



FORGET THEM NOT

THE Bright Side

VITAL HELP FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE IN FINANCIAL NEED

2012

It's been a long time since we spoke... *Over a year has passed since we sent you a letter or Bright Side – why?*

We took the difficult decision to not communicate during a very difficult economic time, being conscious of the many pressures on finances, at a time which involved much uncertainty. We hope today, so far, that you have weathered the storm well or at least better than expected.

For our part, AFTAID have managed to continue making vital grants to those older people who have found even greater pressures have built up within their lives and problems continue to crop up out of the blue. This has largely been possible due to past generosity of those supporters who made provision for a legacy within their Will.

It will not surprise you to learn however, that we are under greater and greater pressure from applications for grants. Applications that are painting an increasingly worrisome picture of what the economic downturn means to the most vulnerable people in the UK. Aid applications are continuous and AFTAID needs to respond, supplying urgently needed relief.

In this Bright Side we show a few of the 'headline' stories which encompass the extraordinary pressures older people on fixed incomes are facing from rapidly rising prices and swingeing cuts to the services previously available.

So AFTAID are now embarking on a full update of our communications including the website www.aftaid.org.uk, where we hope you will visit as often as possible and where donations can be made through our secure payments facilities. We continue to be grateful for your cheques and a donation form is included on the back page of this Bright Side as well as a reply envelope enclosed for your convenience.

AFTAID make certain applicants are truly deserving through our own checks and with support evidence from social and/or health professionals. You can be confident your donations are being placed wisely and accurately to those with genuine need.

We cannot thank you enough and those, often desperate, elderly people who receive grants try hard to express their gratitude. Together you and AFTAID have made, and will continue to make, a real difference to their lives.

Thank you.

AFTAID help with all or part of the cost of nearly anything which is required to take away hardship from the day to day life of an older person in the UK. In recent years grants have been made to provide: Mobility scooters; Walk-in showers; Radiators; Cookers; Refrigerators; Washing machines; Beds;



Bedding; Clothing; Rise/recliner chair; Tumble Drier; Small Emergency House Repairs; Carpeting; Microwave cooker; Rewiring; Central Heating Boiler; Video Intercom; Installation of phone line; TFT Magnifier; 'Blind' software for PC; Wheelchair powerpack; Wheelchair access ramp; Bath Lift – to name but a few!

AFTAID loses a friend, colleague and dedicated trustee



AFTAID was very sad to lose one of its most active trustees, Lewis Green (pictured), who died suddenly in France in the spring of 2010 shortly before his sixty sixth birthday.

Lewis had been the charity's bank manager for many years and upon his retirement from the bank he generously agreed to become one of the charity's trustees.

He worked very hard in that capacity for some truly valued years. When the charity closed its formal offices and no longer employed staff in order to be more cost efficient, Lewis took on a considerable work load. He carried out this work with extraordinary enthusiasm and energy and found himself in the position where the charity relied on him to advise and take action in many areas including fundraising and media issues.

Virtually all of the beneficiaries will have had contact with Lewis, as will most of the professionals in the caring organizations commonly contacting us.

Lewis' funeral was conducted in France. It was a moving service attended by friends and relatives from all over the world. Lewis is sorely missed and is "a very hard act to follow". The trustees have joined family and friends to express their heartfelt sympathy to Lewis's wife and his daughter.

New Patron - Stanley Baxter see page two

Great Scot – it's Stanley Baxter on our (Bright)Side!

It is a pleasure to be able to tell you some great news!

We are delighted to announce that the BAFTA Award winning comedian, actor and writer, Stanley Baxter, has agreed to lend his support to AFTAID by becoming a Patron.

Mr Baxter is, I am sure, very well known to you primarily as a result of his highly successful TV comedy shows. Although that is far from the limit of his work and widespread success. Sometimes outrageous, always outrageously funny, a sublime exponent of truly risqué humour (he scandalised Mary Whitehouse) and wickedly funny impressions (he was the first person ever to impersonate the Queen on television).

Typically, on agreeing to become AFTAID's Patron, Stanley made a generous donation and commented that he himself was also *"no longer a spring chicken"*.

