

## Annual Review 2019



What do you do at Sunnybank? Volunteers are often asked this question by people new to The Grange. Our mission is to provide support, not just financial but also social, for elderly Anglophones in retirement homes in this region. We organise Asian Takeaway lunches for the residents of Victoria and Albert (picture left)! We also offer lunch on the first Thursday and third Saturday of each month which provides the residents and our members the opportunity to meet their friends and family whilst, usually, being able to take advantage of our lovely terrace. In

the last year we have been able to provide partial financial support to those in need and have scope to do more. If you know anyone who needs help, tell them to contact us.

Sunnybank has recently appointed a Welfare Officer for the Anglophone residents of Victoria and Albert as more specialised assistance with legal issues has been required by some of the residents. Maggie Evans, who was the Lead Visitor for over 3 years, has taken on this role and is learning as much as she can, as quickly as she can!

Sunnybank has an experienced team of volunteers who visit Victoria residents daily on weekdays and also visit Albert residents regularly. Our visitors engage the residents in various activities, playing scrabble, doing crosswords and watering plants(!) to name just a few. The Big Blaze choir performed both their Christmas and Summer concerts at Victoria. Mougins School choir came in March and the acapella group the Sweet Seven came in May. Residents highly appreciate the music.

The CIV project was again repeated. This is a particular favourite and the pupils and their senior counterparts greatly enjoy the experience. Three residents both of Victoria and Albert alongside other seniors still living in their own homes took part. The ages ranged from 11 to 101! Project co-ordinator Gil Magill went to the CIV to talk to the students about Haiku, a form of Japanese poetry. They wrote one for the end of project presentation. The play that they also performed was deemed as brilliant by all present. Very sadly however, Gil herself was not there to see it, she had passed away suddenly several months beforehand. The pupils paid a moving tribute to her.



Carolyn MacGinnis, (left), resident of Victoria and project participant has since moved to the UK to be nearer her family. Carolyn spent many years serving on the committee and volunteering in Sunnybank's library. We all wish her health and happiness in her new home.

## **Fund-Raising**

Sunnybank is greatly indebted to its large team of volunteers who freely give their time. Without them, Sunnybank could certainly not continue its mission. The fabulous team of volunteer visitors, now led by Liz Brochet-King, provide a vital link to the residents and shoulders to lean on when necessary. Our wonderful catering team, who, as if by magic, conjure up hundreds of meals to be served at our lunches, always assisted by the brilliant bartenders.

Sunnybank is extremely grateful to all who so kindly bring us donations. Every week, the volunteers receive countless bags of clothing together with assorted containers of bric-a-brac and boxes (and boxes!) of books. These are sorted and put on display – upstairs in 'Posh' where you will find high quality clothing, accessories and Vintage, upstairs in 'Gents' with its range of clothing and downstairs for second-hand clothing and bric-a-brac. The library continues to maintain a wide variety of second-hand books and the Reference Library is now available for our members.

## **The Grange**

Not just the base for our mission, home of Helen our administrator and our principal fund-raising centre, The Grange is also open to use by other associations. The British Association of Cannes, Cancer Support 06, who as well as meeting people, offer mindful meditation sessions to aid the recovery process, the Commonwealth Club and the International Women's Club of the Riviera all use our facilities. Riviera Lifeline, (riviera-lifeline.org) which recently achieved its charitable status, uses The Grange to fund-raise by offering hot soup lunches during the winter months and lighter lunches during summer months. (All Thursdays except the first Thursday Sunnybank Open House day.)

Sunnybank's Open Days are the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month. We are also open every Thursday from 10.00 until 15.00.

This year The Grange has had a new lick of paint – the railings in the garden were painted by the volunteers and the salon was professionally refreshed (at no expense to Sunnybank!).

There is a studio available for family or friends who are visiting the residents of Victoria and Albert.

The garden is maintained and cared for by our volunteers and is a delightful setting providing lovely scenery in which to enjoy lunch on the outside terrace.

(Picture right, Louk being driven back to her apartment in style!)

Sunnybank is always in need of new volunteers, so please don't hesitate to get in touch if you or any of your friends are interested in joining our team.



## **Obituary**

It was with deep sadness that we learnt of the death of Pamela Flower. Her long involvement with Sunnybank and her tireless work will always be remembered. Pamela was instrumental in enabling the move from the old Sunny Bank hospital in Cannes to our current premises in Mouans Sartoux.

### **Committee Members:**

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

**Administrator:** Helen Leiser

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