



IN THIS ISSUE:

Management Update • Home Improvements • Residents • Fundraising • Trustees • Community Support

WELCOME MESSAGE

Firstly, please accept our apologies for the gap since our last newsletter. As a charity supported by volunteer trustees, the demands on time can sometimes make regular updates a challenge, but we remain committed to keeping everyone informed about life at Meadowside.

The past few months have been a mixture of steady progress and some unavoidable delays, largely due to the weather and financial constraints.

The continued heavy rain has impacted some of our planned outdoor work, and we have had to prioritise essential repairs to the roof and gables at the side of the home before repainting can begin. Whilst this has adjusted our timelines, these improvements are important in maintaining the long-term condition of the building.

Despite this, life at Meadowside continues to be positive and busy, with residents enjoying a variety of activities and the ongoing support of our dedicated care team.



MANAGEMENT UPDATE

We would like to share some important updates within our team.

On the retirement of manager Caroline Hart, we are pleased to share that Russell Lacey has been promoted to manager after 4 years as deputy. He brings his experience and commitment into a new leadership role within Meadowside.

In addition, Tamsin Lloyd, previously a Senior Carer, has stepped into the role of Deputy. Her knowledge of residents and her caring approach make her ideally suited to this position.

We wish them both every success in their new roles.



01626 363243



manager@meadowsidecharity.co.uk



www.meadowsidecharity.co.uk

GOODBYE 's

In February, Caroline Hart retired from her role as Manager. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Caroline for her years of dedicated service, during which she successfully steered Meadowside through the incredibly challenging period of the Covid pandemic. Her leadership, commitment, and care have made a lasting impact on both residents and staff, and she leaves with our very best wishes for the future.



Philip Bearne a trustee for over three years has taken time out in his role as a volunteer trustee, due to health issues. Philip led the team from Rotary Newton Abbot when the home's access was created and the renovation of the daycare hall.



His career as a builder was invaluable to the charity because of the many maintenance issues the charity had to deal with a 140 year old building.

Philip pictured with fellow Rotarian Jeremy Newcombe.

NEW TRUSTEE



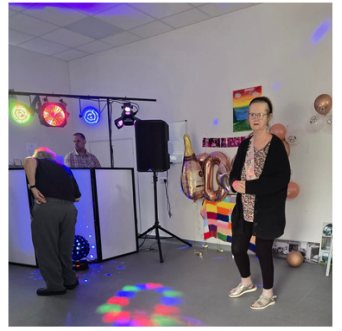
We are pleased to welcome Helen Hilditch as a new Trustee of Meadowside. Helen brings valuable experience and a fresh perspective to the charity, and we are delighted to have her join the team supporting the future direction of Meadowside.

Helen joined Meadowside as a trustee in the summer of 2025. Originally from Lancashire, Helen moved to Devon in 2011 with her family. She has a degree in Economics and is a Chartered Management Accountant and has worked for a local housing association for 10 years as the Finance Director and Deputy Chief Executive.

Helen has almost 30 years of experience working in the field of accountancy and finance in a range of different industries, including manufacturing, retail and the social care sector.

When not at work Helen likes to spend time with her family, looking after her Grandson and taking her dog for walks on Teignmouth beach.

Helen joined Meadowside as she wanted to be able to contribute to a local organisation that can truly make a difference to families in the local community by providing a good standard of care and somewhere that people can call their home. She enjoyed her time working in the social care sector, where she worked for an organisation which provided domiciliary care for adults with learning disabilities and along with some knowledge of this care sector and her finance knowledge she hopes to work alongside the other trustees to guide Meadowside to a successful future.



~ Stall at the Rotary Summer Fayre 2025 and visit from Mayor Colin Parker~ ~Katy's Birthday Party~

Residents continue to enjoy a full and active lifestyle within Meadowside, with daily activities, social interaction, and shared experiences remaining at the heart of the home.

Over recent months, there have been some changes within our resident community. One resident has moved on to be nearer to a relative, and sadly we have said goodbye to two residents who have passed away.

The process of placing adults with disabilities into care can be complex and often takes time, which can be frustrating as it leaves rooms unoccupied and makes significant impact on the home's income.

