

GOVANHILL NEWSLETTER



The Newsletter of Govanhill Housing Association

Spring 2019

Housing Minister Opens Victoria Road Development with Dedication to Memory of Ann Scott

On Tuesday the 12th of March, Housing Minister Kevin Stewart attended a ceremony to open the Association's new Victoria Road Development.

During the ceremony a plaque was unveiled dedicating the new homes to the memory of Ann Scott, a founder member of the Association, who passed away on the 3rd of November 2018 having given more than 40 years of voluntary service on the Management Committee.



Wilma enjoying the view from her new home

complex are transfers from other parts of Govanhill; this includes Wilma Logan who is settling in to her new home in the development. Wilma is 61, and was her mum's fulltime carer until she passed away last year. Wilma says "Sometimes I can't believe that this is my home. Moving here has let me live again."

In his remarks Kevin Stewart MSP commented on the strength of the community in Govanhill: "It was an honour to meet residents at the opening of Govanhill Housing



Association's impressive new build development today. It is a worthy monument to the Association's founding member Ann Scott – hard working community minded members like Ann are the backbone of the social housing movement."



Ann Scott's family with Association Chair Annie, and plaque

All tenants who have been offered homes within the new

Easter Closure

The Association will close for the Easter break on Thursday the 18th of April at 5pm and will re-open at 9am on Tuesday the 23rd of April.



To report a repair when the office is closed

For central heating, hot water repairs, roofing problems and leaks please call **0141 552 8647**.

For all internal repairs except heating and hot water please call **0203 589 3140**.

Management Committee Decide on Cost of Living Only Rent Increase in Response to Consultation

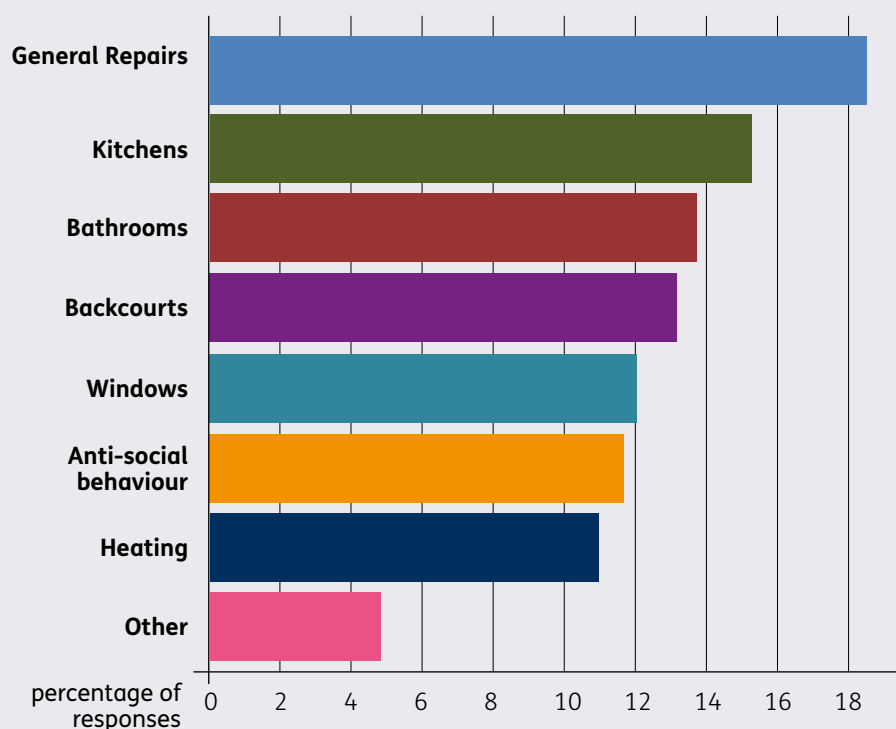
Between the 4th and 25th of January 2019 the Association consulted on a rent increase of 2.4%, 2.9% or 3.4%. The consultation sought as many tenant opinions as possible.

