

GOVANHILL NEWSLETTER



The Newsletter of Govanhill Housing Association

Winter 2021

Association Closures over the Festive Period

Please note the Association will be closed from Friday the 24th of December until 9am Thursday the 6th of January inclusive.

For support during this time
please phone the following numbers:

- Tenant Emergency Heating Repairs – City Technical Services on **0333 202 0708**
- Tenants Health and Safety Emergency Internal Repairs – call MEARS on **0203 5893140**
- Other Emergency Repairs – Pointer Call Handling Service, **0141 552 8647**

If you have any issues with any of the above
numbers please call Pointer Call Handling
Service on **0141 552 8647**

For all other Emergencies
call the emergency services:

- Police, fire, ambulance ...**999**
- Police (non-emergency) ...**101**
- NHS 24 helpline.....**111**



End of Year Round Up

10 Reasons to be Cheerful from 2021

As the year ends we take the opportunity to look back over some of the positives from our Association and our community from the past year.

2021 started with a national lockdown and finishes with a requirement again to work from home if possible. To say that this has been a challenging time seems like an understatement.

Among the difficulties there have also been reasons to celebrate this year, we wanted to highlight some of the many pieces of good news from the Association, Govanhill Community Development Trust (GCDT) and the community more widely.

1



The Association secured £7.6 Million in further funding for the South West Govanhill Project.

This extra funding will allow us to consolidate the improvements that have been made in the area over the last 4 years.

2

Community Benefits: Getting

MEARS

the best value for Govanhill from our Contractors. When the Association takes on any large contract we always ensure that the contractors commit to going the extra mile for the area in the shape of community benefits. This year we have secured, amongst other benefits, free installation of bicycle storage for tenants as well as a commitment to install public community noticeboards.

3



The Community Garden kept Govanhill in Bloom.

The community Garden group have continued to maintain the space next to Samaritan House, adding an innovative sensory garden with the help of local young people, as well as Hosting the Youth Club's Halloween party.



4

GCDT Commercial Tenants Stay Active.

Restrictions meant this was a difficult year for many of our commercial tenants however there were positive stories, from Active Life keeping us fit and winning Awards, Food Train continued to serve the most vulnerable in our community and Big Noise and Music Broth brought music to Govanhill, raising spirits during the pandemic.

5

The Association and GCDT kept the community connected by distributing digital devices. This year showed us the importance of staying connected. GCDT provided 140 digital devices which were given to families in need.



6

Govanhill Community Development Trust Provides New Opportunities.

This year GCDT increased its support providing English classes for Speakers of other languages as well as launching Govanhill Opportunities a new employability and volunteering service. GCDT development workers supported families in our community and have started working in local schools to improve family learning within the Roma community.



8

Home working requirement allows the Association to consider new possibilities for reducing our carbon footprint. At the time of writing the Scottish Government guidance still urges working from home. Although this is not something any of us would have chosen, the reduction in travel to work has significantly reduced our carbon footprint. Like many other organisations this has encouraged us to consider ways of working that may help us to continue to reduce our carbon emissions in the future.

9

Thriving Places Launches Govanhill Open Museum Project.

The open museum project will document the heritage of the area and bring local memories to life. The project is canvassing opinions from members of the community who represent various interest groups in the area.



7

New Homes Allocated to Tenants as Soon as Restrictions allowed.

Between January and November our Housing Team allocated and let 228 properties, providing safe affordable housing to as many as possible at a time when it has been sorely needed.

10

Our Welfare Right Team Secured More than £2 Million in Additional Income for Residents.

It has been a difficult year financially for many, but our welfare rights team were there to offer support and sourced an estimated £2,049,238.44 in additional income for tenants and other residents.

All Change on the Senior Management Team

The new year brings new faces and changes to the senior management team at the Association.

Following the retirement of Ken MacDougall earlier this year, the Association reviewed the responsibilities of the Senior Management team. Alan Macdonald has been appointed to the post of Head of Development and Property Services, and we look forward to welcoming Claire McGraw

as our new Head of Tenancy Services in January.

Claire has a background in working for other Registered Social Landlords in similar roles and we are delighted that she is joining our team.

More information on this and any other staffing changes will be provided in the next newsletter.

GOOD NEIGHBOURS SPECIAL!

What Makes a Good Neighbour?

