

WINTER 2019/2020 ISSUE

The Link



eldon housing

passionate professional caring



Christmas Wishes

from our chair of the Board of Management

Dear Tenants

I cannot believe just how quickly time passes and Christmas is almost upon us.

I hope you are enjoying the activities and events that always take place in the run up to Christmas.

It has given me great pleasure to be able to work with and support your Tenants' Panel this year to develop skills to work more effectively on your behalf with Eldon Housing Association.

The panel is made up of representatives from many of the schemes in which you live and I know you appreciate their hard work and the support and information they give you. The staff and Board value their commitment and the time they give working to ensure services are delivered and developed that meet tenants needs.

I have noted that your representatives have started undertaking joint inspections of schemes and the grounds with our Housing Manager, Sharon Johnson, or our House

Managers I hope you have received feedback from your representative.

The panel will continue to comment on policies and procedures, new service development and will be invited to join interview panels when new staff are recruited.

I would like to thank the Tenants Panel for all their hard work and to say how much the Board and staff of Eldon look forward to continuing working with them to make sure Eldon Housing Association continues to grow and deliver quality services to its Tenants.

I would on behalf of the Board like to wish you a very enjoyable Christmas and a very happy and healthy New Year.



Eileen Nutting
Chair of Board of Management

Quick quiz of the year : Part 1

JANUARY

The Diplodocus Dinosaur cast previously displayed at the Natural History Museum started a tour of the UK, what is his name and what replaced him in the museum hall?

FEBRUARY

Who won the Oscar for Best Actress for her role in The Favourite?

MARCH

What denomination coin was issued by the Royal Mint to commemorate the life of Stephen Hawking?

APRIL

Which Paris landmark caught fire?

MAY

What is the full name of the Duke & Duchess of Sussex's baby and what number is he in line to the Throne?

JUNE

What was the name of the Chelsea Pensioner who won Britain's Got Talent?

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Getting to Know You



TIM MINORS

Tim Minors has lived at Westdene since 2011 and our House Manager, Hilda Matovu caught up with him to ask these questions.

Where were you born and where did you live growing up?

I was born in Bristol, that's where I was brought up.

I have family in London as well.

What were your first and last jobs? Tell us a bit about them.

My first job was Head Coach of Bristol City Swimming Team. The job was to get the Team into the First Division. I met Olympic Silver medallist, Sharron Davies, on many occasions.

My last job was as a volunteer with Age Concern for 3 years collecting clothing and distributing these to the homeless, this gave me great satisfaction.

What are the 3 greatest moments of your life?

I would have to say the birth of my daughter Leanne.

Nearly making it into the under 21s GB Swimming Squad.

Meeting my friend Audrey when I moved into Westdene – we hit it off straight away and we have remained firm friends.

What is your favourite holiday destination and why?

Looe in Cornwall, it's a very beautiful part of England.

I visited Looe for my first holiday at 12 years of age – it was my best holiday ever.

If you were stranded on a desert island what 3 things would you want with you and why?

This is a tough one – all I can say is I would like to be around Robinson Crusoe and Man Friday.

They can build shelters, make fire, and locate plants that are safe to eat – what more would you want on a desert island!

Fund Raising

Operation Christmas Child - Charity Shoeboxes

These are gifts for underprivileged children which are sent throughout the world and 8 shoeboxes were filled by tenants and staff at Fellows Court, Garden Court and Lindsay Court.



World's Biggest Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

Tenants at several schemes came together to raise funds for this very special charity:-

- **Bardsley & Claremont Courts £270.69**
organised by tenant, Princess Williams
- **Fellows Court £126.40** – organised by Chef, Odette Randal
- **Garden Court £370.00** – organised by tenant, Ethel Dixon
- **Lindsay Court £115.00**
organised by House Manager, Janice Hughes & Cook, Julie Wimhurst



Breast Cancer Now's Wear it Pink Day

Tenants and Staff at Westdene wore it pink and raised £70.00



Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children

As we go to print tenants and staff at Fellows Court, Joan Nightingale House, Head Office, Lindsay Court and Westdene are planning to have a fun day wearing anything they have Christmassy (we don't just do Christmas Jumpers !!) in aid of Save the Children. We will report on this in the next edition of The Link.



Save the Children
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Sense – a charity working with people with complex disabilities

Tenants and staff at Lindsay Court continue to collect unwanted items in good condition for sale in the SENSE charity shops – these items are collected by the charity on a quarterly basis



SUMMER FETES

Fetes and similar fund raising events at specific schemes raise money for activities such as visiting entertainers, subsidising trips etc. The following funds were raised during the summer:

Garden Court	£366.18
Lindsay Court	£282.00
Westdene	£400.00

Mini raffles, table top sales and the like continue throughout the year to boost the activities funds at our schemes.

A huge thank you to everyone who has organised or supported a fund raising event at our schemes.

Do you have a nickname?

A long time ago this is how I came to have my nickname – almost before I was born.

The date was 25th September 1923. My Sister, who was 18 at the time, was looking forward to her first date that evening with a young man she had recently met, it was arranged they would meet at the end of the road.

