

Taunton Heritage Trust

NEWSLETTER NO 26

Dear Residents

Happy New Year to you all – let us hope that 2023 is a kind one.

As the year progresses we will keep you updated of any relevant issues via the usual channels and hope to hold a joint session in the coming months with Residents, the Chief Officer and Properties Manager, similar to the ones held in 2022.

Our main area of concern for this year, in line with all other almshouse charities and individuals, is the alarming rise in utility costs. As we review the WMC charges for the coming year, can I please request that all Residents are mindful when using their heating. Small actions like ensuring your community room heating is switched off when leaving, ensuring your heating is not on high with windows thrown open etc will all contribute to the overall picture that collectively, we are all responsible for.

Office Team updates



We are very pleased to welcome our new Properties Manager, Steve Cavill who is settling into life well at the Trust. Steve comes to the Trust with extensive property management experience, working for a long period of time with Somerset Care. Some of you may have already met Steve, but those that haven't yet done so will soon meet with him out and about on site.

As you will be aware we are waving goodbye to our Chief Officer Karen White in April this year. Karen has been at the Trust for nearly 10 years and she will be very much missed. Karen has been vital in making important changes for the Trust in an everchanging world.



Following a vigorous recruitment process we are pleased that our current Office & Compliance Manager - Ros Moreton will be stepping into the Chief Officer's role. She has an excellent understanding of the Trust and we wish her all the best when she starts her new role.

Staff & Trustees Development day

At the end of September Trustees and Staff of the Trust held a joint Development Day in the Bernard Taylor Homes community room. The session was facilitated by Carol Pearce, a trainer whose expertise the Trust has benefited from in the past. In addition we were lucky enough to be joined by Nick Phillips the Chief Executive of the National Almshouse Association. The day was extremely useful and enjoyable, encouraged joint working and as you would expect, included a long agenda of Trust-related issues to discuss and agree!



In a follow up email from Nick Phillips, who spends a lot of time travelling around the country meeting almshouse charities of all shapes and sizes, he said the following:

"You have a really wonderful charity there and a great team of staff and trustees."

Of course we knew this anyway, but were delighted to receive the confirmation!

The photo shows L to R Liz Fothergill Chair of Trustees THT, Karen White CO THT, Councillor Sue Lees Mayor of Taunton and Patron of THT and Nick Phillips Chief Executive of National Almshouse Association.

Fraud protection

In August the Fraud-protection team from Avon and Somerset Police visited and gave us an engaging and very informative talk about fraud and scams. The Residents were given information packs which were greatly received. A spare copy is available so please ask Ali or Jacqui.

Please be aware that scams are changing all the time. If you think you have been victim of a scam, phone your bank immediately on a number that you know is correct i.e., listed on your statement. It is important to report this by contacting Action Fraud on [0300 123 2040](tel:03001232040) or 101 if the suspect is known.

TAKE FIVE is the national campaign that offers straightforward and impartial advice to help everyone protect themselves from preventable financial fraud. Find out more at takefive-stopfraud.org.uk. Also please remember the golden rules: Stop, Challenge, and Protect.



Play your cards right



The Residents enjoyed a fun filled night at the community room at Bernard Taylor Homes playing Play Your Cards Right.

A THT Resident took the prestigious role of Bruce Forsyth when dealing out the cards.

The Residents thoroughly enjoyed the night arranged by their Warden Jacqui. They also enjoyed plenty of food with a KFC banquet.



Christmas party



The Residents, Staff, Trustees and the Mayor returned to Somerset County Cricket Ground for our Christmas Party again.

The room and tables had been beautifully decorated and felt very Christmassy. Everyone was in good spirits, chatting with friends.

We were all treated to a three course Christmas lunch and even some mince pies!



We also had our traditional raffle, where everyone is a winner, with our Residents winning a selection of Christmas themed gifts.



It has been lovely to receive so many thank you messages and cards.

We look forward to our next Christmas event in 2023!



The Mayors giving of Alms gifts



The Trust were really pleased to welcome back the Mayor, consort and Deputy Mayor to our traditional Christmas event - The giving of the Alms gifts.

This special event was held in the busy community rooms at Leycroft Close and Bernard Taylor Homes.

The Residents who attended received their Alms gift from the Mayor or Deputy Mayor. It was also a chance for our

Trustees and Associates to come along and meet with our Residents and share a coffee and a festive catch up.



DEANE HELPLINE

Please make sure all family members and friends have the Deane Helpline number incase of emergency:

01823 257185

