

Emmaus Bristol



The newsletter of Emmaus Bristol – Spring 2008

Taking on new challenges

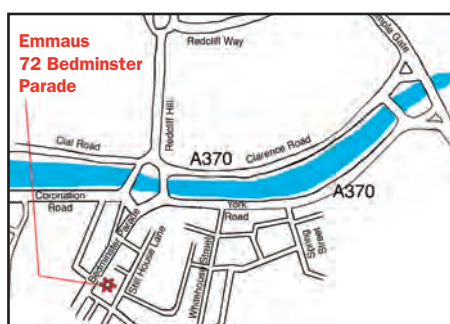
Dave was one of the very first Companions at Emmaus Bristol, arriving at Shaftesbury House in our first week of opening 4 ½ years ago. During his time here he has been able to put his business skills to good use. Over the last few months his main responsibility has been to oversee the setting up of our new Bedminster shop, a task he hands over to Companion Mike Poole (see articles on Pages 2 & 3). Dave's new challenge will be at the Gloucester Community as he moves there as the Business Manager. We wish him all the very best and are glad to know that he plans to keep in touch with us by teaching the Bristol Companions to sail in Bristol Docks in our new Wayfarer!



Above: Dave Taylor in the new Emmaus Bristol shop at 72 Bedminster Parade

Welcome to 72 Bedminster Parade!

Come and visit us at our new shop in Bedminster, open from 10 until 4.30, Wednesday to Saturday, and selling furniture, bric-a-brac and electrical goods. We're just opposite Asda (with its enormous car park) so very easy to find. Bargains galore!



From the Director

Welcome to our latest newsletter which is absolutely brimming with success and development both on a personal and organisational level.

This has been achieved through many factors, your support, excellent team work within Emmaus Bristol and a vision that continues to work 50 years after it was first thought of by Abbé Pierre.

We have moved forward boldly but in manageable steps and our latest venture into a shop is the next stage in our development.

Congratulations to Dave Perry our Community Manager and Malcolm Thorne our Workshop Manager on their recent elections to various 'outside' posts. Dave is now an Emmaus UK trustee and UK representative at Emmaus International. Malcolm has been elected onto the board of the national Furniture Re-use Network (FRN). I know they will bring their substantial gifts to all these roles.

Most of all it is wonderful to see people's lives being transformed and difficulties overcome – thank you for being part of this because without you it would never have happened.

With best wishes

Richard Pendlebury,
Director

An international perspective

Dave Perry, Community Manager at Emmaus Bristol, reports on developments at Emmaus Bristol and in the wider Emmaus Movement:

Here we are into another year and lots of exciting challenges ahead, particularly with our new shop in Bedminster. When life is so busy it's easy to forget that most of our workforce are Companions. We spend a lot of time supporting them as they deal with their past and all that comes with it: addictions, debt, physical and mental health issues, and family breakdown, to mention but a few problems. This inevitably means that Companions are often not available for work as they are going to various appointments, which is a real logistical challenge. Team work is essential in dealing with this issue and I am grateful to my colleagues for their understanding as they try and run the business side of the Community.

A new development for me personally

is that I have recently become the Emmaus UK National Delegate at Emmaus International. This has enabled me to develop many new connections, so that we as a Community and the UK Federation at large can be much more integrated into what is a Worldwide Organisation. The Emmaus Communities in the UK are gradually taking a bigger part in the International Solidarity work that is going on. We are very much involved in the Water Project in Benin, Africa, (see below) and have raised funds as well as awareness around the UK.

Emmaus International employs very few paid staff. Their role is to carry out the administration generated by the work the members (ie the 400 or so Emmaus Communities around the world) have asked them to carry out. It is a "ground



Above: Dave Perry, Community Leader

up" organisation, so the members decide on what should be done in terms of International Solidarity work. To help bring some harmony to these very different groups and to develop ways that we can all work better together, a small team of people from around the Emmaus International movement are meeting in Paris to discuss its future development. This is exciting work and I feel honoured to be part of it. It also, importantly, brings the name of Emmaus Bristol firmly into the list of leaders in the development of the Emmaus Movement.

Your support for Emmaus Bristol has an enormous impact on those we are serving and I have the privilege of seeing day to day how much it means to those who have often lost everything. So thank you - and don't forget to visit our new shop!

Clean drinking water



Above: Collecting water at Lake Nokoué

The Lake Nokoue project aims to widen access to clean drinking water for the villages around Lake Nokoue in Benin. Companion Mike reports on the project progress meeting he attended at Emmaus International in Paris:

The meeting was well attended by representatives of all the international members from as far away as Peru. I was given a very warm welcome by all, and at the start of the meeting we all introduced ourselves. The language problem was overcome with the aid of audio interpreters who had volunteered their services.

It was a meeting full of gusto and passion. We heard that the first test boring will be taking place in the next few weeks, to a depth of 80 meters plus to ensure the clarity of the drink-

ing water. If all is fine, the go-ahead of the other 8 bore wells will be put out to tender.

We were also shown how the management of the wells would be done and who would be responsible within the organisation of the villages. High on the agenda was the problem of personal hygiene and sanitation within the villages and how we can teach the locals to change their lifestyle and the way they use the lake in everyday life.

