

Wellbeing 21

News, information and advice for Oldham residents

RESIDENTS OF SCHOOL HOUSE FLATS RAISED £652 FOR MACMILLAN



WHAT'S INSIDE?

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Housing 21 would like to wish all our residents a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2020, from all our staff!



AROUND THE COURTS

Brownedge Rd Residents held a table top sale in September with a variety of donated goods for sale outside Howell House and a range of cakes, biscuits and brews, many home made by residents, to raise money for future events in the community room. At the end of the year's events, there will also be a contribution to the Air Ambulance. **The event raised £248.30.**

Howell House was also the venue for a fun bonfire night, with residents enjoying a meat and potato pie supper and a fireworks display.

Macmillan Fundraising

Late September saw a number of fundraising events taking place across Oldham, to raise money for Macmillan cancer support.

At Recreation Rd, Failsworth, residents Sheila Galliford and Ann Thorley have held annual Coffee Mornings since 2015, on the communal grassed area to the rear of their bungalows, using gazebos to provide cover. They also open their own homes for cooking and for fundraising.

This year, they raised £2,304.85, with a total of £6,319.93 over the 5 years.

Housing21's partners in care provision, the MioCare Group, have been holding events with staff and service users, to raise money for Macmillan, as part of their 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' initiative, including Trinity House in Coldhurst and Charles Morris House, Failsworth.

Charles Morris House residents had been donating items for a tombola all week and had an amazing selection of prizes to go alongside the cakes on offer.

They have managed to raise a total of £537.

At Cloughgate House, Hollins, residents held an event with a tombola, a raffle with numerous prizes (including a hamper) and they sold teas, coffees and cakes. The event was well attended and further contributions were made by some residents who were not able to attend.

They raised a total of £327 for the charity.

Tandle View Court, Royton also ran a Macmillan coffee morning, raising a further £215.

School House Flats, Hollinwood, residents held a Macmillan Coffee Morning – including a cake stall, good as new stall, tombola, raffle prizes, brews and biscuits, plus donations. Nearby Walkers Rd bungalow residents were also involved and also local people from the surrounding Incline Rd area.

They managed to raise a total of £652.46. (See cover)

Residents at School House Flats also held a fundraiser for breast cancer awareness, on behalf of the Breast Cancer Now 'Wear It Pink' campaign. They held an afternoon tea, everyone wearing pink and all pink raffle prizes! **They raised £141 for the charity.**





Melanese's 80th Birthday Party at Aster House!

Friends and neighbours helped to celebrate the 80th birthday of resident Melanese Braithwaite, with a party in the communal lounge. They enjoyed a buffet, drinks, entertainment and dancing!

Violet Hill Court residents also remembered those who gave their lives for others. A banner was erected and poppies fixed to the railings, ready for the Armistice Day afternoon Tea, with all proceeds going to the Local British Legion.... **Lest We Forget.**



Throstle Court, Royton, residents continue to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society, via their weekly 'knit and natter' sessions. They are pictured making a further contribution of £200, their third donation this year.

Residents and visitors at St. Herbert's and Trinity House have been taking part in Get up and Grow's nature based crafting workshops in the run up to Christmas.



Having previously completed the table top gardening sessions, the group are now learning how to make nature based crafts such as Christmas decorations, soap and bath botanicals and Christmas herb wreaths.

Project partners include Get up and Grow, Groundwork Oldham, IF Oldham and Talk, Listen and Change (TLC). The partners won a successful bid for Oldham Cares Social Action Fund which is helping to tackle social isolation and loneliness amongst older people living in Oldham.

As part of this commitment, the Thriving Communities programme has made £850k available to fund between two to four projects over a three year period that can enable people to become more socially connected.

New Get up and Grow sessions will be starting at St. George's Bowling and Snooker Club, St. George's Court, Chadderton on Monday 18 November, 1.30 – 3.30pm and will continue into 2020.

For more information email getupandgrow@outlook.com or visit www.getupandgrowonline.org/events or talk to your Court Manager.



Ronald Hutchinson, Springlees Court

Ron is 90 years old and has lived at Springlees Court since July this year. He's originally from Oldham, but has been around a bit!

