

Chairman's Report 2004

Once again we look back over an exciting year and Praise God for His continued guidance and direction. Despite all of the regulatory pressures which continue to grow, not least the more demanding CSCI requirements, we have focussed on our fundamental aim of ensuring that the loving care and support of all our residents has remained paramount. In this respect, I once again pay tribute to our staff team who do a remarkable job in ensuring that this fundamental aim is met each and every day throughout the year.

The high standards of care delivery are due to all of the team working well together and being led efficiently by Lisa Richardson, Tonia McLean & Joycelyn Lindsay in the Care Home and by Jenny Brewster in Sheltered Housing. Meanwhile, Sarah Walsh & Mina Sindha (who has willingly taken on much more demanding and responsible duties during the year), both ensure that the more commercial needs of the organisation are met, whilst always retaining the care of the residents as their first priority. The Committee of Management regularly takes time to stop and marvel at how fortunate Homesdale is to have recruited staff of such a high calibre. Regrettably, David Bolton became ill at the end of the year but despite his absence, the Home continued to flourish, thus indicating just how effective our staff team really is. The staff training record makes impressive reading indicating that we have one of the most highly trained workforces in the sector with a string of NVQ qualifications to their credit. Through the medium of this report I congratulate them all for their achievements and formally record our gratitude to them all, for the loving service they provide.

Last year I had to report that the membership of our Committee was following the National trend of dwindling. However, I am delighted to report that without having to resort to an advertising campaign as we suspected we might, we welcomed Keith & Mary Hawkins and Shelia Banks in to membership. They have already proved to be valuable additions with their wisdom and experience ensuring that the best decisions are made. I wish them many years of happy and successful service in their new role and trust that the Lord will bless them as they serve Him in this capacity. We also have Joanne Bell attending our meetings as an observer and hope that she will feel led to join us in due course. It is all too easy to welcome the new members and forget the loyal and experienced members who are the backbone of the organisation. I will not make that mistake; rather, I will place on record my gratitude to all of the Committee for their loyalty, inspiration and expertise so freely and generously given during the year.

The year has seen the production of a splendid new brochure and an attractive website, both of which take our message more easily in to the community we serve. The mundane and more routine maintenance improvements have naturally continued such as the new washing machines and dryers in Sheltered Housing, a new CCTV system, new ceiling tiles in Hunter Court, a range of redecorating projects, new front doors to Homesdale, new block paving and windows as well as a trial air conditioning unit. Research work has also continued on our major project of producing further additional rooms for Homesdale although the major illness of our Architect at the end of the year has caused an inevitable delay in the implementation of these plans.

We thank God for all of the achievements during the year and look forward to seeing this organisation continuing to go from strength to strength over the coming years.

Peter Townrow