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"WHERE EVERYONE MATTERS"



WELCOME TO OUR
DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

OFFICIALLY OPENED 25TH MAY 1963
CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF CARE 15TH JULY 2023

Welcome to Eckling Grange and thank you for coming to this Diamond Anniversary occasion. Whatever your link with Eckling Grange, we hope that you will greatly enjoy this special day.

What began as an idea to provide a home for retired overseas missionaries and gospel workers in the UK has developed into a ministry offering care and support for so many dear folk and at the same time gaining the respect of outside agencies and the local community. If there are three words to describe Eckling Grange they must be: care, community and Christian. Whole person care is what we seek to provide; community is what we seek to achieve with all residents and staff equally valued, and Christian, as the Gospel gives us the vision, strength and life to all that we are and do in this place. Today we recall the story of Eckling Grange in its past, its present and its future. Above all, we want to give thanks to the Lord because His love and faithfulness have brought us to this day.

*Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory,
because of your love and faithfulness. Psalm 115:1*





The first residents a

Diamond Anniversary Celebration

Welcome & Introduction

Graham Pickhaver (Chair of Trustees)

Prayer

Ian Masson (Pastor)

Hymn of Praise

To God be the glory, great things He has done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that we may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the earth hear His voice!*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the people rejoice!*

*O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give Him the glory, great things He has done!*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!

To ev'ry believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus forgiveness receives.

(Refrain)

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

(Refrain)

Bible Reading — Psalm 46

Nigel Tompsett (Assistant Pastor)

Past times

‘The beginnings of Eckling Grange’

Rachel Slater (daughter of David Potter)

Hymn

How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with you. Oh, be not dismayed,
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call you to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow,
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless
And sanctify to you your deepest distress.

Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
My sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love,
And then, when grey hairs shall their temples adorn,
Like lambs they shall still on my shoulders be borne.

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
He will not – He will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
He'll never - no, never – no, never forsake!

By Rachel Slater & Leah Bash — daughters of David Potter

Six decades ago it was a joy and privilege for our parents to be at the official opening of Eckling Grange. The vision that God gave to our Father, David Potter was being fulfilled. We sometimes wonder if he ever envisaged that 60 years on, it would still be going strong. Today, we would like to honour our Father and Mother for their obedience to God's calling. For refusing to step down when faced with challenges and for dedicating hours of their time and resources to make it happen.

As children and teenagers growing up we were blessed to witness the amazing ways they showed love and kindness to people, and their ability to see and supply the needs of those in their twilight years and those in need of help and comfort.

We have many happy memories of Eckling Grange and the wonderful people that joined the ever growing Grange family, of their day to day lives and celebrations. So, It is with joy that we celebrate with you all today and thank God for the vision fulfilled, not only through our Dad and mum, David and Bertha, but to all those who over the past six decades have laboured to continue and maintain the vision of Eckling Grange.

Thank you to all. Glory to God.

By Beryl Duncan — daughter of David Potter

One of Beryl's earliest memories is... "60 years is so long ago and memories fade, but the opening day had arrived and for myself and my eldest sister Margaret it was a proud day as our Dad saw the fulfilment of his vision and we all met together to thank God for His goodness. One of my memories of around that time was because what Dad had done was innovative he was invited to go and speak at various places. One of those places was Bourneville. The Cadbury family were Quakers and well known for their care to their employees. They wanted to do something similar for their elderly and so Dad was asked to go and speak and show his slides of the stages of the development. I accompanied him. I will never forget that."



Present times

'Facing today's challenges'
Stewart Barber (General Manager)
& Elizabeth Treacy (Care Manager)

Solo — Great is Thy Faithfulness

Sarah Bird (Guest)

Future times

'The Gospel and hope of future days'
Danny Pritchard (Guest)

Hymn

Lord, for the years Your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that Word, the Word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the Word, receive Your people's praise.

Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without Him:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Closing prayers

Alf Entwisle (B55), Hilary Osborne (Resident) & Pastor Ian



Celebration Luncheon

Main Course

Cold Salmon

or

Cold Meats

or

Vegetarian Quiche

- all with a selection of salads and new potatoes -

Dessert

Strawberry Topped Cheesecake

or

Sticky Chocolate & Orange Cake

Tea & Coffee



Closing Remarks

Graham Pickhaver

Just over 3 years earlier we were very happy to welcome Josiah Daniel Duan, who was born on 27 December 2012 in NNUH but moved to the Grange later that day to meet his grand-parents Paul & Nesta Volle. Josiah's parents Simon and Rebekah were able to spend the next 6 happy months with their family at Eckling before returning to China. The visiting Midwives were extremely amused at attending a new born baby in a Care Home complex!



The first residents in the home – Mr and Mrs Griffiths

The stress of this ongoing operation brought health issues particularly for Mrs Avery, with a young daughter to care for, so the family returned to the UK in 1949/50, with the advice not to return to India for health reasons. This was a very sad day for the family, but with strong trust for the future in the living God, who had provided for all their needs over the previous 17 years. At this time Sir John Laing kindly offered to retrain Harold as a Quantity Surveyor, then after another couple of years Harold made a successful application to join Potter Bros.

Shortly after they arrived in Dereham, now with 2 daughters, David Potter shared with Harold his vision for Eckling Grange to become a retirement and care home, especially for missionaries returning from their mission field. It is very apparent that Harold was very excited and enthusiastic about this project and shared this enthusiasm with all he met. He would also take his family regularly to see building progress.

Perhaps there was one minor concern, Harold's daughter Anna and Tom Potter's daughter Anne entered the local secondary school sitting together in the same class, and probably both should have earned the teachers' assessment "does not always show attention to class work"!

"We both do give thanks for all the care given to our mothers, one of whom passed away peacefully just a week short of her 102nd birthday in 2016, after some 20 happy years in the Grange.

*God bless Eckling Grange,
created 60 years ago for retiring
missionaries, existing now as a
community for care, with every
provision given for our golden
senior years. It's a place where
you can savor solitude,
or join in with several
social groups. A home with a heart,
one rooted deep in faith and love.
A haven of peace where nature
soothes our souls, calms and eases
troubled minds as it provides
glimpses of gardens for our eyes.
It's where you can live independently
or be catered to for every need.
It's where people matter most
and there's no shame attached
to being weak, feeble or old.
Here, compassion and kindness
live, alongside fun, laughter,
and great thoughtfulness.
Surrounded by the strength of trees
scattering their blossom and leaves,
girded around with hymns and prayer,
Eckling Grange is beyond compare.*

Joy Lenton (B19)

ECKLING GRANGE
A Brief History by David & Anne Goddard

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Chapter 10

Mr Harold Avery

In the mid 1950's Harold successfully applied for a job as a Quantity Surveyor with Potter Bros and soon settled into his role in Dereham. But first some experiences of his earlier life.

He had been brought up in Liverpool by his father and step-mother, as his birth mother had died when he was just 4 years old, and the family were members of the Newsham Brethren Chapel.

Leaving school at age 14 he trained as a carpenter, and while working attended night school to become a Quantity Surveyor as well as being involved in the Chapel's youth work.

As he grew older Harold also became interested in pioneer mission work, particularly for Tibetan folk living in Northern India. In the early 1930's he was sent by his church to serve in the Darjeeling area. While there he learned the Tibetan language, so he could do translation work. He would trek up into the mountain ranges secretly meeting Tibetan believers who would then smuggle these scriptures into Tibet. These were dangerous exploits for each side, but built lasting trust and friendships. Another initiative was to set up a new language school particularly for more interaction from UK and US missionaries. And these seeds sown so long ago continue to produce fruit.

caring, and his blindness stopped him seeing any embarrassment we might have felt! He was a good organiser and would often vary the styles of services or get together. I remember him inviting me to lead a thought for the week. I presented my short talk. And immediately he rushed up to me and said he had been thinking about writing a short pamphlet based on the second epistle to the Corinthians and if anyone quoted from it, this would be his green light to publish. I did so unwittingly, and he published the article on his heart – such was his style!

The penultimate time we saw John was in 1971 in Toronto, where we had moved with 2 toddlers to undertake a project for Norwich Union. John had accepted the invitation from his son and daughter in law to spend his remaining time with them in southern Canada, so he had very reluctantly said goodbye to Eckling Grange.

