

# Crossways Community

## Time to focus

Newsletter Autumn 2008

Crossways Community 8 Culverden Park Road Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 9QX

Phone: 01892 529321

[www.crosswayscommunity.org.uk](http://www.crosswayscommunity.org.uk)  
[number8@crosswayscommunity.org.uk](mailto:number8@crosswayscommunity.org.uk)

### ***Crossways—A final thought from the Chairman***

The first verse of the third chapter of Ecclesiastes says, "To everything there is a season and a time for every matter of purpose under heaven". Then, in verse six, the writer says, "There is a time to get, and a time to lose, a time to keep and a time to cast away." Sometimes it is harder to hand over a responsibility than to take on something new. We often hang on to ministries that we love to do and think that no-one else can manage as well as us. Well, I believe the Lord has told me to hand over, in November, the chairmanship of Crossways to someone else. As the Bible says, "there is a right season for everything", and I have every confidence that the Lord will provide the right person to take on this responsibility.

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It has been a most wonderful experience in the last twenty or so years to be involved in a work of God and I am sure that, as we all work together and pray together, Crossways will see God's hand at work in the same way as before. My hope is that my successor will have the same sense of fulfilment in the task ahead.

Every blessing,

*Alan Harvey, Chairman*

### A word on our Chairman ...

Alan and Connie became supporters of Crossways through St John's Church over twenty years ago and indeed Connie was already a trustee when Alan joined the Council. When Alan first became Chair of Directors (before they were called Directors) he was still working at Kimberly Clark as a senior manager in HR, and the skills and abilities gained through his professional training has stood Crossways in good stead. This has been one of the factors that has helped us to achieve the high standard of provision that we offer to residents today. However, it is the spiritual overseeing and input he and Connie have given us that have made the biggest impact on us as a Christian organisation.

Alan not only chairs the Directors and Management Team meetings but has always been there if we have needed advice and counsel. We appreciate his dedication and commitment to the role of chairperson and are grateful to God for his visionary and spiritual leadership which has been one of the major driving forces over the past two decades, helping us to see that what we do and the service we provide is not just another job but also part of the work of the Kingdom of God in today's world. Alan's leadership has been one that is always looking for God's way both in our daily practice and in seeking God's will for the future. For many years Alan and Connie have led the staff Mornings of Prayer three or four times a year – these have been times of great blessing that have helped us individually and as a team focus afresh on God's will and purpose in our lives. Alan is someone who is very easy to talk to and staff and residents alike have appreciated the opportunity of sharing with him how they feel, both the good and the difficult, about what is going on at Crossways. Just being listened to and heard in this way has helped many people over the years and we are grateful to both Alan and Connie for all the support and service they have given to Crossways.



Alan opening the new garden at No 8

## Martin's Musings

Looking back since the last newsletter, I am very aware of God's goodness to us. Whether residents or staff however, we often feel frustrated at how long it is taking for something to happen, yet if we wait we do see so many lovely things happening in people's lives.

By definition, personal growth indicates that time has to take place before 'fruit' can grow and come to fruition but in today's world we constantly want to speed things up, not allowing for the nurturing that growth requires. In the context of the work we do at Crossways, that means some people have to leave us before they are ready as funding has been withdrawn and we have to work hard with Care Coordinators to make sure that residents move on when they're ready to and not placed into the local community before that time. We win some but sadly lose others. Please do pray for these situations, that the resident will always be put first.

Within Crossways we may have to wait a long time to see someone making progress, when we do it is always exciting and very moving. Someone may come to us who has been unwell for many years and gradually the support given begins to take effect so that we see them taking hesitant steps towards independence; for some they are then able to move on. In one sense Crossways is the end of an era but the beginning of a new one and this is where you can help by offering encouragement and support when you come across people who have moved from a care situation into their local community. To keep growing they need others to come alongside and walk with them on their journey. Will you be a Good Samaritan and travel with them for a while?

