



bridgemead

# Bridgemia Newsletter April 2022

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# Easter Blessings

## Words meaning "Happy"

C	E	H	T	I	L	B	U	D	E	T	A	L	E
L	T	D	L	U	F	E	E	L	G	T	N	T	T
G	L	A	D	T	J	U	B	I	L	A	N	T	H
S	Y	E	E	A	L	U	F	R	E	E	H	C	R
D	L	T	L	E	J	Y	Y	A	G	L	A	T	I
A	K	N	I	P	D	E	L	K	C	I	T	C	L
Y	S	A	G	P	E	P	P	Y	P	P	A	H	L
E	L	T	H	D	E	S	A	E	L	P	H	M	E
S	U	L	T	L	Y	O	A	J	O	G	E	T	D
E	U	U	E	D	L	G	E	R	E	R	L	I	B
G	P	X	D	I	L	L	T	M	R	O	Y	N	E
E	A	E	E	U	O	E	A	Y	I	P	I	S	N
L	U	F	Y	O	J	B	J	O	Y	O	U	S	A
M	B	L	U	F	S	S	I	L	B	T	D	J	L

THRILLED  
ELATED  
PLEASED  
HAPPY  
JOLLY  
DELIGHTED  
GLAD  
MERRY  
JOYOUS  
GLEEFUL  
BLISSFUL  
PEPPY  
CHEERFUL  
JOYFUL  
EXULTANT  
BLITHE  
TICKLED PINK  
JUBILANT

## The Miracles of Easter

*The sleeping earth awakens,  
The robins start to sing,  
The flowers open wide their eyes  
To tell us it is Spring,  
The bleakness of the Winter  
Is melted by the sun,  
The tree that looked so start and dead  
Becomes a living one ....  
These MIRACLES of EASTER,  
Wrought with divine perfection,  
Are the blessed reassurance  
Of Our Saviour's Resurrection.*

***Helen Steiner Rice***  
**“It’s Friday, but Sunday’s coming!”**

*“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, he was buried and he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.” 1 Corinthians 15:4-5*

As we head towards Easter later this month, people will have different thoughts as to whether Jesus’ death on the cross was a triumph, a tragedy or a non-event. The UK is becoming very much a secular society and many people, if they think about it at all, would say that it was not significant. Others who don’t fully understand would say that Jesus’ death was an absolute tragedy as the so-called Messiah was accused by the religious leaders of the time and then put to death by the Roman authorities. They would see Jesus’ last words of “It is finished!” as a cry of despair. However, the accounts in the Bible tell of how Jesus repeatedly told his disciples about what was going to happen to him: “that he must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.” Jesus knew exactly what was going to happen to him, that God was showing his love for the world through his sacrificial death on the cross and Jesus was willingly dying as the Saviour of the world. His cry of “It is finished!” was actually a shout of victory and triumph: “It is accomplished - God’s purpose has been fulfilled!” The proof of this came as Jesus rose from the dead on that first Easter Sunday, again a victory and a triumph! An American pastor by the name of S.M. Lockridge wrote a poem about the events of Easter entitled, “It’s Friday, but Sunday’s coming!” Each verse detailed some of the dreadful events of Good Friday, with the first line of each verse being, “It’s Friday”, and the last line of each verse being, “But Sunday’s coming!” Jesus did die a terrible death for us but he also rose again from the dead. So, when



you think of Easter, remember, “It’s Friday, but Sunday’s coming!”

