

The Association of
FRIENDS OF LA PROVIDENCE

Annual Report 2006



Julia Sawalha, actress of Huguenot descent, during filming of Who do you think you are? at La Providence. Photo: Wall to Wall Media

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Foreword

The year has gone round once more, and it is time for me to write a foreword for the Annual Report of the Association of Friends of La Providence.

My home is in Wiltshire, not Kent, as some friends will know well because of the repeat visit of Friends to Longford Castle that took place in August. This is a party I particularly enjoy. It gives the staff at Longford a chance to show off the pictures and furniture that they tend with such care. Although the garden was perhaps just past its best, it still looked pretty good, and was much enjoyed. Whilst I am here, I hope this “extended” tea party will take place on a yearly basis.

It has been a long and hot summer. I am the same sort of age as some of the residents at La Providence, and I must admit that I have rather enjoyed it. I do not look forward so eagerly to the imminent chill of autumn and winter. I hope you all have a reasonably warm time of it.

I came to the Anniversary Service as usual this year, but felt unable to join the residents and guests for tea in the crypt. Rochester Cathedral has an excellent chair lift to get the likes of me into the service, but there is nothing but the “Director Lift” to carry me and my chair into and out of the crypt. I missed the company and I missed the strawberries. The upside was that no directors suffered strained tendons or even heart attacks.

As we grow older, the Deans of the Cathedral seem to grow younger. Our present Dean, Adrian Newman, a great supporter of La Providence, did his duty for charity and completed the London Marathon in only just over four hours. I think we owe him our congratulations.

I have three messages for Friends of La Providence. Please continue your friendship, as we value it highly. Perhaps you might persuade one or two of your friends to swell the numbers; the more there are the merrier. Do come to the Anniversary Service if you can. It is an important day in the La Providence year, and we would look forward to seeing you there.

Finally, I must say what pride I feel in the way the French Hospital is kept. The individuality of the residents’ gardens is a real pleasure. The care that the Steward takes is exemplary, as is that of the Deputy Stewards. Our Surveyor sees the place itself is kept in good health and looking smart, and our Chaplain looks after pastoral care and deploys his other many talents

for well-being and enjoyment. Finally, the Directors direct affairs with understanding, and Brigadier Hamish McGregor keeps Directors informed of affairs. He is essential to our corporate well being.

All in all, it is a far cry from my first visit to La Providence long ago. It was for the opening and the re-naming of Theobald Square to that of La Providence. The opening was performed by the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Lord Cornwallis, and a blessing given by the Bishop of Rochester, Bishop Chevasse. Of Huguenot ancestry himself, he was a great supporter of the French Hospital.

I remember going home and telling my older sisters that it was very well done, and that the directors looked quite French, but that I didn't think many spoke the language. Possibly the same still applies today.

Radnor, Governor

Friends' visit to Longford Castle 2006

On Thursday 10th August, some 50 of us were welcomed by Lord Radnor to his beautiful home, Longford Castle, set in glorious countryside south of Salisbury. It was very nice that Viscount Folkestone, who now looks after the estate, was able to join us for some of the time.

As an addition to previous years, about half the party forgathered for a bring-and-share picnic in the grounds before visiting the house. It was a lovely sunny day but with a fresh northerly breeze which would have made the picnic spot by the cricket pavilion a little draughty. We were very grateful to Lord Radnor who personally directed us to the leeward side of his nice thick hedge where a warm and jolly picnic preceded the visit to the house.

With so many beautiful paintings and furnishings in the house it is a pleasure to be able to visit and revisit them. We were given a wonderful tour by Lord Radnor's staff after he had given us a short history of the house, which dates back to the end of the 16th century.

While we are able, each June, to welcome Friends to our annual celebrations in Rochester it is a great joy that Lord Radnor is happy to welcome those of us who live somewhat to the west of Rochester and rather nearer Salisbury for a "Western Celebration". We hope next year again to welcome Friends and also other members of the Huguenot Society to another such event.

Friends' subscriptions and legacies have been a valuable support for La Providence and we hope that will continue into the future.

Our thanks to Lord Radnor for all that he does for us.

Jeremy Ouvry

The Year in Brief – Deputy Governor's Report

Each year I try to bring a new slant to my report, but each year it becomes more difficult, either because I have said it before, or because one of the other contributors has stolen my thunder!