Just as she was ready to leave the house at the appointed time my Father announced she would not be able to go out as her Mother had gone into labour with me and the Midwife needed her help.

Extremely disappointed, she rushed to the end of the road and breathlessly explained to the young man her Mother was ill with stomach trouble and she was unable to see him that evening.

They met again a couple of evenings later, as they stood on the doorstep saying goodnight a wailing baby's cry could be heard from the bedroom above.



BETTY ELDRIDGE

The young man remarked 'was that the cause of your Mother's stomach trouble?'

They married 5 years later and I was bridesmaid! Her husband always called me 'Stomach Trouble' with much laughter and tears at times. They were both lovely people.

Betty Eldridge
Lindsay Court

Quick quiz of the year : Part 2

JULY

What sporting World Cup did England win this month?

AUGUST

Which historic shipyard (that built the Titanic) ceased trading?

SEPTEMBER

A new polar research ship was named – who was it named after and what was the fun name it was originally given following an online poll?

OCTOBER

Which supermarket announced they would no longer be selling fireworks?

NOVEMBER

What are the names of the 2 sisters in the Disney Animation in cinemas this month and what is the name of their snowman friend?

DECEMBER

What are the names of the 8 Reindeer that follow Rudolph?

Activities at Our Schemes

Students from Trinity School

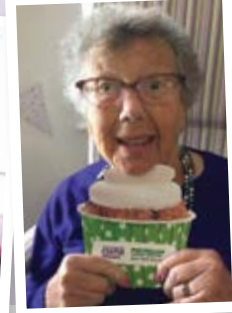
Students from Trinity School have been regular visitors at Fellows Court for some time - they now visit Lindsay Court on a weekly basis joining the tenants for their activities. As with Fellows Court their visits are proving to be very popular.



World's biggest Coffee Morning

Bardsley, Claremont, Garden and Lindsay Courts once again took time to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support by joining in with the World's Biggest Coffee Morning. These 4 schemes raised over £850.00 – a fantastic achievement.

The pictures show Garden Court's organiser, Ethel Dixon, the Guess the Weight of the Cake at Bardsley/Claremont Courts (ready for decorating for Christmas!) and tenants and family members at Lindsay Court.



The Silver Belles

This group of musicians and singer visited Westdene in November. They sing old time songs and provide our tenants with song sheets so they can sing along. They are always popular visitors.



Lego is not just for children !

Maureen Black at Joan Nightingale House enjoys making Lego models.

Knitting for charity

Tenants at Fellows Court continue to come together to knit (and crochet) blankets.

These are sold in a shop at Croydon University Hospital in aid of The Chartwell Cancer Trust's Lily Pad Appeal which is raising funds for a new children's oncology unit at the hospital.

Other blankets are donated to 2 organisations supporting rough sleepers, The Feast in Catford and St Mungos in Hither Green.



Other activities at our schemes

These have included Halloween at Lindsay Court, Black History Month at Westdene, a Fish & Chip Supper at Fellows Court, Remembrance at Lindsay Court, Wear it Pink at Westdene.



Quick quiz of the year Answers

JANUARY: Dippy and a Skeleton of a Blue Whale
FEBRUARY: Olivia Colman
MARCH : 50p
APRIL: Notre Dame Cathedral
MAY: Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor and Seventh
JUNE: Colin Thackeray
JULY: Cricket

AUGUST: Harland & Wolff
SEPTEMBER: Sir David Attenborough and Boaty McBoatface
OCTOBER: Sainsbury's
NOVEMBER: Anna, Elsa and Olaf
DECEMBER: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen

Holiday Memories

Thank you to our tenants Peggy Davis and Violet Simpson for taking the time to write down their memories from recent trips and for sharing their photographs.

We welcome contributions from our tenants so if you would like to share your holiday stories with the readers of The Link please contact Editor, Anne Dickson, on **020 8655 6727**, or **adickson@eldonhousing.co.uk** or you can speak with your House Manager or Elaine Beveridge.

My New Forest Holiday

I went to the New Forest in May 2019 with my two Daughters and Son-in-Law and stayed in a cosy log cabin on a lovely camp site. The cabin had a hot tub which I went in two or three times as you can see from the photo.



We went out on day trips – one day we visited Beaulieu Abbey and the National Motor Museum and on the way there was a hold up of the traffic and it was Donkeys, Ponies and Cows all walking in the road, they couldn't care less it was so funny.

There were some lovely gardens at Beaulieu with a special topiary display based on Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and in the Motor Museum we saw one of the original cars from the film Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

The 2nd photograph is me with one of my Daughters in front of the 'Love Lock Tree' at Beaulieu; it has many padlocks attached to it where couples have locked these to represent true love.

We also enjoyed a day at the seaside in Bournemouth and on another day we visited Christchurch and sat by the river watching the boats and swans.

In all I had a lovely holiday.

