# Luxury retirement villages rival fictional Coopers Chase with escalating costs and extravagant amenities



Choosing the ideal home for retirement is a significant and often complex decision, especially when aspiring to find a setting that blends comfort, luxury, and a sense of community. For fans of Richard Osman's bestselling novel "The Thursday Murder Club," the fictional retirement village of Coopers Chase evokes images of a lush, serene, and upscale environment—a standard that real retirement homes aspire to but rarely achieve. The film adaptation used Englefield House, a grand estate set on 14,000 acres in West Berkshire, as a stand-in for Coopers Chase. This historic stately home is noted for its opulence and even hosted Pippa Middleton's wedding reception, underscoring the kind of grandeur associated with the fictional village.

Although genuine retirement villages across the UK cannot match Englefield House's extravagant scale, many offer high-end amenities aimed at creating a comfortable, active lifestyle. These facilities—often dubbed Integrated Retirement Communities—include restaurants, cafés, wellness centres, gyms, swimming pools, and 24/7 on-site support. However, such luxury bears a hefty price tag, particularly in London, where purchasing a leasehold flat in a retirement community can start at £708,000. Leasehold ownership implies a fixed-term property tenure, typically spanning over 100 years, after which ownership reverts to the freeholder. Renting in these complexes can vary greatly, from approximately £1,256 to over £4,000 per calendar month, depending on location and accommodation size.

The costs of retirement living extend far beyond initial purchase prices or monthly rents, with additional expenses including service charges, maintenance fees, council tax, utilities, insurance, and potentially care and extra premium services. For example, Wadswick Green in Wiltshire offers a picturesque woodland setting with numerous on-site amenities, including croquet lawns and even honey production from resident-maintained beehives. Properties start around £355,000, but monthly charges for services range from £631 to nearly £882, with ground rent adding £200 to £400 monthly. Utilities and other household costs can bring total monthly outlays to beyond £1,500.

Similarly, Mayfield Watford Retirement Village in Hertfordshire emphasises active living, featuring a gym, pool, and a diverse social calendar. Its one-bedroom flats start at just under £360,000 with management fees ranging from around £366 to £636 monthly, plus deferred management charges that could amount to 15-30% of the property's value at resale. Additional costs such as parking, housekeeping, personal care, and social activities add further financial layers for residents.

In a different pricing model, Danny House in Sussex presents one of the UK's most luxurious retirement experiences within a historic Elizabethan mansion set on 100 acres. Here, rents—covering an all-inclusive package of meals, maintenance, heating, council tax, cleaning, and other services—range from £3,200 to £5,000 per month. This model contrasts with other villages by grouping numerous expenses into a single charge, providing predictable monthly budgeting but at a premium cost.

Other communities, like Elmbridge Village in Surrey, combine scenic surroundings with numerous activities and facilities, but still require residents to navigate additional fees including service charges (£455 monthly), ground rent, council tax, and individual utility and care costs. The cumulative impact means that beneath the idyllic surface of retirement living lies a complex web of financial commitments.

Among the more distinctive retirement villages is Belong Newcastle-under-Lyme in Staffordshire, featuring restored heritage buildings and an emphasis on creative arts supported by local partnerships. Flats here are available for around £194,000 or rent at about £809 per month, but care packages can add significant weekly costs, reaching upwards of £1,240 depending on care levels. These fees cover comprehensive services from meals to activities and utilities, underscoring the high standard of care alongside investment in community culture.

Near Chertsey, Homewood Grove offers a vast array of leisure options, including a swimming pool, beauty salon, and extensive outdoor spaces, supported by a monthly community fee of £710 to £1,090 beyond property costs. This fee encompasses 24-hour support, concierge services, maintenance, insurance, and communal utilities, highlighting how these villages seek to provide a full-service lifestyle.

For those captivated by the setting of "The Thursday Murder Club," a true luxury lifestyle option is Auriens in Chelsea, London, a high-end community with just 56 apartments. Here, prices start from £2.75 million for a one-bedroom apartment, with rents soaring to approximately £18,674 per month. Facilities rival those of boutique hotels, including a cinema, wine cellar, speakeasy bar, and a focus on active ageing with fitness and social programmes. This development epitomises the high financial threshold required for the most exclusive versions of retirement living, blending lifestyle, location, and luxury in a single offering.

The real-life inspiration behind the novel’s Coopers Chase also includes St George’s Park in Sussex, where author Richard Osman's mother resides. This community is noted for its welcoming atmosphere and active social environment, lending authenticity to Osman's fictional creation.