We are full - something that doesn't happen all the time! Our vacancies and list of prospective residents have come together to enable us to fill all our flats, and we have a very healthy waiting list as well. Our thanks to the Clerk for all his hard work to achieve this highly desirable state of affairs. The Chaplain's report outlines all the movements through the year, together with details of the various outings for the residents.

Visitors to La Providence will notice that we have completed our five-yearly external redecorations. There have been some subtle changes, including new colours for the front doors, and everything is looking extremely smart. Our thanks to the dedicated team of decorators for the friendly and considerate manner in which they achieved their task under the watchful eye of our Surveyor, John Daffarn. It is always a bit nerve-wracking when we set out on this work, as we have various deadlines to work within - such as the Square being clear of scaffolding by the Anniversary. John and his team always manage it without any apparent difficulties. I suspect that the reality is rather different, and that a considerable amount of very careful planning takes place before ever a piece of sandpaper or paintbrush is raised in anger.

We are, as always, most grateful to our Garden Committee (Lady Monson, Dr Bill Fenton, Mrs Anne Letheren and our Deputy Steward Jeanette Harris) for all their hard work. Despite the drought throughout the summer the gardens have all remained in remarkably good order, and indeed I think that they looked better than ever for the Anniversary. We are doing our bit for water conservation, and some of you will have noticed that a number of new wooden water butts have appeared around La Providence to store rain water and enable us to keep watering through the hosepipe ban.

Last year I wrote that I hoped to report on the successful outcome of the long-running saga of the High Street gates in number 99! As promised, the work was finally completed in October 2005, and they have been working - with a few minor 'glitches' - since then. The final success of this project was in no small part due to the skill and determination of the Surveyor in his dealings with the authorities - often a highly frustrating activity!

I also commented last year on the Directors' concerns over behaviour in the High Street, and the effects that the new licensing laws might have. All seems to have been reasonably quiet through the summer as far as the Two Brewers pub is concerned. However, the casino still causes problems to our residents, both from the noise of those leaving the premises and the coaches parked behind La Providence, with their engines running, waiting to take the gamblers to their next port of call well into the small hours of the morning.

We had a bit of excitement in the summer when a television team came to La Providence for the day to film as part of the programme *Who do you think you are?*, featuring the actress Julia Sawalha. Filming took place in Number 41 and the Common Room, with Directors and residents being interviewed. A number of our documents and records were photographed, as it transpired that Julia's great great great grandmother (I think that is the correct number of greats!) was both on the staff of the French Hospital, and also later a resident. The programme was finally shown at the end of October, and it was with great sadness that we saw that the French Hospital had been completely omitted from the broadcast version - presumably with the limited time available in the schedule middle eastern connections are of greater current interest than Huguenots! It is hoped that we will get copies of all the "out-takes", which should make for interesting viewing.

The Christmas lunch took place last year in the Baptist Church Hall on the other side of the High Street. This gave us more space to move around, and kept the spirit of previous years. Unfortunately we were only able to book a Monday this time, which meant that a number of our younger Directors were unable to attend, but this year we have managed to revert to the usual Saturday, so we should have a full compliment again.

The Secretary has reported elsewhere on the Anniversary, but it was a pleasure to welcome the new Dean of Rochester, the Right Rev Adrian Newman as preacher. As the Anniversary service clashed with some "minor" football event, the sermon opened with a report on the current score, much to the amusement of the congregation!

It has been another busy year on our web site, and we are now finding that a significant number of contacts are being made as a result of our presence there. We can be found on www.frenchhospital.org

It would be remiss of me if I did not comment upon the most important part of La Providence: the people - the residents, the staff and Directors. The Steward and his wife, Robbie and Gwen Harris-Liston, together with their team of Deputies, Jeanette, Trevor, Maxine and Marina, have kept an eye on residents and Directors alike. The Directors are most appreciative of the care that we receive when we visit La Providence each month, and particularly the splendid meals cooked by Jeanette - I think that many of the Directors' spouses wonder what their other halves have been up to when they return from the French Hospital meetings and are not very hungry that evening! As always, our thanks go to Trevor Moore and Paul Harris in their roles as 'official photographer', and Les Davies, Tony Trower and others for their frequent help.

I close with my usual personal thanks to all those hardworking individuals, Officers, Staff, Directors, and others - often unacknowledged – who help to make life easier for us all. Beside those already mentioned in this report I gratefully acknowledge all Hamish and Kate McGregor's hard work and support, Lucy McCarraher's patient editing of this publication, Randolph Vigne for his editorial and genealogical advice, and our Accountants and Auditors. To these, and many more that I may have forgotten, my grateful thanks.

