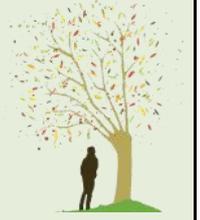


## Welcome to the Paul's Place/Paul's Fund Autumn 2012 Newsletter.

With a busy summer behind us it has been a real privilege to welcome a good number of Paul's Fund guests to Paul's Place and to see and hear first hand how a short break has made a difference in their lives. People have come from across the country and a wide range of backgrounds and circumstances. Some have found us on the internet, some have been referred by professionals working for the NHS or charities such as CLIC Sargent or the Teenage Cancer Trust.



After all the preparation and networking we feel the vision for Paul's Place has now become a reality and seems to be almost unique in it's focus on providing holiday breaks for Young Adults and their families.

But rather than take our word for it, do read "Feedback from the Professionals" and what our guests have to say. We very much hope you will be inspired to continue your support and refer people to Paul's Fund. We are keen to see an increasing number of people benefit from the charity and would encourage you to spread the word to friends, contacts, colleagues and other agencies and charities.



Thank you so much, David and Pippa



### Availability at Paul's Place Over the Winter

Sickness, bereavement and being a carer are not restricted to the summer holidays. Paul's Place is open year round, including the New Year, except for 10 days over Christmas and when we take short breaks in the autumn and Spring. The winter months are obviously much quieter for us and the area, so we are more likely to be able to accommodate people at short notice. Out of the school holidays there is much less for children to do, but empty beaches and cold or stormy weather have their own attraction and we have plenty of dvd's, books, games and wifi to occupy the dark evenings, not to mention the excellent local pubs with their log fires.

### The Paul's Place Passport

Many people coming to Paul's Place have very limited means. Whilst the Fund meets the B&B costs and contributes towards travel and other meals, any other expenses must be met by guests. It is here that the Paul's Place Passport has proved to be a great success, especially with young families. Three major local attractions now offer free entry and there are a range of discounts to various other activities including horse riding and surfing as well as meals at some pubs. All this has greatly added to the enjoyment and affordability of the holidays and we are extremely grateful to all the participating attractions.



### Up-Dated Guidance for Applications

We have added two new sections to our guidance notes to applications. Firstly, it is clear some people may continue to meet the criteria for a grant for some time (months or even years) and may benefit from having a further break at Paul's Place so we felt it was important to set some guidance on when a second or subsequent grant might be available.

Secondly we are aware that the rural setting may not be to everyone's liking so we have provided more information on what Paul's Place and the area are like.





## Fund Raising

Over the summer we have raised over £1500 through a variety of means. Pip and Ali Newbon, the local Vicar's wife, did cream teas with all tips and a third of the profits going to Paul's Fund. On September 8th we had a very successful gig in Croyde Village Hall with local band Parcel of Rogues as well as "old" favourites Ben and Chloe (Paul's friends) and local singer song writer Erin Matthews. The evening was supported by Christian Surfers (of which Paul was a member) despite them having to postpone the annual surfing competition the Jesus Surf Classic (due to lack of waves!). Then one of the local pubs raised over £600 in September just by adding a voluntary 25p to all main meals purchased.

We have also received many individual donations ranging from the modest to the substantial and we are as ever extremely grateful to everyone who has donated or helped make the events happen!

## Future Events

Put **23rd February 2013** in your diary for the next fund raising event at **Woodlands Church in Bristol**.

## Donating

You can make one-off or regular donations by standing order using the CAF charity account details on the web site <http://www.pauls-fund.co.uk/pages/donations/> . If you are a tax payer, please don't forget to download and send off a Gift Aid Form to the Charities Aid Foundation as well.

## Guest News

Our Paul's Place guests have been coming from across the country from as far afield as Manchester and Liverpool as well as London, High Wycombe, Brighton, Bristol and Exeter. This is what some of them have had to say:

