

# Keychange Contact

ISSUE 15 AUTUMN 2021

## Wayside housing community garden project improves health and wellbeing

**Jenny Harber, Manager**

**We have applied for a Surrey Community Foundation grant so our large and hitherto unruly back garden can be organised into sections with specific purposes.**

We want to create vegetable beds and have a greenhouse so residents will be taught how to grow from seed, the best combinations of vegetables, the role of bees in pollinating and how to tend the plants during the growing season.

We also want to grow flowers from seed which can be cut and given to others within the wider community as a little act of kindness. Other planned projects include a wildlife dedicated area with meadow flowers, a pond, bird nesting boxes and new seating areas which will give the

residents wellbeing places to enjoy.

We have recently started a gardening club with a qualified instructor, who shows genuine interest in the welfare of the residents as well as great enthusiasm for teaching gardening skills. The club is also assisting in building community togetherness and giving a sense of belonging.

### **NEW SKILLS**

Residents are learning new skills, having physical exercise and are helping to create an environment to their liking. They have been actively designing the garden and viewing suitable items to purchase if we are successful with the funding bid.

In time to come, residents will be shown how to incorporate the vegetables in cooked dishes and preserves. ■



The good life: The garden at Wayside

## Keychange welcomes a new Chair of the Board of Trustees

**Maddy Thomson**

**I come to the role of Chair of the Board of Trustees at Keychange following a career in the social care and voluntary sectors.**

Working for 'Skills for Care' as Regional Manager for London, then as National Programme Head for Standards, Learning and Qualifications, I supported employers to equip and develop staff at every level.

I am deeply committed to staff wellbeing and have an admiration and respect, never more so than during this pandemic.

At our recent managers' conference, I was able to meet some of them face to face and hear stories of golden moments in the lives of those we support from the last year, despite such difficult circumstances.

So, I want to say an enormous thank you to everyone working at Keychange,

from myself and the trustees, for your perseverance and goodwill and, above all, your care for those in our communities and each other.

### **WHY KEYCHANGE?**

I share the Christian faith and value the ethos and history of this organisation.

I want to play my part in ensuring that Keychange fulfils its mission and that community life is real and of the best quality. I believe that our intent on building caring communities comes straight from the heart of God. We want to provide care and support in an inclusive way, so that each person can live the life they wish now and contribute in their home, as well as in the wider community.

All those who work in our communities, or who come and go, are playing a part in making that possible and are part of that themselves. ■



Maddy Thomson

As we go forward, let this remain our distinctive. I look forward to meeting many more of those living in, working for and involved with Keychange, over the months ahead. ■

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

# Online events and activities create 'Vibrant Communities'

**Phil Martin**  
CEO, Keychange Charity

**Keychange is always keen to work in partnership with other organisations to develop creative and innovative ideas to ensure we provide the best quality care and support that we can.**

Our current partnership with 'Ladder to the Moon' is establishing and growing an online programme of conversations, groups and events for everyone living

across our Keychange communities.

The programme is shaped by people in the community and includes groups for poets, artists and gardeners, live tours of historic sites, talks from museums such as the V&A, plus community events such as quizzes and open mics.

### PASSIONATE

These groups enable people to engage in things they are passionate about with others like themselves. A member of the

team recently said it had opened up the world to people living in our communities.

Praise, Prayer and Togetherness and Vibrant Communities have been wonderful parts of Creating Caring Communities together during the past year.

Friends and family are very welcome! ■

**See what we've got on and join in at this website:**

**[www.vibrantcommunities.co.uk/signup-keychange](http://www.vibrantcommunities.co.uk/signup-keychange)**



## Prayer Focus

Pray for everyone living and working in our Keychange care and housing communities. We give thanks for them and pray for their protection, health and wellbeing.

Prayers for increased occupancy and financial viability for Keychange as the world recovers from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Please pray for the successful integration of Alde House into our Keychange family and operations.

We pray for recruiting great new staff into our Keychange care and housing communities as they are vital to providing the highest level of care, support and community.

We ask for Prayer for Maddy Thomson as Chair of Trustees as she leads the Board through the strategic and policy and governance challenges and opportunities for the next few years.

# Keychange Centenary Devotions Book

As part of our 100 year Centenary celebrations and activities we are delighted to have published a Keychange Devotions Book.

This is something that we had planned for in 2019, however the Covid19 Pandemic changed many of our celebration plans. However with the creation of Praise, Prayer and Togetherness in 2020 we have been able to draw together many more contributions of readings, prayers, hymns and reflections

to create a wonderful resource and memento of our centenary year.

