



# Association of Friends of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent Court

Secretary: David C. Badger  
22, Elmsleigh Drive, Leigh-on-Sea  
Essex, SS9 3DN  
01702 712316 07949 636114  
david@davidbadger.co.uk

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

**Held on Wednesday 23rd November 2022  
at Prince Edward Duke of Kent Court. Commencing at 6pm**

**Present: Trustees Barry Stedman, Clive Dunnico, David Badger, Nigel Oldacre, Karine Oldacre, Graham Larke, Graham Elvidge, Andrew McLeod and Association Member Eric Broadbent**

### **Apologies**

Trustee Lloyd Harris, Co-opted Trustee Paul Palmer, Association Members George Lambert, Ken Birnie, FG Bird, John Smoothy, Brian Heasman, Margaret Paul, David & Laura Brown and MC Black and Dr John Reuther (RMBI)

The President, Barry Stedman, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Conflicts of Interest.**

Any will be covered when matters arise.

### **To approve the Minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 25th November 2021.**

The Minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **Matters arising.**

These were covered under their respective Headings.

### **President's Report.**

It has been a difficult year, perhaps not as difficult as previous ones, but for different reasons. The period of time without a Home Manager resulted in uncertainty, not least with the delay of planning the Garden Party next year. The new Home Manager, Michelle Sims, has given her blessing to the Garden Party, so Paul [Palmer] is busy getting things together.

Before I move on, I want to express my thanks to Katrina for managing the Home so efficiently during the period without a manager, especially her assistance to us. Marley has settled in well and we continue to have a very good working relationship with all of the staff.

Back to the Garden Party; Paul is unable to be with us today, but I've liaised with him on a regular basis. For those of you who are unaware, the Garden Party next year will be a very different affair to previous events. There will be an emphasis on getting residents involved in any way they wish. It will be a scaled-down

party with less commercial and, hopefully, more involvement of Lodges to arrange stalls. We are intending to make it more like a traditional Garden Party/Fete – think straw boaters, blazers and Pimms! A Trad Jazz Band etc. By adopting this approach, we are not only “ringing the changes”, but it should significantly reduce our costs and make the whole event more focused on our residents.

I am having discussions with Mark Lloyd [RMBI MD] regarding the Walled Garden project. This is temporarily on hold while the condition of the walls themselves is assessed.

My priority now is to get the garage installed for the two buggies, particularly before winter sets in. However, this also requires further discussions with the RMBI.

The Friends will continue to provide for the benefit of the residents, but it has to be recognised that our income has been badly affected by the pandemic. I have applied for a grant from Provincial Grand Lodge and I'm hopeful they will look kindly upon it.

We will continue to ensure that funds are spent wisely and appropriately within our remit.

I would like to thank all of the Trustees for their support in my role as President, and in particular our Chairman Clive.

### **Chairman's Report**

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, 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 Marlina (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, the home acquired a new 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 contracted Covid 19, but generally the home is now able to permit visitors. Indeed, in September the Association was able to return after a gap of two years to hold our Trustees' meeting.

It will be seen above that the home was without a Manager for some six months and I would like to 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.

Our neighbour, the Braintree Golf Club, takes great care of its 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, which other residents, too, are able to enjoy. 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.

### **Treasurer's Report.**

The full copy of the Accounts will be on the website. GE noted it had been yet another year with no income from our major summer fundraising event, but there had been contributions as usual from the Golf Day and subscriptions, as well as donations from masonic units, some of which had been very generous. Despite some major expenditure this year as well as the monthly Amenities Fund contributions, the Association has ample funds and is awaiting suggestions for ways the Friends can make the residents' lives even better.

### **Almoner's Report.**

There are currently 43 residents at Stisted Hall, 22 in the main house and 21 in Mauchline House, and I understand that there are quite a number of people on the waiting list.

