

The Link



eldon housing

PASSIONATE | PROFESSIONAL | CARING

Hello

I trust that you have been enjoying the good weather and seeing more of your family and friends with the removal of restrictions around what my niece very aptly calls “the virus that shall not be named” !!

THANK YOU

Thank you to the following people who have provided photographs for this edition: Claire Benitez, Jodie Buttle, Julie Colville, Jackie Davies, Graham Gilford, Janice Hughes, Mariama Koroma, Hilda Matovu, Carol MacArthur, Andy Robbins, Julie Trussom, and Angela Wood.

It's an absolute pleasure to share some of the images of tenants celebrating HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, I hope that you enjoy looking at the images from this special weekend and reading about the other events that have taken place amongst the 'Eldon Family'. As ever 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 me direct, I am always happy to chat over the phone or call in to see you.

Anne Dickson - Business Support Partner

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New Interim Chief Executive

We are delighted to announce that Paul Davies joined us as the new Interim Chief Executive of Eldon Housing on 13th June 2022.

Paul is an experienced interim executive and has held four CEO and three Director roles in Housing. He has managed a variety of housing associations, large and small and most recently has been Interim CEO for another small London based specialist association. He brings a mixture of business continuity and people focus.

Paul has succeeded Sharon Carter, our former Interim Chief Executive who was with us from January – May 2022, she demonstrated exceptional leadership and accomplished outstanding results



in a short period of time. Hony Premlal, Chair of Eldon Housing, congratulated Sharon for her outstanding commitment and dedication to Eldon.

Hony welcomes Paul to Eldon Housing and looks forward to him leading Eldon into the next phase of our growth. Paul is the right individual to lead Eldon Housing into the future while we search for a permanent Chief Executive to implement our new strategic 3-year plan.

Do You Know Anyone Looking For Sheltered Housing?

Do you have a friend or relative that may be considering a move to sheltered housing, either ordinary sheltered or our extra care housing with personal care/laundry services and a midday meal included?

If you do, please recommend that they contact us for an informal discussion on how we can assist

them. They can telephone Sharon Johnson our Housing Manager on 020 8655 6724 or e-mail sjohnson@eldonhousing.co.uk.

If you pass this magazine to them they can scan the QR code to view our website:

www.eldonhousing.org.





PLATINUM JUBILEE EVENTS

Our tenants and staff came together to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, sometimes just watching the events on TV and at other times enjoying good food, good music and good company.

Cream & Jam Scones

Trooping the Colour

Buffets

Barbecues

Don Avalon & Michele entertaining

Epsom Derby

Buckingham Palace Flypast

Afternoon Tea

Pin the Tail on the Corgi !

Jubilee Quiz

3 course Lunch

Platinum Pudding

Reminiscing

Souvenir Mugs

Singing & Dancing

Patio Party

Thanksgiving Service

Haywood Sisters singing

Music from The Ukulaviators

Buckingham Palace Concert

Indoor Street Party





Memories of HM The Queen

Ethel Dixon at Garden Court

As a Midwife in Croydon one of my proudest moments was when I was presented with a Community Award for having delivered hundreds of home births. This happened on 4th July 2002 at Addington Palace when the local Member of Parliament, Bernard Weatherill, handed the award to me.

Also present at this event was HM the Queen and Prince Phillip who were visiting Croydon as part of the Golden Jubilee tour of the UK. I was introduced to her by the Mayor of Croydon, she expressed surprise at the number of deliveries I had carried out. It is a treasured memory.



Simon Van Zyl at Garden Court

I used to play cricket for Woodpeckers, our Captain was Brian Scovell, a sports journalist with the Daily Mail. We were a wandering team without a home ground and played our matches on Sunday afternoons at a variety of grounds.

Brian often persuaded a celebrity to play for us and I remember Dave Sexton the football manager and Tony Cozier the cricket commentator among many others.

Some time in the 1980's a new fixture was added to our list, the Royal household at Windsor. We drove through a security check to a well appointed clubhouse in the private grounds of Windsor Great Park. During the match I was fielding when I noticed a small lady walking towards the boundary fence with a pack of corgis at her heels. I inclined my head and said "good morning Ma'am" she smiled, and I turned my back on her to concentrate on the game (no, I was not imprisoned in the castle dungeons !!). She only watched for a minute or two before the corgis tugged her away, but I can always claim that the Queen has watched me play cricket !



ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

Joyce Davis at Westdene

Joyce remembers watching the Coronation on TV with her family at her parents' house as they were lucky enough to have a television. Joyce has also seen the Queen at a parade in London, but she cannot remember what the parade was for.

