

BRIDGEMEDIA

“Grace for the day!”

*“God’s mercies never fail . They are new every morning, great is his faithfulness.”
Lamentations” Lamentations 3:22-23*

I was recently doing a crossword and had the clue: “Long mournful lamentation” and could not get it despite having every other letter: “-E-E-I-D”. Not a clue! Finally I cheated and looked it up on the computer and it was a Jeremiad – I had never heard of the word before. It was taken from Jeremiah’s Lamentation in the Old Testament. He was writing after the destruction of Jerusalem and the taking of most of the Jews into exile in Babylon in the 6th century BC. He stayed behind with those who were left and wrote Lamentations as they grieved about the fate of the city and its residents. The five chapters of the book are full of sadness about what has happened; the destruction of the city that they loved and the fate of family and friends. In Chapter 3 verses 19 and 20 he says,

“I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them and my soul is downcast within me,” but then says, “Yet this I call to mind and therefore have hope: because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his mercies never fail. They are new every morning; great is his faithfulness.”

God wants us to have that same hope as we remember his love, his mercies and his faithfulness ...EVERY MORNING! God hasn’t changed – he is the same God who wants to give us grace for each day as we look to him. We have a friend who whatever the weather, whatever the circumstances opens her door looks out and says the words from Psalm 118, “This is the day that the Lord has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it!” We should all join her in that!

Alan Ashworth

A message from the chairman of the trustees

Hullo Bridgemedians

This month we are serialising the 'Remarkable Story of Bridgemead' which will run between now and into next year. This marks the 25th anniversary of our opening which we celebrate in March 2017.

The story of Bridgemead is remarkable but one which few know about. We are fortunate to have records going back to 1985 and these have been researched to enable this story to be available.

Alongside this are many other stories that are remarkable – these are the lives of our residents who live here and who have lived here. We want to celebrate these remarkable lives over the coming months. Bridgemead is more than a home, important though that is. It is a place where we can share the journey of our lives with one another and celebrate the events that have made us the people we are and the people who have helped us.

Of course many have a living and active faith in God which has strengthened them in times of difficulty and provided hope for the future. As we read the 'Remarkable Story of Bridgemead' we will discover this was a reality for those who had the initial vision for Bridgemead. At times they had little to encourage them but a firm conviction that they were doing what God was calling them to do. We look back in celebration of what they hoped for.

It is now our turn to go forward. We are faced with similar challenges that existed 25 years ago. We need to adapt our building because of possible rises in the river level as well as to respond to the needs of older people with more complex needs. We have already appointed consultants to help us and are facing significant financial and logistical challenges.

What encourages us today is the strong conviction that God is calling us to face this new challenge in our 25th year. We want to celebrate the past and allow it to inspire us in the present as we look forward to what the future will bring.

I trust you will be encouraged as you read the 'Remarkable Story of Bridgemead' and that you will work with us in helping us to meet the demands of the future.



The Remarkable Story of Bridgemead

Part 1: One Man's Burden

The remarkable story of Bridgemead starts in February 1985 with Gladys, a recently widowed lady. Gladys was well into her eighties when Hubert, her husband, died leaving her alone for the first time in their long and happy marriage. They had been unable to have children and Gladys was left without any family. She did however belong to a local church in Bath and had many friends there.

It soon became clear to those close to her, that Gladys was quite incapable of caring for herself. She stayed for a short while with friends but, due to her circumstances, it was necessary for Gladys to be cared for in a residential care home. She wanted to live in a Christian care home where she could be part of a Christian community in the latter stages of her life. Gladys had, for some years, been a volunteer at a Christian care home at Chippenham. She knew people there and longed to be able to move to that home. Sadly there were no vacancies and Gladys could not be accommodated there anytime soon.