Peter Duval, Deputy Governor

Financial Overview

As I write this I am relieved that the contractors have almost completed work on the five-yearly external redecoration of the Square that I mentioned, in my last year's report, was at the planning stage. It is a great credit to our Surveyor's specifications and his arrangements for the competitive tendering process, that the cost was almost exactly the same as it was five years ago. Inevitably though, we have had to dip into reserves this year in order to meet its costs along with all the other bills for the year.

Also, as I mentioned last year, the increasing cost of energy to heat the French Hospital is a continually worrying topic and we keep debating how to manage it in the best interests of all.

I was glancing at some back numbers of this publication the other day and I noted that John South, the then Treasurer, reported about 10 years ago that the French Hospital was able to subsidise the Almshouse operation by approximately £72,000. For this year just ended, to 30th June 2006, the figure had grown two and a half times to £188,000 and that is without including the already mentioned use of reserves.

On a more positive note, all our residents' flats are now occupied - the first time this has been so for some years, and we also have a waiting list of people wishing to move in. Congratulations are due to the Clerk, his wife, the Steward and the rest of the team for this and also for the fact that the number of nonagenarians presently living in the Square has risen to 11.

For this autumn and into 2007 we have just set up a small group of Directors to look at all the workings of the Hospital, not just financial, and this is due to report at the April 2007 Court Meeting (which, because of Easter, will actually be on 31st March 2007). We are already conscious of the fact that some very important anniversaries are looming, namely 290 years of The Hospital in 2008 and 300 years in 2018. We need, therefore, to steer The Hospital into the future with proper thought and planning.

In conclusion I should like to thank all those, including the late Peter Reid, a resident and The French Huguenot Church of London Charitable Trust, who have made bequests and donations during the year. Finally I thank my fellow Directors and our Staff who all contribute in so many ways to the smooth running of The Hospital - this of course includes helping me on the financial side.

James Cash, Treasurer

SUBSCRIPTIONS BY BANKER'S ORDER

May we take this opportunity to thank everyone who pays their annual subscription by Banker's Order for their kindness and generosity. Most people have signed a Gift Aid Form (once is enough) but a few Friends still have a Deed of Covenant. If you have, and are a taxpayer, please consider changing to Gift Aid. The Clerk would be happy to send the form.

Huguenot Society and Friends' Summer Visit

This year's Huguenot Society summer visit, in which Friends participated, was to Sandwich and Canterbury, where ancestors of some of the party of 54 settled in the late 16th and early 17th centuries. Called Walloons, most had fled persecution under the Duke of Alba, Philip II of Spain's viceroy, who failed to exterminate Protestantism in Spanish Flanders.

On Saturday, 15th July we were welcomed in the Sandwich Guildhall by the Mayor of Sandwich, Cllr Simon Leith, himself of Huguenot (Durban) descent, and presented him with an 18th-century engraving of Alba, as a memento of the "strangers" who had enriched Sandwich, after the silting up of its harbour had brought economic ruin. On a fine sunny afternoon, we were taken on guided tours of this historic "cinque port" by members of the Sandwich Historical Society, followed by an enjoyable tea as guests of Mrs Jane Gardam, the novelist, and Mrs Claudia Maxtone-Graham in the gardens of their 16th-century houses in the old town.

The day ended in the URC church, the roof of which is supported by a ship's mast said to have been given by Huguenot refugees who sailed in her to Sandwich in 1685 (but probably much earlier). The Revd Ivor Howells spoke on the history of the church and the writer on the "strangers" in Sandwich.

Huguenot Canterbury, to which 100 Walloon families had been moved from Sandwich in 1571, was shown on the Sunday by Michael Peters, Secretary of the Consistory of the French Protestant Church. A ghost town after the Reformation ended the "pilgrim trade", Canterbury was made prosperous again by its Walloon and later Huguenot citizens. We lunched at the Café Belge then attended the weekly service of the French Church in the Black Prince's Chantry of Canterbury Cathedral: Walloons and Huguenots have worshipped in the Cathedral since the 1560s. The Revd Hugh Boudin, former minister of the church, visiting from Brussels, preached the sermon and Lady Monson, our Director and a past President of the Huguenot Society, read a lesson. The service was taken by the Revd Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy who, with the Consistory, gave us a welcome and delicious tea after the service. We are grateful to all in Sandwich and Canterbury who made the visit so memorable.

