



THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF CONNAUGHT COURT
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Following the recent announcement regarding the future of the RMBI and its services, The Committee and I felt it important to update both the Lodges and the brethren of the Provinces on the current position of the Friends of Connaught Court and to reassure both members and supporters.

At present, our attitude is **BUSINESS AS USUAL**

The Association of Friends of Connaught Court will continue to operate as it has done for the last 53 years, supporting the Residents of the Home and its splendid staff, whilst continuing to provide the additional activities and assistance that enhance their wellbeing and quality of life, to which we have already committed ourselves and our funds, together with any additional requests our Home Manager and Activity Co-ordinators may request.

This announcement has pointed out that the future structure of the RMBI and how it will support freemasons and their families will continue to evolve in the future. At this stage the Trustees continue to assess numerous alternatives as regards future policies and at the moment no firm decisions have been made, and therefore we believe the most sensible approach is to **continue our work while also considering how we might develop and strengthen our charitable support in the future.**

A change as fundamental as this is not going to happen overnight and with the due diligence etc. required, this process can easily take upwards of eighteen months. We would also keep in mind that when the change has taken place there will still be Freemasons or their dependants in the Home, who may well require our interest.

The funds currently held by the Association of Friends are specifically protected in the Constitution of the Association as only applicable to supporting residents, and these resources will continue to be used for their benefit. They will not, as in the past, be used for capital projects during this period.

You are all no doubt aware from our presentations, that we have spent a considerable amount of time and effort to re-instate our Summer Fayre and were looking forward to holding this again on the 6th of June (I trust that you have received the Flyers). We remain fully committed to this for two special reasons.

- 1.) This event is a highlight of the year for the Residents. It has always been a delight to see the queue of carers taking them up to the stalls and the interaction they had with the visitors.
- 2.) We are continuing to fund the home for the weekly/monthly events that all the residents look forward to, so the proceeds will continue to be well applied.

THE FAYRE CANNOT BE HELD THIS YEAR WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT. WE NEED YOU TO PROVIDE STALLS AND TO ATTEND TO MAKE THIS A SUCCESS FOR THE RESIDENTS, PLEASE CONTACT OUR FAYRE ORGANISERS, WBro PRIESTLEY AND WBro GAUNT TO REGISTER YOUR SUPPORT.

Over the coming months, the Committee will be discussing possible ideas that may allow the Association to continue its work. At the moment approximately 40% of the residents are non-masonic who receive benefit from our efforts, which I feel satisfies our masonic commitment to Supporting the Community. Our aim continues to be ensuring support to the residents, especially Freemasons and their families in meaningful ways, now and in the future.

It is important to stress that **nothing is changing immediately**, and our commitment to supporting the Residents of Connaught Court remains as strong as ever.

As further information becomes available, we will ensure that Lodges and members are kept fully informed.

We do not know when the sale will be concluded,, so as an Association, we are still looking to support the Residents in any way we can. We must bear in mind, ,of course, that even after the sale goes through, the majority of the residents are Masons and their families. The Masonic community will, I hope, still be visiting and supporting them long after the RMBI has no control in the running of the Home.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, generosity, and interest in the work carried out by the Association of Friends of Connaught Court

Bruce E Lewis
Chairman