Despite this, the sense of community within Meadowside remains strong, and it is always wonderful to see the friendships that continue to develop among residents and staff.



~A day at the races~

~Carolines Skydive~

~Charity AGM in Sensory Garden~



Katy - An avid West Bromwich Albion football fan. Ray has supported them since he was a small child in the Midlands. I attend Coronation Hall, and this is where I have met lovely people who are friendly. I am happy here - as I can paint quietly.

Linda - I am a London girl, who is where I worked and where I met my husband. We moved to Devon in 2008. I have recovered from 2 strokes and a heart attack, and since I started attending Coronation, I have made new friends and have found that I am very artistic.

Vernon - I have lived in Devon my whole life. I attended a Farming College, and later worked at Trago Mills in the Garden Centre. Being at Coronation Hall, has stopped me being lonely and bored. We do so much, like, baking, music, art + crafts, games and quizzes.

Sheila - my life started in Bradford, and I met and married my husband in 1955. After my stroke I attended Coronation Hall, this is where I meet wonderful people, and continue to enjoy the many different activities. We are looking forward to the face clay at Newton Abbot Racecourse.

Gary - I enjoy attending the hall, because I get to bake, do art, listen to music and play games.



Sheila - my life started in Bradford, and i met my husband in 1955. After my stroke i attended Coronation Hall, this is where i meet wonderful people, and continue to enjoy the many different activities. We are looking forward to the race day at Newton Abbot Racecourse.

Sheila - my life started in Bradford and i met my husband in 1955. After my stroke i attended Coronation Hall, this is where i meet wonderful people and continue to enjoy the many different activities. We are looking forward to the race day at Newton Abbot Racecourse.*



*For the second year Newton Abbot Racecourse have given the charity tickets.

Linda - I am a London girl, this is where i worked and met my husband Jim. We moved to Devon in 2008. I have recovered well after two strokes and a heart attack, and since i started attending Coronation, i have made new friends and found out i am quite artistic.

Linda - I am a London girl, this is where i worked and met my husband Jim. We moved to Devon in 2008 he died in 2022. I have recovered well after two strokes and a heart attack, and since i started to attend Coronation. I have made new friends and found out i am quite artistic.



Gary - I enjoy attending the hall, because i get to bake, colour art, listen to music and play games.

Gary - I enjoy attending the hall, because i get to bake, colour art, listen to music and play games.



We are fortunate to have a great caring team who maintain the Meadowside ethos of creating a home environment for the 11 disabled clients. Several of our residents have no family so Meadowside is their family. Our staff go above and beyond to ensure residents feel truly supported, with compassionate attention given to everyone's needs.

Currently we have 22 employees, some have been at Meadowside for many years. Their dedication and experience are invaluable, contributing to the continuity and stability that our residents rely on. We take pride in retaining committed team members who share our values and passion for making Meadowside a welcoming and nurturing place.

Meadowside have no regular grant funding, relying on local fund raising and donations.

AROUND THE HOME

A big thank you to local Meadowside supporter Rich Webb a real friend of Meadowside who regularly turns up in his free time and smartens up the garden.

Rich a few years ago also raised money for the charity when he climbed Killimanjaro.



Work around the home continues as part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining and improving our facilities.

We would like to recognise Mike, our ever resourceful maintenance man, who has recently completed the refurbishment of the upstairs bathroom and toilet. This was long overdue and has been made possible thanks to the support of a grant from the Screwfix Foundation.



Essential repairs to the roof and gables at the side of the building have also been prioritised ahead of planned repainting, ensuring the long-term upkeep of Meadowside.

The support of local painting firm O'Neil & Holman has been much appreciated.



James and Steve and their team at JMV , continue to help the charity with internet and voip services and have recently taken over the support for IT a constant challenge as more services require digital expertise.

Support us by naming Meadowside in the Teignbridge Lottery



<https://www.teignbridgelotteryforcommunities.co.uk/support/the-meadowside-charity-newton-abbot-and-district>

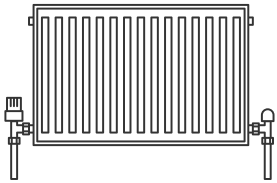


The close connection with Rotary is extremely important to the charity and to be able to call on their expertise and support is valued.



