

# BRIDGEMEDIA

## “Where does my help come from?”

*“My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.”*

*Psalm 121 verse 2*

I am writing this from Keswick in the Lake District, where we are volunteers at the Keswick Convention, which is a Bible teaching week. I love Keswick because as you look out from the town you are surrounded by hills and mountains, and I always try to have a good walk during our time off. I am also always reminded of a talk that I heard a number of years ago by Rev. Jim Graham at Keswick on Psalm 121.

The psalm starts, *“I will lift my eyes to the hills”* – and some versions of the Bible continue, *“from whence cometh my help.”* I remember Jim Graham saying that this is actually not a statement but a question, “Where does my help come from?” The Psalmist was really saying, “I lift my eyes to the hills and stand in amazement at their beauty and size, but then I ask myself, “Where does my help come from?” – it doesn’t come from the hills or anything else that I might stand back and wonder at, but it DOES come from the Lord – God who made the mountains and everything else that there is.

When we trust in the Almighty God then we have no need to worry about problems which come our way. It was God who created the heavens and the earth; it was God who made us too. It is also God who knows us today; He knows our concerns and He knows the beginning from the end. Therefore it is God who is able to carry us through our troubles, whatever they may be. We don’t have to look to earthly things for our help; we must lift our eyes higher – and look to God himself.

***Alan Ashworth***

## **A message from the chairman of the trustees**

### **Hullo Bridgemedians**

We are now more than half way through the year and, as I write this column, summer has arrived. It may well be over by the time you read it!

This month we say goodbye to two trustees who have been part of the team for some years. The first is Wendy Judd who became a trustee in July 2008 and has served in a number of ways making use of her legal training to help us through some tricky issues. Wendy has taken increasing responsibilities as administrator at St Michael's Church, Broad Street and has decided to retire as a trustee. We also say goodbye to Dr James Playfair who became a trustee in November 2010 and has been a great help to us in a number of ways, not least making use of his clinical expertise. James has recently been appointed as Church Warden at Bath Abbey and, in view of his heavy workload there, has decided to retire as a trustee. Wendy and James leave with our best wishes and our gratitude for their contributions. I am sure we will see them from time to time.

We are proceeding with our plans for flood resilience and improvements to Bridgemead. The architects have met with the management and staff in an effort to understand some of the ways they think the building can be improved and are drawing up some ideas to show how these ideas can be implemented conceptually. These plans will soon be available for us to comment on. Then the hard work commences of translating the concept into detailed plans that can be submitted for planning approval. In the meantime other consultants are being instructed to help with the design and costings.

This is all very exciting but demanding on our time and energy but we have a team of trustees working hard with the architects on this. We will soon have a better idea of what the changes will look like and the costs involved. We need to know this so that we can start our fundraising appeal in earnest. This will happen over the next month or so.

The next instalment of the 'Remarkable Story of Bridgemead' is featured in this month's edition – I hope you are enjoying reading this – it serves as a great encouragement to us as we remind ourselves of the journey taken by the original trustees.

Enjoy the summer!



# The Remarkable story of Bridgemead

## Part 3: A Vision Conceived

And so a group of concerned people began to share a burden about the lack of adequate care of older people in Bath within a Christian context. Each person brought their own expertise and perspective to bear to the task - but shared a common goal. They had plenty of enthusiasm, but slowly became aware of the enormity of the task ahead. No-one had any prior experience of establishing and operating a care home. They did not have a track record. Who was going to take them seriously? How were they to generate the funds that would be required?

One characteristic of the group was tenacity. Another was their commitment to prayer and drawing strength and encouragement from reading the Bible. A particular verse was an encouragement to them from the start and was a constant strength throughout:

*"Unless the LORD builds the house, it's builders labour in vain." Psalm 127 v. 1*

The group was convinced that, if God was calling them to undertake a task, He would supply their need. They would have known of Hudson Taylor, missionary to China in the 19th century who wrote:

*"Depend upon it - God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supplies"*

Sheila Haughton's contribution was invaluable. Sara Barber remarked that *"Sheila was the one, above all the others, who kept everybody's mind focused on the need to pray continually."*

As well as prayer was the need for planning. Gerald recalls Ray, Fred and himself joining a church group on a coach trip to Twickenham in May 1985 to support Bath Rugby in the cup final. These three formed their own scrummage on the coach to talk about plans for the venture. In their opinion the occasion was noted less for the success of Bath Rugby Club as the fact that this was where the group's ideas began to crystalize.

