

SPRING/SUMMER 2011 ISSUE

The Link



A publication for tenants and staff of all schemes owned or managed by Eldon Housing Association Ltd a Charitable Housing Association



Welcome. You are never too old to party and Eldon Housing Association's tenants have proved this once again with celebrations on a grand scale for the wedding of Prince William to Catherine Middleton. Photographs and memories of the day can be found within the pages of this edition.

Our next edition will be published in late September, if you have any ideas for features please do not hesitate to advise your Scheme Manager or call me on 020 8655 6727.

Anne Dickson – Editor

TENANTS ANNUAL TRIP

This very popular event will be taking place in July when tenants will be visiting their favourite location – Eastbourne.

Coaches will collect tenants from each scheme and whisk them to the (hopefully) sunny delights of Eastbourne returning after a full day of sun, sea, fish & chips, ice cream.... in fact whatever you want to do!

The cost per tenant will be £15.00.

Staff will be on hand throughout the day to provide assistance to any tenants who require it.



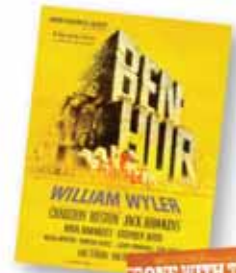
Posters confirming the date will be on display very soon. If you would like to join us please speak to your Scheme Manager.

MY FAVOURITE FILM

The Autumn/Winter 2010 issue of The Link included a feature on My Favourite Film with contributions from tenants and staff alike.

The nominated films were:

- Ben Hur
- The Bucket List
- Calamity Jane
- Casablanca
- Cleopatra
- Dirty Dancing
- Four Weddings and a Funeral
- Gone with the Wind
- Goodnight Mr Tom
- Guess Who's Coming to Dinner
- Hobson's Choice
- It's a Wonderful Life
- Léon
- Love Actually
- Mamma Mia!
- On Golden Pond
- Philadelphia
- The Quiet Man
- Reach for the Sky
- Seven Brides for Seven Brothers
- The Wizard of Oz



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Copies of all of the films are available for tenants and staff to borrow, please speak to your Scheme Manager who will arrange for your choice to be sent from Head Office.

WE ALL LIKE A WEDDING!!

Everything stopped at our schemes at 11.00am on Friday 29th April as tenants and staff sat down to admire and groan at the outfits, enjoy the music and pageantry and most importantly to celebrate the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton.

We hope that these words and photographs bring back some happy memories of the day.



WESTDENE

We started off our plans for the Royal Wedding by having a meeting with the tenants as we wanted them to be involved as much as they could. Everybody agreed on a buffet lunch and all the tenants received a formal invitation.

All members of staff were involved in shopping and decorating for the party. Kim, our Cook, made a wedding cake for us which really looked superb.



On the day the dining room was rearranged as if it was really a wedding reception and all the tenants loved the set up. The tenants made an effort to dress up and they all looked lovely.

The tenants came down at 10.30am in time to watch the wedding on TV in the lounge; they were served with cold drinks, tea and coffee. At 12.30pm, after enjoying the ceremony, we moved to the dining room where tenants were given a choice of serving themselves or to sit down and be served.

All the staff sat down with the tenants to have lunch and every one enjoyed the party. There was cake cutting after lunch and the tenants who wanted to stay in the lounge enjoyed glasses of sherry, wine, whisky, brandy, soft drinks and even gin and lime.

We had lovely music playing which Denise had put together for us.

Hilda Matovu – Scheme Manager Westdene

GARDEN COURT

More flags than The Mall!! Garden Court tenants woke up on 29th April to flags, wedding memorabilia and balloons along the corridors, on doors and windows and in the lounge. What a spectacle and all the right way up!! Sterling work by our Manager, Sandra, who had also purchased all the food for our celebration. There were also delightful fresh flower arrangements of red, white and blue which had been prepared by Irene, Joyce and her sister, Dorothy.



Most of us spent the morning in our own flats but over twenty were gathered together in the afternoon. Sandra's two daughters and a young man assisted in setting up the comprehensive buffet. The young people then waited on us and did the clearing away with great good humour.

