

Newsround

This year at Christian Resources Exhibition, as well as taking a stand space for Pilgrim Homes we took a seminar in the conference areas each day. Louise Morse spoke on spiritual support for 'savvy' seniors; Roger Hitchings talked on ageing well, and Janet Jacob spoke on dementia, drawing from the recently published 'Dementia: Frank and Linda's story – new understanding, new approaches, new hope.'

Each seminar was full, with people sitting in the aisles and standing in the doorway. Exhibition Coordinator Janet Jacob said it was probably the busiest time we have ever had at exhibition, with people coming to the stand to buy the books and learning about Pilgrim Homes at the same time. Over 200 booking forms for our conferences later in the year were taken. 'Special thanks to supporters Ken and Elizabeth Lockwood,' she added, 'They come each year for a day to help out on the stand, and Elizabeth always brings some of her special home-made marmalade to sell. It's usually all gone within an hour!'

Brighton

Retiring administrator, Veronica Smith had a lively send-off with a leaving party featuring her favourite colours, music and food.



Veronica Smith in the middle

Her favourite music, by Cliff Richard, was played, and banners around the lounge said 'good-bye' in different languages. She was also sung a tongue-in-cheek parody to the tune of 'Favourite Things', from the Sound of Music, which appealed to Veronica's sense of humour. Director of Human Resources, Phil Wainwright, came for the occasion from head office and said how much her work had been appreciated. Manager Anne Gower presented Veronica with a gift of a TV on behalf of the home. ● The children's choir from St. Thomas' School in Fulham came to entertain residents, singing and performing solos on the flute and the piano. Aged eight to ten years old, they chatted with them over refreshments before leaving for an outing on the beach. ● A number of Dutch student nurses came to visit the home, half in the morning

and half in the afternoon, to avoid disruption. They spent time singing and playing games with residents. They said they were happy to report that the home is a lot less clinical than those they are used to. ●

April 23rd saw St. George's Day remembered, with maintenance officer Tom Carroll dressing up as St George. This versatile maintenance man morphs into a Leprechaun on St. Patrick's Day.

Chippenham

Babies are welcome additions to the Leonora Home extended family as both senior carer Ruth McKendrick and care team leader Rali Ivanova recently gave birth to baby boys. Residents are delighted with visits from the new babies. ● Redecoration is brightening up Leonora Home, and as well as the main rooms, individual care rooms are being redecorated as they become vacant. ● Three members of staff were delayed coming back from holiday by the Volcanic ash cloud affecting European flights, and Manager Gaie Marshall said that everyone did well to cover their work until they returned.

● After enjoying a long standing relationship with Leonora Home, Bill and Gloria Kilmister have taken up residence. The couple were involved when the home was set up 36 years ago. A retired pastor, Bill used to come in regularly to preach. As well as their long relationship there was already



Banner celebrating Pilgrim Homes' 203 years serving older Christians

a connection with the home and his sister, Betty Edwards, was already a resident. ● The Home's art class is becoming more and more popular. In preparation for this year's AGM in Chippenham, they produced a large banner commemorating Pilgrim Homes' 203 years of serving older Christians. Everyone likes the banner so much that it has been kept in place. ● Staff, residents and friends of the home are looking forward to the home's anniversary meeting, scheduled for the 3rd of July at Charter School, opposite the home. The speaker will be Spencer Shaw and worship music will include Mount Zion Choir of Hullavington. After the meeting there will be a time of fellowship and refreshments. Two members of staff have completed their NVQ level 3 in Health & Social Care and another has completed

NVQ level 2 in Administration & Business.

Dorothea Court

Perhaps the biggest news item for Dorothea Court in recent months is the return to action of the lift, which had been out of use for a couple of months. Manager Deryn van der Tang said, 'All our residents are now able to get up and down to meals and services, and I'm sure this will make a big difference to their quality of life.' ● New maintenance officer Ian Steele is making a big difference, as he is on site every day of the week and can deal with problems as they crop up. ● Spring has encouraged people out into the garden, and they are at work getting it shipshape. (See page 16)



A corner of the garden at Dorothea Court

Ernest Luff Homes

At the time of going to press, manager Derek Carpenter said they were busy getting the place ready for the Thanksgiving Day on the 23rd June. It's a bit like musical chairs, with offices being swapped and Derek's old

office becoming a visitors' reception room. Out of the refurbishment will come a new staff room, and an old staff room will become a store. In addition, the entrance area is being refurbished with new doors on the dining room and corridor entrance. Everything will be spic and span for the 23rd, but in the meantime staff are coping with the bustle of change as well as everyday life in the home.

● Plans were afoot for a group of residents to go along with carers to a local school for a 'Reminiscence Tea' with a 'D Day' theme. Pupils from the school will interview the residents, encouraging them to share memories they have of their experiences of D-Day.

