

GROVE PLACE VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2010

NOTES FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

THE FIRST ISSUE

This is a newsletter for the residents and staff of Grove Place Village. It will be published in the last week of the month for the following month, containing information and articles that may be of interest to you, produced by and for you the target readers.

The Newsletter Contributors are:

You, the residents and village staff are the prime contributors to your newsletter.

Barry Johnson – Reporter and Compiler

Peter Otway – Residents Editor; Chairman, Residents Association

Jane Slater – Staff and Management Editor; Manager, Grove Place Village

The Newsletter may contain a number of features that could include the following:

Events for the following month that include shopping trips, outings, classes, etc.

Information of importance that all Residents and Staff may need to be aware of

Joiners and leavers; births, deaths and marriages; fines and prison sentences

Chairman's Corner where Peter outlines and comments on decisions and outcomes of the residents meetings

Manager's Corner where Jane can tell us about exciting things such as window cleaning, what is happening to Northcliffe roof and perhaps items to do with staff.

Non-fiction articles written by residents that may be of interest e.g. The uses and abuses of Sticky Stuff remover. (No longer than 500 words)

One Foot in The Grave type stories,

Short fiction articles by residents (No longer than 500 words)

Letters to the editor: address to Barry Johnson or Email – barryj@learningpartners.co.uk

A regular recipe page by a resident

Health and beauty notes

If you are a cartoonist or a quiz fanatic please contribute.

Adverts.

It's your Newsletter. Capture Barry in the House, give him your views and start writing. Please let him have contributions by the 21st of the month for inclusion in the next months issue.

MANAGER'S CORNER

A New Career

You may have seen Jo looking very smart in a snazzy new blue nurses uniform with a watch over her left breast and her name on the other side. Jo has started nurses training. Three years of three days a week with long study evenings getting to grips with the theory and hard days doing the practical training leading to her diploma qualification as a nurse. All is not lost to us though. Jo will continue to work with us here at Grove Place Village on a part time basis. We wish her well with her studies.

Mailbox

I have contacted the Royal Mail to fit a mailbox at Grove Place. Currently there are insufficient residents to warrant this. We will fit a secure mailbox in the house and a member of staff will collect the letters each week day for posting at 4:30 pm.

Maintenance team

We are increasing staff. A grounds maintenance team will be added to during the new-year.

This will enable John and Colin to focus on the upkeep of our grand site and ensure the Manor House and village is effectively presented. Our talented team are keen to support everyone. They will be pleased to guide and advise you of possible contractors to meet your needs. Please try not to take them from their duties.

Carers and domestic staff

We have three more staff joining us early in December working in the areas of waiting, domestic and care services.

Developments

Other exciting developments are taking place within the Manor House over the next few weeks. The bar area will be made more resident friendly to improve its usability. Details will be published shortly.

A more dedicated craft room is in process of being developed.

In the Manor House additional softening of furnishings and accessories will be introduced.

Northcliffe and Paget Houses corridors will receive the benefit of a design expert's attention.

Restaurant

Jason has produced a weekly menu. It would help the chefs if booking were made twenty-four hours in advance indicating selected meals. Please use the "restaurant booking diary" on the reception desk or by telephone 02380 743 590 to reception.

A minimum of four hours notice is required for guests. An additional charge of £0.50 per course will be made for guests.

Lunchtime meals will be served from 13.00 to 13.30 daily. The evening meal will be served from 18.00 to 18.30 on Wednesday and Friday. The total menu will be available in the evening as at lunchtime. Jason has offered to email those who may prefer a copy of the menu electronically. The menu will be changed each week on Wednesday evening.

To help catering staff please plan well in advance, notify your Christmas arrangement as soon as possible, see last page of the Newsletter

Jim's Clock is back in the library. Please do not touch it or wind it. It's a beautiful sensitive masterpiece and it only likes Jim touching it.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Date of the next Residents Meeting is the 4pm Thursday 16th December 2010. Please let me have any items by the 13th December.

Barry Johnson has agreed to take the role of Resident's Association Secretary.

Christmas gratuities for staff. Please give your contributions to Jane by the 6th December. It may be prudent to remember that staff are subject to company rules regarding gratuities and presents that relate to their employment. All such gratuities and presents have to be declared to the Inland Revenue and can be subject to taxation.

The maintenance manager has been in discussions with contractors who are able supply an emergency service for the boiler system in each dwelling and a regular maintenance inspection and service. In support of this the village maintenance department now holds a stock of spare parts that will enable boiler breakdowns to be repaired with minimal delay by the selected contractor. Charges for this service are still being discussed and agreements will be made in conjunction with residents when negotiations are complete.

Outings. Jane, the Village Manager, has accepted responsibility for this until a resident volunteers. Please make all suggestions to Jane.

Please make all suggestions for winter/ Christmas activities to Jane.

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

Social Programme for December

Friday 3 rd December	15.00 -17.00	Decorating the Manor, Hanging of boots
Friday 3 rd December	18.45- late	First come first serve Carols in the Abbey £16.85 to cover costs. Mini Bus transportation and staff member support. Wine and cheese or hot chocolate for those upon return. Any unsold tickets will be returned Wednesday 1 st December. Please don't miss out.
Monday 6 th December	16.00 – 18.00	Lighting of the tree –Mulled wine and Christmas biscuits
Friday 10 th December	11.00 - 13.00	Christmas shopping in Romsey
Monday 13 th December	11.00 – 12.00	Swapping Christmas recipes
Tuesday 14 th December	11.00 – 12.00	Readings funny and different.
Wednesday 15 th December	18.00 – to past bedtime	Residents Ball. Staff serving
Thursday 16 th December	14.00 – 15.00	Grove Place Choir and Carols Rehearsal – mulled wine to follow
Monday 20 th December	15.00	St Boniface and St Johns choir members in the Manor
Wednesday 22 nd December	15.00 – 17.00	Resident and Staff Christmas tea
<i>Christmas dinner details will follow in the supplementary letter</i>		<i>Please indicate your likely requirements over the Christmas period. See last page.</i>

SHOPPING

Thursday 2 nd December	Morrisons	Totton
Thursday 9 th December	Tesco	Shirley
Thursday 16 th December	Sainsbury	Shirley

OUR INHERITANCE

Grove Place has extensive and sometimes a turbulent history. It would be good to think it will witness a more genteel society in this the twenty-first century. We, residents and staff, are building that new society in our village.

