

## Annual Review of the Year 2025

Another year rolls by and Sunnybank continues to do everything it can for the welfare of elderly English-speaking people on the Riviera. Overall, it has been a good year with the level of donations and the income from the lease of the site to Emera keeping pace with outgoings. The numbers attending The Grange have also remained steady, despite the post-Brexit difficulties and the return of many to the UK.

### **Victoria and Albert**

As before, our main focus is the anglophone residents in Victoria and Albert. There are currently 28 residents



and, equally fortunately, there are also more in our team of visitors than last year. This means that the Victoria residents receive a visit from a member of the team every morning and afternoon Monday to Friday. Occasionally, some visitors also go in at the weekend. One or two students from Mougins School, who are working towards the Duke of Edinburgh Award, and therefore have to be involved in some charitable work, also visit Victoria residents. Visitors meet up with the residents of Albert three times a week. There are also 4 residents who reside in other Ehpads in the area, and one or two visitors go and meet them for a friendly chat. Several of these residents, who do not necessarily meet many other Anglophones, are taxied to The Grange (paid for by Sunnybank) on Thursdays to socialise, get books, have a coffee, lunch and a chat. Other greatly appreciated events are the Thursday coffee mornings and monthly Saturday lunches at The Grange, and the apéros in Victoria on a Friday evening. The visitors sometimes take residents to medical

appointments, take them on outings to the shops, or just simply walk with them around the grounds. Some visitors also like to play games (Scrabble, Trionimos etc.) with the residents and find they are often really quite competitive! Residents tend to love it when a visitor comes with their dog as they like to have a cuddle. As many family members live abroad, visitors often arrange WhatsApp calls, to put residents in contact with family members. All in all, a lot of activity goes on in Victoria and Albert which of course, is only possible thanks to our dedicated team of volunteers. This makes a huge difference to the residents, but also puts family members at ease knowing that their nearest and dearest get personal attention every week. Thank you very much to Liz Brochet-King for all her work as Lead Visitor and to the rest of the team.

### **Welfare**

Maggie Evans, who was our Welfare Officer returned to the UK after years of hard work with Sunnybank. Thank you very much to Maggie for her dedication, and Sunnybank wishes her all the best for the future. Nathalie Alibert took over this role that deals with the differing challenges moving into and living in Victoria bring; in particular for those who do not always have family around to help overcome the various hurdles. The Welfare Officer provides the link between residents and their families. Nathalie is bilingual and together with Liz Brochet-King is on the Liaison Committee. This is a very important communication channel between Sunnybank and the EMERA management team which runs Victoria and Albert. A meeting is held every three months when issues arising from this partnership are discussed and hopefully resolved.

## The Grange

The Grange continues to be the headquarters of Sunnybank, but also the social hub for our members and those anglophone residents of Victoria and Albert who are mobile enough to come over to The Grange for coffee, biscuits and a good old chat. A big thank you to Jean Harvie for organising the Saturday lunches, and of course, also to the catering team. (If you love cooking for larger groups, do not hesitate to get in touch. Extra help is always appreciated!) An equally big thank you too to all the volunteers who come every Thursday and third Saturday to run the library, the clothes and bric-a-brac departments.



The Studio on the first floor of The Grange continues to be available for use by family and friends visiting residents in Victoria and Albert. A maximum of two adults can stay at the studio and a minimum two night stay is required. If you would like to book the studio, please contact Jill in the office.

Other associations which currently use The Grange are Riviera Lifeline ([rivieralifeline.org](http://rivieralifeline.org)) which raises funds to help seniors in their own homes by offering light lunches every Thursday; The Cancer Support Group 06 organises drop-ins for anyone coping with cancer so they can meet members of the group; The International Women's Club of the Riviera hold monthly meetings and occasional events, and The Grange remains the postal headquarters of the British Association of Cannes.

## The C.I.V. Project

The project took place once more in 2025 and with Nathalie Alibert taking over the project from Maggie Evans, it will continue to run in 2026. 11/12-year-old students from the C.I.V school and anglophone 'elders' who live either in Victoria, Albert or in the community, get together at Albert one morning a week during 6 weeks permitting the students to practice their English. At the end of the project, the children present a 'This is your Life' booklet to their elder, and they put on a play for the elders at the C.I.V school theatre. It is a much-valued exchange between the old and young!!

## Fundraising and Financial Support

The mission of Sunnybank Association is to support anglophone seniors in retirement homes in the area. Funds are available at the moment, so if you hear of someone needing financial help, please do not hesitate to contact us, by email [info@sunnybank.org](mailto:info@sunnybank.org) or phone the office on 04 93 47 94 20.

Sunnybank is also always really grateful to receive quality donations of books, clothes and bric-a-brac. However, please let us know in advance if you have a great number of donations to make, so that the volunteers can prepare. Any and all items should be in good condition please!

We very much rely on the continued support of all members of Sunnybank Association and we look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM in April.

**Committee members** Jeremy Daynes (President), Brian Ranger (Acting Vice-President), Elisabeth Ward (Secretary), Allan Haggerty (Treasurer), Nathalie Alibert (Welfare Officer), Liz Brochet-King (Lead Visitor), Jean Harvey and Sue Filer.

Administrator Jill Shepperd