

Head Start

50th anniversary issue

Crossways Community is a Christian charity based in Tunbridge Wells providing residential care and support for adults with acute mental health issues.

The Countess of Wessex visits Crossways Community

The sun was shining brightly when Her Royal Highness the Countess of Wessex dropped in for a visit on 19th April to celebrate our Fiftieth Anniversary. During her visits to Culverdale, Moxham House and Crossways Enterprises the Countess chatted freely with residents and staff. Afterwards everyone gathered in the garden to enjoy tea and cakes and some residents presented the Countess with two thank you cards. Unveiling a commemorative plaque Her Royal Highness said: *"It is a great pleasure to have visited you all today. I enjoyed hearing your stories and very much appreciated your openness. I'm so glad that you have found your way here, a place of real community where you can step forward and make progress in your individual ways."*



Her Royal Highness the Countess of Wessex with the managers



HRH with Antonia, Ray and Hope



HRH with David

1966

1966 Crossways started in Croydon by Leslie and Lilla Moxham, Doreen Fisher, Joyce Hudson, Marjorie Bann, Bob and Olive Felgate.

29th September 1967

The Constitution formed.

Crossways Community Timeline



HRH at Culverdale where she joined in with an Art Group, talking to Antonia



HRH with Andrew at Crossways Enterprises, where the Countess caused considerable merriment when she tried a spot of upholstery



The Art and Garden Groups at Culverdale created a garden fit for a princess!



HRH at Culverdale chatting with Pete

Her Royal Highness enjoyed looking at the garden and commented how colourful and beautiful the pots looked.

During her visit to Moxham House, HRH was treated to a lively rendition of 'With a Little Help from my Friends' by the Crossways singers and music group.

Mental Health Awareness training

We are definitely entering exciting times for MHA in schools, colleges, churches and businesses. The Government have spent money on some excellent TV programmes highlighting the mental health issues from celebrities to the unknown. The recent dialogue with Prince Harry may well open up the flood gates to prompt people to get the help that they need.

I was approached recently by a big company in Tunbridge Wells who were keen to educate their staff in helping them recognise the signs and symptoms of stress in their children.

Last summer term, we launched into primary schools with slight changes to our MHA lessons to adapt them to a younger audience. Our course for primary includes "building confidence and self esteem", "empowering young people to solve their own problems", "conflict resolution", "anger management" and "transition to secondary school". Last year we spoke to yr 6's across 13 schools.

Last September, we had the privilege of speaking to Yr 7's at St Gregory's school, Tunbridge Wells, where we met a lot of the old Yr 6's. We were able then to do a follow up lesson of just how those strategies for dealing with stress, and self organisation were playing out. A lot of the time, issues that they were really dreading as a Yr 6 going forward were really not as bad in reality – a lesson for us all.

I am just about to end the academic year with my final 6 primary schools starting in May. We also will be visiting Bennett Memorial School Yr 10's, Skinners Grammar for an assembly and St John's Church in the next few weeks.

The challenge for Chris, Steve and me is to continue to dispel the stigma of mental health issues, to make good contacts to make our service known and to keep the lessons challenging for our young people.

Sara Barker, MHA Trainer

12th December 1968

Crossways Trust registered as a charity.

1970

8 Culverden Park Road acquired.

1972

A fire destroyed the lounge at Moxham House.

1974

5 Guildford Road acquired.

Introducing the founders

Leslie and Lilla Moxham – The family stayed at Crossways until 1983, moving to Israel when Leslie was called to the Pentecostal ministry there.

Joyce Hudson – Retired librarian Joyce cared full time for residents at her home in Croydon, later settling in Tunbridge Wells, living with residents at the Guildford Road property.

Marjorie Dann – Marjorie took residents into her home in Croydon, later moving to Bidborough.

Doreen Fisher – Ex police officer Doreen was a probation officer who devoted her spare time to Crossways, living with residents in Croydon. After the Moxhams moved to Tunbridge Wells, she and Joyce originally stayed in Croydon to care for residents. Later, Doreen moved to live and work at Moxham House.

Bob and Olive Felgate – Bob and Olive were unable to accommodate people but provided prayer and practical support and attended founders' meetings. They remained in Croydon.



The founders in 1990. Standing left to right: Leslie Moxham, Bob Felgate. Sitting left to right: Olive Felgate, Lilla Moxham, Joyce Hudson, Doreen Fisher.

The beginnings...