Our staff are professional and deserve to be treated as professionals. Rude or thoughtless language, you will probably agree, has no place in our village. Peace and joy maybe a utopian dream but our dedicated staff and our residents deserve to be treated with courtesy and respect.

WARNING – POSTAL SCAM

Trading Standards are making people aware of the following scam:

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting they were unable to deliver a parcel and you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a premium rate number).

DO NOT CALL THIS NUMBER it is a mail scam originating in Belize.

If you do call this number you start to hear a recorded message and you will already have been billed £315 for the phone call.

If you receive a card with these details, please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 020 7239 6655.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Under new immigration rules, foreign footballers will have to be able to speak English “to basic-user standard” to take up jobs with English clubs. UK-born players can presumably carry on as they were.

Daily Telegraph - Sport

HEALTH NOTES

Every now and again we may include a topical health note. This is one that you may find useful.

Coughs And Sneezes Spread Diseases

We live in a community of people and some of us are past our sell by date and, like it or not, that makes us susceptible to bugs. Winter is coming and with the cold, damp and mixing of people bugs spread. Recent outbreaks of flu have shown that by touching the like of a door handle, cash machine, credit card machine keys that have a cold virus on them, or flu or, well let's not go on, you can catch it.

Did you know that cold viruses can live on inanimate objects for up to three days? I feel paranoia coming on. So what to do about it?

Avoid children, well they're not inanimate objects but they are perhaps the biggest mobile spreaders of bugs of all descriptions, particularly as they tend to cough and sneeze indiscriminately and rarely have a handkerchief. Paper ones are best, used once and put into a plastic bag.

If anybody in your home gets a cold use an antibacterial cleaner regularly on your telephone, TV remote, kitchen and bathroom surfaces, well you've seen the adverts on the 'box'. Alcohol kills germs but not when you drink it!

Think of others in communal places such as the gym where we have a supply of medicated wipes to use on the handgrips of the machines and barbells, etc. Incidentally, did you know that regular gym users, swimmers and outdoor exercisers suffer fewer colds and flu than non-exercisers – not a lot of people know that. So exercise for immunity!

Don't get run down – no I'm not talking about the traffic. Get plenty of sleep, eat nutritious food regularly, drink lots of fluids and keep the stress levels down. Stress, anger and other emotional turmoil reduce resistance to infections – even fewer people know that.

I think I'll disinfect the house, go for a walk, eat lunch, have a quiet lie down, shoot the kids, and where did I put the paper handkerchiefs, no, no keep calm.

ONE FINE DAY –A short story

It was spring, one of those idyllic days when there was a clear sky, a slight chill in the air, the sun was shining, the birds realized the winter has passed and were trying out their songs to serenade a mate. We pulled into the long straight drive and drove at below the required maximum of ten miles and hour, over the gentle sleeping policemen, towards the magnificent old building in front of us: Grove Place built in the fifteen sixties and restored to a splendid standard.

The twin octagonal turrets sat astride the courtyard enclosed by the east and west wings of the house. We stopped in the courtyard before the large plain, solid, vertically planked double oak doors that led into a large lounge where the member of staff, who was to show us the house and village, greeted us. We walked into the rooms beyond and we were struck by the friendly warm ambiance of this old, lovingly restored house. The doors and oak panels were original and the ceilings were magnificent.

Having explored the ground floor with its lounges, library and snooker room we climbed the spiral staircase and walked into the fine restaurant with the white linen tablecloths and napkins rolled in silver napkin rings. We passed through into a further lounge and turned through an oak door into an oak panelled passageway complete with two leather settees on either side of a highly polished long hall table.

It was here that there was a change. As we walked along this magnificent wide oak panelled corridor I felt a chill. A distinct change in temperature, just like passing under an air conditioning unit set to a degree below the ambient temperature, not cold but cooler.

A shiver, like mild pins and needles ran down the left of my neck and then from my left hip and down my thigh. Why? Why in this one place in this magnificent warm friendly old house? Why would there be one spot that has a chill? No window, no door, nothing in the ceiling to create a draught, in fact no draught, still air, solid oak panels on either side. Why whenever I stand on this spot do I get the faint shiver that is not, it seems, caused by cold and why when I am there do I know it is to do with a young woman.

I now live in the village and have visited the spot a number of times. Is she a ghost? Do I believe in ghosts? No, not really, but I just know she is there. Is she lost, alone, in this one place in the whole of this warm welcoming house or is she trapped? No, that does not feel right. Is this her refuge? Yes, it's her refuge, but refuge from what? Or is this village a refuge for me?

POSTSCRIPT

When being shown around the house I asked about the ghost in the passageway leading to the bar. The question reached a cleaner and that night she was merrily Hoovering the passage (well I'm not sure she was merry, and Hoovering is a generic term) when all the lights went out. She descended the stairs screaming.

This was not my intention but it does tend to prove that people can believe all sorts of stuff. Anyway one of the sales people, now firmly convinced that there is a ghost, asked me to write about it so I did.

Barry Johnson