

Association of Friends of The Albert Edward, Prince of Wales Court, Porthcawl

Annual General Meeting – Sunday 5th October, 2014 held at the Home

Present:

Chairman – Alan Gardener

Vice Chairman – Phil Aubrey

Treasurer - Roy Williams

Secretary - Martyn Wake

Committee Members:

Michael Williams, Adam Jones

Ex-Officio Members:

Home Manager –Alyson Owen

Assistant – Rebecca Timms

The Chairman welcomed and thanked everyone from all three Provinces for attending today's Meeting, especially the South Wales Provincial Secretary, W.Bro. Gerald Rowbottom and Sir Paul Williams here on behalf of the board of the RMBI.

ITEM 1 – To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2013.

W. Bro. P. James proposed that the minutes of the last AGM Meeting which had been previously circulated to all members be accepted and approved as a true record of the proceedings. W.Bro. M.Williams seconded the proposal which was duly passed.

ITEM 2 – Matters arising.

No matters arising required to be discussed.

ITEM 3 – Chairman's Report.

The Chairman stated, that this year has seen some very special events taking place within the 'Home' for the benefit of the residents and the 'Home' in general; we have had the Sensory Garden finished and officially opened by W.Bro. Jim Wheeler on behalf of the PGM of Monmouthshire who unfortunately was admitted into hospital a few days before the Official Opening. There has been a new area created called the Beach which has yet to be Officially Opened, but will be within a few months, and I encourage you to visit the Beach before you leave this afternoon. We held the Strawberry Tea in June which was again a success, we raised approximately £5,500, and we have the Christmas Fair on the 29th November, 2014, but I would welcome some of our Lodges to support us by organising a stand for next year's event.

Also in June we held what I believe was a first in our history that being a local Lodge Meeting, held here in the 'Home' for the benefit of the residents, by Kenfig Hill Lodge from the Province of South Wales, and would like to take this moment to once again thanking them and Llantwit Major Lodge for all their assistance in making the Lodge night a success. It was attended by the PGM, R.W.Bro. Gareth Jones, Provincial Grand Master for South Wales and his Provincial Team. This Lodge Meeting was attended by over 100 Brethren from the three Provinces and proved to be a great success with all concerned, especially the fourteen Masonic residents who were able to attend. The 'Home', which was led by Alyson Owen provided us all with an excellent Festive Board and I again thank her and her team on a tremendous job well done. Alyson came in even though she was still recovering from major surgery.

I would like to thank W.Bro. Anthony Howells for attending all the events and taking the photographs which all seem to end up in the Y Dalaith Magazine. I am pleased to say that we seem to get more than our fair share of support from the Y Dalaith Team as we have been in the magazine in the last five to six issues, again take this opportunity to thank them.

Behind the scenes W.Bro. Phil Aubrey, W.Bro. Hugh Thomas and myself have been discussing the forming of a new Lodge to be held here at the 'Home', again for the benefit for the residents. We have the full backing of the PGM of South Wales and his executive team and it was at this Special Lodge Meeting that the PGM announced the forming of the new Lodge which approved by UGLE, will be called The Albert Edward Prince of Wales Lodge of Research.

W.Bro. Phil Aubrey who has been guided by our Provincial Grand Secretary, W.Bro. Gerald Rowbottom have been working very hard to achieve this, and it is hoped that once all the necessary documents have been prepared and signed, and that UGLE will be allowing us to form the Lodge within the next few months. Watch this space. If anyone would like further information on becoming a Member or Founder Member, please speak to Phil Aubrey after this Meeting.

Also in June of this year, I along with members of the Committee were invited to the Kensington Lodge of Past Masters in West Wales at Milford Haven. Along with Alyson Owen we gave a talk on the 'Home' and on how we spend the donations which we receive from all the Lodges. This proved to be a very successful day and I thank W.Bro. Peter Scoble and V.W. Bro. Brian Hillings in organising the event. At the end of the proceedings we were presented with a cheque from the Lodge for the Association of Friends and we thanked all the members for their generous donation. Alyson Owen has offered to attend any Lodge and give your members a detailed outline of what the 'Home' is about and how we can assist in making the residents more comfortable. I believe that Alyson and Phil Aubrey are visiting a Barry Lodge in December.

