

# *The Willows Whisper*

*June issue*



## *In Summer*

Paul Laurence Dunbar - 1872-1906

Oh, summer has clothed the earth  
In a cloak from the loom of the sun!  
And a mantle, too, of the skies' soft blue,  
And a belt where the rivers run.  
And now for the kiss of the wind,  
And the touch of the air's soft hands,  
With the rest from strife and the heat of life,  
With the freedom of lakes and lands.  
I envy the farmer's boy  
Who sings as he follows the plow;  
While the shining green of the young blades  
lean  
To the breezes that cool his brow.  
He sings to the dewy morn,  
No thought of another's ear;  
But the song he sings is a chant for kings  
And the whole wide world to hear.

He sings of the joys of life,  
Of the pleasures of work and rest,  
From an o'erfull heart, without aim or art;  
'T is a song of the merriest.  
O ye who toil in the town,  
And ye who moil in the mart,  
Hear the artless song, and your faith made  
strong  
Shall renew your joy of heart.  
Oh, poor were the worth of the world  
If never a song were heard,—  
If the sting of grief had no relief,  
And never a heart were stirred.  
So, long as the streams run down,  
And as long as the robins trill,  
Let us taunt old Care with a merry air,  
And sing in the face of ill.

## Until we meet again....

*On 1<sup>st</sup> June, care staff and residents of the Willows said their last goodbyes to Kathleen Perry, who would have been 105 on 28<sup>th</sup> of May...*



Blessed with good health, Kathleen Perry was born in the middle of the Great War, lived throughout the Second War, witnessed most significant changes in life and history.

From 2016 Kathleen became a member of The Willows family.

Although she was confined to a wheelchair, she used to join in with the activities in the home. Kath was particularly fond of playing skittles, she loved to read her weekly Loughborough

Echo and jokingly checked memorial pages just in case she was in it.



Kathleen Perry grew up on a farm in Six Hills and then went on to serve as a domestic at Ragdale Hall. There she spent her early years learning to be a good cook and housekeeper, when she met her husband Frank Perry who was serving in the army.

They had two sons, and settled in Loughborough. Kathleen became one of, if not the first, lady taxi-drivers in Loughborough where she was very well known.

Kathleen was born into a family which had just experienced a member's death caused by a bomb dropped from a German Zeppelin into the Rushes at Loughborough in 1916.

On 1<sup>st</sup> of June, 2021 family and friends from all over the UK gathered at Bramcote Chapel in Nottingham to celebrate Kathleen's life. Her son Maurice, with the assistance of his brother Michael, conducted the ceremony. Kathleen's ashes will be scattered later in the year over her parents' grave at Hathern cemetery.



## Half of a century together and still going strong!



The story goes like this...

They met at Yvonne's cousins 17<sup>th</sup> Birthday party, where Barry dropped off his brother.

Their eyes met and that was it!

Yvonne recalls: "I wasn't interested at first as I had just started my nurse training so every time he asked me out, I was busy..."

On one occasion she trotted off to the gates of the hospital with the intention to stand Barry up but there he was, not by himself but with his brother and girlfriend... she couldn't say 'no'. So, they went on their first date. The rest is history!

Yvonne said that on the day they married 12 months later, The Jackson 5 were the Top of the Pops! Yvonne wore a pink dress and navy waistcoat with a pom pom bouquet of white and pink flowers. Barry wore a silver grey suit. The weather wasn't the best to start the day, but it finished with a nice bright day. After 30 months they welcomed a daughter and 18 months later a son.

Yvonne said: "What is the magic of 50 years I have not got a clue...but have always put our family first. The world has changed so much in 50 years! Man walking on the moon, computers, everyone having foreign holidays, so many cars on the road. We have 50 years of memories some good, some not so good but through it all Barry has been there for me and I have been there for him. Our family is our greatest achievement. Our love will continue as our family expands, they are our legacy" One can't wish for more!

Fifty happy ever after years later the residents and the staff of the Willows took part in a surprise celebration for Yvonne and Barry. There were tears of happiness, flowers, balloons and delicious cake cooked by Sharon. On the actual day of the wedding anniversary there were combined celebrations of Yvonne and Barry's 50 glorious years together and 18<sup>th</sup> birthday garden party for their grandson.



Yvonne said that their house looked like flower shop!



# Teddy Bear Picnic!

A large group of Teddies arrived at The Willows hoping to find a new home. We organised a Teddy bears picnic to rehome those Teddies and find new owners for them. Another joyful tea party with delicious food prepared by our chefs Stacey and Angie. Many Teddies found new ‘mummies. Our residents enjoyed delicious food, especially the teddy bear shaped sarnies filled with honey. That was a kind of a party that Paddington Bear would be proud of!



Betty, in the picture on the top right, loves Teddies very much. Her giant white bear came over from America many years ago. A family member decided to donate him to be rehomed at our picnic party. For Betty it was love at first sight. She said: “I love him! Can I have him? Bears are good for you...”





# What are we playing at?

We have been having a lot of fun in and out of visits with our families... Our weekends especially are very precious to us...and we make sure we make the most of our time with the Residents.





## V E Day celebrations at The Willows

V E Day celebrated by residents and staff enjoying delicious food prepared by Stacey and Angie in old fashion way. There were cucumber sarnies, scones and beautifully crafted Victoria sponge cake! Residents enjoyed a bit of sing along to Max Bygrave's songs and sipping delicious Pimm's punch.



## Best of luck in your new adventure Trish!

At the end of May we wished our best to Trisha Fawcett, who moved on to start her new job in London.

At The willows Trish worked as a senior care assistant at for 5 years. She coached many young carers, introducing them to their new duties. She built strong relationships with our residents and will be missed!

