

Spring  
2017

Compassion in Action  
**Genesis**  
newsletter

## Welcome



I am honoured to have been invited by the Trustees to become Chief Executive at this time of major transition and development at Genesis, and very pleased to be supported by an amazing team including our previous Chief Executive, Paul Solly, who I particularly thank for his encouragement and support.

I'm passionate about our mission to offer hope and a future to the most vulnerable people in our city and I look forward to leading our charity into its third decade. As I've visited our projects and met many of the dedicated volunteers, I've come to understand that Genesis is all about community – a like minded group of people keen to help others in a myriad of supportive and creative ways.

There are exciting times ahead, not least with the new Genesis Centre on Walcot Street, a new building that will offer us a long term home in the centre of the city so that we can expand the ways in which we can help disenfranchised and vulnerable people. I thank you for your support and contribution, and look forward to travelling on this journey with you.

**Nick Mayo** | Chief Executive

Having led Genesis for over after 15 years I've been grateful this year to have been given the opportunity to work in a new role at a time of major growth for the charity. Nick Mayo becoming Chief Executive has enabled me to take on the exciting new post of Head of Client Development.

Thanks to the generosity of the John Lewis Foundation, which is providing both funding and support for my new role, I'll be focussing on developing how Genesis helps people to move on in their lives. We are introducing new personalised plans for our clients: the Genesis Pathways Programme. I will be overseeing its introduction at our core projects, which I am looking forward to tremendously.

The Pathways Programme will offer focussed support to individuals, helping them make the best use of our projects and other local services. For example, how do we help Lifeline visitors who are moving into a new flat access our Life Skills project? Could we offer Foodbank customers the opportunity to do a work placement at the Furniture Project or to attend some of our Skills for Life courses?

I have been in post for several weeks now and it has been fascinating and a privilege to meet our project users and to hear them share their situations and aspirations. Most of all it reminds me that each of us has our own story and future. I look forward to enabling our clients achieve their ambitions.

**Paul Solly** | Head of Client Development



*We're very grateful to the John Lewis Foundation for its support*



# News Round Up

Flower image by  
Mel Simmerson



Spring blooms have been inspiring our Life Skills art group

Our Walcot Appeal is now within reach of the £1.1 target and we hope to begin work this summer



## Graham Kendrick Service of Celebration

In October 2016 we enjoyed a special 21st Birthday Service of Celebration with over 500 of our supporters and volunteers at Bath Forum. Renowned Christian song writer Graham Kendrick led the worship and the Right Reverend Bishop of Bath and Wells, Peter Hancock, was the guest speaker. The newly formed Genesis Choir led by George Bevan enjoyed its first public performance and it was a very special evening of reflection and thanksgiving. Our thanks to the Reverend Catherine Sorbut of St. Barnabas Church in Southdown for hosting the evening.



Top left: Graham Kendrick | Top right: Reverend Catherine Sorbut and Patrick Garrity | Bottom left to right: Sir Peter Heywood, Right Reverend Bishop of Bath and Wells, Peter Hancock, High Sheriff of Somerset Ed Bayntun Coward, Mayor of Bath Paul Crossley

## Mayors Visit

In March, the Mayor of Bath Paul Crossley paid a visit to the Genesis Furniture Project in Oldfield Park. Manager Anthony Ward described how the shop helps the local community by selling low cost new and donated household goods as well as offering work placements to vulnerable adults keen to improve their employability skills.

If you're interested in donating furniture please call 01225 421111, collections are free.



## Outdoor Opera anyone?

Bath Opera will be performing *Rigoletto* in the beautiful setting of Widcombe Manor next month. Proceeds from the matinee performance on June 18th will be donated to Genesis. We'd like to thank Chris and Denise Rogers who've arranged this for us and we hope people will support this special event in the gardens of one of Bath's most beautiful houses.



Sunday June 18th at 2.30pm  
Tickets cost £35 and are available at [www.pleasuregardenproductions.com](http://www.pleasuregardenproductions.com)

## Lifeline

### Our new home

Our homeless drop in centre, Lifeline, moved from Bath Abbey to a new premises at the Friend's Meeting House just before Christmas. Donations from Bath Abbey and Bath Boules as well as generous contributions from the public enabled us to renovate the new building, which is bigger, and has a room set aside as a clothing store. We will soon be installing a shower and washing machine for visitors to use, thanks to a £5,000 grant from the Aviva Community Fund. Our thanks to everyone who made donations and to those who voted for us in the online Aviva campaign. The availability of a shower at Lifeline will make a huge difference to those of our visitors who are sleeping rough and who don't enjoy the home comforts that most of us take for granted.

Thanks to the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner Sue Mountstevens we've received funding to open Lifeline on Saturday mornings – the money will enable us to staff the centre and to provide breakfast to the vulnerable adults we support.



It's great to have Bath's students helping out!



