

News Special News Special News Special News Special

November 2009

Twelve months ago, November 2008, our news special was based upon the special reports or events that took place for the Benevolent Fund during the year 2007 and the ongoing and successful projects that had been planned for completion during 2009.

In keeping with the agreement of the executive committee of the benevolent Fund, we have continued to maintain the high standards already achieved for our convalescence, respite and recovery Lodge facility at Milford on Sea, Hampshire and the New Forest.

The agreement was that we should continue to find innovative ways to build upon our achievements and where possible make further improvements in the provision for our less able members and their dependents or individuals responsible for their care that by necessity are in need of this unique service provided by our Benevolent Fund.

It was also recognized that some members in need may be more active than others or their dependents and whether active or not would still have the responsibility for their children's welfare whilst visiting. Therefore it has been a responsible approach to provide for our visiting members in a variety of ways, recognizing that both, indoor and outdoor entertainment or activities should be considered for the multiple types of mobility or disability of our members in need of this service. The provisions made have been have all been agreed by the Funds executive committee and all decisions have been closely linked to an ongoing monitoring of our visiting members comments. These visiting members that had been or were suffering many differing types of debilitating illnesses have all been full of praise for the facilities of the accommodation and the convenience of the site together with further comments of a more personal nature demonstrating their pride in the Benevolent Fund and very strong support for a project that is so beneficial.

Previous News specials reported on spring, summer and winter initiatives to ensure the provision of this facility was always upgraded to meet our commitment to constant reviews and improvements. We had previously reported that we had provided the following:

- 2 Adult Bicycles - 2 Children's Bicycles (1 medium – 1 small)
- safety equipment (helmets) & repair kits etc
- 1 32" LCD free-view TV
- 1 DVD Player

This year 2009, the Benevolent Fund lodge would have required an extensive update of both the exterior & interior of the building (originally Purchased 2001) and therefore it was a matter of serious discussion at an extra ordinary meeting of the executive committee during 2008. It was suggested that it may be more beneficial to consider the purchase of a more up to date and modern lodge on a part exchange basis.

An extract of the minutes from the extraordinary meeting have been included in this news special.

In our November 2008 we stated that an additional NEWS SPECIAL would be published with further details of the new lodge including the completion date and hopefully some pictures as soon as the full information is available.

The Good News although a little late is that all our negotiations were completed and we took possession of the new lodge on the 1st March 2009. As part of the fixtures & fittings the new lodge has many advantages over our old lodge these include:

- Full Central Heating
- A fully fitted modern kitchen, including an integrated stainless steel cooker and built in microwave.
- A built in fridge freezer, both full size
- A washing machine
- A Dishwasher

The new lodge also has a separate entrance and passageway leading to a lounge & kitchen area and also leads to a large fully fitted bathroom & shower, 2 bedrooms with two single beds in each with adequate storage and hanging space and a master bedroom with en-suite toilet & shower facilities.

In addition we negotiated a larger decking area with a sunken hot tub for our members use. The rear of the lodge which sits in its own garden area has a factory fitted storage shed like room in which we have been able to store the bicycles and other useful items for the garden furniture. Last but not least we also negotiated for a direct wheelchair access via our two car parking space, with a paved path direct onto the decking area.

To complete, we also purchased and fitted a 19" combined Digital TV and DVD with free-view in the master bedroom. In addition we refurbished two wooden sun loungers and purchased a parasol with base together with wooden garden furniture of table & chairs.

Images of the new lodge can be seen on our web site www.benfund.info from the current projects page [What is this facility](#)

We intend to publish a news special whenever there is a need to keep our members informed of any matter of interest to the fund or that may affect the fund in anyway.

Extract: from the extraordinary meeting of the executive meeting at LAS HQ on the 2nd October 2008 – Minutes - Item 7.

There was an update and general discussion on the future development of the Benevolent Fund's convalescent and recuperation facility at Milford on Sea, Hampshire/Dorset. Although we had on two occasions last year carried out successful remedial and improvement works to various parts of the facility, the committee agreed that after 7 years of use, it should now be considered for complete refurbishment, or alternatively part exchanged for a more up to date and new facility. It was agreed that to update our existing lodge, the whole executive committee would need to attend with the sites design and décor advisor as per our original purchase, or investigate a new purchase option. The Chairman agreed to carry out some exploratory discussions with Shorefield's Sales & accounts and report back with his findings before the end of this current season or at least before the beginning the next.

The Chairman reported back as agreed and it became necessary for the executive committee to visit the site on the 29th October 2008. After much discussion the executive committee agreed to go ahead with a part exchange arrangement with the site owners. We have now completed negotiations with the site owners and have come to an agreement on an exchange, with considerable modifications to be made as required by us to ensure that our visiting members in need are not compromised in anyway.

**Executive Committee
London Ambulance Service Benevolent Fund**