



bridgemed

**Bridgemed
Newsletter
October 2023**



Bath Pulteney Weir

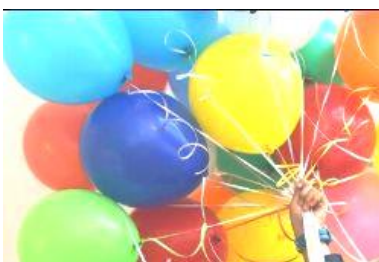
Veterinary

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 SCALE
 VETERINARIAN
 GRASS
 COW
 MILK
 COAT
 CHEESE



Sadly we say goodbye to
 Jane T - Resident
 Alexander (Sandy) Y - Dayclub
 Our love and thoughts go out to both of their
 family and friends.



Happy Birthday to Residents:

David P

Christine I

Alan Dickson - Chaplain
Jesus said “*I am the true vine*”

This is the last of Jesus’s “*I am*” statements.

As we have seen from the previous “*I am*”, Jesus spoke a lot about the salvation he was going to achieve for mankind. Jesus now speaks in this allegory about the differences that salvation will make to people’s lives. Jesus is telling his disciples, just hours before he was crucified, about the different life that was become possible for his followers, then and still now, which had never previously been known.

Jesus talked about himself. “*I am the true vine*”. We don’t know why Jesus chose the illustration of a vine to make the statements that followed, but Jesus was making clear the major benefit that follows from salvation from sin that he had come to provide. And the benefit of coming to Jesus is that he brings us into a living relationship with Him – like a branch attached to a vine. And that’s available for everyone – for anyone who believes in Jesus.

Christianity is not a book of rules. Christianity is all about Jesus. Christianity is Jesus. Christianity is the forgiveness of sins through Jesus, which brings us into a relationship with the risen Jesus in this life now and forever eternally in heaven. A new kind of life now, which is fruitful, helping us to become more like Jesus and to share Jesus with others. Jesus is the true source of life for Christians. Although it is Christians who become fruitful, it’s the vine, Jesus, that makes it happen.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+15&version=NIVUK>

News at Bridgemead

Residents enjoyed a visit to Dyrham Park, Nr Bath. They all enjoyed the shuttle bus ride down to the house and gardens. They were able to go inside the house and afterward went around the grounds. During their visit, they had a picnic in the gardens and the weather was kind to them for the day.



At Bridgemean we are enjoying weekly visits with students from King Edwards School. The residents have lovely conversations with the students and they are able to join in with our activities of the afternoon. Last week the students played Scrabble and also assisted our poet with her poem!

“By the Waterside”

Written by a Resident at Bridgemean

It's peaceful and calm down by the riverside
with the gentle movement like a lapping tide.

Now, by the canal is another matter
lot's of activity with plenty of chatter.

There are walkers, runners, and cyclists too
they all appear pleased with what they do.

It's better to jog on the old towpath
than sit looking vacantly at an empty hearth.

The longboats are tethered and rest awhile.
Many have been travelling the water for many a mile.
The proud parent swans so graceful and white
busy keeping their signets in sight.

A row of thatched cottages washed over in white
Oh, they do present a heart warming sight.
The small front gardens with a colourful look
remind me of my favorite picture book.

Up the hill and over the water
a new large house built of red bricks and mortar.
With verdant green lawns stretching far and wide,
then sweeping down to the waterside.

Nature with her magic hand
has created such scenery all over the land.
Now that this rhyme has been done
we send good health and happiness to everyone.

FRIENDS OF BRIDGEMEAD

Hello Bridgemedians,

The Autumn is well and truly with us and we can now look forward to beautiful crisp mornings and vibrant colours on our trees! How about a walk around Westonbirt – now that would really be special!

I've just returned from a short holiday in Devon, Modbury to be precise – an area I hadn't visited for many years – but nothing had changed, still a small sleepy town where the locals are always happy to stop and pass the time of day! Bigbury on Sea and Burgh Island were good to revisit and walk around the pretty coastline – plenty of people surfing and body boarding, lovely to watch, but a tad cold to do!

Hopefully by the time you read this we shall have enjoyed our Quiz Evening with Soup and Puds. Here I would like to thank two friends of mine who offered to do the quiz, Helen Schofield and Sue Poole. This is the second quiz that they have arranged for us and I am very grateful to them both.

Thanks are also due to the committee members and our friends who have offered help with making the food for the evening. We are lucky enough to have support from people who are not associated with Bridgemead at all but just like to contribute – thank you to them all!

The Christmas Fayre will be held on Saturday 9th December at Bridgemead 2.30pm. Stalls will include Tombola, Books, Cakes, Pic a Bag, Resident's crafts, Crafts and of course a Raffle. Refreshments of tea/coffee/mince pie will also be on sale. More details in the November newsletter.

Lastly I'm very sad to tell you that a loyal and long standing Friend and Committee Member, Esther Busby passed away on the 12 September. We remember Esther as a quiet lady who liked best to stay in the background, quietly getting on with things. She and Pam Bourton were stalwarts at all the fayres – you could always find them dishing out copious cups of tea and, depending on the event, strawberry teas, mince pies or Easter biscuits – they were a great team! Esther also acted as a 'trolley dolly' with me for several years, she always had a cheering word for the residents who looked forward to seeing her. Esther was a very generous lady both with her time and with the many donations of gifts and money she gave to Bridgemead – we shall miss her!