## Volunteers

At Lifeline the contribution of our wonderful volunteers makes a real difference and this year we're particularly pleased to have three local students on the team; Venetia Lawe and Alistair Shields from Bath Spa University and Dan Wilson from the University of Bath. As well as volunteering twice a week, Venetia raised over £600 from a campus Sleep Out she organised in March. She said:

*"It makes my day providing emotional support and a listening ear to the people I meet at Lifeline. I've heard a lot of their stories and realise now how complex homelessness is. The people I've met have a real sense of community, they look out for each other and are very forgiving. They're not just beggars looking for money – they are just people like the rest of us. People who are trying to make something out of themselves and live better lives. People who are worthy of all the time and love in the world".*

Lifeline welcomes donations of men's and women's clothing and shoes and these can be delivered to the centre at Friends Meeting House (basement) on York Street Monday to Friday 12-4 pm.



# Volunteering

## Channelling Passions

Last year, Cabinet Office funding enabled us to set up the Channelling Passions project to improve how we work with our volunteers.

In the last 12 months, Paul Tipler has been doing valuable outreach with our volunteer community to improve engagement and offer new training opportunities.

He said:



Paul Tipler

*"Genesis is very fortunate to be supported by over 700 volunteers and 90% of local churches. When I see the teams in action the fantastic impact of their work is clear. A survey of over 250 volunteers has helped us better understand their needs and we're now building a framework where they can feel more connected and have access to training. In the future, we're aiming to partner more with local businesses and universities which will be crucial for our sustainability."*

## We really need your feedback!



Understanding how our supporters and volunteers would like to be communicated with is very important to us at Genesis.

With important new data regulations coming along, we would be very grateful if you could complete the enclosed survey and return it to us in the prepaid envelope provided.

To save on postage costs you can also fill in the survey online:

[www.genesistrust.org.uk/survey](http://www.genesistrust.org.uk/survey)



Giles Peters

## Award winning volunteer Giles Peters

In February, Sunday Centre coordinator Giles Peters, (a Genesis volunteer for 15 years), won the Volunteer Leader of the Year at the B&NES Chairman's awards.

As coordinator, Giles oversees 100 volunteers from 15 local churches which is no mean task. Based at Nexus Church on Walcot Street, the teams provide Sunday lunch in a homely setting to Bath's most disadvantaged people, frequently serving over 30 meals in a day.

Genesis Founder Sir Peter Heywood said:

*"Giles inspires everyone involved, and is amazingly generous with his time and with his enthusiasm. He is wonderful at getting to know our clients and helping them, and has that excellent balance between being patient and being firm."*

Our Street Pastor team were one of 21 local volunteer groups nominated for the Team of the Year at the same ceremony – they didn't win on this occasion but enjoyed the evening's celebration!

## Reaching out to Refugees

The Genesis Family Matters project has been working with six Syrian refugee families in Bath for the past year. The volunteers work closely with the local authority's Connecting Families team and have been helping the refugees integrate by offering support with learning English and accessing local services. Volunteer Bridget Carroll told us about her experience:



Bridget Carroll

*"I didn't really know what to expect when I volunteered to befriend one of the Syrian refugee families, all I knew was that I felt compelled to be involved. Having lived overseas myself for many years, I knew the importance of having friendly local faces who could show me around, help me learn the language and try and understand all the cultural differences."*

*There are four children in the family that I help; the eldest is eight and one day he came rushing in from school. He hadn't spoken a word of English before coming to Bath and very excitedly he started telling me all about tsunamis and earthquakes with remarkably clear pronunciation! Another high point for him was going on a school trip to Wales (a whole other country). The children are all thriving in the school environment and are soaking up every new experience. To be quite honest, I thought it would just be me teaching the family about life, but they have taught me just as much as well. One of the other Syrian mothers was also at the house during my most recent visit and we ended up laughing so much, we had tears running down our faces. We are simply celebrating life together!*

*A very poignant moment I will always remember is when my Syrian mother here heard that her own mother had died in Syria. They hadn't seen each other in over a year. I went round to offer what comfort I could, and to my surprise, I found all the other Syrian mothers at the house with their pre-school children. I of course was welcomed with open arms. The ladies had gathered together as their own very small community, offering the vital support that the family needed at this time. It was such a cultural difference to what we often see here,*

*when we can shy away from visiting a bereaved family for fear of not knowing what to say or do. We actually all shared a few jokes that day. We sat on the floor and enjoyed a feast of delicious Syrian food. We shared in her sorrow through being united as a group of women, supporting a grieving friend"*



To volunteer with Family Matters please email [joyfraser951@gmail.com](mailto:joyfraser951@gmail.com)

# Life Skills

Life Skills has had a busy year characterised by partnership working with other local organisations.



## A grand day out at Bath Christmas market

After weeks of making beautiful festive lino print cards and prints our Life Skills art group enjoyed selling their Christmas wares at the Bath Christmas market making over £450. Bath based Paralympic swimmer Stephanie Millward CBE came to offer her support and the group had a great time being part of this festive event.

