



RESNEWS ...



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RESCARE; THE SOCIETY FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH
LEARNING DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES

RESCARE: A NEW ERA, NEW CHAIRWOMEN

Rescare is delighted to announce the appointment on the 12th October of Anita Bennett and Betty Heaton-Ward as Co-Chairs of Rescare. With the appointment of lawyer William Fisher as Chief Executive, this will now – with your continued support – secure the future of Rescare as an increasingly influential lobby in the field of learning disability.

Some members might remember that a few years ago Anita gave the Stanley Segal Memorial Lecture on sustainability and intentional communities. She addressed us in her capacity as public relations spokeswoman for Camphill Village Trust, and is a former investigative reporter for The Sunday Times Insight Team. For this Resnews she has kindly provided a personal introduction to the official obituary of Rescare patron Dr. Alan Heaton-Ward. This was provided by Dr. Peter Carpenter, a Bristol-based consultant psychiatrist in learning disability. As an archivist he has preserved much of the historical heritage of Bristol's central role in the UK in the provision of care for the learning disabled, including the philanthropists whose substantial bequests in property have sadly all but disappeared for the new generation of often desperate families and their loved ones. Betty is the widow of Dr Alan Heaton-Ward.

Rescare looks forward to an active and successful future under its new Co-Chairs. We pay our heartfelt tribute to Alfred Barlow, 90, who steered Rescare through a most difficult transition to our next stage. Alfred has supplied a personal letter.

About your new Chief Executive:

William (Bill) Fisher lives in Manchester with wife Helen and two children, Crystal and Dylan. Dylan attends a non-maintained school for children with learning disabilities, which is how Bill learnt about Rescare.

Bill worked as Property Legal Manager for United Utilities plc and he is also a local councillor. He hopes that he can use his experience for the benefit of Rescare, its members and supporters and work as a team with Val and James in the office.

He would be pleased to hear from members.

IN PRAISE OF CORRECT ENGLISH: DR. HEATON-WARD INSISTED IT'S A MENTAL HANDICAP, THAT PEOPLE LIKE MY DAUGHTER NEED CARE AND NOT JUST

“SUPPORT”: There are only a handful of men with whom I have fallen in love at first sight. With his passing, I can now say honestly to Dr. Heaton-Ward's widow, my grieving Co-Chair and “Aunt Betty” to my Isabel, 24, with Downs, that from the moment Isabel, then 8, and I first met Alan and Betty, that I truly coveted this gorgeous woman's husband. He was my dream doctor: warm, tall, confident, funny, English, but no toff snob patronising us.

More than all of the above, Dr. Alan could read my handicapped mother's heart. He just knew, he “got it”. His name had appeared as a patron in the RESCARE newsletter, a beacon of journalistic sanity, thank you Richard Jackson, in this world gone mad with intelligence-defying “normalisation” and “mainstreaming”. I finally tracked Dr. Heaton-Ward down in the directory in Clifton, Bristol while I was still battling with the authorities to get Isabel into a Camphill Steiner special residential school. They were insisting that foster care was far superior and “less institutionalised” than a boarding school with a Camphill, live-in co-worker family in the nearby Sheiling School Thornbury. Forget the fact that I was a single mother of three living on benefits, that we'd had seven police callouts when she ran away. No, the new Bristol flavour of the month was to make Isabel more “normal” by putting her into a mainstream school “with (my least favourite word in the world right now) support.” I was trying to use my intense training on The Sunday Times Insight Team, where we were next door to the renowned journalist Marjorie Wallace, founder of SANE (Schizophrenia a National Emergency) and quoted in the following obituary to Alan, as praising his “hospital of hope.” I worked on The Sunday Times for two years when my only child was Ruari. This was BI (Before Isabel) when we were living in Ladbrooke Grove and dancing with our mas camp every year in the Notting Hill Carnival. Now in cold and lonely Bristol and faced with know-it-all social workers, crusading to “save the handicapped from institutions”, and on salaries where they could afford to eat out and buy new clothes, my days on Sunday Times and television expense accounts seemed a long way off indeed and it was hard not to blame Isabel's arrival. I was trying to find new friends and allies. Alan was one of the first.

Here was the first NHS consultant, a professional who not only agreed with the reasons for Camphill but also took the thinking much further. Drawing on his unquestionable and published knowledge—much of which, in the infatuation with now disproven “social model of disability”, has been lost to the young medical profession, Alan laid out a clear, rational and profoundly humane way of looking at the true meaning of the word asylum for the vulnerable members of our society.

