

A Trip Down Memory Lane

Lauren met up with Maurice and Rita Denyer to hear their amazing story. Maurice receives care from our Oswestry team which gives Rita the chance to go out for a couple of hours. They were happy to share their wonderful story with us.

Lauren said she could have spoken to the couple for days!

Their flight touched down in the airport, the community was lined up as flights only landed once a week. The family were dressed in their Sunday best. Maurice's job was to programme computers to communicate with other countries through networks. It was vital role during this time and Maurice was at the forefront of these world developments.

The couple describe Mauritius as "the most beautiful country with quiet, golden beaches." They lived in a company apartment, and had a 'luxurious' existence with a maid to help with domestic chores and childcare. Rita got to network and attended coffee mornings and parties and the couple had a son named Richard in 1970.

In the 1973, Maurice's company closed the office and the family relocated again – this time to South Africa, on the outskirts of Durban. Here Maurice gained a more superior role and travelled a lot across the country, leaving Rita at home to tend to a young family in an area with high levels of crime. During this time Rita was held hostage at gun point in a local pet store! But the couple lived a comfortable life here and even built a swimming pool.

In 1998, Maurice was made redundant from his management role and the couple decided to create an income themselves. Rita had always had a passion for craft so they began a commercial knitting/embroidery business, which was extremely successful for 10 years!

Maurice was born in Dartford, Kent in 1939, and went to school there until he was 18. He was called up to the RAF when he was 18 and his first deployment was to Germany when he was 21 and where he met Rita. They courted for a few years before returning to England in 1963 where they were married.

Maurice's first job was as a computer technician and Rita began training at Stonehouse Hospital in Dartford as a psychiatric nurse. Rita had to give up her nursing training when they moved to Langford, where Maurice continued his career and they had a daughter, Katherine.

In the late 1960s, the economy dropped and the family had to look further afield for work. Maurice came across an advert for a computer technician in Mauritius, an unknown island in the Indian Ocean. When

The couples' children had grown up and with life in South Africa becoming increasingly difficult they decided to move back to the UK and married and started their own families. Maurice and Rita decided to move back to the UK themselves and spend time with their family. Unfortunately, during this time Maurice's health began to deteriorate and he was diagnosed with Parkinsons in 2012.

The couple say they have enjoyed their time since being back in the UK and are so grateful that they have been able to see their grandchildren grow. Maurice misses the climate of the beautiful countries they have been to but they have no regrets. They say the highlight in their life journey was 'Mauritius' and their best piece of advice is "Never look back in regret and make the most of every day, as you never know when life can change."



A typical RAF pilot from around the 1950s



Ted's Adventures

Ted has been busy and on his travels again. But now he is really travelling in style! Shirley Stone, the amazing Nan of Amie Stone our Church Stretton and Bayston Hill supervisor, has been busy creating Ted his own mini wardrobe! Not only does he now have his own Bluebird Care uniform he also has costumes including a Spiderman outfit! Ted's wardrobe is based under the desk of Sammie Milton our Manager's Assistant, and nothing makes Sammie happier than dressing Ted up in his latest new gear. Thank you Shirley!!

Where's Ted?

Ted is hiding in 6 places in this newsletter.

Can you spot them all?



Happy to HELP

If you want to contact us, for *any* reason, you can find all of our contact information below. So please keep it in a safe place!

Write to us or visit us at:

Bluebird Care Shropshire,
3 The Parade,
Lansdowne Road, Bayston Hill,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire,
SY3 0HT

Email: shropshire@bluebirdcare.co.uk
Website: www.bluebirdcare.co.uk/shropshire

Call us on:

Shrewsbury: 01743 874 343
Oswestry: 01691 749 128
Church Stretton: 01694 259 065
Wem: 01939 768 031
Ellesmere: 01691 749 128

@careShropshire
bluebird-care-shropshire

Our Partners:

Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service,
Severn Hospice,
The Mayfair Centre Church Stretton.



www.bluebirdcare.co.uk/shropshire

BLUEBIRD CARE Today



News from Bluebird Care
Shropshire | Autumn 2017

bluebird care
CARE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR 2014

Care in YOUR Community

In this issue:

Superhero Day raised funds for Cash for Kids

A trip down Memory Lane

Carers nominated for Awards

Where's Ted?