Encouragement is just what we received on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August when the Mayor and Mayoress of Tunbridge Wells, Mike and Chris Rusbridge, visited us at Crossways. They toured each of our residential buildings and then had tea with some of us at Number 8.



They were very impressed with what they saw and were able to spend time talking to residents and staff. They were keen to learn more about mental health issues and have a real heart for vulnerable people. The visit was a most enjoyable occasion and we appreciated the time they gave to us from their overwhelmingly busy schedule. They certainly made us feel appreciated and part of the life of the local community in which we live.

We thank God for their compassion and kindness and pray that they will bring encouragement to many others throughout their year in office.

*Martin Granger*

## Culverdale News—John's Meanderings

As a team we had such fun arranging this year's **Coffee Morning**.

Peppered between some serious business, there was a fair amount of laughter and a touch of panic the week leading up to the big day, as it seemed that nothing was coming in, despite the encouragement to say that this was normal!

The mandate we worked on was that our Coffee Morning must be centred on fellowship, a place where folk can meet old friends, catch up, have a chat and a laugh, and still be able to pick up a bargain or two.



We also wanted to do something for the children this year so we had face painting, which was done by our 'resident artist', Ginny Swaffer, plus a fruit one-arm bandit table manned by both Ginny and Natalie's children. We also had a small area where young mothers could entertain their children. I was pleasantly surprised by the response to this and we would like to develop this theme next year.

The crafts table was popular, and we had a number of hand-made items, cards and jewellery etc, that were made by our residents or friends of Crossways.

Tradition dictates that we serve teas and coffees and we wanted to create a warm and welcoming feeling, so all the tables had bright yellow overlays and flowers, and we were so pleased to see just how many of our friends and supporters made themselves at home enjoying a cuppa.

For those with an appetite, we were able to offer burgers and rolls with the compliments of our able-bodied chefs Peter and William. Games tables proved to be very popular, and a silent auction offered the services of a chauffeur-driven Rolls Royce to and from a destination of your choice.

All in all we had a very successful day which, by the reports we have received, was enjoyed by all who attended and we were able to raise a wonderful amount of £1,200 with gifts.

In conclusion I would like to say a very big 'thank you' to all our staff who pulled together to make the coffee morning a great success, but most of all to our supporters and friends for your total commitment to supporting Crossways and our events.

Below you will find Kathy Lewis' account of the garden which joins Culverdale and Bethel Court. Down the side of Bethel the Gardeners came in last month to plant up and they have put in a type of grass which reinforces a sense of movement. The *Eucryphia* that was partially destroyed during the winter of 2006 resulted in it having to be cut right back, which meant that there was no real blossom last year. Well this year it has made up for lost time and has blossomed twice. The summer house sits to one side of the garden and looks ever so quintessentially English, with the campanula and celosia in window boxes in full blossom—appearing to be inviting those who just want a peaceful place to rest to come and find a bit of solitude from the bustle of their day.



## Summer at Bethel Court

Time flies when you are enjoying yourself, and it is now almost nine months since Bethel Court opened. It has been a great pleasure for me to see the six tenants settling in and gradually putting their own individual style onto their homes. They all look very different.

Computers seem the way forward in Bethel Court and three people have now got themselves set up on the internet.

The teething troubles are coming to an end and I think I can speak for all the tenants when I say that they are really enjoying having a flat of their own, giving them more space to pursue hobbies and interests and perhaps have a friend or family to stay.



As well as the flats beginning to blossom, so too is the garden. A grant towards the cost of this was received from Kent County Council, which has enabled us to have the area between Culverdale and Bethel Court landscaped. We would like to say a big 'thank you' to them for their generous gift. The garden is now beginning to fill out, the plants spreading and flowering and it looks really very good. There are areas for people from both houses to sit out. It is a very beautiful and relaxing area. Landscaping is really expensive but it will save money in the long-term.