Whilst we have spent a large amount of money in the last year there is still one item that still needs re-addressing, and that is the refurbishment of the ladies hair dressing salon and we are at present seeking quotations. If they come within our budget we will proceed with it. Once that is completed, I feel that we will have a home that the residents will be really be proud of and know that they have the most modern facilities available within our price constraints. Funding these projects has only been able due to the generous donations we have received from the Lodges of the three Provinces over the years, and holding special fund raising nights, and I thank you most sincerely for that. Since I have been Chairman we have spent over £80,000.00 upgrading and improving the facilities for the residents and it is my intention that this home does not fall behind the other 17 Masonic Homes in the country run by the RMBI. It is our intention that we start building up our bank reserves again and consolidate our position, but this can only be achieved by the generosity of you the Brethren and your Lodges, so I thank you in anticipation and look forward to continue receiving annual donations.

The Chairman then read a Thank you card from one of the residents thanking the 'Friends' for the Birthday Card and present she had received. The Chairman added that this card means everything and makes all the effort worthwhile. The Chairman closed by saying a big thank you to Becky for organising posters and banners that will be put up around the Provinces, and all her hard work generally

ITEM 4 – To receive the Treasurer's Statement of Accounts.

The Treasurer, Roy Williams presented the Audited Accounts for 2013 – 2014 along with the following explanation:- The assets consist of two active bank accounts, the major account where most of the money resides and a second small account which receives standing order donations from six West Wales Lodges.

There are also two National Savings and Investment accounts of which the interest from these are paid into the major account, and finally, two vehicles which are used at the 'Home'.

The accounts have been examined professionally by independent Chartered Accountants O'Brian & Partners in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

The accounting records were found to comply with the necessary accounting requirements.

The accounts have been circulated by the Association Secretary to all three Provinces, so some of you would have had the opportunity to study them.

As far as financial activities are concerned, the incoming resources for the year are shown on page 4 as £22,963.00 This compares with last year's incoming resources which were £22,710.00. A breakdown of incoming resources is shown on page 9 of the report.

This year the income has been supplemented by receipt of the outstanding payment of defalcation amounting to just over £30,000.

Resources expended this year amounted to £60,785.00. Again a breakdown of resources expended is shown on page 9. The major portion of this expenditure, over £40,000.00 is shown as providing residents facilities for example The Sensory Garden and The Beach Garden areas.

As far as cash is concerned and combining the two bank accounts, the opening balance was just under £82,000.00 and the closing balance was just under £79,000.00 This is shown on page 5.

As far as the NS&I accounts are concerned, as previously stated, the interest has remained the same which amounts to just under £13,000.00

The two motor vehicles are shown as tangible Assets on page 7 which shows their current estimated value after depreciation.

The Chairman announced that the Treasurer, Roy Williams was stepping down as Treasurer and thanked him for all his hard work, especially during the earlier days and for assistance he has given preparing the audited accounts presented today. The Chairman added that Roy has offered to assist the new Treasurer, to ensure a smooth takeover of the office.

The Treasurer thanked the Chairman for his kind words and thanked the Committee for their assistance during his term of office.

Phil Aubrey added his thanks to the Treasurer and proposed that the Audited Accounts be approved. This was seconded by Keith Wheeler. A vote was taken with the Audited Accounts being approved.

ITEM 5 – To receive the Home Managers Report.

Alyson Owen opened her report by saying she and the residents are grateful of the support of the Friends of the Court and on behalf of the residents offered her thanks. Alyson also said that she would like to also thank the members of the Committee for all the work that they do, which often goes unseen.

The Sensory Garden and Beach Area have proved very successful and it a pleasure to see residents and their families utilising and enjoying these areas.

Forward planning, with the support of the Friends of the Court, we are hoping to see a new modern hairdressing salon and nail bar area which the residents of the Home can enjoy. Without the support we have from the Friends of the Court we would not be able to provide such a varied and extensive activities program to the residents who live at the Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court.

Whilst having the financial support of the Friends is very much appreciated, there is nothing more valuable than time. I would urge and encourage you to visit the Home and spend some time with the residents, they have some wonderful stories to tell and would love to have someone different to have a cup of coffee with and a talk about their life experiences.

We have had some wonderful evenings here at the Home, both the Ladies Evening and a Lodge Night for the gentlemen. These have been very successful and the residents have not only enjoyed the evening themselves but all anticipation and preparation throughout the day. I cannot convey fully to you the enjoyment that they had, watching them all was a wonderful and heart-warming experience.

I would also like to thank Peter Williams for his continued work and support, I know he works tirelessly promoting the diaries and through the sale of the diaries has provided the Home with a Display Monitor and quality garden furniture which we have put to good use in the gardens throughout the Home.