Doing our bit to address the shortage of carers

Paying more, offering benefits, providing thorough training and rewarding our staff – are just some of the things we are doing to encourage more carers to the sector.

Because more needs to be done to draw people into the sector to help with a deficit of carers. We have recently significantly increased pay and offer extra perks.

We are working hard to attract people to the care sector to enable more people to access the care they need and prevent hospital bed blocking, especially with the elderly. You might have heard Ian Barnes on Radio Shropshire talking about our plans or even seen him on Midlands Today recently.

Senior care workers working a 40 hour week can earn up to £20,000pa, pay rates have increased by 7% for those under 25, while those over 25 with care experience will receive a 10% pay rise and earn £9per hour. Also, we have raised our fuel mileage allowance by 20% from 25p to 30p per mile.

"It's a really fantastic package and we want to attract committed people to this sector"

It's a really fantastic package and we want to attract committed people to this sector, which offers varied and really rewarding work, full or part-time the hours are flexible to suit people's circumstances. Care work is often not seen as good because people think its low paid, with unsocial hours. And that may be true for some, but at Bluebird Care, we have put together a pay and perks package that rewards our staff better.

And seeing the joy you can bring to the life of a vulnerable person is very rewarding. We offer thorough training with on-going support and encourage qualifications and further training. We have put a robust career pathway in place and have seen carers climb the ranks from starting with us, from starting with no experience to

becoming senior supervisors and managers. We've recently introduced long service awards and anyone who works with us for 12 months or more will receive a £150 thank you of their choice - to the theatre, new car tyres or away for a weekend etc. And then there's Perk Box!, which offers employees discounts at supermarkets, restaurants and shops, free mobile insurance and even free meditation.

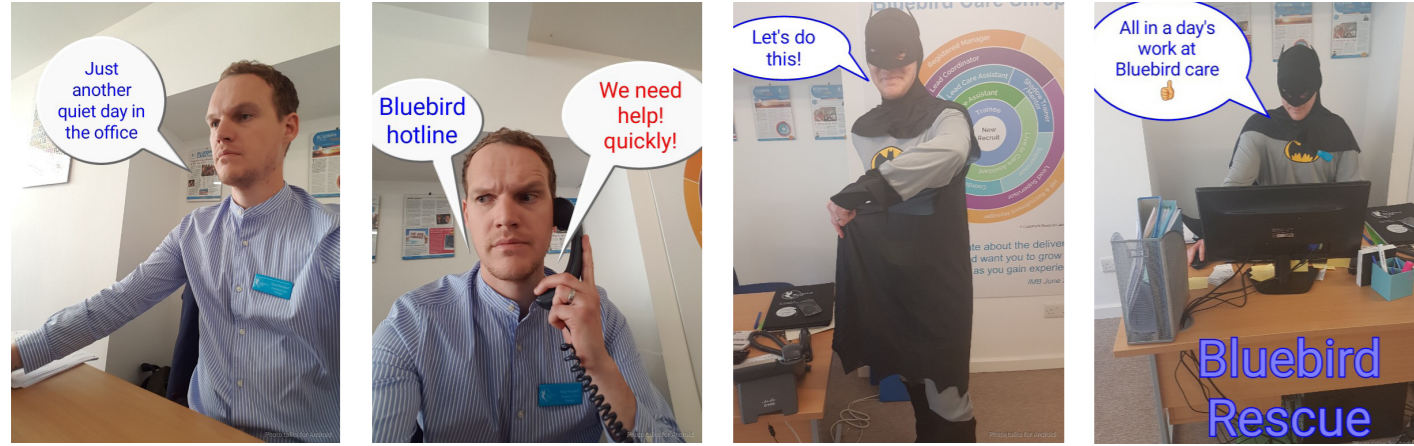
There is a genuine shortage of care workers for vulnerable people who need help, but can't access it, and there is huge and growing issue with bed blocking where people have to stay in hospital longer as there are not enough qualified people to help and support them recover at home. So join us and help avert a crisis in Shropshire.



Director of Care, Claire Flavell and Managing Director of Bluebird Care Ian Barnes.

Good old fashioned service

News in Brief



Oswestry team expands

Care Manager Ross Hardstaff has joined our Oswestry team. Ross previously worked as a Senior Care Assistant, working with children with challenging behaviour and has also previously supported adults with learning difficulties.