### **News at Bridgmead**



### **Head of Care at Bridgmead**

**Hello, my name is Heather Gillingham, Head of Care at Bridgmead.**

**I started my career in Lodgemoor Hospital in Sheffield. I later moved to Somerset and worked in Yeovil District Hospital on the Orthopaedic Ward. I then pursued further Professional Qualifications at Bournemouth University. This led me to eventually work in District Nursing for over 18 years.**

**Whilst raising my three sons I have worked in several Residential/Nursing settings. This provided me with a wealth of experience meeting some wonderful people with many life stories to tell. My three sons have given me 6 adorable grandchildren who I am sure the residents at Bridgmead will meet, during the many varied events held here.**

**I have enjoyed working with Pam, getting to know the lovely staff and Residents. Ryan and I will have BIG boots to fill!! I have already been made to feel very welcome by the residents, families, staff and Trustees and all involved with Bridgmead.**

**The pandemic has meant that the last two years have been more difficult than many could have ever imagined. The commitment, bravery and limitless care provided by all involved in our lovely home has meant that each resident, as always, receives the best care possible.**

**I am extremely proud to join such a wonderful team and home.**

**Kindest Regards**

**Heather**

## **Built on a passion for caring - 30 Year Anniversary**

**Bridgemean was opened in 1992, under the inspired leadership of a local GP, Dr Ray King. He was supported by a number of churches from different denominations in the Bath area.**

**The idea for Bridgemean came about following the death of an older patient of Dr King's, who left a widow without family to support her. The widowed lady was in need of care and, being an active church member, she desperately wanted to spend her remaining years in a Christian community. However, due to the lack of suitable provision in Bath, she was moved to a Christian care home in another part of the country – far away from her friends and local church.**

**This led to Dr King's vision: to build a residential and nursing home for older people, operated with a Christian ethos. And as part of a suite of first-class care, it would also offer spiritual support to all those who wished to receive it.**

**Planning began in 1985 and Bridgemean opened to its first residents in March 1992 – inaugurated by the then Archbishop of Canterbury, The Right Reverend Dr George Carey. The building also won architectural awards for its progressive design.**

**Ever since, Bridgemean has held firmly onto its original aspirations. Hundreds of older people and their families have benefited from the care it provides.**

**Today Bridge Care, the charity, is under the governance of a team of Trustees from a variety of churches within Bath.**

**On the 9th March 2022 it was our 30 year anniversary of the opening of Bridgemean. Unfortunately due to Covid we were unable to celebrate the anniversary but on the 10th March 2022 outside agencies, volunteers and friends were able to join Pam and her team in St John's Church Hall. The afternoon was enjoyed by all with lots of reminiscing of the past 30 years. Pam marked the occasion with the cutting of delicious cakes which all at Bridgemean were able to enjoy.**



**Dear All,**

**I would just like to say that over the last 20 years it has been a privilege to work at Bridgemean. I have enjoyed working with the residents, their families and friends and our staff team. I will miss everybody but hope to continue some contact.**

**Best wishes  
Pam**



**Sadly we say goodbye to:**

**Barbara R**

**Clifford S**

**Irene W**

**Our love and thoughts go out to their family and friends**



**Happy Birthday to:**

**Resident: Mary B**

**Day Club: Brian A**

### **TRUSTEE MESSAGE**

All of us have been shocked and disturbed by the news reports in recent weeks from Ukraine. If you're like me, you almost daren't look at the News broadcasts with their images of pain and suffering. Personally, I am somewhat haunted by the item a few days ago where men were saying goodbye to their families on a station platform, not knowing if they'd ever see each other again. The pain and anguish on the faces of those men was truly agonising.

We should be grateful for the calm and security we all enjoy, and especially the atmosphere at Bridgemean which is so appreciated by the residents and their families. When my father spent six months in Bridgemean in 2015 it was that atmosphere which we noticed and which helped us enormously as a family. And, of course, he received excellent care right up to the end.

We cannot take all this for granted. As we say farewell to Pam, following such a long period of unstinting service, we can thank her for being one of those responsible for the care and concern which is the hallmark of Bridgemean. And we look forward to the influence Ryan and Heather will bring as they begin this new chapter in the life of our organisation. Each of them has great qualities, which we Trustees saw at interview, and which made them our unanimous choice. I am sure you will want to wish them God's blessing for the months ahead.

