

Chairman's Report 2005

These continue to be challenging times for a small organisation in an environment where the regulatory arrangements and legislation seem to be both designed around and directed towards the demands of the large RSL's. However, I am pleased to confirm that with the Lord's continued guidance and direction, we are in a position to move forward in confidence and strength.

This year we have been involved in preliminary negotiations with the Local Authority regarding Extra Care Sheltered Housing. We believe this will better serve our Sheltered Housing Residents who with practical support from additional staff coupled with the application of modern technology will be able to enjoy a safe and independent lifestyle for much longer than is currently feasible. At the same time we have been considering how the Residential Care element of our work integrates with this new approach and how this will impact on our current building provision.

I am pleased to confirm that this exciting "blue sky" thinking has not adversely affected our core purpose and as a result of our staff members dedication, loyalty and commitment, our Residents have continued to receive a level of service and care we have every right to be proud of. The Inspection reports have praised their achievements and the initial concerns over the implementation of Supporting People proved groundless when all of the nineteen standards were met.

During the year we said farewell to David Bolton our Care Manager. However, we were extremely fortunate in being able to once again secure the services of Ms Brenda Jones who took early retirement from us in 2003. Brenda's caring and management skills, coupled with her professional ability and vision ensured that the negotiations with regards to Extra Care went smoothly and that we have a clear path mapped out before us. I would also record our thanks to the staff team who support her, Lisa Richardson (Deputy Care Manager), Joycelyn, Tonia & Mina all work closely together with a genuine desire to provide the best possible care and environment for our residents. Similarly in Sheltered Housing Jenny Brewster (Warden) has continued to produce an unrivalled level of service to the residents who all speak so highly of the love and devotion she shows to them day by day. We learnt that Sarah Walsh (Housing Officer) would be on maternity leave during the year and were delighted to learn of the birth of Eleanor in July. During her absence we welcomed Jim Bell who proved to be a great asset to the organisation in Sarah's absence. I would place on record our sincere thanks to all our staff team for their remarkable contributions to the life and work of the Complex during the year. They are all truly second to none.

There have also been changes in the Committee of Management. We were very pleased to be joined by Keith Hawkins and Mary Hawkins and subsequently Shelia Banks who have all proved to be valuable additions to the Committee with their mixture of skills and experience. We trust they enjoy many happy years of service in their new capacity.

The buildings continue to be improved with new security systems involving electronic locks and enhanced CCTV, a substantial number of new kitchen replacements in the flats and an extensive programme of decoration in the Care Home. In addition, we also upgraded our IT facilities, formed our web site and produced an attractive brochure.

We praise God for all that has been achieved during the year and pray for his continued guiding hand in all that we do within the Complex during the coming year.