

# *Neighbours*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CORTON HOUSE AND  
BRAKENDON CLOSE

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**Welcome** to the latest bumper issue of Neighbours. I do hope you like its new look!

Some of you may not have met me yet, so to introduce myself: I'm Imogen, the new Marketing And Fundraising Coordinator. Aside from editing Neighbours, it is my job to let the wider world know about the lovely community we have here, to encourage new neighbours and future friends to join us, and to help raise money for our facilities and the activities we offer.

Thank you to all the staff, tenants and residents who have made me feel so very welcome so far. My first few weeks have been a pleasure, and have not felt like work at all! Please do approach me if you see me around Corton House and Brakendon Close, I am eager to get to know you all and hear your thoughts - particularly if you have a project or idea that may require funding.

If you would like to contribute to future issues of Neighbours, please email [ibowers@cortonhouse.co.uk](mailto:ibowers@cortonhouse.co.uk) or you can pass on a message via the Scheme Managers (Brakendon Close) or Activities Coordinator (Corton House). I will welcome all ideas, big or small. Thank you, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

IMOGEN - THE NEW ED

# *Last Month*



## *Norma Knits 500 Hats*

**Over** at Corton House, Norma has now knitted an incredible 500 baby hats for the Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital. Pictured is baby James looking very cosy in one of the hats. His mum Molly is the sister and aunt of two members of staff here at Corton House.



## *Farewell to Fran*

**The** newly revamped Blake Lounge in Brakendon Close was the venue for a delightful afternoon tea as tenants, staff and board members bid a fond farewell to Fran as she heads to Devon to be closer to family.



## *Christmas Tree Festival*

**Corton House** and Brakendon Close came together to decorate a Christmas tree as part of the Norwich Rotary Club's Christmas Tree Festival at St Peter Mancroft church, raising money for local charities. Our tree can be seen as part of the festival until 9th December, when we hope to return it to the grounds here to add a little festive cheer.

# From the Activities Coordinators

MARIA

**Remembrance Day** is very important to the residents and in our reminiscence session we discussed this. They also reflected on how it changed so many lives and the underlying feeling was how everyone pulled together for the greater good.

Some did some creative pictures and others wanted to watch all the coverage on TV, but everyone, including staff, showed their respect for all the sacrifices made.

Joyce found joy in showing her paintings and dolls again. A lot of the residents commented on how talented she was with both paintbrush and needle. The paintings were in acrylic, with a real mix of styles, and are the fruits of a hobby at home.

The dolls' clothes she made are lovely and Joyce encouraged anyone who was interested to have one.

Ken suggested that three of the dolls be donated to a charity called *Stepping Stones* who work with disabled children, and Joyce was thrilled as many years ago she worked



with young people with special needs.

Doreen also found joy as at last she could meet her great grandson Huw who came in with her daughter and two granddaughters - a real family affair!

We had a visit from Ceinwen, who has been involved with Corton House for many years - she was a music teacher and 46 years ago when she worked for a local school would put on a Christmas concert at Corton House. She entertained the residents by playing her beautiful harp and they were thrilled to listen, sing and relax to the soothing sound of this instrument.

On the theme of relaxation the residents had a wonderful afternoon having hand massages and listening to their favourite music - a bit of pampering - always a joy!



# *From the Scheme Manager*

LORRAINE

Our tenants are appreciating a tentative return to normality! They have enjoyed an afternoon tea, fish & chip lunch, and a cinema experience throughout November.

We are cautiously hosting events in our Blake Lounge at last and have a few booked in already for December.

We are very lucky to be able to hold two separate activities running concurrently in our lounge, which is now split into two areas. We are now able to facilitate a games afternoon in one area, whilst our knitting group click away with their knitting needles, making beautiful, knitted items for charity in the other area.



Our book club is up and running again with very welcome monthly deliveries from the Millennium Library volunteers.

We have a quiz afternoon created and hosted by two of our tenants (now that our clever Fran has left!). I am very grateful to those tenants for taking this on!

Our days are becoming gloomier with fewer hours of daylight, but we shall soon be shining bright when our Christmas trees and decorations come out of their boxes to light up Brakendon Close! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year everyone!



# ***NEW! Games Afternoon***

Brakendon Close - head to the Blake Lounge on Wednesday afternoons at 2pm for an all new games afternoon, with a choice of games so far including Dominoes, Upwords, and Connect Four. If you have a board game gathering dust that you can contribute it would be very gratefully received - just bring it along to the games afternoon!



