



bridgemead

BRIDGEMEDIA

Newsletter

December 2020



FRIENDS OF BRIDGEMEAD

Hello Bridgemedians,

Is it really December! Where did 2020 go and what have I been doing all year! Well the answer to that particular question is very little. All the plans I had for fund raising events for Bridgemead have gone to the wall! I and all of us have been using our energy keeping ourselves and our loved ones safe.

Won't it be wonderful to be able to meet freely with our family and friends and enjoy all the occasions we heretofore took for granted. I like to think that when we are in a more normal world, we shall appreciate all those little things that we have recently been denied. Let us hope.

Christmas in one form or another will soon be upon us, and I hope that we shall be able to celebrate this very special occasion with our loved ones.

I'm sure that Pam and all the staff will continue to work hard to keep all the residents of Bridgemead safe and well and make their Christmas a truly happy one.

Your committee hasn't been able to meet but arrangements are in hand to keep the business ticking over and soon details of the accounts and annual report will be posted on the Bridgemead website.

Lastly may I wish you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas with hopes for a better 2021.

I very much look forward to seeing you all sometime in the New Year!

Una

Alan Ashworth – Chaplain

“Jesus, The Light of the World”

“The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not understood it.” John 1:5

March 24th 2020 does seem a long time ago now; that was the day that we started the first lockdown. Now people are talking about the vaccines that have been developed to combat Covid-19 as “the light at the end of the tunnel,” and we are all hoping that will be the case. This month also sees us coming into the time of Advent when Christians get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, which will obviously be done a bit differently this year. One of the first prophets to look ahead to the coming of Jesus was Isaiah who said, “the people walking in darkness will see a great Light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a Light will dawn.” The people then looked forward to the coming of this Light for another six hundred or so years before Jesus’s birth in Bethlehem. Advent is our time of waiting and getting ready for the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World. Many around us will think nothing of that Light and not even realise that we are walking or living in darkness, in the same way as many in Isaiah’s time didn’t. Living in darkness means being spiritually blind, cutting yourself off from God and all the ways in which He has blessed us. However, it also refers to living in a world where there is so much sadness and so many people doing bad things. For me this is typified by the inequality in our world, by the awful way people use the internet to humiliate other people and the erosion of truth in our society. I will finish with another encouragement from the prophet Isaiah to each one of us today: “Arise, shine, for your Light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.”

Trustee Message

November sometimes seems to be rather a gloomy month. Winter is closing in, the clocks have changed and the excitement of Christmas is not really with us. This year, in addition, there have been no big firework celebrations and no Carnival Season in Somerset as well as the ongoing restrictions enforced by COVID-19. For many, the restrictions on visiting family and friends and inability to hug a loved one from whom you are separated has been so hard.

Then suddenly in the third week of November things seemed to change. The Bath Christmas lights went up on Monday. On Tuesday, there was news of a possible breakthrough in the development of a COVID-19 vaccine, and then a second and a third, offering real hope that life may start to return to normal.

All of which gives us hope. Hope for better times ahead. The message of Christmas is one of hope, and of new beginnings. It reminds me of the passage in Isaiah 9 that is often read during Advent services, which talks of “a great light”, of joy and of the ending of gloom for people who were in distress.

As we look forward to Christmas, we know that it is not going to be business as usual. The restrictions on family contact that still need to be in place will continue to make it really hard for residents and families from who they are separated.

Hopefully as we move into the New Year, we will move to a “new normal”, whatever that will be. Lets hope that it will include greater appreciation for all members of society, where less value is placed on wealth and influence and proper recognition is given to those who for so long have contributed so much to society but have often been undervalued.

Graham Barber

News at Bridgemead

Danny Guest was able to perform for us during November as the weather was great. The residents thoroughly enjoyed his performance and we look forward to his return next time with his Christmas Repertoire!



The residents completed the painting of the poppies for Remembrance Sunday. The display was much appreciated with all at Bridgemead. Also, with the help of the residents, we have completed all the window boxes for each of the rooms. We look forward to the spring when we can see the fruits of our labours!