Ultimately, while retirement villages like those seen in "The Thursday Murder Club" promise a plush, secure, and sociable later life, they come with complex and often substantial financial commitments. Prospective residents must weigh upfront property costs against layered ongoing fees for services, maintenance, and care—factors critical to ensuring such a dream retirement remains sustainable.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15060737/How-Thursday-Murder-Club-retirement-REALLY-costs-luxury-developments-rival-Coopers-Chase-you-need-save-afford-them.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.whattowatch.com/features/thursday-murder-club-filming-locations-where-is-the-richard-osman-movie-shot), [[5]](https://www.yours.co.uk/leisure/celebrity-tv/thursday-murder-club-film-location/), [[7]](https://www.cinemablend.com/streaming-news/thursday-murder-club-fancy-and-very-familiar-retirement-connections-x-men-royal-family-more)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15060737/How-Thursday-Murder-Club-retirement-REALLY-costs-luxury-developments-rival-Coopers-Chase-you-need-save-afford-them.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15060737/How-Thursday-Murder-Club-retirement-REALLY-costs-luxury-developments-rival-Coopers-Chase-you-need-save-afford-them.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[6]](https://www.tvguide.co.uk/streaming-guide/the-thursday-murder-club-real-coopers-chase-retirement-village-home-englefield-house-st-georges-park)
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* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15060737/How-Thursday-Murder-Club-retirement-REALLY-costs-luxury-developments-rival-Coopers-Chase-you-need-save-afford-them.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15060737/How-Thursday-Murder-Club-retirement-REALLY-costs-luxury-developments-rival-Coopers-Chase-you-need-save-afford-them.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15060737/How-Thursday-Murder-Club-retirement-REALLY-costs-luxury-developments-rival-Coopers-Chase-you-need-save-afford-them.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15060737/How-Thursday-Murder-Club-retirement-REALLY-costs-luxury-developments-rival-Coopers-Chase-you-need-save-afford-them.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15060737/How-Thursday-Murder-Club-retirement-REALLY-costs-luxury-developments-rival-Coopers-Chase-you-need-save-afford-them.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - This article explores the costs associated with luxury retirement communities in the UK, drawing parallels to the fictional Coopers Chase from 'The Thursday Murder Club'. It details various upscale retirement villages, their amenities, and the financial commitments required, including property prices, monthly service charges, and additional fees. The piece provides insights into the financial aspects of choosing a high-end retirement setting, highlighting the significant investments involved in maintaining a comfortable and luxurious lifestyle in later years.
3. <https://www.countryandtownhouse.com/cth-life/properties/thursday-murder-club-auriens/> - Auriens is a luxury later living community in Chelsea, London, inspired by the retirement setting in 'The Thursday Murder Club'. Offering 56 apartments with 24-hour concierge service, residents enjoy amenities such as a cinema, salon, wine cellar, and a speakeasy bar. Designed for over-65s, Auriens focuses on active ageing, providing a packed social calendar and tailored health and fitness programmes. One-bedroom apartments start from £2,750,000 to buy and £18,674 per month to rent, reflecting the high-end nature of the community.
4. <https://www.whattowatch.com/features/thursday-murder-club-filming-locations-where-is-the-richard-osman-movie-shot> - This article delves into the filming locations of 'The Thursday Murder Club', highlighting Englefield House in Berkshire as the stand-in for the fictional Coopers Chase retirement village. The piece provides insights into the choice of location, the modifications made for the film, and the historical significance of Englefield House. It also mentions other filming sites, offering a comprehensive look at how the production team brought the novel's setting to life on screen.
5. <https://www.yours.co.uk/leisure/celebrity-tv/thursday-murder-club-film-location/> - Englefield House in Berkshire served as the filming location for Coopers Chase in 'The Thursday Murder Club'. The article discusses the house's suitability for the role, its historical background, and its connection to the royal family, notably hosting Pippa Middleton's wedding. It also provides information on visiting the gardens, which are open to the public on Mondays throughout the year, offering a glimpse into the real-life setting of the film.
6. <https://www.tvguide.co.uk/streaming-guide/the-thursday-murder-club-real-coopers-chase-retirement-village-home-englefield-house-st-georges-park> - This piece explores the real-life inspiration behind Coopers Chase in 'The Thursday Murder Club', focusing on St George’s Park, a retirement village in Sussex where author Richard Osman's mother resides. The article provides insights into the community's atmosphere, activities, and how it influenced the creation of the fictional setting in the novel and film adaptation.
7. <https://www.cinemablend.com/streaming-news/thursday-murder-club-fancy-and-very-familiar-retirement-connections-x-men-royal-family-more> - The article examines the filming location of Coopers Chase in 'The Thursday Murder Club', revealing that Englefield House in Berkshire was used. It highlights the house's historical significance, its appearances in other films, and its connection to the royal family, particularly hosting Pippa Middleton's wedding. The piece provides a detailed look at how this location was chosen and its role in bringing the fictional setting to life.