

Paul's Place/Paul's Fund Spring 2013 Newsletter.



As we write this it is cold and wet outside, but Spring is in the air and we have been enjoying some beautiful clear sunny days (see the photos below!) whilst the rest of the country has endured snow and biting winds!

With fewer guests over the winter months we have been busy doing maintenance and making some improvements including some new beds and mattresses and new carpeting so we hope the rooms are even more comfortable! We have also produced a new Access Statement primarily to advise people with impaired mobility what the facilities are like. This is available on request or from both the Paul's Fund and Old Bakery the web sites.

We are receiving a steady number of Paul's Fund enquiries and applications as we continue to become more widely known, although some people have simply found us by "googling". Personal recommendation is still the best method, so do continue to spread the word and "Like" us on facebook!

We very much look forward to welcoming our Paul's Place guests in the coming months and are grateful to our supporters, friends and referring agencies who together make it possible for the young adults, their families and friends to come and stay at Paul's Place .



Thank you, David and Pippa.



Guest News

Our guests come from across the country and are facing a whole range of challenging situations. We have a young carer coming who looks after her mum with mental health issues, a young man with a malignant brain tumour who has been through a year of surgery, radio-and chemotherapy, a couple whose first baby was stillborn and a brother and sister who have lost both their mum and another sister in the space of 6 months. We cannot heal broken bodies or bring back loved ones, but we trust we can provide time and space to draw fresh strength and find hope for the future.

It has been lovely to hear from past guests and how in many cases their situations have improved—like the couple who lost their first baby but are coming back to stay with their second!



Availability at Paul's Place Over the Spring and Summer

At the time of writing we have some availability in early April, plenty in May and June but July is already quite booked up and we would expect to start getting bookings for August in the coming weeks.

You can check availability on our B&B web site at www.georgehambandb.co.uk/pages/booking/ by following the "reservations" link—but don't use this to book. Contact us directly.

Unlike our ordinary B&B guests we will "pencil in" Paul's Place guests whilst applications and dates are finalised.

Fund Raising

Highlight of recent fund raising events was a gig at Woodlands Church in Bristol back in February. Paul's friends organised and ran the whole event which featured Scott Matthews as well as themselves. It was an amazing event and raised nearly £2,700. We are so grateful to everyone who organised, took part and joined us on the evening!

Georgeham Photography and 2014 Calendars

David has created a new web site featuring photos taken both by Paul and himself. David's pictures are mostly of the surrounding area taken in the 2 years since moving down so if you don't know North Devon, have a look and see what you are missing! All images are for sale with the proceeds going to Paul's Fund. www.georgehamphotography.com/

On the web site you'll see details of our new 2014 wall Calendars featuring local images — also for sale!

Future Events

David will be running in the North Devon Half Marathon on 30 June, a gruelling 13 miles along the undulating south west coastal path. CAF (who hold Paul's Fund) don't support Just Giving or the like, so to sponsor David, please just drop him an email at paulsfund11@virginmedia.com. David will let you know how he got on and donations can then be made via the donations page on the Paul's Fund web site : www.pauls-fund.co.uk/pages/donations/ . If you are a tax payer, please don't forget to Gift Aid your donation.

Meanwhile we are looking into the possibility of organising a sponsored overseas adventure to climb Mt Kenya in December so watch this space. If this might be of interest to you, send us an email!



Guidance for Applications

Just a reminder that we now have new guidance and application forms for grants for return visits , and a new information sheet about Paul's Place and the locality.



The Paul's Place Passport and Local Attractions

We are slowly adding to the list of local businesses and attractions who have joined the Paul's Place Passport scheme by providing free entry or reduced rates and discounts.

Some attractions and places are difficult to reach by public transport so for people without their own cars we are happy to provide lifts when possible so long as guests can be flexible.

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 with self catering facilities in Georgeham near Croyde on the North Devon coast.

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

Paul's Place is open to the public and trades as The Old Bakery. For more information go to www.georgehambandb.co.uk

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

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.