Within the home itself I have increased the number of registered nursing places that we are able to offer, the needs of people requiring care has greatly increased and those entering care homes now have more intensive needs, in light of this I made the decision to increase these places.

At present there is a crisis in Bridgend, two large care homes have closed which meant 120 people needed to find new homes. We were able to offer our support and assistance at this difficult time and were able to provide a new home for three people. This goes to show what a vulnerable position the care home industry is in at this current time as these homes were part of a large corporate group.

We have successfully integrated a new computerised care planning system into the Home which is now fully operational.

Forthcoming events at the Home are the Christmas Fayre on the 29th November, we have a lot of external support with providing stalls this year, I would encourage you to attend to make this a successful event and encourage these supporters to return next year. The Annual Christmas Church Service is on the 14th December, you are all welcome to join us in this celebration.

ITEM 6 – To receive the Enrolment Officers Report.

W.Bro. Mike Williams said that before I give the report I would like to say that W.Bro. Tom Powell, a West Wales Liaison Officer who had attained a 100% membership with his Lodge has sadly passed away recently and asked that this be acknowledged (a moments silence was observed). Mike Williams went on to say that of the total Membership that we still believe to be active, of about 8000 members, the growth in 2013 – 14 has increased slightly compared with 2012 -13 from 208 which included 38 partner members to 237 including 12 partner members. The total Life Membership fees increased from £1890 to £2310.

Of these new members, more than 50% (124) have been provided by the Province of West Wales. That Province has 27 Lodges – compared with over 160 in South Wales – has about 1500 Life Members and has 15 of its Lodges at 100% membership. Well done! Hopefully the communication drive via Area Co-ordinators in the province of South Wales will lead to an increase in Life Membership in 2014 –15. The Enrolment Officers request that Full Forenames be supplied where possible on application forms and that outstanding Gift Aid options be signed, completed and returned as soon as possible, thank you.

6.01 – The Chairman thanked Mike for his report and said that Mike had not mentioned that he was working on a new Membership card which will be plastic and the same size as credit cards. On these cards will be the web site address to be able to view the ‘Constitutions’ which by Law we must give you.

ITEM 7 – To receive the Diaries Committee’s Report.

W.Bro. Peter Williams Chairman of the Diaries Committee, stated that the Diaries Committee donated £4000 to the home from the profits of the sale of the Diaries and App. This money enabled the ‘Home’ to purchase an Information monitor, which is situated in Reception and Patio Furniture. The Committee are looking for Coordinators around the Province to help with the sale of Diaries and the App. We are also looking for Lodges in the Merthyr and Caerphilly Area to invite us to talk about the ‘Home’ and the App. The App. is nearing completion for most of the Provinces in the UK and once the information has been placed in the system it will be restructured and updated. Finally, I have asked W.Bro. Martyn Wake to join our committee and I am pleased to say he has accepted.

ITEM 8 – To Elect the Officers and Committee and Trustees for the ensuing year.

The Chairman apologised that the wrong ‘Agenda’ was sent out and that the Election of Officers is to take place every three years. As the Treasurer, Roy Williams has stepped down I have asked Mrs. Rosemary Coles, wife of W.Bro. Jeffrey Coles to take on the position of Treasurer. If there is no other person wishing to take on the position of Treasurer, then I propose Mrs Rosemary Cole be elected as Treasurer. This was seconded by Phil Aubrey and passed by all those present.

The Chairman also added that V.W.Bro. Brian Hilling should officially be elected onto the Committee. Phil Aubrey proposed that V.W.Bro. Brian Hilling be elected onto the Committee, this was seconded by Mike Williams and passed by all those present.

ITEM 9 – Election of Auditor.

The Chairman proposed, Gareth Francis of Fidelity Lodge. Who is an accountant working for O’Brien and Partners be elected as the Auditor. This was seconded by Phil Aubrey. This was unanimously passed by those present. The Chairman asked that his thanks to Gareth Francis be recorded for all his work to get the accounts presented, and to the standard that the Charity Commission would accept.

ITEM 10 – To confirm the dates of the Committee Meeting and AGM Meetings for 2013.

The Chairman announced that the date for the AGM 2015 will be held on Sunday 27th September, 2015.

ITEM 11 – Any other business

11.1 Peter Williams asked to confirm how much money was in the account?

11.1.1 Roy Williams replied that there was approx. £60,000.00 in the current Account and £800.00 in the West Wales Account.