“Do you two want to visit Hanham Hospital with me before the authorities sell it off? There are still 24 of my former patients living there.” I was curious, having trained at university as a therapist in America's oldest school, Fernald, for children like Isabel, where I taught drama, swimming and took the children into nearby Boston until the matrons heard of my anti-Vietnam war posters on the walls and I got sacked for being a communist.

“It is a scandal,” Alan explained at the front gate of this former stately home, Hanham Hall, on Bristol's outskirts. “This place was given over in perpetuity for the care of the handicapped and then the NHS, who took it over after the war, are now selling it off to developers. All of my patients have suffered the most terrible loss – friendships – as a result of this care in the community lunacy”. Apparently the League of Friends, a huge group of volunteers in its day (no, people were not “locked away” as one nurse told a young “modernising” consultant years later—“they came out to the pub regularly with us”), had simply tried to organise a Christmas outing, a reunion for all the friends who used to live together here. And guess what, said Alan? “The new, smaller, private homes would not cooperate to reunite the old friends, because it didn't suit their staff schedules. Big is not so bad, Anita, because by the time that Hanham residents were being shoved out, this place was a thriving little village community.” And to prove it he took us around the grounds where modern bungalows, mixed with state-of-the-art sensory rooms, graced the grounds of this lovely setting. Into every small campus home that we went Alan was greeted with cries of real pleasure and respect, from patients and nurses alike.

There was no mistaking that this was an elderly statesman who was loved and respected. Betty and Alan continued to receive Christmas cards from people touched by his care many years afterwards. As the obituary below, as yet to be published by the British Medical Journal, points out, far from papering over any cracks in the hospitals that housed more people with a mental handicap than anywhere in the country, Alan was the chief whistleblower. He loaned me various BBC news items which illustrated his tactics with the state authorities: “whenever we had a problem I simply called in the television cameras and then I got what I wanted for my patients,” he explained.

Logical, isn't it? After an impressive career in investigative journalism and television I was interested in putting together something for Channel Four, but then my first priority was, and is ironically again now, to get Isabel into a safe haven before the convulsions of collapsing markets hit the most vulnerable the most cruelly.

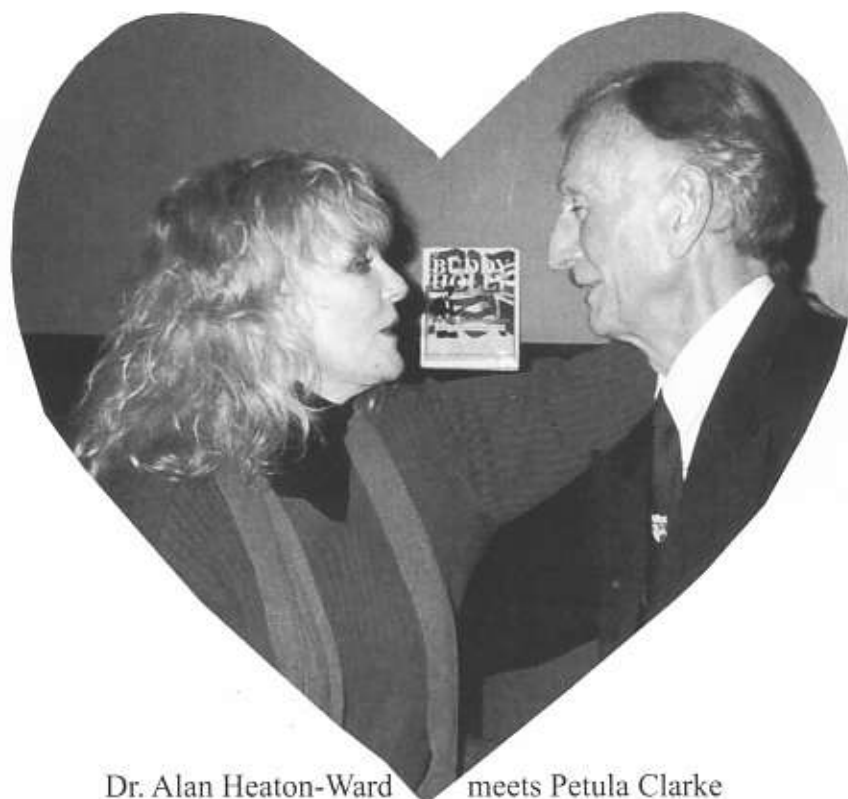
When I enthused about Dr. Alan and what the hospitals could have been transformed into in Bristol, my dear friend and RESCARE pioneer Mary Pearson reminded me some years ago that “The majority of people, 80%, then and now, still live at home with ageing parents. The so-called institutions never had more than 20% of the learning disabled population.