It all started in Croydon during the mid 1960s when seven Christians- the founders- offered practical help to the homeless, the troubled and sufferers of mental or physical health problems. Leslie and Lilla Moxham met the other founders mostly through the local churches when Leslie worked as Baptist minister in Croydon. The founders took the courageous and selfless decision to take people into their own homes and look after them. Their enterprise was soon registered as a charity – Crossways Trust. As the flow of residents grew, Leslie left the Church to work full time

for Crossways. In 1970, for practical reasons, Crossways moved to more spacious premises in Tunbridge Wells when Leslie and Lilla moved with their children, Grandpa and eight residents. With a large garden and situated in a quiet and leafy part of town, 8 Culverden Park Road was the perfect place to convalesce and heal a troubled mind. Leslie and Lilla wanted to create a strong feeling of family unity in which everyone lived, ate and worked together, enjoying leisure activities as a group, and hoping to renew the fun which had been missing from some of the residents' lives.

1976

Industrial Therapy hut built.

22nd November 1978

Crossways gained Certificate of Registration of Residential Home for Mentally Disordered Persons.

1979

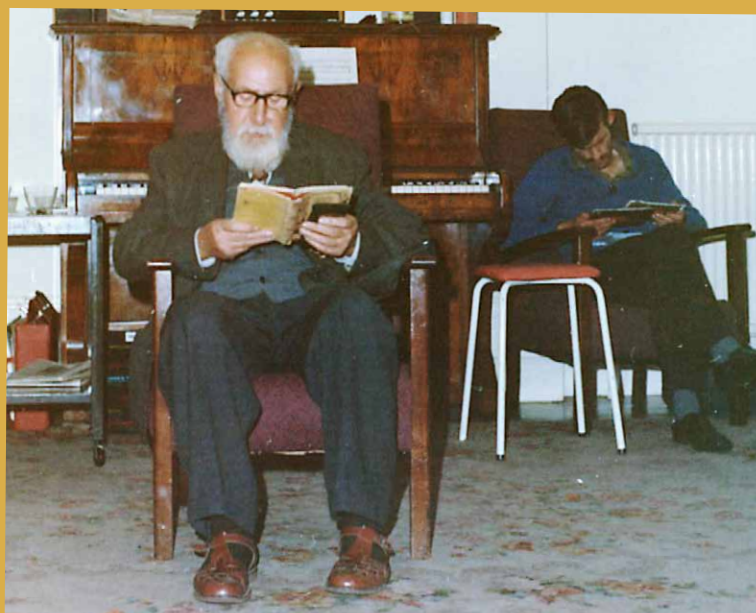
5 Culverden Park Road ('Culverdale') acquired and Crossways Trust Housing Association created.

Everyone's favourite Grandpa

Grandpa, or James Guyatt, was Lilla's father, a retired bookbinder who had worked for the Bank of England. Lilla's parents had come to live with the Moxham family in 1963, but her mother died the following year. Grandpa continued to live with his daughter and the family at Cheyne Walk, Croydon, later moving with them to 8 Culverden Park Road in Tunbridge Wells.

Crossways deliberately cultivated a strong family atmosphere. This was important – many residents had been institutionalized, missing out on precious family time. They loved Grandpa's funny stories and monologues. They saw Grandpa and Mrs Bubbs (an elderly Croydon resident/helper) as their grandparents, Lilla and Leslie as parents and the Moxham children as siblings.

Grandpa died in February 1981 at the age of 93, and was very much missed.



Grandpa reading to residents in the Moxham House Chapel



Di with her grandson

Di Manning

support worker

In 1973 my husband Trevor and I moved to Tunbridge Wells and started working for an Eastern European mission. We also attended Crossways' anniversary services, where we met Leslie Moxham.

We later left the mission – Trevor stepped down as chief executive because of health problems – but we met Martin Granger through the Calvary Church and he offered me a job as the Crossways cook.

Within a few months, I was promoted to deputy general manager. I did the shopping and sorted out menus, staff rotas and residents' spending money. I gave up full-time managerial work in 2000, but stayed on as a part-time support worker.

For me, the biggest change over the years has been in how we interact with the residents. Crossways has always provided a home and security but residents are now treated as individuals with a focus on their particular needs.

We are grateful to **Vicky Croton** for gathering information about Crossways' history. There is more available to read than we could possibly make room for in Head Start, so if anyone would like more details and to read interviews with former staff members and trustees then please contact us and we will post you a copy. Vicky has now left Crossways employment to explore some exciting freelance opportunities, though we will hopefully still be seeing her at our regular events...

6th August 1982

Crossways residents Keith and Cindy Assinder got married.

1985

137 Stephens Road acquired and Flat 3, 1 Mountfield Road.

1988

12 Lime Hill Road acquired.

1990

Crossways bought its first computer system. The Community Care Act abolished asylums, changing health and social care.

Footballing success!



Ray and Mo holding the trophy which they have won as regular players in the victorious Maidstone United Raiders Gold team. Also pictured is Scott who has played for the team on several occasions.

