

Update from the Home

Welcome,

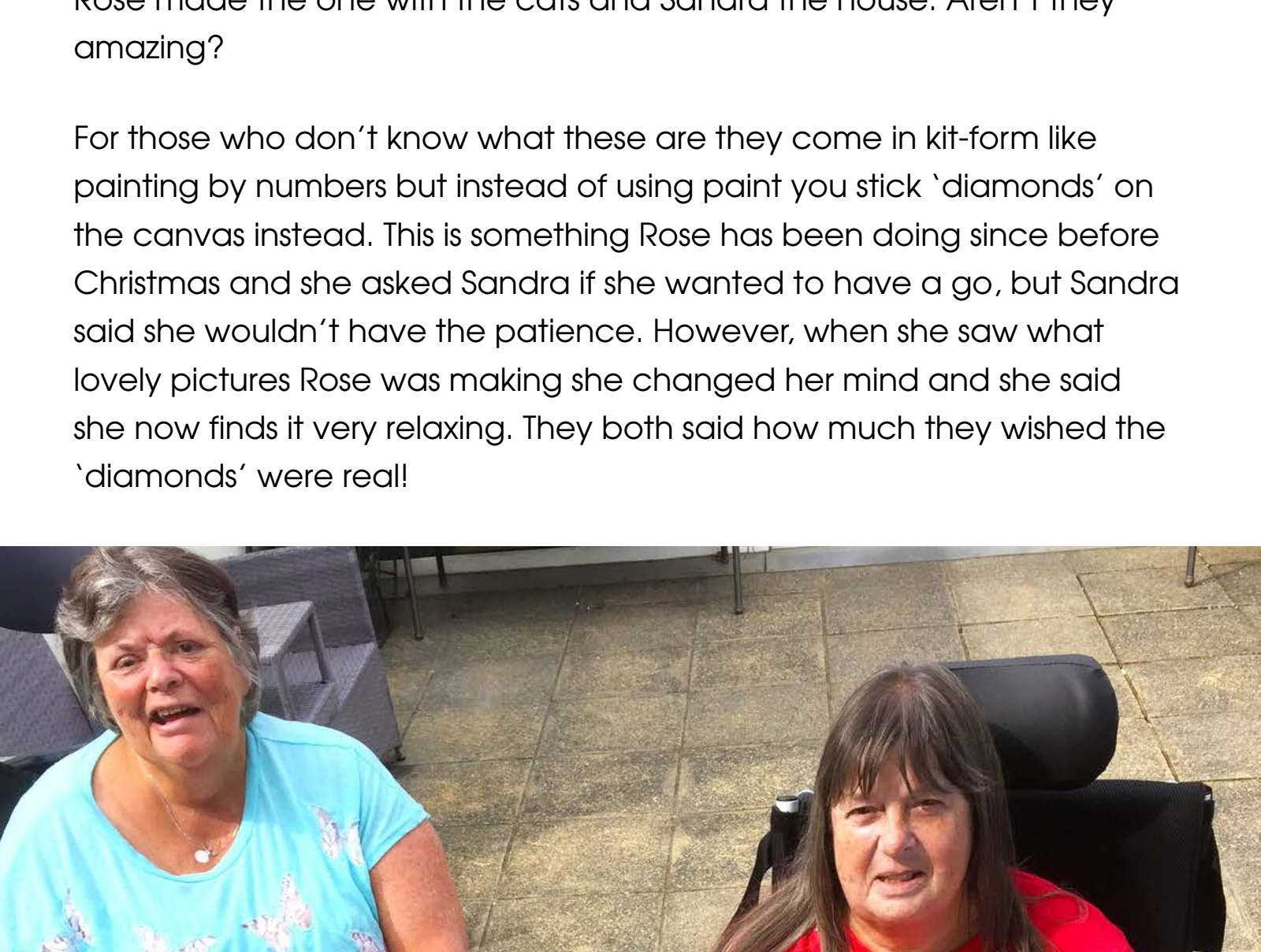
As I am sure you can imagine, the past three months in lockdown have been difficult for the Home.

Luckily the Home went into lockdown early in March and everyone has remained well. Although the residents were disappointed that they were unable to go to their usual social events such as Ron Short, 'wheelchair football' at Beau Sejour, wheelchair dancing and enjoy visits to and from family and friends they fully agreed with this decision and have been amazingly upbeat about it all.

This is due, in no small part, to staff working hard to keep up their morale and making sure they don't lose out even though their freedom of movement has been curtailed. Sarah and Lianne together with the rest of the care staff worked on ways to continue to maintain communication and contact with friends and family, though obviously not directly. They also organised activities for residents to enjoy, including bingo, quizzes, cinema days, beetle drives, cards, Uno – specially adapted so that Colin, (who is registered blind), is able to play as well – all whilst managing to maintain social distancing.