But with new reality TV, read cheap broadcasting, the television cameras are somehow not interested in the tens of thousands of little tragedies and cruelties played out in the lives of handicapped families—until a Gwendolyn Marcrow is driven to take the life of her son, with both autism and Downs. The NHS had pulled out of taking its medical responsibility to grant humane asylum to him any more, he was literally pulling his own eyes out of his sockets, and social services only offered bog standard and ill-qualified respite care. What was Mrs. Marcrow, a totally devoted and desperate mother to do? The judge's decision to grant Gwendolyn a compassionate sentence was criticised by young arrogant and preachy mothers of far less handicapped and younger toddlers writing in the Daily Mail. One national leader of People First insisted that Mrs. Marcrow should be treated as "murderer like anyone else".

But was she just like anyone else, I remembered asking Dr. Alan at around that time? "Look, I was totally against RESCARE giving into the politically correct lobby and agreeing to drop the scientifically accurate term "mental handicap" from our literature. I resigned from RESCARE over that decision, frankly. That is because if as a professional you are not vigilant about the English language then inaccurate and misleading terminology starts to affect the funding. And most importantly, CARE." Alan fixed me a fierce glaze in his sitting room. "People with a mental handicap from birth that is never going to fundamentally change organically need care this vacuous term "support" a coward's way out of caring for people like your daughter and others." Isabel just looked up at him, smiled and cuddled Alan and Betty's Scottie dog, Ottie. Isabel liked this big doctor with the warm smile who made her mummy laugh and smile. Isabel told Dr. Alan that day at Hanham Hospital something that I will never forget, because it astounded me with its intelligence and insight: "When I grow up and leave school I want to come and live here and help you with all your people here. I would be good for them." said Isabel. Sadly, that opportunity is almost gone. I like to believe that parents throughout this country will start to stand up for a new "holistic model of disability", environmentally pioneering, such as that under threat in many Steiner Camphill communities. That parents like the Camerons who so sang the praises of the NHS, will join with RESCARE and a new coalition for real care and lobby to reclaim the heritage, the properties, given over for this distinct population by philanthropists.

Dr. Peter Carpenter, a renowned psychiatrist in learning disability here in Bristol, sent RESCARE the following obituary but also noticed with regret that Dr. Alan Heaton-Ward's obituary had yet to be published in the BMJ. It is in the spirit of his memory that his widow Betty and I stepped forward at the last minute to help bring a new, younger, wider-appealing and plain-speaking RESCARE to aid of families and indeed of a country in increasing need of professionals such as the giant of a medical man, the late Dr. Alan-Heaton-Ward.

A test of any society's true mettle is its attitudes to our learning disabled. Last week's article in The Observer about the rising hate crime against so-called "scroungers" claiming disability benefits should tell us now that the time has come to do what Alan had been urging all along—publish unbiased research into the last three decades of care for the learning disabled—and be brave and honest enough to question the language and the consequent failures of "normalisation". With that new conscious awareness of the underlying ideological flaw underpinning and justifying the vicious financial cuts, Betty and I believe that RESCARE's sterling record, thanks to people like Richard Jackson and Alfred Barlow will give it the opportunity to make new friends, bring to court some of those do-gooding and ill-informed policies and put us at the heart of decision-making for the future of our loved ones.



Dr. Alan Heaton-Ward meets Petula Clarke

Obituary: Dr (William) Alan Heaton-Ward

Dr Heaton-Ward, who died on the 2nd June 2011 aged 91 years, was one of the most distinguished psychiatrists of his generation, and a courageous campaigner for better services for people with learning disability (mental handicap) and their families. After retirement from clinical practice he served as Lord Chancellor's Medical Visitor for the Court of Protection from 1978-1989.

Alan's parents were both teachers although he himself always wanted to be a doctor. He won a scholarship as a day-boy to Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, Bristol. His father sadly had died having been wounded in Belgium when Alan was only eighteen months old. His mother could not afford to send him to university.

When he left school in 1936, therefore, he had to go to work, and started in one of the sought-after jobs in Wills Tobacco Company. He hated the work. Fortunately an inheritance from his grandmother in 1938 enabled him to take up a place at Bristol University Medical School, where, during his last year, he had his first exposure to psychiatry in Bristol County Mental Hospital (later Glenside Hospital). His interest was awakened, so that after completing his house-year at Bristol Royal Infirmary he began his first psychiatric job as an Assistant Medical Officer in the Oxford County Mental Hospital in Littlemore.