11.1.2 Peter Williams asked why are we holding so much in the account?

11.1.3 The Chairman stated that the amount we spend is based on the requirements of the Home Manager and residents but it is good practice to hold in reserve an amount for any unforeseen costs. If for instance the home needed a special bed which could cost around £12,000. we would like to be in the position to purchase it immediately, rather than have to ask the Lodges to make a special payment. We haven't had the final cost of the Hair Salon, but we could drop from the £60k down to £30k in one go. It cost the Association of Friends around £20k per year to be able to give the residents their special treats. If we spent all the money we have in the bank and the Lodges stopped giving money we could be penniless in two years. This is why we must keep a small buffer.

11.2.1 Peter Jones asked if any of this money was funding the new Lodge?

11.2.2 The Chairman replied that the money to set up this new Lodge will come from the Founder Members and that no money whatsoever will come from The Friends of The Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court Accounts. All monies raised or donated by the Lodges of the Three Provinces are only used for the benefit of its residents.

11.2.3 The new Lodge will meet 3 times a year and will be a Lodge of Research and all the running costs will come from their Founders and Members.

11.3.1 Sir Paul Williams thanked the Chairman for allowing him to say a few words and went onto say he brings apologies from Dr John Reuther for not being here today and is delighted to be here on his behalf. We are blessed with two 'Homes' in Wales, the Queen Elizabeth Court and here The Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court. We at the RMBI want to thank you for all your fund raising and I would like to thank the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer for all you've done.

The RMBI has been caring for their residents and their dependants for over 160 years, which has been strengthened by you the Friends, thank you.

The President. myself and the rest on the Board of the RMBI have 17 'Homes' to ensure that they stay up to standard and compared to other homes we are at the top. Care Homes are a very competitive business, as Alyson said earlier that two homes in the Bridgend area has closed. We have to run these homes to make sure we break even every year. So every £1 we can save on one item allows use to spend it on another item. Alyson has always managed the home very well here in Porthcawl.

Also, we need to look more at the dementia care which has gone up by 15% recently. Again as Alyson pointed out the residents are getting older and require more nursing care.

We are dipping our toes in 'Day Care', we will have to see how it runs. We want to try and keep more people in their own homes for longer. We are considering extending this concept into 'Day Care' Service at Masonic Halls. This is going to be discussed over the next few weeks. Alyson and Becky are excellent Managers running this 'Home' and we feel that having local managers is really important. I would like to thank you again all of you for what you are doing for the Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court.

We start the 2021 RMBI Festival in the new year and I'm sure that we will have a successful Festival. Thank you.

11.4.1

Phil Aubrey stood and said he would like to thank the Chairman and the Committee for the work they are putting in behind the scenes. Also to thank Alan and the outgoing Treasurer for the hard work they have done. Thanks to Alyson and Becky for the organising the facilities for us to use for our Meetings and their work on the Committee.

Many thanks to Peter Williams and his committee for their hard work in the production of the diaries and 'App' . Also many thanks to Sir Paul Williams of the RMBI for giving us an insight of what's happening. Finally, I would like to thank the Provincial Grand Secretary, for his help and direction in the organising of the new Lodge. Thank you to you all.

Apologies have been received from the following— R.W.Bro. Gareth Jones, V.W.Bro. Roy Woodward, W.Bro. Alyster Swinford, W.Bro. William Jenkins, W.Bro. Paul Marshall, W.Bro. Jeff Coles, R.W.Bro. Steve Hookey, W.Bro. Peter Scobble, W.Bro. Jim Wheeler, W.Bro. Jim Bevan, W.Bro. John Weldon, W.Bro. Ray Harris, W.Bro. Keith Morris, W.Bro. Robert Davies, W.Bro. Colin Best, W.Bro. Des Rees. W.Bro. Malcolm Rees, W.Bro. Paul Bunyan, W.Bro. Howard Vaughan, W.Bro. Derek Law, W.Bro. Colin Bradley, W.Bro. Mostyn Bancroft, W.Bro. Norman Steele, W.Bro. B.George, W.Bro. Ron Harris. W.Bro. Bruce Hawkins, W.Bro. David Cooper, W.Bro. Leslie Thomas, W.Bro. Roger Duffy, W.Bro. Brian Crabbe, W.Bro. Ken Hill, W.Bro. Charles Penny, W.Bro. Hugh Bradnum, W.Bro. Dilwyn Thomas, W.Bro. Graham Evans. W.Bro. Cliff Synon. W.Bro. B.Hawkins

The Chairman once again thanked everyone for their attendance and commitment to the Home.

Meeting was closed 16.15

Chairman

Secretary

Alan Gardener

Martyn Wake