

MONDAY CLUB

by Tom Skipp

During lockdown I began to think how community had ceased and how would it continue? I thought about how I needed community as a luxury and that others might need their community to survive.

What happens to people on the margins without community?

'The Monday Club' is a social group in Bristol run by a local charity "BS3 Community". The group members meet weekly at the Southville Centre, they are supported by the staff and volunteers and importantly they support each other, to keep active and well.

The Monday Club closed due to Covid-19 but staff and volunteers are working hard to keep in contact with members who are isolated at home.



MARGARET

I met Margaret on her 86th birthday.
The charity had organised for *Monday Club*
staff and volunteers to gather at her door,
bring her some gifts and sing her Happy Birthday.

This was the room that Margaret was born in
86 years ago and she's lived here ever since.

Her sister died a month ago and it's
on days like this that she misses her.

Margaret





BERYL

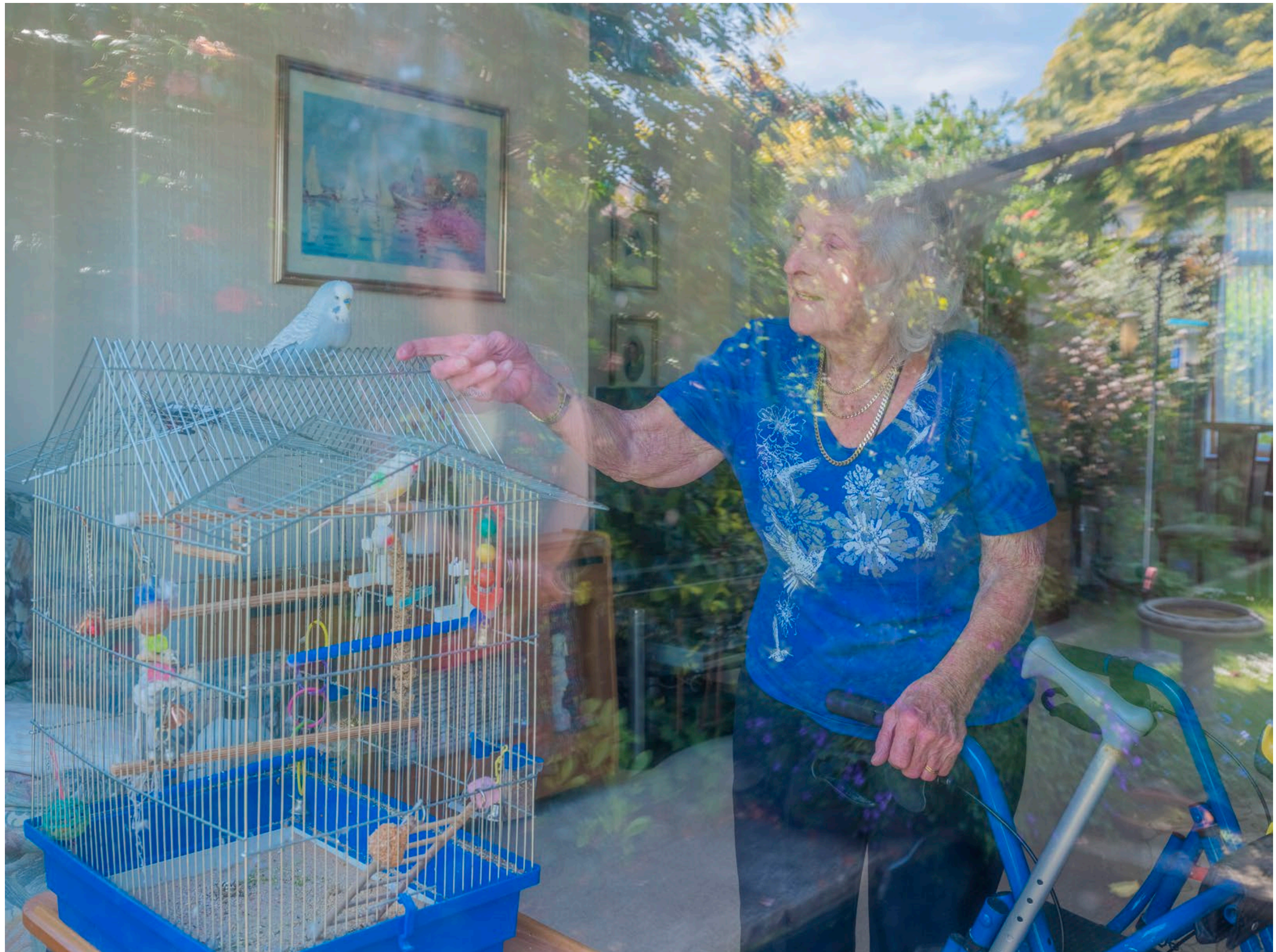
Beryl's daughter has been tending the garden.
She's not been attending *Monday Club*.

I asked Beryl whether she'd ever experienced
anything like it, "Not even the war was this bad,
we had rations, but you could go out."

Beryl is finding that she's becoming less mobile
without attending the *Monday Club*.









JOAN

Joan has been attending the *Monday Club* for over two years. She really enjoys the afternoon entertainment that the charity provides like singing, craft activities and talks.

She often asked the staff members for their advice and they would help her to get the right information. She is now relying on her cousin who kindly comes to “Sort out her bills” or any other things that are on her mind.

Joan



Joan





SUE

Sue has volunteered at the *Monday Club* for a long time.
She lives with her husband Glen and their son Erik.

Sue has missed seeing all the club members,
who she considers her friends.





ROSE

Rose is really missing *Monday Club*. She's keen to meet her friends again, hopefully soon.

She's missed the weekly homecooked meals that she has at the club with the other members.

"It's like a second home."

Rose



Rose



The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of several purple iris flowers with bright yellow centers. The flowers are set against a dark, blurred background of green leaves and other flowers, creating a moody and artistic atmosphere.

LIZ

Liz is a volunteer at the *Monday Club*.

Liz lives with her husband Peter who's really missed using his season ticket at Bristol City.

Liz's lockdown has improved since he recent arrival of a new granddaughter.





CHRISTINA

Christina is determined to remain independent; she goes out walking every day and enjoys cooking for herself.

Originally from Limerick she has made Bristol her home and she went to the *Monday Club* regularly.

Christina is really looking forward to when she can see the *Monday Club* again.





CHRIS

Chris hasn't been out of her home at all during lockdown and she has felt sad at times particularly as she has a friend who has just lost their partner to coronavirus.

She's kept herself busy in her garden and with jigsaw puzzles that the *Monday Club* has dropped off for her.





STEPH

Steph is one of the staff that runs *Monday Club*.

Steph often does arts and crafts activities for members, like candle making or pot decoration.

Steph has been working really hard during the pandemic to ensure that the members are OK; she rings everyone each week and has sent jigsaw puzzles, colouring books to them.





JACKIE

Jackie has volunteered at the *Monday club* for more than 10 years and is missing the routine.

Jackie's husband Alan died two years ago, they were best friends and she is finding some days hard. She has become more anxious about leaving her house and stopped watching news updates because it makes her feel worse.

Luckily she's in touch with the other volunteers and her loving family who keep her spirits up.



Jackie

