



bridgemead

BRIDGEMEDIA

Newsletter

January 2021



Calendar Word Search Puzzle

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

APRIL SEPTEMBER
AUGUST SUNDAY
DECEMBER THURSDAY
FEBRUARY TUESDAY
FRIDAY WEDNESDAY
HOLIDAYS WEEKDAYS
JANUARY WEEKENDS
JULY
JUNE
MARCH
MAY
MONDAY
NOVEMBER
OCTOBER
SATURDAY

FRIENDS OF BRIDGEMEAD

Hello Bridgemedians,

Welcome to 2021! I wonder what this year will have in store for us? Surely it has to be better than 2020, I do hope so!

It will be grand to be able to meet together once more and we on the Committee can't wait to be able to see you all again! We also hope that during this year we shall start planning fund raising events for Bridgemead – we have all missed out on having fun together for almost the whole of 2020.

We all look forward to renewing old friendships in the very near future.

**Keep safe and well,
Una**

Alan Ashworth - Chaplain

***“The child born to Mary will be called
Emmanuel – God with us.” Matthew 1:23***

When the angel appeared to Joseph to tell him that the child to be born to Mary was God’s Son he also said that he would be called “Emmanuel” which means “God with us.” The last nine months have been very difficult with all the restrictions due to Covid-19, and some people have really suffered because of illness and the death of loved ones. So far, it looks as though for at least part of the year ahead these problems will continue. However, we can be assured that whatever happens to us, God is with us. This is a constant promise throughout the Bible. When God brought the people of Israel out of Egypt He used two men in particular, Moses and Joshua. Moses led the people out of Egypt and through the wilderness and Joshua led them into the promised land. Both men were good leaders but it seems that Joshua was like us, and needed lots of encouragement. It is recorded that God spoke to Joshua at least six times with very similar words to these in Joshua 1:9: “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” We cannot take every promise given by God to individuals to apply to us but this one we certainly can. I remember when I went for an interview to Bible College nearly forty years ago that I was certainly more than a little apprehensive and afraid. I suppose that I was taking on something that I would rather not have done at the time. The night before the interview I read these words of Joshua 1:9 which I had never ever read before. They were a real encouragement to me then and have been ever since. I hope that they will be an encouragement to you too in the year ahead.

Clare Biss - Trustee Message

Greetings friends old and young! Thank you all for supporting Bridgemean through this most challenging and uncertain year and for continuing to support us this Christmas and into 2021.

It must be acknowledged that Christmas this year is very different. For many people hoping for family reunions and long - established traditions it will not live up to their expectations – although I personally feel that some traditions must be carried on regardless! We as Trustees had the privilege last night of being able to sing carols out in the car park for the residents and staff– and how lovely it was to hear everyone singing inside and afterwards enjoying Pam’s mulled wine and mince pies!

Carols set in winter describe Good King Wenceslas’s Snow that lies ‘deep and crisp and even’, and more often we look out of the window at the rain! I love snow – I can still remember the fun we had sliding down snow-covered hills on tea trays and snowball fights as children– the lovely white stuff that covers everything in beautiful mounds but so soon turns to a grey mush which makes the pavements slippery. For most other people trying to get things done it’s more of a Bleak Midwinter; struggling to get about outside, biting cold wind and having to scrape the windscreen every morning with icy hands before driving... It’s easy to forget that Gods amazing gift to us of a child born to save us happened in a country so dry, dusty and barren.

As I get older I find that it’s so easy to look back at Christmas – to happy times when our families were young and the mystery of Christmas meant sparkling eyes, squeals of excitement and sumptuous meals! Or maybe for you this time of year is tinged with sadness, feeling the loss of a loved one, an empty chair and cherished photos. For carers and families its so hard to visit and not to be able to hug or even hold someone’s hand.

