

Taunton Heritage Trust

JULY 2021

NEWSLETTER NO 24

Dear Residents

We hope that by the time you receive this Newsletter you are enjoying some settled summer weather and are able to get out and about a bit more this year.

We have a few Staffing updates for you in that Jeff our Properties Manager will be retiring from this position at the end of August. We know you will agree that Jeff has been a superb Properties Manager for the Trust and will be a hard act to follow – however – we are confident that we have found in his replacement, another excellent Properties Manager! Nick Beresford is joining the Trust mid-way through August and before long, will be out and about on site. Nick comes with a wealth of property-related and other experience having served in the military for a number of years and more recently in the Police force.



We are fortunate as a Trust in that we are not losing Jeff's expertise altogether though, as we are retaining him on a reduced contract with the specific responsibility of overseeing the Corfield Hall development project. You will be aware that we have suffered delays with progressing this project due in part to the pandemic but also to the introduction of phosphate mitigation legislation that has meant we are still awaiting final planning sign off. Considerable work is going on behind the scenes and we are hopeful that matters will be satisfactorily resolved in the coming months. The need for almshouse accommodation is greater than ever and we are looking forward to delivering additional housing for our beneficiaries.

As Government restrictions ease and we hope our lives slowly return to normal, please don't hesitate to make use of your Suggestion Boxes on site in order to communicate to us any ideas or concerns you may have regarding your housing provision.

A good news story...

In the office we have recently received an email, out of the blue from a local man advising us that his late mother had left the Trust £3,000 in her Will. His mother, a Miss Dollins was born in 1931, came from a poor family in Taunton and suffered from rickets as a child. The Taunton Town Charity (as the Trust was then called) funded Miss Dollins to get to Bishop Fox's Grammar School in the town.

Miss Dollins went on to have a family of her own, became a social worker and later in life, a successful property developer, which she continued well into her eighties. Apparently she never forgot the help she had received from the Charity and wanted to give something back.



We are honoured to receive this generous donation and will ensure it is ringfenced for our Educational Grants Scheme to benefit more young people in the town.





Puppy visitor

The Residents had a surprise visitor at their Coffee morning

recently! It was a 10 week old golden retriever puppy called Ivy who belongs to Claire in the office. All the Residents were so happy to meet her and have a little cuddle.



Little puppy Ivy even had time to do a little work in the office....



Now that restrictions are relaxing we are all able to make plans to visit family, go on holiday etc. If you are planning to go away please let your Warden know.



Emergency access - chain across the door

Trust Staff will only enter a Resident's flat, without permission, in an emergency situation.

Security can be maintained by using the door chains before opening doors to check on the identity of the caller before disengaging the chain. We would encourage that **chains are not left engaged** which again can hinder access by Staff or emergency responders in an emergency. **Only use the chain when answering the door.**

Residents are encouraged not to dead-lock their front door when they are at home.

For more details please refer to Page 12 of the Residents handbook.

Coffee mornings in the sunshine!



It has been so lovely to finally have our Resident coffee mornings back. They have initially been held outside inline with the government guidance at that time.

The Residents have been so lucky with the weather and we hope the sunshine continues!



To celebrate the return of our coffee mornings the Trust recently provided a selection of cakes for our Residents to enjoy.

We are very much looking forward to opening the Community Rooms back up for Residents to use and for their weekly coffee mornings. Our Wardens have lots of ideas for future events.



Date for the diary!...



The Trustees & Mayor have been invited to attend Residents' coffee mornings on Wednesday 13th October.



Taunton Heritage Trust

Gardening corner...



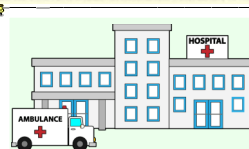
We are really lucky to have so many of our Residents who are really keen gardeners. We have so many beautiful pots and planters on our sites which have been planted and maintained by our Residents.



In these restricted times gardening has been so good for keeping us busy whilst enjoying the fresh air and watching the beautiful flowers grow.



Here are just a few photos from Leycroft Close & Bernard Taylor Homes...



When returning from hospital please make sure you notify the Warden. If your Warden is unavailable please contact the Deane Helpline: 01823 257185

Guest rooms open

We are pleased to be able to open up our guest rooms. If you would like to book one please get in touch with your Warden who will check if its available.



Leycroft close

Grays Almshouses: £15.00 per night

St James Close: £15.00 per night

Leycroft close: £23.00 per night