Randolph Vigne, Director



Mr Pieter du Plessis in his youth



*Bob Marshall-Andrews QC
meets the Stewards*



*The Steward and Mrs Vi Trapaud on the
Hythe-Dungeness Railway*



*“Said to have been given to J.M. by
Frederick the Great”*



The five-yearly outside redecoration and repair programme. Photo: Trevor Moore

Profile of a Resident – Mr Pieter du Plessis

Ten years ago Pieter George du Plessis, born and brought up in Natal, South Africa, came to live in a flat at the French Hospital in Rochester. With him came Merlin his handsome black cat who was his constant companion but sadly died not long ago.

It was always a pleasure to meet Pieter and exchange a few cheery words as he tended his flowerpots or made his way to the High Street.

The son of a building contractor he followed his father into the family business, not only completing his apprenticeship in carpentry and joinery but also gaining a qualification in electronics. Then at the age of 31 he met a beautiful young lady called Doris at a church social. They fell in love and after a two-year courtship they were married. It was a very happy marriage although there were times when Pieter had to travel to Europe and to Japan on business. He said that Doris never complained and kept very busy when he was away. They were blessed with two daughters, Nancy and René who in turn married English husbands and both families lived in the United Kingdom when our story begins.

After a busy working life and now approaching retirement, Pieter and Doris discussed a long trip to Europe as a special holiday. They could have chosen to visit any of the beautiful capitals but after much discussion Doris was sure that she wished to make a return trip to Britain. Plans were drawn up for the trip of a lifetime but then tragedy struck and Doris was taken ill and she died three months before their proposed date of departure. Pieter was devastated and for a while life and the future must have looked very bleak indeed. His daughters thought that he should join them in England and so Pieter applied to the relevant authorities for permission to do so.

Some years later on a visit to Rochester, Pieter discovered La Providence and knowing of his own Huguenot ancestry he decided to look into the possibility of coming to live at the French Hospital. His elder daughter and her husband had returned to South Africa as work for them was more easily available there. This was how after meeting the Directors and satisfying them of the usual qualifications Pieter arrived to take up residence on the 31st August 1996.

As a devout Christian he regularly attends the weekly service of Holy Communion held at the French Hospital. He also looked for a local Church to

join and after trying one or two he found friendship and kindred spirits at the Elim church nearby.

Pieter's daughter René lives near Maidstone with her husband and children but Nancy and her family are still in South Africa where they have now retired. They were fortunate to find some land to buy and are busy growing flowers and vegetables. They are also building a cottage, which could become Pieter's home if he decided to return to South Africa. Sometimes on damp, grey winter days in Rochester the thought of the warm climate and the beautiful countryside must make the prospect very tempting indeed.

Kate McGregor

Huguenot Society

The Huguenot Society of Great Britain and Ireland, originally founded in 1885 by Directors of the French Hospital, today numbers 1284 Fellows, 108 subscribing libraries and 19 Societies in Correspondence.

Members are invited to attend four meetings a year at venues in central London; on these occasions a paper is read, followed by dinner or a tea. The Society is essentially a learned organisation, and these and other papers of Huguenot interest, book reviews, accounts of Society visits and Officers' reports form the basis of the annual journal *Proceedings*. The Society takes part in international and national conferences on the Huguenots and continues to publish, adding to its successful *Quarto Series* and *New Series* volumes. In recent years there has been an increased interest in Huguenot genealogy and as well as digitising on fully searchable CD Rom the majority of the *Quarto Series*, the Society now publishes a bi-annual genealogical magazine, *Huguenot Families*. Both are sold through the Administrative Officer and also on our stand at Family History fairs.

Visitors to the website www.huguenotsociety.org.uk will find an improved site generally, with links to the French Hospital website and an expanded Library page, detailing the extensive holdings. The Library is jointly owned by the Society and the French Hospital; generous funding this year by the Hospital has enabled the Society to allocate resources to the care of the Rare Books collection and to other essential Library project work.

The Society makes visits abroad and in the UK to places of Huguenot interest; Geneva and Lausanne are on the agenda for 2007. In addition joint visits with La Providence Directors and Residents to Cobham, Sandwich and Canterbury have taken place over the past two summers, maintaining the close links between our two institutions.

Barbara Julien, Honorary Secretary

New Artefacts

The French Hospital is very proud of the wide variety of Huguenot artefacts which it looks after, but any additional items are always welcomed, such as those donated to us during the past year.

