

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

Christmas is over, the New Year starts, and with it comes the Committee's wish to you all for a very happy and prosperous 1994.

The Christmas Bazaar on November 20th raised an all-time record sum of £1257 -- roughly £260 up on last year. This was again due in part to our having sold tickets in advance through Lodge Representatives and others. Our thanks to you all for helping to collect this magnificent sum: to those who organised and ran the various stalls and to those who gave items of all kinds, not only for the stalls, but also for the raffle prizes.

Especially our thanks go to those who came to James Terry Court on a cold day, to dig deep in their pockets and buy the "goodies" on display.

The money raised went towards paying for the Christmas Lunch at the Oakfield Road Masonic Centre, the Residents' Christmas presents and the cost of their seats for "Dick Whittington" in the Ashcroft Theatre. Elsewhere in this Court Circular you will find extracts from letters from our Residents thanking everyone for these events.

Please make a note in your diaries that the *next* Christmas Bazaar will be on November 19th, 1994.

The Christmas Lunch on December 15th at Oakfield Road was its usual happy occasion, when 37 Residents, together with two Carers (professional) and four Friends (non-professional carers) sat down to sherry before lunch and then moved into the diningroom for a truly tasty meal complete with wine and crackers. A lovely occasion, enjoyed by all.

Festivities at JTC officially started on Christmas Eve, when Residents and Staff gathered round the Christmas Tree to sing carols, accompanied by Mrs Sly on the piano. Drinks and hot mince pies were to hand, a lovely way to break the anticipation and begin the Festival.

On Christmas morning, just before a rather special lunch, Father Christmas arrived, rather tired and emotional after a busy night and just as sherry was being served, accompanied by a very small reindeer complete with antlers. It should be recorded that the reindeer preferred chocolate biscuits to sherry. It cannot be revealed which of Santa Claus' stand-ins did the honours, but the famous dog Lady was recognised under the antlers.

Then Father Christmas proceeded with the serious business to hand, that of handing out presents to all the Residents: one gift from the Home, one from The Friends (financed by the Christmas Bazaar), and one from the Province.

Christmas Sunday, or St. Stephen's Day to give it its right title, was spent dozing off the effects of the day before, until the afternoon that is, when there was yet another party for those who felt like it.

Boxing Day was marked by Bingo and a splendid singalong. A silence then descended on James Terry Court until New Year's Eve when, with cakes and ale (and other beverages) provided by Matron, Residents were able to form their own little parties to see in the New Year.

The first event of 1994 was the pantomime on January 13, when twenty-two Residents with their Carers went to see Dick Whittington at the Fairfield Halls in Croydon. This was, as always, much appreciated and despite the weather blowing a full gale, a great time was had by one and all.

Much of what the Residents enjoyed over Christmas and the New Year is made possible by The Friends' support. Not just the money, but help with the Bazaar, running the Bingo, providing a Father Christmas (and reindeer), to name the obvious items. Those of you who have never visited JTC should do so: it is like no other residential home I have ever seen. It is happy, clean and warm and well-equipped, for which thanks must firstly be given to the Staff and secondly to the facilities laid on by the RMBI. Thirdly, and certainly not leastly, to the five-hundred-plus Friends who give support that many would envy.

Of course our help goes on throughout the year, with Friends organising race-nights, visits by musical groups, a weekly Bingo session, opening a shop in JTC every week, running and supplying the library, taking Residents out into the country and many other activities too numerous to mention.

This help does not go unrecognised, as the following extracts from Residents' letters show:

"...Very many thanks for the outing on Wednesday. As usual the organisation was impeccable; those Residents who needed help found it readily available. The meal was terrific and well chosen. The waitress at our table said 'Nice to see you again!' Very heart-warming..."

"... Many thanks to The Friends for my very acceptable Christmas gift. I already had the tonic water and now I have something to go with it!"
Nesta Mee

"...Another letter of thanks for the delightful lunch you gave us all last Wednesday at the Masons' Hall..."

"...I am writing this thank you note with the very nice 'Paper Mate' pen you so kindly gave me via 'Father Christmas'..."
Vera N Holman

"... I should like to thank you all for the lovely lunch enjoyed by so many of us at the Croydon Masonic Centre ... The food and surroundings were so nice and the organisation as usual ran on oiled wheels..."

"...Thank you very much for for your Christmas gift of Brandy ... It was most thoughtful and generous of you as, occasionally, elderly ladies are glad of a little 'sustenance'..." Ivy Pym

"...Season's greetings and thankyou for the very useful Christmas presents." Grace Burrows

"... best wishes for the Christmas season, and thankyou fopr your kindness and the pleasure you have given me throughout the year". Lilian Walker

(From our Centenarian!) "... thankyou for my very appropriate Christmas gift and for all that you do during the course of the year..." Mrs Louise Rogers

New Requirements

Life evolves at JTC, and we have been asked to provide volunteers for a number of new activities or, if not new, developing:

Some of our fitter Residents love to walk in the woodlands that abound in our area, but they must be taken there and accompanied by guides and helpers. Do you have a favourite walk that you would be ready to share? Volunteers are needed for the Spring, Summer and Autumn (even Winter, I suppose).

There is an active bridge circle at JTC. Players amongst you of this addictive game will know that it can be boring always playing with the same people; again it may be that a fourth is needed to make up a table and no-one of a suitable level of play is available. So volunteers dying for a game are asked if they could contribute an afternoon or evening, on a weekly, fortnightly, or even occasional basis.

Then there are activities that need the gift or the loan of equipment:

Do you have a sewing machine in the house that is no-longer used? There are a number of Residents who make their own clothes, or items for sale at the Summer Fete or Christmas Bazaar, and who could do with another machine.

Once each week there is a video film evening in the Clerkenwell Lounge. Videos are costly to rent or buy and there is little point in repeating the same tape again and again. So do you have tapes of shows that would appeal, such as "Carousel", "My Fair Lady", "Gigi", "The Student Prince", "Claudia & Claudius", or the like? Lending is what we have in mind, though a gift would not be turned down.

There are not only video facilities in the Clerkenwell Lounge, but also a music cassette player, CD player and a disc player (what I always called a gramophone). Music for these would be appreciated, again on a loan or gift basis.

If you can help with any of the above, or have ideas for entertaining the Residents, please contact Matron (now called a Home Manager, or HM for short!) on 081-688 5529, or use the Fax number at the head of this Circular.

Birthdays

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

FEBRUARY

1st: Mrs N Mee
16th: Mrs I N Pym
26th: Mr A E Sibbick
27th: Mrs A E Wardlaw

APRIL

5th: Mrs E M Scott
9th: Mr G R Judkins
22nd: Mrs V M Coldwell
24th: Mrs M Allo
29th: Mrs E P Halden
30th: Mrs I M Everett

MAY

7th: Mrs V Chapman
8th: Mr D R Cole
12th: Mr H deLacey
16th: Mrs A M Hempstead
17th: Mrs V Sibbick
26th: Mrs E E Mosley
29th: Mrs V N Smith

Summer Fete

June 18th, 1994

Yes, it is time to start thinking
about what you can do for
James Terry Court.

Advance-sale tickets
will be with your
Lodge Representative
shortly; be sure to buy.

Details in the May edition.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on

June 26 1994

at James Terry Court