

## David Cameron Re-opens the Prebendal

The events of July 20<sup>th</sup> will not be easily forgotten! I was contacted at home at 6pm after staff called social services to get sandbags. By 7pm the water had come into the kitchen, and soon it was in the dining room, but a mop and bucket was inadequate to deal with the problem....then a sudden surge of water came down the lift supply shaft, and the water came menacingly further and further into the home!

### Heroic Work

The staff and fire brigade were heroic and worked tirelessly during the night to move residents to higher ground as the water continued to invade. Without the lift or any form of electricity all residents had to be carried manually upstairs to safety. The destructive forces of nature had truly left their mark on the home but thankfully there was no loss of life. The following day was organised pandemonium. New Beaconsfield Hall was teeming with social workers, police, firemen, ambulance men as the residents



were taken by boat out of Prebendal. The Prebendal staff of nurses and carers ensured the comfort and continuity of care was maintained by

continuing to care for them in their temporary accommodation in local Barchester homes.

### Enduring Spirit

The owners of Prebendal, Noel & Brian Kelly, flew over from Ireland, bringing with them some Irish building workers and oversaw the huge clean up operation as well as making certain that the restoration of the home was executed to a very high standard. As Noel Kelly said at the reopening ceremony *“I think the weather is as unpredictable as the human spirit is enduring”*. We celebrated our reopening with a lunch which David Cameron attended. His visit was a real morale boost for the residents and staff, in whose minds the event is indelibly etched. Many thanks to all, too numerous to mention.

**Dora Gurnett**

### Spring Forward!

Don't forget! The clocks go forward one hour at 1am on  
**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

