

Chairman's Report 2007

60 years of Christian Care

This year has seen some significant changes in the management structure of the organisation although our fundamental aim remains exactly the same as it did 60 years ago – To provide practical Christian outreach through the love, care and concern for all of the folk who reside within the complex. When we celebrated the Golden Jubilee in 1997 the strap line “50 years of Christian Care” was conceived – it has now ten years later simply been updated.

During early 2007 we recognised that Brenda Jones would be retiring after providing the day to day management of the entire organisation over several years. Brenda had previously worked for Homesdale for many years before seeking a career move to use her Nursing skills. However, when Homesdale was in need three years later, she returned with the same enthusiasm and commitment which guaranteed consistency in the quality of care. A National recruitment programme was initiated but subsequently only 13 people applied none of whom were judged suitable. In view of this, it was recognised that a Care Manager and a Complex Manager could not reasonably be expected from one person. It was decided that a Care Manager was the first priority and we were delighted to be able to appoint Lisa Richardson as Homesdale's seventh Care Manager. (Originally the title was “Matron” then “Officer in Charge” and for the last 15 years, “Care Manager”). At the close of the year, recruitment for a “Chief Executive” was being actively pursued. Lisa has made a tremendously positive impact on the life and work of the home since her appointment having also gained the Registered Managers Award during the year.

One of Lisa's first tasks was to appoint a Deputy and we were delighted to welcome Sally Brice in to the role. Sally, like Lisa has proved to be a valuable asset whose love and concern for the residents is an inspiration to us all. Lisa, Sally, Tonia and Joyce and all of the remainder of the Homesdale staff are admired and respected for their loyalty and commitment to the organisation and I thank them all publicly through this report for their dedication and hard work.

Within Sheltered Housing, Jenny, supported by Daphne has continued to ensure that Christian love, support and concern is available to all of the residents. Sarah has similarly worked desperately hard on a range of initiatives from Fire Safety upgrades and new lift planning to electrical standards upgrades in all the flats whilst always ensuring all of the more routine matters are completed with meticulous efficiency. Mina comes in for special thanks for all of the administrative work that ensures the organisation runs so smoothly and efficiently.

There were many notable dates during the year but the 30th October remains very significant. It was 60 years before that Rev. Hunter went to an auction and purchased that single property in New Wanstead for the Church – at that point, Homesdale (Woodford Baptist Homes) was conceived. It was also a significant birthday for two members of staff and a retirement party all rolled in to one and I can confirm that a great time was enjoyed by all.

Finally, I would record special thanks to the Committee of Management for their dedication to the work at Homesdale. We face new challenges next year with our clearly stated desire to introduce “Extra Care” in to the lexicon of services available within the complex. The strategic wisdom needed will be significant, but we will all rest in the certain knowledge that the Lord is in the midst of this work. Our first desire will continue to be to serve Him and seek His guidance as we strive to move this organisation from strength to strength over the coming months and years ahead.

Peter Townrow
Hon. Secretary