

# Keychange Contact

ISSUE 17 SUMMER 2022

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO, MARTIN FARROW

# Better Together

**A very warm welcome to our latest edition of Keychange Contact, issue 17. We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we have enjoyed putting it together.**

As I write this, I reflect upon the everchanging world in which we live, exacerbated in recent years by extraordinary events. Throughout all this time, the strength of Keychange has remained steadfast, and the numerous examples of the work, dedication and devotion of our colleagues have kept us all humbled. Our approach is one of togetherness and belief and, although

times have changed, our faith and our values have remained the same, and always will.

Since our last newsletter, we have sadly taken the decision to close our community on the Wirral - Cressingham House. Although we carried out a significant review and considered a number of options, it was clear that increased competition and Local Authority charging policy had all taken their toll. All those living at Cressingham House have been relocated successfully and we are very thankful to the staff and accompanying teams who worked hard to make sure the

process was carried out sensitively and smoothly.

Our ongoing mission at Keychange continues with lots of exciting projects and developments, such as our ever-growing partnership with Vibrant Communities, the success of our Praise, Prayer and Togetherness meetings each fortnight and most recently our celebrations of the Queens Platinum Jubilee which has been a truly delightful experience for our colleagues and for those we support as memories, laughter and some cake combined to make it a wonderful event.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter. ■

# We Planted a Tree for the Jubilee!

**Ruth Earl  
Administrator, Central Office**

**Across Keychange we celebrated the only ever Platinum Jubilee with garden parties, buffets, big lunches, barbecues, wearing red, white and blue ... and much more!**

At Alexander House in Wimbledon a Garden Party had been planned for the Friday afternoon of the long Jubilee weekend, and the sun stayed with us as people living and working there gathered in the beautiful garden, joined by family

and friends. Families sat in groups in the peaceful surroundings and they included some very young children so that in one or two cases, four generations of the same family were celebrating the Platinum Jubilee together. I sat with people who did not have visitors on this occasion – Prudence told me how much she liked sitting in the garden and even helping with gardening at times.

The guest of honour was the Mayor of Merton and she went around chatting with residents and visitors, accompanied by the Registered Manager. (cont. page 2)



Alexander House, Wimbledon



Fair Havens, Southampton



Overdale, Sheffield



Wayside, Reigate

(from page 1)

A highlight of the afternoon was the planting of a tree as part of the Queen's Green Canopy project, a unique tree-planting initiative to mark the Platinum Jubilee. A peach tree had been chosen and hole dug near the summer house in preparation.

The Mayor placed the sapling in the prepared hole, and Prudence was thrilled to be the first person to help establish the little tree by using a spade to place

compost over the roots. Most if not all the other people living at Alexander House who were in the garden that day then followed with more soil, amid enthusiastic cheers from the onlookers.

Food and drinks had been beautifully set out in the summer house including a special Jubilee cake baked by one of Alexander House's chefs. She had created a Union Jack cake decorated with cream, raspberries and blueberries (see page 3).

While we were enjoying the delicious

food, the granddaughter of a lady living at Alexander House provided live entertainment by singing solos of classic songs.

For much of the rest of the time, the national anthem was being played on a loop – maybe a little too often. But for the lady sitting next to me on the garden bench, it was not too often. She hummed along to the music each time it was played and no doubt, it evoked memories of past national celebrations for her each time. ■



Esther Community, Exeter



Rose Lawn, Sidmouth



Rosemary Mount, Worthing

# Encouragements at Wayside

**Jenny Harber**  
Manager

We give thanks to the Lord for the growing community at Wayside which has seen such blessings in recent months. Many of the people living here are involved in a variety of things which have bound them together in vibrant community and embodied the Christian ethos of Keychange. We have a weekly Bible study led by two church members from the local parish church which many residents enjoy attending. As a direct result two people living at Wayside were baptised on Easter Sunday at the local Baptist church where we also have close connections. This was a day of rejoicing, especially as it was Easter Sunday when some in the community celebrated the resurrection of Jesus.