Evington

The Evington home has had four students from Regents College for work placement, and the college wrote to the home, enclosing a Certificate in recognition of the excellent experience the students received. The college also extended an invitation for someone to come to speak about the work of Pilgrim Homes. ● Debbie Jackson has accepted the position of manager on a permanent basis and said, 'It is a real privilege to serve the Lord by caring for His elderly pilgrims so please pray that the home will continue to honour His name and maintain its excellent rating.' Shobha Oree and Rachel Surrell have agreed

to share Debbie's former role, the Care Nurse Manager's position, between them. ● Four of the home's residents have been called home to Glory and the home has received flowers and letters of gratitude from family members grateful for the care their loved ones received in the final days of their pilgrimage.

● National Secretary's Day on the 26th of April was an opportunity to show appreciation to the office staff, so former administrators and volunteer Betty Mayhew were invited to a special tea in the main lounge. Debbie presented small gifts to administrators Sheila Golby, Javed, Mike Cheney, Chris Daw and Betty Mayhew. ● Nurses' Day on Florence Nightingale's birthday, 12th of May, was a chance to say 'Thank You' to Evington's registered nurses. Debbie spoke about Florence's calling to nursing and how nurses are called to work for the Lord in caring for residents. The nurses received mugs and chocolates. ● Regular Coffee & Cake Afternoons have started to encourage fellowship amongst people living in sheltered housing. ● Debbie has shown pictures and talked about her travels, including her trip to Egypt, and then to the Himalayas. On this occasion, everyone enjoyed Indian sweets and Darjeeling tea.

Finborough Court

Claire and Will Cates, administrator and maintenance officer respectively, celebrated their silver wedding anniversary by jetting off to a wonderful holiday in the USA.



Will & Claire Cates
celebrate their
Silver Wedding

Claire has worked at the home since it opened 16 years ago, and Will for 15 years, and they shared the occasion by treating residents to a festive roast lamb dinner. In turn, the home presented them with a special cake and a picture frame, cake slice and gift vouchers. ● The Auxiliary organized a sponsored walk on 22nd of May, and the event included resident Ian Cawston as well as Manager Rosie Barker and her daughter Stephanie Hall.

● A welcome young addition to Finborough Court life is Daniel, a

student volunteer doing his GMVQ in Health & Social Care. Because he likes to visit, he comes in as often as he can. He also works on a farm and recently passed his driving test, enabling him to drive a tractor. Suffolk is a farming community, so many of the residents have experience of farming and tractors.

**William Adams
viewing Daniel's
tractor**



One resident, William Adams, formerly worked as a tractor driver and was intrigued with the tractor that Daniel drove over for them to see. ● Rosie and cook Jenny Flack have attended a training session on specialist diets and are keen to put their knowledge into practice. Rosie Barker has provided dementia training for staff, and senior carers have completed medicine administration assessments. The weekly ice-cream van gets an

enthusiastic welcome from residents, who listen for its jingles.

Haslemere

Residents have been busy planting and preparing tubs and baskets for the garden, which is now starting to look rather splendid. ● Chief Executive Andrew Jessop visited on the same day as resident Ivy Gladwell turned 101. ● Several people have joined the Shottermill House family for short stays of respite care. ● Staff members have completed statutory training. ● Manager Paul Mason sent the Quarterly a post election news item of an unusual coalition following the appointment of care staff member Magdalena as part time cook, to join Barbara Royall, full time cook. One immediate outcome was the replacement of turkey meatballs with a more nutritious variety. (See page 7).

Redbourn

Communal events such as the bi-weekly prayer meetings draw together both current and retired missionaries. Those who are retired occupy flats and share a communal garden. ● Scheme Managers Phil and Sally Willis have settled in very well. Phil said, 'Residents know we're here for them when they want us, even though we're not necessarily on site 24/7. We spend part of our time here, but also stay in touch by



Linda & Chris Munford, missionaries on leave at Redbourn

phone and email. Because everyone lives independently, we tend to be a 'friendly neighbour' for them. Typical of residents are Chris and Linda Munford, who served in Kyrgyzstan with WEC, working with Teen Challenge in a pioneering work in a predominantly Muslim village. 'Redbourn has just the atmosphere we needed for a vacation,' said Linda, 'It's peaceful and we can be involved with neighbours, or not, as we like. We appreciated being left alone until we were ready to join in at the prayer meeting. It's been so relaxed. We feel very well looked after.'