This is what our Home is all about – adapting to changes in circumstances and putting the residents at the forefront of all we do.

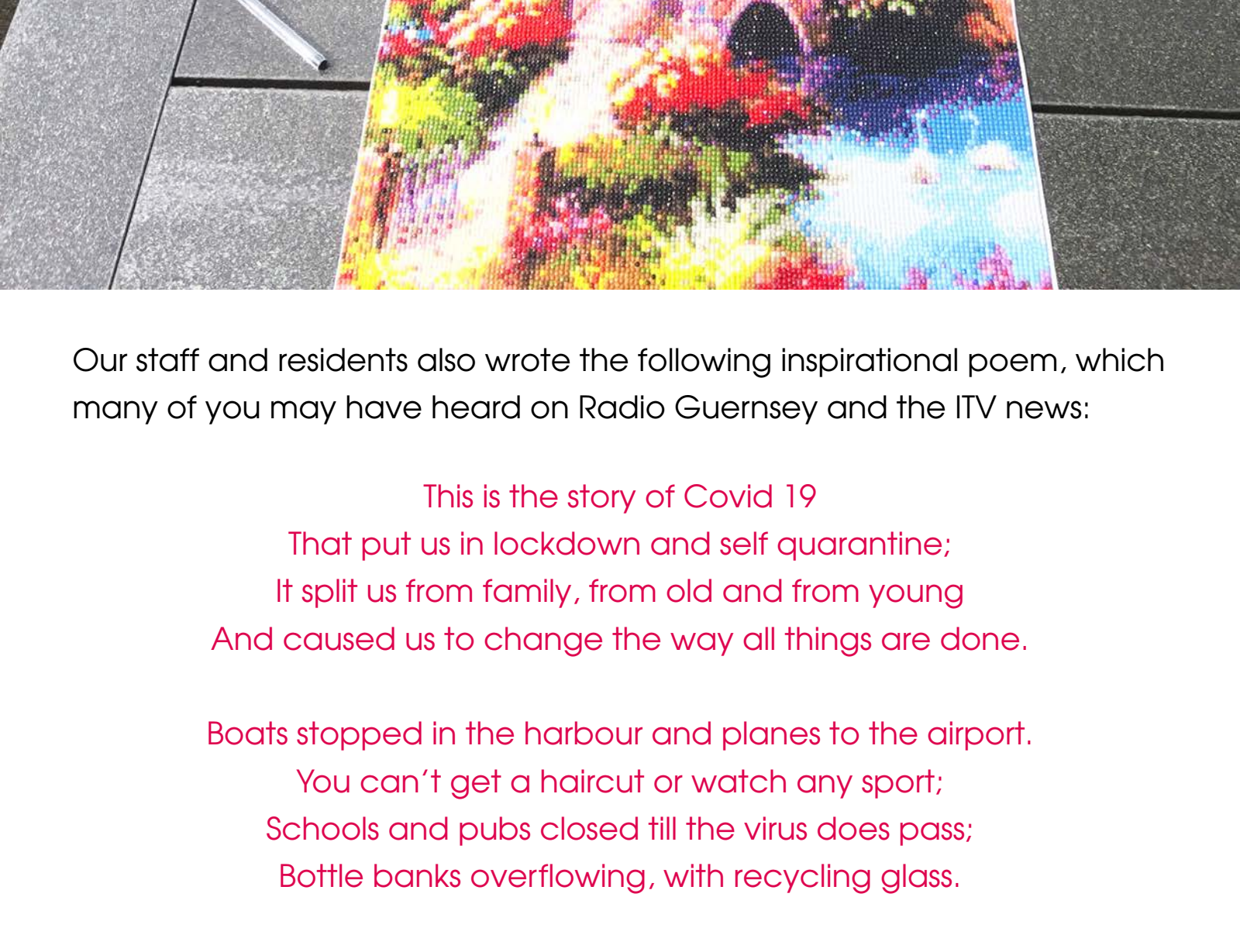
As you will understand, the protection of our residents is paramount and we thank you for your thoughts and messages of support at this unprecedented time.



Residents

Two of our residents, Rose and Sandra have managed to keep themselves busy by making these delightful 'Sticky Diamond' pictures. Rose made the one with the cats and Sandra the house. Aren't they amazing?