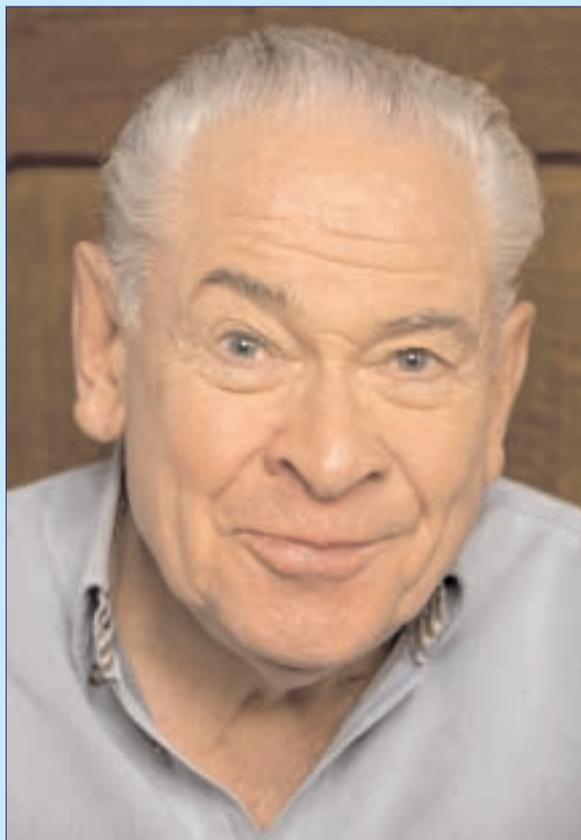


Photo: ITV / Rex Features

breadth of his work to watch again – all guaranteed to bring back happy memories and 'laugh-out-loud' moments. If the name Stanley Baxter brings a smile to your face and

"I went to Hillhead High School in Glasgow which was built like a fever hospital for the Far East, I'm sure there was a perfectly good school in the Far East being used as a fever hospital".

Stanley Baxter

happy memories too, isn't that alone worth responding with a donation?

I am sure you will join me in welcoming Mr Baxter. We all look forward to a long and enjoyable association and the benefits that will bring to our work.

In 1997, he was honoured with a lifetime achievement award at the British Comedy Awards.

If possible, take the chance to go online where you will find a rich

News that spurs us on

While we have not been actively making appeals for the past year or so much has continued to happen that directly affects the ability of older people to cope. Here are a few excerpts from the news over recent months.

All underpin the need for AFTAID to be actively available when so many of the caring agencies have had to close their doors.

We don't help with fuel bills but we often help with measures to improve the warmth of older peoples homes. Of course, with so much more expense in the basics of living there is so much less available for those emergency expenses we do help with.

Hypothermia deaths double over five years

Hypothermia deaths have doubled over a five-year period – with pensioners representing the majority of those suffering the illness.

Three quarters of those admitted to hospital with hypothermia were over-60s, with cases rising among that age group more than any other – from 633 to 1,396.

Campaigners on behalf of the elderly said it was scandalous that in modern-day Britain, pensioners could be dying from hypothermia.

The Daily Telegraph - 13 February 2012

Growing number of pensioners face fuel poverty

Britain's pensioners are facing rising fuel poverty, according

to a report due to be published on Tuesday (24th Jan), with around half of those questioned saying they have turned their heating down when they are not warm enough in an attempt to save money.

The study from Age UK also reveals that around 2 million elderly people are so desperately cold that they are going to bed when they are not tired and a similar number have moved into one room, in an attempt to keep their energy bills down.

Mervyn Kohler from Age UK said the findings revealed the growing levels of poverty among many of the UK's most vulnerable elderly people.

"The figures are stark and show that people have been shaken rigid by the enormous rise in prices we saw in the second half of last year, and for

individuals living on fairly straitened incomes, that hike in one of the two essential areas – the other being food – has really put the frighteners on our older population."

Guardian.co.uk - 23 January 2012

Older people give so much more than they take from us

While we treat the elderly as a set of symptoms and problems, we ignore what we will be one day.

Eighty per cent of local authorities have raised their eligibility threshold for care to "substantial". What is free in London's Tower Hamlets costs £30 an hour elsewhere. Spending on adult social care will be cut by a further £1bn this year.

Guardian.co.uk - 19 February 2012

Dear Anne

I am writing to thank you for your help towards the purchase of my new electric scooter.

I am so happy. The scooter has made such a difference to my life. I have gained back my independence and feel so much more confident. I can now go out on my own.

As the weather improves, I will venture out a bit farther.

I really appreciate all the help and support that has been given by the donators. Thank you once again.