Royd Court

New manager Vicki Miller has arrived and is settling down to running the scheme and Georgina Lansdell is joining Pilgrim Care as the Domiciliary Care Manager. Chief Executive Andrew Jessop has thanked Gloria Hanley, domiciliary care co-ordinator, for coping so magnificently

in the absence of a manager over the last few months, and Jenny Leach, Housing and Care Services Manager, for her support when neither Royd Court nor Pilgrim Care had a manager in place. Occupants have made Royd Court a real Christian neighbourhood, offering others a helping hand whenever they need it, such as doing the shopping when they are not well. There are also social activities, including regular board games, and each month there is a special event. In May, there was a performance from a male voice choir, with a programme that was met with great enthusiasm. In June, an outing to a garden centre included a meal as well as a leisurely walk around. Later this summer, everyone is looking forward to taking a boat voyage again. Daily devotions and meetings with invited speakers are also part of the fabric of life at Royd Court. Topics range from local work among people with drug abuse problems to overseas schools for children suffering from AIDS.

Tunbridge Wells

Inspectors from the new regulatory body, the Care Quality Commission, decided to make an unannounced inspection of the home while Manager Ruth Meltz was away on holiday. This left administrator Andy Burgess and care team leader Tracey Batchelor to handle the situation, and they must have done well as

the home was re-awarded its 3-star excellent rating. Manager, Ruth Meltz said she appreciates the staff who work so hard day-in and day-out to make sure the residents receive quality care. 'It is not always easy in the face of changing care needs and increasing regulation,' she said.

● Chief Executive, Andrew Jessop was due to speak at the home's Thanksgiving Service on 26th of June at The Salvation Army Citadel in Tunbridge Wells. ● Recently Philip Kinderman, husband of Margaret Kinderman, secretary of the Home Visitors' group, was called to Glory after he and Margaret were involved in an accident. Philip and Margaret have been a great blessing to the home over many years and Philip came regularly as a speaker. Long-time supporter, Michael Burch, has also recently gone to glory. A long standing friend of Milward, he served as a Home Visitor and took residents on outings.

Wantage

Residents were treated to a sing-along session where they joined in with percussion instruments recently. This popular event included rhythmic WW1 songs like 'Pack up your Troubles in your Old Kit Bag' and lively Christian choruses. Now regular sessions are taking place with CDs and a variety of percussion instruments. ● A new Wii console gives residents and their younger

family members alike the opportunity to enjoy games like bowling, tennis, baseball and golf. It's already proving to be a good activity for drawing people together. ● Framland planned to observe World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on the 15th June, to encourage people to learn more and to highlight relevant issues. ● On the 26th of June, the grounds will be transformed for the annual Garden Party. There will be the gazebo with a barbeque, games for children, stalls with cakes, jams, cards and toys. Music will include the Wantage Silver Band Ensemble, with Steve Piggot at the keyboard and professional singer Sandra Patterson, daughter of a resident. There will also be tours of the home. This event features fun and fellowship – but also fund raising in aid of Pilgrim Homes. ● The entrance hall has been redecorated and is much brighter. ● The grand tradition of keeping Pilgrim Homes in the family continues with the son of one of the night staff, Henry Blyth, starting work as a bank housekeeper.

Wellsborough

The home recently participated in the Women's World Day of Prayer in the conference hall, with a good number of the residents, including men, taking part. ● A working party from a local church volunteered and cleared the paths in the wood in time for the bluebells in May. Manager Sarah Haines said, 'The bluebells

were beautiful, and we really enjoyed taking residents to see them.’ ● Sarah has also met with the Home Visitors and Home Support Group; they have been very supportive and there has been a good response to a request for volunteers to take morning devotions. ● The home has a regular Movement & Music activity on a Tuesday, run by a volunteer. Weekly video shows have included travel films of the Lake District, Wales, Scotland and the English countryside. ● The Open Day held on the 5th of June attracted family and friends from a wide radius. Stalls featured bric-a-brac, toys, books and plants. A variety of animals livened up the day as did games for the children. With the activities and superb cream teas it was another memorable day of fund raising for Pilgrim Homes.

Head Office

With the restructuring of the Society, head office staff have been faced with new pressures. Everyone has been rallying but there are still challenges ahead. Further adding to the pressure was the absence of a staff member who was called up for six weeks jury service. The rest of the team coped admirably, helped by James, a temp who kept up the input of invoices during the period

Tailpiece

With the summer comes more activity of all kinds in our homes’ gardens. In one of them a pheasant strides up and down the path as though he owns the place; a squirrel openly steals nuts from the bird feeder, and there was a dramatic visit from the air ambulance to collect a resident, who has since made a full recovery.

Baby swap at Leonora

Sharon, administrator at Leonora, Chippenham, sent this photograph with a note saying,

‘On the left is Senior Care Assistant Ruth McKendrick,

holding baby Denis. On the right is Care Team Leader Rali Ivanova, holding baby Jack. Baby Denis belongs to Rali, and Denis to Ruth. Ruth is a new mum to Jack, whilst Rali has an older daughter and now baby Denis. I may send some more over shortly.’

Interestingly, home manager Gaie Marshall is also a qualified midwife. Perhaps we should watch this space.

