

# The Link



eldon housing

passionate professional caring  
1981-2021 celebrating 40 years of caring

Welcome to the Winter 2021/2022 edition of The Link, we hope that you enjoy reading this. If you have any ideas for future publications or wish to provide an article, please speak to your House Manager or Elaine Beveridge (Welfare & Support Officer), alternatively you can contact the Editor direct – Anne Dickson on 020 8655 6727 or [adickson@eldonhousing.co.uk](mailto:adickson@eldonhousing.co.uk)

## Message from Tony Molloy

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone season's greetings. The past year has flown by and whilst there has been challenges, we continue to place our core values of being passionate, caring and respectful at the centre of our service.

I am pleased to say I have managed to meet many tenants this year and I have really enjoyed learning their views and ideas about the service. Even with the successful vaccination roll out this has still been a tough time for many people, and we recognise all the sacrifices and patience you have shown during the year.

I hope you have found the time to read or catch a glimpse of our Annual Report to Tenants, this provides you with information regarding our

performance. It is important you can see how we are performing, and I hope you found this an interesting read.

The year ahead is an exciting one, we are welcoming tenants to our new extra care scheme Lingfield Lodge which will bring 48 much needed new homes to Eldon and the Tenants' Panel is now starting up once more, we can certainly look forward to the start of 2022 with greater hope.

As with any New Year there is always change and I have made the decision to leave Eldon at the end of February, I have enjoyed my time working with you and I am confident Eldon will go from strength to strength.



## Lingfield Lodge

**As we go to print, we are finally about to welcome the first tenants to Lingfield Lodge our 48 flat Extra Care Housing scheme in East Grinstead.**

The team, headed by Senior Registered Care Manager Linda Pither, are looking forward to introducing this bright modern building to our new tenants.

We will have a feature on Lingfield Lodge in the next edition of The Link, in the meantime these images are just a taster of this impressive building.







**Towards the end of summer our Editor met with some of the tenants at Garden Court who enjoy gardening.**

They all said how much pleasure they got being able to continue a hobby they enjoyed in their own gardens prior to moving to Garden Court.

**They said:**

- *It's very therapeutic*
- *They enjoy planting and then watching everything grow*
- *It eases stress*
- *They love bringing in the bees and butterflies*
- *They enjoy being at one with nature*



The tenants we managed to speak with:

### **Rita Winnifrith**

Likes to have pots outside her bungalow and she enjoys sitting in the garden.

### **Cathy Meehan**

Cathy also lives in the one of the bungalows and enjoys tending the plants outside her door. Gardening has always been a hobby of hers.

### **Brenda Wood**

Uses the raised beds on the far side of the garden. She used to live in Brighton where she used to have an allotment where she grew both flowers and vegetables.

### **Blossom Lee**

Has taken on areas at the front of the building underneath the windows and to the side removing the existing large shrubs and investing in a variety of new plants.

Since she was a small child she has had an interest in plants and flowers, she likes unusual plants. Blossom also has an allotment nearby growing flowers, vegetables and herbs.

### **Michael North**

Likes taking care of the plants, he used to have a greenhouse and has always enjoyed gardening.

### **Anne Reed**

Enjoys spending time in the garden and tends the raised beds with Brenda Wood.

It was a real pleasure speaking to these tenants – apologies to any other gardeners at Garden Court who we missed on the day. We hope that you all continue to enjoy time spent with one another in the gardens.

If any tenants would like to share details of their hobbies with the readers of The Link, please speak to your House Manager or to Elaine Beveridge or contact The Editor, Anne Dickson on **020 8655 6727** or email [adickson@eldonhousing.co.uk](mailto:adickson@eldonhousing.co.uk)



# Pat Putwain

## An Ordinary Life



**Starting life in 1932 I grew up with a younger brother, sister and single mother living then on poor relief, it was a happy time for us children as we knew of no other way of life.**

We were not aware of being deprived! Our situation was vastly altered when, with threat of war, my brother and I were evacuated two days before war was declared. We had never been on a bus before let alone a train and we were very excited with our boxed gas masks hanging around our shoulders and a label attached to our coats to say who we were. I don't think we realised why all the mothers were crying but later learned they had no idea where we were going or when they would see us again, (I cannot see parents nowadays agreeing to this mass exodus).

We were lucky, ending up in a small village in Somerset living with an elderly couple, who were members of the Plymouth Brethren. What a change in our lifestyle – plenty of fresh food, the local farmer delivering milk in churns to one's door, lovely country walks, farm animals we had never seen and plenty of places to play.

*My brother and I passed the London County Council scholarship and after protracted arguments between various Education Authorities as to who would pay for us going to Grammar School, it was decided that London would pay Somerset (all this in the middle of a war!).*

After 7 years we returned home again to Shepherds Bush and in the same house, but on a different floor. Four families with one lavatory and no bath.