What a cheer went up and there were tears in some eyes, as Prince William drove his new wife down The Mall to Clarence House in his Father's sports car, which had been appropriately decorated by Prince Harry. Many of our thoughts were with Princess Diana, who would have been so proud of them and surely approved of her son's choice of partner.

We all wore patriotic wedding coronets, organised by Ethel, who had a lot of input to the day. All in Garden Court did the newlyweds proud and we drank a toast to their future, which is starting off with such high hopes.

Pat Putwain – Tenant Garden Court



JOAN NIGHTINGALE HOUSE



The day started in anticipation of sharing a very special occasion and watching it on the big screen made us feel a part of the whole service. It was lovely to celebrate with all the flags and decorations and the fresh flowers on the end of our row of chairs was a lovely touch!

As a newcomer to JNH, I was very surprised that so much time and effort was put into making the royal wedding such a special day for us. The wedding was low key which gave it a close feeling. It was a shame William didn't wear his RAF uniform.

We toasted the Bride and Groom with Bucks Fizz and had wedding cake at 3pm which made us feel a real part of the wedding. Harry and Catherine's sister walking back down the aisle together was something I will remember, maybe they will be next!

Our cook, Nigel, went to a lot of trouble and put in a lot of hard work to make us a special wedding breakfast. When I spoke to my neighbours, everyone said they had enjoyed the day. I have never seen so much trouble taken to make sure everyone had a good time.

We had a fantastic day; we tried to make sure there was something for everyone. I certainly feel it was a day to remember, in more ways than one!

Alison Johnson – Scheme Manager & the Tenants of Joan Nightingale House

BARDSLEY & CLAREMONT COURTS

3 members of our staff team welcomed 15 tenants into the Bardsley Court lounge in good time for the start of the celebrations.

They were served teas and coffees as they gathered around the TV prior to the start of the wedding service and once the ceremony was over a buffet lunch was enjoyed by all.

The happy couple were toasted with beer and wine and the tenants stayed in the lounge until 4.00pm where they ended the day by having a piece of wedding cake.

The tenants thoroughly enjoyed the day and said it was a dream come true and that they never thought they would have seen it in their lifetime.

Grace Muyinda – Scheme Manager Bardsley & Claremont Courts

MARTEN HOUSE

What a great day! With the build up being the story of their courtship.

We had a great day watching the TV from early morning – the TV presentation was brilliant we watched ITV1 and enjoyed the banter of the studio presenters.

This was a day to remember for a long time to come. Everything went so smoothly and was a credit to the British nation. It is the beginning of a new era for the Royal Family and there were a few tears amongst us – but who could not shed a tear.

The whole day was a great success for Prince William and Kate and for us with the Bucks Fizz flowing.

All I can say now is God bless the young couple and may they have a long and happy life together.

Neddah Kanuga – Scheme Manager





LINDSAY COURT

Well what a lovely day it turned out to be. The threatened showers never happened thank goodness.

Most of our tenants decided to come out of their flats and watch the event in our lounge. During the morning our cook Judith and our kitchen assistant Benedicta made lots of lovely dishes for our buffet. Also Judith made a fruit cake with marzipan and lots of brandy in it and two Madeira cakes. As usual I looked after the drinks which on this occasion was Bucks Fizz.

The whole day was very relaxed, we didn't start lunch at a set time, we just went with the flow. Our tenants just drifted into the dining room when they wanted and tucked into many dishes. This was all swilled down with the Bucks Fizz and was followed by the fabulous cakes and black forest gateaux.

It really was a great day and a few tears were shed at times during the wedding service and didn't they look a lovely couple.

David Child – Scheme Manager

LINGFIELD LODGE

Lingfield Lodge celebrated The Royal Wedding day in style, we had a red white & blue dress code for all residents, staff & invited guests. We started the day in our communal TV room after breakfast and watched all the guests arriving at Westminster Abbey and gave our verdict on who wore what and as was sometimes the case why they wore it!!!

Well it was a wonderful day and Great Britain has again proved that there is no country in the world to match us when it comes to pomp and ceremony..... and we have the smartest soldiers, sailors and airmen, the most magnificent buildings, the best bands and a handsome Prince and his beautiful Bride just to prove it's not even make believe!!