The planning group met formally for the first time in June 1985. In the words of Ray King:

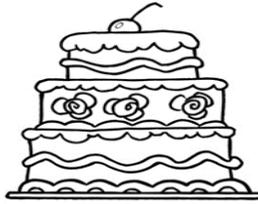
*"So we had started. What we needed was a medium sized house in which we could accommodate about half a dozen old people and give them quality care in Christ's Name. What a lot we had to learn!"*

But a start had been made. The burden had become a vision that God had called them to do something and they were excited. The group was soon to discover that things do not always run to plan.

## **August Birthdays**

### **Residents**

**24th August Alison Paul**



## **August Activities**

**Tuesday 2nd August - Danny Guest sings songs from the Rat Pack**

**Thursday 4th August - Bing Lyle plays the accordion**

**Tuesday 9th August - Phil Smith's Variety Show**

**Wednesday 10th August - Chris Griffith entertains**

**Thursday 11th August - Forbes Robertson sings and plays guitar**

**Friday 12th August - Half Day Trip Fish 'n' Chip Lunch at Chew Valley**

**Monday 15th August - 'Now and Then' sing and play**

**Friday 19th August - 'Musica' - Musical interaction with Ella**

**Monday 22nd August - 'Invisible Youth' - Circus entertainment**

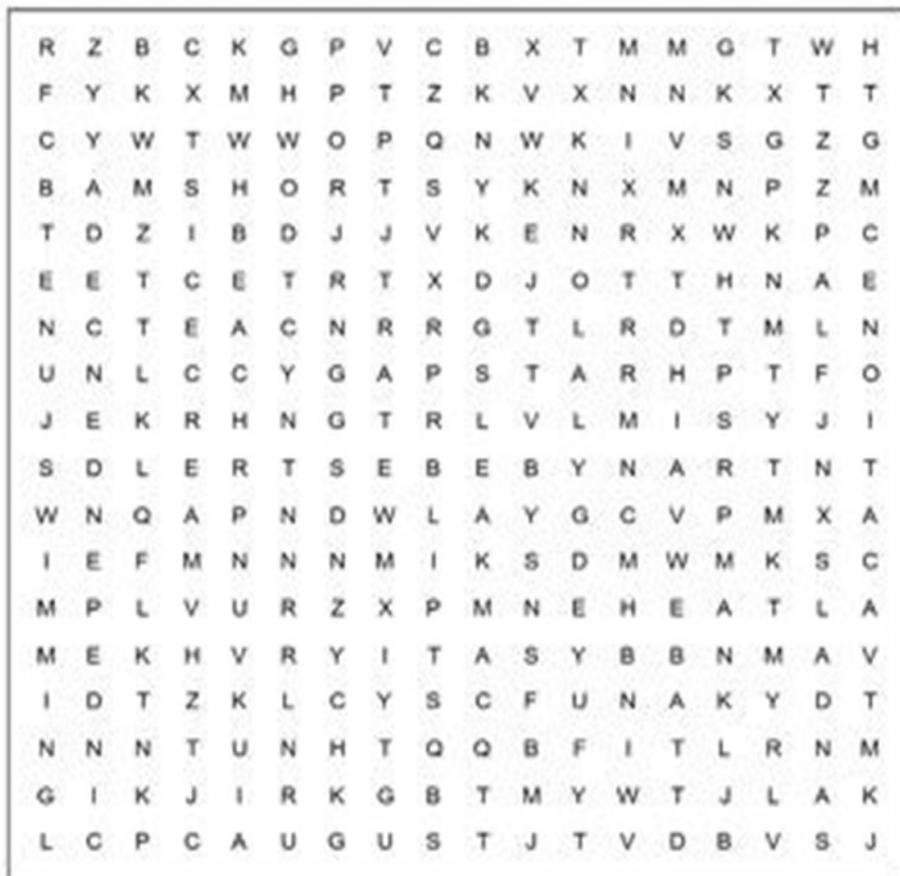
**Wednesday 24th August - Ann and her visiting dogs**

