

# Newsletter

Issue 4/ DEC 2019



## CentrePeace – a place of belonging

Many organisations and support services exist, but access to them can have conditions and eligibility. Five ladies had a dream to open a place which would give people what they needed: a place where if someone asked: 'Can you help me?' the answer would be 'Yes, we can'

Terry, Dot, Denice, Sarah and Lisa started with a small rental space at Paignton Parish Church and eventually, alongside Pawo, our resident Buddhist Monk, they did a physical search around Paignton and found the current building in September 2012: 56a Palace Avenue – a former fire station, ice cream storage and council offices. A building in the heart of Paignton.

A rental agreement followed, a company was set up and after much deliberation about the name, CentrePeace was registered as a charity in December 2012. Volunteer toil and sweat helped with the building groundwork, plumbing and electrical jobs needed to make the venue ready. Any monies advanced for the initial set-up costs were repaid within 18 months which is an amazing achievement. The following newsletters will tell the continuing story of many other amazing achievements....

## I wanted to change the world

When I was a young man, I wanted to change the world.

I found it was difficult to change the world, so I tried to change my nation.

When I found I couldn't change the nation, I began to focus on my town. I couldn't change the town and as an older man, I tried to change my family.

Now, as an old man, I realise the only thing I can change is myself, and suddenly I realise that if long ago I had changed myself, I could have made an impact on my family.

My family and I could have made an impact on our town. Their impact could have changed the nation and I could indeed have changed the world.

Author: unknown monk around 1100 AD

## SEASONAL DATES:

Christmas Party: 12noon - 2pm on Fri 20th Dec.  
Everybody welcome

Christmas Eve - open until 2pm

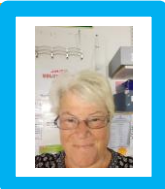
Closed: Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Fri 27th & Sat 28th December

Open: Mon 30th Dec and Tues 31st Dec

Closed: New Year's Day

Open usual hours from Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020





## Tapestry of life

Britain has a long history and richness in the diversity of its population. There comes a time when we are all curious about our family tree: what has contributed to our existence and our genetic make-up. Evelyne wondered whether her resilience and strength had its roots in her family's background. Following the cruelty of the Russian revolution, Evelyne's grandparents made their way to the UK by ship. The original plan was to travel to America, but they missed that ship and ended up on a ship to the UK where they settled in the East End of London. Supported by the close-knit community, her grandparents worked hard and raised a family. Evelyne was raised by her mother, who worked as a milliner, and her father who was in the Army. Evelyne enjoyed 47 years of marriage to her husband before he passed: they moved 17 times around Wales, the Forest of Dean, Tenby, London and Devon – following the work, because Evelyne's husband was a multi-skilled tradesman, and renovating houses as they moved along. Evelyne knew having a strong work ethic and pride in their work contributed to their success – which has had its ups and downs because that's life.

*'When I think back on my life, I realise I'm in a good place now. I could write a book about what our family has been through over the years: business ownership in this country and abroad, franchise development, bankruptcy, owning nothing other than our clothes, a car and its contents; homelessness, being placed in temporary accommodation with our 13 year old daughter in one-bedroom alongside drug addicts and alcoholics; reinventing our lives in different parts of the country to make ends meet, always following the work; taking jobs with accommodation, always earning; saving, saving, saving to get our foot on the property ladder again in later life; securing a deposit loan to buy a property, building up our lives once again.*

*It's been a real rollercoaster ride; I've written it all down! I'm sure you can see what I mean when I say that someone less strong might not have come through this. I was very alone when my husband died but now, I feel secure and comfortable. It might sound corny, but I get the feeling that CentrePeace saved me. I needed the warmth, the family atmosphere. I wouldn't have got that feeling elsewhere'*

*"Tell me the facts and I'll learn. Tell me the truth and I'll believe. But tell me a story and it will live in my heart forever."*

*Indian Proverb*

**Laughter – the best medicine**



## Monthly riddle:

You will only ever find me in the past. I am created in the present, but the future can never taint me. what am I?

(answer hidden in articles)