For those who don't know what these are they come in kit-form like painting by numbers but instead of using paint you stick 'diamonds' on the canvas instead. This is something Rose has been doing since before Christmas and she asked Sandra if she wanted to have a go, but Sandra said she wouldn't have the patience. However, when she saw what lovely pictures Rose was making she changed her mind and she said she now finds it very relaxing. They both said how much they wished the 'diamonds' were real!



Our staff and residents also wrote the following inspirational poem, which many of you may have heard on Radio Guernsey and the ITV news:

This is the story of Covid 19
That put us in lockdown and self quarantine;
It split us from family, from old and from young
And caused us to change the way all things are done.

Boats stopped in the harbour and planes to the airport.
You can't get a haircut or watch any sport;
Schools and pubs closed till the virus does pass;
Bottle banks overflowing, with recycling glass.

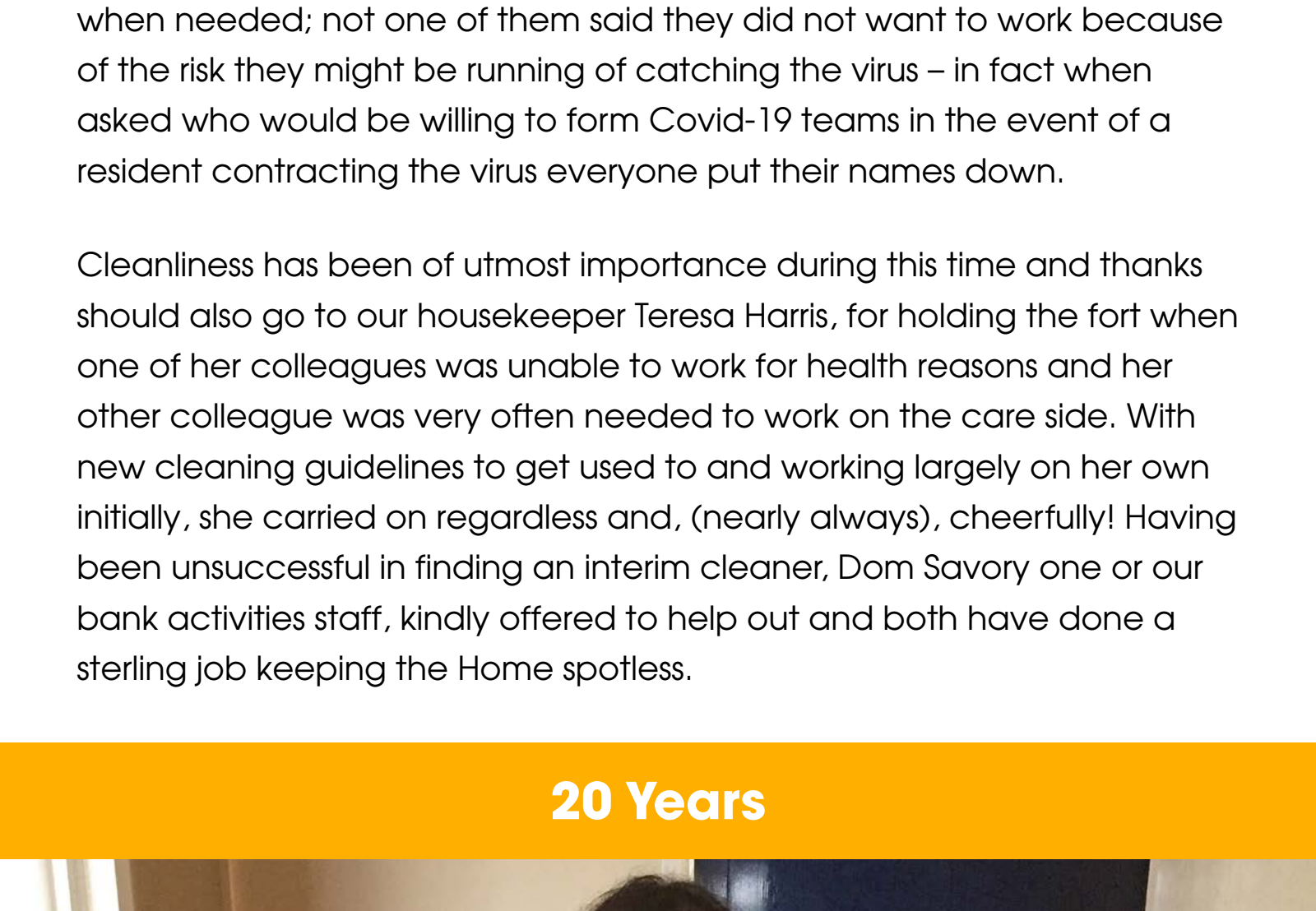
To the shopkeepers, bin men, delivery drivers,
The teachers and posties and hospital porters;
To Gavin and Heidi and Nicola Brink
You are truly amazing, of that we all think.

