

THE *Grapplevine* AUTUMN WINTER 2015



Coral Reef Club



THE SANDPIPER



The O'Hara and Capaldi Families

Thanks to yet another 'important' birthday which I celebrated in England and thanks to my 'middle' aged children for the excellent luncheon they arranged for the occasion, we were able to photograph all of the family. The shorty in the picture is me.

Two aged 15 are still in school, the rest are either at University, College or working. Three of them celebrated their 21st birthday this summer - very quietly of course!! The grandchildren range in height from 6' 4" to 5' 7". I kid myself that I have shrunk with

age, but if I am really truthful I have always been short and bossy. I did have a 6' husband who would not be bossed; this also applies to my family!

Yet again, Barbados has enjoyed a comparatively trouble free year. When listening to the world news which is horrendous, we could be lulled into thinking we have a paradise all of our own - come to think of it, we really do have if you take into account some of our most serious every-day problems, but you will understand the situation I am trying to portray.

Sandpiper closed from April to November, I have no doubts whatsoever that the changes will be very well received by all the guests; they are stunning and have given Sandpiper a tremendous 'new look'. The rest of the family went back to Barbados for the summer holidays enjoying lovely weather and the young enjoying the company of other families staying at Coral Reef.

My time in England was very enjoyable in spite of the fact that I did very little. I believe I enjoyed the four seasons in the space of three months, slight exaggeration as there was no snow but the rest was for real.

I had granddaughters staying with me in London for some of the time and it took a bit getting used to, worrying about the light in the hall which was burning at 3:00 a.m. It takes a distance of 4,000 miles and a five hour time difference to become immune to these hours. However, I did enjoy it; we had fun without the parents on the scene. They will all be here in Barbados for Christmas and with other returning families they are sure to have another great holiday.

Who knows I may eventually get tuition in using an iPad, which I bought last year and have taken it across the Atlantic two years in a row, still in its smart wrapping. Perhaps I have proved that I can well do without it. My sight is not the best but I am enjoying audio books as it is lovely to sit back and have a beautiful story read to you.

I trust you are well and hope you will be returning in the near future. I look forward with pleasure to seeing you again.

Cynthia O'Hara

Cynthia O'Hara - Chairman

THE SANDPIPER'S NEW ENHANCEMENTS



The Sandpiper

We are thrilled that we completed the project on time and re-opened the hotel on 1st November as planned. The results are even more breathtaking than we anticipated!

Our new ocean front Tree Top Suite “Curlew” is on the top floor of The Beach House. It has stunning interiors and an unbeatable view of the Caribbean Sea and sandy coastline. Downstairs “Driftwood” and “Sand Dollar” are exquisite ocean front Beach House Suites with equally appealing views.

Harold’s Beach Bar has been enhanced with a larger deck, part of which stretches right out to the sea front. Contemporary Italian designed umbrellas provide shade for guests who undoubtedly will spend many hours enjoying the food, drink, sea views and sunsets. For those who loved Harold’s Bar as it was, we can assure you that the changes have only enhanced it and have not changed it beyond recognition!

In the garden we have added a new sixty foot, architecturally designed lap pool. This pool and adjoining copper arched water feature has created a true oasis for relaxation and the rooms and suites in the area benefit from the beautifully enhanced view.

We look forward to welcoming you to experience it all.



CORAL REEF CLUB



Coral Reef Club re-opened at the end of September with new bathrooms for the Garden Rooms and upgrades to the restaurant. As always the team is excited about the upcoming high season and to welcoming new and repeat guests to Coral Reef Club.

SPA WELLNESS RETREATS



The Spa held three successful Wellness Retreats in March, May and October this year. Activities included Yoga, Pilates, Aqua Aerobics, Body Blast and Drill Training, Hiking, Caribbean-Style Zumba, Meditation and a “What’s Trending” interactive seminar. For those who like to mix relaxation and healthy activities, the Wellness Retreat is ideal. If stopping for a drink of coconut water from a coconut vendor during a hike and some of the other activities appeal to you, visit The Spa on our official web site www.coralreefbarbados.com

THE SANDPIPER'S BEACH ENHANCEMENT PROJECT



The beach at The Sandpiper

Many of you will be aware that we spearheaded a beach restoration project on our stretch of the coast that involved several properties. The project initially resulted in a much wider beach but for a short period of time, things went awry and our beach suffered quite badly. We are thrilled to say that after pressuring the authorities to change the placement of the rocks, they have done as we requested and tweaked the groynes, which is a great improvement as the sand was able to come in to our beach and the beach returned within 48 hours. We are thrilled with the results and have opened with a beautiful new beach.

KILIMANJARO CHALLENGE

We are very proud of father/daughter team, Wayne and Olivia Capaldi who challenged themselves to climb Kilimanjaro in September. It was an amazing experience – a grueling trip with incredible memories – good and bad! There were many kind donations and they were thrilled to raise over £14,000 for Children with Cancer.



2015 AWARDS



World Travel Awards

We are pleased to announce that Coral Reef Club was awarded Barbados' Leading Resort and The Sandpiper was awarded Barbados' Leading Hotel for 2015.

Trip Advisor

Both Coral Reef Club and The Sandpiper were welcomed into Trip Advisor's "Certificate of Excellence Hall of Fame". This accolade is granted only to those businesses that have won the "Certificate of Excellence" for five years in a row by receiving consistently great reviews.

International Property Awards

Our Architect, Gillespie & Steel Associates, is the winner in the America's stage of the International Property Awards 2015-2016 with The Spa at Coral Reef Club in the category of "Leisure Architecture for Barbados" and with Settlers Barbados in the category "Architecture Multiple Residence for Barbados".

NEW AIR LIFTS



Aerial View of Coral Reef Club

Our American guests will be pleased to know that JetBlue currently flies a twice daily service from JFK to Barbados and is adding luxury flat beds to some time slots. Additionally JetBlue is adding flights from Boston and Fort Lauderdale and Delta is operating round trip flights from Atlanta and JFK. In addition to all the flights out of the U.K., Thomas Cook is starting flights from Glasgow with new cabins and Premium seats. The new airlift is particularly welcome from new destinations, making travel that much more convenient for some of you and all the better to see you!

STAFF NEWS

Coral Reef Club



*Employee of the Year – Rose-Ann Baptiste,
Secretary/Reservationist*



*Supervisor of the Year – Jnana McClean,
Head Therapist at The Spa*



*Long Service Recipient for 40 years of service –
Owen Skeete, Restaurant Manager*

The Sandpiper



*Employee of the Year – Winston Broomes,
Security Officer*



*Supervisor of the Year – Dillon Herbert,
Senior Host*



*Long Service Recipient for 40 years of service –
Sandra Henry, Chef*

One of The Sandpiper's many talented chefs, Willis Griffith, proudly represented us at this year's "Taste of the Caribbean" in Florida where the Barbados Team won a gold medal in the "National Team of the Year".