

# BRIDGEMEDIA

## “The God who knows us”

*“O Lord, you have searched me and you know me.” Psalm 139:1*

We live in days when people worry about just how much other people and, in particular, organisations know about us. This happens because some of us willingly give our own details out to companies such as Facebook. It also happens when we have to give companies our details for various reasons and then the company keeps our details on record. For those of us who pass CCTV cameras around the town our daily movements are recorded.

Psalm 139 reminds us that God knows so much more about us than anyone else knows. The writer, David, reminds us that God knows us before we are born, right from the time we were conceived in our mother’s womb. He says that God knows what will happen to us in all the rest of our lives. God knows just what we are like; he knows our inner thoughts – he knows our words before we even speak them out loud. God knows what we are doing and where we are going at any point in time.

David says that if he were to try to escape from God by going to the highest height or the deepest depths or by going to the other side of the world it would be impossible because God would be with him even there. He also says that it is no use trying to hide from God in the dark because to God darkness is the same as light; God sees through it. I wonder how these truths make you feel; for David and for those who are Christians today this is a huge comfort. God knows all about us, the bad things as well as the good and yet he still loves us. Jesus said, in probably the most well known verse in the Bible – John 3:16 – that God loved the world so much that he sent his one and only Son, Jesus, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**Alan Ashworth**

## A Message from the Chairman of the Trustees

### Hello Bridgemedians

Somebody recently described Bridgemedad in terms of a 'candle'. Candles evoke memories for many. Perhaps some of you remember a time when you relied on candles to provide light when there was no electricity – perhaps during power cuts or when the electricity meter ran out! It was a very poor light but provided just enough illumination to find your way in the dark – or read a book if you were very determined.

Candles not only show the way but are seen in the dark – they attract attention. I guess this is the sense in which Jesus encouraged his disciples:-

*“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”*  
*Matthew 5: 14-16*

This is what we aim for at Bridgemedad. Providing care is one thing. Doing so with kindness, love and compassion is something else, but this is what we want to do because it reflects the character of God.

Some of you may be aware that this will be my final column as chairman because my second term in this role ends in September. It has been a real pleasure to be able to serve Bridgemedad in this way for the past six years. It has been daunting at the same time - following in the footsteps of two talented former chairmen (Ray King and Charles Curnock) together with the complex issues we have grappling with over my period in this role.

As I hand over to others I am delighted that we have such a united body of Trustees from a wide variety of backgrounds with a wide variety of accumulated expertise between them. Bridgemedad is blessed to have such a strong leadership team and I am certain the future of Bridgemedad is in good hands, especially as it seeks to honour God in the decisions that are made for the future.

So let's all pray that the Bridgemedad 'candle' will continue to burn and be seen – I for one will do my bit to ensure that it does, although more from the side-lines than at the centre, in the days to come.

With blessings



## **A Message about our retiring Chairman of the Trustees**

### **Hello Bridgemedians**

Change can be exciting, is frequently challenging and often means saying at least some 'Goodbyes', which are often difficult and painful. This month, we, Trustees and everyone at Bridgemed are saying 'Goodbye' and 'Thank-you' to Geoff Weekes who has led us a Chairman over the past six years and has served as a Trustee since 2003.

Geoff was a close friend of Ray King who was not only our first Chairman, but was also the man with the vision to establish a home like Bridgemed in Bath. Geoff counted it a great privilege to walk in those same steps as Ray, not to establish Bridgemed, but to continue the work which Ray began. Geoff has brought many admirable, if not vital, qualities to the role, his vision, energy, commitment, compassion and enthusiasm have all been an immense help in continuing the work of the home.

Millions of words have been written about what makes a home, many words have been written on what makes a community like Bridgemed the home it is. Geoff has been a wonderful example to us all in his commitment to Bridgemed. Every resident is a special and unique person, their families are important, each staff member is valued in the team, and all friends and volunteers contribute immensely to this home. All these, and more, have been under the watchful eye of Geoff over the past six years as Chairman.

But it is not just Geoff whom we should be thanking but also Mary, his wife, who has endured countless hours when Geoff, in his 'retirement' has been absent, either in his study, or here at Bridgemed addressing all sorts of issues.

One more thing about Geoff that should never be omitted – his faith in his God. This is clearly visible to all who know Geoff; as trustees we have faced many challenges, Geoff has always reminded us that even though our path ahead seems unclear, God has ordered our days and knows the detail of each one of them. Difficult decisions have all been made prayerfully and patiently. Geoff wisely opened our meetings with a reading from the bible and a prayer.

