

Account of the Trust's Activities during 2013 by The Chairman, Revd. Canon Clifton

During the past year the Trust has continued to be involved in work in Italy, Poland, England and France.

In Italy, we support as far as possible the work of the Fondazione Sue Ryder, which works in some of the poorest parts of Rome providing palliative care at home. The needs are great and the Trustees always wish they could do more to support the existing work and even see it expanded. We receive excellent reports of the work being done in Italy.

Poland did of course hold a special place in the heart of Lady Ryder. She was after all, Lady Ryder of Warsaw. We keep in close contact with Fundacja Sue Ryder, the Polish Foundation, which is an independent charity. Again the needs are great, there are many Sue Ryder Homes and Centres and we rely upon the Chairman of the Polish Foundation to filter those needs to us in the form of applications for grants. Sadly we cannot always help, because the funds are not available. We try to help those homes and projects which evidence that they are doing their best to help themselves. We continue to keep a close eye on the establishment of the Sue Ryder Museum in Warsaw. As a matter of routine we continue to pay for the medicines for the Girls at Konstancin, again something which was very close to the Founder's heart.

In England the Trust has been able to give further support to the Walled Garden Project at ST Katharine's Parmoor. This is a scheme to take homeless and vulnerable young men and women and train and educate them in horticultural skills. The course is all run by volunteers and is accredited by a local horticultural college. The results are astonishing. Each year increasing numbers of youngsters are being helped back into work and society. Work will start soon on an education centre, a simple purpose built room with a small kitchen etc, where the youngsters can receive tuition, make their own drinks etc without having to come into the House. All those who started on the scheme in September 2013 have either found work or returned to their families. Lives turned around. We think Lady Ryder would have approved very much of this work.

In France, the rooms at the Polish Catholic Mission in Lourdes funded by the Trust in memory of Lady Ryder, are in constant use and much appreciated as is the specially adapted minibus which was also given by the Trust.

As always the Trustees are extremely grateful for the support we receive from Sue Ryder Supporters. We are especially grateful for legacies, which help to secure the work for the future.

In this year when we mark the centenary of the beginning of the First World War and the 70th anniversary of the D Day landings, we should reflect that all Sue Ryder 's work was part of the Living Memorial, her memorial to the millions who died in the two World Wars and who have died subsequently and are still suffering and dying today. The Living Memorial is a noble concept and I trust that in our small way, with your help we are keeping it alive.

We are a small and happy band of Trustees. I would like to thank all for their help and support. Especially I must mention Ruth Chestney who spends hours as a volunteer keeping the day to day business of the charity going . Thank you Ruth.

It is a great pleasure to report that Jeromy Cheshire and Dr Elizabeth Cheshire, Sue Ryder's son and daughter have agreed to become Patrons of the Trust. We are thrilled to have their support.

Thank you to all those who support us in whatever way, May God Bless you.

Robert Clifton