Memories of Christmas from residents Mary W and Marion A

Mary W - My first Christmas memory was each November my mum would go to the butchers and buy a big piece of suet. Upon getting home mum would grate the suet into a big bowl and add milk, eggs and sugar, then dried fruit. The dried fruit had been preserved so sometimes you would get big lumps of sugar in your mouth which I loved! Mum stirred it all together and we all had turns in stirring the mixture and at the same time we made wishes. Mum then divided it into ten small bowls and covered it with material and greaseproof paper and then tied them with string. Next day mum lit the boiler and put the puddings in it. We then had our Christmas Puddings ready for the celebrations.

There was the trimming of the house for Christmas which consisted of various trimmings and homemade paper chains.

Christmas Eve was exciting as mum would hang our empty stockings on our beds. We were too excited to sleep and would often squeeze the toes just in case Santa had been! In our stockings we had sugar mice, nougat, rulers, notebooks with black dots which you could paint and they would change colour - they were amazing! We also had a lump of coal wrapped in paper to keep Santa warm. I especially remember one year when I was six and mum went to buy me a bike which dad then painted blue. Mum saw the advert in the Bath Chronicle and the bike was wrapped up and put in the hearth...

Marion A - Marion's brother was in the war in 1939. Marion's mum made a lovely big Christmas cake yearly using rations she had saved throughout the months of the year. By doing this it made sure there was a little more food at Christmas because of the rationing.

The presents Marion usually received were wool, wax crayons and boxes of pencils. Marion always had a big doll and a small doll every Christmas until she was 7. Marion's mum crocheted clothes for her dolls. Sometimes Marion had a stocking which was filled with nuts, oranges, apples and homemade fudge made by Marion's mother.

Thank you for your contribution I'm sure many people are able to relate to these within their own memories of Christmas.



**Sadly we say "Goodbye" to
David B
Florence P
Our Love and thoughts go out to their
family and friends**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:-
Day Club:
Irene M**

Update on Fundraising in 2020

2020 has been a tough year for charities like Bridgemean to raise funds. Many trusts suspended their normal donation programmes and of course we could not run any fundraising events at Bridgemean.

So we are very thankful that earlier this year, before the first lock down took hold, we secured the funds needed to update the facilities of one of our bathrooms at Bridgemean from trust and foundations. Following on from this success we launched an appeal towards a second bathroom update. But by then everyone's efforts were focussed on keeping our residents safe. We are so thankful to the staff for their diligent and cheerful hard work which has kept all our residents Covid-free.

We need a minimum of £8,000 for a specialist bath and more for redecorating and to replace flooring as necessary after the new bath is fitted. To date we have secured £2,000 from a trust and foundation. We are still working on other approaches and welcome any donations from individuals; directly to Bridgemean or using <https://localgiving.org/charity/bridgemean/>

We and the 'Friends of Bridgemean' very much look forward to holding some of their very popular events to support the home in 2021 at Bridgemean when that is safe. We might also need to consider running events virtually.

Once we have completed the work on the second bathroom we'll be turning our attention to funds to replace the carpets, update some rooms and provide activities for the residents. There's always something....

Coronavirus

We have been notified that we are in Tier 2 at Bridgemed therefore no changes, at present, need to be put in place. We continue to follow the guidelines regarding Care Homes but will notify all concerned immediately with regards any new notifications.

We are still offering the availability for 1 designated person (family/friend) to be able to visit residents - Socially Distancing - in the Conservatory.

We are continuing with the visiting of residents at the windows in the Day Club area, at the front of Bridgemed. All visitors at the windows in the Day Club area will need to wear masks. Visitors will also need to book in at the reception window at which point their temperature will be taken and relevant questions asked with regards health. We would suggest that any visitors at the window to bring some form of chair/stool for their own comfort.

We have put microphones in the conservatory and at the window to aid communication.

You will need to contact Bridgemed on 01225 484904 or 01225 444869 to arrange your 20 minutes appointment for either the Conservatory or Window visits.

We continue to swab staff weekly and residents monthly as guidelines. So far we have remained negative. We continue to pray that we all remain safe.

Local Giving

Bridgemed has a Local Giving Page set up. If anyone would be interested in giving, the link to it is: <https://localgiving.org/charity/bridgemed/> - <http://www.localgiving.org/charity/bridgemed>

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

Go to www.bridgemed.org.uk, click on Bridgemed 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@bridgemed.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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