



Together we can make a difference

Summer 09

Newsletter



His Excellency and the Mayor

Friends of the Caribbean Support Willen

Jurys Inn came alive on Saturday evening 11th July with steel band music and cabaret performances as Friends of the Caribbean held its annual summer ball here in Milton Keynes which this year was in support of Willen Hospice. The local group had all 310 guests, including the New Mayor of Milton Keynes Cllr Euan Henderson and Mrs Henderson, and the St Lucian High Commissioner, His Excellency Eldridge Stephens and Mrs Stephens dancing until early Sunday morning.

Also in attendance were the head of Stantonbury Campus Mark Wasserberg and the CEO from Willen Hospice Paul Hinson. Mark in his opening speech highlighted the need for community mentoring of young children, while Paul explained the extremely important work carried out

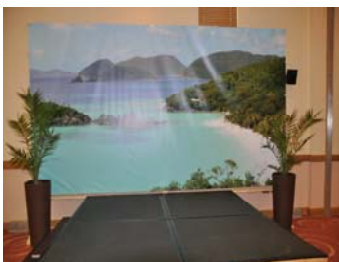
by the staff at Willen Hospice. Part of the proceeds from the event will go to Willen Hospice, the associations chosen charity for this year. In his closing remarks the Chairman Wain McIntosh, implored his guests to be included in the groups mentoring program.

The evening also saw performances from TV comedian Felix Dexter who had the guests laughing in the aisles while the cabaret singer Tracey Jackson all the way from Wolverhampton had the ladies dancing up a storm. Solid Steel brought in the Caribbean sunshine with steel band rendition of some modern classics under the magnificent backdrop courtesy of Graphic Works of Milton Keynes. Also being entertained were Yaw, actor and playwright, Marcia Davis, Deputy Justice Clerk for Milton Keynes, and Thames Valley Police.

Dinner was followed by a raffle with prizes donated by local companies John Lewis, Leslie Arkin Optometrist, MBA Motors, Jurys Inn and the Barbados Tourist Board. One lucky winner, Clifton Harrison won the grand prize, a 7 night vacation return trip for two to St Lucia courtesy of the Saint Lucia Tourist Board, The Bay Gardens Beach Resort & Spa, Saint Lucia and Sackville Travel London. A cricket bat signed by West Indies player Dwain Bravo and Captain Chris Gale was also auctioned.

The event was such a success that one guest was overheard booking her table of ten for next years ball. Plans are already afoot for that event to be held on the 17 July 2010.

Friends of the Caribbean would like to thank the local companies who supported them and the staff of Jurys Inn Milton Keynes.



The Backdrop. Courtesy of Graphic Works Milton Keynes



Solid Steel



Grand Prize Winner Clifton and Wife

A Board Members View

After months of meetings and preparation the evening had finally arrived. My colleagues and I had been planning this ball along with Jurys and at last we had finally come to the day. It was an early start that Saturday as we added the final touches to the auditorium, erected the backdrop and added the decorations. We checked and double checked everything, because we wanted it to be perfect.

The running order of the evening was confirmed with our MC, one final check of things in the room and then roles for the evening were agreed and we all left for home to get dressed up. It was time to see if our hard work had paid off. I was back at the venue by 17:30 and watched as a steady flow of people began to arrive. Everyone was looking absolutely splendid. Everyone had raised the bar and this for me was a wonderful sight. The evening of elegance had begun.

Our aim was to have everything running like clockwork, to start on time, get dinner served with the minimum of fuss and then it was fun time. The raffle prizes we were given made the evening all the more special. Jurys staff did an excellent job and as for my fellow board members, I've never seen them work so hard, even our Chairman Wain chipped in as well. All in all a great time was had by all. Role on next year.

Ally Clarke



Diary Dates

Next Meetings

Jurys Inn Central Milton Keynes
7pm Start

Saturday 26th September
Saturday 31st October
Saturday 28th November
Saturday 19th December
Saturday 30th January

Black History Month

Thursday 1st October
To
Saturday 31st October

Summer 2010

Annual Charity Ball
17th July 2010

Association News

Janet Swaby has decided to take a sabbatical from the Friends of the Caribbean Board of Trustees. Effective immediately Janet has resigned as the Vice Chair and Board member. Janet will however remain an active member of the association.

Shirley Palmer-Hopkins will continue as Vice Chair until the next election.



HIS EXCELLENCY ELDRIDGE STEPHENS SAINT LUCIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER AND MALLORY GIBSON FROM SACKVILLE TRAVEL PRESENTS THE GRAND PRIZE OF 7 NIGHTS IN SAINT LUCIA TO CLIFTON HARRISON



Jurys Kitchen and Dining Room staff with Executive Chef



5 SNAPS FROM THE BALL



Champagne

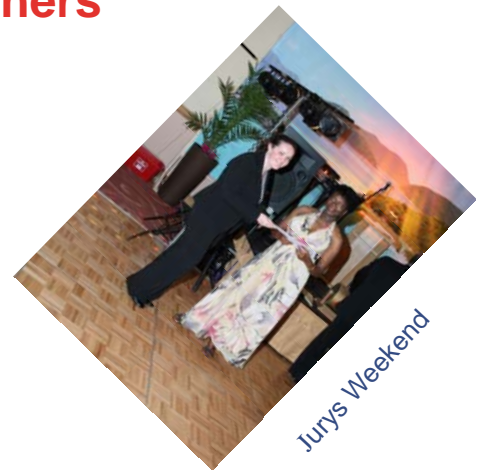


Designer Specs

Raffle Prize Winners



Shopping Vouchers



Jurys Weekend

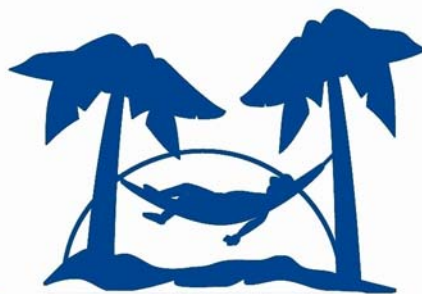


Willen Hospice
Sharing the Care



SAINT LUCIA

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Friends of the Caribbean Chairman Wain McIntosh and Board Member Claudette Murrell hands over a cheque to Willen Hospice Chief Executive Paul Hinson and Fund Raising Manager Julie Rogerson

Hospice Donation Handed Over

This year the theme selected for the ball was "Care in the Community" and our chosen charity was a local one that has been supporting the Milton Keynes and surrounding area for many years, its name is Willen Hospice. The Hospice has been providing such care for almost 30yrs now and this excellent

is achieved mostly by Fund Raising. On Thursday 3rd September, Chairman Wain McIntosh along with Board Members Claudette Murrell and Ally Clarke visited the Hospice to present a cheque for £410 our donation from the Ball. Paul Hinson said "My wife and I had a fantastic

evening and many thanks on behalf of the Hospice, this is a challenging year financially for the Hospice and your donation will help towards the care of our patients and their families, every little helps"

Bay Gardens Beach Resort & Spa

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