

A Friend Meeting a Stranger.

I have a close friend who lives in London; she shared with me her experience a short while ago.

Early morning in the rush hour - where she was swept along with the crowd, into the tube station, out again, along the platform, up the escalator through to the exit.

Rather like a crowd of ants streaming in either direction, no one speaking, heads often down or engrossed in a paper; crowds of solitary people, together but separate.

She wondered where they were all going and where they came from? As she approached the barrier she noticed a ticket collector, a middle-aged man from overseas, looking rather sad, standing with his hand out for each person's ticket. The people she said, seemed to push their way through, without even a glance or a word, just placing the ticket into his hand. She continued by saying how she stopped, feeling sad that people had no time to show any kindness, or to acknowledge another human being.

Reaching the barrier, she placed the ticket into the hand of the ticket collector, with the words "THANK YOU". His reply was "You are the first person who has spoken to me today - thank you, have a good day". I am sure we all know the difference between rejection and acceptance. Jesus spelt it out very plainly as how we should behave and the consequences.

Let us always welcome the stranger with kindness.

God Bless You All.

Daphne (Chaplain)



These miniature sunflowers growing against a bungalow wall in Brakendon Close were kindly supplied as seeds from Morrisons. They provide a cheery greeting to all.

A haiku is a short traditional Japanese poem—the English versions tend to be three phrases long with a longer middle line.

Here are two, the second written by a tenant:

The hiss of the sea
From the hollow of a shell
Soft ocean whispers

Raul Moreno

Notes pour from one bird
Night lists from earth's eastern rim
A new day begins.

J.C

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 436



**Corton House**
Loving Care and Support

SEPTEMBER 2021



NEIGHBOURS MONTHLY NEWS-SHEET FOR CORTON HOUSE AND BRAKENDON CLOSE

Message from Maria Pratt, Board member

I joined the board in June 2020 right in the middle of a pandemic, very unusual circumstances, but everyone made me feel very welcome, albeit virtually. I bring with me 20 years of experience working in a person-centred way with vulnerable adults. I have enjoyed all of this time but it hasn't been without its challenges.

I currently work for St Martins as the Director of Homeless Service having worked at many levels of the organisation since joining as a volunteer in 2001. My pathway to St Martins began as a mature student studying Sociology and English Literature as I came into contact with a number of homeless people as I went to and from college. I joined St Martins to further my understanding of homelessness as part of my degree. As soon as I started, I felt at home and knew I would be able to make a difference to the lives of people experiencing homelessness, so I never left!

I have continued to develop my knowledge and have achieved qualifications in health and social care, leadership and management, mental health and housing law to name but a few. Homelessness is not just about not having a home so it is essential to learn about the reasons, and causes of homelessness in order to prevent it from happening; this means exploring all aspects of a person's life, wants, needs and goals in order to find the best solution.

In my personal life I am a keen gardener, which takes up a lot of my free time. I find the garden a great place to sit in peace, read a book, have a coffee and relax listening to the birds and bees as they go about their daily business. The gardens at Corton House and Brakendon Close are a wonderful space and my eyes lit up with the potential when I was finally able to visit the beautiful home and grounds.

August 2021

Thank you to all of those who have been leaving their 'blister packs' in the entrance of Brakendon Close for me in aid of the Marie Curie Cancer fund.

With the help of another tenant who has delivered them for me, a magnificent 3lbs have so far been collected. An amazing amount!! Thanks again.

TB

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SEPTEMBER 2021
FROM THE SCHEME MANAGER

Friday 27th August 2021 seemed like a momentous occasion! We held our first tenants' meeting, in our new stylish, but well ventilated Blake Lounge, since February 2020.

Following on from that, we organised and hosted a fish and chip lunch. There was a huge take up for this event with 23 tenants attending! The local fish bar served us so well! Prompt delivery, all meals packed in individual sturdy boxes and named too! Lots of lovely feedback from the tenants on a well organised and delicious lunch.

We hope to be able to host this each month and gradually introduce other activities, bringing us a step further towards normality.

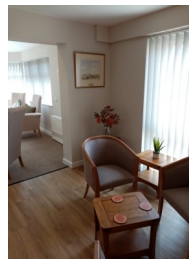
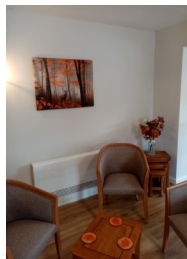
A newly formed Entertainments Committee will be meeting very soon to plan a programme of activities based on the results of our tenant survey. Covid permitting!

Lorraine. Sue and Fran



(above) Enjoying the first fish and chip lunch!

(below) Our new Blake Lounge now fully furnished!



FROM THE ACTIVITIES CO-ORDINATOR

Some normality returning is always good news. Tessa from Musical Keys has returned and some of the residents are thrilled as they love to sing. She plays the guitar and has a beautiful voice but encourages everyone to join in along with a few simple instruments.

We also sing a few songs when we do our seated exercises as singing is also exercise and brings us together as a group. The knitting group also encourages being together as well as exercising both fingers and jaw!! Well done to Norma who has just completed her 400th premature baby hat for the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital. There have been some really entertaining reminiscence sessions and the last one was discussing what is better now than years ago. We all agreed that the National Health Service was a positive and very welcome institution that was introduced in this country and even more so now.

Summer never really took off this year but our sunflowers did – three residents have grown them from seed.



The 400 premature baby hats!



Shop Trolley with Mel
Thursday 9th September 2021
Thursday 30th September