In addition, three bedrooms have been redecorated, including the installation of new flooring, helping to create a more comfortable and welcoming environment for residents.

Our talented carer Shannon, who has been at Meadowside for many years, continues to lighten up the corridors with her beautiful floral artwork. Her creative touch adds warmth and personality to the environment, making residents and visitors alike feel welcomed and at ease. We endeavour to make the home as 'non-institutional' as possible and truly be a home.



We have a constant battle with boilers and heating system, the old pipework subject to many changes over the years is always a challenge for Mike.

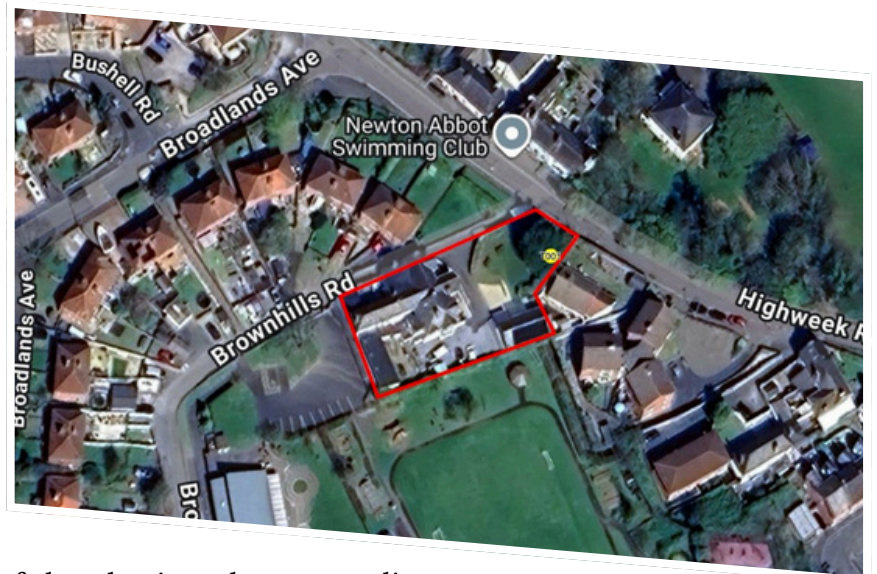
The front garden, originally established in 2022 ~2023 when the new access was created, is now being reviewed to improve accessibility, as more of our residents are wheelchair users. This will form part of our ongoing improvements to ensure all areas of the home can be enjoyed by everyone.

These outdoor projects, including completion of the sensory garden, remain part of our plans and will continue as conditions and finances allow.

We often get asked where is Meadowside, here is an aerial shot.



Martin Smith



I always endeavour to promote the work of the charity when attending events and the most common reply when asked if they had heard of Meadowside - Nearly everytime is a negative answer.

We are perhaps one of the oldest Newton Abbot based charites yet are invisible to most.

If you are reading my effort of a newsletter please remember us and consider supporting in some way a donation is welcome, equally think of volunteering in the home or hall, why not become a trustee ?

Will You Be Our Friend?



If you have an idea that will support our work at Meadowside contact me via email Friends@Meadowsidecharity.co.uk



Charity number: 264364

<https://www.goodhub.com/go/meadowside-charity>

THE MEADOWSIDE CORONATION HALL



Victoria Ward has taken over the supervision of the daycare hall. When we began renovations in 2022, social services assured us that the need for such a facility was significant. Although it was anticipated to be a promising source of income for the charity, this has not yet been realised. Nevertheless, we do have a handful of regular clients, and our residents thoroughly enjoy visiting from the home. Victoria is always busy finding creative ways to keep everyone entertained.

To enquire about attending the hall, please contact Victoria on 07415 774362 or email daycare@meadowsidecharity.co.uk.

Trustees Martin Smith and Helen Hilditch were invited to attend the weekly meeting of the Newton Abbot Rock Choir. Meadowside has been chosen as the choir's charity for 2026. Martin gave a talk to the choir of more than 100 members, sharing information about the charity, its work, and the people it supports.



