



## God's Heart in a Garden



Gardens are wonderful places of beauty and peace; giving opportunities of reflecting on God's Creation.

'What is this life if full of care we have no time to stand and stare,' is a quote from a well known poem. 'No time to stand and stare' simply means to be obsessed with one's priorities and missing out on admiring the beautiful nature around us.

From dawn to dusk have you ever slowed your pace to even spare a minute to look around?

Nature holds so much, from various trees and flowers to wild life. On our site not only do we have numerous birds, including the thrush and solitary wagtail, but also the very vocal seagulls at present. We have two hedgehogs venturing out under cover of darkness and recently a muntjac. The other morning I had a beautiful red admiral butterfly land on my door, which remained for about 5 minutes, allowing me the time to take a photograph.

In the few wild areas we have on our site, because people prefer gardens weed free, you can notice new wild flowers together with hoverflies, ground beetles, a mint beetle and wood lice to name a few. Keep looking!

It reminds me of Psalm 19: 'The heavens keep telling the wonders of God, and the skies declare what he has done. Each day informs the following day; each night announces to the next. No word is spoken; yet their message reaches all the earth.'

That is how nature speaks to us; take more time to appreciate it from the business of each day.

As a gardener said to me, "I meet God's heart in the garden". Let us do the same.

May you be richly blessed as you discover more of God's creation.

Daphne - Chaplain



No 435

  
Corton House  
Loving Care and Support

AUGUST 2021



## NEIGHBOURS MONTHLY NEWS-SHEET FOR



## CORTON HOUSE AND BRAKENDON CLOSE

### Message from Trish Brocklebank, Deputy Chair of the Board

Following the interesting articles that my fellow Board members have written recently, it is now my turn to write in Neighbours. Some of you will know me as I have been a member of the Board since February 2013, I am now the longest serving trustee. Like some of my colleagues, I too was recruited by Cherry Bishop. I am really pleased to have been involved over the years in so many things at Corton House and Brakendon Close. There have been many challenges and changes during that time; we have seen many new faces and said fond goodbyes to many others. There have been many changes in our accommodation, and I am delighted to have contributed to improving the dining room and the addition of 16 new homes in our community. My mother spent the last few months of her life living at Brakendon Close, in one of the new flats, and we were both grateful for that opportunity.

I am a 'Norwich girl' and I have spent over 30 years living in Blofield with my husband although I lived in Huntingdon during the week for 14 years. We have one son who lives and runs a pub in south London. My working life has been very varied, working in shops, offices, factories and nursing at the old Norfolk and Norwich hospital in St Stephens, some of you may remember it. Professionally, I qualified in Personnel management and have a MSc in service management. I spent almost 20 years in the Water industry, the last ten in various director roles. I have many tales of sewage and water management, smells, floods, boil notices and customer queries, about which you probably don't want to hear! On my return to Norfolk, I worked as a non-executive director for the Great Yarmouth and Waveney Primary Care Trust, which opened my eyes to the reality of commissioning services for the NHS.

The team at Corton House and Brakendon Close have recently conquered the challenges of Covid 19 and deserve a huge thank you for all that has been achieved to ensure the safety, care, and comfort of our residents and tenants. Many of you, I know, have gone 'above and beyond'; that's what people do in our community and one of the reasons I remain committed and enthusiastic. I have had the pleasure of meeting many lovely people since joining the Corton House team and I am sure there will be more. We are particularly fortunate to have five new directors who have joined us in the last fifteen months and they bring their skills and expertise and tremendous enthusiasm for the future well-being of us all. The recent return to our good CQC rating is a positive step towards the future. Well done for this important achievement.

As we ease out of COVID restrictions, I am looking forward to visiting again and seeing you as it has been strange to work from a distance and not be able to visit as I once did.

August 2021

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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 435

AUGUST 2021

FROM THE SCHEME MANAGER

Our tenants finally got to enjoy a drink, cake, and a chat in our newly refurbished lounge.

Numbers are still limited as we proceed with caution, but it felt like a huge milestone as our lounge has been off limits since early 2020 due to Covid-19.

Here was an opportunity for this major work to be carried out with minimal impact on our tenants.

The feedback so far has been very positive, and the overriding consensus is how calming and serene the whole ambiance makes people feel.

There are still a few finishing touches to complete the whole project, which was a massive undertaking.

Everyone involved has worked so tirelessly and we can all now breathe a sigh of relief and satisfaction!

Grateful thanks go to all those involved from the planning stages to completion, and to our tenants for their patience and understanding.

We hope to include photos next month of the lounge itself when the additional features, such as pictures, have been added. In the meantime here are some photos from the first coffee sessions.

*Lorraine. Sue and Fran*



Shop Trolley with Mel  
Thursday 19th August 2021



FROM THE ACTIVITIES CO-ORDINATOR



We continued to try and find the joy so this month was called 'Joyful July'. Although it seemed there was not a lot of joy in tennis and European football we still had fun watching these sports.

We celebrated our CQC 'Good' report by having a garden party but the weather dictated otherwise with a torrential downpour. However, The SqueeGees who entertained us quickly adapted along with all the residents and staff to an indoor party which was enormous fun. We even sang 'Sweet Caroline' for the England football players to spur them on in the final! Afterwards everyone tucked into a delicious tea.

We continue with our games with two clear favourites at the moment, Quirkle and indoor bowls. There is usually a red versus blue team in the bowls and there is a lot of banter and cheering going on with a healthy competitiveness!! Typical English weather and the next week was sunny and hot so we had a pampering session in the garden with hand massages. A long awaited pamper and real treat was the arrival of two hairdressers to cut very overgrown hair!! We will always find things for which to be grateful.

*Maria*

Trees

I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in Summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.



*by Joyce Kilmer  
(supplied by KJ)*

