



Working in **BRISTOL** and  
**SOUTHGLOUCESTERSHIRE**

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29/8/2011

Media Information

## **BRISTOL CARE & REPAIR CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF HELPING CITY'S OLDER & DISABLED PEOPLE WITH GIFT OF HOME MAKEOVER**

**\*\*\*79-year old St. Pauls resident selected for 3-day home  
makeover.**

**Unveiling 3pm 1<sup>st</sup> Sept by Lord Mayor\*\*\***

From Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August Bristol Care & Repair, as part of Bristol's Celebrating Age Festival, will mark their 25<sup>th</sup> year of helping older and disabled people across the city with repairs and adaptations to their homes by giving Mrs Stuart of St. Nicholas Road, St. Pauls a free home makeover. "We want to show our gratitude to the local community who have enabled our organisation to grow into one of the largest home improvement agencies in the county," explained Bristol Care & Repair's Chief Executive, Craig Wilson. "This is our opportunity to give something back." Most of the labour and materials for the makeover has been donated by local building companies and contractors that have supported Bristol Care & Repair over the years.

Over three days Mrs Stuart's house will be transformed. She'll be staying at the Haymarket *Premier Inn* whilst the work is in progress. The hotel has kindly donated a room, including meals, to Mrs Stuart and her daughter whilst the work is underway. Mrs Stuart, now widowed, has lived in Bristol since 1957 when she and her husband travelled from Barbados to start a new life in the city. Her family have grown up in St. Pauls and still live locally. "I've always loved this area and want to stay here in the community as I grow older," reflected Mrs Stuart. "But I've been worrying about the kitchen and bathroom, and I'm finding it hard to get in and out of the bath and to reach down to the oven. Having a shower that's easy to use and a level oven will make a big difference to my life. It would be lovely to sit out in the back garden too with the family - when it's sunny!"

Whilst Mrs Stuart is away Bristol Care & Repair, with help from local contractors and Mrs Stuart's grandsons and nephews, will replace her old kitchen, bathroom and garden with a new *Howdens*

kitchen, an *Impey* wet floor shower and bathroom, a new patio, fence and decking, new UPVC front and back doors and decorate the downstairs of the house. To keep up the makeover team's strength *FareShare South West*, a local food charity re-using good in-date food normally thrown into landfill sites, are supplying all the workers with lunches and refreshments free of charge.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> September at 3pm, Mrs Stuart's newly made-over home will be unveiled by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Geoff Gallop and Bristol Care & Repair's Patron, George Ferguson, founder of Ferguson Mann Architects responsible for the Tobacco Factory. Councillors Anthony Negus and Jon Rogers, Bristol City Council's Executive Members for Health & Social Care and Housing, will also be attending the event. "The majority of older people I talk to tell me they want to stay living independently in their own home for as long as possible," observed St. Paul's Councillor, Jon Rogers. "Over the last 25 years, Bristol Care and Repair has helped thousands of Bristolians aged over 60 do just that. They have made a real difference to the quality of life of older people in the city. This is a wonderful way to mark this landmark date for the organisation. I hope Mrs Stuart thoroughly enjoys her newly improved home."



*The Stuart family celebrate the announcement of the makeover event outside Mrs Stuart's house in St. Paul's (Mrs Stuart is in the centre wearing lilac).*



*Mrs Stuart getting married in Bristol, 1959.*

Over the course of 25 years, Bristol Care & Repair (which has recently expanded to become West of England - “WE Care & Repair”) has developed strong working relationships with local tradespeople. These are now part of a large ‘Trusted Contractors’ database available to the public. These professionals have been crucial to the success of Bristol Care & Repair and many are supporting the Anniversary by providing materials and labour *free of charge*, including Westside Contractors, BEE Electrical Ltd, Power Safe UK, Dynamic Heating Services (DHS), Avon Damp Control Ltd, Paul’s Maintenance, Downend Electrics and Junk Busters. The Haymarket Premier Inn, Hollywood Frames, Howden’s Kitchens in Avonside, Impey Showers Ltd, FairShare South West, Bristol Timber Store, McCarthy Waste Management, B&Q Muller Road, Brandon Tool Hire in Avonmouth, Riverside Garden Centre, Travis Perkins Fishponds, *Rice & Things* Jamaican Restaurant in Stokes Croft, and the Plumbing Centre have supplied all the accommodation, food, plants and materials for the home makeover (*see final page for supporter’s messages*).

