

Orchard View Park, Herstmonceux

QUIET
SUSSEX
PARK!

Sue Hollingshead finds out more about this tranquil residential park tucked away in the beautiful Sussex Countryside and offering a brand-new development phase...

Orchard View Park is an established residential park set within the beautiful East Sussex countryside, offering panoramic views over the hills, with an abundance of wildlife.

The park was first established way back in 1964, at which point it was a 12-acre fruit orchard. The park has changed considerably since then, however, there are still a good selection of fruit trees within the park that are still bearing fruit.

Beautiful park

General Estates purchased the park in 1985 and has developed it into the beautiful park we see today, which is home to 63 residential homes and a separate holiday section with 33 holiday homes. The layout and aesthetics of the park are much loved by the residents, with repeated comments about the wildlife and tranquil environment it offers, not forgetting the breathtaking views across the hills.

The environment offers an open layout with spacious gardens and generous space between homes.

This theme will follow through into the exciting new development of 31 residential homes, of which the first 16 plots will be available during spring 2022.



Above: General Estates' Orchard View occupies an idyllic setting

The majority of the new homes will be twin units, offered with a driveway for two cars and landscaped gardens. The price of the new homes will vary according to the style and size of home you choose. However, as a guide, a typical 40ft x 20 furnished park home will start from around £180,000.

As with the existing park, homes will be available from a range of top manufacturers, including Omar, Prestige, Stately-Albion, Tingdene, and Wessex.

'We moved from the holiday site'

David Head and Lorraine Catt originally had a home on the holiday side of the park, which they enjoyed for five years. In fact, they enjoyed it so much they moved onto the residential side a year ago and are loving it.

To express their feelings, David wrote the excellent poem you see can see on page 20. A beautiful way of demonstrating his emotions and how he and Lorraine feel about their new lifestyle. David explains how the environment





Above: Residents take a real pride in maintaining their gardens to a high standard

retains an ‘old-fashioned charm’, which is so true and sums up the park perfectly.

David and Lorraine feel the quality of the park is a reflection of the management, and not just General Estates, but also the relatively new park managers, Eileen and Pete, who started working at the site in August 2020 and have clearly left their mark on the residents, who had nothing but wholehearted praise for the work they do.

‘From narrowboat to park home’

Having lived on a narrowboat for ten years, Julie and Andy Clark didn’t feel they could live in the bricks-and-mortar environment, so the park home lifestyle was the perfect option for them. Andy explained that they felt it was time to begin a new chapter in their lives, and the park lifestyle ticked every box.

They were amazed at how many parks there were available and looked at quite a few before finding Orchard View.

Andy said: ‘It had a vibe about it - just what we were looking for. The wildlife is also marvellous. On one occasion, we had a woodpecker and a sparrow, both sharing the bird feeder at the same time.’ They chose the location to be close to family, having previously lived in Warwickshire, and have just celebrated the birth of their first grandchild.



Above: A gently undulating park that’s lined with trees, Orchard View provides the perfect backdrop

‘Lovely community, lovely people’

Des and Jane Murphy have been living on Orchard View for five years, having moved from Ireland. While initially looking for a park, they viewed several, but loved Orchard View because the layout isn’t regimental, and it made a really strong impression.

They had been looking to downsize, and in the process of making their decisions, had considered moving into a flat, however, they felt flats didn’t compare - park homes offered so much more.

Des and Jane love sitting in their private garden plot, either reading or doing puzzles. They also enjoy walking and looking out for the wild birds, woodpeckers, and pheasants. Des also really enjoys browsing in the local antique shops.

Des commented: ‘It is a lovely community. There are some lovely people on the park, and we love chatting to them while we’re out walking.’ »

Above: Orchard View is a nature lover’s paradise as it is a really green and tranquil park

Visit: www.parkhomemagazine.co.uk

PARK HOME & HOLIDAY CARAVAN MAGAZINE AUGUST 2021 19

Quick chat
over a cuppa



LORRAINE CATT and her husband David love life at OrchardView. 'It's such a beautiful park,' explained Lorraine. 'Everyone says how lovely it is, and there's a tranquil ambience. We love it so much we don't want to leave! We have a genuine feeling of belonging here with some great neighbours and friends.'



JULIE AND ANDY CLARK said: 'We have been living here for 18 months and made the move to be close to family. We wondered how we would feel moving from the narrowboat, however we are perfectly happy and love it. We have no regrets and would recommend it to anybody.'



DES AND JANE MURPHY told PH&HC: 'We love sitting out in our private garden, enjoying the sun and relaxing, either reading or doing puzzles. Having been married for 50 years, it is also time to enjoy our five grandchildren. One of the things we love is the wildlife, which includes the birds, woodpeckers, and pheasants.'



