

Taunton Heritage Trust

MARCH 2021

NEWSLETTER NO 23



Dear Residents,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Trust's new Chair of the Trustee Board having taking over from John Ruff just before Christmas.

In normal circumstances I would have met some of you at the residents coffee morning or the distribution of the Christmas Alms but of course we do not find ourselves in normal times. In fact as I write we are heading for almost a year of restrictions that have impacted our lives in so many ways. So firstly many thanks to you all for playing your part during this global pandemic and I sincerely hope that you have remained well. I fully appreciate the strain that the pandemic has placed on so many of you; not being able to see your friends and families, go on holiday or short breaks, even just nipping to the shops has been hard. But hopefully the current lockdown is our last, the vaccine programme will be completely rolled out and we will soon feel that the corner has been turned.



So what are my credentials for the role of Chair of your Trust I hear you ask? I have been familiar with the work of Taunton Heritage Trust for nearly 30 years as I used to volunteer and then work at Citizens Advice Taunton. In my role there I helped identify and refer residents and grant applicants to the Trust, a service they still provide today. I was always impressed by the quality of housing, the community spirit on each of the sites and the devotion of staff and trustees to ensure that the residents were at the heart of all their decision-making. It was however when I retired from Citizens Advice in 2016 that I became a trustee and with it the opportunity to become even more passionate and proud about the Trust and all it does. I have also served as a trustee for two other charities so feel I am familiar with all aspects of governance and how charities operate.

As well as supporting the Trust with my fellow trustees and ensuring you are safe, secure and happy in your homes, I am also particularly interested in our long history in Taunton. I was involved with the research and recording of Gray's Chapel a couple of years ago with six Art Society colleagues. If you haven't seen the results of our work the full record is on our website.

I consider the role of Chair of such a historic charity a privilege and I am committed to making my term as Chair as meaningful as possible, giving as much time as I am able. I have 3 young granddaughters, who I adore, plus a dog and a cat (oh – and actually a husband too!) but love to be busy and meeting people.

So again, thank you for your support over the last difficult year and being part of this special community that is Taunton Heritage Trust and I do hope to start seeing some of you round and about very soon.

Stay safe and take care.

Liz Fothergill - Chair to the Board of Trustees

We currently have vacant flats. If you know of someone who may be interested please ask them to contact the office.





Hampers

In November last year the Trust organised some beautiful hampers for our Residents.

The staff had a really lovely morning delivering the hampers to Residents on their door steps who were so surprised to receive them.



The staff were even met with happy tears from some Residents on receiving their hamper.

The beautiful hampers were provided by The Hamperguys based in Taunton. They were filled with a selection of hand picked local produce which included

cakes, chocolate treats, popcorn, crisps, fruit juice, ham, tea, preserves etc.



The Hampers were arranged by the Trust to give our Residents something to smile about during these difficult times.

The Trust received so many lovely thank you cards and messages. We were so pleased to hear that they had been so gratefully received.



Christmas lights



Huge well done to our Residents at Leycroft Close for their amazing effort in decorating the site so beautifully for Christmas.

Even the flowerpot men had their own set of festive lights.

Christmas Alms gifts



We were so disappointed that the pandemic meant that we were unable in December to have our usual visit from our Patron, The Mayor of Taunton, to hand out the Christmas alms gifts to our Residents at a coffee morning last year.

The gifts were instead delivered by the office staff who took the opportunity to wish all our Residents a Happy Christmas and a happy, healthy 2021.



Supporting our local food bank



In December last year we got together with the Taunton Round Table and jointly donated £1,000 to the Taunton Food Bank.

The work that the Food Bank carry out helping everyone in food poverty in the community is truly outstanding.

The Trust were delighted to be able to offer a grant towards this worthy cause.



Vaccines for Residents

We are so pleased to hear from so many of our Residents that they have been able to receive their first and second vaccines against Covid-19. We can finally start looking forward to a brighter future. In the summer we can hopefully have the events and get togethers with our families and neighbours which we have all missed so much.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for future events please pop them in the suggestion box on your site.

Who's slippers are who's?



One of the advantages of working from home is being able to wear your slippers all day.
Do you know which staff member some of these slippers belong to?

Taunton Heritage Trust. Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) 1177162. Providing Sheltered Accommodation and helping those in need in Taunton Deane.



DEANE HELPLINE

01823 257185