# ***From the Chair of the Board***

MARIAN GEORGE

As the year draws to a close I wanted to take this opportunity to thank Reverend Daphne for all the help and support she has given our small community over the years and wish her well in her retirement and new home.

I'm delighted that Reverend Rhonwen Washford will be joining us in the New Year as our new Chaplain.


Rhonwen has written a short introductory piece for this issue. I hope you get to meet her soon.

I wish all the residents, tenants and staff of Corton House and Brakendon Close a Happy Christmas, and best wishes for the New Year. Take Care, Marian



# ***Garden Survey***

An enormous thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our recent survey about upgrades to the gardens here at Corton House and Brakendon Close. We are in the process of applying for funding and will keep you all posted on our progress! *IMOGEN*



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GIVE THE HAPPY ADIEU TO  
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# The Tradition of Advent

FROM DAPHNE

“

ADVENT is the period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas. Advent means 'Coming' in Latin. This is the coming of Jesus into the world. Christians use the four Sundays and weeks of Advent to prepare, and remember the real meaning of Christmas.

There are three meanings of 'coming' that Christians describe in Advent.

The first, and most thought of, happened over 2000 years ago when Jesus came into the world as a baby to live as a man and die for us. The second can happen now as Jesus wants to come into our lives, The third will happen in future when Jesus comes back to the world as King and Judge, not as a baby.

No one is sure when Advent was first celebrated but it dates back to at least 567 when monks were ordered to fast during December.

An Advent wreath is used in many Churches for the countdown to Christmas.

The wreath is made of moss, holly and ivy with traditionally four red candles - lit on each Sunday of Advent - and a white candle in the centre which is lit on Christmas day, representing the Christ Child, bringer of light for the world.

In many Churches today, the colour purple is used to signify the season of Advent. On the third Sunday, representing Mary, the colour is changed to pink or rose. The first candle represents Isaiah and the prophets; the second the Bible; the third Mary and the fourth John the Baptist who told the people in Israel to get ready for Jesus. More recently, Hope, Joy, Peace and Love represent the four candles. On each Sunday, the sermon and service usually follow whichever theme is used.

Advent Calendars were popular in Germany in the 1900's, in the UK from 1956 onwards, with the first chocolate calendar in 1958. An opportunity to open a 'door' each day of Advent discovering a Christmas thought in picture word or obviously a chocolate in others. A reminder to us all to prepare once again for Christ's coming.

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# *From Our New Chaplain*

REV. RHONWEN WASHFORD

**I am pleased** to have been appointed Chaplain from the 1st of January 2022 and I have been asked to introduce myself.

I began my nursing career at St Bartholomew Hospital in London in 1969, married my husband Andrew in 1971, had 4 children and have 3 grandchildren. When we moved to Norfolk I resumed my nursing career at the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital.

In 1990, I became a lay minister in the Church of England and continued to combine both nursing and preaching.

In 2003, Bishop Graham James (now retired) encouraged me to test my vocation to the priesthood and to remain in nursing.

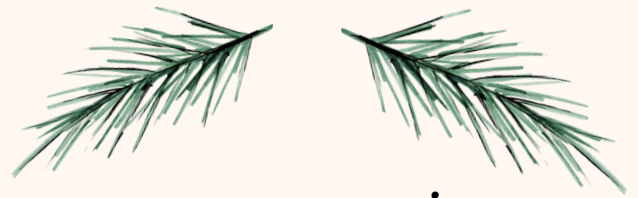
I was ordained in June 2008 in Norwich Cathedral and subsequently became honorary Chaplain to my patients in the dialysis unit.

I retired from nursing in 2017 in order to care for my husband Andrew at home. Now widowed I continue to take services in churches around the county as requested.

It was a total surprise to me when I was asked by Reverend Daphne to consider being your Chaplain. After much prayer and thought and help from your Chair Person and others, I accepted the role and hope we shall get to know each other.

May God bless you.

Reverend Ronnie



***"BLESSED IS THE  
SEASON WHICH  
ENGAGES THE WHOLE  
WORLD IN A  
CONSPIRACY OF LOVE."***

- HAMILTON WRIGHT MABIE,  
AMERICAN ESSAYIST