Later that year Anne's parents, Tom and Ivy Potter, came to Toronto to visit us with an invitation to visit John and his son and family for lunch at their home in London, Ontario a pleasant run along the infamous 401 highway. And then a year later in September 1972 Eckling Grange received a cheque for £25, representing a fee from the BBC which John had received for the broadcasts he had just made, he would not retire!

Looking back, John was exactly the right person to set up so much of the early structure and style of the Christian ministry for the care home and the bungalows, not forgetting our staff and all other supporters and helpers.

Chapter 1

At the Beginning

David writes... I woke early on the morning of Saturday 10th January 1959, and looking out of the window at Eckling Grange saw it had been snowing heavily overnight. I had been invited by Mr & Mrs Eric Payne to spend the weekend there with Stephen and Edwin. Mr Eric Payne had recently retired as General Manager at JJ Wrights the local Ford outlet at Dereham, and he and his wife Nora had volunteered to run Eckling Grange while their purchase and upgrading of the Marlborough Hotel in Lowestoft was completed. This day is also well remembered in Norfolk, because 3rd division Norwich City defeated Manchester United in the 3rd round of the FA Cup!

Photo courtesy of Dereham Antiquarian Society



Eckling Grange was just the 6 bedroom gracious house on the edge of Dereham, with its bowling green, orchards and large gardens. Its formal opening as a care home and sheltered accommodation was still some 4 and a half years in the future. However, even then there was at least one elderly couple in residence, who I believe were Mr and Mrs Griffiths, the first residents.



It continued snowing so Stephen, Edwin and I played Monopoly all morning, but the weather turned better in the afternoon, and Edwin and I decided to cycle over to our girlfriends. First, to North Tuddenham to see Anne Potter and secondly on to Weston Longville for Edwin to visit Elspeth Bailey, one step in the journey to our respective marriages in 1966! Anne is the niece of the late David Potter, and her father, Tom, was very much involved in the early development of Eckling Grange. Elspeth's father Norman Bailey was a member of the early Management

Rev John Robb

Rev John Robb and his wife arrived in Norfolk in the 1960's and became known to David and Tom Potter. They felt he would be a great asset to Eckling Grange and so invited him to consider a bungalow and become involved in the spiritual input to be developed for Eckling. John, who was blind, readily agreed but said he would need a further room to the standard designs to accommodate all his braille books. So bungalow 49 was built with an additional room, and John and his wife became two of the early folk to move in. They quickly got involved in organising regular services and a pastoral role across the whole complex.

Sadly, Mrs Robb died a year or so later which was a hard loss to John, but Miss Leach a near neighbour living in bungalow 31 quickly stepped in and became his gopher! She could often be seen striding earnestly around the bungalows delivering material from John, and it is believed that in her much younger life she was an accomplished athlete.

In the late 1950's and first half of the 1960's there was a very active Bible Class linked to Toftwood Gospel Hall. John took a great interest in our group and would come and lead regularly. He also would invite young couples planning marriage to come to his bungalow for a pre-marriage chat, he was very gentle and

for several hours, our magnanimous Father invited them all to come back to the reception.

Our Father was able to help several of them with obtaining a state pension. We look back on the years of knowing many of the residents who became our friends, most of them 'real characters'. Happy Days!

Situated where the Gatehouse now stands were three cottages, probably staff homes, of which no. 1 later became home to our aunt Vera (Watson). She was a great organiser and arranged coach outings and a weekly shoppers' bus into town. There was also the Grange's Village Shop and a launderette.

From Anne

When I was about age 16 working in an office, on my Saturday off I used to "help" at Eckling Grange. I don't think I was much use, but it was all so free and easy in those days – to just walk in, don an apron and peel the potatoes for the next day's lunch. There were no DBS checks, nor going through a Safeguarding Course to do a bit of volunteering! I also remember a lady called Cookie who I think came straight from Upstairs, Downstairs! On some occasions, I would feed a resident their quite late breakfast. After my kitchen shift was over, I would go to have coffee with a retired artist in her bungalow and then catch my bus home to North Tuddenham.

And we both give thanks for the care given to our mothers, both of whom got to her century!

Committee until the mid 1970's. So Eckling Grange with its development of sheltered accommodation bungalows gradually grew until its formal opening on 25th May 1963. As the plaque beside the front door shows, this was performed by John Williamson Esq. C.B.E. and Major William Batt M.B.E., J.P. the High Sheriff of Norfolk.