By the time the ceremony had started we had all of our residents & staff in the TV room watching the happy couple walk down the aisle with a glass of sherry or two! Lunch was a finger buffet served on trays so there was no need for anyone to take their eyes off the huge 50inch plasma TV screen that we had hired especially for the day. We toasted the Bride & Groom with a glass of champagne as the ceremony ended.

The red, white & blue theme took over for the day with plates, serviettes, tablecloths, bunting and even the cupcakes for afternoon tea. Katherine Posnett (who has worked at the Lodge for over 25 years) had the honour of wearing a Union Jack apron that was originally worn by Kitty Anscombe (one of our residents) for the 1937 coronation of Edward VI.

Sophie Lewis – House Manager



TENANT SURVEYS

- A survey of 10 randomly selected tenants per scheme from Bardsley Court, Claremont Court, Garden Court, Lindsay Court and Westdene took place in March and of the 50 questionnaires distributed 38 replies were received.

The survey contained over 25 questions and as space does not allow us to report on the answers to all of the questions we have concentrated on reporting on those that relate to the 3 factors most important to the tenants surveyed - shown below.

Tenants were asked to tick up to 3 boxes from a selection of 11 which they considered were the most important to them – the top 3 were:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Keeping tenants informed | 43% |
| Taking tenants views into account | 38% |
| Repairs and Maintenance | 38% |

| How good do you feel the Association is at keeping you informed about things that might affect you as a tenant? | How satisfied are you that your views are being taken into account? | How satisfied are you with the way the Association deals with repairs and maintenance? |
|---|---|--|
| Very good 23% | Very satisfied 24% | Very satisfied 26% |
| Good 61% | Satisfied 50% | Satisfied 50% |
| Neither 12% | Neither 26% | Neither 14% |
| Poor 4% | Dissatisfied 0% | Dissatisfied 3% |
| | | No repairs 7% |

If you would like to receive a copy of the full set of survey results please contact Sharon Johnson at Head Office on 020 8655 6724. If you would like to take part in the next survey please advise Sharon Johnson.

- A survey on the catering service at Fellows Court took place recently and we are happy to report the findings below:

| | Excellent | Good | Satisfactory | Poor | % |
|-----------------------|-----------|------|--------------|------|---|
| Menu Choice | 37 | 50 | 12 | 1 | |
| Food Presentation | 33 | 51 | 15 | 1 | |
| Quality of Meat | 22 | 56 | 22 | 0 | |
| Quality of Fish | 20 | 64 | 16 | 0 | |
| Quality of Vegetables | 19 | 50 | 28 | 3 | |
| Quality of Desserts | 35 | 50 | 29 | 0 | |
| Caterers' Helpfulness | 35 | 58 | 7 | 0 | |

The results also showed that the majority of tenants preferred a choice of two vegetables and that around half would like themed meals such as Chinese, Indian etc. Additionally 75% would like to celebrate special days such as St George's Day. Ideas were also shared on what tenants would like to see on the menu and what they would prefer not to see.

Catering surveys will continue to be issued to all schemes where meals are provided for our tenants.

*Thank you to everyone who participated in these surveys.
The answers will prove helpful in ensuring that the Association continues to look at ways to improve in order to provide the best service for its tenants.*

HELP FOR HEROES – UPDATE



Some fund raising for Help for Heroes has already commenced with events at Joan Nightingale House and Garden Court.

Joan Nightingale House held a cake sale on 1st April with contributions from staff, tenants, committee members, friends and family. This combined with other fund raising stalls and the sale of Help for Heroes merchandise resulted in a wonderful £293.00 being raised on the day.

Garden Court staff and tenants got together on the afternoon of the 12th April holding a raffle, quiz and tea party. They also had Help for Heroes merchandise for sale and it was clearly some tea party as they raised a magnificent £525.00 on the day.

Congratulations to everyone involved in these two events.

The Association's support of Help for Heroes will continue during the Summer months with a sponsored walk between the Croydon schemes planned for Wednesday 27th July and hopefully more events at the schemes. We will report on these activities in the next edition of The Link.

