

RMBI news



HRH The Duke of Kent celebrates 40th anniversary

Prince George Duke of Kent Court, Chislehurst, Kent, recently celebrated its 40th birthday in the presence of HRH The Duke of Kent, KG.

Reminiscing on his previous visit exactly 40 years ago, when he opened the Home in place of his mother, Princess Marina, who was unfortunately taken ill a few days before the event, the Duke commented on the many changes that had been made to the Home.

The Duke stayed for the celebration luncheon, joining notable guests including Colonel Robert Murfin, Deputy Lieutenant of Bromley; Councillor Denise Reddin, Mayor of Bromley; David Innes, Chief Executive of the RMBI; and RW Bro M J Bailey and RW Bro J S Winpenny, Provincial Grand Masters of East and West Kent. Following the luncheon the Duke unveiled a plaque commemorating his second visit to the Home.

Toni Turner, Home Manager, said, "The day was a tremendous success following months of planning and worrying about suitable outfits! The ladies particularly enjoyed choosing their outfits and getting their hair done.

"All the residents really enjoyed the day and felt very honoured that the Duke was able to share the Home's 40th birthday with them."



The Duke of Kent and Home Manager, Toni Turner, chat with residents



The Duke of Kent and the Mayor of Bromley, Councillor Denise Reddin



The Duke of Kent meets Chief Executive of the RMBI, David Innes

CONTENTS

- 2 Residents' Milestones ♦ Redevelopment at James Terry Court
- 3 Masonry at work ♦ We need your feedback ♦ Residents out and about
- 4 New Scarbrough Court opened ♦ Paupers Supper at Devonshire Court ♦ Going to the zoo
- 5 Musical talents at Zetland Court ♦ Winning gardens for Queen Elizabeth Court ♦ Artists in the Homes
- 6 RMBI Watches ♦ Symphonic Rock at the Hexagon, Reading ♦ Bristol Festival Results

Residents' Milestones

Connaught Court, Fulford, York

Connaught Court recently celebrated a very special wedding anniversary. Residents Mr and Mrs Moor enjoyed their 71st wedding anniversary at the Home and spent the day with the Home's staff, residents and RMBI Chief Executive, David Innes, who was visiting at the time.

Congratulations Mr and Mrs Moor!



Mr and Mrs Moor with David Innes

Lord Harris Court, Sindlesham, Berkshire

The RMBI's oldest resident, Mr William Stone, celebrated his 108th birthday on 23 September with a sing-a-long and tea party at Lord Harris Court. About 70 residents, family and friends joined William in singing popular tunes from bygone years. Local press, ITV and BBC were there in force to record the event.

Towards the end of the afternoon, William, who has been a Freemason for 75 years, was received into the Berkshire Provincial Grand Lodge meeting at Sindlesham. 464 Brethren arose and welcomed him with applause and sang Happy Birthday to which William responded with greetings. A wonderful finale to a memorable day!



Mr Stone on his birthday

Redevelopment at James Terry Court

James Terry Court, Croydon, Surrey, is to be rebuilt after planning permission was granted in July. This is exciting news for the RMBI and James Terry Court.

The new Home will provide the most modern of care home facilities to improve the lives of residents and staff alike. It will meet all the latest government guidelines and legislation on size, accessibility and facilities, and incorporate many environmentally beneficial systems.

The existing locally listed main house will remain as an integral part of the site and will be converted into extra care apartments.



Artist's impression of the new James Terry Court

Meanwhile, the residents of James Terry Court have been enjoying themselves using a new computer game, the Wii!

Carol Roberts, Activities Co-ordinator says, "Residents enjoy all the games, especially the bowling and it amuses them when they see the little mini Mii they have made up of themselves actually bowling the ball when they swing their arm. Everyone really gets engrossed in it and also gets a bit of exercise and a lot of enjoyment from it."



A James Terry Court resident bowling using the Wii!

Masonry at work

Keeping our widows and retired Brethren within the Masonic family

Though Shropshire is numerically one of the smaller Provinces, it is well catered for in the number of Masonic Fellowships in operation. The first one started in Wellington, Telford in 1990 and was followed subsequently by others in Shrewsbury, North Shropshire, Oswestry and Ludlow.

