



# BRIARDENE NEWS!

Spring 2026 edition!



## Spring Blossoms and Sunny Smiles!

We have said farewell to the Cherry Blossoms already and are heading for mid-Summer, so this newsletter is a good opportunity to look back over some of the activities that have taken place since the New Year at Briardene.



## Our Home Manager says...

As I'm sure you are all aware this has been an extremely sad time for all associated with Harrogate Skills for Living with the passing of our much-loved resident Hannah Wade. Hannah has been a huge part of Briardene and the day service for fifteen very happy years with us. The staff and residents have found this a very challenging time, whilst trying to support her family as much as we could. Many of the staff and residents attended her funeral and received some very positive praise throughout the service and wake from Hannah's family and friends. The family have provided the home with a very generous donation to be used for days out in Hannah's memory this summer. Planning for the days has already begun. In other news the residents have begun to plan and book their holidays and other trips this year, something that has been a positive distraction for them.



Paulsimon Robinson

## FABULOUS FEBRUARY!

February saw a selection of essential 'cosy' activities – what better way to get through the dark days and head towards Spring! We also recognised International Kite Day, originating in India in the month of January. We celebrated it here by residents creating their own kite designs. And finally for February, it is International Margarita Day when all over the world, enthusiasts are encouraged to enjoy margaritas in all forms; the photos speak for themselves!



## MARVELLOUS MARCH!

There always seems to be a birthday on the horizon and this time it was the turn of Emma, with a very special pork pie birthday 'cake' as was her wish. There was cake for Lizzie and a game of 'hat, scarf, gloves' to see who could manage to eat the chocolate first! Our residents also enjoyed making biscuits and, no doubt, eating the final products.



## AWESOME APRIL!

Next, it was Cecila's birthday and Alison and Vicky enjoyed a holiday in Filey. Easter is always a good opportunity for an Easter Egg hunt and this year, residents also enjoyed an egg and spoon race followed by some Easter Egg colouring.



## MAGNIFICENT MAY!

World Baking Day gave us a great excuse to enjoy some more baking and concentrate fully on the task in hand. Karen enjoys watching the fish and decided to buy some more. Some of the residents enjoyed one of the top Harrogate traditions – a visit to the annual Flower Show; the weather helped us out and made the visit a really enjoyable experience.



# SPRING TERM FUN AT THE DAY CENTRE!

The Briardene residents have taken part in a packed programme of activities in the Day Centre throughout the Spring term (sadly we don't have photos of everyone to share in this newsletter).

Colleen, Kim, Cecilia, Sally, Celeste, Emma, Jessica and Alex participated in a range of seasonal Arts and Crafts groups activities.

Alex has been hard at work at the allotment harvesting seasonal vegetables, planting seeds and clearing the plot after winter. Celeste helped cut the vegetables in the Takeaway Cooking group.

Emma and Kim have been busy producing some delicious food in Healthy Soups, Seasonal Lunches whilst Sally was busy writing the final chapters of her story "Willy Wonker and Princess Sally" in Reading and Creative Writing.

Finally, Kim 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.



# STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS!

We would love to welcome Nazrin to our team!

Nazrin has been providing cover for Katie for the last 6 months. Katie will unfortunately not be returning, due to health reasons.

Nazrin is extremely popular with all the residents and staff and has a very happy, committed, and caring nature.



## 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.



# BRIARDENE 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/3ZMSDP/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/3ZMSDP/)



## 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 Briardene from Filey to Flower shows. The home is missing our lovely Hannah but it's lovely to hear our residents talk about their memories with her. We are all dearly hoping the rains end next month in time for the annual BBQ but we have enough marquees and gazebos to ensure that if it doesn't we will be prepared and undeterred.

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**

