

Paul's Place/Paul's Fund Autumn 2011 Newsletter



Welcome to the Paul's Place/Paul's Fund Autumn 2011 newsletter.

We are sending this out just before the 3rd anniversary of losing Paul. So much has changed in those 3 years, but especially so in the last 12 months – this time last year Paul's Place did not even exist and although we have a long way to go in terms of numbers of Paul's Place guests, we have come a very long way in getting Paul's Place established and known about.

With fewer guests over the winter we are focusing on extending and strengthening our links with a wide range of charities and continue to get very positive feedback even though actual referrals remain quite low so far. We are also busy with maintenance and are having a utility room built which will make a big difference to running the place.

In these early days, for Paul's Place to be viable we do need regular guests to stay at The Old Bakery, especially over the quieter winter months. By coming to stay, you can make a real contribution—you get a great break, we get some income, and we can all enjoy each other's friendship and company. We can't guarantee the weather, but we do get some cracking winter days. With wide empty beaches, plenty of in-house entertainment and two great pubs with log fires a short walk away, even with dark evenings and damp days a stay here can be relaxing and refreshing. And of course rates are lower during the winter, plus if you stay for 2 nights or more we'll throw in an extra night for free.

And for a Christmas present with a difference, why not buy a friend or loved one an Old Bakery Gift Voucher? Visit www.georgehamband.co.uk

Thank you so much for your support,
David and Pippa



Paul's Place Developments:

We now have our solar PV panels producing electricity which is great (and before the Feed In Tariff reduces!), and our chickens are producing lots of eggs to feed us and our guests.

We have recently bought two divan beds to go in our downstairs room Baggy Point so we can now offer it as either a twin or Super King.

We are about to knock through from our double room **Barricane** to the adjacent bathroom to make it **en-suite**, and we have plans to make the ground floor en-suite shower a wet room making it even more suitable for people with impaired mobility.

The big project at the moment is construction of a new **utility room** which will make running the place much less stressful for Pip! Building works are in full swing and we are assured it will be finished by Christmas!

Charity Contacts and Guest News

We have been in touch with over 45 charities now including major national charities like Macmillan and Marie Curie, Bristol Oncology, cancer support units, various hospices, specialist brain tumour charities, and charities that provide holidays and grant wishes. Of these, about 2/3's, including Macmillan and Marie Curie, have expressed their support and with whom we are in active dialogue which is really encouraging. We have been to visit a cancer support unit at the main hospital in Exeter and had very positive visits here by representatives of both the Teenage Cancer Trust and also the Child Bereavement Charity.

On 3rd February next year the Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust have asked us to do a 15 min presentation at the start of their Bristol Information Day which is very scary as the day will include presentations by professionals in the brain tumour field, such as neurosurgeons, neuro-oncologists and specialist nurses!

Although we have had only a limited number of actual Paul's Place guests so far, we are beginning to get more enquiries. It has been a bit frustrating, and even disappointing, not to have had more Paul's Place guests, but with so much positive feedback we remain confident that this will begin to change over the coming months.



Fund Raising

The "Polarities and Rhythms" art exhibition event back in September went really well raising both funds and awareness. We had more pictures donated for display or sale than we had room for, and had a great music night at the local pub with both Bristol and local musicians.

Amy Newnham did a fantastic job "running to the beat" and raised nearly £200, and **Adam** from Essex has raised £300 by jumping out of an aeroplane.

So as ever, a **big** thank you to **everyone** who has jumped, played, ran, sang, put up boards, made cups of tea or made a donation.

Plus, a really big thank you to Paul's old school, **St Mary Redcliffe and Temple**, which has very kindly adopted Paul's Fund as its Christmas charity this year. Jo Stockdale has very bravely agreed to take a full school assembly and attend several tutor groups to talk about the charity. We do so much appreciate the fact that the school, and in particular the headmistress Mrs Gilpin, continue to remember Paul (they also have an annual photographic award in his name) and support us.

Date for the Diary

On Sunday 18th December we are holding another music night here in Georgeham at The Kings Arms to which all are welcome.

Paul's Fund is a charitable trust administered by the Charities Aid Foundation (registered charity no. 268369).

Young adults who have been bereaved, or diagnosed with a terminal or life threatening illness, or who are themselves caring for a family member, can apply to Paul's Fund for a grant to pay for themselves, along with one or more family members or close friends, to have a holiday break staying at **Paul's Place**, a B&B and place of retreat with self catering facilities in Georgeham near Croyde on the North Devon coast.

For more details visit www.pauls-fund.co.uk

Or contact David and Pippa:

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