Yours sincerely,
Mr P Weir



Graphically reproduced letters from two deserving and very grateful beneficiaries. Above, Mr Weir kindly allowed his name and picture to be used so that we could show what a difference there is between being largely confined to the house and being out and about.

“Thank You’s” to donors and supporters

Most beneficiaries write to us with their sincere thanks and we believe it is you, who should receive them most. Clearly you make a genuine difference with your donations.

Here are two letters (some details withheld) along with a small list of just a few of the people who have sent their thanks and how, together, we have helped.

Mr & Mrs Brown from Poole, thanked us for the grant towards the cost of repairs to their leaking roof.

Mrs P Brown in Bucks, received help towards the cost of a smooth slope pathway for access with an electric powered scooter.

Mr Cox of Lincoln, was unable to use his bath so we helped with a bathlift. He writes: *“This really makes my life easier”*.

Mrs M Hawkins, who also wanted to say *“a big thank you”* received a grant toward thermal curtains.

Mr R Johnson, sent a letter on behalf of his mother to thank us for the grant towards a central heating system. *“It makes a huge difference”*.

Ms S Canacott, wrote on behalf of her father who had received a grant towards the cost of a stair lift.

Dear Trustees

I write to thank you for the donation of a new washing machine which is now installed and operating at the above address.

This donation has completely changed my life, having removed “at a stroke” my laundry problems in that I no longer have to:

- lug a heavy laundry bag around, which, at the age of 72 with a back condition, was deleterious to my health and
- find the weekly cash for laundry or launderette services which, in my straitened circumstances, had become a burden.

Endorsing all you claim in your literature and on your website.

With heartfelt thanks.

ADY
Hastings

Ms A Platt, sent a letter on behalf of her mother to thank us for the grant towards a riser recliner chair.

Mr G Young, of Lancashire, says of his grant towards an electric scooter: *“since I got the scooter my life is much easier and getting round shopping and getting about seems like a god send”*.

BELATED THANKS

Our year long break from communications and appeals for donations has meant we are very behind with a particular 'Thank You'.

In 2010 AFTAID was one of the charities to benefit from the inaugural Dorking to Edinburgh Charity Bike Ride. Once again supporters came forward to sponsor AFTAID and take part in

Making your sponsored events more supporter friendly

AFTAID are in the process of joining the sponsorship website JustGiving.com. This will enable anyone who wishes to be sponsored in any endeavour to have a webpage where a statement about the person or people can be placed and where sponsors can give and add messages of support.

We would naturally welcome such support from anyone who has the inclination and ability to organise their own sponsored event. It doesn't have to be on a grand scale – small is beautiful too! If you go to our website there are some ideas that you may find useful in the 'How you can help' section.

We will also be looking to have a text number for donations by mobile phone through JustTextGiving which is an exciting partnership between Vodafone and JustGiving, and is supported by The Vodafone Foundation, it is a free service for the charity and opens up new possibilities for future fundraising.

More news on these exciting developments as soon as we are able to finalise them.

the 2011 event and it is that we need to express our gratitude for now.

Well done everybody!



The two participating riders who raised funds for AFTAID. James Price, (left) and Chris Babb (right). Both young men gave their time and considerable effort to raise funds for the AFTAID cause.

If you could hold a sponsored event in support of AFTAID please get in touch – our contact details are on the back page of this BrightSide. We will assist wherever possible.

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2012

POSTAL DONATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Your Email Address: _____

Please accept my cheque/postal order for: (do not send cash)

£100 £50 £30 £25 £10 £5

Other £ _____

Please send me a form for a standing order mandate in the sum of £ _____ per month.

Please debit my: CAF Charity Card MasterCard Visa

Card no.

Card Expiry Date:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

On behalf of all those elderly people your donation will help in times of vital need - THANK YOU.

MAKE YOUR DONATION WORTH EVEN MORE

If you are a UK tax payer, Gift Aid allows the Charity to reclaim the Income Tax you have paid from the Inland Revenue. .

The charity will reclaim tax totalling 28p on every £1 you gave between 6 April 2008 and 5 April 2011. After that date the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 donated.

Please treat all gifts of money that I have made in the past 6 years, this current gift, and all future gifts of money that I make from the date of this declaration as Gift Aid donations. (Please sign below.)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

If you have signed the Gift Aid declaration before, please tick this box instead

AID FOR THE AGED IN DISTRESS

AFTAID

Registered Charity No. 299276



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