



CASE STUDY:

Laurel Lodge Nursing Home, Co. Longford

CALOR GAS BRINGS COMFORT TO NURSING HOME

“We decided it was definitely the time to upgrade, and that’s when we called in Calor Gas”

- Reliable, consistent heating system
- Constant hot water on demand
- Greater energy efficiency, reduced cost
- Less maintenance, reduced downtime



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Laurel Lodge Nursing Home is situated in the heart of the Irish Midlands, on the outskirts of Longford town.



Laurel Lodge Nursing Home provides a warm and homely environment for the elderly.

BUSINESS Laurel Lodge Nursing Home

NAME Ann & Eugene Watters

POSITION Owners

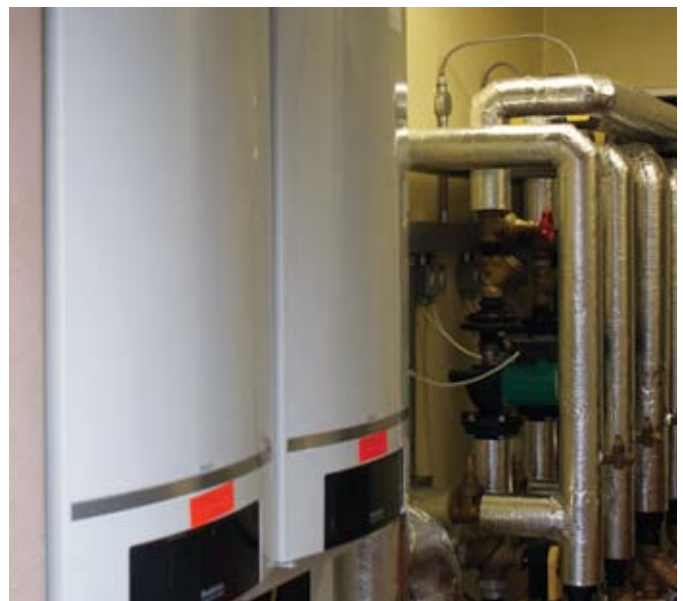
Established in 1996 by owners and operators Ann and Eugene Watters, the home is regulated by the Health Service Executive and is VHI approved. It provides a personal and professional service, with individually tailored healthcare plans and support dedicated to the health, quality of life, and dignity of each of its 107 residents.

‘From the outset, we’ve focused on the comfort and care that we provide. Our philosophy is that Laurel Lodge is a real home, where every resident can expect the highest levels of support,’ says Ann Watters. ‘That philosophy is carried through into the physical layout of the premises,’ she adds. ‘Our rooms are tastefully decorated and use glass to maximise the natural light. Our aim has been to create a stimulating, warm and homely environment.’

A key ingredient in this approach is reliable, efficient heating, but Laurel Lodge unfortunately found its oil fired system increasingly problematic, with frequent breakdowns and lengthy periods of maintenance. The final straw came when the heating failed over the Christmas period for two years in a row, leaving residents without heat or hot water for several days at the most crucial time of year. Although the nursing home moved as quickly as possible to ensure that heating was restored, Ann decided to look at other more fuel efficient options.

‘Our residents, some of whom have specialist requirements, are entitled to a warm and comfortable environment, and the repeated failure of the heating was simply not acceptable for us,’ says Ann. ‘We decided that it was definitely time to change, and that’s when we called in Calor.’

Calor’s local Sales Representative Aidan Ryan was similarly concerned about the repeated failure of the oil-fired system and was keen to identify the



Two 100kW Buderus wall mounted boilers operate independently.

The versatility of Calor provides a tailored solution resulting in five star service for guests.

optimum solution for the home's needs. *'We're regularly approached by those using such systems, particularly where reliable, efficient heat is an absolute must,'* he says. *'It was apparent that in such a critical environment, Calor Gas would provide dependable, consistent and controllable heat.'*

Paul Carr, Project Manager, was responsible for installing the new Calor system. Paul worked closely with Calor to ensure that the conversion of the first phase, which included heating and hot water for the first half of the Nursing Home was completed without missing a beat. This first phase was installed in May 2010 and this has now paved the way for the full scale conversion of the heating system throughout the entire complex. This will see the elimination of oil on the site, with Calor powering all energy requirements.

