

We are already approaching the third week of Advent; two candles have already been lit on the Advent wreath; two to go and then on Christmas Day the centre candle is lit for Jesus Christ - 'the light of the world.'

This Christmas will not be anything like the Christmases we have held in past years; gathered with family and friends but the message is the same.

'The Word became flesh, and lived for a while among us.
We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son.'

'We have seen his glory,' five words holding so much. The great thinkers of the world have been grappling with this for thousands of years.

The Old Testament Prophets spoke about what God was like, but he revealed himself so perfectly when Jesus came to earth.
What could be more meaningful than the birth of a baby - growing into manhood, sharing love and compassion, knowing loneliness and hatred, suffering pain and agony and finally death on a Cross. Yes, that was Jesus!

Martin Luther said it all - 'He ate, drank, crawled, walked, was weary, sorrowful, rejoicing; he wept and laughed, he knew hunger and thirst, he talked, he toiled and he prayed...'

'In the town of David a SAVIOUR has been born for YOU.
He is Christ the King.'

So let us rejoice at this time of his coming, though not how we would wish. Let us communicate the GOOD NEWS this CHRISTMAS and into 2021; of the babe of Bethlehem, the Saviour of the world.

So may the PEACE AND JOY of the Christ child be yours this Christmas.



A Christmas Carol worth Praying - Charles Wesley

'Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious Kingdom bring. By thy own eternal spirit, rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us up to thy glorious throne. - " COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS, COME."



Christmas Blessings to you all.
Daphne (Chaplain)



If anybody would like to receive Neighbours by email please respond to Fran at: fveale@cortonhouse.co.uk

No 427




Corton House
Living Care and Support

DECEMBER 2020



NEIGHBOURS

MONTHLY NEWS-SHEET FOR

CORTON HOUSE AND BRAKENDON CLOSE



Dear all,

This is the first time in eight years that I have written a piece for Neighbours but I felt it was high time I did!

What a roller coaster of a year it has been but we have managed to get Neighbours printed each month due to those in Corton House kindly helping us to print and distribute. Each edition has appeared on the Corton House website and hopefully soon, when life becomes more 'normal', it can once more be rolled out to friends and relatives.

We hope eventually to make Neighbours even bigger and better but this will only be possible if we have contributions from you, the reader. Therefore if there is anything you wish to contribute in future in the form of prose, poetry, recipes, items for sale etc or just an inspiring quotation please let me know by either emailing me at fveale@cortonhouse.co.uk or giving to myself, Lorraine, Lisa or Tom in person.

In the meantime may I take the opportunity to wish you all the best for Christmas, however you are spending it, and to hope we all have a brighter and safer 2021.

(centre photo: cobweb at Brakendon Close courtesy of a tenant)

Fran Veale - Editor

FROM CORTON HOUSE

Lisa, Tom and the team would like to wish everyone all the very best for Christmas and a safe and happier 2021 for us all.

**FROM THE SCHEME MANAGER**

We are very pleased to say that our coffee days have resumed for our tenants. Our first get together under our marquee was enjoyed by all, hot chocolate with marshmallows, homemade cake, and mini hot water bottles to keep our tenants warm. All this against a spectacular backdrop of sleet and snow! Long may these social get togethers continue. We will not be beaten by the weather!

Wishing you all peace and happiness this Christmas season and a new year filled with optimism and hope.

Lorraine, Sue and Fran

**FROM DAVID DAYNES
OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER**

I will be retiring from the Board at the end of the year after 9 years and wanted to write a few words about the changes over that period. Our biggest change has been how we manage our organisation. The importance of having the right resource to manage our operations is key and we are committed to ensuring that is in place. That has partly been driven by increased regulation and oversight, but largely by a desire by the Board to improve and develop the care and services we provide. The way has been difficult but I feel we now have a team who can provide the best care and support possible for our residents and tenants

The big change I am particularly proud of is the building of the 16 new flats at Brakendon Close. This was a remarkable achievement for an organisation of the size of Corton House. The quality of the accommodation in the new block is the envy of many other providers. We have also seen many changes in the Board over the period I have served. I feel the current Board is very well placed to lead Corton House forward to even better times and wish them well for the future. Thank you for the last 9 years,

David Daynes

Recipes for One (or more)**Egg and sardines on toast**

Ingredients: I small tin of sardines in oil, I chopped hard boiled egg, 1 piece of toast.

Method: Mix sardines and egg together, put on top of the toast, sprinkle with a little black pepper and pop under the grill for a couple of minutes until brown. Serve with a garnish of parsley and a lemon wedge.

Cheese and tomato spread

Ingredients: dot of butter or margarine, 1 tsp milk, 2 tomatoes, 4oz red cheese (grated), 1 beaten egg. salt and pepper

Method: Melt the margarine/butter and add milk. Skin two tomatoes, chop into small pieces and add to saucepan. Cook slowly. Grate cheese and add to mixture. Gradually stir in beaten egg to thicken on low heat. Allow to cool. Keeps well in the fridge. Delicious in sandwiches or on crackers.

**FROM THE ACTIVITIES CO-ORDINATOR**

It has been a year like no other but the Corton House Community has adjusted and found new ways in the face of adversity. The same things always ring true at Corton House whatever is happening, which is laughter, kindness, friendship and our community spirit. A resident sending a card to another resident saying they are thinking of them, just holding someone's hand or singing a song together - they are simple things yet can mean the world when life gets tough. Rev. Daphne Lloyd has given us support and strength.

We will continue as and when we can to take pleasure in walking round our garden to keep physically fit, doing quizzes to keep our minds active, playing games and singing our hearts out with the festive carols we know so well. We look forward to sharing a glass of sherry and eating cheese straws (still our favourite), chatting together and being part of that community to welcome in 2021 and hopefully getting back to some of the activities we so enjoy. We can't wait to welcome back into our home all the wonderful family, friends and volunteers that are very much part of our community.

Maria