill residents to Ascot for the big day, on a somewhat fraught coach journey which saw the intrepid over-55s save time by changing into their finest on the coach while it was travelling.

'I can honestly say that our tenants and staff were the best dressed the ceremony!' said Sue. 'Everyone looked beautiful and I was proud to say that they were part of Connect.'

Hawthorn Mill is run by Connect Housing Association, a registered social landlord providing affordable housing and support services across West Yorkshire. Connect offers around 3,000 homes, including 700 specifically for older people. Scheme Managers like Sue provide an important point of contact for residents, someone who can step in with support and assistance in an emergency, and help to arrange support services through other agencies if necessary.

This is the second year for the National Housing for Older People Awards, which was started by the EAC to showcase the range of retirement living options on offer across the UK.

For more information, please contact Sue Hendry, Senior Scheme Manager, on 0113 231 1561 or [sue.hendry@connecthousing.org.uk](mailto:sue.hendry@connecthousing.org.uk)

The following photograph is available as high-resolution jpegs on request to David Troupes (0113 235 0202, [david.troupes@connecthousing.org.uk](mailto:david.troupes@connecthousing.org.uk)).



Sue Hendry, Senior Scheme Manager for Hawthorn Mill (4th from right) holds the Gold Award, accompanied by residents, staff, and a new friend from McCarthy & Stone Retirement Lifestyles, who sponsored the award.

(photo: Phil Whitcomb)