This year has been a real struggle for most of us, and we have had to adapt in many different ways. At this time of year the usual scramble for space at the Christmas markets, or visits with warm hugs, have been replaced with the need for ‘Hands, Safe, Space’ and a wariness in meeting both friends and neighbours. Pam and all her staff at Bridgemean have always worked really hard at giving residents a warm loving home and a joyous time at Christmas, and especially this year when restrictions have been so tight. We as trustees are all so grateful for the loyalty and hard work of all staff members, and especially their determination to keep our residents safe and secure. So although it has been very hard for families and friends unable to get close, they can have the assurance that Bridgemean will continue to be so very careful to keep everyone safe.

That is why I am looking forward. Forward to a return to normality, and to a world where rules are eased, forward to a vaccine provided which will enable us all to resume the carefree nature of our relationships and enjoy the company of loved ones, and ultimately forward to the glory God has prepared for all his people. We as Trustees wish you all a very Happy Christmas!

News at Bridgemean

Obviously during these times it's essential for positivity for residents and staff at Bridgemean. We have received some wonderful Christmas cards/messages from passers-by. Many of the cards/messages are thanking our residents for waving from the 1st floor balcony, overlooking the car park. We have also received Christmas cards from Batheaston C of E Primary School. As one of our residents would say "Thank you for your kindness" these messages mean so much to them.



The Silver Ring Choir shared their virtual choir concert with us online and residents were able to enjoy the Christmas Carols which were sung beautifully. Bathwick St Mary Church School shared their Carol Service with us and Oldfield Park Infant School sent their Nativity Plays for us all to watch. We also had a Morning Coffee and Afternoon Tea with the Mayor of Bath, Manda Rigby. We were invited to watch "A Christmas Carol" live performance from the Bristol Old Vic last Friday afternoon. As you can see, we've been well entertained during December with the thanks of modern day technology.

December has been a busy month with entertainment the car park.

Age Concern - "The Singing Bus, Sophie from Mini Concerts, Concert On Your Doorstep with Lucy and Rebecca, "Now and Then" and Danny Guest. We also enjoyed "Carol Singing with the Trustees" in the car park on the evening of the 15th which was followed by mulled wine and mince pies!



**Sadly we say "Goodbye" to
Jenny M
Our Love and thoughts go out to her
family and friends**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:-
Residents: Sylvia C
 David K
Day Club: John H**

Coronavirus

The following letter has been sent to the Next of Kin of all residents

Dear Residents, Families and Friends,

We are all very grateful that we have had no cases of Covid 19 since the pandemic began, thanks to staff who have ensured that the residents are well cared for and kept safe. The care and safety of our Residents remains our primary concern as always.

Recently there has been a lot of publicity regarding the visiting of residents in care homes, particularly following the roll out of lateral flow tests (30minute test). But implementing this new scheme would mean some significant difficulties needed to be overcome and even then would leave us with concerns over the safety of all those who live at Bridgemoor. So, after careful consideration the Trustees and Management have agreed that we will continue with the visiting protocols as they stand for the time being.

The difficulties in implementing this scheme are as follows:

- We would require a dedicated area for testing without entering public areas of the building – and space for people to sit while waiting results.
- Time for staff to conduct and register the tests.
- Visits are still to be supervised.
- Visitors will be required to wear full PPE during their twenty-minute visit and adhere to social distancing at all times.
- Positive tests have proved to be accurate – but negative tests are only 70% accurate at best. Any positive test would need to be followed by a PCR test.

These issues were discussed with residents at a coffee morning today, and the general consensus was that they would prefer to continue with the current arrangements for visiting.

We hope that will commence shortly, after which the visiting policy will be reviewed.

We ask for your continued support and co-operation in these difficult time

Manager and the Trustees

Pam would like to wish everyone a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and let's hope for a healthier and brighter 2021"

Local Giving

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

is: <https://localgiving.org/charity/bridgemead/>- <http://www.localgiving.org/charity/bridgemead>

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

Go to www.bridgecare.org.uk, click on Bridgemia 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 Bridgemia by e-mail, can you please let us know on 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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