QUEEN'S VISIT TO NIGERIA 1956



Christine Walsh at Westdene

Christine remembers seeing the Queen and Prince Phillip early in 1956 whilst she was on holiday in Nigeria with her husband. Christine and her late husband stopped at a busy road having seen a large crowd of people and then saw the Queen and Prince Phillip passing through in a convoy. Christine recalls that she did not get close enough as there were lots of excited people waving at the Queen.

Christine wrote to her local church to tell them she had seen the Queen and when she returned home her letter had been published in the local newspaper with the headline 'Christine went to Nigeria to meet her Queen' !!

Greta Bristow at Westdene

Greta was planning to get married around the same time as the Coronation, she remembers listening to the radio with the sad news of the death of the King and Princess Elizabeth returning home from Kenya.

Greta said that she continued with the wedding plans and decided to use the Coronation as a theme. Her wedding dress and also her bridesmaids dresses had a crown design printed all over them. The wedding took place on 18th July 1953 at St Margaret's Church, Upper Norwood where Greta had attended Sunday School when she was young.



Memories of Italy

Ilde Eleanor Brugnogli was born in a small farming village in the province of Rieti, Lazio, Italy her father was the local carpenter.

Ilde's grandfather had a workshop at the back of his house and when the Second World War broke out, he, and his relatives, used to hide British, Polish and other soldiers in his cellar from the Germans. From the grandfather's cellar they would then be passed onto another village further down the line.

Food was very scarce because the German soldiers would knock on every village door demanding they take any food, especially chickens and eggs. Ilde and her brothers and sisters were always hungry and one day when a German soldier knocked at the door to take their eggs, her mum said, "how can

we give you eggs when you take all our chickens". There were many scary moments.

Ilde's sister, Iolanda, who was the eldest daughter, would take food down to the hiding soldiers. Iolanda and a British soldier fell in love and married when the war was over.

Iolanda in the UK was lonely and so wrote to her father, please send me a sister to keep me company, so Ilde was despatched to England, where she met and married Sid Salvidge.

Ilde has of course been back to visit her family in Italy but for over 70 years England has been her home.

*Ilde lives at
Lindsay Court*



OFFICIAL OPENING OF Lingfield Lodge



Lingfield Lodge is our new extra-care scheme with 39: 1-bedroom and 9: 2-bedroom flats in London Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex.

On Thursday 12th May the official opening of Lingfield Lodge took place with around 40 guests joining staff and tenants including Eldon Board Members and representatives from West & Mid Sussex Councils, our care provider London Care and constructors Engie.

We were delighted that Elizabeth Rangé could join us as one of our honoured guests. Elizabeth was Eldon's Chief Executive until her retirement in November 2020 and was the driving force behind the Lingfield Lodge redevelopment.



Sheron Carter (Eldon's Interim CEO), Cllr Amanda Jupp, Elizabeth Rangé (Eldon's ex CEO), Hony Premal (Eldon's Board Chair) & Cllr Margaret Belsey.

Elizabeth was joined by Cllr Amanda Jupp, West Sussex County Council's Cabinet Member for Adult Services, and Cllr Margaret Belsey, Chair of Mid Sussex District Council. Both Councillors have been huge supporters of this project and were extremely generous with their praise for Lingfield Lodge.

After welcoming our tenants and guests Hony Premal, Chair of Eldon's Board said

"Lingfield Lodge is a state-of-the-art and innovative project providing housing and care for tenants. Extra Care housing plays a pivotal role in giving people independence, health, wellbeing and happiness – really adding to the overall quality of life for those who live here. This is our flagship project, and we are extremely proud to have completed it even during the pandemic."

Hony took the opportunity to thank Mid Sussex District Council, West Sussex County Council, Homes England, Unity Trust Bank, Fuse Architects and developers Engie. Hony also expressed her gratitude to staff and Board members for their unwavering commitment to making this project happen and to the Lingfield Lodge staff members who have worked tirelessly to bring Lingfield Lodge to life.



"Lingfield Lodge is a very friendly place to live, from the other tenants to all the staff."
Anthony Wyant

"It took me a while to get used to everything and find my way around but now I've made friends I really like living here."
Elsie Slinger

"I have made several friends and we meet most afternoons after lunch for a coffee and a chat, I love living here."
Florence Manning



"I've only been here for about two months; I feel I have settled in well and I am happy at Lingfield Lodge."
Hugh Montgomery

Cllr Amanda Jupp said

"Lingfield Lodge is a brilliant example of how Extra Care housing can offer people the chance to live in their own self-contained home, with the independence to come and go as they please, but with the reassurance that they have facilities on site and care available whenever they need it."

