

Home Thoughts from Abroad

Oh, to be in England
Now that April's there,
And whoever wakes in England
Sees, some morning, unaware,
That the lowest bows and the
brushwood sheaf
Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny
leaf,
While the chaffinch sings on the
orchard bough
In England—now!
Robert Browning



REASON FOR HOPE
Three months we've existed without it:
The tent that allowed us to meet.
Our lives have been sadly affected.
We've missed that occasional treat.
We hanker for more interaction.
This lockdown's depressing us all.
Our wits may be sharpened by puzzles,
But keeping one's distance does pall.
We need other people around us.
Too much isolation's a bore.
The return of the tent will allow us to
hope
That perhaps better times are in store.

PML



A Happy Easter to you all.

Who would have thought that a year on we would still be having restrictions at Easter. However, we are very hopeful for a more normal life, yet not as before.



Was that not what the disciples of Jesus hoped for, when after 3 years journeying with him, sharing the ups and downs; finally experiencing the 'dark' week when Jesus was brought to trial, an innocent man, and crucified; then the visit to the garden tomb to undertake the Jewish final rites and Jesus was not there.

The truth that God raised Jesus from the dead gives hope and help to all who wait for that miracle to be repeated... not least because they believed Jesus' words:-

"I am the resurrection and the life."

Today we can catch something of the reality of the resurrection when we experience new life in the midst of hopelessness. We see it in hospital when patients recover, when a baby is born, people speaking out against violence, when individuals have compassion for another.

We see it in the disciples, who saw the true meaning of the cross and resurrection -

'NEW LIFE'. For this we can rejoice; it is EASTER IN OUR MIDST - new life for all in Jesus.

CELEBRATE that NEW LIFE TODAY.



Easter Blessings - Daphne (Chaplain)

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If anybody would like to receive Neighbours by email please respond to Fran at: fveale@cortonhouse.co.uk - Neighbours can be viewed in larger print on our website: www.cortonhouse.co.uk under 'News'.

No 431



APRIL 2021



**NEIGHBOURS
MONTHLY NEWS-SHEET FOR
CORTON HOUSE AND BRAKENDON CLOSE**

Message from Hannah Harvey, Board member

It's always tough trying to write an introduction to a group or people you have unfortunately not been able to meet as yet due to the pandemic. It would be so much nicer to sit with you all and have a chat about who I am and what I do and how I think I can help Corton House. Ltd But I will give it a go anyway...

My name is Hannah Harvey and I am one of the new members of your board. I am firstly a mum of four children, yes four, who range in age from 16 to 3 and secondly I am a housing association executive director for Saffron Housing trust. I have worked in the public sector since I was 18, starting out as a police officer before finding a home in the housing sector. I could go on to tell you how many years that is but that would give my age away and I have a big birthday coming up this year so I will keep that bit to myself!

I love working in housing and I particularly have a fondness for supported housing. I enjoy the variety of it and the fact I think I can make a real difference to lots of people's lives. I hope I can bring some of the experience I have in the sector to Corton House Ltd. I have particular expertise in customer service but also asset management which is really about keeping your homes in as good condition as possible and making sure everyone stays safe and warm.

I am a Norfolk girl, having been born here and returned here after working in London for a bit to raise my family in what I believe is one of the most beautiful counties in the country.

I love the outdoors and spend lots of time on outdoor adventures with my family. We all love sport and our favourite holidays are camping ones which we really hope we will get to do again this year.

I am looking forward to the restrictions lifting so I can come on site to meet you all and answer any questions you have in person and help to improve Corton House and Brakendon Close in anyway we can.

Hannah

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We wish you all a Happy Easter—Managers and Editor



The History of the Simnel Cake

Simnel cakes have been known since at least medieval times. Bread regulations of the time suggest they were boiled and then baked, a technique which led to an invention myth, in circulation from at least 1745 until the 1930s, whereby a mythical couple, Simon and Nelly, fall out over making a Simnel. One wishes to boil it, one to bake it and, after beating each other with various household implements, they compromise on one which uses both cooking techniques!

Simnel cakes are often associated with Mothering Sunday, also known as Simnel Sunday. According to historian Ronald Hutton, in 17th Century Gloucestershire and Worcestershire the custom of live-in apprentices and domestic servants going home to visit their mothers on Mothering Sunday started, checking that their families were well and taking food or money if needed. This was a time of year when food stocks were low, and the high-calorie simnel cake was useful nutrition. The cake later became simply an Easter cake. The meaning of the word 'simnel' is unclear: there is a 1226 reference to 'bread made into a simnel', which is understood to mean the finest white bread, from the Latin *simila* – 'fine flour' (from which 'semolina' also derives).



Snip. Snip

Like many other folk, I look forward to being able to make an appointment for a 'hair-do'.

This has reminded me of an incident many years ago.

In my schooldays I had several friends who had long, luscious pigtails, which they could toss to and fro over their shoulders. All I achieved were two straggly 'bunches' which stood out from my scalp at 90 degrees.

So I made two lovely chunky pigtails from rug wool, pinned them inside my velour school hat, tucked my bunches out of sight and went to visit my best pal Elizabeth. She was out, but her mother invited me in to await her return, regarding me with puzzlement in my velour hat, in mid summer, which remained in situ.

Elizabeth came home, looked at me and laughed. She guessed my attempted ruse, took my hat off and hugged me. I remember being horrified, then relieved, at being free from the itchy wool plaits and hot hat.

Oh, the agonies of youth, and the treasure of good friends!

DW



FROM THE ACTIVITIES CO-ORDINATOR

There was a flurry of cards, flowers, chocolates, Facetime calls and visits for Mother's Day followed by a delicious lunch. The residents talked about their own mothers and their special memories of them.

While we waited for the weather to improve we had quite a few concerts this month.

A wonderful group of talented musicians played a variety of music for us to enjoy over a few weeks called Cuppa Concerts – it was nice to share these with some of the tenants via Zoom at Brakendon Close.

We put on our own concert with songs from the Musicals of the 50s/60s which brought back wonderful memories. The Norwich School did a fantastic Lent Concert via Zoom and we liked it so much we are playing it again as it was so professional. The School has also sent us letters from some of the students telling us about their experiences during lockdown. Eleanor (Year 9) wrote us a poem:

Spring has come and the sky is full of sweet, melodious songbirds.

Pansies and daffodils have sprung out of the soil and snowdrops bow their solemn heads to the ground.

Red squirrels and hedgehogs begin to stretch their sleepy limbs and blink open their heavy eyes.

Irises smile their purple petals open and release their faces to the sun.

Nests filled with speckled eggs sit placidly among the treetops, waiting for new life to emerge from the twigs, feathers and leaves of home.

Green fills the landscape as grass gets long again and growth springs on to the scene.

A first at Corton House was a seated dance session which certainly put us through our paces along with our weekly seated yoga exercises. Another first was a Wallace Art Talk via Zoom with Roxanne (again shared with some of the tenants). It worked really well and was enjoyed by all who attended.

We continue our regular games, knitting group, quizzes and jigsaws and are grateful for the colouring books and jigsaws provided by Brakendon Close.

As Spring arrives we have flung open our Summer House doors and have enjoyed more walks round the garden.

Maria



Shop Trolley with Mel
Monday April 12th 2021

