

THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF PRINCE EDWARD DUKE OF KENT COURT

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT –29th November 2017 - AGM

As Chairman of the Association of Friends of Prince Edward Duke of Kent Court I see at first-hand the wonderful work carried out by my fellow Trustees, the Home Manager, Michelle Bladen, and her staff and other volunteers who give of their time in so many ways to create a most happy atmosphere in this wonderful home here at Stisted.

Unfortunately, since our previous Annual General Meeting we have sadly lost a number of residents who have passed away. On a brighter note, birthdays have been celebrated. Karine Oldacre, the House Adviser, an office akin to that of Almoner, will be giving further details on matters affecting the welfare of our residents in her Report.

Nigel Oldacre, our Vice-Chairman and Residents' Activity Organiser/ Representative, will report on the events held during the year for our residents. We are very fortunate in having Nigel and Karine who know each of the residents personally and spend a great deal of their time at the Home. We owe a great deal of thanks to this dedicated and caring couple.

On 11th December 2016, another Residents' Christmas Party was held and where we were delighted to welcome our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VW Bro. Paul Reeves.

We had the successful Fete in July and we thank John Finlay, Nigel Oldacre and their team of helpers for the immense amount of hard work they undertook. Our Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro. Rodney Lister Bass OBE officially opened the Fete. We were also pleased to welcome RW Bro. Sir Neil Thorne, OBE, TD, DL, PPGM, who had been involved with Stisted in its early days and who still retains an interest in the Home.

Graham Larke, who has been our Secretary for many years, is retiring from the office today. His untiring efforts have been much appreciated by the members and trustees of the Association. I am pleased to report that he is to continue as a trustee. Because of mounting commitments elsewhere our Treasurer Jon Oliver is retiring as a trustee and Treasurer. He has served the Association with true diligence since 2004 and he will be sorely missed. I place on record the Association's great appreciation and gratitude for his immense contribution to our work.

John Finlay, our Summer Fete Organiser, is to retire from the position but is to remain as a trustee. John has worked tirelessly over the last 4 years in his organisation of the Summer Fete. Andrew McLeod, a longstanding supporter of the Association, is to become our Summer Fete Organiser. John Finlay has indicated he will be happy to assist Andrew in his task. We are very grateful to John for his most valuable contribution to our work. Andrew is to be proposed as a trustee at this meeting.

During the year we have welcomed two new trustees: David Badger is to take on the office of Secretary, and Graham Elvidge is to become our Treasurer. We are fortunate to have such experienced freemasons to take on these rôles.

Our Membership Secretary, Lloyd Harris whose company has designed a new database for the Trustees at no cost to the Association, has completed the construction of the new database and we owe him a great deal of thanks. This is set to improve our communications with the Association's members, Lodges and Chapters and all its Friends.

The Trustees are happy to consider all requests for financial assistance for the residents and each month we pay, on average, over £1,300 to an Amenity Fund which enables residents to enjoy outings and events within the Home. Additionally during the year, we have provided £2,000 to pay for seasonal gifts to our residents. The Home often requires equipment beneficial to our residents' way of life, which the RMBI Company is unable to provide. The Association has stepped in to provide 6 more profile beds at a cost of £4,608. To encourage residents, who are able, we have also purchased a specially adapted 'trike' at a cost of £5,655. It is, in fact, a four wheeled double bike where a resident sits on a seat and has static pedals as well as handles and a seat belt. They do not steer it and all the work is done by a carer who has a fully working bike attached to the static part. The passenger has the sensation of cycling and it gives them a chance to blow the cobwebs away. Residents who have taken advantage of this trike have been very happy with the experience.



A Lady Resident Enjoying A Ride With A Carer

Publicity is most helpful to our cause and we have the advantage of having Barry Stedman, our Assistant Secretary, who expertly looks after our website, www.friendsofpedokc.org.uk Barry has spent a lot of time in creating the Archives on our website, which contains numerous photos and a video tour of the Home.

We have brethren (our 'Ambassadors') who spread the word to Lodges about the wonderful work carried out by the staff at the Home and who seek support for the Association's work in providing many extras for the residents, which are not supplied by the RMBI Company. We are most grateful to those brethren.

Our neighbour is the Braintree Golf Club which takes great care of their grounds that provide a magnificent panorama for our residents to view. The entrance road to the Home passes through those grounds providing a most welcome site to residents and visitors alike. The Club kindly allows us to hold the Annual Stisted Hall Charity Golf Classic and the after proceedings on their premises. Our residents, too, are welcome to use the social facilities provided by the Club. We are very grateful to the Club for their hospitality.

The Mauchline House (formerly known as the Dementia Support Unit) Garden continues to be a place of contentment to those residents who enter the twilight of their lives with dementia and it is also a place of beauty where others too are able to enjoy a visit.

We must never forget that the Association was founded as the result of much hard work and initial financial gifts by our President Alan Garner and our Vice-President Brian Procter. They sowed the seeds and we continue to nurture their growth. Alan Garner and Brian Procter continue to give much valuable support to our work. To them we owe our grateful thanks.

The Home continues to have a most happy atmosphere and the Association maintains a close relationship with Michelle Bladen, the Home Manager, and her staff who do such wonderful work for the benefit of the residents. Each resident is made to feel that Stisted Hall is their own home and that they are a part of one happy family. The residents are looking forward to their Christmas Party which is to take place on 10th December, where entertainment, fun and a Christmas Lunch will be enjoyed by them. Photographs of this and other events will appear on the Association's website in due course.

There is no place like Stisted Hall. There is no place like Home.

Clive Dunnico

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Chairman
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