

Chairman's Report 2012.

This year has proved to be an exciting and highly successful year in the life of Homesdale (Woodford Baptist Homes) Ltd. despite the challenges of an ever-changing regulatory framework evolving against the backdrop of such a poor economic climate. Our staff and residents faced a major building project with their own unique blend of "Dunkirk Spirit" – something that proved to be nothing short of inspirational to everyone who observed it first hand when they visited the complex during the construction phase of our new lounge. I commend all of the staff for their professionalism and all of the residents for their positive and stoical outlook during such difficult circumstances. However, the end result has really been worth all of the noise and inconvenience with the finished product garnering positive acclaim from all directions. Following the tender process at the start of the year a contract was awarded and work started on the 23rd April. However, despite some of the most atrocious weather on record, by the 24th November we were all enjoying the lounge opening party. Our Architect Rob and the team of builders led by Vinny completed the work and delivered the highest standards of quality and finish, both on time and within budget.

Following a positive recommendation from the Search Committee, the Board welcomed Ed and Mark who both settled quickly in to their new roles bringing their own professional expertise and Christian commitment to the work. They have proved to be vital assets to the entire Board who jointly, have considered all the regular items, such as budgets, investment management, CQC reports, Fire risk assessments, food hygiene reports, policy reviews et al but who also considered some rather more unexpected matters such as the new Pension reforms, internet marketing, Olympics risk assessments and the adoption of new codes of conduct yet again. As always, I place on record my personal thanks to all of the Committee for their remarkable contribution to both the governance and to the life and work of the Association.

The staff team has once again remained remarkably stable apart from two significant changes. Sadly, Vicki resigned due to a serious health matter. We were delighted that following successful treatment, she was able to join us at a coffee morning several months later where both staff and residents were overjoyed to see her looking so well. Elaine replaced Vicki as our Deputy Warden and I am pleased to confirm that Julie, Sandy and Elaine have formed a cohesive team who perform an excellent job in caring for our Sheltered Housing Residents. I thank all three. Meanwhile in the DCU, Jackie decided the time was right to retire. I place on record through the medium of this report, our most sincere and grateful thanks to Jackie for all of her dedicated hard work in creating the DCU from little more than a blank piece of paper. Her positive Christian outlook and daily witness is deeply missed. Her duties are now covered with Lisa as the CQC Registered Manager and Amanda as the DCU supervisor.

As suggested earlier, Homesdale is very fortunate in enjoying a highly stable staff team with many accumulating quite literally decades of experience at Homesdale. This continuity is often commented upon as a significant strength by clients and their families and is certainly a highly valued part of our family ethos. In particular, I would formally record thanks to Lisa as the lead Care Professional, supported so well by Joyce, Tonia and Sheila. Finally, I would thank Peter, Sarah & Mina who all work with such loyalty, dedication and commitment to ensuring that the fabric and business aspects of the organisation are maintained to the highest standards. The collective staff love and care expressed daily for our residents is precisely what makes Homesdale so unique.

The other unique aspect of Homesdale (Woodford Baptist Homes) Ltd. is the fact that it is a faith centred organisation. My final thanks therefore, are to all those involved in any aspect of the spiritual life of the work – Matt and Ruth of course, but also Ed and his different teams from Woodford Baptist Church and of course all of the others who lead services or visit residents on a weekly basis. I thank them all.

Keith Hawkins (Chair)