



CROSSWAYS COMMUNITY

**AUTUMN 2007
NEWSLETTER**

A thought from the Chairman

Life begins at 40!

They say life begins at 40 but so do fallen arches, failing eyesight and the tendency to tell the same story to the same person three or four times. The female of the species will never be too ready to talk about her age when she hovers somewhere near her fourth decade but I assure you that the best ten years of her life are between thirty nine and forty! But here we are at Crossways, forty years old and no loss of hair or failing eyesight. We are in fact still growing up and looking forward to the next forty years.

Why should we be looking forward to the next forty years with such confidence when the future can seem so uncertain? Speaking personally, I have been involved with Crossways thirty of the forty years of its ministry and have seen the Community experience difficult times as well as great times of blessing. We shall no doubt continue to face problems and blessings but I know we can look to the future together with confidence.

Why do I feel like this? The reason is simple. We have a wonderful Father who knows our needs before we know them ourselves. This has been our experience since Crossways started all those years ago with two small properties in the town of Croydon. This year we shall be opening six more flats to accommodate more of our residents who are now able to live independently. The Lord has also given us resources for the future and we have a great team of Christian people who care deeply for those in their care and seek God for the future.

The Apostle Paul, after a lifetime of service for the Lord, could write :

"The one thing I do is to forget what is behind me and do my best to reach out for what is ahead ."

We give thanks to God and as Crossways passes the forty mark let us learn from Paul. The past is behind us, a past He has blessed, but the future is ahead and we must reach out for it with God leading us.

Life really does start at 40 !

Every Blessing

Alan Harvey, Chairman

New Flats

We are very much hoping that come the 40th Celebrations in October you will be able to come and look at the new flats (pictured on our front cover) and see just how lovely they are. However, don't look too closely at the garden!

Since the last newsletter so much work has been undertaken; the roof has been completed allowing plumbers, electricians, plasterers, joiners, etc to do their work and now it has been painted and the flats look really good.

The handover from the builder to Crossways is planned for the early part of August and then we have to get the flats kitted out, so to speak. Hopefully the new tenants will be moving in a few weeks later.

So what about the garden? We have had a garden designed that will make the most of the space between the new flats and Culverdale, creating both a communal garden and two small private gardens for those living in each building.

William, who knows about these things, has been getting in estimates for hard landscaping and planting out. All the estimates received so far have been above budget and so we are looking at how we can deal with this. We want to have a pleasant and attractive garden for many people who will use the garden to sit and relax in.

Please continue to pray for those residents from Culverdale who are moving in to the flats and for Kathy Lewis as she supports them. The move will be a big step for those moving & although there is excitement at the thought of having their own flat there is naturally apprehension as well.

Martin Granger

With this newsletter you should find a leaflet telling you all about our planned 40th Celebrations, plus a separate invitation and tear-off slip to say whether you will be coming to either of the planned events. We'd love to hear back from you as soon as possible! With many thanks.

Number 8 News ...

An update on our last edition! Sarah Eva our second Life Skills Trainer left to pursue new pastures. We are grateful to Sarah for all that she contributed to the life of Crossways. We have been blessed with two new LST's who are settling down into their jobs extremely well. A little about them...

Sarah Weller

I came to Crossways in April to work as a Life Skills Trainer two days a week. I previously worked at Glazy Daisy (a ceramic painting studio in Tunbridge Wells) for three years, and previous to that I was a 'mummy at home' looking after four children. So Crossways is a completely new path for me but one which I firmly believe God has chosen for me. I am thoroughly enjoying the diversity of my role which includes cooking and creative sessions with the residents. All the residents and staff have made me feel really welcome. Hopefully you will be able to view the fruits of our creative sessions which will be on sale at the forthcoming Crossways' Family Day.



Yvonne Lockyer

Hi—my name is Yvonne and I followed Sarah in early May as Life Skills Trainer on two alternative days per week. I previously enjoyed many years as "homemaker" raising two lovely daughters, also working for the Alzheimer's Society and more recently, Housekeeping. Crossways 'found' me quite by chance and I feel, after three short months, completely at home, supported and very blessed to be here.



Summer Holidays

Penny Jones, myself (Roy Nicholson) and six residents went away to a Christian Guild Holiday hotel in Sidmouth, Devon, this July. It provided excellent views, excellent food and good fellowship—our residents from Number 8 had a whale of a time. The only downside about the holiday was a trip to the beach which ended in a fight with an oil-slick—Penny came to the rescue like Super-mop Woman and sorted them out, after which we all had a great week. The residents were keen to give you some of their comments and we're reproducing those here:

"The weather was nice, the hotel and facilities were good. I enjoyed the day trips, meals also were nice. I'd like to go again."

"Nice being next to the seaside."

"Cool holiday, good food and relaxed."

Martin took some residents from Number 8 and Culverdale on a quiet holiday to Green Blade in Suffolk (a holiday retreat house) which a resident briefly describes here for you:

"Between 2nd and 6th July Martin and four residents, including myself, went to a retreat in Suffolk. The accommodation and food were good. On the way up we stopped at Woodbridge and Aldburgh. Next day we went to Dunwich and Southwold. All these were interesting places. On Wednesday we went to a preserved railway, the Mid-Norfolk Railway, which I liked. On Thursday we went to a zoo and to Lowestoft. On Friday on the way home we stopped at Framlingham. It was a good holiday and East Anglia is one of my favourite parts of the country."