**Margaret Davis
(known as Peggy)
Westdene**





I don't know if all or many of you thought Jerusalem was up in Heaven when you were a child only to learn later on in life that it is a place right here on earth where Jesus Christ lived and died. When I first got the opportunity to visit the Holy Land I jumped at it.

As a child I was taught to read my Bible so when I got to Israel and started my pilgrimage I saw the Bible come to life right in front of my eyes. We visited places like the Dead Sea, River Jordan (where Jesus was baptised), the Way of the Cross/ The Via Dolorosa (a processional route believed to be the path that Jesus walked on the way to his crucifixion), the Sea of Galilee in Tiberias and the Garden Tomb (where Jesus' body was entombed).

I have been on this pilgrimage twice in my lifetime – the first time, when I went with 2 of my Daughters, was an amazing time for us, the realisation of walking the footsteps of Jesus was an education.

The second time was just as amazing but I saw the difference in Israel which I felt was a result of wars and bitterness between the Israelis and the Palestinians. I felt this was noticeable in places

such as the River Jordan and the Dead Sea which seemed dirtier and extremely muddy.

What greatly assisted in making this second experience enjoyable was the company of the group of people that I travelled with. There were 47 of us – 46 adults and 1 child and everyone was there for each other. I travelled on this occasion with my Husband who at the time was 87 years old and some of the route we walked was too hard for him to manage, the group were supportive of him and shared their experiences with him and encouraged him also. He did not feel alienated because he couldn't always accompany the group, he is also very happy he made this pilgrimage.

Anyone reading this article, if you are a Christian and believe in God and you get the opportunity to visit the Holy Land please take it! You will not be disappointed. It will open your mind to the conditions that Jesus lived in, it will enhance your Bible reading as places in the Bible become a reality and it will enhance your relationship with Jesus as you realise that he became man and walked in a corner of this earth for you and me.

**Violet Simpson
Bardsley Court**

Violet is in the centre of the front row in the photo.



eldon Tenants' Panel



The Eldon Tenants' Panel provides an independent, customer focused, advisory and consultative role to Eldon Housing Association.

The Tenants' Panel last met on 14th October and were joined by Board of Management Chair, Eileen Nutting, and Board Member, Nancy Adamson. As the Panel's Chairman could not attend the meeting due to problems with the trains running from Hayward's Heath Ethel Dixon from Garden Court agreed to Chair the meeting.

David Nixon, Eldon's Head of Operations, attended the meeting to explain the proposed Capital Expenditure for the year April 2020 – March 2021 as follows:-

BARDSLEY COURT

- Re decoration of communal corridors, lounge and other shared communal spaces

CLAREMONT COURT

- A programme to upgrade bathrooms
- Re decoration of communal corridors, lounge and other shared communal spaces

GARDEN COURT

- New Lounge furniture
- Re decoration of communal corridors, lounge and other shared communal spaces

JOAN NIGHTINGALE HOUSE

- Re decoration of communal corridors, lounge and other shared communal spaces
- New communal boiler

LINDSAY COURT

- A programme to upgrade Kitchens

MARTEN HOUSE

- Main roof covering replacement

The Panel had been provided with copies of a revised version of the Complaints and Protected Disclosure Procedures and having reviewed this agreed to endorse this updated document.

It was noted that tenants, including Panel members, are joining Sharon Johnson, Housing Manager, and House Managers on their quarterly inspections of the buildings. This was noted to be a good idea which will continue into 2020.

The meeting closed with Panel Members watching a short DVD on Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults.

The Panel will next meet in February which will be reported on in the summer edition of The Link.



Our Employee Excellence Awards are your opportunity to nominate a member of Eldon staff who has gone that extra mile. These are awarded quarterly and you can complete a nomination form at any time and place this in the small blue 'ballot' box at your scheme, or you can e-mail your nomination to credout@eldonhousing.co.uk

The winners in the March – May Quarter were both from Lindsay Court, they were:



Donna Millard

Donna has worked as a Carer since 2010 and she received her award for taking the time to help with the little things that mean a lot to our tenants.



Bennie Borluvie

Bennie has also worked for the Association since 2010 as an Assistant Cook; she received her award for being conscientious in all of her duties.

The winners in the June – August quarter were:



Caryl Peters

Caryl is a Finance officer based at Head Office since 2015 and received her award for suggesting that animal rescue organisation Our Amazing Animal World visits our schemes – their visits have proved to be one of the most successful activities for many years.



Terry Walden

Terry is a Chef working at various schemes and received his award for his good work, rapport and empathy not only with the staff team but also the service users.

Gerald Ellis Award

A new award for staff was presented at our Annual General Meeting in September; the Gerald Ellis Award is in memory of the Association's long serving Board Member and Honorary President who passed away in July 2018.

The award will be presented annually to one of the winners of the past year's Employee Excellence Awards.

The first winner of this special award was Bernadette Lewis a Carer based at Westdene. She received this award for her vigilance when caring for a tenant as she discovered a lump on the tenant's breast which was diagnosed as Cancer which resulted in the tenant receiving treatment promptly.

The photograph shows Bernadette receiving her trophy from Gerald's wife, Sandra.





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