



1983 ~ 2023



The Meadows Charity
Newton Abbot and District

Registered Charity NO. 264364



MEADOWSIDE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our June newsletter. These past few months have certainly presented challenges for the charity.

As anticipated, the increase in National Insurance contributions and the Living wage has placed significant strain on the charity's finances. This situation has been further compounded by the prolonged vacancy of one room since the end of last year, followed by another vacancy this past month.

On a brighter note, one of the rooms has now been filled, and the other is set to be occupied later this month—a welcome relief for everyone involved. During this period, the charity seized the opportunity to refurbish both rooms, which now feature new flooring, wash basins, and fresh decorating. To manage costs, most of the refurbishment work has been diligently carried out by Mike, our dedicated handyman, with support from trustee Philip Bearne.

Efforts to increase the uptake of the Daycare Hall remain a source of frustration. Despite being well-equipped and centrally located, interest in its use has been disappointingly low.

We bid farewell to Mike Langer, who has stepped down as a trustee due to increased travel commitments for work. His contributions over the past couple of years have been greatly appreciated, and we wish him well for the future.

The charity continues to seek new trustees to help oversee its operations and support the management and care teams. If you are able to spare a few hours and are interested in making a meaningful contribution, we would love to hear from you. While a background in social care or medicine would be beneficial, it is by no means essential—enthusiasm and commitment are what truly matter.

Thank you for your continued support.



News

A new collaboration with the Combe Pafford Special Needs Academy, resulted in the sixth form horticultural section spending a day tidying up the garden. Our residents enjoyed meeting and chatting to the youngsters.



The Academy is dedicated to providing specialised vocational teaching to its students, with a clear and focused objective: to equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary to transition into meaningful employment.



Katy's 60th birthday was celebrated with a disco in the coronation hall with the care team ensuring she had a great time.

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



A visit by the 'Animal Man' was really enjoyed.



Meadowside Manager tells her story , skydiving in aid of the home - orininally planned for 2024 , it had to be cancelled twice once for weather and once for health reasons.

Handyman Mike Smart 'jumped in' on behalf of Shannon who had to pull out.

£1,075.50



On Saturday 17th May 2025 I did my first ever skydive to raise money for Meadowside.

When I first got to Buz Skydive Centre we all had to have training on how to get into the plane, shuffling along the bench strapped to you instructor, ,and how you need to put your head on your instructors shoulders with your arms crossed on your chest, how to hold you arms out while you free fall and how you must breath and not hold your breath, also how you need to put your legs out so your instructor can see your feet before landing, with everything the instructor wants you to do he taps your shoulder. after the safety briefing you sign to say that you understand everything that is expected of you.

You then wait for your names to be called and get your jump suit on and then you instructor will come and get you and put you into a harness, we then get signed up to do the jump I went tandem with an experienced instructor called Chris that guided me through the whole experience.

The jump as you ascend the excitement builds, once at altitude of 10,000 feet they open the door and the cold air hits you, you come of the bench and crawl along to the door, you then put your head on your instructor's shoulder and you both fall out of the plane, you free fall for 30 seconds with your arms out, you then feel the parachute opening, you are in control of the parachute I did a couple of turns, I 'ran' on top of the clouds and I saw a ring of rainbows which was amazing,

Chris tapped me on my shoulder as we were nearing the land and I put my legs out and we both slid across the grass on our bottom, after landing I felt a sense of euphoria and took time to savour the experience.

Skydiving is an exhilarating adventure that promises a rush of adrenaline and an unforgettable experience.



Caroline Hart

The Meadowside Charity has received invaluable support from local businesses over the years. Recently, when faced with expiring gas compliance documents and a broken dishwasher, Rotary Newton Abbot Corporate Member CR Wood at Ipplepen stepped in to resolve both issues efficiently. Jack Wood and his team demonstrated exceptional community spirit, earning the deep gratitude from the charity. For those seeking kitchen equipment, especially Miele, their showroom at Ipplepen comes highly recommended.



Address: 2 Biltor Rd, Ipplepen, Newton Abbot TQ12 5QL
Phone: 01803 812498

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In the January newsletter we added to our wish list the refurbishing of the sensory garden at the rear of the house , after a number of false starts we are pleased to say that we have ordered the materials.

Our thanks go to Tom Gubby at Brunel Supplies in Newton Abbot who has supplied everything at cost saving us £'s.