Thank you for your interest and prayers for Bridgemean. Let us all keep these up, and, returning to our earlier theme, let us keep remembering the needs of so many in Ukraine.

**Tim Dewes - Trustee**

## **FRIENDS OF BRIDGEMEAD**

**Hello Bridgemedians,**

**At last I feel that I have something to tell you!**

**I'm pleased to report that your committee was able to hold a meeting on March 8 and finally make tentative plans for the future.**

**The first being our AGM which we have earmarked for Tuesday 19 July, 7.30pm at Bridgemead – Covid restrictions allowing. More details later but we hope to see many of you then – it's been a long 3 years since our last one!**

**We have not been able to collect annual subscriptions for the last two years and consequently have lost revenue. A big thank you to those members who have sent in their subs and donations.**

**It has been over 20 years since the level of subscription was set, so in view of this – and the situation in which we now find ourselves we have decided to raise the amount for membership of the Friends to £10. This will take effect from 1 April 2022. We hope you understand our reasoning behind this increase. Additionally, in an attempt to simplify the collection of subscriptions we ask that as many of you as possible set up an annual Standing Order for this amount please. Details that you will require are -**

<b>Bank Account Name</b>	<b>The Friends of Bridgemead</b>
<b>Account No.</b>	<b>03921862</b>
<b>Sort Code</b>	<b>30-90-54</b>

**Of course if this is not convenient to you, we shall only be too pleased to accept cheques or cash. This can be handed in at Bridgemead or to the Treasurer Judith Skelton, who is contactable on 07752173909. The Treasurer and Secretary will issue a joint letter to you all in due course explaining the above in more detail.**

**We hope to hold a Strawberry Tea on Saturday 23 July at Bridgemead 2.30pm, subject to the Covid situation at that time. More details later.**

**Although Pam retired at the end of March she has kindly agreed to continue serving on the committee and will be one of three prospective new members to be nominated for election at the AGM.**

**I feel I have rambled on enough so I will stop now and wish you all a very Happy Easter.**

Una

### Day Club

If you, or anyone you know would be interested in attending Bridgemed Day Club we currently have spaces and at present we open only on a Wednesday. As and when numbers increase extra days will be added. We offer a whole range of activities and delicious freshly cooked lunches.

For more information please contact:

Hilary Humpage - 01225 484904 - email: [activities@bridgecare.org.uk](mailto:activities@bridgecare.org.uk)

### Covid Update

Unfortunately, over the last month we have had more residents and staff testing positive therefore the following update on visiting is as follows:

If a resident or staff member are positive with Covid, Bridgemed will remain closed to visits, other than the named care provider. This will be for 10 days. Residents will be tested to give the all clear near to the ending of the isolation time.

If a Resident is Covid free we have the conservatory for visits. If the weather is nice and sunny up to 4 family members can visit in the garden.

Family will still have to bring in LFD and register to visit outside, this allows more leeway.

The home will have to start a 10 day again closed door should staff or Resident have a Positive Result.

Visits still need to be booked in advance for weekdays and weekend visits. You need to book your visit via Rosemary on reception. We still need to monitor the number of visitors in the Home at any one time. We are following the government guidelines and we are still advised to continue with the wearing of PPE, social distancing and of course LFD test prior to admission.

There is still the option of meeting with our residents through the day lounge window or through video calls.

We thank you for your continued support in this.

### Local Giving

Bridgemed has a Local Giving Page set up. If anyone would be interested in giving, the link to it is:

[www.bridgecare.org.uk/donate](http://www.bridgecare.org.uk/donate)

Please note that Bridgemed can now be found on our website.

Go to [www.bridgecare.org.uk](http://www.bridgecare.org.uk), Bridgemed can be found on the News page.

We also now have a page for Staff Vacancies on the website.

<https://www.bridgecare.org.uk/about/staff/vacancies/>

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.



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