

THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF PRINCE EDWARD DUKE OF KENT COURT

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT –28th November 2018 - AGM

As Chairman of the Association of Friends of Prince Edward Duke of Kent Court I witness first-hand the dedicated 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 the most happy atmosphere in this wonderful home here at Stisted.

Regrettably, since our Annual General Meeting last year, we have lost a number of residents who have passed away. On a brighter note, birthdays have been celebrated. Karine Oldacre is our House Adviser, which is an office akin to that of Almoner. She will explain matters affecting the welfare of our residents when giving 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 31st December 2017, the Residents' Christmas Party was held. It had to be postponed from 10th December 2017, due to heavy snowfalls preventing travel by car and making access to the Home almost impossible. The residents enjoyed festive fayre and entertainment. Christmas gifts costing £2,500 were given to the residents.

The Trustees are happy to consider all requests for financial assistance for the benefit of the residents and each month we pay, on average, over £1,300 to an Amenity Fund which enables residents to enjoy events within the Home. Another £2,100 has been spent on residents' outings and activities throughout the year.

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 which he has created.

We are fortunate that some Brethren who spread the word to their Lodges about the wonderful work carried out by the staff at the Home. They seek support for the Association's work in providing "extras" for the residents. We are most grateful to those Brethren.

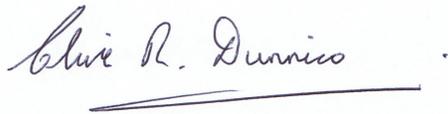
Our neighbour, the Braintree Golf Club takes great care of their grounds which provide a magnificent panorama for our residents to view. The entrance road to the Home passes through those grounds giving a most welcome site to residents and visitors alike. The Club kindly allows us to hold the Annual Stisted Hall Charity Golf Classic and the afterproceedings 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 and generosity.

The Mauchline House Garden continues to be a place of contentment for 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. **In conjunction with the RMBI, the Trustees agreed that the special project for the application of the "8-Aid Appeal" funds received from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex should be applied in the refurbishment of the pond, paths and surrounding area. The work was completed in time for the Summer Fete in July.** A bench in the area will provide a pleasant place to sit to view the grounds and, perhaps, to contemplate.

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 late Vice-President, Brian Procter, who sadly passed away earlier this year. They, with others sowed the seeds and we continue to nurture their growth. Alan Garner continues to give much valuable support to our work. To him we owe our grateful thanks. Prince Edward, Duke of Kent Court was officially opened by HRH Duke of Kent, the Most Worshipful Grand Master, on 20th January 1999. The 20th January 2019 will celebrate the Home's 20th Anniversary.

The Home always has 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 an integral part of one happy family. The residents are looking forward to their Christmas Party which is to take place on 9th 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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clive R. Dunnico". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line that underlines the name.

Clive Dunnico
Chairman
28th November 2018