After a very successful season, losing only 2 of their 28 games, the team have won the Premiership division of the Kent Disability League, finishing 5 points ahead of their nearest rivals Charlton Athletic AC FC Red. Congratulations! There's no time to relax though as they are still training hard as their next big match is approaching- the final of the Kent Reliance Trophy.

Also achieving success is Charlie who was part of another team fielded by Maidstone United Raiders- Copper. This team won their Championship division of the League, so congratulations as well to Charlie. We are proud of you all!



Charlie, second from the right

Christine Moxham

daughter of two founders

My parents started taking people in while Ray and I were very young and we were surrounded by people.

Mum and Dad wanted to bring boundaries and predictability into residents' lives.

Residents had missed out on having fun, so we held Christmas parties and concerts.

My father remained actively involved with Crossways until 1981 when Martin Granger became manager. By then, Dad was a sort of travelling ministerial troubleshooter, becoming chair of Focus on Israel, a Pentecostal ministry. He and Mum went moved to Israel in 1982. Ray and I followed later.

I was so blessed to grow up at Crossways, however challenging.



Keith Assinder

former resident

Cindy and I met when we were both living at Culverdale and in 1982 we were the first Crossways couple to marry!

We both appreciated Crossways' strong family feel and the love and support from residents and staff. Grandpa's wonderful stories were also a highlight of our time there!



Keith and Cindy on their wedding day

Hilary Burvill

former resident

I came to Crossways in Croydon in 1969 after a I'd had a breakdown, and living there helped me recover. I left Crossways in 1973 to get married.

I remember the founders well. The Moxhams kept an open house and everyone was welcome at their Boxing Day parties and coffee mornings.

I've had a few 'blips' over the years but, overall, I have stayed well and happy.



29th September 1991

Crossways Trust and Culverdale Housing Ltd merged and registered as Crossways Community.

8th January 1992

Crossways Community registered as a charity.

1993

Crossways ended its Industrial Therapy programme and reorganised residents' day activities.

The changing face of care 1967–2017

The care of mentally ill people has changed profoundly over the last 50 years, shaped by shifting attitudes, better drug treatments and legislation.

In the early years residents were kept busy to distract them from their illness and to prepare them for life outside Crossways. Those without jobs elsewhere were paid to work full time in Industrial Therapy (IT), held on site, where tasks ranged from assembling plastic toys (sold in local shops) to putting together airline trays.

Taking residents home, as the founders did 50 years ago, would be unthinkable in 2017!

Crossways' early care was geared towards group living, which changed after 1993 when Industrial Therapy was abolished and residents had keyworkers and individual day plans. Today, such plans are agreed with input from residents, staff and the community care team. Progress is regularly reviewed and plans and goals updated as required. Crossways currently adheres to standards recommended by several recognised national organisations and Moxham House is inspected every two years by the Care Quality Commission.



Peace and creativity in OT



Grandpa (middle) with the Moxham family, staff and residents at Moxham House during the 1970s

Alice Christian

new member of staff



My childhood was spent in Suffolk, and at 18 I moved away to Durham to attend University. During

my time there, both my college chapel and the beautiful cathedral provided spiritual solace and space for me to explore my faith and build a stronger relationship with God. I was also lucky enough to participate in the musical life of those communities, facilitating a deepening love for, and

exposure to, sacred music, which is a passion of mine I still indulge in on a daily basis.

After graduating, I moved to London to study law and eventually qualified as a barrister, with the hope of being able to help people by using the skills and knowledge I had gained. On escaping the Big Smoke and moving out to Tunbridge Wells (where I currently live with my fiancé, Philip), I then worked as a paralegal, advising prisoners and representing them in various hearings in local prisons. I felt that I wanted to contribute more positively to people's lives without being restrained by government bureaucracy and so I feel blessed that God led me to Crossways.

I feel very fortunate to be able to serve others and put my skills to use in such a caring, nurturing environment.

Since joining the organisation I think I've succeeded in nagging both Ginny and Penny to within an inch of their patience, (though I like to think I'm being vaguely helpful) as well as confusing staff and residents while I get to grips with all the processes and procedures! I feel very privileged to work alongside the inspirational staff and residents even if I'm still considered the "new secretary" six months in. In my spare time, I'm studying for a Master's degree in Criminology, I sing with various choirs at Cathedrals around the country, and I'm attempting to plan a wedding...

1994

Culverdale demolished, residents moved out and a new building was constructed, paid for by selling Guildford, Lime Hill and Stephens Road properties plus a £50,000 grant.

7th September 1994

Crossways Trust ceased to exist.

2nd October 1995

The new Culverdale building opened.

2007

Bethel Court built.

Thanksgiving Service March 2017

Our celebration year got off to a great start with 50 days of prayer which culminated in our Thanksgiving Service at the United Reformed Church.