This year the Association also held a consultation event and one to one rent surgeries. Tenants were asked to choose between a cost of living only increase of 2.4%, with the

understanding that this might slow down the rate of kitchen replacements, or a higher amount, which might maintain the current rate of kitchen and other improvements to homes.

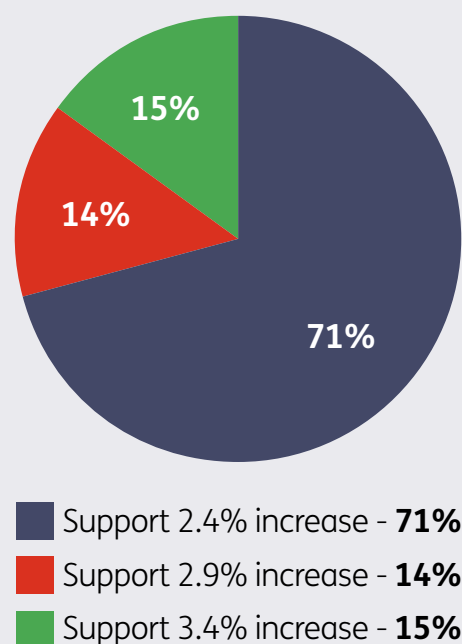
The results of the consultation are as follows:

When asked what the spending priorities of the Association should be:



Taking this into account, along with other measures such as affordability and the current difficult financial climate, the management committee decided to raise rents by 2.4%

When asked to choose between a 2.4%, 2.9% or a 3.4% increase:



which represents a cost of living only increase.

All tenants have received letters detailing what this means for the amount of rent paid, which will take effect as of the 28th of April.



Association to Review All Rents to Ensure a Fair and Consistent System in Place

The Association is considering changing the way rent is charged. The Association wants to create a charging system that is **simple, fair and consistent for tenants**.

This means that the same set of rules will apply across all properties. It will ensure that **no one pays more than** they should.

As part of this work we have commissioned housing consultants Arneil Johnston who will be engaging with tenants on our behalf. This process will involve a questionnaire which will be issued to all tenants, and discussion groups.

It is important that we hear the views of as many tenants as possible so that we can implement a system that is fair and consistent across our properties. All tenants will be contacted directly, and more information will be available through our website and social media when this process is underway.



Govanhill Housing Association Tenants to Compete in Kabaddi World Cup

Kabaddi may not be a sport that everyone is familiar with; however it is well known in the Indian subcontinent, and is growing in popularity across the world.

Kabaddi is a contact sport, where players must get from one side of the pitch to the other without being tackled. The British Army often play Kabaddi as part of their training and can be found in a number of international competitions.

This year, Scotland has formed its first ever Kabaddi team who are set to

compete in the Kabaddi world cup and European Championships.

Three Govanhill Association tenants are in the team who will be representing Scotland; including team captain Happy Singh.

Wishing Happy, Justin and Satvir all the best from Govanhill!



Calling all Tenants Under 30: The Association Needs You!

The Association is keen to hold an event for younger tenants during the Summer. We want this to be led by you! What form should this take? What information would be useful? If you want to help organise this event, or just share your ideas with us please get in touch. Email jferguson@govanhillha.org. Phone: 0141 636 3668, or contact us on Facebook or via the website.

Community Garden is Wheelchair Accessible in Time for the Growing Season

The first phase of the upgrade to the Community Garden has been completed. This initial upgrade was designed to ensure that the main garden can be accessed by wheelchair users; the second phase will expand the sloping pathway

to the bottom section of the garden by the portacabin.

Future improvements will look at how the garden can be developed into an area which is fully accessible for people with a range of sensory impairments.

The Govanhill Community Garden is open to all, so come and see how the space has changed, drop in and pay us a visit at 79 Coplaw Street, behind the car park at Samaritan House.



Hardy Volunteers Complete Ten Ton Challenge

On the 16th of March volunteers braved adverse weather conditions to shift ten tonnes of soil in preparation for planting fruit trees in the Govanhill Community Garden. Tea, tunes and snacks were provided to keep spirits up.

