

Annual Review 2018



It is already eight years since the opening of the Victoria Residential Care Home and more than two since the opening of the Albert Retirement Apartments. Sunnybank has an experienced team of volunteers now visiting Victoria on a daily basis during the week and Albert on a regular basis. Some of the many events organised for the residents of both establishments during this year include: Trixie's 100th birthday party! (picture left), two Carol Concerts by the choirs of The Big Blaze and The Rivera International Singers, a concert by professional singer Amy Blake, Chinese Takeaway lunch parties at The Grange, and as always, residents enjoy meeting old friends at the third Saturday monthly lunch, usually outside on the lovely sunny terrace.

Sunnybank purchased two 'Simple Players' for use of the residents. One has a selection of classical music, the other popular music from the 40s & 50s. They have been greatly appreciated by those who have used them. We recently donated an electric piano for use at Victoria & Albert and already a sing-along was much enjoyed.

This year Sunnybank was simply delighted to receive the donation of a golf buggy from the Cannes Mougins Golf Club, to whom we are most grateful. Residents who do not feel up to walking the distance to The Grange can now be transported in inimitable style!



The residents, Sunnybank members and volunteers all enjoyed one rather special day which included an invitation to a wedding. The terrace at The Grange was beautifully decked out in red, white and blue for the marriage of Prince Harry to Meghan Markle. Invitees, hats aplenty (some even hand made), were treated to the best of British fare, courtesy of our wonderful volunteer catering team.

The project with a local international school (CIV) was repeated again this year. Twenty five 11 year old children, who are learning English, came to speak with some of the residents over a six week period. It culminated in the children performing a play in English for the participants and was deemed to be a great success by all involved.

Continuing the theme inter-generational activities, a small group of teenagers from 'Unaccompanied Minors 06' helped at a Third Saturday lunch earlier in the year. The boys who took part were touched by their Sunnybank welcome and their supervisors found the activity a highly enriching experience for the boys.

A very recent addition to our visiting team is Sunnybank's own English-speaking Activity Organiser. The creation of activities in the residents' own language, personalised to their individual needs which both entertain and stimulate, was seen as a valuable contribution towards residents' well-being. Activities have included, amongst others, guess the scent, armchair yoga and reading English newspapers for discussion.

As always, Sunnybank Association continues our mission of providing financial assistance to help with the cost of some short-stay or permanent residencies, reaching further out into the Alpes-Maritimes and the Var. If you know of anyone in need of our help, then please do contact us.

Fund-Raising

Without our incredible volunteers at The Grange, Sunnybank could not continue to provide the financial support necessary to fund all the activities we do. Week by week, the dedicated team work tirelessly to sort and display the donations of books, clothes and bric-a-brac which continually arrive. A wonderful selection of clothes and accessories upstairs in 'Posh' is equally matched downstairs where bric-a-brac is also on offer. The Library maintains a wide variety of second-hand books and the creation of a Reference Library (for members only) is currently in progress.

Hundreds of lunches are prepared and served by our amazing team of volunteer caterers and bartenders on our Open Days (1st Thursday & 3rd Saturday of every month). All sections of The Grange are also open every Thursday from 10.00 until 15.00.

The Grange

The Grange is the base of our mission, home to Helen our administrator and our principal fund-raising centre. It is, however, also home to other associations, such as the British Association of Cannes, the Royal British Legion, Cancer Support 06 and the International Women's Club of the Riviera. We were also delighted to welcome Riviera Lifeline (rivieralifeline.org) who ran fundraising events as they promote their new Association which supports the elderly in their homes.



This year, it was decided to upgrade the kitchen in order to match the strict standards of hygiene demanded and to better cope with its increased use. Our volunteer caterers have welcomed the new equipment installed, most especially the industrial dishwasher which operates much faster and to a higher grade.

Upstairs was re-arranged to increase the area for the 'Posh', where a changing room was installed, and Gentlemen's clothing, which is also on offer, now has greater visibility.

The studio apartment remains available for family and friends visiting the residents of Victoria and Albert.

The garden is now well established and lovingly cared for by our gardening team. Its peaceful and pretty setting provides a delightful backdrop for all our lunches.

As always, Sunnybank is in need of volunteers, so if you or any of your friends would like to join our volunteer team, please get in touch.

Committee Members:

Brian Woolf (President), Jill Shepperd (Secretary), Michael Kenington (Treasurer),
Maggie Evans (Lead Visitor), Audrey Mortleman, Brian Ranger, Jeremy Daynes,
Liz Brochet-King (co-opted), Brian Rius (co-opted), Adrien Cortey (co-opted).

Administrator: Helen Leiser

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