

Jesus Hospital Charity Newsletter

Spring 2021



Welcome to the 47th edition of our Residents Newsletter.

It has been a difficult year for all of us. The first lockdown didn't seem quite as bad somehow, probably because we had such lovely weather.

We are now into April and Spring time having emerged from the second lockdown. We have gone for walks, baked at home, watched endless programmes on TV & Netflix and many of us have communicated with friends and family via something called 'Zoom'.

The Charity has recently said goodbye to two of our longest serving Visitors, Neil and Brenda, as well as a third, Peter.

Tom our Finance Officer will soon be retiring, but we welcome Richard Murray who will be working on finances for the time being.

We have really missed seeing you at our Wednesday coffee mornings and it was disappointing to have to cancel our annual Founders Day Lunch, Summer outing and of course Christmas dinner.

Your health and well-being comes first in anything we do at this time, and we are bound by Government advice.

Rest assured, the Staff and Visitors are as keen as all of you to get back to normal and it may one day be possible to do events in the grounds of our lovely gardens.

Stay safe everyone.
From all of the Staff.

*****There is light at the end of the tunnel with the ROADMAP OUT OF LOCKDOWN now in place*****

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Out of Hours Contractors
****Please note these are for
emergencies only****
Dave Keogh
Electrician:
07860 627678
Richard Williams
Heating & Plumbing:
07980 293 379
If Dave or Richard unavailable please
call
IDCC Construction
01923 268123

The office will be closed on Good Friday 2 April & Easter Monday 5 April



A Farewell From Long Serving Visitor Neil Kobish

We asked Neil for his reflections on his time as a Visitor:

1. How did you first become involved with Jesus Hospital Charity?



Upon my early retirement after 30 years at QE Boys' School I was asked to become Clerk to the Queen Elizabeth's Foundation which managed the assets of the modest endowment fund of the two Queen Elizabeth's Schools in Barnet. Soon after, I was also asked to apply for the clerkship of another Barnet educational charity, the Elizabeth Allen Trust.

In those days, access to photocopiers was very limited and the QE Foundation Chairman, Mr. John Hease, who was also Chairman of Jesus Hospital Charity at the time, arranged for me to use JHC's

copier and I met with the then Clerk, Mr. Laurie Adams, his deputy Mrs. Elaine Huxtable, Mrs. Sheila Levy and Mr. Jack Collingbourn. From them I learnt much about Barnet, Jesus Hospital Charity and almshouse charities in general and my interest was fully captured.

It was only natural, therefore, that in 1996 when I saw an advertisement for the post of Clerk to the Lancelot Hasluck Trust that I should apply. Among the trustees were Mr. Frank Wilshire and Cllr. Andrew Pares. I must have been

doing something right for in 1999 I was invited to become a Visitor at Jesus Hospital Charity under the chairmanship of Mrs. Ann Brum and the clerkship of Mrs. Huxtable.

2. Have any of your family members undertaken any form of charity work?

I had parents whose occupation called on them to be very involved in all kinds of work for the community. Of particular relevance, in the 1960s my father was a Trustee of the Brunt's and the Singleton Charities in Mansfield.

3. You have a long connection with Barnet, what are the main changes you have seen, both positive and negative?

Difficult to know where to begin – or where to finish! I came to Chipping Barnet in 1961, then like East Barnet an Urban District of Hertfordshire with its own Council Offices in Wood Street (now the Coroner's Court). It had its own small town feel to it and, although we had easy access to the amenities of the Capital, this side of County Boundary was quite definitely outside the Capital. Trolley buses (663) ran up and down the High Road to Barnet Church. The Dollis Valley Estate did not exist. Many people did not own cars so parking in residential roads was light. Parking for longer visits to the High Street was provided free off Stapylton Road on a large open space behind trees and a wall, a remnant of which can still be seen at the corner of Salisbury Road. Access to the High Street was via an alleyway which took you past the old 12th Middlesex Riflemen Militia Barracks and the old Wesley Hall at the back of the Methodist Church. I am pretty sure that the barracks would be preserved and grade 1 listed nowadays. The High Street end of the alleyway can be seen today alongside the Halifax Bank and, of course, The Spires Shopping Centre occupies the whole car park and Methodist Church site. Stapylton Road did not go through to the St. Albans Road but ended with a small estate of prefabs. The Salisbury Hotel stood where Iceland has its store. The Elizabeth Allen School has been redeveloped as Hertswood Court and the Victoria Maternity Hospital as Cattley Court. The Marie foster Home has been and

gone and the Signature Residential Home development is well on the way to completion in its place. Even Union Street has seen significant changes.

