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Headline NEWS

CEO writes ...

As I write this, Margaret one of our trustees, is walking round the country linking all our projects to raise money for Rahab and Door of Hope, our two outreach projects. These projects bring friendship and practical help to those involved in prostitution on the streets of Plymouth and London.

Our work in the homeless hostels is also vital as we seek to extend love and acceptance without judgement to groups of people who are often marginalised by society, and for whom little help exists.

As ever, we are also mindful of the need to achieve high standards in our care homes, and have recently been able to establish working groups in different parts of the country in order to deliver this consistently across the organisation by learning and sharing good practice together.

We recently held our Annual Conference in Torquay which gave us a great opportunity to get together as a wider team. We were also reminded that we are privileged to bring the Kingdom of God to others who are in need in various ways, by providing practical Christian love and care to the people we serve through Keychange.

In Proverbs 31, we are encouraged to 'speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves... to defend the rights of the poor and needy'. This is what we are called to do as part of Keychange and it is our privilege to serve God in this way.

Graham Waters

Making the connection ...



In the last edition of *Headline News*, we reported to you Margaret Douglas's planned fundraising walk, taking in all of Keychange's projects. Margaret's walk is well underway and after a brief stop-over at the conference, she's now nearing her 500miles! (Target finish date: 8th June 2011)

After starting out from Head Office on 3rd May, Margaret has since visited Jubilee Cottage, Cressingham House, Sceats, Esther Community, The Mount, Rahab, Walmer House, Erith House and Rose Lawn, battling blisters all the way, but bolstered by the support and warm welcome at each visit. There have been cream teas, cakes and sandwiches, as well as very welcome offers to ferry a heavy rucksack by car for a short stage. Margaret has also been joined by co-walkers sharing her walk for anything from two streets to twenty miles!

You can follow the rest of her progress at her blog: <http://www.keychangewalk.blogspot.com>

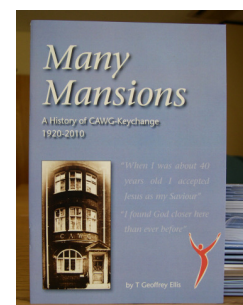
A huge thank you to everyone who has already supported Margaret. She's about halfway to her total fundraising goal, so please donate generously to help this worthwhile cause.

You can either contact Head Office to donate, or do so directly at Margaret's Just Giving fundraising page:
<http://www.justgiving.com/Margaret-Douglas>

Many Mansions ...

Geoffrey Ellis has written a book to commemorate Keychange's 90 years in existence. *Many Mansions - A History of CAWG-Keychange 1920 to 2010* is a fascinating read. It chronicles the life of the organisation from its beginnings as the Christian Alliance of Women and Girls, with pictures of some of the original homes and key figures in Keychange's history, and continues to the present day.

Copies are on sale for £5 (inc P&P), with all proceeds going to support the work at Rahab and the Door of Hope. Please email info@keychange.org.uk or call 0207633 0533 to order your copy.



Time to make a difference ...

In May, staff and trustees from across Keychange were joined by supporters and guest speakers at Brunel Manor, Torquay for a time of fellowship and renewal at the eagerly anticipated annual Keychange conference.



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KEYCHANGE CHARITY



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KEYCHANGE HOMES & HOSTELS

HOMES:

Erith House, Torquay
Sceats Memorial Home, Gloucester
Mount Eventide, Plymouth
Rose Lawn, Sidmouth
Fair Havens, Southampton
Walmer House, Torquay
Rosset Holt, Tunbridge Wells
Cressingham House, Wallasey
Alexander House, Wimbledon

SHELTERED FLATS:

Jubilee Cottage, Lytham St Annes

HOMELESS PROJECTS:

Esther Community, Exeter
Wayside, Reigate

OUTREACH:

Door of Hope, London
Rahab, Plymouth

Ephesians 2:10
"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Story-developer: Sheenagh Nixon

Editor: Chwee-Hong Lee

Seton Bennet, Chair of trustees, set the scene for the conference from the book of Ezra, defining the word "Charity" - "love that makes a difference".

Worship was led by musicians Rob Newey and Andy Harsant. Rob is a regular at Spring Harvest and other Christian festivals. The 'Songs of Praise' evening was based on its namesake TV programme with worship songs and testimonies. Some staff and a visitor, Maria Landon shared their stories of how God has worked in their lives. Maria is the author of two best-sellers, 'Daddy's Little Earner' and 'Escaping Daddy'.

Conference-goers enjoyed an address from Teresa Cumbers, who shared her experience of working with prostitutes and women exiting prostitution. A businesswoman, JP, co-author of *Low Cost, High Price* and co-founder of the Magdalene Group in Norfolk, Teresa has been inspired by her faith to work with and support women trapped by prostitution, and gave an interesting and inspirational talk.

Doug Mullen, who works with solicitors Anthony Collins, spoke on *Working differently: a life lived for others* and discussed the opportunities and challenges of being a working Christian: how it affects the ways in which we do our work.

A brave panel of trustees threw open a *Question Time* session answering questions about the work at Keychange and their personal involvement.

In keeping with the theme of this year's conference, staff and visitors enjoyed a film matinee, 'Amazing Grace' - Wilberforce made a stance and his conviction to do good made a difference forever for those with no voice.

Andrew Green, Senior Pastor at Upton Vale Baptist Church, Torquay, addressed the conference in several teaching sessions, speaking to the conference's theme: *Time to make a difference*. He reminded Keychange that we are trying to bring about the Kingdom of God, before exploring in more depth what the Kingdom might be like. He drew together three images: heaven, peace and jubilee, and explained how each is a hallmark of the Kingdom of God. Heaven is a place of security, homecoming and welcome; peace is a result of healing; and jubilee is the Old Testament festival when wrongs are put right, debts are written off, and a fresh start is offered. He went on to teach that the Kingdom is for everyone, it starts small and grows

slowly, and it is joyful.

In his second teaching session, Andrew spoke about Jesus as the embodiment of the Kingdom that is already with us, and growing.

His final message was to encourage everyone at Keychange to 'make a difference' through prayer, being expectant and hopeful for God's work continuing, and having a firm hope for the future.



Fetes and frivolities ...



Staff and residents of Walmer House pulled out all the stops to celebrate the recent royal

wedding. Everyone enjoyed a feast fit for a king, with canapés of smoked salmon and quails eggs, roast beef, and then wedding cake, cupcakes and a cream tea!

Sceats Memorial Home also celebrated in style with an (indoor) street party.

Residents at Rose Lawn enjoyed a 'cruise week' - all without leaving the comfort of their home! The highlight of the week was a splendid dinner at the Captain's Table on the Friday evening.

Many of our homes are looking forward to summer and will be taking advantage of the sunshine to hold outdoor celebrations. Erith House is holding a garden party to raise funds for the project, Walmer House will be holding their annual garden party on 9th July and The Mount, an open house coffee morning on 8th July, serving cream teas and strawberries.

Happy Birthday to a resident at Walmer House who recently celebrated her 101st, another celebrated her 100th birthday on 1st June at The Mount. Alexander House will host the celebrations for one long-term resident, who will be having a party for her Golden Wedding anniversary.