



Dalesdown News

Spring 2005

Change is here to stay at Dalesdown!! - but.....

His promise is "I, the Lord, do not change" & we know "the One who calls us IS faithful"

Retirement brings big changes....

After 11 years as Centre Manager, Alex is to retire shortly, and we want to introduce you to Cliff Powell, his successor - more later! Liz retired officially last year, but is still frequently seen at Dalesdown! Alex & Liz can say that in their years at Dalesdown they have proved over and over again the truth of the verses above, that the Lord did indeed call them and that He *is* faithful. They say, "It has been a wonderful privilege to serve God together at Dalesdown - we have never worked so hard in our lives!, but never had such rewarding and satisfying work. We have met many thousands of people and made good friends. We leave with a love still for this wonderful place and its ministry, and know we shall



miss it greatly."

Wendy Iliffe recalls, "looking back over Alex & Liz's time at Dalesdown evokes a series of emotions and memories going back over 12 years since they first met with the Directors in the still-derelict Dalesdown. I suppose the first emotion is that of extreme gratitude for such a couple, followed by a realisation of the privilege and enormous pleasure it has been to share a number of years of office life

alongside them at Dalesdown. Constantly, I have marvelled at Alex's ability to remember names and faces and inevitably find some connection with them in his past. Not only so, alongside will come a

string of details which leaves no doubt that each has a genuine place in his heart. Often I sensed a constrained dilemma for Liz, who sharing Alex' heart for people, knew as Alex chatted, the time for getting a certain job done was ticking away! So maybe the one quality of this couple, alongside the many, is between them, to have held the balance superbly between task and people - a very rare gift for both to be equally strong, I suspect. Yet maybe it isn't just a gift, but more a discipline built on a deep love for God and a desire to serve Him well. There has been a huge cost in time and energy. Having given all that people around them have needed, when the rest of us were packing up to go home, they were often still busy working, to complete the day's tasks.

The many times we have shared the daily coffee prayer times, laughed together, leg pulled and yet brought all our concerns simply to God are treasured in my memory. Such happy days. And perhaps that is the feeling which is attractive to all who come to Dalesdown, and why children so often are heard to say 'I just don't want to go home.' It is such a happy place - a fun place, it has a peace which is tangible - it is a place where people are respected and valued, it is a place where God feels at home, I believe. Alex & Liz, our gratitude is deep and heartfelt and we look to God to bring His reward for your years of dedicated example and service."

May we introduce Cliff Powell...



.....Cliff Powell joins the Dalesdown team as General Manager from 1st March 2005.

Cliff has worked for the Fishermen's Mission for the past 12½ years and the family have lived in Peterhead, Aberdeen, the Shetland Isles and at present, Brixham. Cliff says, "It has been fascinating work, but we are looking forward to working at Dalesdown." In his application, Cliff wrote, "Throughout my Christian life, God has prepared me for each step. I have a heart for young people and families to know the call of God on their lives, and have a great desire that others should enjoy the security, peace, joy and hope in believing, that I have known in my own life. I feel God has equipped me through life's experience for this job." At his interview, the Board recognised Cliff's call and gifting and were unanimous in their decision to appoint



him as the next General Manager.

Cliff grew up in the Fishermen's Mission, as his father also worked for them. When he was 13, his father moved to lead a Church in Battersea, and that was where at 16, Cliff met Kym. They married 4 years later, and have 3 children - Helen, 21, who finishes her Physiotherapy course this year, Rachel, 18, studying Applied Geography, and Robert, 15, who is taking his GCSEs this summer. Cliff tells us he loves football, particularly his team, Chelsea, and is a sports fanatic. Kym

loves reading, crosswords, and researching her family tree.

