

# Chairman's Report 2001

I am delighted to be able to report on a further successful year in the life of Homesdale (Woodford Baptist Homes) Ltd. The success we have achieved is in direct proportion to the quality of staff we are privileged and honoured to have working within the complex. Under the inspiring leadership of Brenda Jones we now have, quite literally, one of the most, if not the most qualified staff teams within the Authority. Many staff are now at NVQ level 3 with further level 4's in sight. This does not include the routine courses on Health & Safety, Food hygiene, Dental Care, Manual handling, Fire fighting and so the list goes on. Similarly, Jenny Brewster our Warden in Sheltered Housing during the week and Pat Coombes our weekend Warden are undertaking training specific to their roles with Jenny having recently completed her National Wardens Certificate for Sheltered and Supported Housing. The final thesis has been copied to all of the Committee members and will provide a new set of challenges, which we look forward to aspiring to.

The level of staff training is reflected in the formal Inspection reports that are generated from the announced and unannounced inspections by the local Authority. The last three reports have finished with no recommendations, which is something quite remarkable. However, please don't detect a tone of complacency in these words. The preparation for the National Care Standards Act will ensure the organisation continues to strive to give our residents the best possible standards of care. Significantly, this is an organisation which seeks to focus on the residents at all times and to ensure that whatever action is taken, whatever course is booked, it will be the residents who subsequently obtain the benefit.

I would also take this opportunity of paying tribute to all the Committee Members who not only meet regularly for formal meetings but who also take a genuine and sincere interest in the home and the residents. It was a particular joy just before Christmas for the Committee to staff the home for a few hours one evening while the entire staff team went out for a meal. (In reality, they were only two or three minutes down the road with a mobile telephone contact in place but it did provide an opportunity for the entire staff team to meet in an informal setting). As I observed the Committee members chatting to the residents and helping them in a myriad of ways I did have to wonder how many other RSL Governance teams get involved in such a way and whether or not they would have been anything like as successful?

The building has continued to be improved and upgraded. There have been the regular cyclical tasks from replacing kitchens, remodelling flats, redecorating and replacing carpets but these all fade in to insignificance compared to the replacement lift project. This will now be completed in 2002 and will enable the top floors of Homesdale to be accessible to residents. Our lift consultant has proved to be invaluable but apart from dealing with a lift company and the successful building contractor, we have also had to involve insurers and appoint structural engineers along with Health and Safety project management specialists. The upheaval within the home has been considerable but staff and residents have pulled together and ensured that the project has gone smoothly despite them living with a building site in their next room.

We have once again benefited from a Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund Grant that this year has been directed towards the replacement of our Parker Bath that enables residents with little or no mobility to enjoy a relaxing bath. We remain indebted to the fund for their generosity once again. They manage to regularly support us and purchase equipment that has a direct benefit for the residents.

Finally, I would once again thank the stalwart band of volunteers who ensure the Spiritual work of the home is maintained. They are now supported by our new Chaplain, Pastor Sam who is proving to be an invaluable asset. As always, I conclude by giving Praise and thanks to our Lord who continues to Bless His work and His people at the complex.

Peter Townrow