

BRIDGEMEDIA

‘Walk on, walk on with hope in your heart!’

“You have endurance inspired by hope in the Lord Jesus Christ. ”

Thessalonians 1:3

In the verse above Paul also spoke about work produced by faith and labour prompted by love. He put faith, hope and love together on several occasions because both hope and love flow from faith. The writer to the Hebrews says that faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. In other words, Christian hope is not about something vaguely possible like winning the lottery or playing football for England or becoming a pop star. Rather Christian hope is an assurance as in the hymn, *“Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine”*.

Hope is a major driving force in all of our lives, but sadly many of these hopes are never fulfilled. I was looking at a photograph of a march of activists which took place in the 1920s displaying a banner saying, *“Socialism is the only hope for the world.”* We all know that this has proved to be wrong, but I would want to say that what has not proved to be wrong is that *“Christianity is the only hope for the world.”*

This is because the Christian hope is based on the fact that Jesus died and then rose again from the dead. By faith, we invite Jesus into our lives and we have a hope for today and for eternity, a hope which is an anchor for our souls, a hope which is steadfast and certain. I do like the song from the musical *“Carousel”* which Liverpool Football Club has adopted as its anthem, *“You’ll never walk alone.”* The words have something to say which echo what Paul was saying to the Thessalonian Christians, *“Walk on, walk on with hope in your heart!”*

Alan Ashworth

A Message from the Chairman of the Trustees

Hullo Bridgemedians

As I write this we are in the midst of packing boxes at home – we are on the move after spending 40 years living in our present house. We have a date for moving but, so far, nowhere permanent to move to. I think I can imagine how Abraham felt leaving his house and spending the rest of his life wandering in a tent – now there's a scary thought!

Sometimes we take steps without any real certainty of precisely how we are going to reach our destination. It is called faith and it takes a lifetime of learning to trust in the God who does know the end from the beginning – and all the steps in between.

As we embark on our journey towards improving Bridgemed and equipping it for the next 25 years it's something of a journey of faith. We believe God is calling us to do something which is outside of our comfort zone and it is for us to trust that he will guide us as we move forward. By the time you read this we expect to have submitted our plans for planning approval. This process will take about 8 to 10 weeks and we should have an answer by the middle of April. At the moment we are working out the sequencing of the building work to enable us to make the best use of what remains of the good weather in 2017.

Our current attention is being given to fundraising which is an important matter to resolve. Without the necessary funds we cannot achieve our objective. This is where faith and works combine. We believe God will supply our needs but we have to make use of all the resources he provides – including using the skills and expertise he gives to us. Please pray for us.

So we are back to stepping out into the future. It is something we all face in our individual lives from time to time. It is easy to feel daunted (like me with the packing at home) but it is also an adventure. I am sure Abraham felt uncertainty from time to time but he had his eyes fixed on the destination – so should we!

Blessings as ever,



Resident's Life Stories

Life Story Work (LSW) includes activities that involve an ongoing process of developing an individual's biography.

Why is LSW important?

- Gathering information about an individual's / resident's life can help to enhance relationships with their family members, friends, care staff and volunteers.
- Information gathered through LSW can be used to plan personalised activities.
- It provides a record of an individual's past life events and can be used to prompt someone who may have forgotten part of their life story.
- It provides opportunities for an individual to share their life experiences and can often be a fun and pleasant experience.

Here at Bridgemead, we have put together a simple paper template for beginning the process of collecting information for Life Story Work. We would appreciate your help with filling in the template.

Perhaps the next time you visit your relative/friend you could use it as a basis for a conversation? If you have time, you might note down some of the aspects of your relative's/friend's life story on the template?

Copies of the Life Story template will be left at the Reception Desk. Please return templates to Reception.

If you have any questions or would like to know more, please contact Michelle Jenner.

Many thanks

Michelle Jenner

Activities Organiser

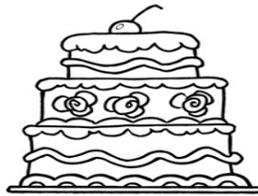
February Birthdays

Residents

23rd February Elizabeth Moore

Day Club

26th February Patricia Russell



February Activities

Wednesday 1st February - Chris Griffiths sings and plays

Tuesday 7th February - Alive! iPad Guided Reminiscence Session

Wednesday 8th February - 'John-on-me-Tod' 1950's & 60's songs

Monday 13th February - David Kniveton plays the flute

Tuesday 14th February - Mike Renton & Friends 'Singalong'

Wednesday 15th February - Ann and PAT Dogs Lewis & Lacey

Thursday 16th February - Sally Helvey 'A Talk on Cleveland Pools'

Friday 17th February - Laurence Kell plays relaxing violin music

Tuesday 21st February - Danny Guest sings old favourites



A very warm welcome to our newest residents Sheila Herrman, Sylvia Little and Pat Tipper.