**ROCK
CHOIR**

We look forward to seeing the choir at the Rotary Summer Fayre on July 4th, where we will also have a stall.

Founded in 2005 and currently led by Richard Toomer, the Newton Abbot Rock Choir performs at numerous events throughout the year. The enthusiasm displayed by Richard and the choir was truly impressive.

The Choir meet at The Avenue Church Hall, 4A Chapel Road, The Avenue, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ12 2BY. Most Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM.



Comment

As a charity without direct grant funding, this welcome support allows us to offer extra benefits to residents and improve our facilities. If you know an organisation or business interested in supporting a local charity, please contact Martin Smith.

WE CONTINUE TO SEEK ADDITIONS TO OUR TRUSTEE BOARD , IF YOU CAN SPARE JUST A FEW HOURS A MONTH , PARTICULARLY IF YOU HAVE A MEDICAL OR SOCIAL CARE BACKGROUND CONTACT : LYNN MCELHERON CHAIR OF TRUSTEES.

History of Meadowside

Hannah Peek was born on 22nd February 1835.

She was the daughter of James Peek, of Watcombe, Torquay; and Elizabeth Masters, who had 10 children. Hannah was the sister of Sir William Henry Peek [1st Baronet (1825–1898)] He was an importer of spices, tea and other groceries, a philanthropist, and Conservative MP for Surrey Mid.

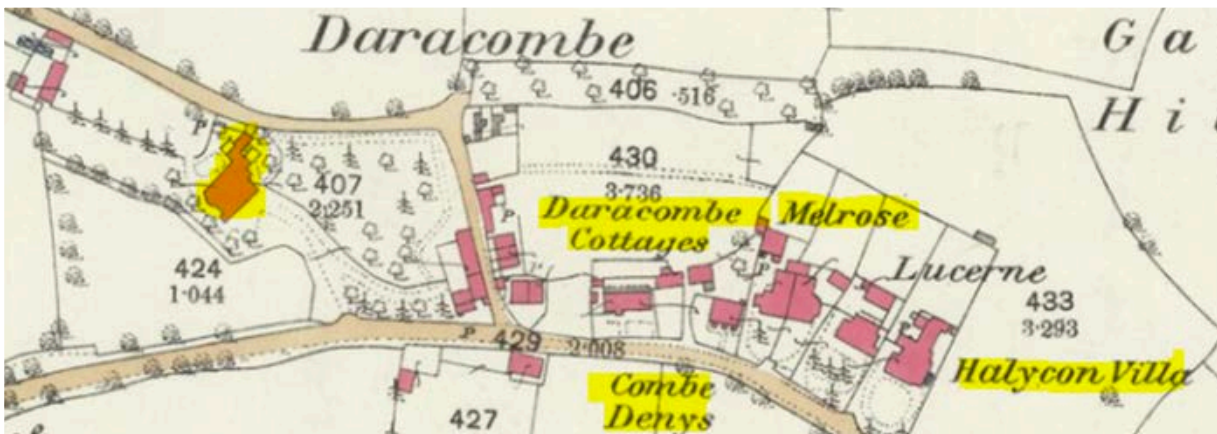
Sir Henry is also thought to have initiated hot school dinners in this country, believing that children could not learn unless they were well fed!!

In 1858 James established a biscuit company for two of his sons, Charles, and Edward.

They were not interested in the business. Charles died in 1860 and Edward went into the ministry. James recruited George Hender Freen the husband of a niece, to run the business. It became known as Peek Freans. It was the first company to mass produce biscuits. HANNAH married Thomas Ness of Daracombe in 1866 becoming Hannah Ness.

Thomas died suddenly aged 37 on 25th July 1878 – in a railway carriage near Bath.

They lived in Halcyon Villas in Daracombe.



They lived in Halcyon Villas in Daracombe, at some point Hannah purchased the building, 41 Highweek Road called Combe Denys also known as St, Denys Orphanage for girls. This institution trained about 30 young girls for domestic service.



She died on 15th March 1896, without issue. On her death, the girl's orphanage was taken over by Church of England Waifs & Strays Association – a charity supported by Hannah's brothers, who brought the St Michael's establishment of boys from Lyme Regis.