This hard work all paid off on the 6th of April when the Orchard Project and the Community Garden Group held a fun filled day of tree planting for the new Community Orchard.



Brexit, Settled and Pre Settled Status: Make Sure Your Rights are Protected

The purpose of this article is to provide information to all EU/EEA citizens about changes in the law as we move towards the UK's withdrawal from the European Union. At the time of writing, this article represents the current best information; however this could be subject to change. The most up to date information about this can be found at www.gov.uk/staying-uk-eu-citizen

www.mygov.scot/eu-exit/

Current arrangements for EU Nationals and EEA Citizens.

EU/EEA citizens have rights under the Freedom of Movement arrangements which are part of legislation introduced by the UK Government and the EU.

EU/EEA citizens are required to demonstrate that they have a 'right to reside' and are 'habitually resident' to be able to access benefits such as Tax Credits, Housing Benefit, Universal Credit and other parts of the social security system.

After Brexit: The EU Settlement Scheme.

Under the EU withdrawal legislation, EU/EEA citizens will have the opportunity to apply for Settled Status and Pre-Settled Status as part of the EU Settlement Scheme. This also applies to citizens of Norway, Switzerland, Lichtenstein and Iceland.

EU/EEA citizens who make successful applications for Settled or Pre-Settled Status will be granted 'indefinite leave to remain'. This will give access to benefits and education without having to demonstrate a 'right to reside' or that they are 'habitually resident'.

Deadline for Applications

All EU citizens who wish to remain in the UK will be required to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme before the end of June 2021.

In the event of a 'No Deal' Brexit the deadline for applications is the end of December 2020.

It is very important that all EU/EEA citizens make applications before these deadlines. More information can be found at www.gov.uk/staying-uk-eu-citizen

Staff at Govanhill Housing Association are legally prohibited from offering specific immigration advice, however we are happy to direct people to the appropriate immigration advisors.



Tenant Participation Special: **Get Involved** in Your Association

There are many ways to get involved with your Association, at every level, ranging from responding to consultations, to attending events, and even joining the Management Committee.

Regular events

Monthly Drop-ins at Samaritan House

On the third Tuesday of every month we host a tenant drop-in, an ideal place to have a cup of tea, meet your neighbours and find out more about what's going on with the Association. The drop-ins start at 6pm and each one has a theme relating to your home or the Association.

Tuesday 16th April
New Scottish Secure Tenancy Agreement

Tuesday 21st May
Tenant Participation Action Plan

Tuesday 18th June
Our performance; find out about the Association's Charter return.

Community Conversations

Every month Govanhill Community Development Trust (GCDT) hosts Community Conversations. These are facilitated discussions which seek to find solutions to shared issues. Community Conversations are open to all residents of Govanhill, and will feed into the locality plan for the area. For more information about Community Conversations contact dzabiega@govanhillha.org.

Join your local Residents Group

Residents' groups are a great way to meet your neighbours and get involved in your local community. The following groups in Govanhill and Merrylee meet regularly and hold a range of events.

Govanhill Community Garden Residents & Tenants Association:

open to all residents with an interest in gardening.

Find them on Facebook by searching 'Govanhill Community Garden'.



The Govanhill Community Garden Residents & Tenants Association held their annual general meeting on Saturday 23 February.

Over the summer South Seeds will be delivering weekly gardening sessions, and brand new fruit bushes and trees have arrived thanks to the Orchard Project.

Merrylee Residents & Tenants

Organisation: Open to everyone living in Merrylee.

To get involved contact mrandto@gmail.com

This year, the group is working in partnership with Cathcart & District Baptist Church to hold a men's event on Wednesday 1st May.



On International Women's Day the group started an arts project with community artist Amelia Rowe. Throughout May the completed work will be displayed in the Merrylee housing office as part of the national Luminare festival.

You can keep up to date with the progress of this project, and other developments in Merrylee at the Merrylee Tenants and Residents Organisation Facebook page @Merrylee Residents & Tenants Organisation.

MERGE Group (Minority Ethnic

Residents Group): Open to anyone from a black or minority ethnic community.