It can be all too obvious what makes a bad neighbour. Noise, littering, smoking and a lack of respect for communal spaces can make life unpleasant in ways we can't help but notice. On the other hand it is easy to take good neighbours for granted. There are so many kind, helpful, friendly people out there in our community, it is important we recognise what they do.

For this edition of the newsletter we asked the community 'what makes a good Neighbour?'

Here are some of your suggestions

'Trustworthy, knowing each other and their faces, good bond'

'Saying hi goes a long way! Good neighbours take in parcels for you and are friendly. It's good to know that there's someone there if you need them'

Some of the GCDT ESOL literacy learners said:

'Good neighbors say 'hello', 'how are you' every day. Bad Neighbours (do) too much smoking, no hello, no how are you.'

'Looking out for each other and helping vulnerable disabled people. I have two good neighbours that look out for me'

The Winner of This Year's Good Neighbour Award is...Mary Thompson of Hollybrook Street.



Mary was nominated for maintaining the back garden of her property to the best possible standard, including adding flowers and plants, and maintaining the benches, bushes and paths. This gave the neighbours a shared space to sit and talk during lockdown.

Mary has a great attitude to life, community spirit and has been described as a 'blessing to all who know her' and a friend as well as a neighbour.

Congratulations Mary!

2022 New Year: New Opportunities in Govanhill!



Govanhill Opportunities is a new service bringing together the employability and volunteering support offered by Govanhill Community Development Trust.

Through tailored one to one support, Gillian Scott and Ruth Plummer are working with members of the community to support them to change their lives, take on new challenges and improve their life chances, including finding work.

If you would like more information or think you would benefit from support from Govanhill Opportunities please contact a member of our team!

For employability support contact Gillian on gscott@govanhillha.org or **07919372488**

For volunteering contact Ruth on rplummer@govanhillha.org or **07393 263433**

Large office / storage space to rent



Get in touch for more information - call Marie on **07741 893 008** or email mmcbeth@govanhillha.org



Govanhill Community development Trust is a subsidiary of Govanhill Housing Association.

Share the gift of music and memories



Playlist for Life offers free support for families in the following ways:

- **Free resources** – visit the Playlist for Life website for advice and resources including workbooks, ready-made playlists and 'How to...' videos. www.playlistforlife.org.uk
- **Playlist for Life Helpline** – To find out more about how personal music can help, book a call with a trained volunteer who can provide advice and help you get started. Visit www.playlistforlife.org.uk/helpline/ to book a call.
- **Free webinar for family and friends** – Learn more about how music can help and how to get started making a personal playlist for your loved one. No experience with technology required and there is the option to stay on at the end to ask questions. Runs the first Wednesday of each month. For more info and to book a place on a Family & friends webinar visit www.playlistforlife.org.uk/book-webinars

If you want to find out more about any of the opportunities above contact info@playlistforlife.org.uk or call **0141 404 0683**.

Get involved in our Christmas campaign

Search #MyFestiveMemory on social media or visit www.playlistforlife.org.uk/christmas



Music can help dementia. Discover the soundtrack of your life today.

Playlist for Life is a music and dementia charity offering free advice and support to help families harness the special benefits of personal music for people living with dementia.

Over two decades of scientific research has shown that listening to a personal playlist can improve the wellbeing of those living with dementia. In fact, listening to music that is personally meaningful has many psychological benefits, meaning anyone can benefit from a playlist.

Personal playlists can:

- reduce anxiety
- improve your mood
- make difficult tasks more manageable
- evoke memories that can help families and carers connect

Rent Matters: Christmas Budgeting Special

For those of us who celebrate Christmas, it is easy to overdo it, with added pressure to spend money on presents and entertainment. It can be all too easy to end up in difficulty in the new year.

It doesn't have to be that way! We have put together a few tips on how to avoid getting into trouble during the festive season.

Budgeting tips

- Decide how much you can afford to spend at Christmas and stick to it! Wise men such as Martin Lewis at **moneysavingexpert.com** will tell you 'Don't plan the perfect Christmas, first work out what you can afford'
- Prioritise rent, debts and other essential bills and consider these payments while making a budget. Peace of mind that you have essentials covered makes for a happier Christmas in the long run.
- Plan gift buying ahead and consider limiting unnecessary presents – when you avoid buying items that you don't need it is good for your wallet and the environment.
- Sprinkle Christmas magic for your family in ways that cost nothing or very little. Snuggle up in front of a Christmas film, take a wintry walk in the park, or camp out in front of the Christmas tree. Check out **moneysavingexpert.com** for other tips and ideas.

