

Calendar of Events

May

Thursday, 2nd Communion. Hobbies Room. 11.30am

Thursday, 11th Tulips & Turbans. Cherrill Sands. 7.30pm (Soc. Comm.)

Tuesday, 30th Thames Venturer Cruise to Shepperton

June

Thursday, 1st Board Meeting 10.00am

Thursday, 1st Communion. Hobbies Room. 11.30am

Saturday, 10th & Sunday, 12th. Teddington800. Service & Flower Festival

July

Sunday, 9th Teddington800. Old-fashioned Sports-day, Bushy Park

Wednesday, 12th Scenic Drive to Shere village for lunch (Soc. Comm.)

Thursday, 27th Board Meeting 10.30am

Weekly Events

Monday evening: *Film Night*

Wednesday afternoon: *'Use it or Lose it'* exercises

Friday evening: *Residents Choice: music*

LONDON TAXICARD SCHEME

This is a service to help disabled people and friends who accompany them. Run by the London boroughs and prices are reduced, often near to half-price. The office for information is Social Services, next to the Library in Waldegrave Road. The telephone number is **0208-831-6312/6191**, and the taxis are called *ComCab*.

Margaret Owen

Thank you for your contributions. Please send your stories, comments, thoughts, ideas, wants, etc. to **David, no.26, Tel. 8977 6390 or email: d.pegler26@btinternet.com**
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Fullerton Court Newsletter

RESIDENTS VOICE

FULLERTON COURT

MAY 2017

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Mercia's Birthday Lunch

MERCIA'S BIRTHDAY LUNCH
Thursday, 13th April



Photos by Lin Sutcliffe

**HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE PEOPLE WHO SHARE
FULLERTON COURT WITH YOU?**

Profile of SHEILA DAVIDSON

Sheila Davidson was born in Chelsea in 1931 and was delivered by one of her grandmothers who lived next door and was the local midwife. One of her grandfathers used to deliver milk to Queen Victoria. Initially Sheila attended a school in Chelsea and then for four years, during the war, she was evacuated to a convent school in Chertsey before returning to Chelsea.

Having met him at a youth club she married Raymond in 1952. He was an accountant, working for a large company of which he was made a divisional manager. With him Sheila had an exciting time, travelling on the continent and visiting France and Italy every year on business. Sheila and Raymond had two children, Ian and Lynn who



are both single. Like her father Lynn is an account whilst Ian has his own prestige car company.

Sheila's great love has been dancing. She started at dancing school at the age of three, training in tap and ballet. Having left school she joined the Frank Fortescue dancing troupe as a chorus girl and one year she toured the North of England with a performance of Cinderella. After a couple of years she thought she ought to get a 'proper' job and she worked as an assistant to a personnel officer and she worked in a coach station issuing tickets and advising passengers.

Sheila had a wonderful life until her first stroke in 2009, whilst Raymond died in 2010. In spite of this and two further strokes Sheila has kept her sense of humour and in 2013 she came to Fullerton Court which she says has helped her feel normal again.

Kathleen Plumtree

THE WARSHIP 'VASA' IN STOCKHOLM



As a birthday treat my three sons took me to Stockholm to see the 17th century warship 'Vasa' that had been recovered in 1961, having lain in silt at the bottom of the harbour for 333 years. After recovery it was sprayed with a preservative for many years and is now housed in its own dedicated museum.

As we walked into the museum I was amazed at the enormity of the great warship; its total length is 226 feet and 1,000 oak trees were used in its construction. Almost the entire ship was recovered; the few pieces missing have been replicated in lighter wood.

The *Vasa* was built to impress – not only with her 64 guns, but with her abundant sculptures of people, beasts and coats of arms. Even the gun port covers had lion heads carved upon them. Originally the sculptures would have been brightly painted and gilded; we know this because red paint has survived in the mouth of one of the lions.

The *Vasa* took three years to build and on Sunday 10th August 1628, four of *Vasa's* ten sails were set, the guns fired a salute and slowly, serenely, the warship set off on her first voyage. When the ship left shelter a stronger wind entered the sails and she began to heel over; she righted herself slightly but again she heeled

over and water gushed through the gun ports until she slowly went to the bottom having travelled only 1,300 metres.

John Bourne

WISDOM FROM NORTH AMERICAN TRIBES

The soul would have no rainbow if the eyes had no tears.

§§§§

Flowers are for our souls to enjoy.

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Walk lightly in the Spring; Mother Earth is pregnant.

From Guy A Zona, *The soul would have no rainbow if the eyes had no tears and other Native American proverbs* (1994).

