

BRIDGEMEDIA

'One day at a time'

Jesus said, *"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."* Matthew 6:34

Jesus said these words in the context of people who spend too much time and energy worrying about the things around them; he was talking particularly about food and clothes. However, I am sure Jesus was also meaning the many things that we ourselves really cannot do anything about. In the verse before this Jesus said, *"Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."* Jesus was saying that our main focus should be on putting our trust in God rather than in ourselves.

As we start another year, 2017, I am sure that we all have many things that do concern us. Perhaps, for some it will be your own future; others may be concerned for family and friends; many will look at our world and wonder where it is headed politically, socially and from an environmental point of view.

We are encouraged in the Bible not to worry about these things but to pray about them to the God who is working his purposes out in ways that we can never fully understand. Daniel O'Donnell sings a song which says this,

"One day at a time, sweet Jesus, That's all I'm asking of you. Just give me the strength to do every day what I have to do. Yesterday's gone, sweet Jesus and tomorrow may never be mine. Lord, help me today, show me the way, one day at a time."

For each of us the challenge is to learn to trust the Lord more fully each day, and to learn to leave both the past and the future with him.

Alan Ashworth

A message from the chairman of the trustees

Hullo Bridgemedians

I hope you all enjoyed Christmas and are looking forward to what the New Year holds. I am writing this column before Christmas and have just read Spurgeon, commenting on Psalm 84:7. Spurgeon says about this: *“The Christian pilgrim having obtained fresh supplies of grace is as vigorous after years of toilsome travel and struggles as when he first set out.”* I am not sure if that is how you feel at the start of the New Year but it encourages me to know where our strength and confidence comes from.

Bridgemed enters a very special year. In March we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of our opening and we hope that our plans for the future development of the building, having been long in the making, will begin to become a reality. Our plans should be with the planning department for approval by the time you read this column and we hope to obtain approval before 12th March which is the 25th anniversary of the welcome of the first resident to Bridgemed.

So 2017 will be a very special year as we celebrate 25 years of God’s goodness to us and as we embark on ambitious plans to enable Bridgemed to face the challenge of serving older people in our community effectively for the next 25 years. Much has changed since we opened and we can see more changes ahead of us. We want Bridgemed to be able to embrace these changes positively and remain the beacon of hope that it is has been to so many residents and families as we move forward.

We covet your support and prayers as we move forward. The challenges we face are significant - not least in terms of our financial needs to fund the development. However we draw encouragement from Spurgeon that we should rely less on our own significance and more on fresh supplies of God’s grace – that we will remain *“... as vigorous as when we first set out.”*!

I trust you have a very happy New Year and look forward to meeting many of you during this significant year.

Blessings



January

The days are short,
The sun a spark,
Hung thin between
The dark and dark.

Fat snowy footsteps
Track the floor.
Milk bottles burst
Outside the door.

The river is
A frozen place
Held still beneath
The trees of lace.

The sky is low.
The wind is gray.
The radiator
Purrs all day.

By John Updike

January Birthdays

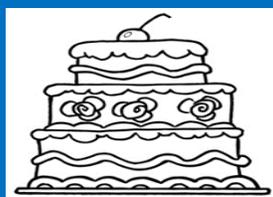
Residents

6th January - Sylvia Cook

Day Club

4th January - John Harrison

19th January - Eugene Gimson



January Activities

Wednesday 4th January - 'Now & Then' sing and play

Friday 6th January - Christian Cox piano performance

Wednesday 11th January - Mike Renton and friends 'Singalong'

Thursday 12th January - Bing Lyle plays the accordion

Tuesday 17th January - 'Musica' with Claire

Thursday 19th January - Justin Daish on guitar

Thursday 26th January - John Holcombe plays guitar

Friends of Bridgemead

Hello Bridgemedians,

By the time you read this I shall have returned from my holiday in Anglesey – I am having a wonderful time in superb weather – and Christmas will be but a happy memory! I do hope that you all enjoyed a joyous Christmastide.

I hear that the Christmas Fayre went very well and made a profit of £659, an excellent amount! Thank you to everyone who helped out in any way, we are so grateful to you all!

Just a reminder that we have two dates for your diaries – a Beetle Drive with Ploughman's supper at 7pm on Friday 3 March at Bridgemead. Cost £8 - please bring your own drinks! This will be a fun evening and with Liz Cocks organising it, we know that we shall have a great time!

Liz is also organising our annual Fish & Chip Supper and Quiz evening. This will take place on Friday 12 May 7pm at Bridgemead. The cost will be £12, please bring your own favourite tippie. This is always a very well attended event with a limited number of tables, so to avoid disappointment buy your tickets as soon as we put them on sale – so watch this space!

I wish you all a very healthy and happy 2017.

Una

The Remarkable Story of Bridgemead

Part 7. We have an architect!

In May 1987 Sara Barber joined the team of Trustees. Sara was a social worker and provided invaluable knowledge and expertise to the group. In Sara's words:-

"When I arrived, the group had been running for some time. There were interesting dynamics. Sheila and I sat together on the settee on one side; Ray and Fred sat together on the other side. We had long meetings; there was always lots of 'buzz'; we always started and ended with prayer."

One of the first tasks which involved Sara was the choice of an architect. In July 1987 there was a meeting with Richard Feilden and Keith Bradley soon after their practice was set up in Bath. Sara recalled that Richard and Keith were to become a tower of strength to the Trustees.

Sara recalled her meetings with the prospective architects:

"Of all the architects we interviewed, it seemed to me that it was Richard Feilden that was interviewing us! He wanted to know how we were going to raise the funds. I think that, were it not for Keith's enthusiasm, Richard would not have taken the project on."

Thankfully he did, and an excellent relationship developed between Bridgemead and the design team. Gerald Ryan commented that: *"I was staggered at how well Keith was able to turn our ideas into reality in the form of bricks and mortar."*

On behalf of the Trustees Gerald Ryan gave the architect the following brief:

"Our intention is to create an architecturally imaginative and sensitive development to provide accommodation for 25 residents. We would like the building to be sympathetic and to facilitate our aims and wherever possible avoid an institutional feel."

This brief reflects well on the vision of the Trustees at that time and the building reflects the skill of Richard and Keith in bringing this about. As a result of their efforts we have been left with a building which received a regional award from the RIBA.

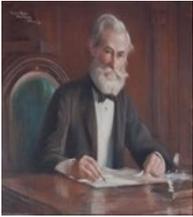
In 2016 we have a different group of Trustees and a different design team. Our aims today are to apply the same vision and skills to the new challenge which we now face. Please pray for us and support us in our present endeavours.

Next month we will see how the team faced the challenge of raising the funds.

January in History



1st January 1778 - *The Times* was first published.



4th January 1813 - Sir Isaac Pitman, inventor of shorthand, was born.



12th January 1895 - The National Trust was founded. The founding members were Miss Octavia Hill, Canon Hardwicke Rawnsley and Sir Robert Hunter.



20th January 1964 - John. F. Kennedy was sworn in as the 35th President of the United States of America.



21st January 1976 - British Airways and Air France began super sonic commercial flights with Concorde.

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

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