WE Care & Repair is funded by Bristol City Council, Bristol NHS and the Royal British Legion amongst others. To find out more about how WE Care & Repair can help ring 0117 954 2222 or visit [www.wecareandrepair.org.uk](http://www.wecareandrepair.org.uk)

**\*\*\*Ends\*\*\***

#### **Notes to Editors:**

- **Filming & interview opportunities with Mrs Stuart and family, and staff and contractors are available before, during and after the work. Please contact Ann Vink, WE Communications Officer on 07847 485870/0117 9543912/9542222 for more information or email [ann.vink@wecareandrepair.org.uk](mailto:ann.vink@wecareandrepair.org.uk)**
- **WE Care & Repair is a charitable organisation devoted to helping homeowners in Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset. The organisation aims to help people over sixty and disabled people of all ages live in homes that are warm, safe, secure and adapted to their needs. Bristol Care &**

Repair has been running for 25 years in Bristol and last year helped over 8000 people to remain living independently in their own homes. For more information on the services we offer please ring 0117 954 2222 or email [info@wecareandrepair.org.uk](mailto:info@wecareandrepair.org.uk) WE Care & Repair is an Industrial & Provident Society with charitable status (reg'd no 25479R).

**Bristol Care & Repair would like to say a massive thank you to all the Bristol companies and contractors who are supporting the makeover, here are just a selection of some of the messages of support we've received:**

*"Howdens Joinery Avonmouth are supporting this project as it's a unique opportunity to help in the local community. This is just one of several good local causes we have the pleasure of helping each year, adding to the many more Howdens helps nationwide."* Howdens have supplied Mrs Stuart's new kitchen, [www.howdens.com](http://www.howdens.com)

*"We believe that Bristol Care & Repair's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary makeover is a great idea, and we are very pleased to be able to contribute to this very worthy cause. We wish Mrs Stuart and her family all the very best for the future and hope that this new wetroom shower really helps to provide independence, confidence and security for Mrs Stuart,"* Steve Trigg, Head of Marketing Healthcare at Impey Showers Limited, [www.impeyshowers.com](http://www.impeyshowers.com)

The company have donated a Level-Dec wetroom shower floor former, a full height option C shower panel with curtain and rail, a brand-new and unique hand rail design Maxi-Grip Plus and SLW1 slimline waste water trap, and a Selectronic Premier Plus electric shower from Redring.

*"NKS Flooring Limited are proud to be supporting Bristol Care & Repair in celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> year of helping older and disabled people across the city with repairs and adaptations to their homes. As a Trusted Contractors we have supported this project by providing the materials and installations of new non-slip flooring in Mrs Stuart's kitchen and bathroom. We hope she will be delighted with the completed makeover. We are proud supporters of the local communities in which we operate."* [www.nksflooringbristol.co.uk](http://www.nksflooringbristol.co.uk)

*"Having worked with Bristol Care & Repair for over 12 years, Dynamic Heating Services (DHS) have realised how important their role is in caring for the elderly and less-able people of the community, and therefore we feel proud to be part of this project."* Ivan Hudd, Dynamic Heating Services (DHS) [www.dhs-uk.com](http://www.dhs-uk.com)

*"Downend Electrics Ltd have been associated with Bristol Care & Repair for over 18 years and it is particularly rewarding for us as a company to support local people in the community and in a small way contribute to their wellbeing. We think the home makeover is a great idea and a chance for all Bristol Care & Repair's contractors to get together with Mrs Stuart, helping to make her home more comfortable for her and her family."* Mike Andrews, Downend Electrics, [www.downendelectrics.co.uk](http://www.downendelectrics.co.uk)

*"We are a small local company that have been working alongside Bristol Care & Repair for five years. When we heard what Care & Repair were doing for Mrs Stuart we were more than happy to help and give something back to the local community."* Paul Crook, Paul's Building & Decorating Maintenance, [www.pbdmaintenance.co.uk](http://www.pbdmaintenance.co.uk)

*"BEE Electrical Ltd has been working with Bristol Care & Repair for 4 years. We are proud to work with such a worthwhile charity serving our local community and to be part of this celebration,"* Jason Edwards, BEE Electrical Ltd [www.bee-electrical.co.uk](http://www.bee-electrical.co.uk)

*"Bristol Care & Repair do a fantastic job for the elderly and disabled in the community. They go out of their way to make sure their lives are made easier and more comfortable. It's good to have people like Bristol Care & Repair on hand to help Bristol residents when in need."* James A Friend, Branch Manager, Brandon Hire Avonmouth, [www.brandontoolhire.co.uk](http://www.brandontoolhire.co.uk)

*"I am supporting this event because I am a Bristolian thro and thro having been brought up in Bristol and starting out in a career with SWEB - Electricity Board. I have worked with Bristol Care & Repair for a number of years and have developed a professional relationship with several surveyors based upon trust and competitive quality. I see this event as an opportunity to thank Bristol Care & Repair for their support whilst being a very worthwhile way to offer something back to fellow Bristolians."* Steve Budd, Power-Safe UK Ltd, [www.power-safe.co.uk](http://www.power-safe.co.uk)