The High Street itself has seen great changes which many of the Ladies will remember. In the 1960s there was a full range of shops with well-known names – Williams Brothers (3 separate shops for groceries, butchery and hardware), Dewhurst Butchers, Woolworths, Cullens, Meakers, J.Sainsbury with marble counters, Montague Burton, John Collier not to mention local businesses such as Clark's Haberdashery Store (almost a small Department Store in itself), Mr. Mabbett (Men's Outfitter), Parsloe & Spriggs and Seager's (for DIY bits and pieces). You could get most things that you needed.

It is, of course, one of the privileges of advancing years to reminisce and regret change but for all the hustle and bustle of modern living, Barnet is a particularly pleasant place in which to live. The countryside is on our doorstep. Central London is but 35 minutes away. We have green spaces, cultural activities and above all, our almshouses and history.

4. Since, you became a Visitor of Jesus Hospital, how has the charity grown during this time?

Apart from the taking over of responsibility for The Wilbraham's Charity, growth has been within existing parameters. In terms of accommodation we have seen the building of the 7 new almshouses and have maximised efficient usage of dual purpose properties. We have also reconfigured our commercial properties at Whetstone to provide residential accommodation for letting. These developments have seen the need to expand management provision in terms of personnel and working hours. During this period, we have also seen the introduction of annual outings, Christmas and Founders' Day lunches and various ad hoc events thanks to the efforts of our dedicated Officers.

5. For most of your time, you have acted as both Chair and Vice chair, working with Brenda, how would you describe your working relationship with Brenda?

Brenda and I have worked well together. We both tend to approach matters in similar fashion. The well-being of the Ladies, and that of our Staff, are very important to us.

6. What would you say are your proudest achievements during your time?

At the outset I must thank all the Visitors and Staff for what we have achieved together. I am proud to have taken part in the introduction of the rolling programme of refurbishment of all the almshouses, the planning and achievement of the conversion of the office space at Whetstone into commercial flats, the planning and building of the new almshouses at Potters Lane and to be leaving in the knowledge that the Visitors continue to look for ways of improving what the Charity can offer.

7. Finally, with Jesus Hospital Charity having so many areas of work, you have served on a number of subcommittees which means you have dedicated a lot of your free time for the Charity, how would you like to spend the extra time you will now have?

I look forward to being able to spend more time with Jenny and with her tend our garden more comprehensively. I have lots of things to sort through and downsize and I am expecting my involvement in U3A may well increase. I can perhaps get down at last to doing some of those things that I said I would be doing when I took early retirement all those years ago, including more travel when lockdown is lifted and not least catching up on my reading – almost certainly in a deck chair in that garden when the weather permits

Margaret's Lockdown Experience

As we approach our 12th week of the 3rd lockdown, and just passed the first anniversary of the first, it's time to look at what memories this extraordinary year has made for me.

Initially, the lockdown was so novel that it became the talking point on our street WhatsApp group. Then the virus took hold and we became fearful for our family and friends. Fortunately, no one we knew caught the virus but the news stories were dreadful, thousands in hospital and hundreds dying, the NHS overwhelmed.

We needed more than our daily exercise walks to cheer us up so together with my friends at the Homeless Day Centre in North Finchley we arranged online entertainment to jolly us along and to raise funds for this worthy cause. We held an online disco in July, a Halloween Quiz and a Valentine's Day Drag Bingo Event. They were great fun, well supported and we raised over £5,000.