Our guests joined tenants for an afternoon tea of sandwiches and handmade cupcakes. After so long hearing the sound of hammering and drilling around the building it was a joy to hear the buzz of conversation and laughter from a busy social space that has become the hub of Lingfield Lodge.

Tours of the few remaining vacant flats took place with guests reporting back on how impressed they were with the size and quality of the flats most of which have their own outside space in the form of either a balcony or patio. Those outside spaces are already being put to good use with chairs, sun loungers and pots full of summer flowers.

The celebrations continued on the following day when Kathy Posnett (our longest serving member of staff who worked at the original Lingfield Lodge) joined our tenants for coffee and we asked her to cut the letter 'L' celebration cakes that were created just for our tenants.

We welcome all of our newest tenants living at Lingfield Lodge and hope that they will be very happy living there.



Jodie Buttle (House Manager), Carrie Anderson (Extra Care Housing Co-ordinator West Sussex Council), Katie Schiele (Care Manager – London Care), Linda Pither (Snr Register Care Manager), Katie Mawbey (Extra Care Housing Officer West Sussex Council)

Life Around the Schemes

FELLOWS COURT

Tenants continue to meet for their Knit & Natter sessions with blankets and handmade bags regularly donated to local charities. The group raised £31.00 for the Royal British Legion during their November 2021 Poppy Appeal selling their hand knitted poppies.



Our thanks go to volunteers Linda, Julie and Tina who work hard to support the tenants at Fellows Court.

LINDSAY COURT & WESTDENE

Tenants come together in the lounges or gardens every morning for coffee and regular activities such as quizzes, karaoke, crafts and bingo are organised by the staff teams.



BARDSLEY, CLAREMONT & GARDEN COURTS, JOAN NIGHTINGALE HOUSE & MARTEN HOUSE

Our tenants at these schemes regularly get together for tea or coffee in the lounges or gardens. With support from staff they organise their own occasional activities such as Fish & Chip meals, afternoon teas, trips out or hosting entertainers.

LINGFIELD LODGE

Tenants are starting to get to know one another over hot drinks from our self-service coffee bar located right in the heart of the lounge area which is becoming the social hub that we hoped it would. The green fingered tenants have been planting up the raised flower beds with colourful summer bedding plants which are transforming the outside space. Our potting shed and veg bed, cared for by Gordon Baldock, are getting fuller by the day with a variety of veg that it is hoped will be added to more than one lunchtime menu when they ripen.



Employee Excellence Awards



The latest winners of our Employee Excellence Awards are Kathy Posnett and Mariama Koroma...



Kathy Posnett

Kathy is a Domestic at Joan Nightingale House and was nominated as she has really grown and developed since all the changes to the services were made at Joan Nightingale House. Kathy is so supportive to the staff and other tenants and will always go out of her way to help. Kathy deserves recognition for the work she does.



Mariama Koroma

Mariama is a Carer at Westdene, and her nomination read — I just wanted to point out how amazing Mariama is, she is so good with the tenants, yesterday I joined in the karaoke session Mariama organised with the tenants and it was so lovely to see how passionate she is with the tenants. Mariama has also been amazing support to me as a covering manager, she always goes above and beyond. Carer of the year in my eyes!!

Increases in the Cost of Living

We recognise that due to rising fuel and food costs that some of our tenants may have difficulty managing their finances and as a result suffer financial hardship. We will do all we can to support our tenants with assistance in making benefit claims, signposting to food banks and energy hardship funds plus applications to Eldon's own Hardship Fund.

If you have any questions or require support please contact Elaine Beveridge, Welfare & Support Officer on **07785 616860** or **ebeveridge@eldonhousing.co.uk**.



The Tenants' Panel's role is to help tenants raise issues which are important to them and to act as a consultative group, should Eldon need to formally consult with tenants they will often speak with us first, and we can provide a sounding board.

We can help Eldon understand the service from a tenant's perspective and collaborate with each other for the benefit of the service.

The key priorities we have chosen to focus on as a panel are:

- being safe in your home
- tenant views are considered – our voice is heard
- value for money
- quality of our homes and buildings
- repairs and maintenance

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Tenants' Panel please contact Sharon Johnson, Housing Manager, on **020 8655 6724** or **sjohnson@eldonhousing.co.uk**.

The Panel's next meeting will take place in August.



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