In the meantime if you wish to be involved with any of the events or have ideas for fund raising please speak to your Scheme Manager.



WE ARE SURVIVORS... FOR THOSE BORN BEFORE 1940

We were born before television, before penicillin, before polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, videos, frisbees, and the pill; before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball point pens; before dishwashers, drip-dry clothes, air conditioners, electric blankets, tumble driers and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint I hear you say). We thought 'fast food' was what one ate in Lent, a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat and crumpet was toasted for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating, dual careers, and when a 'meaningful relationship' meant getting on well with your cousins.

We were born before day care centres, group homes, disposable nappies, and sheltered accommodation was where you waited for a bus. We had never heard of FM, tape decks, electrical typewriters, jet aircraft, artificial hearts, word processors, yoghurt, or men wearing earrings. For us, time-sharing meant togetherness, a chip was a fried potato, hardware meant nuts and bolts and software wasn't even a word!

Before 1940, 'Made in Japan' meant junk, the term 'making out' referred to how well one did in exams. Stud was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and 'going all the way' meant staying on the bus to the terminus.

In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mown, coke was kept in the coal house, a joint was a piece of meat you had on Sundays and a pot was something that you cooked in. Rock music was Grandmother's lullaby, Eldorado was an ice cream, a gay person was the life and soul of the party and nothing more, whilst aids just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in distress.

We, who were born before 1940, must have been a hardy bunch when you think of the ways in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder we are so confused and that there is a generation gap today...but... by the Grace of God, we have survived!

*Jean Thompson of Lindsay Court
found this very witty article*



● LINDSAY COURT

In recent months we've had several new tenants arrivals – we have a great mix of ages at Lindsay Court. The staff team continue to provide the best care possible and to ensure a happy atmosphere.

We held an Open Day in February to attract new tenants which was very successful with several enquiries as a result of the publicity.

March saw the return of the ever popular Fish & Chips evening. We also had a visit from a representative of Age UK who gave a talk on personal safety which was well attended with excellent feedback.

With the good weather now here we are looking forward to enjoying our peaceful garden and the schemes combined annual summer outing to Eastbourne in July.

Tenants will also be getting together soon to plan a Summer Fair to which all of our fellow tenants from other schemes will be invited.



Jean Thompson & Josie Doherty – Mother & Daughter both tenants

One of our tenants, Josie Doherty, wanted to comment on life at Lindsay Court, she is proof of our great mix of ages as her Mother, Jean Thompson, also has a flat at the scheme having just moved from Westdene.

"I like it here because I'm safe, people who shouldn't be here can't get in and there's always someone on duty at night, I like the staff and it's a happy atmosphere.

I've learnt to go out shopping with volunteers and that adds to my independence and I visit the Day Centre twice a week which I enjoy very much, I go to Bingo and have fish and chips sometimes.

The Manager calls me 'Trouble' and I call him by the same name!!! – I love talking to others and having a laugh. Lindsay Court has a small garden which I enjoy going out in and I like it when we have singers visiting".

David – Scheme Manager

● JOAN NIGHTINGALE HOUSE

Summer has arrived early and the garden at Joan Nightingale House is blooming with colour, we even have fruit and vegetables growing courtesy of some of our residents - it's a welcome sight after all the ice and snow!

Christmas, Valentines Day, St Patrick's Day, Easter and the Royal wedding were all celebrated in style with special lunches, tea's and a sing a long with the ever popular Twin Tub!

Our Help for Heroes Colossal Cake Sale was a huge success, staff, tenants and relatives made and donated cakes and tombola prizes. Member of staff, Anita, made a beautiful gateau for guess the Weight of the Cake and we had a Guess the Name of the Teddy, won by tenant Doreen Wood, who correctly guessed Tommy! We raised a massive total of £293 for such a worthy cause which is very close to my heart – so a huge thank you goes out to everyone who got involved!



Going Green for St Patrick!



Help for Heroes fund raising

Regular social activities such as our Chairobic's sessions continue to be popular. We have recently set up an art and craft group and are planning a trial Bingo afternoon with a view to making it a regular activity.

