

Headline news

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More from the front line

Summer's weather

As the summer of 2007 fails to produce more than the odd day of sunshine, it's all too easy to be disappointed in the weather. I'm sure that the rain has frustrated us all. Our thoughts and prayers are with those people whose homes and livelihoods have suffered so terribly. The Bible speaks of God's provision for us (and I'm not talking about

the building specifications for the ark!). Our Heavenly Father promises to be a shelter from the storms of life. This message is at the very heart of Keychange Charity. Whether it is through our work with the homeless and the street workers or our care for the more elderly members of our communities, Keychange staff members aim every day to demonstrate God's love and care for each individual. Thank you for your continued support for us as we seek to shine with His light in the dark and lonely corners of people's lives.

Door of Hope welcomes Suzie

We are pleased to introduce Suzie Artus, a new project worker at Door of Hope. Suzie has a passion for the work she's been appointed to, and her enthusiasm and experience will contribute enormously to the future work of the project.



Suzie is 26 years old and lives in Stepney Green, 'I have just bought an ex council flat there with a friend and it's great as I can walk to work and church – so no more commuting! I go to a NFI church in Bethnal Green, it meets in a comedy club and is a great reflection of the local

Door of Hope



community in its diversity.' Suzie has been involved in Door of Hope for nearly 3 years, firstly as a volunteer and then as a member of staff for 5 months. 'I found Door of Hope when I came back from India where I spent 4 months working in the brothels and with girls who had been rescued [from lives on the streets and working as prostitutes] and I realised that this was what I wanted to do with my life. I am excited by Door of Hope and the privilege it is to share in the lives of these girls – the moments of joy, sadness, sickness and health.'

In the midst of the desperation she encounters on the streets of the city of London, God's hand is clearly evident. 'I am so encouraged by seeing God at work. For example, I have seen a girl called Sarah on the streets for the past 3 years and she had never once engaged, then a couple of months ago she spoke to me for the first time and we now have a good relationship.' The work with the street girls can be painstakingly slow: establishing trust takes a very long

time, particularly as most of the girls have been mistreated over many years. I asked Suzie what she thought was the biggest challenge that Door of Hope faces: 'To enable people to see the importance of this work, when the topic is one that can be seen as controversial.'

Until recently Suzie was involved with the local brownie group and still helps out when she can... 'It's a lovely change from the day job!' She also has a travel addiction and has visited lots of places from Slovenia to Cambodia. 'I spent my year out working for Oasis working on community projects in Zimbabwe, India and Australia – an amazing and life changing experience. I am quite involved in my church and sing in the worship group and I am part of a little choir which performs at church events.'

Under the Data Protection Act we are prohibited from automatically including Keychange Charity supporters in the Door of Hope mailings. If you would like to receive updates about Door of Hope or become a supporter of the work in the city of London, please email info@keychange.org.uk Thank you for your interest and concern.

This year's Keychange Conference will be at the High Leigh conference centre in Hertfordshire, 12th–14th September. The theme will be Unity and Purpose and we are very pleased to announce guest speakers Rev. Dr Paul Blackham from All Souls, Langham Place; Sylvie Silver, NAPA (National Association of Providers of Activities for Older People) and Rev. Steve Hollinghurst of the Church Army. You are very warmly invited to join staff members on Wednesday 13th September for the Supporters' Day. If you would like to come along please call Chwee or Ruth on: 020 7633 0533, or email info@keychange.org.uk A donation of £25 is suggested to offset the cost of food and facilities for the day, but we would love you to be able to join us and you are under no obligation whatsoever to contribute financially.

An afternoon in Wimbledon...

Who in their right minds would willingly fight their way through the throngs at Wimbledon station during the tennis championships? I found myself doing just that this week. But instead of queuing for a taxi to take me to a pool-side, sorry, court-side seat at the *All England LTA*, I strolled out of the station and up the hill to spend the afternoon with Elizabeth Dhliwayo and the residents and staff of Alexander House.

Alexander House was resplendent in the weak sunshine; the well-tended gardens providing a wonderful setting for the house which is nestled in a quiet residential road close to the common.

Elizabeth, the manager, was extremely welcoming and introduced me to the residents, three of whom were kind enough to spend some time chatting to me about their lives both in Alexander House and before they moved into the Keychange home.



Elizabeth Dhliwayo



Ruby Timmins

Ruby Timmins moved to Alexander House three years ago from Cops Hill. She told me how happy she had been that she was able to bring her favourite pieces of furniture from her old home. She's also very fond of music and has her own DVD player and set top box in her bedroom. When she fancies

some time by herself she often watches films, the classics are the ones she likes best in particular *The African Queen*. Ruby has 2 sons, 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

I also spoke to Mrs French who moved from Windsor over a year



Mrs French

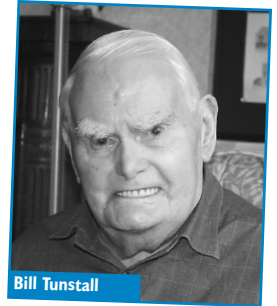
ago to join the community at Alexander House. She is pleased with her new home and enjoys the devotional services that are held in the house. Mrs French also appreciates the cooking and claims to have put on weight since moving to Wimbledon! Henry the cat – Alexander House's own pet – made a great fuss of Mrs French when she first



Henry!

arrived. She is very grateful for this and attributes his attentions with helping her to overcome the loneliness she felt to begin with.

You'll be glad to hear that Bill Tunstall (who we last featured in KN28) is still very happy at Alexander House. Bill will be 96 in November and is Alexander House's longest serving resident. Sadly, he recently suffered a fractured hip – he had written a letter and was rushing to catch the post when he tripped. Bill is very grateful to the staff members who have been very helpful, and he is now well on the road to recovery.



Bill Tunstall

All three of the residents are looking forward to the improved facilities that will be available when the Alexander House building project is completed. Work is due to start in the next few months and, when completed, will mean that all of the residents will have their own en-suite bathrooms. Please pray for Elizabeth and her staff team as they embark on the process, especially that they will be able to make things as smooth as possible for the residents.



Update on Upton House

David Shafik writes: 'It is with heart-felt sadness and a sense of deep disappointment that the Trustees of Keychange Charity announce the closure of Upton House Care Home, Cromer. The decision has been made after long and careful consideration and with much regret.'

It is due to several factors:

- the monthly operating losses
- the continued difficulty in attracting suitably qualified staff at all levels
- the news that the recent tender process for the long anticipated refurbishment and extension produced figures of more than double those previously advised.

The last couple of months have been extremely busy and difficult for everyone involved at Upton House, but we are delighted to be able to announce that all of the residents have been re-housed successfully. This is a wonderful answer to prayer. Your prayers are requested for the Trustees as they consider the future use of the site.

KEYCHANGE CHARITY

CHRISTIANS HELPING PEOPLE IN NEED

Keychange Charity, 5 St George's Mews, 43 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB
Tel: 020 7633 0533 Fax: 020 7928 1872

www.keychange.org.uk

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FREELANCE EDITOR: Sue Keighley DESIGN: MML

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HOMES Plymouth, Mount Eventide; Sidmouth, Rose Lawn; Southampton, Fair Havens; Torquay, Walmer House; Tunbridge Wells, Rosset Holt; Wallasey, Cressingham House; Wimbledon, Alexander House
SHELTERED FLATS St Annes-on-Sea, Jubilee Cottage
HOMELESS PROJECTS Exeter, Esther Community; Reigate, Wayside; and in collaboration with 'Door of Hope', London