The Rt Rev James Langstaff, Bishop of Rochester was the guest speaker and the Mayor also joined our celebrations.

Lilla Moxham, founder member sent us a message which was read out by her daughter Chris.

The Bishop gave a thought provoking, powerful address, encouraging us all in the next steps forward for Crossways.

Message from Lilla Moxham

Greetings and Best Wishes

as Crossways reaches this important landmark, then presses into the future.

As the last living founder member I can say I had the joy of experiencing the series of miracles that God performed to bring Crossways into being. How also He provided all our needs in those early days. He has always been there as the work has developed over the years.

Limited mobility prevents me being with you but I join you in heartfelt thankfulness to our mighty God for all He has done and will continue to do- to heal, to bring hope to those who are battling with problems and difficulties.

God bless you all,
Lilla Moxham



Everyone was invited to put their thumb print on a commemorative picture of a tree.

In true Crossways style, the service was followed by followed by a lovely spread of tea and cakes.

Thank you to Rev Helen Warmington and the congregation of the United Reformed Church who hosted us for this occasion.



Rt Rev James Langstaff, Bishop of Rochester

2008

Crossways began delivering mental health awareness sessions in local schools and churches.

2010

The Admin block built and opened by Tunbridge Wells MP Greg Clark.

2011

Crossways Community Enterprises set up.

Wilko donates £500 of homeware products

To celebrate the recent opening of its new store in Tunbridge Wells' Royal Victoria Place, Wilko has donated £500 of homeware products to Moxham House and Culverdale.

During the autumn, the dining room at Moxham House received a makeover, complete with stylish new décor, flooring and sink. Now, thanks to Wilko, residents and staff also have the use of bright, attractive crockery, placemats and cutlery. Penny Rist, manager of Moxham House, says: "We are very grateful to Wilko for this generous donation, which came out of the blue. Our residents and staff get real pleasure from using the new items at mealtimes."

Culverdale is now the owner of a range of new pots and pans, office equipment and some smart storage boxes and Culverdale's manager, Ginny Swaffer, is delighted. She says: "The storage boxes enable us to keep our art materials neat and tidy. Because these no longer need to be locked away, residents now have easy access to them throughout the week."

Becks Hogben, branch manager of Wilko Tunbridge Wells, adds: "We were delighted to present Crossways Community with £500 worth of products. Supporting our local community is important to us. We wanted to do our bit for the room makeover by providing staff and residents at Moxham House and Culverdale with items that are both useful and attractive."



We have recently mourned the loss of resident **Heather Mitchell**, and founder **Doreen Fisher**, who are both now with the Lord. They will be remembered with much affection and gratitude for their contribution to life at Crossways.

2013

Earls Road (one-bedroom flat) bought and a Culverdale resident moved in. The redecorated Pavilion became the Art Studio. Number 8 renamed Moxham House and a programme of redecoration began.

2015

Hempson Court (a two-bedroom flat) bought and two Moxham House residents moved in.

2016

The Winfield Hut handed back to Crossways and Crossways Enterprises moved in. The Crossways Café opened for business.

Supporting the work of Crossways Community

Crossways Community is very dependent on the support of our friends. We greatly appreciate the help that many people give us in our work with people with mental health difficulties. If you feel you can help us or continue to help us in prayer, practically, financially or with your time, please indicate this below. All help, however large or small, is valued.

Title _____ Name _____
Address _____ Postcode _____
Email _____

- ☐ If you would like to become a 'Partner of Crossways' and receive periodic updates for prayer and news of events.
- ☐ I would like to go on the Crossways Mailing List and receive the twice-yearly newsletter
- ☐ I am interested in helping out by:

☐ Yes, I will support Crossways Community in prayer.

☐ Yes, I will support Crossways Community & enclose my cheque for: £ _____

Please indicate whether you wish your cheque to go towards the:

- ☐ General Fund ☐ Mental Health Awareness ☐ Crossways Enterprises
- ☐ (Any surplus money will go towards the General Fund unless you tick this box)

Please contact us on 01892 543290 if you would like to make a regular gift and receive a Standing Order form.

Gift Aid

If you are a UK taxpayer, you can make your donation even more generous by completing the Declaration below. You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the Crossways Community reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year. (currently 25p for each £1 you give).

Signed _____ Date _____

CROSSWAYS ACCOMMODATION: ● **Moxham House:** a registered care home providing round-the-clock support for 17 residents.

● **Culverdale:** a supported unit for 22 people. ● **Bethel Court:** 6 self-contained flats for more independent tenants.

CROSSWAYS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS: running awareness programmes in schools, businesses, churches and community groups.

CROSSWAYS COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES: Practical work experience, helping combat the exclusion of people with mental health difficulties.