This was a problem. Gladys wanted to live amongst like-minded Christians and there was nowhere locally that was available to her. Her GP, Ray King, was also a member of the church that Gladys attended and was greatly burdened by this. Gladys was a widow in great need, without family. The church, which she counted as family, was unable to help her. In the end Gladys achieved her ambition to move to a Christian care home – but in Tonbridge Wells, more than one hundred miles from her home. In the words of Ray:-

“At one fell swoop she lost her husband, her home, her locality, her friends and her church and she was hauled off like a sack of potatoes and dumped in a Christian home where the only things that were familiar were her suitcase of belongings and her Christian faith.”

This left a deep impression on Ray. He felt that, in some way, the church had failed Gladys at the time she faced the greatest crisis in her life. What also deeply troubled him was that there were other older people, just like Gladys, who could be well be in a similar position at some stage in the future.

Ray was deeply burdened by this and felt he needed to share his burden with others – but with whom?

June Birthdays

Residents

1st June Bob Collins

4th June Barbara Holman

8th June Danny York

10th June Jean Tranah

13th June Elizabeth McClune

30th June Edward Horesh

Day Club

2nd June James Elliott

7th June Margaret Hooper



June Activities

Friday 3rd June - Myathon entertains

Saturday 4th June - Ballet performance

Monday 6th June - Chris Griffiths plays the keyboard

Tuesday 7th June - James Hogg's 'Musical Memories'

Wednesday 8th June - Ann and her lovely dogs

Thursday 9th June - Phil Smith's Variety Show

Friday 10th June - Day Trip to The Courts Garden

Monday 13th June - Danny Guest sings

June Activities

Tuesday 14th June - Larry Coles plays the cornet

Wednesday 15th June - 'Growing Support' - Gardening Club with Sam

Thursday 16th June - 'Now & Then' sing and play

Monday 20th June - Alive! Variety Hour with Nicola

Tuesday 21st June - 'Forget-me-Not' sing and play songs from the shows

Friday 24th June - Forbes Robertson plays the violin and guitar

Monday 27th June - Weston TG Singers (Ladies Choir)

Thursday 30th June - Justin Daish plays 1950's and 60's guitar

Circus Workshop

Last month, residents and Day Club members joined in with visiting circus entertainers to try their hand at scarf juggling, feather balancing and plate spinning.



Friends of Bridgemead

Hello Bridgemedians,

Well here we are approaching the half-way point of the year – and what a busy year it has been! Queen Elizabeth 11 has reached 90, what a wonderful lady she is! I have thoroughly enjoyed watching all the gala events and tributes paid to her – long may she reign!

We've had our own events too, the latest being a very successful Quiz and Fish & Chip Supper Evening. We had wonderful support, the best ever, with 64 tickets being sold! Thank you so much to everyone who attended, or helped prior to or during the evening. A huge thank you to Liz Cocks, her husband Trevor, and Sarah her daughter, they all worked so hard to make the evening a success. A real fun evening! When all the finances have been sorted I think that we shall have a profit of something over £200.

Our next event is the Strawberry Tea which this year will be on Saturday 30th July at Bridgemead 2.30pm. This is always a happy afternoon when residents and visitors may enjoy a strawberry cream tea and chat! We shall have one or two stalls and a raffle. Please come and have a relaxing couple of hours.

Our Christmas Fayre will take place on Saturday 3rd December at Bridgemead 2.30pm. All the usual stalls will be there, books, tombola, cakes, £1 stall, Phoenix cards, Hamper Raffle, Guess the weight of the Christmas Cake and of course refreshments! Nearer the time I shall be asking you for donations – so thank you in advance! Instead of a general raffle this year we shall have a hamper.

Lastly, a reminder that the 'Friends' Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 19 July 7.30pm, at Bridgemead - it would be very encouraging to see some of you there. Chairman of Trustees Geoff Weekes will give a report on the progress of the proposed update of Bridgemead.

Una

An afternoon at Prior Park Garden Centre

How kind the weather was to us on Friday 6th May, when we enjoyed our first trip of the Summer. The sunny afternoon saw us sitting outside in the 'Secret Garden Café' enjoying tea and cakes.



Virgin Money Giving

Bridgemed 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 Bridgemed 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 Bridgemed 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, Bridgemed, 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).

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