Joan Nightingale House has some new tenants who are bringing their own lively brand of humour and entertainment to the scheme including games of dominoes on the patio!

We are looking forward to our annual lunch outing, regular clothes sales, fish and chip lunches throughout the summer. We have visits from Age UK, West Sussex Fire Service and our President Sir Richard Kleinwort planned and hopefully the sun will continue to shine for us to enjoy our Friday afternoon teas on the patio!

Alison – Scheme Manager

● WESTDENE

To start the year we were entertained by 2 musicians from The London Mozart Players all the tenants enjoyed themselves.

We also had a visit from Country musician Adrian Chapman who involves the tenants giving them musical instruments to play and cowboy hats to wear which makes the evening more enjoyable.

POP (Partnership for Older People) Service paid us a visit in February providing advice on Health issues, Pension and Benefits and Home Security which tenants found very helpful particularly those with questions on benefit entitlements and many called into the lounge to have their blood pressure checked. The visit was wrapped up with a talk about Home Security.

Valentines Day saw a party arranged in the evening, everyone was given a red rose and romantic music was played – a fun evening enjoyed by all.

James Shields a clarinet player visited us the first time in April, the tenants thoroughly enjoyed this and we are all looking forward to seeing him again.

On Easter Monday we held an Easter Bonnet competition with much fun and laughter with the tenants parading around the lounge so that a winner could be chosen, we also held a special Easter Raffle with the money raised going towards our Social Fund which pays for various activities.



We made the most of the warm spring weather in May with Tenants visiting Polhill Garden Centre where they spent time buying crafts, enjoyed their lunch and finished the day with a drive in the countryside.

During the coming months we have planned greeting card making, floral arrangements, word games, a pub lunch, more musical entertainment and of course we are looking forward to our trip to Eastbourne in July.

Hilda – Scheme Manager

● BARDSLEY & CLAREMONT COURTS

One very memorable event took place in December when David & Violet Simpson of Bardsley Court celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. They married on New Years Eve in 1960 and now have 7 children, 18 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. They celebrated this special event by going on a Caribbean cruise.



David & Violet Simpson

Our regular activities at the scheme have included welcome return from country singer Adrian Chapman which is always popular with the tenants dancing from beginning to end – he will be returning again in July.

We also visited Polhill Garden Centre just in time for Easter – this is a great place for browsing and enjoying tea and cakes.

Speaking of Easter – we held an Easter Fayre on the 16th April and raised £437.00 which boosted our Social Fund which is used for entertainment and outings.



fun with Adrian Chapman

Our fund raising efforts will continue with our Summer Fayre planned for Saturday 6th August when we will have various stalls include, name the doll, gifts, Treasure Island Game and a special raffle.

Finally we continue with coffee mornings on Wednesdays and Sundays, Bingo on Tuesday afternoons and our shop in Bardsley Court is open on Wednesday mornings and is run by one of our tenants, Miss Christine Hall.

Grace – Scheme Manager



● FELLOWS COURT

In February a combined audience of tenants and Day Centre users enjoyed a concert by 2 members of The London Mozart Players on Oboe and Clarinet. The musicians provided a short summary of each piece played and as usual most tenants wanted to know the date of their next visit.

Our weekly movie showings continue in the 1st and 3rd floor lounges, with optional pop corn! Tenants are also taking advantage of the Head Office library of DVD's put together following The Link's feature on 'My Favourite Film'.



Other regular activities include Brain Teaser Puzzles, Dominos, Baking and Musical Reminiscing.

Vocalist Steve Robin entertained tenants in March and according to the feedback all had a jolly good time.

April saw a visit from Jamie Watson; he sang various songs from 60s, 70s, and 80s. It all got even better when the audience warmed up with some getting up to dance with one tenant chasing and kissing Jamie! The tenants also enjoyed a variety of refreshments during the interval.

Roy the pianist and opera singer Hazel visited us in May, the show was well received as the tenants sang along to very well known tunes – there were a few high kicks under the tables! Hazel sang some very lovely melodies as well as telling really funny jokes – it was enjoyed by all.

