

THE Graysville AUTUMN WINTER 2014



Coral Reef Club



THE SANDPIPER



Barbados has once again enjoyed a good year without any natural or man-made hazards. When we hear the world news it makes us feel as though we are living in a haven, which in fact we are and we never fail to count our blessings. Upon my return from a visit to England, it was interesting to talk to members of the staff, quite a few of whom had spent time overseas and they had all thoroughly enjoyed themselves but at the same time said how fortunate they were knowing they had Barbados to return to - my thoughts entirely.

The young members of the family are scattered around the UK some to new schools and yet another one at University. The one thing they have in common is that they are all enthusiastic party goers. I cannot think where they get that from! I do believe the middle aged parents are just beginning to find it difficult to keep up with the young but of course they would strongly deny that.

We have completed upgrades at both hotels this year; more bathrooms at The Sandpiper and a few at Coral Reef too in addition to the subtle changes we've made to modernize the Coral Reef restaurant somewhat - beautiful new fabrics and a 'cleaner' look to the design with the change to the ceilings that incorporates lovely lighting and a new sound system.

The garden tours at both hotels continue to be very popular and the teams deserve congratulations for a job well done for the number of compliments we receive for the gardens.

A very special thank-you to the numerous guests who have introduced their sons and daughters and even the next generation of grandchildren to Barbados and our two hotels. It is lovely to have this family continuity and we enjoy and appreciate it immensely. When the families depart, the children are calling out to one another "See you next year" It would appear that the senior members of the family have little say in the matter!

I trust you are well and hopefully we may have the pleasure of seeing you some time during the year.

Cynthia O'Hara

Cynthia O'Hara - Chairman



Left: The O'Haras and Capaldis. Sadly no full family picture this year as the youngsters and Mrs. O'Hara were overseas when we took this.

EXCITING RENOVATION PLANS FOR THE SANDPIPER



The Sandpiper's Beach taken in November

As many of you know, Settlers is an exciting villa development that we are undertaking, with a start date of April 2015. With Settlers being a direct neighbor of Sandpiper to the north, we are taking the opportunity to close Sandpiper and are planning some rather lovely upgrades. We are so sorry that we shall not be able to welcome those that regularly visit between April and the beginning of November, our closure period. We would very much like to still look after you however, so please read on for the offers at Coral Reef Club as we are now staying open for our traditional mid May to mid July closure and have a great offer for that period. If you are a regular Sandpiper guest outside of that period, we shall be in contact with you. When we re-open Sandpiper, we will have made significant progress to the Settlers project and will move the work to the north side of Settlers, far enough away so that our guests will not be disturbed.

Some of you will know that we purchased the Beach House at Sandpiper 5 years ago and whilst we did some cosmetic work and it has been very popular, we are aware that we need to upgrade the property to ensure it reflects Sandpiper's true standards. We are creating a new Tree Top Suite on the first floor with plunge pool and on the ground floor are creating a new category – two One Bedroom Oceanfront Suites. The standard of accommodation will be similar to a Tree Top Suite without the plunge pool. Both will be able to connect including the deck which will re-create the beautiful terrace that we have there now, with direct access on the beach which it overlooks with the sea just feet away. No real need for a plunge pool there! The beauty is that the Tree Top Suite and the suites downstairs can all connect to offer a truly spectacular three bedroom villa.

In addition we will complete our beautiful guest bathroom refurbishment project and create a new lounge for our staff. A few other design projects are in the works but we will keep them as surprises for your next visit.



A new bathroom

CORAL REEF CLUB TO STAY OPEN DURING THE TRADITIONAL CLOSURE PERIOD 16 MAY-17 JULY 2015

Coral Reef Club will remain open to welcome repeat guests of The Sandpiper and of course any other travelers who are looking for a luxurious summer getaway. We shall still close from 29th August to 30th September for training and refurbishment.

SPECIAL OFFERS AT CORAL REEF CLUB



- 7 nights for the price of 5 nights, 23 May – 10 July 2015 and 10 – 18 December 2015.
- 5 dinners for the price of 3 dinners, 23 May – 10 July 2015.
- 7 nights for the price of 6 nights, 11 July – 28 August 2015
- 50% discount on 2nd Room for bookings of 7 nights or longer, 04 July – 28 August 2015.
- Children under 12 years sharing with parents free of charge BP, 23 May – 28 August 2015.

All of the above offers are for stays completed between the given dates. The free nights and free meals offers are applicable to all categories of accommodation. Please visit our web site www.coralreefbarbados.com for full details and conditions.

SPA WELLNESS RETREATS

We have been inspired to launch Wellness Retreats. Between the 7th and 14th of March we shall offer this package that includes yoga (which we do a few times a week throughout the year anyway), Pilates, ELDOA, hikes, beach body workouts and a nutritional seminar. Also included are 4 spa treatments (from a selection of massages, scrubs, Indian head massage and mani or pedi). We had our first retreat in October that was well received. It's rare in the Caribbean to have this kind of spa and wellness experience in a luxury hotel and we are extraordinarily proud of The Spa which is pivotal to this week of activities. We will also hold Wellness Retreats from 22nd May to 31st May and 16th to 25th October (which coincides with some UK half terms).