Mr John Williamson Esq C.B.E



Chairman Mr Tom Potter



The Opening Ceremony 1963

Chapter 2

Early Days

Mr. David Potter had opened Quebec Hall some 3 or 4 years before Eckling Grange's opening, and so Eckling's initial Management Committee benefitted greatly from his knowledge and experiences.

It is interesting reading the early records of Quebec Hall, particularly at their first formal meeting in December 1958 from which the minutes record "Mr D C Potter explained the commencement of work and how Quebec Hall had come into the possession of his company, Potter Bros Builders, and of many indications which went to show that the work of creating a Christian Home for retired people was very much needed... Appreciation was expressed that a matron of the Hall was already in post..."

One of David Potter's fellow trustees at Quebec Hall was Rev. Gordon Hill, Rector of the local villages of Whinburgh, Westfield and Reymerton. Rev. Hill was a staunch supporter of The Protestant Truth Society, and also keen to increase his own congregation by collecting some from Quebec Hall in his mini-bus.

Over the next 2 to 3 years, the Hall was modified for multiple occupation, and 43 bungalows were built in the grounds of Quebec Hall which remain very pleasant and peaceful, despite the encroachment of suburban expansion.

The whole retirement complex was officially opened on 25 May 1960 by Sir William Dobby, and continues to be a very comfortable and quiet retirement and care complex on the edge of Dereham.



Early resident Miss Pearce – Retired Missionary from Algeria



The lounge in the early days

Mary and Anne's (Tom Potter's daughters) recollections of early days at Eckling Grange

From Mary

My memories of the Grange are mainly of the Bungalow residents, several of whom were retired missionaries. As they had no transport, we were quickly drawn into taking them to the morning and evening services (and probably midweek meetings) at Toftwood Gospel Hall.

It wasn't too long before we were inviting them back to our farm at North Tuddenham for tea and homemade cake, especially apple pie. Our particular couples were Mr & Mrs Griffiths and Mr & Mrs Harding. The Griffiths had been missionaries in Africa - I think Angola – and had been used to having a 'Boy' to look after them, so housekeeping was a whole new experience! I remember Mrs Griffiths was quite frightened by traffic roundabouts.

The Hardings had been in Italy – a much more civilised place! Mr Harding had acquired a bicycle and would often cycle into town in a very precarious fashion, much to the concern of other road users!

When Andy and I were married at North Tuddenham parish Church in 1963, several of the Grange residents decided to travel by bus to the service uninvited! As there was no return bus

Building Development at Eckling Grange

Initially, the main focus of the building was the "horseshoe" of bungalows at the rear of the main house, as applications from prospective occupants began to arrive. A good access road on the outside edge of the bungalows was also needed quickly. Inside the horseshoe was basically an orchard, which in due time became a lawn, with a small path, and inside the path, individual small gardens for each bungalow.



1959 was the start of major building developments at Eckling Grange. To add to the existing skills of locals Aubrey Burton and Bob Smith, Harold Avery and Leslie Brooker were recruited by Potter

Bros Builders. to increase the architectural and quantity surveying skills inhouse. In the early days the purchase of a bungalow was a lump sum, but with a proportionate refund if the resident vacated it during their first 10 years of occupation. David Potter did receive a challenge on this from the Charity Commission, but from the



early evidence we suggested it had not appeared to be a threat. When Eckling's finances became more stable, incoming bungalow residents moved to a monthly rental basis. The first bungalows to be rented were from the 1st March 1985 and the new monthly rates were £14.50 or £16.50 per month.

When it was first purchased, Eckling Grange was just a 6 bedroom large house, which has now grown to a modern 60 bed care home complex with 54 one and two bedroom bungalows as well. The first and relatively small extension was to the rear of the House, enlarging the kitchen and creating the dining room. Thereafter, the David Potter Wing, a 2 storey extension primarily of bedrooms along the front on the eastern side of the main house was built, followed later by the John Laing Wing at the end of the David Potter Wing along the southern side of the house. Later, in the early 1990's the Auriol Tessier Wing was added, as recorded in Chapter 6.



tired to Eckling after many years missionary service in Africa.

