

THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF PRINCE EDWARD DUKE OF KENT COURT

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT –23rd November 2022 - AGM

As Chairman of the Association of Friends of Prince Edward Duke of Kent Court, with the Covid-19 restrictions now lessened, I am able once more to witness at first-hand the dedicated work carried out by my fellow Trustees, the staff and other volunteers who give of their time in so many ways to create a most happy atmosphere in our wonderful Home at Stisted. As I write this Report I have had no current reports of Covid 19 in the Home. On 21st July this year we were saddened by the passing of Dennis May, who had given much service as a trustee of the Association. He will be sorely missed.

In the New Year, Jade Gibson resigned as Business Relationship Manager to become employed nearer her home. We are very grateful to her for the manner in which she supported the Association as well as the Home. Her successor is Marlena (she likes to be referred to as Marley) Bucko who has settled well in her new position and she too, is very supportive of our work. In February, we were saddened by the resignation of Agnieszka (Aggie) McDonald. She had contributed much to the residents' welfare and we wish her well for the future.

In August 2022, the Home acquired a new Home Manager, Ms Michelle Sims, who has settled in very well. She, too, is very supportive of the Association and we wish her success and fulfilment in her new position. The lessening of Covid 19 restrictions has brought the Home back to a normal life just as it was prior to the pandemic. There had been a few residents who contacted Covid 19, but generally the Home is now able to permit visitors. Indeed, in September the Association was able to return to the Home after a gap of 2 years to hold our Trustees' Meeting there.

It will be seen above that the Home was without a Home Manager for some 6 months. I record the Trustees' gratitude to the Deputy Home Manager, Katrina Karolchyk, and her team who worked diligently throughout that period to ensure the happiness and well-being of our residents were maintained. During the summer months many outdoor activities were undertaken; as well as indoor ones. Just a brief look at the website page of the Home will give a good idea of how happy the residents are:

<https://www.rmbi.org.uk/home/prince-edward-duke-of-kent-courtessex/> (The Home has a Facebook page too.)

Our neighbour, the Braintree Golf Club, takes great care of their grounds which provide a magnificent panoramic view from the Home for our residents. The entrance road to the Home passes through those grounds giving a most welcome scenic experience to our residents and visitors.

The Mauchline House Garden continues to be a place of contentment for those residents who enter the twilight of their lives with dementia. It is a place of beauty where other residents, too, are able to enjoy a visit. There is a plan for some interior doors in Mauchline House to be made to resemble shops of yesteryear. This is just one idea which will add to the residents' wellbeing.

Each resident is made to feel that Stisted Hall is their own Home and that they are an integral part of one happy family. This Christmas Michelle and her staff will ensure that it is another happy one for our residents.

Finally, I also express my thanks to David Badger for the invaluable contribution he makes to the work of the Association as our Secretary.

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

Clive R. Dunnico

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Chairman
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