



Coral Reef Club

THE *Grapevine* AUTUMN WINTER 2013



THE SANDPIPER



The O'Haras and Capaldis at the Christmas Gift Giving

I have a feeling I started last year's newsletter with the same sentence saying how quickly another year has passed. I accept the fact that this is to do with age! Well for most places in the world it has been a brutal year due to either climatic conditions or man made cruelties. Meanwhile here in Barbados we have enjoyed a peaceful year. How fortunate we are and I count our blessings daily.

As so many of you have seen my eight grandchildren grow up, I feel I have a reasonable excuse to bring them into the picture. It has been quite a year. In order of age – 19 Sophie, Sebastian and Olivia are settled into University. Emily 17/18 is in her final year at school. Caroline 17 is happily settled in her sixth form boarding school. Charlie 17 is in sixth form and enjoying the few liberties it brings with it. Jack aged 13 is in his last year at Prep School and was made Head Boy. According to the school he is doing a good job but they did say that in addition he certainly knew how to enjoy himself – that's my boy, a true O'Hara! Gemma who is 13 is in Barbados and starts school in England in September 2014 and then there were NONE in Barbados. Thank heaven for holidays.

It was fun having some of the 'Grands' to stay with me in London. I got used to preparing for bed when they were making plans to go out on the town. I must say they were very considerate upon their return.

I am being asked if any of them show signs of entering the hotel business. We are dealing with this in the same way Budge and I did with Patrick, Mark and Karen, the decisions came from them and not through any influence on our part.

I am very proud and Budge would be too, of my immediate family and my extended family numbering over 400 at both hotels. We have a great team who are dedicated and loyal.

Here's hoping that 2014 will be a happy and healthy year for all of you, during which time we hope to see you return.

Cynthia O'Hara

Cynthia O'Hara - Chairman

SOCIAL MEDIA

The collage features several social media elements:

- Coral Reef Club Profile:** A large image of a resort pool area with palm trees and lounge chairs. The profile name is "Coral Reef Club" with 877 likes and 79 talking about this. The address is Porters, Saint James, Barbados 8824017. Navigation buttons include "About", "Photos", "Newsletter sign-up", "Pinterest", and "Map".
- Coral Reef Club Post (September 18):** Text: "Why not catch up on your paperwork?" with an image of a person reading a book on a lounge chair.
- Coral Reef Club Post (October 4):** Text: "Sorbet, madam? Don't mind if I do...! Could you get used to this?" with an image of a waiter in a green vest serving a woman on a beach.
- The Sandpiper Post (October 10):** Text: "Fancy trading your office view for ours?" with an image of a balcony overlooking the ocean.
- The Sandpiper Post (October 18):** Text: "Are you ready to kick back, relax and enjoy the view?" with an image of a dining area on a balcony.
- The Sandpiper Profile:** A large image of a resort pool area. The profile name is "The Sandpiper" with 904 likes and 85 talking about this. The address is Porters, Saint James, Barbados 8824017. Navigation buttons include "About", "Photos", "Newsletter sign-up", "Likes", and "Traveler Reviews".
- Comments on Coral Reef Club Post:** A comment from Natasha Roberts: "This is one of my children's best bits about a stay there. The mango is their favourite!" and a reply from Coral Reef Club: "Thank you Natasha." Another comment from David Aggar: "Love to go back there, if I can book the room we had before!" and a reply from Coral Reef Club: "2 Replies".

Both Coral Reef Club and The Sandpiper created Facebook pages earlier in the year and we have also launched our redesigned websites. We encourage everyone to visit our Facebook pages and “Like us” to keep up to date with news and happenings at both hotels throughout the year.

THE SPA



The Spa continues to thrive and we are thrilled with the excellent feedback which we have been receiving. For those looking for a special experience, a couple's massage in the privacy of your own tropical garden in The Pavilion, is a memorable way to indulge.

SETTLERS' BEACH REDEVELOPMENT

We have worked tirelessly on the exciting plans for the new Settlers and are thrilled with how they have developed. The property will encompass 12 villas ranging from the option of 3 bedrooms (with 2 masters and a guest room) up to 5 bedrooms (one master and 4 further bedrooms). Each will have its own, private 20' x 10' pool with the added luxury of a beautiful, long central pool lined with palms leading to the beach, perfect for laps. There will be a reception area and gym.

Our plan is to build in 2014 and 2015. Details of the development are available on request and we will be contacting those who have requested information before we have our official launch.



CORAL REEF VOTED FAVOURITE RESORT IN THE AMERICAS



It was announced at the Small Luxury Hotels of the World meeting earlier this year that Coral Reef Club was voted the Favorite Resort in the Americas for 2013 as chosen by the SLH Club Members. Congratulations to the team at Coral Reef Club!

Left: Patrick O'Hara accepting the Small Luxury Hotels of the World Award

THE SANDPIPER CHOSEN BY FODORS AS ONE OF THE TOP 100 HOTELS IN THE WORLD



We are pleased to announce that The Sandpiper has been chosen for the 2013 Fodor's 100 Hotel Awards in the "Blissful Beach Retreats" category, designating it as one of the 100 most distinctive hotels in the world this year. Fodor's evaluated over 4,000 nominations from 43 countries to determine the 100 best hotels in the world. This is a great honor and is testament to the excellent service which The Sandpiper team provides.

BEACH ENHANCEMENT PROJECT



The Sandpiper's Beach

We are happy to report that the final phase of this exciting project commenced in April of this year and was completed in November.

Guests returning to The Sandpiper over the course of the next year will notice a greatly improved beach with increased protection from the very occasional rough seas. Another major benefit is the construction of a walkway from Settlers Beach to Coral Reef Club which will ease walking along this stretch of coast, making it more accessible and attractive, with landscaping.

This private/public sector arrangement involved many of the stakeholders along this particular stretch of the coast and will add to the enjoyment of our beaches and offshore reef structures for both our visitors and locals alike for many years to come.

ISLAND EVENTS 2014

We are looking forward to a bright 2014 with England playing cricket in Barbados in March for the first time in six years and Barbados will also be hosting the first of three Top Gear Festivals in May 2014. Many of you will know this is a major program on the BBC's network and is shown in over 200 countries. In addition, the enjoyable Holders Season of music with their beautiful outdoor theatre setting is a highlight for us in March.

STAFF NEWS

Coral Reef Club



*Employee of the Year
- Mr. Jamal Whitaker,
Commis Chef*



*Supervisor of the Year - Mr. Trevor Thompson,
Bell Captain*

The Sandpiper



*Employee of the Year
- Mr. Angus Thompson,
Gardener*



*Supervisor of the Year, Mrs. Eulene Catlin,
Senior Hostess*

OUR DRIVER GEORGE YEARWOOD RETIRES



Congratulations to our driver, George Yearwood, on his retirement after 54 years of loyal service. He will be truly missed.

TASTE OF THE CARIBBEAN



Barbados has once again earned the title of the Caribbean Culinary Team of the Year. This announcement was made at the “Taste of the Caribbean Competition” which was held in Miami, Florida. The Sandpiper’s own Mike Whittington won two awards in the “Beef” and “Best use of Beef” categories. Well done Mike!