



Trustees Report 2020

A very different year...

In these strange times it is good to reflect and also look forward. At the beginning of the year who could have foreseen all that lay ahead and the upheaval and impact of Covid 19. We are grateful there is One who holds the key to all unknown. The words of Psalm 31 v 15 comfort us that "My times are in **Thy** hand."

Strawberry Hill House

We are very thankful that to date there have been no cases of Covid 19 amongst the residents of Strawberry Hill House. They have been wonderfully maintained and preserved. A further blessing has been the sense of unity and camaraderie amongst them. They have all looked out for each other and sought to help as they are able. We continue to take precautions against Covid 19 in accordance with current Government guidance, with face masks being worn, hand sanitiser provided and social distancing observed.

There are 10 apartments at Strawberry Hill House with 7 occupied. We are pleased to say that apartment 4 was reserved in October. This leaves just two apartments - number 8 (one bedroom) and number 9 (two bedroom). Both are attracting interest. Please do contact us if you would like further details or to arrange a viewing with all the usual precautions during this time.

There is much to be done at Strawberry Hill House in keeping the building and grounds spick and span! We would like to thank our willing helpers for all their work with the oversight of maintenance and also all those who faithfully assist in the cleaning of the building, and providing the 'Helping Hand' service to our residents.

Fundraising

Like all charities we have found 2020 difficult due to the ongoing pandemic. Many of our normal fund raising activities have been cancelled. There have been no coffee mornings and sadly we have had to cancel our Autumn Fayre and Christmas Singing Evening. However, the kindness and support of many has shone through. We appreciate the army of volunteers who have raised monies through making jams and chutneys, also face masks. Our range of greetings and birthday cards continue to sell well, and we are now into Christmas card season, which also helps our fund raising efforts. There have also been those who faithfully support the Trust through donations and subscriptions.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to all of you who have supported us during what has been a difficult time for all.

Looking forward

As we look to the future and trusting in the Lord's guidance, our main objective is to find a new site. We have received a number of requests for a location along the South Coast. Our agent regularly looks for sites from Hastings to Brighton but also as far north as Ashford and then west into Surrey as far as the Guildford area. We are also exploring proposals to work with other developers to see whether there is an opportunity to work together on developing sites.

An ideal site is at least 0.6 acre on a level plot within a mile of local amenities and places of worship within the vicinity. Please do contact us about anything which may be of interest on 01797 260589 or oaktreehomestrust@gmail.com

Finance

The Trust was formed in 2010 with no funds but a vision for providing accommodation for the elderly. In 2013 a plot of land was found and purchased at a favourable price. Two years later in 2015, planning was secured for 10 apartments. By January 2017 building had commenced and the following year in June 2018 the building was completed. The total cost was £3.56 million. God willing, when the next 2 apartments are sold then all loans will be repaid. The Lord has truly been merciful and it is humbling to see what He has wrought – from nothing!

We continue to stand amazed. We are so thankful to all those who have donated, raised funds and granted private loans.

It is now the wish of the Trustees that after the next sale, the final apartment should be available for rental for any that do not have the ability to purchase and are in genuine need of assistance. We would welcome any enquiries which will be treated in the utmost confidence.

Dates for the Diary 2021

As we look to next year, God willing, we hope to resume our coffee mornings and events, as follows -

Coffee Morning at Strawberry Hill House – to be announced.

Autumn Fayre at Mayfield Village Hall - Saturday November 6th (provisional)

Carol Singing at Strawberry Hill House - to be announced.

Thank You

We would like to thank you all again for your continued support and interest. As we all go forward let us remember these words from Romans 8 v 28:

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are called according to His purpose.”