The people living here have started a craft club where together they are learning and enjoying new skills including collage, journal making, sewing, painting and design. The lounge has been re-arranged

to accommodate all the craft materials and provide space for the activities. It is a joy to see them enjoying being together. The same goes for our very successful gardening club where people living here have learnt to sow seeds, nurture the plants, design the flower beds and watch over the growth of the now thriving vegetable boxes. They will soon be able to enjoy home grown potatoes, strawberries, lettuces, beans, carrots plus more. Flowers have been grown which have been given to neighbours, those passing by and supporters.

We have been blessed to be involved in the Keychange-wide Prayer, Praise & Togetherness service which various residents join including Evelyn, who also plays a major role in helping to organise it. Her contribution to Wayside community was recognised by winning the Keychange award for Working Together at the end of 2021 and we were blessed to win other categories. There is so much to give thanks for, especially as we see many lives flourishing during their time at Wayside. ■



Jenny collecting the Working Together award for Evelyn from Trustee Tim Cotterall



An award for Jemma Raymond, Deputy Manager, presented by Rebecca Chaplin (R)

## Keychange Prayer Focus

**As you read this edition of Contact, we would be grateful for your prayers.**

•  
Keychange is looking for a new CEO. Please pray for wisdom for those involved in the recruitment process and that the right person would be found to lead Keychange forward. We give thanks for our Interim CEO, Martin Farrow.

•  
We pray for all those living and working in our Keychange communities at this time as there have been recent Covid outbreaks at some of our communities.

•  
The Covid pandemic has left financial challenges for Keychange and we pray especially for increased occupancy at our care communities.



# Keychange Noticeboard



▲ **Alde House** celebrated 50 years at the same time as the Queen celebrated 70 years!



◀ **Erith House** was beautifully decorated for the Platinum Jubilee

At **Walmer House** an apple tree was planted for the Platinum Jubilee ▶



▲ Celebrating a birthday at **Sceats**

People living at **Rose Lawn** are blessed with peaceful outings to the local park



▲ People living at **Fair Havens** helping to create their own pizzas for supper

▼ A discussion group at **Overdale**



▲ This Platinum Jubilee Cake was a centrepiece at **Alexander House's** Garden Party

▼ On World Book Day a group of children from the local nursery paid a visit to **Rosemary Mount**



▲ **Romans** – the Platinum Jubilee was a time for being with family and celebrating together





# Connecting with Colleagues

**Sarah Harris**  
Employee Engagement  
and Wellbeing Lead

**None of us will forget the challenges that the 2020 pandemic brought. But there have been some changes that came from it that we want to keep!**

Our connectivity with each other is certainly one of those things. I often considered how fortunate we were to be experiencing this at a time when technology has been so accessible. During the first lockdown the Quality Improvement Team started running weekly 'Share and Learn' sessions over Zoom, initially for updates and sharing creative ways of supporting those who live with us. However, we very quickly realised it was a great way to check in with each other when we unable to see each other in person and support each other. 'Share and Learn' continues most weeks with subjects covered such as Safeguarding, Burnout and Stress, and 'Making your Community Vibrant' often picking up a topic that is relevant and current at the time to meet the needs of our colleagues.

Our teams were so focused on supporting those living with us, but who was supporting them? In May 2020 we held our first 'Wellbeing Check-In'.

We talked about our experiences, our worries and fears, and celebrated the small wins together. The sense of relief that people felt was clear, the opportunity to share their thoughts in a non-judgemental and confidential way was welcomed and valued.

Following this initial check-in session, the Keychange Wellbeing Programme was born. With the support of a forum of team members holding varying roles across the group, a clear and defined plan to support our colleagues, in a way that worked

for each community, and reflected our organisational values was developed. We now have 'Wellbeing Champions' in every location who are trained Mental Health First Aiders, and we devote September Share and Learn sessions to Wellbeing at Work. This year we will build on our successes with wellbeing and will be celebrating our colleagues in true 'People First' style. We care just as much for the people working with us as we do for those living with us. "We may not be in the same boat, but we are in the same storm". ■



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## 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

**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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