Above: Many residents told PH&HC how much they appreciated the park's pond

Community social club

General Estates has provided the residents with a room where they can hold their social club. Des and Jane told PH&HC that the social club has naturally been inactive during the Covid-19 crisis, however before that there was a lot of activity, with line dancing, keep fit, coffee mornings, quiz nights, and bingo. The social club was also a source of charity fundraising. From the comments made, everyone is looking forward to the social club being active again, when it is safe to do so.

In the meantime, there is a wonderful pond in the middle of the park, where residents can get together or sit quietly on their own.

At the farther side of the park, there is a spacious green area, with benches, where residents can also gather, and hold their social events.

Right: Orchard View resident David Catt feels so strongly about the benefits of life on his park, he's even penned a poem about it!

ORCHARD VIEW PARK

*What would it you ask me of Orchard View Park?
And as I answer I speak over the black bird that sings,
I smile as I think of how time hides away here,
Where there is a hidden barrier between inside and out,
For only once in this place can you feel its tranquillity,
its splendour, not only in the aspect of its surroundings,
but in its nature that shares the painted landscapes,
And many who reside here talk of this special place,
We witness the rabbits, the birds, the foxes, and more,
in the seasons that bring a holiday feeling all year,
This is a place where the faces you see are friendly and
where the living still retains an old fashioned charm,
It is a community within itself, but welcomes visitors,
There is a security in its hard working managers,
who are the engineers of its manicure and its ambience,
So what would you ask me of Orchard View Park?
I would tell you only this, it's probably the best kept secret in
Sussex.*



Above: Another wonderful view over this attractive East Sussex site

parks

park profile

Days out

3 easy to reach attractions close to Orchard View Park...

HERSTMONCEUX CASTLE is a brick-built castle, dating from the 15th century, near Herstmonceux. It is one of the oldest significant brick buildings still standing in England. The castle was renowned for being one of the first buildings to use that material in England. The castle and gardens have many Grade II listed aspects.



WINDMILL HILL

The windmill is the tallest post mill in Sussex and is a Grade II listed building. It was built in the 1800s and restored 200 years later. This fantastic piece of history has been restored to a working windmill. The visitor centre display will walk you through its history.



THE OBSERVATORY SCIENCE CENTRE With more than 100 hands-on exhibits, both inside and out, there is something for everyone to try. The permanent indoor exhibits are based around the themes of forces, light and colour, earth and beyond and astronomy and time. The outdoor exhibits explore water and sound plus a discovery park of giant exhibits.



The social club room is located behind the park office which, incidentally, is open six days a week. There is also a small laundry on-site that has a washing machine and tumble drier for those that need to use them.

The locality

Orchard View Park is situated on the outskirts of Herstmonceux, where you will find a GP surgery. At Windmill Hill, just a ten-minute walk, you will find a grocery store and post office. For the supermarkets and larger shops, then head over to Hailsham, just a ten-minute drive, where you will also find a good selection of pubs and restaurants.

Road links are good, with easy access to places such as Eastbourne, Pevensey, Bexhill, and Hastings, which will each take you around half an hour. Eastbourne is a popular coastal town, with a lot to offer. Pevensey, also popular, has an old-world charm and is just five miles away.

Our verdict

Orchard View Park has an exceptional charm about it, set within the outskirts of a town. However, as you turn the corner into the

park, life takes on a new feel and you enter a tranquil, established, countryside setting, and an environment where you know the wildlife is just a stone's throw away.

The new development phase was originally destined to be an addition to the holiday section, however, we feel it was an excellent decision to convert this to residential.

The location, park, and the lifestyle available has a lot to offer, and we would suggest you make enquiries sooner, rather than later, as we see this new phase being popular.



Above: With palm trees like this, you could be on the Med!

All you need to know

Orchard View Park info at your fingertips...



VISIT THE PARK

Orchard View Park is at:
Victoria Road,
Herstmonceux,
East Sussex BN27 4SY
T: 01323 832 335
E: managers@orchard-view-park.co.uk
W: www.general-estates.co.uk

LIVING COSTS

PITCH FEES

Twin units from £183.75 per month; single units from £168.18 per month.

WATER AND SEWERAGE

Charged through the park.

ELECTRICITY

Charged through the park.

GAS

Piped, charged through the park.

COUNCIL TAX

Homes fall into Council Tax Band A, currently £1,442.00 per annum.

FOR SALE

The first phase of the new development will be for 16 residential park homes, available from spring 2022. The price will vary accordingly to the style and size of the home that you choose. However, as a guide, a typical furnished 40ft x 20 home would cost in the region of £180,000.

OTHER

PARK RULES

Age restrictions – 50 plus; pets – not permitted.