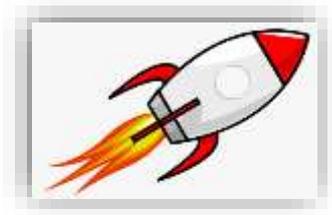
Over the year there were many memories made on the miles of local walks taken and of the friendly strangers we met on the way who are now familiar even with their face masked. Many crossword puzzles were tackled, sour dough bread baked, books read, face masks made, and street chats with the neighbours who are now working from home. But the abiding memory was of a birthday dinner with my family on a cold October evening sitting outside a restaurant in South London and a close second was getting the Pfizer jab in January. Definitely occasions to celebrate.

I hope that you are all well, have also made some happy memories and I look forward to celebrating with you when we are allowed to do so.

Margaret



*Margaret McPeake
Visitor ~ Jesus Hospital Charity*



YOUR LOCK DOWN LIFT OFF!

We really enjoyed hearing about Margaret's lockdown year, so we asked you...

What are the 2 things you are most looking forward to when all restrictions are lifted?

"Hugging family and friends. Being able to dress up and go out."
(Annette ~ Grasvenor Avenue)

"Going back to Christ Church and giving one of my close friends a great big hug."
(Frances ~ Wood Street)

"A really good look around all the Charity shops and a much needed visit to the hairdressers!" (Liz ~ Pagitt's)

"Seeing my family and the Wednesday coffee mornings."
(Tanya ~ Wilbraham's)

"Going back to The Emirates to watch Arsenal, and a return to the pub!"
(Marion ~ Grasvenor Avenue)

"Being able to go shopping and eating out." (Karen ~ Wood Street)

"A return to normality at work so we can all meet in the office. And having lunch and a drink in a pub's garden." (Robert ~ JHC Gardener)

"Being able to have friends visit me at home, and meting them for lunch at the Coffee Bean." (Jean ~ Grasvenor Avenue)

"Returning to work and our Wednesday coffee mornings."
(Pat ~ Wilbraham's)

"Drinking a Gin and Tonic in a hotel bar before dinner, after lying on a sandy Mediterranean beach all day soaking up the sun. Also I can't wait to get back to White Hart Lane to watch the mighty Spurs"
(Dave ~ JHC Electrician)

" Giving my Dad a big hug and being able to see my friends."
(Elaine ~ Potters Lane)

"Where do I start?! I'm most looking forward to eating a meal that someone else has cooked in a room other than my kitchen! I also miss the sea, the ponds on Hadley Green are lovely but not quite the same!"
(Jan ~ JHC Visitor)



THE GREAT ALMSHOUSE CITIES OF ENGLAND.

In our last Newsletter, we looked at Salisbury, in this feature, we are looking at another great almshouse city.....

Episode 6.

CHESTER is a walled cathedral city in Cheshire, England. Situated on the River Dee, close to the border with Wales. In 2019 the population was 118,200. It is the most populous settlement of Cheshire West and Chester. Chester is the second-largest settlement in Cheshire after Warrington. Chester is also the historic county town of the ceremonial county of Cheshire.

Chester is one of the best-preserved walled cities in Britain. It has a number of medieval buildings, but many of the black-and-white buildings within the city centre.

are Victorian restorations. The Industrial Revolution brought railways, canals, and new roads to the city, which saw substantial expansion and development. Chester Town Hall and the Grosvenor Museum are examples of Victorian architecture from this period.

Tourism, the retail industry, public administration and financial services are important to the modern economy.



DID YOU KNOW...

The Famous Walled City

Chester is home to the best surviving Roman Fortress Wall in Northern Europe (near Northgate). Dating back to Roman times, it was founded as a fort in 79 AD, and apart from a small 100-metre section, the listed

Grade I walls are all still standing today.

Award Winning Zoo

Chester Zoo is the most visited wildlife attraction in the UK, with 1.9 million visiting every year. With 15,000 animals over 125 acres of award-winning zoological gardens, TripAdvisor named Chester Zoo the 7th best zoo in the entire world in 2015.

Birthplace of James Bond!

Well, ok not actually 007 himself, but the actor who currently plays Britain's most famous MI5 agent, Daniel Craig, was born in Chester in 1968.

Oldest Racecourse in Britain

Chester Racecourse, also known as the Roodee, has hosted horse racing events since 1539, making it not only the oldest racecourse in the country, but Britain's oldest sporting venue in continual use!



