

RMBI news



A fond farewell to Nancy

After 14 happy years at Connaught Court, and 46 years in employment, Nancy Gray retired as Home Manager at the end of January.

Nancy has seen many changes in that time; the introduction of computers, the change to the title from Matron to Home Manager with a shift in roles from not only overseeing the delivery of care, but also organising the work to comply with changing legislation and to streamline office procedures. The care needs of residents have also increased over the years, necessitating a greater number of staff employed.

Said Nancy, *"The role of Home Manager is a challenging one, and balancing work and home is a juggling act. But I have so many happy memories of Connaught Court. I have always seen the residents as a huge family, and my responsibility has been to see that everyone is happy and well cared for.*

Along the way there has been a lot of laughter. The annual concert after Christmas has been a highlight each year. I have enjoyed the support of Lodges, Provincial Offices, the Friends of Connaught Court, and of course the lovely, and sometimes challenging, residents, their friends and families, and the brilliant staff. I am proud



of the success of Connaught Court, of the success of Connaught Court, which would not be possible without the committed, excellent staff, and I shall be eternally grateful to them for helping me to achieve this success."

Nancy has no plans to take it easy. She has lots of ideas for her retirement including taking up the piano again. Her first introduction to Connaught Court was as part of a visiting choir, perhaps she'll be back to tinkle the ivories!

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Happy 40th Birthday Devonshire Court

Opened by the Queen Mother in November 1966, Devonshire Court, in Oadby, Leicestershire, has been providing high quality care for older Freemasons and their dependants for 40 years, and the staff and residents celebrated this special milestone in style with the help of representatives from the Province and members of the RMBI Executive.

Devonshire Court's Home Manager, Beverley Bethell, said, "The anniversary created a buzz in the Home and residents enjoyed a whole week bursting with extra activities. With so much going on, they had to pace themselves!" Anniversary celebrations at the Home culminated with a fireworks party for residents at the end of the week.

The anniversary event was also a great opportunity to celebrate the successful redevelopment in the Home. This year has seen the completion of a new spacious Reception

Area for residents, as well as eight new bedrooms. Home Manager Beverley Bethell, continued, "The new reception is a welcome addition. The residents enjoy the bright, open reception area and it's become the hub of the home, where they sit and chat with each other or listen to music."

The official opening of the new reception and bedroom extension was performed by the Provincial Grand Master of Leicestershire & Rutland, R W Bro Michael H. Roalfe.



The Queen Mother declares Devonshire Court open 2 November 1966



Peter J Gray RMBI Chief Executive and Mrs Aldridge of Devonshire Court cut the celebration cake

Christmas Celebrations

Festive fun at Cornwallis Court, Devonshire Court, James Terry Court, Lord Harris Court, Prince Edward Duke of Kent Court, Prince George Duke of Kent Court, Shannon Court and Zetland Court.



Eastenders ditches Walford for Watford

Eastenders controversial storyline of Bert's reconciliation with his ex-wife Evie, was filmed at Prince Michael of Kent Court in Watford.

Nick Girvan, BBC Locations Manager chose PMOK after being wooed by the Home's ambience and the amazing facilities. "Without a doubt", he said "this was the right setting for shooting the episodes."

The filming took place over two days and those members of the cast involved in the filming, like Pam St Clements (Pat Evans in Eastenders), took time to chat to residents and staff.



Residents Celebrate 248th Birthday

Just because the RMBI only operates in England and Wales is no reason not to take advantage of a Scottish tradition – like Burns night. As you can see from the photo, residents at Scarborough Court, Tithebarn and Stisted enjoyed a bit of a Highland Fling in January, including piping in the haggis and no doubt a wee dram! Robbie would have been proud to see so many Sassenachs celebrating his birthday in such style.



Silver Surfers

After being introduced to computing by Activities Coordinator, Sally Williams, 88 year old Peter Marno has gone from strength to strength. With no previous knowledge, he now thoroughly enjoys producing posters and flyers for the various events that take place at Prince George Duke of Kent Court. Says Peter, "The thought of a computer was daunting but it has added enormous pleasure and satisfaction to my life here. I hope this will encourage others to take up something new."



Peter Marno in action at the computer



New Face in the Care Advice Team

The Care Advice Team has added a fourth member to the team. Elaine Hansen, formerly of The Tithebarn in Liverpool, will cover Northern England and North Wales. The Team can help with advice on a whole range of issues from accessing benefits to accessing support from other agencies.

Call 020 7596 2400 for more information.

Long service

Kevin Harris, Director of Care Operations, was delighted to present Maggie Hartley and Ann Martyniak, pictured here with Ecclesholme Home Manager, Julie Deakin, with awards for long service.

They joined the RMBl in March 1991. Maggie started work as a Kitchen Assistant and in June 2000 became Activities Organiser. Ann began working at Ecclesholme as a Domestic and in January 2004 moved to the Laundry. Both are hardworking, cheerful and well respected members of the team.



A night to remember

The 4th Royal Masonic Variety Show in November went with quite a swing when the all-star cast including Bradley Walsh (see pic) played to a full house in the presence of The Grand Master, HRH The Duke of Kent. The event is set to raise £10,000 for the RMBI!



Leicestershire and Rutland 2012 Festival

The 2012 Festival was launched by the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Michael Roalfe at the Annual Provincial Grand Lodge meeting on 25 November 2006. 390 members of the Province were present together with guests from other Provinces. The presentation by the RMBI President, VW Bro John E Moore, was warmly received. In launching the Festival, the PGM stated that every Lodge in the Province would be set a target.

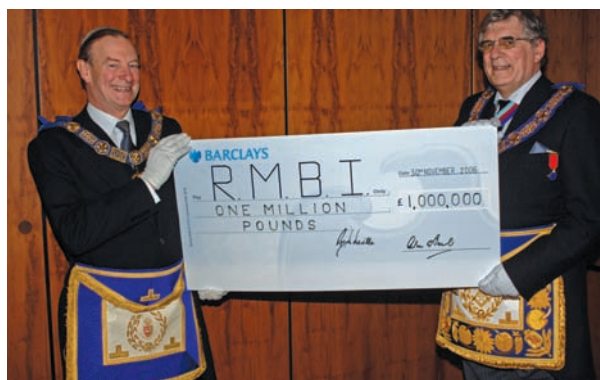
Have you got your new badge yet?

Do you need a supply to take to a meeting? Contact Duncan Washbrook at Head Office on 020 7596 2400 or email dwashbrook@rmbi.org.uk. Minimum suggested donation of £1 per badge.



Thanks a million Durham

The President of the RMBI, John E Moore was delighted to receive a cheque last November for £1 million from the Provincial Grand Master of Durham, R W Bro Derek Richmond. Many thanks to the Brethren of Durham for their fundraising efforts for the 2010 Festival.



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