‘No Barriers’

An insight into life at Merevale House

Dr Sarah Green and Rob Green, Merevale House
The Merevale Community

- Based in Atherstone, Warwickshire
- Four small, beautiful houses full of beautiful people
- We…… are active, live well and enjoy life
- Live and work together
- Share our lives and embrace emotions
What is a barrier?

“You build your walls so high that no one can climb them”

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Physical Barriers

- Uniforms
- Staff cups and plates and facilities
- Locked doors, kitchen, laundry room, bathrooms
- Time tables, set meal times, bed time, bath time
- Medical gloves and aprons
Emotional Barriers

- Passive “care”
- Controlling the lives of people
- Negative risk assessments
- Need for organisation and planning
- Dictated structure, assumption that people need assistance
- Rejection of emotion, need for professional distance
Social Barriers

- Wider concept of dementia
- Social construction of dementia and symptoms
- Society’s fear of dementia
- Exclusion of people living with a dementia
What is life like?

Life is fun, full of happiness and joy
We have parties
We bake cakes
We play sport
We clean and carry out maintenance on our home
What is our message?

Anything is possible

Embrace change

Always assume that people can

Prepare to be amazed everyday!!!

Dr Sarah Green and Rob Green, Merevale House