

## THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF PRINCE EDWARD DUKE OF KENT COURT

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – 2016 - 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 6<sup>th</sup> December 2015, another Residents' Christmas Party was held and where we were delighted to welcome our Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro. Rodney Lister Bass.

We had the successful Fete in July, in fine weather conditions, and many thanks to John Finlay and 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 officially opened the Fete and made a contribution by singing with the choir for a short time. We were also pleased to welcome RW Bro. Sir Neil Thorne, PPGM, who had been involved with Stisted in its early days and who still maintains an interest in the Home.

Our Secretary, Graham Larke, continues with his untiring efforts as does Jon Oliver who keeps an ever watchful eye on our finances. During the year Lloyd Harris, whose company has designed a new database for the Trustees at no cost to the Association, was co-opted as a Trustee. Lloyd has offered his services as Membership Secretary. I must mention here that Jon Oliver, in addition to his office as Treasurer, has also acted as Membership Secretary and we owe him a great deal of thanks.. The new database will 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 around £1,300 to an Amenity Fund which enables residents to enjoy outings and events within the Home. We also buy equipment which is beneficial to the residents: for example, it will be seen in the 2016 Accounts that we have paid for equipment and facilities costing £5,469. Added to this, over £1,300 was paid by the Association for residents to share in social events and they received seasonal gifts of £1,962. It is most important that each resident is enabled to maintain their dignity when frailty overcomes them.

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](http://www.friendsofpedokc.org.uk). For those who are able to access the Cube (a private Essex Provincial Grand Lodge website) a link to our website may be found on its Social page. There is no longer a link on the Province's public website, although there is a link to our website through "Home" on the Essex Provincial Grand Mark Lodge's public website (<http://www.essexmark.co.uk>). Barry has spent a lot of time in creating the Archives on our website which contain 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. 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 11<sup>th</sup> December, where entertainment, fun and a Christmas lunch will be enjoyed by them. I am very happy to report that our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VW Bro. Paul Reeves, is to attend the Residents' Christmas Party and we thank him for his interest in the Home and its residents. 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*

**Clive Dunnico**  
**Chairman**  
**30<sup>th</sup> November 2016**