My first job was as an office girl with a firm of internationally famous architects. I studied at night school and eventually became the senior architect's secretary. I also met my partner. It was here I learned about the artistic world of painters and sculptors and their different outlook on life. A complete shock to someone brought up in the religious atmosphere I had experienced.

During this time, I met Henry Moore, Picasso, John Piper (designer of the stained glass window in Coventry Cathedral that made me cry when I saw it), Basil Spence (designer of the Cathedral building), Eduardo Paolozzi (internal tile designer for Tottenham Court Road underground station), Barbara Hepworth (sculptor) and her husband, Ben Nicholson (painter), Le Corbusier (French architect), Lynn Chadwick (sculptor) and many of the artists who made the 1951 Festival of Britain such a success and became world famous – including my own bosses Maxwell Fry and Jane Drew.

*The other important aspect of my working there was that the firm did lots of work in Africa and Kuwait – hospitals, schools and universities. I learnt about life in these countries and met my first black artists – Ben Enwonwu (sculptor) and John Noah (architect).*

My husband and I got involved in politics in the mid to late 1950's with an organisation called The People's League for the Defence of Freedom, looking for changes in certain laws. This saw us involved in running of buses in the 1958 bus strike and I opened a post office reception for parcels in my house during the "go slow working" in the City Post Offices where for a time parcels were banned.

Eventually we joined the Conservative Party where, later, I was a volunteer for over 60 years and held a number of offices. Through these activities I met Mrs Thatcher on a number of occasions, ran a Reception at Central Office for John Major, met many MPs and canvassed all over the country. I also joined the 1912 Club which holds dinners and lunches in the Houses of Parliament.

I had numerous jobs and finished up as a Pensions Administrator before I retired.

**Pat Putwain lives at Garden Court.**

# QUICK QUIZ



1	From which Rodgers & Hammerstein musical does the song 'You'll Never Walk Alone' come from?	11	Which island group would you find Sark?
2	What is the name given to a flower that blooms year after year?	12	Artist Rene Lalique is most famous for working with what material?
3	Which author created Frankenstein?	13	What was the name of the character played by David Jason in 'Open All Hours'?
4	What are the young of eels called?	14	What fish is traditionally used to make an Abroath Smokie?
5	In which country would you find Montego Bay?	15	El Alamein, the scene of a famous WW2 battle, is located in which modern day country?
6	What regiment of the British Army is nicknamed 'The Sappers'?	16	What is the name given to the home of a Beaver?
7	What type of animal was Babe in the film of the same name?	17	Which mountain range separates France from Spain?
8	Who sang the theme tune to the comedy TV series 'Dad's Army'?	18	Of which British King was Nell Gwynne a long-term mistress?
9	Which famous London store claims to have invented Scotch Eggs?	19	Which 'Carry on' film star appeared in the 1970s sitcom 'Bless this House'?
10	Which father and son were both Formula 1 World Champions?	20	What is the longest bone in the human body?

Answers are on page 11.



# Life Around the Schemes

**Life has started to return to as near normal as possible at our schemes but from time-to-time activities at the schemes are put on hold whilst we adhere to Covid-19 restrictions and increased levels of infection.**

This is always disappointing after the isolation of lockdowns, but we must always have the health and safety of our tenants, and our staff, at the forefront of everything we do.

Tenants at Lindsay Court and Westdene are meeting in their respective lounges for a mid-morning coffee and a catch up before lunch.

The tenants at Garden Court have been coming together for seated exercises on Monday and Wednesday mornings and are planning events with visiting musicians.

Tenant Simon Van Zyl organises these activities.



## Achy Breaky Parts

**Soothe and Stretch them with Seated Exercises in the lounge**

**Monday 10.50am** (after coffee)

**Wednesday 10.30am**

Activities in the lounge at Bardsley Court now include getting together on Thursdays and Sundays for games, coffee and a chat. This is organised by one of our newer tenants, Graham Gilford.

Tenants at both Bardsley and Claremont Courts came together for an early Christmas Lunch, they visited Coombe Lodge in Croydon.



The Knit & Natter group at Fellows Court have been very busy with knitting some baby clothes and 38 blankets which were collected by Rachel a representative from The Chartwell Cancer Trust's Lily Pad Appeal. These will be sold to help raise funds for the appeal which is aiming to raise £750,000 to finance the Oncology Ward within the Paediatric Village at Croydon University Hospital. Some of the blankets knitted at Fellows Court have been donated to an Animal Charity.



Elaine Beveridge recently delivered 2 filled 'shoeboxes' to the volunteers manning the Operation Christmas Child collection point at South Norwood Baptist Church. These had been filled by a volunteer and tenants at Fellows Court. The boxes contain small gifts such as toys, colouring pencils, hats etc and will form part of the many thousands of shoeboxes distributed to underprivileged all over the world. Thank you to the tenants who donated.



Scheme Manager Jodie at Joan Nightingale House brought her dog Trixie along for a Halloween visit wearing a very fetching pumpkin outfit!