**Alanna's partner Darren** has been diagnosed with a life limiting condition which means he is unlikely to reach the age of 40. With several young children, Alanna was desperate for them all to have a family holiday whilst Darren was still fit enough to enjoy it, but they lacked the means. She found the Paul's Fund web site just by searching on-line, and the family, including three young children, came to stay at Paul's Place this summer. The day after getting back from their holiday, Alanna wrote: *"Thank you for such a wonderful holiday, it seems a feeble expression when you realise what you have done for us. I want you to know how much we enjoyed staying at Paul's Place. The surroundings are absolutely beautiful, stunning scenery, peaceful, lovely beaches, an absolute million miles from where we live in comparison. What really made it special for us is the fact that somebody else cared enough to make this experience happen for our family. We are facing difficult circumstances but being away and having had some fun times in some brilliant places, it has really given us a different perspective on our situation. We feel refreshed, spoiled and inspired to help others in similar situations."*

**Anna** has been deeply affected by the loss of her brother David who died suddenly and inexplicably last year. Having used up her allotted allowance of free counselling and still needing support, she also found Paul's Fund on the internet and stayed for a few days with her partner. Afterwards she wrote *"I just wanted to leave a note to express our gratitude and support of Paul's Place....Not only has it let me have some time to relax, but also it has inspired me (and my family) to see that there is hope, light and opportunity out of the darkness and pain that death brings. The home you share with strangers is pretty powerful, potent healing stuff."*

**Charlie** is a bit of a celebrity back home in Oldham. In March, he was told he had only hours to live after having emergency surgery on tumours that had spread to a kidney and a lung. But doctors at The Christie Hospital, Manchester, decided to try him on a new drug which has only just become available. He made an amazing recovery and in August he married his fiancée Louise and stayed at Paul's Place for their honeymoon. The stay was arranged by CLIC Sargent social worker Matt. Writing in the visitors book Louise said *"Thank you so much for a fantastic week. You made us feel very welcome..we will never forget you!"*

## Feedback from the Professionals

Back in the summer we asked some of the professionals who have referred clients/patients to Paul's Fund to give us some feedback. We asked five questions and this is what they had to say:

1. Have you had feedback from the Clients you have referred to us, and what has it been? *We have received feedback on both occasions which were extremely positive*
2. Do you believe they have benefitted from their stay and that it has had a positive impact? *I have definitely heard that the benefits were there for the patient and the member of family that joined them.*
3. Has it been a help to you knowing that Paul's Fund/Place are available to you? *Yes and very keen to encourage others to access the resource*
4. Is it meeting a need that your own and other charities are not currently meeting? *Yes*
5. How have you found the process of applying to Paul's Fund, making reservations and generally your dealings with us? *Excellent/ very helpful with a personal touch*

*"Please accept this brief feedback as confirmation of your success with the two families that have accessed this resource. Thank you and well done!"* Oncology nurse.

*"The availability of Paul's Fund/Place is of a great help to me as a social worker as availability from existing charitably funded breaks is of a premium especially at this time of year. The fund and place are therefore meeting an existing need.*

*Most importantly I feel the process of applying to Paul's Fund is easy and straightforward and as a practitioner allows me to focus on my interactions with patients as opposed to being tied up with the administrative process of the booking process. Ultimately I feel when I have been communicating with Pauls Fund and Pauls Place that the young people and families with whom I am involved and often become quite protective of due to their presenting emotionally vulnerable state are in 'safe hands' which is extremely important to me as a social worker and part of a wider multi disciplinary team."* Social worker.

*"I did manage to speak to \*\* who said they really enjoyed the break and how good everything was associated with it. The only issue was the grant which only arrived after the holiday!  
It is fantastic to have the chance of holiday breaks especially for our young adults who have far fewer sources of help. To be able to get financial help is so helpful to people and ensures they can really enjoy a break rather than worry about spending too much.  
The booking process was easy-it can be hard to pin people down but managed ok with this break.  
It is an excellent resource which gives people another option and in a sympathetic but not intrusive way."* Social Worker.

*"I would like to say that the process for arranging visits has been extremely straightforward, and your help has been invaluable in making sure everything is ready – especially as the visit for the most recent patient was quite short notice. I am very happy to be promoting Paul's Place to young cancer patients, and feel that the local discounts that you have worked hard for, and the financial support for young people during their visit, means that you are offering something unique, and very special for young people."* Young Adult YouthWorker.

For more information about the aims of Paul's Fund and how to apply for a grant, visit the Paul's Fund web site [www.pauls-fund.co.uk](http://www.pauls-fund.co.uk)

Or contact David and Pippa on: T 01271 891076, M 0779 398 0760, E [paulsfund11@virginmedia.com](mailto:paulsfund11@virginmedia.com)