Membership is free and open to all widows and retired Masons, including wives and partners. Total membership is approaching 400 and daytime meetings are held monthly. The Fellowships welcome speakers, including representatives from the RMBI and MSF who have given in depth talks on how they can assist. In addition, trips to the theatre are proving very popular, as are day trips to local places of interest.

The Shrewsbury Fellowship also organise holidays and efforts are underway to make similar holidays available to the other Fellowships. These holidays are popular with widows and widowers who are on their own and welcome the opportunity of having a safe and secure holiday within the Masonic Family.

For more information WBro Ken Tyrell, CSM PPrGReg, can be contacted on 01743 235606.



The Shrewsbury Fellowship holidaying in Cornwall

We need your feedback!

We hope you enjoy reading the RMBI news each issue. In order that we continue to provide a newsletter that is interesting for our readers, we would like to get your feedback and thoughts on the RMBI news.

We therefore ask if you would kindly fill in the enclosed reader survey and send it back to us using the freepost envelope provided. Any comments and suggestions are welcome, we look forward to hearing from you.

Residents out and about

Cadogan Court, Exeter, Devon

Inspired by the National Association for Providers of Activities, Breath of Fresh Air Week, Cadogan Court residents visited the local Otter Nurseries. Residents enjoyed a walk around the beautiful sensory garden and followed the day up with a lovely Devonshire cream tea enjoyed by all!



Cadogan Court residents at the Otter Nursery

Prince Edward Duke of Kent Court, Stisted Hall, Braintree, Essex

On a sunny Friday, residents from Prince Edward Duke of Kent Court visited Lockview, Harlow, to go on a boat trip arranged by the Canal Boat Project.

Activities Co-ordinator, Denise Lucia, said, "We arrived and were greeted by the crew who transported our residents by lifts onto the boat. The sun was shining, we saw kingfishers, swans and their signets and also some ducks, and we couldn't believe our luck as we moored up for lunch and the sun was still shining.

"We had a wonderful day and the crew worked so hard opening the locks and making us all comfortable. It was the talk of Stisted Hall for days."



Residents enjoy the boat trip on the canal

New Scarborough Court opened by HRH Princess Alexandra

Residents, staff and guests enjoyed a lovely day on Wednesday 17 September, when new Home, Scarborough Court, Cramlington, Northumberland, was officially opened by Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Ogilvy, KG GCVO.

Staff at Scarborough Court were pleased to welcome Her Royal Highness back to the Home, 41 years after she opened the original Home.

Caroline Edden, Home Manager of Scarborough Court, said, "Imagine the delight, that 41 years after the initial opening of the Home by Her Royal Highness, she graciously accepted the invitation to return and open the new Scarborough Court. We all had a lovely day and were very proud to show off the new Home with its wonderful facilities."



Princess Alexandra meets Scarborough Court residents

Paupers Supper at Devonshire Court

In August, the Lodge of Welcome hosted a Paupers Supper for residents of Devonshire Court, Leicester. Together acquaintances were cemented and made, and old and new stories were exchanged which ensured that all present had a most wonderful evening.

The evening was made more memorable by the attendance of the PGM, who presented a 50 year certificate to WBro Robert McRory who has recently taken residence at Devonshire Court.

The Provincial Grand Master RWBro Michael Roalfe spoke highly of WBro Robert McRory's devoted and dedicated career in Masonry and wished him well for the future. Three Masonic cheers were given to WBro Bill Lee for organising the whole evening.



Mr McRory being presented with his certificate from PGM RWBro Michael Roalfe

Going to the zoo

Residents from The Tithebarn, Crosby, Liverpool, have been on a number of excursions recently, including a trip to the beach, a canal boat ride and a visit to Chester Zoo.

Residents enjoyed their day out at the zoo; the sun shone and the animals entertained them greatly. Everyone looks forward to visiting again!



Residents make friends with the giraffes at the zoo!

Musical talents at Zetland Court

Zetland Court, Westbourne, Dorset, recently had a visit from Mr Henry Gray, aged 97, who stayed for a short respite break. Henry kindly agreed to play the piano one evening and he played for over an hour without music books or prompts of any kind.