Recently I did a sponsored 50-mile cycle ride between Guildford and London for charity and it has prompted me to want to do a 40-mile cycle ride for Crossways to commemorate the fortieth anniversary. If you would like to sponsor me please contact me via Number 8. I will be happy to include you on my sponsor form. Many thanks.

Roy Nicholson

Culverdale News—John's Meanderings

July, can you believe it, half way through the year already, and so much has happened since we last chatted, this time I am not going to go on about time and get straight to the point as I have been told by my wonderful wife that I waffle on, well not only my wife! In house, we are nearing the completion of our three year redecorating and refurbishing programme and have brought forward the decorating of the lounge to this year. Decision making was a joint affair with a couple of our residents involved in the final process. For me what was so very encouraging and heart warming is that we had our supplier with her samples, members of staff and a resident or two all enjoying each other's company having fun and the freedom to make independent decisions.

The recent rains did not dampen the excitement and eagerness of our residents' In House Holidays and by the reports and the noise on return every day it appears that the folk had a great time.

Ginny Swaffer has now joined our team as a Support Worker and has fitted in so well, I must say that God has really been very good to us, as I feel that we have a good team of committed people with a heart to serve. Not only that, each person brings so many wonderful giftings to the team that there is no doubt in my mind that God has hand-picked us for His work at Crossways Community.

If you came to the coffee morning in May you may have noticed two Community Police Officers there; we have over the last 10 or so months been building a relationship with our local Bobby on the Beat. They have slowly come to know our residents, recognise them in the street and now look out for them. In fact one of them has taken Crossways to her heart and regularly pops in for a chat and a cuppa. What we are now seeing is that a number of our residents are on first name terms, which for some of our residents creates a great sense of security.

Now just a thought—as I was sitting at my desk this afternoon I did not realise just how windy it was outside until someone opened the office door and I had papers blowing off the desk, and ending up playing the game of slap and bang as I tried to stop papers getting all mixed up or ending up on the floor. That got me thinking about how instinctive my reaction was to the actions of an invisible force, and in a way the presence of the Lord is invisible—but do I have an instinctive reaction to it? Let me leave that with you for some thought and

meditation and say thank-you for your continued support and prayers.

I would ask at this time that you pray especially for the residents who are moving on to take up residency in our new flats, also for those who are to move into Culverdale, as well as for good health for both residents & staff.

God Bless you and I look forward to seeing you all at our 40th year Celebrations, and if I miss you, then please do come and make yourself known to me so I can thank you personally for your support of Crossways and Culverdale.

John Neel

Introducing Ginny Swaffham

I have been working at Culverdale since early April and am enjoying every minute of it! I am married to Ian and we have three wonderful children whom I have stayed at home looking after for nearly ten years. Before having a family I was a social worker on a Children & Families team, moving on to the Emergency Duty team, so I had a small knowledge of mental health.



Although I only became a Christian in 2006, I know Jesus was working in my life before then but since I have put all my trust and faith in him he has worked wonders in my life—I have found what was missing from my life but it is also harder as I try to be a good Christian every day and put Jesus first in all I do.

I am thankful for the opportunity to work at Crossways, putting to good use all my previous experiences, and am looking forward to this new chapter in my life.

Culverdale In-House Holiday

We had a smaller group of residents coming on the In-house holiday this year—maybe they knew the weather forecast. But we did have a good time and went to three different locations during the week of 9th July. Our first visit was the traditional seaside visit to Eastbourne. The weather was surprisingly dry and a good walk along the promenade built up a healthy appetite for the very large meal we had at the Wish Tower Restaurant. No-one took up the offer of going on the sight-seeing bus, I think the dark grey clouds had something to do with it. We finished off our visit by going up to Beachy Head, looking at the views, and 'powdering noses'. It was at this point the ticket warden appeared and the van had to go, leaving three people behind who were very surprised that the van was not there. I can assure you they were picked up and brought home!

The second visit was to Howlett's Zoo, Canterbury. We managed to book a wheelchair for one of the residents, which enhanced their enjoyment of the day. The gorillas were a great success and we were sure that we saw John Neel in one of the cages. A warden was looking after young baby gorillas rejected by their mothers. The food at the Zoo was very good and once again we were blessed with the weather and the rain held off.

Our third and final visit was a first for us—Pashley Manor Gardens. The flowers were not at their best but there is a lovely calm air over the place which was appreciated by the residents. Once again we were able to book a wheelchair which helped in the moving of people around. The gardens have statues and small wooden carvings which were placed amongst the trees and which we had great fun finding. You may recognise a theme here; the food was of excellent quality and able to fill even the hungriest person there (not me for a change!). On the way home we decided to visit the Cherry Tree in Matfield, a tearoom not a pub, I hasten to add. We must have been there for over an hour discussing the trips that we had and how much they were enjoyed by all and how the weather had been kind to us and we did not get wet at all. Praise God.

William Starkey