In June of this year we hope to send 15 volunteers to Benin to dig the trenches and lay the new pipe lines. You will need to be fit and well and of course have a passport! I hope that Emmaus UK will be represented by at least one Companion. I would like to think that a better and keener interest in this project will make us all more aware of The Right To Water that we already have here in Europe.

Christmas cheer

On 12 December 2007, an Emmaus Christmas Luncheon was held at Shaftesbury House for the Senior Citizens of the Dings. Companion Mike describes how it came about...

I became aware that the pensioners in the local area had always had an annual Christmas luncheon at a working men's club, but that in January 2007 the club had closed down for redevelopment into housing.

I got into contact with the Dings Community Association and with the help of one of the Committee I invited 18 local residents to a Christmas lunch at no expense to themselves. It was now time to fundraise and organise the lunch.

I began to approach local businesses for donations of toiletries and tins of goodies which would be used as Christmas presents from Santa and also a winning raffle ticket for every guest, so a total of 36 donations would be needed. There was also the food to be obtained free of charge from all of our suppliers, and volunteers to prepare and serve the luncheon.

The response was overwhelming. The donations of goods and cash poured in and the list of volunteers was complete. *A big thank you to all.*

The day of the lunch arrived with a whirlwind of activity, Christmas decorations being put up, tables being laid and presents, prizes and goodie bags being prepared. Santa arrived and the carol singers with keyboard joined us all for a day for all to remember.

We laid on transport for some of the less able and as all the guests arrived we offered soft drinks to all. Our guests were then invited to sit down to lunch. After a four course feast, which was pre-ordered, Santa gave out the presents. It was now time for the raffle with prizes for all. The carol sheets were then handed out and the dining-room became a concert hall.

At the close, all our guests were given an Emmaus "Bag for life" with a sandwich, mince pies, fruit and chocolates and the Emmaus Bristol Newsletter.



Above: A Christmas dinner at Shaftesbury House for local residents

Student life



Dave B is the second Companion from Emmaus Bristol to follow a course at Harlech College. He reports back:

I was given the opportunity by Emmaus to study a year long course at a residential college in Harlech. So far I have completed 2 terms and have improved my IT and design skills. I have been able to create animations, produce a radio show and have learned photographic techniques.

I have received lots of help from Emmaus and have been in regular contact with the staff here. I have been given an allowance and my room here has been held for the holidays so that when I finish each term I don't have to worry about where I am going to stay. This has given me a great opportunity to realise my career plan as an animator and graphic designer. I have been given help in applying to universities and have been accepted by UWE, Liverpool John Moores and Winchester School of Art. I have been given all the support I have needed and with Emmaus and the staff's continuous support I think that I can complete this college course and university to set myself up for the future.

Multicultural festival

On March 29th, Community at Heart organised a multicultural festival in the Dings to give all the different ethnic communities an opportunity to showcase and share their food traditions. The Emmaus Bristol Companions were only too happy to participate(!) and helped with setting up, transport and food – both providing it and eating it!

John joins the Trustees

John Pocock joined the Emmaus Board of Trustees in 2006. John who was Chief Executive of a FTSE listed company brings skills in strategic planning, operational analysis, and team building. He brings his considerable experience to the business side of the Emmaus Bristol Community.

Apart from his successful career in IT and Financial Services, his interests include music as well as athletics. He enjoys competing in long distance triathlons and has just completed an "Ironman" in New Zealand!



Look out for our new van



In order to service our new shop and maintain the high standards for collections and deliveries which are so important to us and our customers, we have just invested in a new van. Look out for it in your neighbourhood!

Giving people a bed... and a reason to get out of it

Volunteers wanted

• We are looking to recruit volunteers to help run our new Bedminster shop, and our existing showroom in St Philips, working alongside our Companions and Staff.

Retail experience would be an advantage, but more important is enthusiasm, commitment, and an ability to work with, and sell to, a wide variety of people.

• We also need full and part-time drivers confident to drive a 3½ tonne Luton bodied van (ordinary driver's license sufficient).

If you are interested and would like further information, please contact Malcolm Thorne for an informal chat on 954 0886, between 10am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

Support Emmaus Bristol

I would like:

- More information on Emmaus Bristol
- To give a donation

By cheque/CAF

I enclose a cheque/voucher for £ _____
(please make cheque/voucher payable to Emmaus Bristol)

By standing order

To the manager _____
Branch address _____
_____ Postcode _____
Account no. _____ Sort code _____

Please pay Emmaus Bristol the sum of _____ (figures)
_____ (amount in words)

At Triodos Bank, Brunel House, 11 The Promenade, Clifton BS8 3NN
(Sort code 16-58-10; Account no. 02448600)

Starting on / /

Monthly Quarterly Half yearly Annually

Title _____ First Name _____

Surname _____

Home address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Gift Aid Declaration

Please complete if you are a Tax Payer (excluding CAF donations)
I want the charity to treat this donation and all future donations until further notice as Gift Aid donations.

Title _____ First Name(s) _____

Surname _____

Home Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Notes:

1. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the tax year.
2. You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying us.
3. If in future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income or capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration.
4. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self-Assessment tax return.
5. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief please contact us or ask your local tax office for leaflet IR113 Gift Aid. Please notify us if you change your name or address.

Please return this form to:

Emmaus Bristol, Freepost (SWB 1549) Bristol BS2 0BR