



# CROSSWAYS COMMUNITY

## Autumn 2006 Newsletter

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## A thought from the Chairman

Have you ever wondered how Jesus managed to get through His enormous workload? He seemed to pack so much into a day and did it without all the modern paraphernalia that we have at our disposal – no car, telephone or email or even a bike to hurry Him on His way! Yet the Apostle John says at the end of his Gospel:

‘And there are many other things which Jesus did. If they should all be recorded one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that could be written.’

Yet, despite His busy day and pressing crowds, Jesus always had time for the one person who needed help. ‘Who touched me?’ He said about a woman who needed serious medical help but would have been pushed aside by society and the crowd. ‘Come down Zacchaeus!’ to a hated little tax collector perched up in a tree because others would not accept him, but who wanted to see Jesus.

For most of us ordinary mortals we are stuck in one place doing a fairly routine type of day, meeting the same kind of people and doing the same kind of work. But, even if we are not attracting people in their hundreds and thousands, as Jesus did, there is always the ONE who needs our time and care. Over a lifetime those ‘ones’ can add up to hundreds. Jesus only ministered for three years. For most of us our Christian service lasts a lot longer. It would be great, wouldn’t it, if some writer of good news could say about us that there would not be enough space in just one large volume to contain what we had done for the Master during our lifetime. Even so, God remembers every good word and deed done in His name.

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## ***New Staff -***

### ***Introducing Penny***

In the last newsletter we introduced Penny Jones, our new Care Coordinator, who takes over responsibility for supervising the day-to-day overall care of residents' health and welfare. Penny, who hails from the Welsh borders, has been with us now for a little while so we thought we would give her the opportunity to introduce herself.

"It's definitely different at Crossways! In the three months since I've joined, I have encountered all sorts of situations and experiences. What stands out most for me is the wealth of ideas, personal values, warmth, humour and wisdom shared by residents, staff and friends of Crossways. All of these things I am personally grateful for and value enormously.

I'm really looking forward to see how Crossways continues to grow, plus exciting developments that the next three months may hold in store!"

*Penny Jones*



### ***Number 8 Residents' Annual Holiday to Hastings***

After much anticipation, at long last it was time to go on holiday, and seven residents plus Kathy, Phil and myself drove down to the Haven Holidays campsite at Hastings. It was a hot journey there and it was good to relax and settle in. The chalets were really great, and we seemed to be on a quiet, family part of the site.

We were fortunate to have excellent weather for most of the week, enabling us to enjoy the surrounding area. On site there was a wide range of sporting activities, in addition to a swimming pool, so wide in fact that we didn't have time to do them all. One day we went to

Camber Sands where some of us went swimming; and on our way back we walked around Rye. Some days we split up, with some folk staying in camp

(continued)



and others going out to explore Bexhill and having coffee in the new De La Ware Pavillion. We also had a fun time going ten-pin bowling – some of us being better at it than others! One night six of us went out and enjoyed each other's company with a pleasant pub meal.

*David Garland*



## ***Restoration***

I originally came to Restoration as a helper, but any distinction between helpers and others attending soon vanished as we enjoyed fellowship and activities together.

Kathy gave us some excellent talks, as we looked at the adventure of life, at how perceptions can be true or false (with the aid of some optical illusions and assorted spectacles), and how these can affect our lives. We looked at how our great God still values each one of us.

Helen and her helpers introduced us to a large number of crafts – designs with wool, bracelet-making, clay modelling and basket-weaving, while John kept us well-fed – and encouraged us to 'take risks' as we made up our own pasta salad!

Jo and Kathy did tremendous work in setting up a beautiful chapel space for meditation and prayer, and we valued the individual ministry from Martin, Kathy, Connie and Alan.

The course finished with a talk from Jennifer Rees-Larcombe about her experiences, and then a barbecue.

We learned to value each other and to grow together in confidence, in coping, in friendship and in the Lord, and I'm sure we all felt the benefit from this Restoration course.

*Ann Clifton*

## CROSSWAYS COFFEE MORNING— 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2006



We know God has been good to Crossways throughout its life, for which we cannot thank Him enough, and He was definitely smiling on us all at our Coffee Morning. The sun shone, there were just about enough helpers, people kept on coming and coming, things were brought ... and more things were bought ... all the cakes went. The hot food was good - in spite of John's best efforts - the atmosphere was as jovial and friendly as always, those that won prizes for counting the sweets, or guessing the birthdays were delighted: in fact it was a splendid day all round. And to crown it all, we can announce that, with a couple of late cheques, we achieved a massive £1,100 for our efforts. I think a resounding thank-you should go to everyone for making it so special, especially to our wonderful Father, thank you yet again!

*Ian Lees*



Every now and then a small act of kindness results in untold happiness. Whoever donated the toy horse and unicorn for the “guess the toys” birthday” competition at the Crossways Coffee Morning could not have known that these toys would have been won by Ira, a young Ukrainian girl who had been staying with us. Ira is thirteen years old. Seven years ago she was found on the streets of Cherkassy, Ukraine, scavenging for food for her alcoholic grandmother. Her parents were in prison. Now part of a loving Christian family in Cherkassy (they have provided a home for a further ten children) she has regained her childhood and laughs uncontrollably! So thank you to whoever donated these toys. You have made a little girl very very happy. Incidentally, Ira guessed that the horse would have the same birthday as her “new mum”. Funny how these things happen!

