

James Terry Court Circular

Friends of James Terry Court, 51 Warham Road, South Croydon CR2 6LH



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Friends of James Terry Court

The Eleventh Annual General Meeting of The Friends was held at James Terry Court on June 28, attended by a number of Friends and their Committee members. It was a good meeting as these things go, but would have been better had more members attended. An AGM is not the stuff to set the blood racing, but it is an essential link in the life of a busy society such as ours. The Committee is elected at the AGM, and while the Committee members all think they do an excellent job, they cannot know for sure unless others are prepared to put up points for discussion. So why not make the effort to attend next year? The date will be well advertised in the pages of the Court Circular.

Among matters discussed at the meeting were:-

Lodge visits to James Terry Court: We are rightly proud of our residential home; both the care by the staff of the Residents and the way the house and grounds are looked after, are splendid, and should be more widely known within the Craft. Ask your Lodge Representative to organise a visit for you; he will contact Matron to arrange a date and time. You will learn of the way your RMBI contributions are spent, and how the Friends can and do add to the comfort and well-being of the Residents.

We are on the verge of buying the new mini-bus. Whilst we do have a driver on the staff, he has other duties too, so we need volunteers with a clean driving licence who could offer to take residents out on shopping trips, or to appointments at the hospital. Alternatively, can you offer to use your own car for trips to the chemist, or to take out one or two Residents occasionally? Not all of them have family or other visitors. Many hate Sundays -- boring; so that's the best time to offer, either your car, or the minibus if you can arrange for several to come.

Expenses: The question was raised by a Friend during discussion of the annual Accounts, which showed an increase of more than £800 for stationery and printing over the previous year. This was traced to two items: the printing of about a ten-year supply of Membership Cards, and the cost of the Court Circular, the latter estimated at about £150 over the previous year. It appears I am writing more often and sending out more copies (750 per edition) than before.

Actual printing costs have been contained; since the meeting I have checked on the printer's charges, and these turn out to be less than others have quoted, but the cost of postage has gone up.

A copy of the Annual Report for 1991/1992 is on page 4.

It is our intention to supply each Lodge Representative with a list of his Lodge members who are Friends. This list will be held on computer, and in order to comply with the Data Protection Act we hereby ask any members who object to the inclusion of their names to register their objection with the Hon Secretary within fourteen days of receipt of this Court Circular.

News

The Summer Fete was the high point of the season, both for fun and funds. It is the one money-raising occasion when the profits are raised for the RMBI, rather than being for James Terry Court. This year, as a result of a lot of hard work and dedicated service both during the week before and on the day itself, we were able to hand over £5,500 to the Charity. Jane Reynolds, in Great Queen Street, tells us that this donation is to be used specifically for James Terry Court during the coming year, a true case of casting our bread upon reliable waters.

As a high point, the Fete may well take second place to the Birthday Party, held on July 23. This celebrates not only the birthday of James Terry Court (twelve this year), but is treated by the Residents as their own birthday party too. With over fifty Residents at any time, it is quite impossible to mark individual dates with their own party, so each year the Amenity Fund ensures everyone is wined and dined with a four-course dinner and all the trimmings. This Amenity Fund, by the way, is not listed in the Accounts of the Friends, but relies on individual donations. If you feel you can contribute, there is a box in the hall at JTC for cash, or cheques in favour of "Amenity Fund, RMBI" may be sent to Matron.

Visitors to Warham Road will notice the scaffolding decorating the outside of the Court. A major repainting job is in progress, of all outside paintwork.

The new Care Wing is in regular use, allowing Residents who fall ill to be treated in their own home rather than being hospitalized. Amongst the many items of equipment needed is a machine to help transfer the disabled from wheelchair to bath, without breaking the back of the attendant nurse. The Friends are purchasing a Libra Bathing Aid which is portable, weighing about 20lbs and battery operated.

We are up-grading our computer program, which will allow us more easily to locate members by name, status and Lodge number.

We still need volunteers for running the Bingo.

Matron is collecting wool, bits of material, tapestry kits and the like for Creativity periods for the Residents. Please drop them in; this is a greatly-enjoyed facility by the Residents, who love to contribute to our money-making activities, making toys and other things for sale at the Fete.