After serving in the RNVR for four years he became Deputy Medical Superintendent to Dr John Lyons in the Hortham-Brentry Group in Bristol, and thus began his committed and distinguished career in the psychiatry of learning disability.

In 1954 he was appointed Medical Superintendent of the Stoke Park Hospital Group, where he remained until 1978. During that time he was also Clinical Teacher in Psychiatry to the University of Bristol, and became involved in many charities associated with this field (riding therapy was a particular interest).

He wrote and lectured extensively on all aspects of care and treatment of people with learning disability and on general psychiatric topics. His book on Mental Deficiency in 1952 ran to subsequent editions as Mental Subnormality (1984) and Mental Handicap (1996) reflecting the changing terminology as attitudes in society changed. It was one of the few comprehensive texts available and the one used most by people sitting the DPM and later the MRC Psych. He gave the Blake Marsh lecture in 1976 and was the Burden Gold Medal and Prize winner in 1978.

Dr Heaton-Ward's appearance was as distinguished as his career. He was tall (6'5") and very good looking. He had a keen intellect, a great sense of humour and an unwavering commitment to people with learning disability and their families. His compassion was matched only by his anger at the neglect of services for these most vulnerable people to whom he devoted his life, and for whom he campaigned vigorously and sometimes unconventionally. This, it has to be said, won him few friends among those 'in high places', particularly in the Regional Health Authority.

In the 1960's the hospitals were grossly overcrowded and under-funded to the despair of those working in them, who felt helpless and hopeless. Not however Alan Heaton-Ward - he, in his own words "went on the offensive".

In 1971 a Health Advisory Service report critical of Stoke Park Hospital was published. Rather than try to defend the hospital he told the press that the conditions were worse than stated in the report, and invited them to come and see for themselves! The Sunday Times published the story, followed by a BBC documentary.

In 1974 he also arranged a visit by Marjorie Wallace, herself a noted campaigner for mental health, and now Chief Executive of SANE, which she funded. She wrote an encouraging article entitled 'Hospital of Hope', an indication of the changes by then underway. Not surprisingly matters improved!

The consultant establishment increased as did overall funding, while patient numbers fell with the gradual development of community services. This included the development of outpatient clinics held in schools, adult training centres and other hospitals. A number of community nurses were appointed. Dr Heaton-Ward was emphatically not against community care, but was adamant that dispersed services should be vigorously supervised, as well as adequately funded. In the hospital he could be seen striding around the wards and departments at all times of the day – frequently in unannounced visits apart from regular ‘rounds’. He was well-known, liked and respected by all patients and staff, and his compassion and enthusiasm transmitted itself to senior and junior staff alike.

Dr Heaton-Ward was also active and respected at National and International levels. A hard-working council member of the RMPA (Royal Medical Psychological Association), he was an enthusiastic supporter of the new Royal College of Psychiatrists, and in 1971 was a Foundation Fellow. Having been Chairman of the South Western Division and of the Mental Deficiency Section, he became Vice-President from 1976-1978, serving while Professor Linford-Rees was President. He regarded this not only as a personal handover, but with typical modesty as a tribute to the Mental Deficiency Section which had at last ‘come in from the cold’. He was always grateful for the unstinting support of Professor Linford-Rees. He also appreciated the unwavering support of his friends and colleague – fellow consultant Dr Jose Jancar. Through all these years he was unfailingly supported by his first wife Christine who predeceased him last year, and by his daughters Nichola and Lindsay, who have vivid memories of family Christmas visits to Stoke Park!

Dr Heaton-Ward was a member of the Mental Health Review Tribunal 1960-1978 and served on numerous mental health-related bodies. After his retirement in 1978 he enjoyed his time as Lord Chancellor’s Medical Visitor, travelling extensively and always interested in observing variations in service provision across the country.

He always regretted that community services had not, in his view, been subject to adequate ‘trials’ and research, and been further refined before being seen as the only way forward. He always believed that the NHS should have a continuing role – not only in providing outpatient support, inpatient assessment and treatment, but also in providing some long-term ‘asylum’, ie shelter care and treatment for the most vulnerable and challenging patients. He was troubled by what he saw as the excessive reliance on the private sector providers of services – a view that seems remarkably prescient in the light of the scandal revealed in the recent Panorama report on the BBC.

Dr Heaton-Ward was an enthusiast for all forms of sport, particularly rugby (playing and supporting). He enjoyed gardening, travelling, and as he said “asking why?”