To get involved:

contact Jennifer (0141 636 3668) or Amra (0141 636 3628)



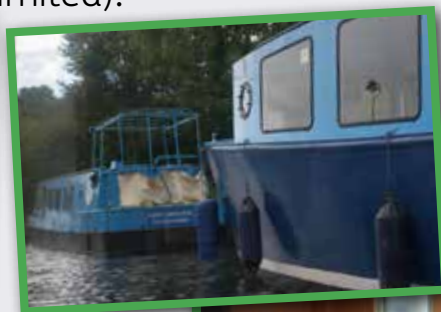
MERGE hold regular coffee mornings at 10:30am on Mondays in Samaritan House. The first 6 coffee mornings of the year included art workshops with a local community artist, and now the group are perfecting their stitching with regular sewing workshops.

In February, the group took part in a Community Health and Learning Foundation Project, by giving their opinions on Breast Cancer resources to ensure they are clear to understand.

MERGE hold regular meetings on the third Thursday of the month at 11:00am in Samaritan House.

Jamieson Court Retirement Housing

Complex Group: Open to anyone living in Jamieson Court; outings open to everyone over the age of 60. (places are limited).



Barge photo taken by Mrs Walker on last year's outing

To get involved: contact Jennifer

The residents' group held a daffodil tea to mark International Women's Day on 8th March. The event featured a quiz as well as plenty of cakes and chat; a great time was had by all! The group organises day trips during the Summer; the next planned trip will take place on the 17th of June where the group will be going to Largs. These trips are open to anyone over 60; if you are interested get in touch!

Factored Owners Forum: Open to all factored owners.

To get involved: contact Jennifer on 0141 636 3668

The factored owners' forum meets every 6 months and offers factored owners the opportunity to keep up to date with the Association. The most recent meeting included the regional manager of John O Connor who reported on work during the winter months, which has involved pulling through bulk rubbish, tidying back courts and litter picks. In other news grass cutting season begins in April, from which point there will be a fortnightly grass cutting and litter pick service. Shrubs and bushes will also be trimmed regularly.

Tenant Participation Special: Get Involved in Your Association

(Continued)

Tenants' Focus Group on the Association's Latest New Build Project

To get involved: contact Jennifer on 0141 636 3668

A small group of tenants met with one of our Development Officers, Christine, to talk about how they can bring their experience and ideas to the planning and design of our next new build project on Butterbiggins Road. The role of the group was agreed, and group members made several practical suggestions which could improve future developments. The next meeting will be with the architects.

Tenant Participation Strategy Review: How Could we Involve you Better?

The Association is keen to hear your views about how we involve tenants. If you would like to be involved in reviewing our tenant participation strategy please contact Jennifer on jferguson@govanhillha.org.

Are you Interested in Woodwork and Craft?



In Govanhill:

Free Woodwork Sessions

Every Thursday at 1:30pm free woodwork sessions for men will be taking place in the Govanhill Community Garden.

In Merrylee:

Get Involved in the Merrylee Shed.

On Wednesday 1st May visit the Merrylee shed for our open day to find out more. Pop in to the Cathcart Baptist Church and Community Hub, 96 Merrylee Road, Cathcart G43 2RA. Contact Derrick for more information on 07511699805 or by email at hello@cathcartbaptist.online.

Hundreds Attend Family Learning with GCDT and Glasgow Life



By Jessica Reid
GCDT volunteer
community reporter

It's Saturday morning at Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre and many different kinds of families are arriving for this week's Family Café. Breakfast consists of Danish pastries, fruit salad and tea and coffee - it's vital to stock up on energy for the day of activities ahead.

Family Café is a weekly event aimed at creating opportunities for families to spend time together over food, fun and learning. The project is

in the pilot stages, and is being run by GCDT and Glasgow Life. The last two Saturdays have both seen around 100 people attending and there's been lots of positive feedback.

A day at the Family Café looks something like this: family breakfast, then Bookbug reading sessions and play-along maths, followed by lunchtime, and finally games and ESOL classes.