This devotions book is a witness to God's faithfulness, love and grace to Christian Alliance and Keychange over the last 100 years. We are delighted that this book is being used to encourage everyone who lives and works in our Keychange care communities.

**If you would like a copy of this Keychange Centenary Devotions Book please email [info@keychange.org.uk](mailto:info@keychange.org.uk)**



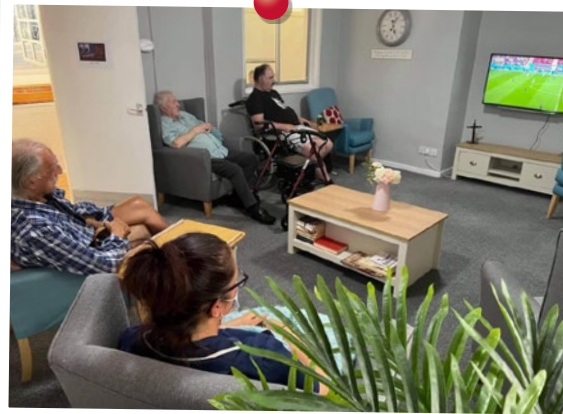
# Keychange Noticeboard



▲ People living at **Alexander House** meeting some of their neighbours from Wimbledon Village Stables



▲ Eileen, who lives at **Romans**, celebrated her 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday with family in the garden



▲ Everyone at **Sceats** enjoyed watching England playing football while it lasted!

▲ Helping with the baking of cherry pies at **Cressingham House**

Staff at **Rose Lawn** enabled Barbara to attend her grandson's wedding in a Covid-safe manner ▶

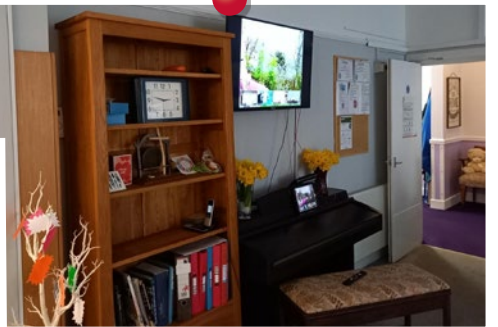
**Fair Havens:** When actual visits were not possible, virtual tours were arranged on the television as 'Vibrant Communities' activities – here to London Zoo and Regent's Park ▶



◀ Enjoying a Springtime celebration at **Overdale**



Everyone at **Walmer House** is enjoying watching the fish in the beautiful new tank



▲ Celebrating a birthday at **Erith House**

Keeping cool with a foot bath and enjoying the sun at **Rosemary Mount** ▶







# Alde House

**We are delighted to welcome Alde House Care Community into the Keychange family.**

Alde House is a 16 bedroomed residential care community for older people in Penn, Buckinghamshire.

Alde House started in 1971 and has been operated as an independent Christian Care Home since then. The local committee felt that those living there and staff working there would be better supported and developed for the future by being part of an organisation that operates a larger group of care communities, and that is fully aligned with the Alde House Christian ethos and mission.

Keychange are delighted to have undertaken this transfer and we look forward to growing and delivering our mission of Creating Caring Communities in Buckinghamshire. ■

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We are very grateful for your generous donations which help to keep our work going. Please use this slip to contact us or alternatively, visit our website at [www.keychange.org.uk](http://www.keychange.org.uk) or drop us an email at [info@keychange.org.uk](mailto:info@keychange.org.uk)

I would like to donate £ ..... (cheque enclosed)

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Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Email: .....

If you pay income tax or capital gains tax, we are able to reclaim the tax on any money that you give us, thereby increasing the value of your donation, at no extra cost to yourself. To enable us to do this, please sign the Declaration below:

### Gift Aid Declaration

I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer paying Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax to an amount equal to or in excess of the amount of tax to be reclaimed. I understand that Gift Aid will be claimed at 25p in the pound.

*giftaid it*

Signed..... Date: .....

Please tick this box if you no longer wish to receive the Contact Newsletter

Registered Charity No: 1061344 Company No: 3317563 (England) Ref: KC15



## Keychange Communities



### Care Communities

- Rose Lawn, Sidmouth
- Walmer House, Torquay
- Erith House, Torquay
- Alexander House, Wimbledon
- Fair Havens, Southampton
- Rosemary Mount, Worthing
- Romans, Southwick
- Sceats, Gloucester
- Alde House, Penn, Bucks.
- Overdale, Sheffield
- Crossingham House, Wallasey

### Housing Communities

- Esther Community, Exeter
- Wayside, Reigate

[keychange.org.uk](http://keychange.org.uk)  
[esthercommunity.org.uk](http://esthercommunity.org.uk)  
[waysidehostel.org.uk](http://waysidehostel.org.uk)

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