Chester Municipal Charities

The almshouses were originally attached to the Medieval St John's Hospital founded by Ranulph III, Earl of Chester, in the early 1190s but were rebuilt in 1854. The hospital was demolished in 1644 when all the hospital's stone buildings, chapel and the surrounding wall were pulled down.

In 1717 the Corporation approved building of The Bluecoat Hospital School, built on the same site, which has been recently refurbished and today serves as a charity hub.

The almshouses are for people with strong Chester roots of limited financial means – Everyone benefits from having a communal TV licence. Residents' must be capable of independent living.

Brenda describes her time with JHC...

"I began my time with the Charity back in 1998, as the Council nominated Trustee. Unfortunately, I became ill soon after but was then co-opted as a Trustee on to the Board.

I have seen so many changes over the years and seen the Charity go from strength to strength.

My proudest achievement is to see the completion of our 7 new wonderful alms-houses at Potters Lane, plus the development of the new flats at Adams Court which has improved our commercial income.

I must pay tribute to all of our wonderful staff for all they do for our residents. The lovely grounds and well maintained properties.

I also want to say that in my 20 or so years with Jesus Hospital, I have either been Chair or Vice chair, working with Neil Kobish. It has been an absolute pleasure working with Neil and I'm very proud with what we managed to achieve together and with our fellow Visitors.

My abiding memory is of our wonderful ladies, seeing them come into their cottages for the first time and the happiness and joy they get from living in them.

I really enjoyed the regular Wednesday coffee mornings and attending all of our wonderful summer outings.

I aim to stay in touch and will hopefully see everyone very soon.

Best wishes

Brenda



Brenda & Win

We also say farewell to a third Visitor. Peter Hobday who was with the Charity for just over 2 years.

Peter gave up a lot of his time to help the Charity and became Chairman of our Finance Committee.

Everyone connected with JHC also wishes Peter all the very best for the future and know that he will enjoy spending more time with his family.



Introducing Richard Murray

I am married with two young daughters and been living in Barnet for 14 years. My interests include Golf, DIY and trying to be the best husband and Dad I can be.

I have been working in finance for nearly 30 years working for Annabel's in Mayfair, News International, Orange Mobile and the Financial Times. 3 Years ago I set up my own bookkeeping business to provide accounting services for a number of local businesses. I am also employed by the Lancelot Hasluck Trust as their Finance Officer. I obtained my membership to the Association of Accounting Technicians while I was working at Annabel's in my early years and became a fellow member 3 years ago.

We warmly welcome Beth Mahon who joined us in November 2020

Welcome



I am from Queens, New York and have lived in London since 1997! I am a dual Irish and American citizen which is very handy.

I studied literature and politics so enjoy reading and pointing out what is wrong with the world. I also enjoy going to art galleries and theatre which I have been lucky enough to do a lot of in London.

My favourite food is pizza, but I also like peas and broccoli.

I haven't travelled around as much as a real European but my favourite holiday was visiting Rome at Christmas and going to midnight mass in the Basilica - it is possible (during normal times), check out the Vatican website!

My name is short for Elizabeth, my sister's decided I would be Beth when I was a baby and I am happy about that - I am not regal enough for Elizabeth!

I am thrilled to be in my almshouse and am hoping to learn to enjoy gardening.

Upcoming Birthday

- 3 April: Yvonne Lovick
- 27 April: Angela Palmer
Esther Edmonds
Amanda Nobel
- 28 April Kim Williams
Liz Walsh
- 4 May Diane Barnett
- 9 May Karen Merritt
- 10 May Pauline Monfardini
- 18 May Elaine Clark
- 20 May Norah Thorburn
- 26 May Neil Kobish
- 29 May Julie Bilby

We sadly say goodbye to the following residents:

Beryl Hibberd joined us in July 1999 and loved her time living at Garrett's. In December 2020 Beryl moved into Green Trees Care Home in Hadley and has settled in well.

Betty Taylor moved to Coe's Alley in October 2016. In May 2019 Betty relocated to Wood Street where she lived until she was unable to live independently and went into a care home. Sadly Betty passed away in October 2020.

Shirley Mortimer was a resident with us from August 2018 and was an extremely healthy and active lady but sadly passed away very suddenly in December 2020.

