

Dear Members

I can hardly believe we are in week 11 of lockdown. I am sure some of you have welcomed the recent partial lifting of the restrictions but for others it has meant the intrusion of people driving miles to enjoy Hampshire and Dorset and its coastline.

No doubt many of you with gardens have been working hard in the good weather to tend the plants, vegetables, cutting the grass etc. I was very amused by the quote below sent to me by Phyl Hart-

**Notice from the Association
of Psychiatrists**

**During lockdown it is
considered normal to talk
to your plants.**

**Kindly contact us only if
they reply.**

Thank you



We have been talking to the blooms in our garden (picture on the right). The roses all have such stunning names. They are called Darcey Bussell, Litchfield Angel, Lady of Shalott, Rosa Mundi and Kew Gardens plus there are many other varieties. Thinking of the garden and the mass of colour we have in our rose bed it made me dream up another poem.

***The roses are now blooming
They do need constant grooming
To encourage the chalice shaped petals
To burst forth for the bees to settle***

***We have a Darcey Bussell a deep velvety red
And a Lady of Shalott so awesome in the bed
The 'Lady' has a beautiful golden glow
Its willowy stems bending as the wind doth blow***

***There are many others blooming on cue
The colours making a lovely hue
And as a way of framing them all
The lavender and fuchsias are growing quite tall***

The Rose Garden



The rose which blooms throughout the summer is a symbol of love and beauty and is said to be the perfume of the Gods. It is sometimes described as encouraging licentiousness and excess or unprincipled behaviours. ***I can assure you nothing like that is happening in our house!!!***

So despite the flexing of the lockdown rules we do know that our return to bridge is some way off yet. I am, however, pleased to tell you that I had an email from the H.C.A Executive who advise they are going to use the closure of Greystones as an opportunity to redecorate the whole of the building with the exception of the offices, library, Nu2U and the 50/50 shop. They are also actively looking at replacing the curtains in Rooms 1 & 2. It is comforting to know that the building we all love is being cared for by such a loyal group of volunteers.

I must mention too the prize winners for the quizzes in last week's newsletter. Cliff Starkey won the Double Dummy seven hearts grand slam and James Fenwick the golf and bridge quiz. Well done to them both. And I must comment how well Lesley and Fran did last Friday in the Bernard Magee Team event. They were pitched against Bernard and his partner playing some very challenging boards especially the grand slam bid and made in seven diamonds. They almost stole the show from Bernard's team on the last board.

And in closing I want to send our best wishes to Don Tootell who had a fall and broke his hip and has only recently returned from a long spell in hospital. Our thoughts are with Don and Varina and hope that things soon improve for them both.

That's all for now folks. Stay safe, keep well and enjoy the outdoors – let us hope the sun will come shining through again soon.

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