*Phil and Vera Stanford*

## Culverdale News - my meanderings ...

Well here we are again, August and half way through 2006, which means cooler days and, hopefully, some very much-needed rain. Our grass is looking so dry at the moment, is that not so typically British of me to start off a conversation with the weather? – must mean that I have finally succumbed to the British ways.

We continue to do well, which we thank the Lord for. This Summer as you know has been especially hot, which some of our residents have just loved; as for me, and I cannot believe I am saying this as a South African, I just could not wait for it to get cooler. What has been most encouraging is that a few of our residents have taken advantage of the warmer weather and have gone on holiday either with a friend or by themselves.

Again this year we had our **In-House Holiday programme**, which proved very popular and was a great success. This year we went to Brighton Aquarium, Romney Hythe & Dymchurch Railway, as well as Kew Gardens, and then on the Friday we did a special trip to Madame Tussauds. Again, we did the spontaneous outings with trips to Praise in the Park and a visit to the War & Peace show.

**Bible Studies** on the Monday evenings continue to remain a great blessing for those who participate, we have just completed a series on Prayer and are now doing a series on Genesis.

Since our last newsletter, we have had one of our residents move on from Culverdale to more **independent living**. I chatted to him just the other day, he is taking a little while to settle in and would ask that you consider him in your prayers. We have also welcomed across someone from Number 8 to Culverdale; she appears to be settling in very well.

A real treat for us was the acquisition of a **computer for our residents**, this is now up and running and very shortly we hope to be able to access the internet. What is very encouraging is that we have three residents now doing computer courses at Winfield Trust, with a number of residents already computer-literate.

### ... And other thoughts

Just a little thought, I love to potter about in the kitchen, which pleases Irene to no end. One of my little quirks is to put fresh garlic cloves into a bottle of olive oil, the garlic and oil then infuse which is great for salad dressings, frying of mushrooms etc; it also has a great aroma. Now I was sitting in chapel the other day thinking about this, and that this is just how

we should be with the Word of God. We like to say that the word of God should “take root”, but I would like to suggest that we use the word “infuse”, we should in a sense allow the Word of God to infuse our hearts and our whole being, so that when we rub shoulders with our neighbours, family, friends, or just the man in the street, they see that we are good, we are able to add to their lives, become attractive, that they smell the sweet aroma of Christ and say “There is just something about that person that ... oh I don’t know... but it is attractive”.

*Psalm 1: v2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.*

*v3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.*

Thank you for your continued support and prayers, I would ask at this time to pray especially for the residents that are planning or thinking of moving on to take up residency in our new flats.

God Bless you all

*John Neel*

## ***The Independent Living Project***

Sometimes we’re told that it is “not the end, but rather a new beginning”. This often happens at Crossways because of the nature of the ongoing ministry we have. However it also happens in quite specific areas as well. Two things which have exciting beginnings for us, and which I have written about a number of times, are the Independent Living Project and *Restoration*.

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August John Neel and I had the joy of being part of the first site meeting for the new flats that are going to be built here. It was a good meeting and there is a real sense of excitement as the work begins on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August.

The ending is to do with the planning etc and the beginning is the next phase; the actual building of the flats. Of course this is not an end in itself and must never be. The flats are for people so that they can benefit from good quality long-term housing which gives them the security that they need to live their lives as independently as possible.

We thank God for making all of this possible and for a generous gift that has helped make this project a reality. *(continued ...)*

## ***... Restoration news***

*Restoration* too is growing and developing. The final session of the course took place on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August at Christ Church, Tunbridge Wells. Jen Larcombe came and spoke of her experiences. She had so much to share and brought to us a balance of thinking that is so important when people are crying out for their lives to be different. Healing can come in many varied ways and Jen’s testimony on healing and life’s ups and downs was a real help to people.

We have learnt so much from this first course and are grateful to all who have been involved especially the course members who have contributed so much to the course, providing us with information that will help us in our planning for future courses.

What of the future? Next year we hope to hold two further courses, preferably in different settings to the last one. Ideally, for one of the courses we would like to work with a church that has a burden for people who experience poor mental health. This should help us to have a clearer idea for the way forward.

Over the winter more work will be done on the course material and also training materials for volunteers. So although the first course has ended, there is so much more we need to get on with for the next phase.

We are grateful to God for the reassurance that He has promised to walk with us as we venture forward with both these projects. We would like to thank all of you who have supported us with your interest, encouragement, gifts and not least your prayers on our behalf.

*Martin Granger*

## **Looking ahead**

**You are invited to our**

**Thanksgiving Service on October 7th  
at St Johns Church, Tunbridge Wells— 2.30pm**

**Remember to log on to the Crossways website for current news  
and up-to-date information: [www.crosswayscommunity.org.uk](http://www.crosswayscommunity.org.uk)**