Mike will commence building the new Pergola and Sally is acquiring plants to enhance the garden.

We were grateful for a generous donation from a supporter to enable us to proceed.

We continue to receive valuable ongoing support from local companies.



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- The replacement of 11 radiators was completed.
- Three resident bedrooms have been completely refurbished by Mike , including new flooring , washbasins and decoration.
- Creation of a new storeroom.
- Hobbies Room new hard wearing flooring.
- Repairs and refurbishment of the entrance porch started.

We are delighted to welcome Lydia a student nurse who is on three month work experience in care , supervised by manager Caroline.



Hobbies Room

Trustee Martin Smith , received an interesting email from Derek Jarman , who lives in Northern Ireland but was born a stones throw away from Meadowside in Highweek Road. Having read some of the history of Meadowside in earlier newsletters he gave some further insight in its history.

Some of my earliest memories as a child growing up in Highweek Road include Meadowside. I was born in 1941 and lived there until moving in 1966. Most mornings looking from bedroom window I had view of the top of Meadowside and the yellow painted wood structure just below the roof . In my early teens my brother and I were at school with friends from Meadowside and used to be invited to parties for special occasions. Those were always happy times. I had another personal link with Meadowside which influenced my career and life. The then " Officer in Charge " Mr, Percy Waite often talked to me about the need to support those in difficult situations and that was echoed by my Headmaster "Pop" Rogers. Mr Waite then showed me the path into Social Work and introduced me to the County Children's Officer. [back in the days when there were separate Departments for Children, Mental Health, and the Elderly.]

Having qualified as a Social Worker I then remained in that area of work until retiring in 2001.

That brings me to another link with the history of Meadowside when it was used by WAIFS and STRAYS when boys were rehoused there when their previous home.

Waif and Strays was the fore runner of the CHILDRENS SOCIETY.

Highweek Road seems to have been for many decades in history a hub for helping those who needed support. There were three Homes for children within a few hundred yards of each other. Brookhill down the road nearer to Coronation Road then Meadowside and further up the road at junction with Wain Lane was Greenaway.

Available history shows from the days of Miss Peek(1878 - 1898) that it was always used as a safe caring home for young people in need of help and support, To this day it continues which is an impressive record and long may that continue.

Some of the local important people over the years have been active in Highweek Road in supporting those in need. They certainly included Robert Montague Baker who provided the land for Bakers Park, A local famous doctor who trained in London with Dr, Barnardo and an Anglo Russian business man called Clarke whose wife on his death paid for the renovation of St Mary Abbotsbury Church, also a Mr Winsor who was Lord of the Manor.

Derek Jarman

Despite these challenges, the search for Meadowside's history remains active, with hopes of uncovering more definitive records. Various leads have been explored, including local archives and personal testimonies, yet clarity about the organisation or charity responsible during 1920 to 1983 continues to elude trustee Martin.

The fragments of information gathered so far reveal a rich tapestry of care and community, but the absence of concrete documentation has left gaps in the narrative. Efforts are ongoing to verify anecdotes and trace any surviving records that could shed light on this mysterious chapter in Meadowside's past.



Working closely with Claire Jury of Darnell's , Charity administrator Wendy Newell is integrating Sage software for the charity accounts.

Darnells are corporate members of Rotary Newton Abbot and give ongoing support and advice to the charity.



NEXT FEW MONTHS

The trustees continue to look at ways to improve the home of the charity and facilities for the residents - below are some 'wish's' which we hope to achieve, dependent as always on funds available and time to carry out.

- Attendance at the Daycare Centre - we need to continue to promote.
- Renovate the upstairs bathroom and toilet - when funds allow.
- Take a stall at the Rotary Summer Fair on the 12th July.
- Resident and staff BBQ in the garden.
- Complete the Porch and entrance to the home.
- Recruit at least two more trustees.
- CQC Approval to have a respite room.
- Improve the website - again!



HOW TO HELP?

There are a number of ways you can support Meadowside :

*Volunteer for a few hours in the home or hall?

*Become a Trustee.

*Make a donation.

*Join the Teignbridge Lottery.

*Leave a legacy in your Will.

*Put on a fund raising event.



SCAN TO DONATE

Ideas to Fundraising Trustee Martin Smith: friends@meadowsidecharity.co.uk

The Meadowside Charity Newton Abbot & District
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