There can of course be quiet and perhaps lonely times for those in Bethel Court as there is not the hub-bub of the other two houses when folks are living independently. If you think that you have a little time to be a friend to someone at one of our houses please contact me for more information. Just a visit now and again would be really nice.

*Kathy Lewis*

## Crossways' News

### ***Hoorah—we have a car !***

As the Fiat Ulysse which was used by Number 5 needed to be replaced, we decided that we would share all three vehicles so that we could have vehicles which would meet our differing needs—consequently we have now bought a Ford Fusion. The Round Table offered to donate some money towards this and one of their members arranged a discount with his employer, to enable us to buy a brand-new car! All the staff and residents are enjoying using this and we hope that we will save some money and reduce our carbon footprint at the same time. It is working well having the flexibility of three vehicles to be used by all staff and residents.



Members of Tunbridge Wells Round Table handing over the keys to Jacky Taylor, Manager at Number 8

## Volunteering

Below is an extract from the Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust *Guide to Volunteering*, reproduced by kind permission, which profiles the valuable contribution one of our residents is making in the local community for the benefit of others.

*'Paula has been a volunteer in the Audiology Department at the Kent and Sussex Hospital for approximately one year and carries out a vital task for the department. Paula says, "Our clients come into this department and I have the job of handing out new batteries for their hearing aids. Not only do people come and see us but I am also responsible for dealing with requests for batteries by post which is obviously easier for some of our elderly clients. I enjoy volunteering because it's a real challenge but it also gives me a sense of peace and a feeling of belonging."*

*Not only does Paula work in the Audiology Department but also helps in the fracture clinic reception. Paula enjoys volunteering immensely and hopes to continue for many years to come.'*

## Annual Holiday – Green Pastures, Poole

This summer we took 17 residents from all three residences, plus four staff, to Dorset. Well, it all started with some amusement! Chichester harbour eluded us somewhat, but we eventually stumbled across a lovely beach. The weather was sunny and everyone was happy and relaxed, including the drivers! The scene was set for the rest of the week.

Green Pastures was lovely, there was a pleasant, calm atmosphere about the place and all the staff were very welcoming. The food was outstanding and I'm sure we all felt nicely full by the end of the week. The swimming pool was very inviting in the hot weather, although only a few were brave enough to take the plunge!

Everyone very much did what they wanted to do whilst on the holiday, joining in on the trips if they wanted or having the time to do their own thing. Each evening we all discussed where people wanted to visit the following day and amongst others we took trips to the Swanage Steam Railway, the Sea Life Centre, Monkey World and Brownsea Island.

For me, the nicest thing about the holiday was having the opportunity of getting to know everyone away from Crossways. We all had the time to chat and get to know each other. We played cards, scrabble (some people are clearly much better at that game than others!), Take 2 and Giant Jenga. It was a real pleasure just spending time relaxing with those from Number 8 and those I work more closely with at Culverdale.

Where are we going next year?

*Ginny Swaffer*

## A poem of praise

Thank you Lord for the beauty of creation  
The mountains, lakes, rivers & waterfalls  
Animals, birds, insects and fish  
Trees, flowers and green pastures  
But above all for the gift of your Son  
through Whom all my sins are pardoned  
And I am born anew by Your Spirit  
Every day I am becoming more like Him  
As I pray, 'Your will be done'  
Loving and forgiving others  
Both friends and foes alike  
More pure in heart  
As I am sanctified through the Spirit within

Until released from this sinful body  
My soul is free to enjoy eternity  
In Your loving Presence  
With those I have loved on earth  
Now perfected in heaven  
Where Your light forever shines  
And pain and death are no more  
But only eternal life, love and peace  
Joyfully serving my King and others  
Whose yoke is easy and burden light

*by David Cooke*

**Thanksgiving Service**  
**11th October 2008 at 2.30pm**  
**St John's Church, St John's Road, Tunbridge Wells**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**