Says Karen Ralph, Activities Co-ordinator, "The rest of the residents and myself spent the evening gathered round the piano singing and offering suggestions for tunes to play. We have lots of entertainers in to perform but this 'homemade' entertainment was wonderful.

"One very elderly resident said that as a family years ago they would gather round the piano to sing every evening, but hadn't done so for many many years and it brought back so many very happy memories for her."



Mr Gray playing piano for all residents to enjoy

Winning gardens for Queen Elizabeth Court

This year Queen Elizabeth Court, Llandudno, was very proudly presented with 1st Prize for Llandudno in Bloom in the category of Churches, Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Recreational Area and 2nd Prize for Wales in Bloom in the category of Care Homes and Sheltered Accommodation (contract).

The two awards were presented to Debbie Lewis, Home Manager, who attended along with Neil Burton, Head of Maintenance, at the Llandudno Town Hall on 11 September and at Venue Cymru, Llandudno on 19 September.

Judges commented that, "It was good to see an entry using vegetable plants amongst planting, with residents looking after the small patches outside their residence. The compost bays, raised vegetable patch and greenhouse also added to the marks and I would recommend a bird table and bird boxes."



One of Queen Elizabeth Court's winning gardens

Artists in the Homes

Cornwallis Court, BuryStEdmunds, Suffolk, resident Mr Peter Black is a wonderful artist and his work "One for the pot" was entered into the Elderly Accommodation Counsel (EAC) Over 60s Art Awards.

The EAC Art Awards celebrate and promote the artistic talents of older people and this year residents from Cornwallis Court, Prince George Duke of Kent Court and Zetland Court entered. Many residents from our Homes enjoy art and we encourage all residents to enter the competition next year.



Peter Black's painting "One for the Pot"

RMBI Watches

With the support of the RMBI, Flambard Lodge No.6874, Durham, has produced a watch to raise funds for the 2010 Durham Festival.

The watch is stainless steel with citizen quartz workings. Each watch comes in an attractive gift box and for a donation of £10 + £2 p&p this is a quality exclusive gift for any Freemason. If you would like to order, please post your cheque for £12.00,



made payable to "**Flambard Lodge No.6874**", to:

Mr Stewart K Bell
20 Folly Terrace
Pity Me
Durham DH1 5DS

Please allow up to 28 days for delivery.

Symphonic Rock at the Hexagon, Reading

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

The Hexagon, Queen's Walk, Reading RG1 7UA

Saturday 11 July 2009, 7.30pm

Following sell-out shows at London's Royal Albert Hall, experience the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra performing great rock anthems and classic pop tracks, featuring hits by: Queen, The Moody Blues, The Beatles, Procol Harum, U2, Madonna, Bon Jovi, Emerson, Lake & Palmer, Tina Turner, Meat Loaf and Eric Clapton.

Special tribute to The Rolling Stones.

Ken Bruce, BBC Radio 2 - Presenter
Nick Davies - Conductor

Book your tickets now!

Ticket prices: £25, £35, £45

Telephone bookings: 0118 960 6060

Online bookings: www.readingarts.com

Bristol Festival Results

The evening of Saturday, 19 April 2008 marked yet another celebratory occasion in the impressive history of one of the smallest Provinces in the UK.

After just over five years of intense effort raising funds to support the care provided by the RMBI, 400 Brethren and partners from the Province of Bristol gathered to hear the result and toast the continuing community work of the RMBI.

The Province of Bristol raised the magnificent sum of £785k internally, to which substantial third party donations were added, bringing the grand total for the Bristol Festival to **£2,189,670**.



Left to right: W Bro. Peter Gray PGPurs, Former Chief Executive, RMBI; RW Bro. Capt. Norman Lloyd-Edwards RD, RNR. JGW; RW Bro. Michael Flynn. PGM for Bristol, President of the 2008 RMBI Festival; VW Bro. Willie Shackell, CBE. President of the RMBI; W Bro. Allan Rosengren, PAGDC. Chairman & Treasurer of the 2008 RMBI Festival Committee.

CONTACT DETAILS

Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution
60 Great Queen Street
London
WC2B 5AZ

Phone. 020 7596 2400

Fax. 020 7404 0724

Email. enquiries@rmbi.org.uk

Web. rmbi.org.uk