39 residents have celebrated their birthdays since our last AGM, three of whom are 100 years or over. Ethel McMillan is the oldest person and will be the great age of 103 on 24th November. Each person receives a birthday card and present from 'The Friends' on their special day. I look for attractive and suitable birthday gifts wherever I go, but it is not easy to find suitable things that the residents can use and enjoy. Sadly, there have been nine deaths. Messages of sympathy and cards were sent to the next of kin and, where possible, a donation, in their memory to their chosen charity.

On a happier note, on St Valentine's day, each resident was given a box of chocolates to mark the occasion. On Easter Sunday, an attractive box of small Easter eggs was given to each person to enjoy. It will soon be Christmas again. Last year, the Christmas party was on December 12th and the Trustees were looking forward to joining the residents. but this was not to be. However, we had arranged for Nicky and Neil from Clearer Productions to come and entertain residents in the Essex Lounge with carols, seasonable songs, poems and quotations, which I am sure they enjoyed. This was followed by a special lunch of the residents' choice. This year's party is on December 11th and the Trustees are looking forward to joining the residents once again. Nicky and Neil are coming to entertain us all, with Neil playing the piano and Nicky singing (in her many pretty changes of dresses). A lunch, of the residents' choice, with wine (courtesy of 'The Friends'), follows this and I am sure it will be a very happy occasion.

The home, once again, is kindly obtaining a suitable Christmas present on the Trustees' behalf for each resident, up to a value of £30, and I am very grateful to the staff for doing this.

Nigel and I hope to call at the home on Christmas morning to hand out the gifts and to wish everyone a Happy Christmas

**Residents' Activities Representative's Report.**

I call in regularly, usually after golf, to drop off birthday cards and presents that Karine has bought and prepared. With Covid restrictions now lifted, normal service was able to recommence in October with Sunday coffee mornings. Alan Reynolds' singing is proving very popular with everyone, especially the residents. Alan gives his services free and this is much appreciated.

We are still hoping to fit in a garden working party in early December, but the inclement weather has thwarted us so far.

The Stisted Hall Charity Golf Day was successful in enabling £800 to be given to the Association of Friends of PEDoKC as a result. None of this could have happened if it were not for the support of others, namely David Badger, Graham Larke, Eric Broadbent, Andrew McLeod and Mike Saffill, the latter checking the scores and finding himself the winner! This, of course, caused a certain amount of banter from the rest of the players.

It was pleasing that we had good support from the RMBI hierarchy, with Mark Lloyd (MD), Sushil Radia (Treasurer) and Matt Capener (Regional Manager) all playing. I am relieved & delighted that Derek Burrell has agreed to take over the running of the golf day for 2023.

The arrangements for the Christmas party are now complete, with Clearer Productions providing the entertainment. 'The Friends' are providing the wine which will be served by the Trustees to the residents at lunch on the same day.

As the fir tree in front of the House has reached a good height, only one Christmas tree has been ordered, for Mauchline House.

The Chairman thanked Nigel and Karine for "their invaluable work on behalf of the Trustees".

**Home Manager's Report**

There was no Home Manager's report, as Michelle was on leave.

**Election of Officers/Trustees**

These Officers/Trustees are willing to serve for the next year:

Chairman: Clive Dunnico

Secretary: David Badger

Treasurer: Graham Elvidge

Membership Secretary: Lloyd Harris

Almoner: Karine Oldacre

Residents Activities: Nigel Oldacre

Fete Organiser: Paul Palmer

Trustees: Graham Larke, Andrew McLeod

The elections were approved en bloc, nem con.

**Declaration of Acceptance by Trustees.**

Declarations were signed by all but Lloyd Harris & Paul Palmer, who will sign at a future meeting of the Trustees.

**Appointment of Auditors.**

David Badger proposed that Azets Audit Services (formerly Wilkins Kennedy LLP) of 1 Nelson Street, Southend-on-Sea, act as Auditors of the accounts for the next financial year. This was seconded by Graham Larke and was agreed without dissent.

**Any other Business.**

There was no other business raised.

**Date of the next AGM.**

This will be decided at the next Trustees Meeting, but a 3pm start may be considered in a bid to attract more Association members to attend..

The meeting closed at 6.40pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_