



bridgemead

Bridgemia Newsletter September 2024



Gardening is like riding a bicycle

School Life

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

- LUNCH BOX
- GLITTER
- SCISSORS
- BLACKBOARD
- ERASER
- PENS
- SHARPENER
- COMPASS
- GLUE STICK
- JOURNAL
- NOTEBOOK
- PENCIL CASE
- PENCILS
- CRAYONS
- MARKERS
- BACKPACK
- HOMEWORK
- BOOKS



**Sadly we say goodbye to Resident - Elizabeth Moore
Our love and thoughts go out
to her family and friends**



Happy Birthday to Residents: Jean P
Ruth K
Richard T
Iris S

He even makes the deaf hear!

Approximately one month ago I had a procedure on my ears which immediately left me almost completely deaf. After multiple medical appointments and various interventions, I am glad to report that my hearing is now almost back to normal. However, my experience reminded me of the deaf man that Jesus healed in the Bible, in Mark 7 v 31-37.

This miracle, unique to the Gospel of Mark, is full of significant meaning. If you'd like to read the story, here's a link to Mark Chapter 7 – the story is in the last seven verses.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%207&version=NIV>

Verses 33-35 are very personal between Jesus and the deaf man.

“After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man’s ears. Then he spit and touched the man’s tongue. ³⁴ He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, “Ephphatha!” (which means “Be opened!”). ³⁵ At this, the man’s ears were opened, his tongue was loosened, and he began to speak plainly”.

Jesus took the man aside privately, and healed him, emphasising Jesus' compassion and interest in the man as an individual. As we see through the stories of Jesus in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, Jesus' really took time to care about people.

Verses 35-36 then tell us that for the deaf man ***"his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly"***. Jesus' healing was immediate and complete. His ears were opened, and his speech was restored, demonstrating the totality of Jesus' healing power. Not only was his deafness healed, he also ***"spoke plainly"*** indicating that his speech impediment, probably caused by his deafness, was also fully corrected.

And verse 37 indicates the response of the watching crowd – referring to Jesus - ***“He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”*** These words ***"He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak"*** remind us of Isaiah 35:5-6, a passage that speaks of the promise of God's salvation when ***"the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped" and "the tongue of the mute sing for joy."*** This connection reinforces Jesus as special – indeed the Son of God who fulfilled Old Testament prophecies.

And the story is situated in the region of the Decapolis, a predominantly non-Jewish area. The setting in the Decapolis, away from Judea, emphasises the intention of Jesus' mission, to reach beyond the Jewish people to include people from everywhere. Today, we can see how the knowledge of Jesus and Christianity has spread across the whole world.

So, this story tells us four amazing facts about Jesus. He was God's Son, fulfilling Old Testament prophecy and he was abnormally powerful – able to heal. Jesus was very special! But although He was that special, we see his care for just one poor deaf man, so that although Jesus came for everyone – he also came for you and me. Sometimes, we can all be deaf to Jesus speaking to us. Now is perhaps a moment to listen, and to think about Him.

Farewell to Ryan - Home Manager

You may already know that Ryan is leaving us on 10th October. Before he leaves the trustees wanted to say a few words and wish him well as we step down from the board from 1st October and PFS steps in. There will be another Bridgemedias out before 10th October, but we wanted to make everyone aware and give all of you the chance to wish him well too. We've included John Todman's wishes here because although he retired from the board of trustees in March he is still very active in helping Bridgemedias with the Flood Prevention project and still feels part of the team.

For me Ryan's great quality is his willingness to get stuck in and to involve himself fully in any problem. Whether that means working late, or overnight, or else dealing with an urgent request from the family of a resident, Ryan has always been willing to help and to make people feel that their problem is the most important.

Tim

Ryan's enthusiasm to understand the needs of the residents is very evident and his ability to get alongside the residents too.

He clearly demonstrates his love and care and an often sacrificial willingness to go the extra mile.

Graham

I have worked with Ryan on the maintenance and flood risk. He has always been enthusiastic and willing to "get his hands dirty". For example, on January 5th when the river rose uncomfortably high, the residents had to be moved to the ground floor before water collected in the lift shaft. Ryan called the staff together and they all worked extremely well with him minimising stress and keeping everyone safe. Ryan was then active in helping to clear up – including removing buckets of water from the lift shaft. I have enjoyed working with him.