**Friday 26th August - Alive! Music and reminiscences**

**Tuesday 30th August - 'John-on-me-Tod' sounds of the 60's**

**Wednesday 31st August - 'Dave & Ewe' - Visiting farm animals**

# Summer Word Search



- |           |              |               |
|-----------|--------------|---------------|
| August    | ice cream    | sandcastle    |
| baseball  | Independence | shorts        |
| beach     | Day          | swimsuit      |
| camping   | July         | swimming      |
| gardening | June         | travel        |
| heat      | picnic       | vacation      |
| hot       | sandals      | thunderstorms |



## Friday spaces available at Bridgemead Day Club

Bridgemead Day Club is now open on Fridays, from 10am until 4pm. We currently have spaces available. Please contact Jacqueline Pickford, Day Club Leader on 01225 484904 for any enquiries.

The Day Club offers the opportunity for individuals to interact with others and make friends. During the morning, a short devotional period is organised should anyone wish to attend and this is followed by daily exercises, again optional. A locally sourced, freshly cooked lunch is provided (any special dietary requirements are catered for). The afternoon consists of a variety of activities and entertainment and afternoon tea is served with home-made cake. Assistance can be provided with personal care, including bathing if desired.



## **Friends of Bridgemed**

**Hello Bridgemedians,**

The schools have now broken up and families are going on their summer holidays - I do hope that the weather is kind to them!! My daughter and her family are on holiday in America so we have a lodger - Bruno - a Labradoodle puppy! He's only five months old so quite lively, I am really looking forward to taking him out for walks so I am also hoping for decent weather!

Our 'Friends' AGM took place on Tuesday 19th July at Bridgemed, unfortunately only two people joined the committee for refreshments and the meeting. Hopefully next year we will have better support. We welcomed a new Secretary, Brenda Smith and said goodbye and thank you to Diane Corbett who retired after two years in the post. We also welcomed two new committee members, Judith Roach and Sandra Stephens, we hope they will enjoy their time with us. Chairman of the Trustees, Geoff Weekes closed the meeting by giving a short presentation on the future plans for Bridgemed - exciting times ahead!

Our Strawberry Cream Tea took place at Bridgemed on Saturday 30th July. Visitors enjoyed looking at and buying Phoenix greeting cards, jewellery, cakes and gifts. The raffle was also a big success. We hope that the residents and visitors enjoyed the afternoon as much as we did! I shall give you details of any profit we made in the September Bridgemed.

Our Christmas Fayre takes place at Bridgemed on Saturday 3 December so please make a note in your diary - we would love to see you there! More details in the September edition.

Annual Subscription Reminder: There are still some subscriptions of £5 outstanding. Please hand in subscriptions at Bridgemed or give them to Brenda Smith, Secretary. Thank you.

Hope to see some of you during August.....

**Una**

## Virgin Money Giving

Bridgemed has a Virgin Money Giving Page set up. If anyone would be interested in giving, the link to it is: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1007255>

Please note that Bridgemed can now be found on our website. Go to [www.bridgecare.org.uk](http://www.bridgecare.org.uk), click on Bridge-media and you will find the latest issue. We also now have a page for Staff Vacancies on the website.

If you would prefer to receive your copy of Bridgemed by e-mail, can you please let us know on [admin@bridgecare.org.uk](mailto:admin@bridgecare.org.uk)

All contributions to this newsletter are welcome from residents, relatives, staff and volunteers. If you have something you think would be of interest, anecdotes, personal recollections, news events, short poems or anything relevant would be welcome. Published by Bridge Care Ltd, Bridgemed, 81 St John's Road, Bathwick, Bath BA2 6PZ. Bridge Care is a company limited by guarantee and registered as a charity under number 299400. Limited Company registration number 2001246 (England).

## Contact Us

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