Make the payment of priority debts a gift to yourself providing peace of mind this Christmas.



Remember help is there if you need it

If you do find that you stretch your finances too far over the festive period and have debts you are struggling to pay there is a lot of free help available. <https://moneyadvice.co.uk/> or www.citizensadvice.org.uk

You can also contact your housing officer in the rent team for advice and information.

Sandra Murray- smurray@govanhillha.org
0141 433 2141

Loraine Jennings- ljennings@govanhillha.org
0141 636 3672

Avril White- awhite@govanhillha.org
0141 636 3662

Keeping Warm this Winter

Child Winter Heating Assistance: One off Payment for Parents

The Scottish Government is currently making payments of Child Winter Heating Assistance to the parents or guardians of young people who meet specific qualifying criteria. The payment is a one-off amount of £202.

The child or young person must be 18 years of age or younger and have been awarded either disability living allowance (highest rate), personal independence payment (enhanced rate) or the Scottish Disability payment for children (highest rate).

A payment of £202 will be made automatically so there is no need to submit a claim. If you feel your child meets the above criteria and you have not received the payment, you should contact Social Security Scotland on **0800 182 2222**.



regular

GOVANHILL UPDATES



LOCAL JOBS. EVENTS. FAMILY & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES. YOUTH. HEALTH SERVICES.
FINANCIAL SUPPORT. TRAINING & VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES. COMMUNITY
CONSULTATIONS. LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS. CHANGES TO SERVICES. FUNDING. AND MORE.

Visit our Website for Community Updates:

govanhill.info

or sign up to our email list at:

www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/GovanhillUpdates/



WOULD YOU LIKE TO WIN £500 TOWARDS YOUR ENERGY BILLS?

Our fantastic energy bills quiz is back, giving Scottish householders the chance to win fabulous prizes – it could be you!

- We have five first prizes of £500 and five second prizes of £250 to share with householders across Scotland.
- Test and boost your energy-saving knowledge by taking part in our quick quiz.
- Each question shares a great money and energy saving tip.
- To be in with a chance of winning make sure you leave your full contact details. Terms and conditions apply, find out more online.

Enter now for your chance to win – go to homeenergyscotland.org/win or scan this QR code to take you directly to the quiz.

Good luck!



HOMEENERGYSCOTLAND.ORG
0808 808 2282
FUNDED BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT



Satellite TV Connections

Health and Safety:

What you need to know.

The Association gets many requests from tenants and private owners to install or assist them resolving issues with TV satellite connections or have these installed for the first time. For us to assist with these requests and follow safe working practices there are a few things we need from you before any work can be done:

- We need to assess the suitability of your satellite TV contractor to carry out this work safely if they require access to the attic or roof (please note this does not apply if they are only visiting your home).
- Before we can allow access to the attic or roof, we need to see the contractors Health and Safety documents.
- We also need to see their insurance documents. This protects you and other residents from being charged for damage to common parts of the building and may protect you from liability claims in the case of injury during the work.

These documents are called **Risk Assessments** and **Method Statements**, most contractors will have them already in place and provide them freely to clients who seek to view them.

These documents allow the contractor to demonstrate to our staff that the company and person doing the work has been properly trained and has the correct knowledge to safely complete the work in a professional manner. Without these documents we cannot allow access to the attic and roof area.

When you contact your TV satellite provider please advise them that the Association has requested to see them prior to sending anyone out to fix the issue if they need access to the attic or roof.

If the contractor is already in your home and decides the problem is in the attic space or on the roof they should have the documents with them. Please contact the Association in this instance.

We may be able to send one of our Maintenance staff to meet them and view their documents, we will also request a copy to keep.



A Festive Rubbish Quiz: What bin does this thing go in?!

Can you match the items with the correct bin?
Answers at the foot of the page!



Answers: Grey bin – tea bag/apple core/banana skin • Blue bin – Drinks Can, newspaper, cardboard box • Green bin – margarine tub, plastic bag • Purple Bin – Glass bottle

COLOUR ME IN!



GOVANHILL
HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Please Contact Us At: Freepost Better Living

General Enquiries: 0141 636 3636

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

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