Farewell

John White passed peacefully away on 8th December 2016. John was a member of Bridgemed Day Club. Our thoughts are with his family.

Kitty Floyd-Smithies passed away at home on Tuesday 17th January. Kitty regularly attended Bridgemed Day Club and will be much missed by all those who knew and cared for her.

Friends of Bridgemed

Hello Bridgemedians,

We've just experienced the first snow of the winter, I wonder will it be the last or is it just the overture to a harsh 2017!

The committee has had the first meeting of the year and the following events have been agreed upon.

Friday March 3 is the date of the Beetle Drive and Ploughman's Supper – Bridgemed 7pm. Bring your own drinks. Cost £8.

Saturday April 8 is our Phoenix Cards Easter Coffee Morning – 10.30am Bridgemed. In addition to the sale of cards we shall offer cake and craft stalls. Refreshments of tea/coffee and cakes will cost £2.

Friday May 12 will herald our very successful Fish&Chip Supper and Quiz Evening, 7pm at Bridgemed. Bring your own drinks, tickets cost £12.

Tuesday July 11 is the date for the Annual General Meeting – Bridgemed 7.30pm – we hope to see many of you there.

Saturday July 22 we shall welcome you to our annual Strawberry Tea.

Further details regarding the above will be included in future editions of Bridgemed.

Just a note that annual subscriptions of £5 are due on 1 April 2017.

Keep warm and cosy!

Una

The Remarkable Story of Bridgemead

Part 8. Fundraising commences

Following the appointment of the Architect, visits were arranged to some care homes to obtain ideas of best practice. These ideas were incorporated into an outline design between October 1987 and March 1988. During this period the cost estimate of £500,000 had increased to £1,250,000!

At this time the Trustees were trying to obtain funding from 'Help the Aged' but it soon became clear that this would not happen. Instead 'Help the Aged' paid for a full-time fundraiser to work with Bridge Care. Martin Whiteford worked with the Trustees as fundraiser from June 1988 and, in August, Margaret Beazer was appointed as his secretary. Margaret remained with Bridge Care until her retirement in 2012.

The escalating cost estimates and the lack of fundraising by March 1988 was a concern to the team, and it was thought possible that the scheme might need to be revamped. The Trustees were determined they would not pull out, but big questions needed to be answered. Following receipt of a letter from the Architect the Trustees met to pray about this matter and discuss their options. On 17th March Ray King wrote to the Architect:-

"We considered your letter ... and confirmed our intention to take the next step in readiness for detailed planning application ... subject to agreement with our refined brief."

This was a significant decision and the Trustees moved forward to a project launch scheduled for 30th June 1988. It was anticipated that Appeal Launch drawings would be prepared in readiness for this and, on 14th June, the Architect was instructed to proceed with detailed design through to tender stage. This was an amazing step of faith because, at that stage, less than £2,500 had been raised and the loan for the purchase of the land needed to be repaid! It was decided to launch the project, outlining the need to raise £1,300,000 with a view to submitting a planning application in August 1988 and starting on site in July 1989.

What the team did not know was that this step of faith would be honoured by God in an amazing way. The challenge they faced was to trust God to provide the resources needed whilst making use of professional expertise and committing themselves to a lot of hard work. We face the same challenge in 2017.

Be sure not to miss the next instalment of our story!

Spaces available at Bridgemead Day Club

The Day Club offers the opportunity for individuals to interact with others and make friends. During the morning, a short devotional period is organised should anyone wish to attend and this is followed by daily exercises, again optional. A locally sourced, freshly cooked lunch is provided (any special dietary requirements are catered for). The afternoon consists of a variety of activities and entertainment and afternoon tea is served with homemade cake. Assistance can be provided with personal care, including bathing if desired.

Bridgemead Day Club is open Monday to Friday, from 10 am until 4 pm. We currently have vacancies throughout the week.



Please contact Jacqueline Pickford, Day Club Leader on 01225 484904 for any enquiries.

Virgin Money Giving

Bridgemead has a Virgin Money Giving Page set up. If anyone would be interested in giving, the link to it is: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1007255>

Please note that Bridgemedica can now be found on our website. Go to www.bridgecare.org.uk, click on Bridge-media 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 Bridgemedica 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. Published by Bridge Care Ltd, Bridgemead, 81 St John's Road, Bathwick, Bath BA2 6PZ. Bridge Care is a company limited by guarantee and registered as a charity under number 299400. Limited Company registration number 2001246 (England).

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services.

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