The Spa at Twilight

SETTLERS BARBADOS



We are delighted to update you about Settlers Barbados. We are thrilled with our completed plans for 12 freehold villas. With 3, 4 or 5 bedrooms, each villa has an open floor plan and private 20 foot pool. At the heart of the gardens will be an elegant 118 foot pool and the reception building will provide a concierge service and fitness centre. Our team will be managing the site after completion and the villas will benefit from a relationship with the two hotels. Having The Sandpiper and Coral Reef Club either side of Settlers, we are committed to maintaining the villas to the highest standard.

We are fortunate to have recently received duty free concessions from the government who are keen to support the project. With these concessions we are now in a position to offer more favourable pricing and villa owners will have the ability to import a duty free boat, should they wish. Settlers Beach is open until the end of March 2015 and Vanessa Sumpter continues to be our Director of Operations. Rachel Clarke is our new Director of Sales and her E-Mail address is Rachel@settlersbarbados.com

WE RECEIVED PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS!

Fodors

Coral Reef Club was chosen for the 2014 Fodor's 100 Hotel Awards in the "Beach Getaways" category, designating it as one of the 100 top hotels in the world this year.

Conde Nast Traveler

Conde Nast Traveler has named The Sandpiper one of the top ten hotels in the Caribbean and Atlantic in their 2014 Readers' Choice Awards.

TripAdvisor

Both Coral Reef Club and The Sandpiper received a 2014 Certificate of Excellence by TripAdvisor. This award recognizes businesses which consistently earn top ratings from TripAdvisor travelers.

UPCOMING ISLAND EVENTS

The **Mount Gay Regatta** will take place between the 16th and 24th January 2015. There will be three days of coastal racing, the 79th anniversary Round Barbados Race and the 300 mile Ocean Passage Race to Antigua. For a schedule of events visit www.MountGayRumRoundBarbadosRace.com

The wonderful **Holders Season** of music set in a beautifully casual outdoor theatre is an annual highlight for us between the 12th and 28th March 2015. For schedule of events visit www.HoldersSeason.com

Cricket fans will want to be in Barbados in May as the West Indies will be hosting the English side at **Kensington Oval** between 1st and 5th May 2015. We are happy to organize tickets for anyone wishing to go and of course do picnics with plenty of rum if necessary, to keep supporters on the go!



During **Crop Over**, Barbados dissolves into three months of rum-soaked fun. The tradition began in 1780, when plantation workers celebrated the end of the cane harvest. **Kadooment Day**, held on the first Monday in August (3rd August 2015) is the culmination of the **Crop Over Festival Season** and is a parade of masquerade bands that revel through the streets ending at the beach front Spring Garden Highway. Our children have enjoyed this event for the last few years and increasingly families with teenage and twenty-something's on holiday are joining them too.

STAFF NEWS

Coral Reef Club



Employee of the Year
- Kedane Wood,
Bellman



Supervisor of the Year - Jamiyla
Acquaro, Senior
Receptionist

The Sandpiper

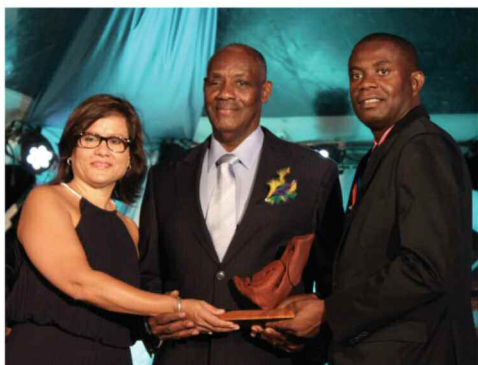


Employee of the Year
- David Worrell,
Barman



Supervisor of the Year - Orlinda
Austin, Executive
Sous Chef

CORAL REEF CLUB'S EXECUTIVE CHEF HONOURED



Graham (in center) receiving his award

We are delighted to announce that Graham Licorish, recently retired Executive Chef (now Consultant Chef) at Coral Reef Club, was awarded a "Special Commendation of Appreciation" at the Barbados Hotel & Tourism Association's Biennial President's Awards Ceremony.

EXCITING WORK PLACEMENTS

Our Housekeeper, **Yvette Clarke**, was fortunate to be hosted at The Chester Grosvenor in the U.K. and The Bucuti Beach Resort in Aruba where she gained professional development.

Christophe Poupardin, our Executive Chef, also travelled to the U.K. to acquaint himself with the exciting food trends there. He did stints at La Gavroche, The Chester Grosvenor, One Aldwych Hotel and The Goring.

Young Chef **Willis Griffith** proudly represented us at this year's Taste of the Caribbean in Florida where he won a bronze medal in the Seafood competition and Barbados won a silver medal overall.