Submitted by Felicity Marks

MANAGERS AND DIRECTORS OF TWO COURTS MEET

On Thursday, 30th March, our Manager, Lin Sutcliffe, accompanied by two of our Directors, John Blackwell and David Pegler, left Fullerton Court at 8.30am to drive 125 miles northwards to Hinckley in Leicestershire. Just outside the town centre is Ashby Court, one of the RSL courts. It was built 27 years ago, and is larger than Fullerton Court, with fifty apartments spread over four floors.

On arrival, we were made welcome by their Court Manager, Ruth Thorpe, and after a brief discussion were guided to the lounge to meet up with their Board directors. Over coffee, the directors exchanged views and experiences of how their respective courts were



run and how similar problems were overcome. Ruth Thorpe was only appointed manager last September so Lin was there to offer guidance, support and suggestions on the court management. This was the primary purpose of the visit. Everyone joined up for lunch and the conversation continued. The Ashby Court directors were all very friendly and talk covered subjects such as the important emphasis on independent living, the pro and cons of CQC registration and the maintenance of the funds for future maintenance. The latter was especially interesting as they had recently undertaken window installation involving lease variation.

After lunch, the directors retired to an attractive conservatory. Ashby Court



lacks an extensive garden area but their conservatory compensates. The talk turned to the social activities, and our directors came away with ideas such as the hiring out the Hobbies Room to bring in additional income, local regular outings to cinemas, theatres and garden centres utilising an 8-seater taxi, and regular visits to the Court by local retailers (clothes and shoes) to meet and trade with the

Owners.

The two courts do things differently but it proved useful to exchange views, and both sides benefited.

CAMELLIA SHOW, CHISWICK HOUSE

My son and I visited the recent Camellia Show at Chiswick House. There were dozens of plants, all in full bloom, arranged in line along the 330 feet length of the



Grade 1 listed Conservatory. This collection is believed to be the oldest kept under glass in the Western world and includes rare and historically important examples of these beautiful plants, with a gorgeous array of blooms; pink, red, white and striped; many descended from the original planting in 1828. Small potted camellias, propagated from the heritage collection in the conservatory and all in bloom, were being offered for sale at the exit.

Upon arrival Stuart and I had lunch in the modern café/restaurant before visiting the conservatory. The café is excellent, has ample seating inside and out and is situated quite close to the main house. We didn't visit the house on this occasion, but it is open to the public with an admission fee payable by those who are not members of English Heritage.

Before leaving we walked through the very attractive gardens that are extensive, well maintained and open to the public all year round. They are varied with good pathways, flower beds, swathes of grass to walk on, many sculptures and a river running through.

There is a pay car park exclusively for Chiswick House and gardens situated off the A4 dual carriageway, but I'm told that parking is possible in Staveley Road, Chiswick, where there is access into the gardens. **John Bourne**

THE FUNNY SIDE OF LIFE

A government survey has shown 91% of illegal immigrants come to Britain so they can see their own doctor

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A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm and says 'A beer please, and one for the road'

....

Two cannibals eating a clown. One says to the other 'Does this taste funny to you?'

....

An invisible man marries an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at either

....

I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't find any.

Submitted by John

Bourne

SOCIAL COMMITTEE HURBS UKULELE BAND

Tuesday, 28th March

The Harlington Ukulele Rainbow Band began as a community choir some three years ago, but then decided to include an instrument - their various coloured ukuleles. Fifteen of them presented a lively



selection of songs; some old favourites and some new and including some a cappella singing, then joined us for refreshments afterwards. A very enjoyable evening.

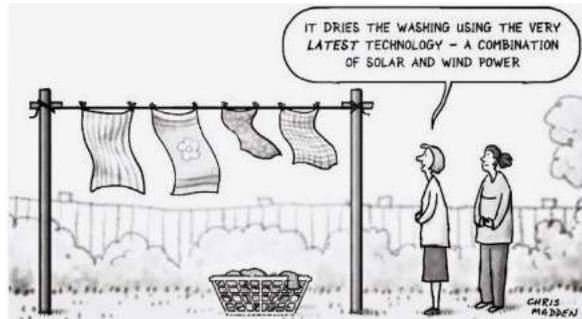
Joyce Southern

‘SUPPER FOR SNOBS’ EVENING

Tuesday, 25th April

Our April social evening took a different pattern from usual, starting with wine and hot tasty snacks and dips from our local Thai takeaway. This was followed by a performance from professional singer Julia Burnett, who shared memories from her days in in Music Hall with artists such as Danny La Rue, Norman Wisdom, etc. As we joined in her songs it was amazing to realize how many words we still remember from ‘The Good Old Days’. As she said, ‘They don't write them like that now!’

Joyce Southern



Submitted by Lois Burke