Your rainbows in windows are helping the workers;
Applauses on Thursdays are real tear jerkers.
Morale is still high, we will see this thing through;
Doctors, nurses and care staff, we admire what you do.

Our thoughts are with everyone staying at home;
We know it's not easy for those on their own.
We will beat this damn virus, it may be a fight -
It's called 'Guernsey Together', we WILL be alright.

During lockdown we celebrated two of our residents' and our Home Manager's significant birthdays - Angela's 85th; Michele's 60th and Nic's 60th. Normally we would have held a party for them but they still managed to have a good time as you can see from the photos.

Once everything gets back to normal we are planning to hold the party of all parties for our residents, day visitors, staff and supporters so that we can celebrate properly!



Staff

Huge thanks must go to Sarah, our Deputy Manager and Lianne, one of our RGNs for holding the fort whilst Nic was on holiday at the very beginning of the lock-down and for preparing and implementing all the Covid-19 policies and procedures, which were numerous and constantly being updated or changed; with new guidelines being issued by Public Health on a regular basis.

They also spent time away from their families by taking it in turns to move into the respite room for a week at a time to ensure that not only were they never on shift at the same time, but should there be an outbreak of the virus at the Home at least one of them would be on hand to deal with it.

Thanks also go to care staff who were able and willing to do extra shifts when needed; not one of them said they did not want to work because of the risk they might be running of catching the virus – in fact when asked who would be willing to form Covid-19 teams in the event of a resident contracting the virus everyone put their names down.

Cleanliness has been of utmost importance during this time and thanks should also go to our housekeeper Teresa Harris, for holding the fort when one of her colleagues was unable to work for health reasons and her other colleague was very often needed to work on the care side. With new cleaning guidelines to get used to and working largely on her own initially, she carried on regardless and, (nearly always), cheerfully! Having been unsuccessful in finding an interim cleaner, Dom Savory one of our bank activities staff, kindly offered to help out and both have done a sterling job keeping the Home spotless.

20 Years



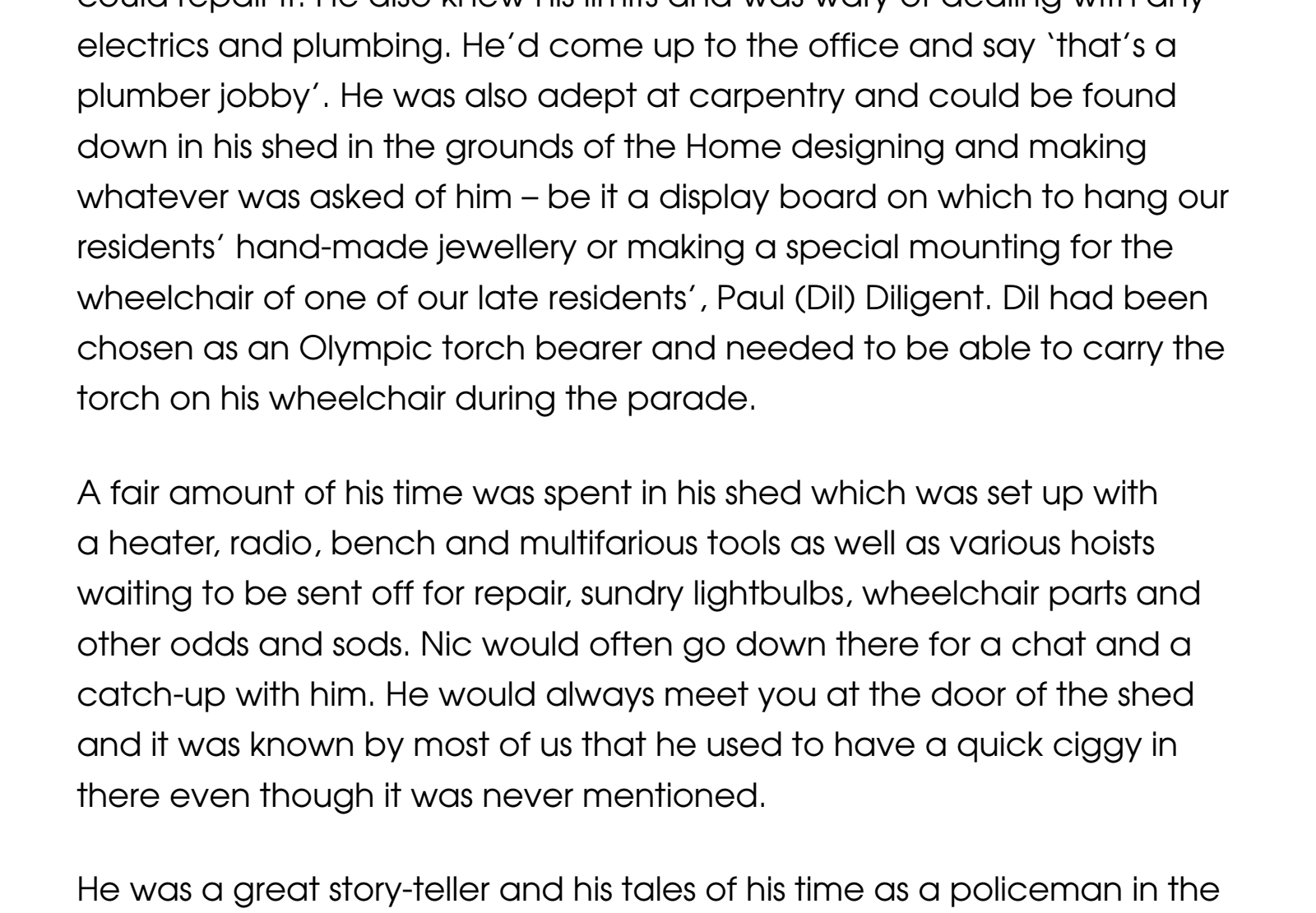
One of our staff, Kelly Ogier, celebrates 20 years at the Home this July and we asked her what made her decide to become a carer. She said she started as a full-time carer for her mum, Gill, in 1997 when she was only 16 and this gave her a passion to look after and help those in need.

