

Annual Review of the year 2021



Of great sadness to Sunnybank Association was the death of our patron Prince Philip on 9th April 2021.

Our administrator, Helen, writes "I felt proud and privileged to be able to represent Sunnybank at the Service of Thanksgiving for HRH The Prince Philip at Westminster Abbey.

The distinguished congregation, moving eulogies, magnificent music and the splendour of the Abbey gave for a truly memorable day which I shall never forget."



2021 started with Coronavirus still very much active, meaning the visits to residents were limited to one per resident per week, and our visitors trying to make sure everyone had that weekly visit. Mass testing in both Victoria and Albert took place if a staff member proved positive, but thankfully with the director's strictly enforced respect of protocol, no outbreaks or fatalities occurred. Vaccinations started at the end of January which meant that by March, visiting was more freely resumed. Thursday coffee mornings uniquely for the residents also began again at The Grange, giving them a weekly outing, even if a short one. It was with the greatest of pleasure that subsequently we were able to reopen The Grange to members, supporters and friends in June 2021, albeit with maximum restrictions in place. Gradually, the coming weeks saw the easing of these restrictions, and, at the time of writing (April 2022), the lifting of the obligation for the health pass and wearing of masks indoors. We all very much hope that we can look forward to many more activities taking place in the coming months, especially our lovely barbecues on the outside terrace!



Welfare

There has been a lot to learn since the role of Welfare Officer (Maggie Evans) for the residents of Victoria and Albert was created. The many administrative structures in France are a minefield to navigate for elderly people in need of assistance in one form or another. The systems of Sauvegarde de Justice, Tutelle and Curatelle are forms of state guardianship which are brought into play when the elderly person is deemed incapable of looking after their own affairs. However, for the non French who do not have family in France, this does mean that a stranger is appointed to manage their finances, and ultimately their lives. Although it is run by the government, to ensure you are not placed under this system, a visit to a lawyer or a Notaire is strongly advised. We at Sunnybank are able to assist any resident who has welfare issues and can also help to maintain a link with family members living outside France.

Information in French can be found at

<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F10424>

Activities

Since the reopening of The Grange, Sunnybank's wonderful team of Visitors, led by Liz Brochet-King, have continued their visits to both the Victoria Care Home and the Albert Retirement Home. Third Saturday lunches have resumed, the residents greatly enjoying the different fare on offer. The CIV school project was repeated, the children and their 'elder' meeting remotely as the previous year. Happily the majority of participants were able to meet face to face in December at the CIV for a small end-of-project party.

Once again The Big Blaze Chorus performed a shortened Christmas concert outside and around both Victoria and Albert, residents very much appreciating the singing.



Fund Raising

The mission of Sunnybank Association is to support seniors in Retirement Homes. We do have funds available, so if you know anyone who needs our financial help, email us at info@sunny-bank.org or call on 04 93 47 94 20.

Since last June, your donations to us of books, bric-a-brac and clothes have been incredible. It is obvious that during all the periods of confinement, a great deal of clearing out took place! Sunnybank is extremely thankful for all your generosity, and as always, our valued volunteer teams led by Audrey, Carol and Jill, happily accept your quality donations in good condition, clean and unbroken. In view of the substantial volume of incoming donations, we do respectfully ask however, that we are not inundated at any one time. There is a myth that associations doing charitable work accept absolutely anything and are very glad of it. This is simply not true. Please bear in mind that broken objects, dirty clothes and torn books are not of interest to anyone!

The Grange

It is the hub of our fund-raising and our base. From here, Helen our administrator, carries out her vital role. Thank you Helen for your continued dedication and giving so freely of your time.

The studio at The Grange has again been used by family or friends visiting residents of Victoria and Albert.

Riviera Lifeline (riviera-lifeline.org) have returned to fund-raise by offering their light lunches in summer and soups in winter. These lunches form a vital part of the social life of many and provide the opportunity to catch up with old friends as well as making new ones. The Grange also acts as headquarters to The British Association of Cannes, Cancer Support Group 06 and the International Women's Club of the Riviera.

Committee Members:

Jeremy Daynes (President), Michael Kenington (Vice President & Treasurer), Jill Shepperd (Secretary),
Maggie Evans (Welfare Officer), Liz Brochet-King (Lead Visitor), Adrien Cortey (Maintenance),
Audrey Mortleman, Jean Harvie, Nathalie Alibert, Brian Ranger

Administrator: Helen Leiser