Cliff begins his job at Dalesdown on 1st March and Alex will work alongside him for the first few weeks. *Please pray for Cliff in his new role, and for Kym and the family, in all the upheaval of their move.*

.....Peter Goodall introduced here by Kay & Steve Morgan-Gurr:- "Many of you will know that Children Worldwide, the membership organisation for those with a heart for children's work, has its roots and its Head Office at Dalesdown. This office has had to be staffed on an ad hoc basis by volunteers for the last 18 months. We are all delighted



that Peter Goodall, a long-standing friend of Dalesdown, has now taken on the vital part-time role of Children Worldwide Administrator. We thank God for answered prayer. We warmly welcome Peter as part of the Dalesdown team, and look forward to seeing his many gifts bear spiritual fruit as he sorts out the practical needs of the Children Worldwide team and events in the months ahead."

Would you like to be a 'fly on the wall' at Dalesdown? Resident Wardens, Bern and Wendy describe a typical day.....

.....well starting the day before really, when we see out a group from Battersea after a weekend visit. A school is due in at 9.00am next day so we tidy up ready for the housekeepers who will be in early tomorrow. Even with families to look after, they are both in by 7.00am and by 9 o'clock, all is clean and tidy. Heather, our 'schools volunteer helper' comes in ready to welcome the school. Two teachers arrive to be given keys, instructions and the Leader's Handbook. One teacher has not been before so while cleaning equipment is cleared away, Alex gives her a Centre tour. A delivery

driver phones for directions and on arrival, Bern helps unload the food order. The children arrive gradually, brought by their parents. One mum arrives rather late and is so upset at getting lost, that everything in the office stops and she is given a listening ear and a cup of tea. Eventually all is calm and Alex, Wendy and Heather go to welcome the party, introduce themselves, and outline the Dalesdown rules. Time is taken with the teachers, and with the helpers who are catering. The housekeepers leave, Bern sets off for his work, hedge-trimming, and Alex & Wendy start the admin. wondering where the morning has gone. Then, a lad asks if he can call his dad - he's gone home with his money! - and a girl does not have her important bag. Half an hour later, mum arrives with the missing bag, followed by dad with the missing wallet.

Alex is writing to the applicants who have applied for his job and Wendy deals with the bookings. The phone rings regularly with a wide variety of requests and enquiries. Lunchtime arrives and we take our packed lunches outside, to get some fresh air, then back to work for us all. The school party is out for a walk. Suddenly a power cut stops us all, the systems are down, all the fire doors close, then the power is back again and work resumes. The school return and immediately, there are youngsters at the office door wanting table tennis tables set up, asking if we've seen a lost bat, asking if they can have the gift shop open..... Eventually it is time to wind down and finish for the day. Alex leaves and Bern and Wendy battle their way home across the car park. Another full day at Dalesdown!

Prayer changes things!

*The work at Dalesdown is surrounded by constant, regular prayer. **Prayer friends** receive regular news of Dalesdown, with prayer requests and the answers which have followed. If you would like to become a prayer friend of Dalesdown, please tick the response form. A **Day of Prayer** for the work of Dalesdown is held annually, - this year on 3rd November. It's open to all - please join us.*

Have you seen Dalesdown's own **website**? Log on to www.dalesdown.org.uk. Read up-to-date news of Dalesdown and see photos, including the crazy golf course, constructed last year by the maintenance team.



If you were to visit Dalesdown on any day, you would most likely see it humming with activity, full of young people, - lots of noise, lots of activity. Most groups coming are making a return visit, and come with a great sense of excitement, looking forward to what God is going to do *this* time. We are always glad to welcome new groups too. Last year was a first visit for a **Salvation Army Mini-break for Mums and Toddlers**. They recall their visit - "We invited 10 mums and their children under 5 years to Dalesdown. Most were single mothers and some were mothers whose husbands/partners were often away from home through work. It was felt that this section of the community would benefit most from time spent together. This year most were connected to Salvation Army Parent & Toddler groups in Gosport and Bognor Regis.

The aim was to offer parenting classes - including a cookery demonstration; outings for people who had little opportunity for a holiday; friendship and support of other mothers; guidance and support of staff trained in parenting. All staff members were committed Christians and, although only one mother was a practising Christian, bedtime prayers were held with the children. All the mums brought their children to prayers and sometimes the informal conversations in the evening resulted in staff being able to share their faith. As they left, the mothers received assurance of continued support from the staff. The mums made many new friends and returned home feeling reassured and

refreshed.” (Yes, they are booked to come again *this* year!)