John Todman

I have enjoyed my contact with Ryan who has always tried his best and had the welfare of the residents and staff at the centre of what he wants to do. I wish him very well for the future.

Paul

I have been impressed by Ryan's perseverance, sticking with it in the good times, as well as the hard times, especially in his first challenging year. His friendly welcome will be missed and his willingness to tackle any challenge. One memory that will always stay with me is the day I invited Ryan to join a Quiet Time to share growing up in a Hindu family to becoming a Christian. Everyone, including me was captivated by his colourful and dramatic story – as you can imagine Quiet Time ran late that day. If you get to ask him about it before he leaves, give yourself plenty of time; Ryan can be quite chatty!

Tilly

Ryan your compassion and very genuine concern for older, vulnerable people makes you a perfect fit for the care sector. All the trustees wish you all the very best in your next move and a long, successful career. God Bless.

Graham Barber, Paul Booth, Tim Dewes, John Todman, Tilly Wood

News at Bridgemead

In August we celebrated Pam Ramjutton's 20 years of service for nursing at Bridgemead. During the morning Residents, Staff and Trustees joined together with Pam to congratulate her for her dedication to Bridgemead. Pam thanked all for the celebration that morning especially a "Big Thank You" to one of our residents who presented her with her favourite bag of mint chocolates. The story behind the gift was personal to Pam and the resident. Pam was so touched by the resident's kindness



On Friday the 27th September - 10am - 12pm - we will be holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning to raise funds for support to people living with cancer. Come along and enjoy coffee and cakes and help to raise funds. If anyone would like to donate any cakes for the Coffee Morning please contact Hilary Humpage or Hayley Jenkins on 01225 484904 at Bridgemead or email activities@bridgecare.org.uk. Many thanks.

ENTERTAINMENT AT BRIDGEMEAD SEPTEMBER 2024

Wednesday	11th	Now & Then	-	Singing Group	2pm
Wednesday	18th	David Kniveton	-	Flautist/Piano	2pm
Friday	20th	Friends - Walking Treasure Hunt			5pm
Friday	27th	Macmillan Coffee Morning	-	10am - 12pm	

FRIENDS OF BRIDGEMEAD

Hello Bridgemedians

I've been busy treading the streets with two friends, Karen and Sue, finding suitable questions and venues for our walking treasure hunt.

The Walking Treasure Hunt is on Friday 20th September. It starts at Bridgemead at 5pm when you'll be invited to take tea and biscuits before setting off with your instructions. The route is approx. one and a quarter miles and a Ploughman's Supper will be served at 7pm.

The cost is £12.50 and tickets are available from Sarah at reception. If you would just like to eat then it will cost you £10. The closing date to purchase tickets is Friday 13th September.

A big thank you to those of you who attended our Annual General Meeting – it's so good to have your support. Our thanks to Nick Leonard who once again acted as auditor to our annual accounts.

As always our thanks go to all the staff at Bridgemead for their continuing help.

Your committee is meeting again in October to plan more fund-raising events, which I hope you'll be able to support.

Finally, farewell to Rosemary and many thanks for helping us over the years!

Enjoy this sunny weather!

Una

Trustee Message

As I write this, we are taking another major step in the work to enhance Bridgemed's flood defences.

After 11 years of investigations and developing various schemes, invitations to tender have gone out to contractors, who are now engaged in site visits, so that they can be fully appraised of our requirements. We anticipate that tenders for the construction contract will be received by late September.

At the same time, we are planning further preventative maintenance to the lift shaft and lift mechanism.

While this has been happening, as most will be aware we have been working on Bridge Care joining the Pilgrim's Friend Society. The Trustees have been talking to and praying with PFS trustees for a number of years. PFS have been very supportive during this time at a number of levels. As Trustees, we are totally confident that the vision that we have held for Bridgemed for many years will be progressed better now as part of a larger group with greater access to resources.

Those of us who have been involved in the project to improve the building's flood defences are looking forward to contributing to the project to bring it to completion, hopefully in 2025.

In what may be my last contribution to Bridgemed, I'd like to pay tribute to all who have contributed to the Bridgemed project over the last 35 years, and give thanks to our Heavenly Father for His guidance during this time.

I'll hope to see you at Friends of Bridgemed events in the future.

Graham Barber
Trustee



**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/>