Tenants and staff at Joan Nightingale House took part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support raising £103.27 selling cakes generously donated by tenant, Jane Flynn, and local baker Baldwins Bakes. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

**WORLD'S BIGGEST  
COFFEE  
MORNING**

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**





# 1981-2021

## CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF CARING



**Tenants have been given the opportunity to decide how they would like to recognise Eldon's 40th Anniversary with each scheme being given a budget of £40 per tenant.**

Garden Court and Bardsley Court have both had new computers installed in their communal lounges.

The tenants at Joan Nightingale House, Lindsay Court and Westdene all decided to hold parties – a good excuse to get together after the many months of enforced separation due to the Covid-19 restrictions. It was a real pleasure to see the tenants enjoying a chat over nibbles and drinks, a sing-along or a dance – it's been too long !!

Fellows Court tenants came together to enjoy a Fish & Chip tea, they plan to arrange further entertainment/activities whenever it is safe to do so.

Some of the remaining budgets are being spent on new Christmas decorations at Joan Nightingale House, Lindsay Court and Lingfield Lodge and a bird bath for Joan Nightingale House. Claremont Court and Marten House tenants have requested some new garden furniture which will hopefully be enjoyed for years to come.









# eldon Tenants' Panel

**Sadly Covid-19 restrictions have meant that the Tenants' Panel has not had an opportunity to meet since early 2020. They hope to come together again as soon as it is safe to do so in the New Year.**

There have been some changes to the Panel, the members are now:-

<b>Heather Gardiner</b>	<b>Fellows Court</b>
<b>Graham Gilford</b>	<b>Bardsley Court</b>
<b>Christine Hall</b>	<b>Bardsley Court</b>
<b>Bob Sutton</b>	<b>Joan Nightingale House</b>
<b>Simon Van Zyl</b>	<b>Garden Court</b>
<b>Princess Williams</b>	<b>Claremont Court</b>

If you would like further information on the work of the Panel or are considering joining, please contact Sharon Johnson, Housing Manager, on **020 8655 6724** or email [sjohnson@eldonhousing.co.uk](mailto:sjohnson@eldonhousing.co.uk)

We would like to take the opportunity to remember our past Tenants' Panel Chairman – Peter Thomas who sadly passed away in January, he is remembered fondly by all who knew him.

## A Message from Sharon Johnson & Elaine Beveridge

Much of our work is built on the efforts of our tenants, this year these have included Fish & Chip suppers, supporting charities, gardening initiatives, tenants organising activities, Christmas meals and supporting each other through the toughest times.

We want to say thank a big thank you to you all for coming together when it really matters and making it happen.

We look forward to seeing you all again whenever it is safe to do so.



**Sharon Johnson**  
Housing Manager



**Elaine Beveridge**  
Welfare & Support Officer

## In Memoriam

Tenants have asked for Emmanuel, who was part of the Croydon Community Social Prescribing services, and visited Bardsley, Claremont and Garden Courts plus Lindsay Court, to be remembered. He sadly passed away in August.

Emmanuel regularly hosted popular keep fit sessions complete with quizzes, anecdotes and a lot of laughter. He will be missed.





# Useful Contacts

## Elaine Beveridge

Welfare & Support Officer

☎ 07785 616860

✉ ebeveridge@eldonhousing.co.uk

## Croydon Neighbourhood Care

Befriending calls

☎ 020 8654 4440

✉ info@cnca/org.uk

## Sharon Johnson

Housing Manager

☎ 020 8655 6724

✉ sjohnson@eldonhousing.co.uk

Age UK Croydon ☎ 020 8686 0066

Age UK West Sussex ☎ 01903 731 800

## Eldon's Repairs Help Desk

☎ 0800 434 6298

✉ helpdesk@eldonhousing.co.uk

# Repairs Service

The repairs services are completed by Eldon's in-house staff or contractors from our Approved Contractors List. They all work within specific targets which are continually monitored.

When a repair is reported tenants are advised when the staff member or contractor will visit. Completion of the repair will be monitored by our

Facilities Management Team, and we will do all we can to ensure that repairs are completed within the target times.

On average 98% of repairs are completed within the target times, occasionally delays will occur, and we will ensure that you are kept informed of the progress of your repair.

## QUICK QUIZ - ANSWERS

- |                    |                         |                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Carousel        | 8. Bud Flanagan         | 15. Egypt           |
| 2. Perennial       | 9. Fortnum & Masons     | 16. Lodge           |
| 3. Mary Shelley    | 10. Graham & Damon Hill | 17. The Pyrenees    |
| 4. Elver           | 11. Channel Islands     | 18. King Charles II |
| 5. Jamaica         | 12. Glass               | 19. Sid James       |
| 6. Royal Engineers | 13. Granville           | 20. The Femur       |
| 7. Pig             | 14. Haddock             |                     |