The late Mrs Lilly Foulser, a resident, left us a cross-stitch copy of the French Hospital Seal which she had made. She was good at cross-stitch work and made a number of Huguenot Crosses in the Tercentenary year of 1985, which she gave away. I have one myself.

Very recently Mr Paul Minet, a Director of the French Hospital and a former President of the Huguenot Society, gave us three Huguenot items that had been passed to him by members of his family. They are best described in Paul's own words:

One miniature portrait in brass, oval frame, with hair entwined at back and still in its original case. The portrait is of Hugues Minet (1731-1813); Director of the French Hospital from 1769. The artist is one of the best miniaturists of the period, Samuel Shelley (1750-1808). The portrait was given by Hugues in 1799 to his illegitimate daughter Harriet upon her marriage to James Hurdis, Professor of Poetry at Oxford, and passed down the female side of that family, via the Bowden-Smiths, to Mrs Elizabeth Beazley, who gave it to Paul Minet in 2004, by whom it is now gifted to the French Hospital. There is a passing reference to "Mrs Hurdis" in the book *Some Account of the Huguenot Family of Minet* (privately printed, 1892) by William Minet, plus some correspondence in the Huguenot Library. In addition, there is more detail in *James Hurdis, His Life and Writings* (Chichester, 1960) by A.P. Whitaker.

Two elaborate Minet family seals with explanatory labels in the hand of Susan Minet, the last member of the junior branch of the family. The one is said to have always been carried by Hugues Minet (1731-1813) and the other by William Minet (1851-1933), Susan's father and another Director of the French Hospital, in their waistcoat pockets. Given to Paul in about 1980, by his father, Peter Minet, a former Deputy Governor of the French Hospital and President of the Huguenot Society.

One ornate and beautifully painted eighteenth century snuff-box with a note inside saying that it was "Said to have been given to J.M. by Frederick the Great" in Susan Minet's handwriting. This could be either James or a John Minet, who both visited Berlin at the time. It has been in the Minet family ever since. Various books mention the king giving these boxes away to distinguished visitors.

These objects will be on display at the next Anniversary, the 289th, which is anticipated to be held on Saturday the 9th of June 2007.

Stephen Ch de Crespigny, Secretary

Residents' Social Club

The residents' Social Club moves from strength to strength with a full programme of activities and a very innovative committee. It often provides much needed light relief for those who might not otherwise meet fellow residents or have some stimulation outside their own flats, whilst for others it is a happy way of passing the time in congenial company.

The Committee was re-elected at the AGM in May, but Mrs Colleen Admiraal had already stepped down as Treasurer and handed over to Mrs Lena Beaumont. We are very grateful to Colleen for all she has done and warmly welcome Lena to the team.

Events in the last 12 months have been well attended and varied: a coach trip to Hastings, a fish and chip lunch and a Christmas dinner at Cosgrove's Restaurant in Rochester, to name but a few. Other significant events have been a visit to Deal and an afternoon cruise on the Medway, whilst plans are in train for a variety show and a pantomime and also a special dinner before Christmas. In addition to all these outside trips we have started to hold simple, but very popular 'Coffee and Chat' sessions on Saturday mornings.

We are very grateful to all those who help in the organisation of the many facets of the Social Club: the finances, the catering, the room preparation, and many more aspects, not to mention the separately run Bingo which is also very popular. As residents, we are also very grateful to the Friends whose generous donations go towards those luxuries such as the Anniversary tea, the Christmas Lunch and the Chaplain's outing.

Dennis Conaty, Resident and Chairman of the Social Club

The 288th Anniversary

On the afternoon of Saturday 10th June, the French Hospital's 288th Anniversary Service was held in Rochester Cathedral and hosted by the Governor, Lord Radnor. The principal guests were: the Mayor of Medway, Cllr Angela Prodger and Mr Prodger, the Very Revd Adrian Newman, the new Dean of Rochester, and Mrs Gill Newman, Mr Bob Marshall-Andrews, QC, MP, and Mrs Jill Fennell, Mrs Tania Bradford, Mrs Joan Sharp and Mr and Mrs Julien. Also present were the residents, the Friends and Directors of the French Hospital, together with members of the Huguenot Society and all their guests.

The Penitential Introduction, confession, and the Lord's Prayer were spoken in French, as usual. The first lesson was read by the Canon Precenter, Ralf Godsall and the second lesson was read by Peter Duval, the Deputy Governor. The sermon was given by the Dean of Rochester and the service finished with the singing of our traditional hymn "A Toi la Gloire".