Yet more changes!! More goodbyes.....

At the Trustees meeting in December, the Board of Family Foundations Trust had to say goodbye to **Paul Voke** who is about to reach that ‘special age’ when Directors leave the Board. Paul was one of the foundation members of FFT and, with David Iliffe and other men of God, he shared the initial vision of a permanent residential setting where the love of Jesus could be shared with children and young people. Throughout his many years of commitment to Dalesdown Paul has been a great tower of strength. His sensible, down to earth wisdom and practical skills have been much appreciated by the Board and by all those who have dealt with Paul at Dalesdown. He has a focused sense of responsibility and commitment that is appreciated and respected by all of his fellow Board members. Without a doubt, the Board of FFT will be the less without him. From the beginning, Paul’s hard work has seen Dalesdown through from the first renovations to the present day, where he is still a mainstay in the volunteer maintenance team. As a Board member, one of his specific responsibilities has been to support the Managers. Alex & Liz are immensely grateful for Paul and Ruth’s understanding, encouragement and support, and remember with enjoyment all the working breakfasts they have shared over the years. We all owe them a great debt of gratitude.

*Last year, **Peter Godfrey**, who too reached that ‘special age’, stepped down from the Board. He, like Paul, had been among those men of God recognised by David Iliffe. Peter became one of the first Trustees to be appointed and Pat gave him her constant loyal support. The Board appreciated Peter’s wise counsel and advice and his encouragement in the growing work of the Trust. Peter and Pat then lived in Sevenoaks, but they willingly drove to Dalesdown for meetings and other events. Peter took charge of several successful and enjoyable summer concerts, introducing new friends to Dalesdown, stimulating giving and support. Even when they moved to Gloucestershire, they still continued to give their full support to the responsibilities and interests they shared in the work of Dalesdown, spending many hours on the motorways to do so. All who have known*

Peter and Pat over these years appreciate the value of their contribution to Dalesdown and thank them for it with grateful hearts.

In March, sadly we say goodbye to **Rosemary Lord**, who has served Dalesdown so wonderfully as housekeeper for over 8 years. On behalf of all who use Dalesdown, we want to say a heartfelt thank you, Rosemary, for all your committed hard work, for your stickability in constantly clearing and cleaning up, literally making Dalesdown shine for Jesus. The comment, ‘Is it *really* a youth centre, it looks so clean?’ is heard frequently. She has gone the extra mile with a willingness and a smile and will be greatly missed.

and more hellos.....

Over the past twelve months, new faces have been added to the FFT Board. At the AGM in December, the appointment of 4 new Directors was ratified. Trevor Hollingum, Carol Johnson, John Riddell and Ruth Aldridge bring their new and different approaches to life and a new expertise and professionalism to the Board. We look forward to their interventions and contributions. The foundation years of Dalesdown are over; Dalesdown now enters

adolescence! The Board of Trustees now has the responsibility to bring Dalesdown and FFT into adulthood. Different skills and the same skills are needed. *Please remember the Board in your prayers as we continue to ensure that Dalesdown reaches the full potential that God has in store for this anointed part of Sussex.*

We look forward to **Brenda Taylor** joining us as part-time housekeeper, working alongside **Shirley Tilley** - two of the most important people on the staff!

<p>Wednesday Volunteer Maintenance Team <i>Free on Wednesdays? There is always work to be done at Dalesdown! Most of the existing team have worked together for many years and have a great working relationship but would be glad to welcome newcomers into their circle of friendship. Ring the office to find out more.</i></p>

2005 EVENTS:-

CW Sports & Activities Weekend

20 - 22 May

CW Summer Camps

Teens : 23 - 29 July

Children's :

30 July - 5 August

6 - 12 August

CW Retreat & Training Weekend

7 - 9 October

Quiet Days

18 and 20 October

with Hilary Malpass

Annual Day of Prayer for Dalesdown

3 November

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