So, we are facing a change, continuing as trustees without Geoff's lead, but thankfully this is not 'Goodbye', for we know Geoff and Mary will continue to be a very big part of Bridgemed and we will see them here very frequently.

Finally, Geoff, thank you so much for all you have done for Bridgemed, we are all very grateful to you; may God grant you and Mary peace and favour to enjoy all the days that lie ahead.

## **September Birthdays**

### **Residents**

**25th September - Iris Stanton**

**25th September - Thomas Clarke**

### **Day Club**

**18th September - Maria Borkowski**



## **September Activities**

**Monday 3rd September - Gavin Lazarus sings and plays guitar**

**Tuesday 4th September - Rosemary and PAT Dog Milo**

**Wednesday 5th September - Bing Lyle on the piano and accordion**

**Thursday 6th September - Laurence Kell plays violin and mandolin**

**Friday 7th September - Mike Renton's jolly sing-a-long**

**Tuesday 11th September - 'Creative Minds' - arty afternoon with Grace**

**Wednesday 12th September - 'Now & Then' sing and play**

**Friday 14th September - Alive! Fun, music and conversation with Colin**

**Monday 17th September - Chris Griffiths sings and plays classic old favour -  
ites**

**Tuesday 18th September - Phil Smith's lively sing song**

**Wednesday 19th September - 'Musica' musical interaction with Claire**

**Thursday 20th September - Pam and Residents Coffee Morning (10.45am)**

**Monday 24th September - Danny Guest sings swing and jazz (2.30pm)**

**Tuesday 25th September - Classical flute concert with David Kniveton**

## Friends of Bridgemedad

**Hello Bridgemedians,**

A strange thing has been happening almost overnight...the fields around me, which have been brown of late, are now painted a vibrant green!! Isn't nature wonderful – a drop of rain works wonders!

As I type I am looking forward to our new venture, a walking treasure hunt of Bath. My friends Helen and Sue have been very busy organising the event, which I am sure will be a big success!

**Friday 19th October** heralds our **Beetle Drive and Supper**. The evening starts at **Bridgemedad at 7pm** and I do hope that many of our 'Friends' - and friends - will be able to attend. As usual it's bring your own tittle to get you through the evening. **Cost is £12.**



**The Christmas Fayre** will be held on **Saturday 8th December at Bridgemedad 2.30pm** – we would love to see as many of you as possible there. This is usually our main fundraiser of the year so we are working hard to offer you the following stalls – Christmas Tombola, Hamper, Cakes, Cards, Crafts, Modern paperback books, £1 stall, raffle and refreshments. Do come along and make a good start to your Christmas!

We can now look forward to an Indian summer – fingers crossed!

Finally a very big thank you to Geoff Weekes for his support over many years to the Friends of Bridgemedad. He and Mary have attended numerous events since I have been Chairman and we are very grateful to him.

His work as Trustee, and latterly Chairman have been very much appreciated by us all!

**Una**

## Early Autumn Apples



**Beauty of Bath** - This variety is an early-season English apple. It originates from Bath and was introduced in the late 19th century. Today, it is not grown commercially but is still a popular garden variety in England. It has quite a sharp flavour and is best eaten straight from the tree.



**Ellison's Orange apple** - was developed from Cox's Orange Pippin by Rev. Ellison in Lincolnshire at the start of the 20th century. It is a cross of Cox's Orange Pippin and can have a subtle aniseed flavour after picking. In the UK it ripens in September.



**Cox's Orange Pippin apple** - widely thought of as the, 'classic English apple' it originates from a chance seedling from the 19th century. Many consider it to be, 'the finest of all dessert apples.' Its flavour can be described as rich and complex with good examples offering a range of subtle flavours including pear, melon and freshly-squeezed Florida orange juice.

## Bridgemoor Beach Day

Residents and staff enjoyed all the fun of seaside activities without the traffic jams!



## 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/>

Please note that Bridgemedial can now be found on our website. Go to [www.bridgecare.org.uk](http://www.bridgecare.org.uk), click on Bridgemedial 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 Bridgemedial by e-mail, can you please let us know on [admin@bridgecare.org.uk](mailto: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.

Bridge Care Ltd  
Bridgemead  
81 St John's Road  
Bathwick

Tel: 01225 484904

Email: [admin@bridgecare.org.uk](mailto:admin@bridgecare.org.uk)

Visit us on the web at  
[www.bridgecare.org.uk](http://www.bridgecare.org.uk)