Sadly, the antipathy in Cromer remained, and KeyChange limited by Upton House's small size and inability to be profitable, ultimately took the decision to close it. All the kit and furniture in the care home had to go, and one of Peter Baldwin's last jobs as General Manager at Eckling Grange was to organise a large lorry load of kit to be delivered to Eckling, which was wonderful!

Upton House had remained as a separate charity so KeyChange had to arrange for its sale and formal winding up. Public notices were produced, and Anne and I spent a delightful day in Cromer, identifying public notice boards, getting permission and publishing the formal Charity Commission document which invited bids for the property. At KeyChange's next Board Meeting, the results were announced of the remaining Upton House cash balance, and its distribution to the three charities who submitted bids for it:

Remaining cash balance of Upton House	£60,000
Transferred to Eckling Grange	£15,000
Transferred to Quebec Hall	£ 5,000
Transferred to KeyChange Charity	£40,000

And so from David Potter's first venture of creating a retirement home, £20,000 and the equipment mentioned above returned to Dereham for the benefit of Eckling Grange and Quebec Hall. Thanks be to God!

graciously invited me for trial period, and I joined them for around 8 more years.

However, one historic situation had been overlooked or forgotten. The earlier name of KeyChange was Christian Alliance for Women and Girls (CAWG), which used to run well-loved and well supported hotels in pleasant areas for holidays for young women working in old industrial areas. The Dyke hotel, near the Sheringham seafront had been one such hotel, but had been closed by CAWG as industrial working conditions for young female employees had improved greatly. However, sadly it soon became apparent there remained local antipathy between the local Christian folk and KeyChange because of that local decision.

KeyChange runs several Christian care homes across the UK, and has its own style, with the Head Office in central London. Each trustee normally shadows a particular area of interest, and the Board Meetings were generally robust. The first chairman I knew was a senior civil servant, whose motto seemed to be that each meeting on a specific subject was shorter than the previous time. He always claimed that his University Old Boys Annual Meeting had never failed that test!

The following chairman ran a large Christian Bookshop network, and was known country wide. I remember when he came to Norfolk to re-open Upton House under KeyChange's regime, we dropped in for him to visit Eckling Grange. His first exclamation was "There's Harold Adeney!" Harold with his wife had both re-

Chapter 4

1960's Up and Running

The original trustees were Mr & Mrs David Potter, Mr Tom Potter and Mr Norman Bailey and in fact they all remained in post until the 1970's, setting the style of Eckling Grange and dealing with the issues as they arose in this new development. Mr David Potter had also remained as a trustee of Quebec Hall Care Home and so was on familiar ground.

In these early days there was little organisation for regular formal services, and it was attempted to relay the Sunday evening service from Toftwood Gospel Hall to Eckling's lounge.

However, technology was still relatively poor, and unless the speaker remembered to keep close to his microphone it gave a poor transmission – the Gospel Hall had a large pulpit which some speakers would roam backwards and forward across!

Eckling Grange was getting into its stride, but one additional demand in the early 1970's was for a bus shelter outside the front gate for buses into town, so residents could get to the facilities in the town centre. Initially the local youth centre agreed to provide it, but eventually they backed down, Potter Bros Builders then actually built it for £75 and it is actually part of Eckling's property.

Early on, Eckling acquired an elderly coach, which they shared with the youth work at Toftwood Gospel Hall; however there was increasing desire for a newer, more comfortable one, and with some financial support from our residents a more modern bus was purchased for £664! Currently, we now have our own 16 seater Eckling Grange named minibus, painted in our livery

colours for outings and visits to events. This cost £48k, in 2020, not much of a difference!!



Eckling Grange also suffered typical household problems. In 1969 as the number of residents grew, the site ran out of mains water. Mr David Potter cited the 1945 Water Act that every property with mains available has the right to an adequate supply. Another issue was that one winter it kept running out of heating oil. The answer was that the bottom of the tank was full of sludge, and when the meter said 400 gallons, it was basically empty. This begs other questions. However, with 2 farmers as trustees, it was soon sorted and the supply switched to a more reliable farming supplier!

opened with an experienced group of local trustees, but none from Eckling Grange.

