



## From the New Year to blossom on the Stray!

The New Year soon gave way to the more routine activities at Brackenley. There has been so much going on over the past 4 months that we have decided to include a selection from activities in order, for each of the months February, March, April and May.



## Our Home Manager says...



**Jan Wright**

Hello again, as you can see we have been very busy over the last few months and we have a lot more planned for the summer. Our activities coordinator Dawn is doing a fantastic job of finding new experiences for our clients, she also introduced 'fruit of the month' so that the clients can get creative and prepare deserts using the fruit as a base.

Two of our team are currently on maternity leave, our clients were very excited to throw a baby shower for them which involved games and afternoon tea which was great fun, we are looking forward to meeting the babies.

I want to thank family and friends for their continued support, it makes our job more satisfying knowing the support is there if needed.

I hope you all have as lovely summer as we plan to.

# FUN IN FEBRUARY!

Rather dark and wintry days were livened up with Rosie's baking, Pete's birthday and the monthly visit of the food truck van!



Laura loved the visit to see (and handle) the Reptiles and doesn't look at all apprehensive, while a trip to the theatre livened up February for some residents! For others like Adrian, some time in his rocking chair was just what he needed.



Two of the Brackenley staff were going on maternity leave so we held a baby shower! Resident and staff decorated bibs with fabric pens together, played baby bingo and enjoyed a lovely buffet tea with popcorn as a reminder that they were 'ready to pop!'

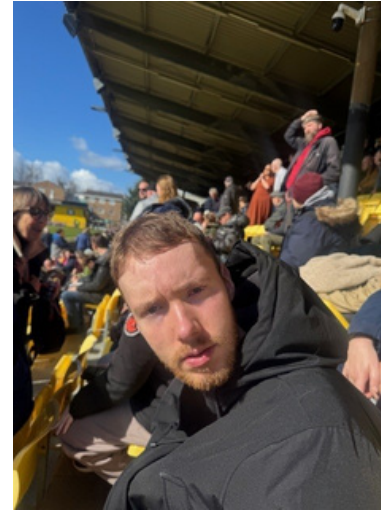


# MAKING MEMORIES IN MARCH!

As the days got a little warmer, in March, Rosie was enjoying some time outdoors; she always loves how peaceful it is outdoors. We celebrated another birthday, this time for Paula; her list of birthday wishes gave plenty of scope for partying and included a visit to the wool shop for some carefully selected items.



Laura also had a birthday to celebrate and so did Jack, which included a much enjoyed trip to the Jodpur for a curry and a visit to watch Harrogate Town.



Adrian had some fun shredding hand towels, while Adam enjoyed visits to the Cenotaph and to Emsby Railway.



# ADVENTURES IN APRIL!

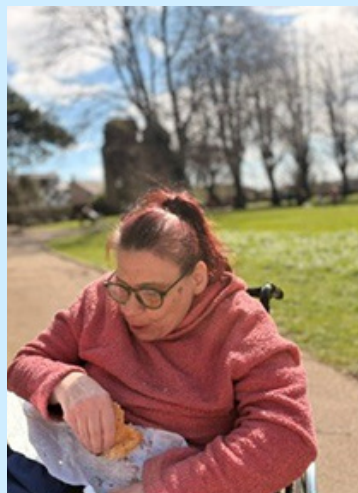
As April arrived, Adrian enjoyed a trip out and a haircut and Chrissie took advantage of Easter time and made some indulgent Easter Chocolate Brownies using the Easy Read 'Together We Cook' recipes from our website.



Like many other people in Harrogate, Jack went out to see the cherry blossoms; the rain didn't dampen his spirits but he did enjoy returning home to get under a duvet and watch a film. Meanwhile, Paula enjoyed another Harrogate tradition; a pot of tea and a scone. Our fruit of the month was strawberries and we enjoyed some of them dipped in chocolate.



Rosie enjoyed more time outside walking and together with Dianne enjoyed a trip to Knaresborough waterfront for a picnic. Paula, Rosie and Dianne dodged the April showers and made the trip to Swinsty reservoir, to enjoy the view and feed the ducks.



# MAGIC MOMENTS IN MAY!

April showers gave way to more showers but also some lovely sunshine. Residents continued to enjoy a range of hobbies and some paid a visit to the Harrogate Flower Show.



We have been making the most of the warmer weather and have made plant pots to show off some plants. A visit to Birchfield farm to pick tulips was a great experience for Pippa, Paula and Rosie.



Paula decided that, since she loves flowers so much, she would have them delivered to her once a month! Flowers and plants are not everyone's first choice and Peter and Adam can be seen here very much enjoying a music session!



# SPRING TIME AT THE DAY CENTRE!



The Brackenley residents have taken part in a packed programme of activities in the Day Centre throughout the Spring term. Pippa, Dianne and Paula participated in a range of seasonal Arts and Crafts groups. Chrissie and the Baking Enterprise group raised funds for Red Nose Day by making and selling their special red nose cake. Peter continued to push himself at the gym.

Dianne and Pippa have been hard at work at the allotment harvesting seasonal vegetables, planting seeds and clearing the plot after winter.

Finally, Chrissie and the Newsletter Group have been busy photographing and writing about the Day Centre's activities for the latest edition of the Believe and Achieve newsletter.



# WELCOME BACK TO LYDIA!

We are absolutely delighted to welcome Lydia back to the Brackenley family. Lydia previously worked with us and quickly became an integral part of the team, building strong relationships with both clients and colleagues alike.

Welcome back Lydia - we look forward to seeing her continue to thrive in her role.



## BRACKENLEY FAMILY SURVEY!



We really value your feedback and would encourage you to complete our family survey. For your convenience, you can choose to fill it in online by entering the link provided, or complete the paper copy enclosed. To make things as easy as possible, we have included a stamped addressed envelope, as we understand how busy daily life can be. Every response is greatly appreciated and helps us continue to improve the support and experiences we offer.

Survey link: [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/647MQ0/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/647MQ0/)



## OUR GARDEN IS SUMMER READY!

In April we were lucky enough to have a team of volunteers from Harrogate Community Fit through Harrogate & District Community Action help us get our garden summer ready! Laura and Chrissie also got hands on and helped.

Thank you so much to all the volunteers for all their hard-work - the garden is spring-summer ready for all our residents to enjoy the sunshine!



# OUR ANNUAL SUMMER BBQ!

Make sure you have marked your calendars for our annual family & friends summer BBQ!

# SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JULY

# 12.30pm - 5pm



We look forward to an afternoon of live music, food, games and our annual raffle...with some amazing prizes to be won!

Food and soft drinks will be provided, please feel free to bring your own wine/beer.

## OUR INTERIM CEO SAYS...

It's been a real pleasure to look back over the past few months and reflect on the wide range of activities and experiences that have taken place across Brackenley. From creative sessions and trips out into the local community, to celebrations, seasonal events and those quieter everyday moments that mean so much, it's clear just how much thought, care and enthusiasm goes into ensuring each person has opportunities to engage, enjoy and thrive. Seeing the variety and consistency of what has been on offer truly highlights the dedication of the team and the importance of creating meaningful, person-centred experiences for everyone we support.

I am also delighted to share the news that my interim role has now become permanent for the foreseeable future. It is a privilege to continue in this position and to work alongside such committed colleagues, residents and families as we look ahead to the next stage of our journey together. As we continue to develop and improve what we offer, your feedback plays a vital role in shaping our future direction. I would strongly encourage all families and friends to take a few moments to complete the survey, as your views genuinely make a difference and help ensure we are providing the best possible support and opportunities for our residents.



**Julia Moor**