We have a full programme of entertainment planned for tenants throughout the summer which includes classical entertainers The Melodions, singer Dizzy and entertainers The Two of Us and Paul Dunes.

A Summer Fete is planned for Saturday 2nd July where there will be a variety of stalls including Raffles, Tombola, Bric-a-brac, Video, Books and Crafts plus teas & cakes, BBQ and ice lollies for sale.

Hicky – Scheme Manager

● GARDEN COURT

Garden Court had a quiet start to the year and has slowly built up with our usual routine of coffee mornings, games afternoon and afternoons of card making.

In addition we have had a variety of lunches, bring and share, fish and chips and our favourite St Patricks Day lunch where we filled ourselves with a traditional Irish stew which meant a lovely few pounds added on there!!

Our next main event was in April for Help for Heroes which was received really well by everybody with a fund raising afternoon, quiz, music and buffet tea.



Throughout March and April we were joined by 13 year old Alfie Bincent for our Saturday Coffee Mornings. Alfie was completing an element of his Duke of Edinburgh's Award and helped serve drinks and refreshments as well as spending time chatting to our tenants. It was a pleasure to meet Alfie and we wish him luck and hope to see him again in the future.

The patriotic feeling continued with the Royal Wedding celebrations which passed off brilliantly and a DVD afternoon of The Kings Speech.

We have had a day trip to Polhill Garden Centre which went very well as the weather turned out lovely which made all the difference.

Our recent entertainment has continued with evening entertainment from one of Eldon's popular entertainers Adrian Chapman which was a great success.



*enjoying meals
and chats together*

We now need to plan the next few events for the summer months to keep us all on our toes.

Linda – Alternate Weekend Manager

● LINGFIELD LODGE

Here at Lingfield Lodge we've had a busy few months! Starting with our Spring Coffee Morning when we welcomed over 50 residents, staff, friends and neighbours with over £280.00 raised to go towards our residents entertainment fund.

This fund has paid for trips to Ashdown Forest Llama Park for morning coffee and for a steady stream of entertainers to visit us.



These have included "sing-a-long-Almond" – yes that is really his name! Plus Dick Cheney from – Musical Memories has also entertained us – both have proved popular and visited twice.

I don't think it's the same Dick Cheney that was the 46th Vice President of the USA under George W Bush!!! The Editor

We've also had our usual fish and chip supper – very popular and delicious as always.

We are now preparing for our Garden Party which this year is going to be a BBQ!!! Sat 28th Aug!

Fingers crossed for good weather!

Watch this space.

Sophie – House Manager

SUMMER EVENTS

Saturday 2nd July

Fellows Court – Summer Fete

Wednesday 27th July

Help for Heroes Sponsored Walk

Saturday 6th August

Bardsley Court – Summer Fayre

Saturday 28th August

Lingfield Lodge – Garden Party

Sunday 4th September

Marten House – Cream Tea

● MARTEN HOUSE

January saw a lunchtime trip to the Toby Carvery in Brighton Road it was a return visit for us to this very popular venue.



We are getting ready for what is hoped to be a long, hot and sunny summer with tenants having filled the pots on our patio with flowers which will last for many months.

The garden is looking good as ever with the addition of a new bird table providing a more than suitable 'restaurant' for the black birds and their young! Our new garden bench is in a sunny spot so will hopefully get plenty of use.

Our tenants enjoy meeting the tenants from other schemes and are looking forward to the trip to Eastbourne in July.

Fund raising continues to be at the front of our minds and is something that is not always easy due to our size – with only 14 tenants.

However we are not downhearted and are planning a Cream Tea on Sunday 4th September between 1.00pm - 3.00pm. Come and join us for tea and a scone plus help boost our funds by taking part in the raffle, tombola or name the bear.

We would love to see you!

Neddah – Scheme Manager



Josie Doherty of Lindsay Court attends the Bramley Hill Day Centre twice a week on Wednesdays and Thursdays which she really enjoys.

At the request of the staff at the Centre she knitted this blanket which as you can guess from its size took a fair amount of time.

Josie is rightly very pleased with the end result.

