



Bright Hope
in North West Leicestershire

Looking back

I know that Lot's wife was warned not to look back and did with tragic consequences; but sometimes it is good to look back just to see how far we have come.

Looking how far we have come is particularly relevant to Bright Hope as we move into a new era.

22 years ago it all started with a small group of people trying hard to decide what to do to fill the vacuum left by the departure of Sue Ryder from Staunton Harold.

There was talking to the Councils, the NHS and our local MP at the time, Mr David Taylor. David arranged two trips to Westminster to talk to the Health Minister – no progress there. It soon became apparent that if we were going to achieve anything, then we would have to do it ourselves.

So, the first Support Café was opened, this was in Ashby and was followed by others in Coalville and Ibstock; all of which are still running successfully today.

The need for some kind of day centre was quickly identified and after many months of searching with no success, the amazing Dr Lesley Notghi offered us the use of the ground floor of her home in Griffydham for five years, while she went off to Madagascar to be a medical missionary. This was a great success and we used Hope House, Griffydham for seven years.

We always knew that we would need to hand Lesley's home back to her and this was when we experienced the age of miracles. A letter sent by the then CEO of North West Leicestershire District Council plus one from us was sent to all companies in the District that could possibly help us and within a few weeks a reply came from Bloors Homes to say that they would build a property for us at no cost, this miracle was followed by a second, when our District Council offered us a piece of land in Swannington at a peppercorn rent.

Bright Hope House is completed and open and the rest as they say is history, but space has run out and there is much more to say – all of the amazing people who have worked in the charity to make it happen, for example.

With thanks and best wishes to you all.

Stewart Shepherd
Chair of Trustees
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