Thank you to Ryan and the staff for all their support.
Una

Trustee Message

This has been a very special month for my wife and me. Following the birth of little Louisa to our daughter back in February, we have recently been blessed with the arrival of Nathalie (Tally) in August and then, in September, Ava. They and their mums are doing well.

Isn't new birth a miracle? It has been incredible to see three little people only a day or two old, and to think of how much potential they each have as they grow to adulthood in the coming years. And then I start wondering if I'll see any of them being married, or if I'll have great grandchildren....

But for the moment, these babies rely on their mums for everything. They need food of course, but they also need literally everything else which will help them to thrive. And if they haven't got what they want, all they can do is cry - sometimes very loudly!

I know many people reading this will know all about having grandchildren - what a privilege it is to have them, and how much we appreciate them as they grow up. Of course, none of them is perfect, and so it is good to be able to hand them back to their parents, who often seem to have the stamina and patience we find difficult.

I wonder - could some of us do with a bit more of a childlike approach to life? We are often so busy and each of the details seems so important to us - we forget to take a step back and let others make decisions. We also, all of us, could do with a more childlike wonder at the incredible things we experience every day. I'm thinking of the world around us and the changing seasons. I'm also thinking of how we can now hold a computer in our hand, which we call mobile phones. These devices remember things and do things which we would never have imagined, and which we now take so much for granted. Aren't they incredible?

Some of you will remember that Jesus welcomed little children to be with him, despite what the adults nearby wanted. May our approach to Jesus be like that of a child - grateful, and dependant on Him for our daily needs. And, just as babies cry when they need something, we can cry out to God, who we know answers our prayers.

And will I be alive to meet any great grandchildren? I don't know - but I am comforted by the old, but so valuable truth - "I don't know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future".

Tim Dewes

Trustee

Update on the Flood Defences

Do you remember the dark days of Covid when life seemed suspended and very uncertain for a time? We're so grateful for the commitment of our staff and all they did to keep our Residents safe. We couldn't visit the home, Day Club stopped, Friends of Bridgemead had to suspend their brilliant work on Fund Raising and we weren't able to make any progress on the Flood Defences.

It's taken us a long time to get back to normal, but some things have changed, especially the price and availability of so many essentials. But we have been very grateful that our prayers were answered and we have not had a problem with the river these past three winters.

After a long pause, the Trustees feel that it is right to proceed with the Flood Defences as soon as possible, hopefully starting the works in Spring next year. Final plans are currently being discussed with the architectural team and the Trustees expect to invite contractors to quote for this work towards the end of this year.

The projected costs will not be known for a few weeks, but we expect them to have increased significantly. In the meantime, we're very grateful for the work Geoff Weekes has been doing to get our major fundraising effort restarted by preparing a Strategy Paper for the Trustees. We expect to be approaching a variety of funding organisations as well as reaching out to the local Christian community and our supporters.

So, watch this space for news of our new Fundraising campaign. Maybe you can help by being a part of the Fundraising Team over the next 6 months or so. Or start adding to your piggy bank for Bridgemead. Your support is vital to us and all the Residents who make Bridgemead their home.

**Tilly Wood
On behalf of the Trustees**

ENTERTAINMENT AT BRIDGEMEAD OCTOBER 2023

6th	October	Phil Smith - Sing-a-long
10th	October	Shannon Kitchen - Singer
12th	October	Terry & Jenny - Ballroom Dancers
13th	October	10.45am Residents Coffee Morning
16th	October	Mike Renton - Sing-a-long
18th	October	David Kniveton - Flautist



**Come and join Bridgemed Day Club 10am – 4pm
Arrive at 10am and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea
along with a chat and if you would like a challenge
how about a group quiz or crossword?**

A lovely lunch will be provided.

**In the afternoon we have various activities
ranging from Entertainers, Arts and Crafts, Sing-alongs
and much more.**

At 3pm the ‘Grand Finale’ - Tea and cake.

**“Thank you for a most enjoyable day”
just one of many compliments from
Club Members.**

Cost: £31 per visit – payable monthly in arrears

**Carers for and friends of Day Club members - please consider contributing
to our funding at Bridgemed – in particular we have a major flood risk
mitigation building project which urgently needs funding.**

<https://www.bridgcare.org.uk/donate/>

Giving

Find out how to give to support different aspects of what we do
on <https://www.bridgcare.org.uk/volunteer/how-do-i-donate/> or by giving online
at <https://www.bridgcare.org.uk/donate/>

We continue to retain a Local Giving page the link for which can be found at the bottom
of <https://www.bridgcare.org.uk/volunteer/how-to-fundraise/>

Bridgemed

Find Bridgemed on our home page at <https://www.bridgcare.org.uk/>
If you would prefer to receive your copy of Bridgemed by e-mail, please let us know
on admin@bridgcare.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.

Jobs

We also now have a page for Staff Vacancies on the website.
<https://www.bridgcare.org.uk/about/staff/vacancies/>