Kelly is a senior member of the care staff, is a co-ordinator and gained her VQ3 Diploma in Health and Social Care in 2014, as well as taking up the role of VQ student representative at the Institute in 2013. Kelly enjoys mentoring new staff and watching them develop into competent carers. She also has a special interest in medication and palliative care.

Not only does Kelly enjoy running bingo events for residents and day visitors, she has also organised several bingo nights at the Royal Britannia to raise funds for the Home particularly enjoyed accompanying one of our late residents, Jackie Dorey to meet the Queen at Beau Sejour in 2005 and the late Gavin Marsh to the Guernsey Festivals in 2011 and 2012.

She says she is very proud of what she has achieved at the Home and rightly so. Kelly is well liked and respected by residents and staff and is affectionately known by us as 'Matron'. Here's to the next 20 years, Kelly!

Keith Bowering



We are so sad that one of our long-standing members of staff, Keith Bowering, passed away in February. This was a shock to everyone as although we knew he was unwell we were not aware of how serious it was. That was so typical of Keith – downplaying his illness and always looking on the bright side.

For those who didn't know him, he was our handyman/go-to-man for any problems with hoists, wheelchairs, vans, beds – you name it he could repair it. He also knew his limits and was wary of dealing with any electrics and plumbing. He'd come up to the office and say 'that's a plumber jobby'. He was also adept at carpentry and could be found down in his shed in the grounds of the Home designing and making whatever was asked of him – be it a display board on which to hang our residents' hand-made jewellery or making a special mounting for the wheelchair of one of our late residents', Paul (Dil) Diligent. Dil had been chosen as an Olympic torch bearer and needed to be able to carry the torch on his wheelchair during the parade.

A fair amount of his time was spent in his shed which was set up with a heater, radio, bench and multifarious tools as well as various hoists waiting to be sent off for repair, sundry lightbulbs, wheelchair parts and other odds and sods. Nic would often go down there for a chat and a catch-up with him. He would always meet you at the door of the shed and it was known by most of us that he used to have a quick ciggy in there even though it was never mentioned.

He was a great story-teller and his tales of his time as a policeman in the UK were legendary – particularly those about one of his dogs which used to bite not only every suspected villain they came across, but also Keith himself if no-one else was available!

He was a gentle man with a great sense of humour and one who would offer a helping hand to anyone. The fact that he chose 'Always look on the bright side of life' as the final song at his funeral says it all. He was loved and respected by all at the Home and we miss him very much.

Training

Prior to the lockdown, care staff and our chefs undertook training with the SALT (Speech and Language Therapy) team from the Board of Health who spoke, amongst other things, about the recommended ways to reduce the chance of choking when eating. They found this very useful for dealing with residents who, because of their condition, are more susceptible to this type of problem.

Training courses are very often suggested by the staff so that they can enhance their knowledge and understanding of our residents' particular needs and how to best meet them.

Thank you for supporting the Home

