
Newsletter



CHICHESTER GREYFRIARS HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD (a charity)
Winter 2016

THOSE LAZY HAZY DAYS OF SUMMER

Once again you excelled yourselves in providing beautiful displays of flowers throughout the summer.



It was not just the planters who were busy. Mike and Colin spent a busy couple of days rubbing down the benches at Royal Close and varnishing them so they look like new.

Meanwhile Brian put his back into cleaning all the patio areas and giving the shrubs an enthusiastic prune! Many thanks to them all for giving their time and energy – much appreciated by all.



News from the Board

David Siggs has chaired the Association since 2004 and has led us through both the good and the challenging times during that period calmly and with good humour. His links with Chichester Greyfriars go back to the beginning as his father was one of the people who founded the association back in the late 1960s. David will continue on the board for a further year and was appointed as Vice Chairman at the AGM on 13th December.



This year we are saying goodbye to 3 board members – Gill Etherington, Ray Brown and Guy Clifford. Between them they have clocked up 53 years of voluntary service to Greyfriars bringing a range of expertise ranging from housing management, care of the elderly and building development and maintenance. We are extremely grateful for their contribution and are pleased that each of them will retain their interest in the Association as they will continue to be shareholders.

The members of the board have had a busy time this year as there have been several new initiatives proposed by the government which affect how the Association is managed.

Would you like a copy of the **Business Plan**? This sets out the plans for the next 5 years. If you would like a copy please ask Shelagh Morgan.

Every association is under pressure to play its part in **providing more homes** for those who need them. We are keen to play our part and have been following up on a number of opportunities for purchasing new properties. Whilst we are not in a position to announce anything specific at this stage we are very hopeful that we will have some news in early 2017.

Those of you who have been to the meetings of the Tenants Forum will know that the board have been looking at the implications of the introduction of the **Voluntary Right to Buy Scheme**. This will give tenants of housing associations the right to buy their property but will also give associations the right to restrict which properties are available for purchase. The government is finding it difficult to come up with the detail and has just announced that there is still more work to be done before it will be introduced. This could take up to another 12 months and so we will wait to hear more information before introducing any policies relating to this initiative.

The new Chairman is David Parfitt. He joined the board in May 2015 and has been the chairman of the Audit Committee as well as a member of the Finance and Governance Committee.



We also have 2 new board members who were appointed at the AGM.

Tim Willcocks is an Assistant Director at Radian Housing Association and has expertise in new development.

Mark McJennett serves on the boards of two other housing associations and has professional expertise in sales and marketing.



Tim Willcocks



Mark McJennett

GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

The idea of introducing a more formal arrangement in which a small number of residents are responsible for welcoming new people when they move in and helping anyone who needs help in small tasks such as reporting a repair which is needed or contacting a member of the staff team to discuss their concerns.

We know that there are lots of informal arrangements in place which means many of you are good neighbours in every sense of the words. However there is still the chance that someone who needs help gets missed. If you are interested in being part of the more formal arrangement please let Shelagh know.

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REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

The current arrangement for dealing with repairs which are needed to both occupied and vacant properties is that we raise an order with a contractor who then does the work on our behalf.

We are going to trial a new approach. Joe Colwell, the Maintenance Officer is a skilled joiner and plumber. He will therefore be doing much of the work required – although contractors will still be used for all electrical and gas items. The intention is that we will both reduce costs and improve the standard. You will be asked for your feedback in the same way as you now do this for contractors and this will help the board to decide if the arrangement should become permanent.

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OFFICE HOURS DURING THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

Monday – Thursday 19th - 22nd December 9 am – 1 pm

Friday 23rd December – January 1st inclusive CLOSED

Do not forget the out of hours service is available for emergencies –

0845 6030602

