



THIS & THAT



FROM THE PRESIDENT OF PORTSMOUTH & SOUTHSEA ROTARY CLUB – ROGER DEVONSHIRE

What were you doing forty years ago? Don't worry if it takes a moment or two to remember – I had to ask my wife whether or not that was the year our second son was born. It was, so Paul's arrival would have made it a special year for us regardless of what else happened in 1968. We had only recently moved to Kingston-upon-Thames where I was assistant curate at St. Paul's Kingston Hill. We lived close to the River Thames and I remember walks along the towpath in the summer sunshine as the rowing clubs were putting their boats into the water. That was forty years ago, and here in Portsmouth just forty years ago the Portsmouth Rotary Housing Association was being formed. Such an endeavour could never have been undertaken without courage and vision on the part of its founders and I hope there will be opportunities to celebrate this later in the year.

My connection with the Association began when we moved back to Portsmouth in 2005 and I became a member of Portsmouth and Southsea Rotary. Both Mary and I have hugely enjoyed being involved – particularly through my being Chairman of Harrison House. From looking and listening I have gained a great admiration for the Scheme Managers (once called 'wardens'!) as well as for those who run things from "The Office". My father used to say "Never forget to give a word of praise when it's deserved; we are always ready with our criticisms!" I try to remember that.

At the end of June this year, I shall receive the honour and privilege of becoming President of Portsmouth and Southsea Rotary. I am sure there will be a busy year ahead but I will continue with my role as Chairman of Harrison House and indeed one of my goals for the year is to foster a greater appreciation of the Portsmouth Rotary Housing Association and its work. One of the things I have learned over these past three years is that in each of our houses there are people who know how to enjoy themselves!! During my year as President I hope to go on being a part of that as well as being available to serve the Association in its fortieth year.

Don't forget to return your Tenant Survey by 14th July to qualify for admission to the draw for a £15.00 voucher. The winner will be announced on Thursday 11th September

15 EXERCISES WE'D BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT

- ~ Jumping on the bandwagon
- ~ Wading through paperwork
- ~ Running around in circles
- ~ Pushing your luck
- ~ Spinning your wheels
- ~ Adding fuel to the fire
- ~ Beating your head against the wall
- ~ Climbing the walls
- ~ Beating your own drum
- ~ Dragging your heels
- ~ Jumping to conclusions
- ~ Grasping at straws
- ~ Fishing for compliments
- ~ Throwing your weight around
- ~ Passing the buck

O dear here we go

While on a road trip, an elderly couple stopped at a roadside restaurant for lunch. After finishing their meal, they left the restaurant and resumed their trip. When leaving, the elderly woman unknowingly left her glasses on the table and she didn't miss them until they had been driving about twenty minutes. By then, to add to the aggravation, they had to travel quite a distance before they could find a place to turn around, in order to return to the restaurant to retrieve her glasses.

All the way back, the elderly husband became the classic grouchy old man. He fussed and complained and scolded his wife relentlessly during the entire return drive. The more he chided her, the more agitated he became. He just wouldn't let up one minute.

To her relief, they finally arrived at the restaurant. As the woman got out of the car and hurried inside to retrieve her glasses, her husband yelled to her, "While you're in there, you might as well get my hat and the credit card."



Here is the 3rd issue of 'This & That' and by the comments I have received it is appreciated by many of you! For those who have written, telephoned or conveyed your thoughts in any way ...many thanks

There are several items I need to bring to your attention at this time:-

SERVICE CHARGES

Residents will have noticed a sharp increase in service charges during the past few months and I just want to assure you all that the service charge you pay is based entirely on the cost of running your house. The most significant part of the increases this year came as a result of huge increases in the cost of Gas & Electricity something over which we have no control. The good news though is that the price per unit we pay is fixed now until November 2009. Any increases until then will be based purely on consumption and here you might be interested to learn that gas & electricity consumed in all of our houses is increasing. The answer is of course to be careful ... less waste = lower bills!

CARELINE

The emergency call system is a vital link when assistance is required and because of it's importance PRHA continue to monitor not only it's use but the service we receive from the call centre. As a result PRHA has decided to change our service provider to Chichester Careline and by the time you read this your 'call centre' will have changed. If everything went to plan you will not even have noticed! It is our firm belief that the new CARELINE will provide a far superior service. I, along with the 4 scheme managers, made a visit to the call centre in Chichester where we met the manager and the operators and were able to see for ourselves the caring and professional way in which all requests for assistance were handled. Of course we all hope that it will not be necessary to use the service but the knowledge that it is there ready, willing and able to help should bring a measure of comfort and feeling of security to all.

HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

Electric Scooters

Following a recent Fire and H & S Risk Assessment carried out in every house by an independent consultant it was noted that in some houses 'electric mobility scooters' are stored and charged within the house. To reduce the risk that these vehicles present all owners are advised that they should have their scooter serviced by a qualified engineer at least once every year.



Most if not all of us have suffered from the irritation of phone calls with people trying to sell us something we don't want just as we sit down for a bite to eat, a cup of tea or even a quick nap. Call 0845 07 007 07 and get them stopped!



***EMERGENCY SERVICES ENTRY TO HOUSES *** IMPORTANT ADVICE

Over the past few months there have been a few incidents where the emergency services, usually paramedics have been called to various houses following a request from Careline when a 'pull cord or pendant' has been activated. True to British custom, residents have tried to be helpful by opening the front door, however this does cause a problem if the Scheme Manager is not on site as access to a flat is not always possible without a key and can result in a door having to be broken down to gain access. When Careline call the paramedics there is a well tried system in place for the front door to be opened by remote control and then for the paramedic to be given access to a master key in order that they can gain access to the patient. If the system is interrupted in any way it will fail and can have serious consequences. For the safety and well being of all residents please allow the system to 'kick in' It could save your life!!!

CONTACT DETAILS

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And Finally..... We extend a very warm welcome to the following new residents who have joined the PRHA family since 1st December 2007:-

- Charles Clark House:* Mr & Mrs A Lapworth
- Harrison House:* Mr J Blanks
- Lindsey House:* Mr E Brown
- Mr G Kingston