Certainly, through the 1960's and onwards, Upton House became a well-loved and well run Christian Care Home. However, there were at least two issues affecting support from the local Christian community. The local Brethren Assembly in Sheringham had declined and folded, and the one in Cromer has become very small. Secondly, Cromer and Sheringham provided growing holiday accommodation and entertainment facilities, which means recruitment of care staff became more difficult and expensive.

In the early 2000's the trustees of Upton House approached KeyChange Charity to consider taking it over, with an initial discussion meeting of interested parties held in Norwich. David Jack, Peter Baldwin and I attended as interested observers from Eckling Grange, together with around 20 local supporters of Upton House. The then General Manager of KeyChange, David Shafik, described their philosophy of Christian care and their style of operation. The 3 of us linked to Eckling Grange abstained in the final voting, but the majority of those present supported the transfer of Upton House to KeyChange Charity.

Although I did not like the above decision, I was impressed by David Shafik and his description of KeyChange Charity's style, so I became interested in joining KeyChange as a trustee. I had just retired and wanted to keep active a bit longer, particularly where accounts and risks were involved. KeyChange Charity

Full Circle

This brief history of Eckling Grange as a Christian Care home fits within a wider circle of Christian care in Norfolk.

David Potter's first venture was to create an Eventide Home in South Green, Dereham opened in 1956 as a retirement home for Christians. It had a capacity for 16 residents, and Mr & Mrs Jack Finch were the first couple to manage it. The property had a large garden where vegetables and flowers were grown for the home. There was a small lodge besides its entrance gates where the gardener and his wife lived and helped in the Home. Older folk will remember cardboard models of the home were distributed amongst the local Christian Community for fund raising for the overheads and then running costs of this development.

However, there was soon a clamour from the residents (and management) to move to the coast and create a full care home, and Upton House in Cromer was bought in around 1959. It had been the holiday home of the Barclays' family and is a prominent building close to Cromer church.

To change a large private dwelling into something suitable as a care home needed considerable internal building redesign to provide additional and suitable bedrooms and bathrooms etc, but planning and rebuilding did proceed quite quickly, and so it

The Wing

At the very beginning of the 1990's the trustees started considering whether a hospital type wing should be added to the care facilities at Eckling Grange, particularly for remedial care. There was soon unanimity amongst the trustees, and in February 1992 they instructed the local company of John Sketcher to produce plans for a 20 bed unit, together with relevant spaces for the other support facilities required. One specific condition imposed by the authorities was that the new build should be totally detached from any existing building. The initial estimates of cost were around £275k and 7 local building companies were invited to tender for it, T Gill Ltd were the lowest. The Auriol Tessier Wing was opened in July 1993 by Mrs Bertha Potter, widow of David Potter. One special patient was Miss Auriol Tessier, who is



remembered as the only resident ever to read the Financial Times every day. On her death, her assets went into trust under the control of trustees, Mr David Jack and Mr Peter Gallant. Most of this fund, originally £609k, supported

ongoing developments at Eckling Grange.

Initially, the Wing attracted residents who needed some nursing care, but after a review in mid-year 2000 it was apparent that the ongoing care was for high needs residents, but not for nursing care. So, a nurse manager ran the Wing, but the staff were carers for special needs, and sadly some nurses had to leave.

By 2007 The Wing had been turned into a Dementia Care unit which is now fully attached and integrated with the rest of the complex. This is more like a home within a home, a quieter environment, compared to what can be a much more boisterous atmosphere in the Grange main lounge!



The Recent Years

We have been very thankful for Ian Masson, who has now been our Pastor for 9 years, and with his team of helpers has developed the Christian ministry and team, particularly using all the good features of modern technology. To continue and develop this ministry to all our residents and staff, the trustees have recently appointed an Assistant Pastor, Nigel Tompsett who joined us in April to share the load, and it was wonderful to introduce him to everyone in the main lounge on Sunday, 28 May 2023! The lounge was absolutely crowded and we all look forward to what the future holds!

Also, a new meeting room, The Gatehouse, has been opened near the rear entrance. Originally it was a storage area, generally for redundant equipment, but has been cleared, redecorated, fitted out with modern IT, and a piano; it is primarily a meeting place for bungalow residents to use.

Our pastoral team are very active at developing and varying the spiritual activities, both in the Care Home, outside on the large lawn, and now with the added facilities of the Gatehouse. We all look forward with great anticipation to future developments!