As the early birds finish their breakfast, I get chatting to Riz, a local mum-of-three who's recently moved back

to Glasgow. When I ask what she makes of Family Café, she tells me about the sense of security that comes with seeing familiar faces. And her daughter really enjoys it here - so much so that when they get home she's so shattered that she's snoring away in no time.

This article was written by one of our volunteer community reporters and also appeared on our website govanhill.info. If you are interested in getting involved with the newsletter or getting involved with the site email Liz at lely@govanhillha.org.



Community Conversations Focuses on Media Representation as GCDT Launches Facebook and Instagram

On Thursday the 14th of March Community Conversations focused on how Govanhill is represented in the media, and how we are seen both as individuals and as a community.

As part of the session participants brought in significant objects and spoke about the meaning behind them. The groups then came up with ideas for demands of the media which will be taken forward by the media sub-group.

Keep up to date with the Govanhill Community Development Trust on Facebook and by following @Govanhill_community_info on Instagram.





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Find out more at
www.homeswapper.co.uk

Another Phase of Kitchen Developments Underway

The Association has appointed CCG (Scotland) Ltd to complete another phase of kitchen replacements to 113 properties. This next phase will see the replacement of older kitchens and will commence on 1st April 2019 with a 16 week programme to completion.

We are already in the process of planning a further phase of kitchen replacements to 100 properties. Tenants in

this further phase will be advised by letter and offered an appointment for a kitchen survey. It is important that access is given for the survey so that the new kitchen units can be ordered. As part of the kitchen survey, tenants will be given the chance to choose the colour of the new kitchen units, worktops and floorcoverings. The kitchen installation will also include a new fan, ceiling light and any required upgrade to the



electrics. This work will be managed by the Association's Development Team.

For more information contact the Association's Development Team on 0141 636 3684

Meet the Neighbours Brunch for New Development Tenants

On the 6th of March the Association hosted a 'getting to know you' brunch for the residents of our new build development at Victoria/ Butterbiggins Road. All tenants who have moved into the new development transferred from other properties in and around Govanhill, so this gave people a chance to meet their new neighbours, as well as give feedback to the Association. Everyone had a chance to share their experiences over pastries and coffee, with many commenting that their new homes had changed their lives.

Govanhill and Merrylee Residents Take Part in Spring Cleaning

Litter picking sessions have taken place in Govanhill and Merrylee with volunteers working hard to make both areas tidier as the days get longer and brighter.

Future litter picks will be advertised on the Govanhill Housing Association Facebook Page, and through the Merrylee tenants and residents group.



COMMUNITY AWARDS 2019



- Govanhill -

- Best front garden
- Best backcourt
- Best kept close
- Most creative garden feature
- Good neighbour

- Merrylee -

- Best front garden
- Best verandah
- Good neighbour

Nominate your favourites!

**Awards
will be
announced
later in the
year**

(Please use CAPITAL LETTERS)

Your name:

Your address:

Telephone Number:

Who would you like to nominate?

I live in Govanhill/Merrylee (delete as applicable)

Please provide their name and address below and their telephone number if you can.

(or just the address if you are making a nomination for best kept close or backcourt):

Which award are you nominating them for? (please tick box)

- ☐ Best front garden ☐ Best back court ☐ Best kept close ☐ Best verandah ☐ Most creative garden feature ☐ Good neighbour

Are they aware that you are making a nomination?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ Don't know

Why do you think the above deserves an award?

Your signature: Date:

Please return your nomination forms by 5pm on 31st July 2019 to:

**Govanhill Housing Association, Samaritan House, 79 Coplaw Street, GLASGOW G42 7JG
or our Merrylee office at 53 Ashmore Road, Glasgow G43 2LS**

Nominations can also be emailed to **checkin@govanhillha.org** for the attention of Jennifer Ferguson



Please Contact Us At: Freepost Better Living

General Enquiries: 0141 636 3636 • **Fax:** 0141 636 3685

Web: www.govanhillha.org • **Email:** checkin@govanhillha.org

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