'In my experience, Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) provides a flexible, reliable and efficient heating solution,' Paul says. *'That's of primary importance in this type of facility, and particularly given the size and layout of Laurel Lodge,'* he adds.

Laurel Lodge operates three dedicated facilities within its site, each with its own monitoring systems linked to the nurses' work station. Hazelwood Lodge provides long term residential and respite care. Lissadell Lodge is a convalescent care unit providing post-hospital rehabilitation, while Glencarr Lodge is a specialist unit designed to meet the needs of residents. The energy system therefore had to meet the demands of a substantial facility, accommodating 112 medical and support staff, as well as the residents.

The new Calor Gas fuelled heating system is powered by two 100kW wall mounted Buderus boilers, discreetly located in a service room behind the Kitchen. The two boilers operate independently and provide a failsafe heating system, with four pumps that can each switch over automatically,

should there ever be a mechanical failure. This ensures that even in the event of a failure, the heating remains online.

Further reassurance is provided by an instrument panel using a system of green and red lights to indicate to staff whether a fault has occurred – while the system continues to run. Green lights show where all four pumps are working correctly, with red lights showing should the automatic switchover be activated. This allows any required servicing and maintenance to take place without the heating system failing. This monitoring system is in the nurse's station, ensuring that any fault can be detected immediately.

In addition to reliable heating and instant hot water on demand, Calor Gas also provides clean, cost efficient energy to power Laurel Lodge's kitchens and laundry room, including two 40kg capacity gas powered tumble dryers.



Three Calor 3 Tonne bulk tanks provide a plentiful supply of LPG for all of the Nursing Home's requirements.

Efficiency and cost savings

The whole system is run from 3 tonne tanks. With Calor, Ann never has to worry about gas running out due to Calor's unique telemetry system, ensuring that the tanks are automatically topped up as required.

The next phase of development will see the elimination of oil on the site, and Calor will power the hot water and heating for each of the three lodges. This is due for completion in early 2011.

'Laurel Lodge now has a clean, reliable fuel system that is fit for the future,' says Calor's Aidan Ryan. 'It's yet another example of Calor's advantages over oil, particularly in such a sensitive and critical operation.'

Owner Ann Watters agrees that residents now benefit from a consistently comfortable environment, where staff can focus on providing the highest standards of care. *'Having experienced the disruption and the impact that an unreliable heating system can have on my business and my clients, it's a huge comfort to know that we can now get on with delivering the care that we provide,' she says.*

Comparative Greenhouse Gas Emission Levels

Fuel	gCO ₂ /kWh (NCV)
LPG	229.3
Electricity	542.8
Oil	257.0
Coal	340.6
Peat Briquettes	355.9

Source: SEI Energy in Ireland Report 2009

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LPG
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THE BENEFITS AT A GLANCE

- Reliable, dependable and efficient heating
- Cost effective and clean burning fuel source
- Infinite hot water on demand
- Standby hot water storage losses are eliminated – water is only heated as required
- Easy to control water temperature with no danger of scalding
- Clean Calor means direct systems are almost 100% efficient
- Cleaner burning Calor means gas appliances need less maintenance
- Harmless and odourless combustion products
- LPG tanks need no containment bund for spillages – unlike oil

ABOUT CALOR

We have delivered innovative energy solutions for over 70 years. Our team can provide a complete tailor-made energy solution for your needs. By working with the manufacturers of energy efficient technologies, we stay at the cutting edge of developments in the energy industry. We can therefore recommend the most energy efficient solutions, allowing you to keep pace with changing building regulations and to reduce CO₂ emissions.



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