The incredible shrinking Ian

We'll be seeing a lot less of our Managing Director Ian! After a recent trip to a retreat in Sweden Ian lost 9kgs in 9 days with lots of exercise and by eating an in-depth diet. The weight loss has enabled Ian to reduce his medication and he has successfully lowered his blood sugar to a level which meant he could stop insulin injections. Ian also took part in lots of yoga and meditation and said it was something he would do again!



Superhero Day!

In June we held a Superhero Day to raise funds for Cash for Kids. The charity responds to the needs of children in our communities so they can live life to the full and realise their individual potential. Based across 22 areas in the UK, it supports children aged 0-18 who are disabled, disadvantaged or suffering from abuse or neglect.

Our 'superhero' Director of Care, Claire Flavell took raising funds for Free Radio's Cash for Kids to new heights and even took her outfit to Prague! Even Justin, our Bayston Hill Office postie got involved AS 'Super Postie!'



Super Postie Justin



Here are our lovely Bayston Hill office team, (from left top, bottom to middle with: Ceri 'Wonder Woman' Eades, Amie 'Catwoman' Stone, Laura 'Batwoman' Woodhouse, Claire 'She-Ra' Gwilliam, Beth 'Wonderwoman' Newton, Stacy 'Superwoman' Arthur and Sammie 'Robin' Milton. You can see some of the children's fantastic pictures up in our office.

We also gave prizes to local children from Bayston Hill for their fantastic colouring-in a competition we ran. In total we raised an impressive £56.85!

Spotlight on our carers

We recently nominated two of our care workers to the Co-op National Care Awards and we want to give them some of the recognition we think they deserve - Meryl Hughes, from our Oswestry team and Sylvie Harley from Church Stretton.



Meryl started working for Bluebird Care in 2013. Since then she has been a valuable member of our Oswestry team and is now also a highly respected senior carer. Meryl is one of those people to whom caring comes so naturally and will truly go above and beyond for her customers.

Sylvie has been part of our Church Stretton team since January 2016. She has a huge heart and always goes the extra mile for her customers. We have had great feedback from district nurses and GP's on how Sylvie really does put her all into her work.

Baby News!

Daryl Ashton our Shrewsbury Supervisor welcomed baby Holly Ashton into the world on 29th March at 12:26am. Holly weighed 6lb 2oz!

Kirsty Holland our Care Manager in Shrewsbury had baby Franklin William Eric Holland on 19th May 2017 at 2:55am and he weighed 7lb 6oz!

Massive congratulations



Daryl & Holly

Kirsty & Franklin

We Love Hearing from You

Thank you to our customers who take the time to give us such lovely feedback. This time one of our carers, Lauren Adams is particularly praised. We are glad we could be of service.

I would like to express my praise to your staff for the wonderful way my daughter's mother-in-law was cared for in the last few weeks and in particular to Lauren Adams. She dealt with all the urgent matters so professionally and with such kindness to the family. I worked in community nursing for over 20 years and it's very encouraging to see such a high standard of nursing

care being carried out today - well done. I had the privilege to be a support to the family over the weekend when my daughter's mother-in-law was so poorly, and needed sensitive care and handling, which she got at all times.

Yours sincerely, Mrs Piffe-Phelps.



Landscape across the Severn Stride

Supporting Severn Hospice

We support a lot of charity and national awareness day events here at Bluebird Care.

But this year we have chosen to focus on one charity and after asking the team their thoughts, we have agreed on supporting The Severn Hospice! We will be fundraising on behalf of them and working alongside them in regards to training. On 9th September some of our team took part in the Severn Stride, an 18 mile walk from the

Hospice in Shrewsbury to the Hospice in Telford. Some of our team also volunteered by providing refreshments to walkers at the half way mark. Sammie Milton and Care Assistant Sue Fisher have also signed themselves up to take part in the world's fastest zip wire to raise funds in September. You can sponsor them at www.justgiving.com/sammie-milton We are also sponsoring the 'colour run' event in June 2018 and throwing blue paint on the runners and entering runners in the event ourselves!

"The thought of re-training for a job was intimidating but the team made the experience so enjoyable."

Jane Middle, Care Assistant, Bluebird Care Shropshire



Putting Care into your Career

Please contact us to find out more about how the Bluebird Care Career Journey can work for you.

Call today to find out more
01743 874343
01691 749128

bluebirdcare.co.uk/shropshire