Members of the congregation, some 157 in number, went down to the crypt for a strawberry tea and afterwards many went to La Providence to see the Huguenot artefacts, which were on display there, and to visit the grounds and some of the residents' flats in the French Hospital.

Once again the Friends were well represented on this happy occasion and we thank those who travelled considerable distances to be with us. We look forward to seeing them all and many more at the 289th Anniversary on Saturday 9th June 2006.

Stephen Ch de Crespigny, Secretary

Pastoral Care

It gives me great pleasure to be able to write this report in my 13th year as Chaplain to the French Hospital. This pleasure is again touched by sadness as a number of residents have died since my last report. They are Mrs M.C.L. Barraclough, Mr J Tompkins (in a nursing home) and Mrs I.V.E. Trower. However we are delighted to welcome new residents who include Mr M.J. Anderson, Mrs W. Boulding (who has returned to us), Miss P.L. Cartwright, Mr and Mrs R.S. Dawson, Mr and Mrs R.W. Delo, Mrs H.S. O'Donoghue and Mr and Mrs F.A. Wyatt.

As Chaplain at La Providence I care for the pastoral needs of residents. A service of Holy Communion is held every week in the common room on Wednesday morning. All residents are welcome to attend this service, with friends or relatives who might be visiting them. The service is usually followed by a cup of tea or coffee and the collection taken at this service goes to charity. This year the money raised went to the Christian Aid Emergency Appeal. I visit the sick or anyone who requests a visit, giving home communion where appropriate. I am also on hand in time of bereavement.

Traditionally the Chaplain has organised an outing for residents. This year we went on the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway from Hythe to Dungeness. After a splendid lunch at the Pilot Inn, we returned via Ratsbury Barn where we enjoyed a cream tea. Last Christmas I arranged for children from the local school choir to come and sing to the residents in the common room. This was well received by those who came.

La Providence is like a small parish with the Chaplain as its vicar. Despite the Huguenot ancestry of the residents, only a small but loyal congregation come to weekly services. However, I am available for anyone when needed.

Revd Howard Daubney, Chaplain

WELCOME - to the following new Friends:

Mr E. Aston	Mr and Mrs R.S Dawson	Mrs E.S.Leonard
Mr E.R.R. Boileau	Mr M. Duthoit	Mr P.G. du Plessis
Mr P.J.Craggs	Mrs S.J.F. Goad JP	Mr and Mrs C.D. Webster
	Mr J. Davis	

The Friends of La Providence

*‘Bénis cette maison, Que ta Providence
a préparée pour nos affligés’*

This plea lies at the heart of the prayer which has opened every meeting of the governing Court of The French Hospital since September 1718. It reads, ‘Bless this habitation, which Thy good Providence hath prepared for those among us in distress’.

The French Hospital, ‘La Providence’, founded in 1718 as a charity for poor Huguenot refugees, today provides over 60 flats for older or needy people of French Protestant descent who require accommodation, but with help always at hand in sickness or emergency.

The Association of ‘Friends of La Providence’ seeks to raise funds, allocated at the discretion of the Management Committee, for the benefit of La Providence and to serve as a link between the charity’s well-wishers and its Directors and Residents. Friends with Huguenot descent can also keep in touch thereby with one of the major Huguenot charities remaining in this country.

The Aims of the Association of Friends of La Providence, then, are:

- To help publicise to both potential supporters and potential Residents what La Providence has to offer and what is needed to ensure its continued success
- To preserve in a practical way part of the history of the Huguenot contribution to British society
- To raise funds allocated at the discretion of the Management Committee which will help the Residents and Friends feel part of La Providence and its history

Membership is open to all subscribing not less than £10 per annum to The French Hospital, although we recommend a figure of £15 to non-pensioners, with Life Membership available for a payment of £150. All members will receive an Annual Report and an invitation to the celebration of the Anniversary of the Foundation in June each year, as well as other such occasions as may be organised for them.

If you would like to become a Friend of La Providence, or if you know of anyone of French Protestant descent who might like to be considered for accommodation at The French Hospital, please contact:

**The Clerk, The French Hospital, 41 La Providence, Rochester, Kent ME1 1NB.
Tel: 01634 843107 Fax: 01634 406652, email: theclerk@lineone.net.**

See our website at: www.frenchhospital.org.uk