Despite his National and International eminence he remained indefatigable in his attempts to encourage better services for people with learning disability and their families. Together with Dr Jancar, by their hard work and personal qualities, they did a great deal to raise the profile and status of the specialty. Right until the end he was interested in everything to do with what had been his life’s work. He remained mentally alert and enthusiastic until the end.

His health had not been good during the last year of his life, and he was cared for, with great devotion, by Betty, whom he married five years ago.

Dr Heaton-Ward is survived by Betty, his daughters Nichola and Lindsay, as well as his two grandchildren Jason and Jessica, all of whom were devoted to him.

Halt the ongoing decimation of realistic Care in the Community policies until widespread objective and informed debate has taken place.

Mr Charles Henley dedicated campaigner encourages readers to sign the following HM Government e-petition . <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/22257>.

The devastation of structured and appropriate services for adults with learning disabilities provides mounting evidence that services for the most vulnerable in society are in a spiral of decline. But this issue is not just about day services and people with learning disabilities; the consequences of failed policies apply to intentional residential accommodation, respite services and employment opportunities and extend to widely ranging aspects of services for the elderly, infirm, mentally ill, and disabled. All are becoming victims of radical changes in policy slipped in under a cloak of modernisation and integration and implemented by bureaucrats most of whom have little notion of how traumatic the outcomes will be for the victims. It is within the day care field that sufficient evidence exists to justify a moratorium on further radical change and the need for urgent debate. If we cannot get it right for these people - what hope is there for the rest of us?

Letter from Alfred H Barlow, longest serving Committee Member:

Before resigning from Committee I want to say that through all the years from day one I have always tried to do my best for the Society. From our humble beginnings struggling for finance, battling with national and local government, national health services, social services and other bodies who opposed us in our efforts to improve the lives of those people we represent, people with a mental handicap who could not speak for themselves, we have progressed to a force to be reckoned with and heard in the echelons of power. We have won some battles we have lost some but the powers that be have not succeeded to close us down although we came quite close to that a few weeks ago but only through lack of support.

Fortunately those difficulties have now been resolved. More on that I will not comment. Suffice it to say that we now have a new Chairperson and a Chief Executive and the probability of younger committee members to take this Society forward into the future with full financial backing and more of the same in the pipeline to help them, due entirely to our efforts in helping and advising our members in the past years. We have connections abroad who have chosen our way of dealing with similar problems and indeed have adopted our name in their title.

The numbers of letters I have received during this difficult period prior to the EGM are similar in their context.... *'Please keep Rescare going as there is no one else to speak for us'*..... and I think that says it all. Those words are compensation enough for me.

I have enjoyed my service to our members, the battles I, along with others on our Committee have had in what was the large committee room in Westminster packed to the walls with members, and MPs lining up wanting to speak. Oh what days they were. I shall never forget. Now I say goodbye to all of this with sorrow in my heart, for old age problems beset me. My best wishes to you all and may you move on with more power to your elbows.

Goodbye and God Bless you all.

Alfred H Barlow

Members – Have your say !!!

We would like your views. It would be most helpful if you could answer the following questions. Tear out the page and return to the office by post or write an email.

Name:Address.....

Question	Comment
Would you approve of sponsorship for Resnews?	
Would you accept advertising in Resnews on the basis that it is initially related to learning disability and related issues ?	
Would you like to see a letters page?	
Would you like to see more comment and opinion from informed observers?	
Would you be willing to receive Resnews and other communications electronically and if so could you provide your email address.	
Any other comments.	

Please return to Rescare at

Steven Jackson House, 31 Buxton Road, Heaviley, Stockport, Cheshire SK2 6LS or by email office@rescare.org.uk



BILL, VAL AND JAMES

WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR



A number of members have heard about the ideological and practical threats to Steiner Camphill Communities, and in particular to the work-centred and sustainable ethos of Botton Village in North Yorkshire. For further information members can visit The Campaign for Real Care (www.campaignforrealcare.com), which families and the local business community have established. The introduction to the website states: *"The very heart of Botton Village - a unique social impulse providing real care for people with learning disabilities - is under threat from a regulatory system that seems unable to recognise its real values and ethos. If you have been inspired, helped, supported or just touched, by Botton Village then please tell us about it and or simply pledge your friendship and support to the co-workers and villagers that make this community a model for the future."*

Staff: Mr William Fisher (Chief Executive and Editor)
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Mr James Reid (Welfare Helpline Co-ordinator)

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Mrs Betty Heaton-Ward

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Committee: Mr A H Barlow Mrs P Below Mr S Burdis
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