Would someone like to befriend a lady Resident whose family have gone overseas for a few years, leaving her rather bereft? Contact Matron for details.

Dates

Lodge Representatives will have received notification from Eric Evans about the meeting on Sunday 6 September at 3 pm.

Of more general interest to Friends, the Christmas coffee morning will be on November 21, when you will all be especially welcomed with coffee, mince pie and such. There is an entrance fee for this meeting, £1 to cover the cost.

Norah Hunter has arranged to take Residents to the Fairfield Hall on December 5, to see the Croydon Stagers production of Cole Porter's "Anything Goes".

With the new Masonic year about to start, try organising a Lodge Stall for the Fete next June; time creeps up, and the more the merrier for this important fund-raiser.

The following Residents have their birthdays in the coming months, and Friends are encouraged to send them cards, especially if a birthday coincides with your own:

Sept 9: Mrs E Ord	Sept 10: Mr A A Allo	Sept 16: Mrs M Nuttall
Sept 21: Mrs J Sly	Sept 22: Mrs L J Rogers	Oct 6: Mrs G H Burrows
Oct 6: Mr Meares	Oct 11: Mrs R Burbage	Oct 17: Mrs G E Steer
Oct 22: Mrs N V Homan	Nov 9: Mrs W A Murray	Nov 19: Miss E Neild
Nov 20: Mrs W Harrison	Nov 21: Mr H C Davis	Nov 30: Mrs B Nash
Dec 2: Mr H K Campbell	Dec 8: Mrs F M Barker	Dec 25: Mr E N Brown
Dec 31: Mrs G Goodby		

Erratum

Correcting an error in the May edition of the Court Circular, the rent reduction for Residents' rooms during vacation covers three weeks, not four.

Wanted

The Residents are in need of a dictionary for the Library. It doesn't have to be the latest edition, but should be in good condition. Anything, from the Shorter Oxford, downwards would be very acceptable.

Offers to Matron please

ANNUAL REPORT 1991/1992

This year has been an easier year than the previous one for the Association of Friends and Eric Evans appears to have survived his first year as Secretary.

We are sure that the members will wish to thank the officers and members of the Committee for the work they have done during the year - particularly those who, for varying reasons, are not standing again.

The weather was not very kind for the Fete but it was still possible to present a cheque for £5,500 during the Birthday Dinner in July to the RMBI.

During the year, Geoffrey Robinson had to give up running the Bingo due to ill-health. We are sure that everyone will join in wishing him better health in the future. Mrs Hunter and small band of volunteers have managed to keep the Bingo going in the meantime but more volunteers would be greatly welcomed. ANY OFFERS?

Two meetings of Lodge Representatives have been held and a useful exchange of information and ideas took place. More meetings will take place from time to time in the future.

A number of events were held and these included a visit to Brigadoon, summer outings in the minibus followed by tea, Slide shows in the Clerkenwell Lounge thanks to John Bray and Robert Zackham, Race Nights thanks to Joseph Aquilina and an entertaining visit by a brass band. An early summer visit to Oakfield Road for lunch was also arranged.

Over the Christmas period, a very successful bazaar was held and this raised £464 - a good result. Another Christmas lunch was arranged at the Croydon Masonic Hall which was enjoyed by more than 30 residents. The Friends' gift to the residents was a small bottle of whisky but, unfortunately, Father Christmas was not available to present them personally. Tickets were provided for a small but enthusiastic group to visit the pantomime at Fairfield Hall.

Life Membership increased from 455 to 487 and a number of annual subscriptions were also received. The Minibus Fund continues to grow and a number of possible vehicles have been inspected with a view to purchase in the not-too-distant future.

Thanks are due to Mr and Mrs Arthur Wadham for running the Panmure Lodge 100 Club which regularly contributes to our funds.

Each resident continues to receive a welcome card on arrival and a birthday card thereafter.

Finally, we would also like to thank Matron and her staff for their day to day care of the residents and for advising us of the needs which the Friends are in a position to satisfy.