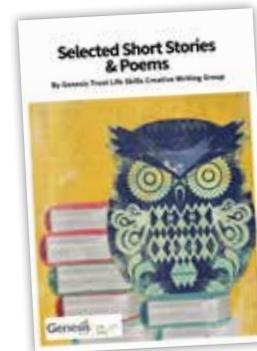


Leonard Pearcey, Peter Child, Nathan Filer and Letti Prescott

## The art of writing

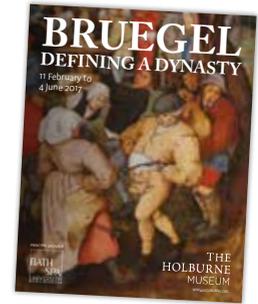
Members of our Life Skills creative writing group, which has been running for six years, have published a collection of their work and award winning local author Nathan Filer has written the foreword for the book. A graduate of the renowned Bath Spa MA Creative Writing course, he won the 2013 Costa Prize for his debut novel *The Shock of the Fall*. The group recently celebrated the book's launch with both Nathan and sponsors Leonard Pearcey and Peter Child.

The book is available to buy for £5. Please email [denise@genesistrust.org.uk](mailto:denise@genesistrust.org.uk)



## Cliff wows them at the Holburne

A client's experience of a unique volunteer scheme at Bath's Holburne Museum



Fifty six year old Cliff Turner sought support from the Genesis Life Skills project having experienced a number of challenging traumatic events and the loss of his job. The team has mentored him over a five year period, acting as an advocate on occasions when he has been unable to manage on his own. Over the years Life Skills has developed a close working relationship with The Holburne Museum's Gardener's Lodge Art group which supports people who've experienced mental health issues, social isolation and homelessness. In 2016, as a long term member of this group, Cliff was offered the opportunity to take part in an innovative new project, Mentored Volunteering. Funded by The Big Lottery, it's part of the Holburne's Pathways to Wellbeing scheme. After a six week programme and further induction, he's now fully trained up as a volunteer and works once a week at the museum.

He said:

*"Having to research the museum's art collection has helped with my memory problems and the one to one mentoring process has been a very nurturing and encouraging experience for me. I love people and my interest in history and art has contributed to what I can offer as a volunteer."*

*The Holburne's volunteer mentoring scheme is a really good way of the museum reaching out into the local community and the care and support I've experienced has really improved my confidence in dealing with the visitors. It's also opened my eyes to today's art as well as the permanent collection of paintings in the museum. I've particularly enjoyed the Breughel exhibition this year and the conversations I've been able to have with visitors about the paintings. The Holburne is a very professional place but working there I've experienced a real home from home feeling – it's such an encouraging environment – it has healing properties!"*

Pathways to Wellbeing Manager, Louise Campion said:

*"It's been great to watch Cliff's confidence and self-esteem increase by taking part in the project. He's now become a regular museum volunteer and we've had amazing feedback from visitors who have commented on his expansive knowledge and friendly manner."*



Cliff Turner

## Food Glorious Food

With more and more people using Foodbanks nationally, cooking and budgeting have been key themes at Life Skills this year.



Co-ordinator Denise Weikert has been collaborating closely with the Trussell Trust and has rolled out its volunteer led Eat Well Spend Less cookery courses at two venues in the city this Spring.

She's also teamed up with Bath Mind and the Wellbeing College to run a Winter Cookery course for vulnerable adults.

“ It was a small group and it felt like one to one tuition so we got maximum practical hands on experience – all our questions were answered about food, budgeting, shopping and meal planning ”



# Fundraising News

Marathon runner  
Tom Flemons



Bath Half runner  
Lewis Nash



## Great backing from Bath City FC!

Thanks to all the Bath City supporters who backed us as the club's chosen charity this year raising over £2,300. Not only did they hold match day bucket collections, they also hosted two showings of Ken Loach's film *I, Daniel Blake* raising money for Bath Foodbank.

## Reaping the benefits of running!

Huge thanks to our 18 Bath Half and four London Marathon runners this year, between them they raised over £15,000 and we know just how hard they all trained to take part in these events. Kingswood Maths teacher Garrod Musto, who ran his first London Marathon, managed to shed three stone in the training process and veteran runner Tom Flemons who's clocked up 15 half marathons took on the marathon challenge to mark his 50th birthday year.



## VERY ENTERPRISING STUDENTS

Huge thanks to 2nd year Business Students at Bath Spa University who raised an astounding £699 for us when they ran an Enterprise Fair on campus recently.



## SUMMER CYCLING EVENT

We have two places available for an exciting local event on July 2nd organised by Bike Bath [www.bikebath.co.uk](http://www.bikebath.co.uk). Bike Bath is one of the largest single day events in the South West attracting over 1,000 riders to the city. The 50 mile circular route takes in Melksham, Westbury and Bradford on Avon.

Please email [hilary.long@genesistrust.org.uk](mailto:hilary.long@genesistrust.org.uk) to register for a place.



**From cake sales to church abseils we're here to help you if you have a fund raising idea you'd like to pursue.**

Call our Community Fundraiser Hilary Long on **463549** if you need any advice or check out the new fund raising guide on our website for ideas.

[www.genesistrust.org.uk](http://www.genesistrust.org.uk)  

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