Having turned 18 in December 1946, he received his call-up in January and joined the R.A.F. having already been in the A.T.C. the previous year. In the R.A.F. he trained as a teleprinter operator and in April 1948, he was stationed in Berlin, just before the Russians closed it down! At that time, the only way in and out was by air and after 6 months, Ron was flown out on leave in a Dakota, one of his favourite aircraft. He knew the cargo which the plane had delivered earlier, because the windows were covered in coal dust!

Ron's interest in flying didn't start with the R.A.F. though. One of his earliest memories, from about 18 months, was holding his Dad's hand whilst on holiday in Blackpool and seeing an airship overhead. That was an R100 airship, designed by Barnes Wallis.

He also lived in Canada for 2 years, before returning to Oldham to work at Boden Trailers, where he met Peter Holland, a friend now for 63 years. They worked together and realised

that they both shared a love of sailing – both went boating on the Norfolk Broads during the Wakes holidays.

At the end of 1968, Ron went to live in Blackpool, where Ron and Peter jointly bought a small yacht, which was based offshore at Lytham. They were members of the Ribble Cruising Club and they gradually increased the size of the boat. Then after 5 or 6 years, Peter decided to marry Lois, so they sold the last boat. Peter used his share for his marriage and Ron, who lived only 5 minutes from the Squires Gate airfield, decided to join a club and learn to fly! He was already past 40 at this time and so he had to have a medical every year, which was very expensive. However, once he got his pilot's licence, his friends at work used to come and fly with him, sharing the cost. He actually found the flying easy, but the landings were the most difficult part.

Eventually, the cost of flying and the medical expense became prohibitive, so he flew his last aeroplane at the age of 52. He then bought a microlight, which he flew off Pilling Sands for a year, but he gave that up after a year, because in his words, "it was too dicey!"



Rita Armitage, Aster House

Rita and her husband, Eric, have lived in Aster House since June 2018.

They come originally from Bradford, in West Yorkshire, having moved to Oldham 3 years ago, following 9 years in Buckley, in Flintshire, North Wales. They came to Oldham to care for their eldest son, Eric, who had a terminal illness and who has sadly since passed away.

Rita has an interesting hobby, which is knitting clothes for charity.

This has included providing clothes for the homeless and for the last couple of years, for the neonatal unit at Oldham Hospital.

Rita started out making hats for babies, when the couple lived at Wood Square, in Greenfield, along with two other ladies. It started as a social activity, in the communal lounge, but Rita and Eric moved to Aster House to be nearer to their family and coincidentally, nearer to the hospital!

Although Rita can't get across Rochdale Rd to the hospital herself, because of her restricted mobility, one of the other residents, Linda, takes the clothes across to the hospital and the staff have written several letters to express their gratitude for Rita's hard work!



Extra Care Housing Re-Enablement Flats

Extra Care Housing are proud to announce that we have 3 re-enablement flats available, situated in;

- **Tandle View Court, Rochdale Road, Royton, OL2 5QT**
- **Hopwood Court, Thornham Road, Shaw, OL2 7LR**
- **Trinity House, Godson Street, Oldham, OL1 2XL**

Oldham Cares has commissioned the re-enablement flats as it is understood that people who require some care and support still want to retain as much independence as possible and Extra Care Housing can be the opportunity and right environment to achieve this.

All the re-enablement flats are one bedroomed, they have a fully equipped kitchen with either a cooker or microwave and include a fridge, pots, pans, utensils and a dining table and chairs. Each bedroom has a hospital bed, wardrobe and bedside cabinet, the bathroom has a wet room, shower chair and WC, and there is a rise and recline chair, dining area and TV in the living room. Bedding and towels are provided.

The aim of the re-enablement flat is to provide the opportunity for people to try out living in an accessible environment, as their current home is unsuitable. The re-enablement flats can also be used as a step down from more institutional care, such as residential or hospital.

Individuals can use the flats for up to six weeks, and if they enjoy the experience and are able to live independently with care and support, they can move into their own flat within one of our six Extra care schemes. Alternatively, following enablement, individuals may choose to go back living in their own home or into a more accessible property such as a bungalow or sheltered flat.

During their stay in re-enablement, individuals will be supported by MioCare who manage both the specialist reablement team and the on-site care staff, and housing support will be provided by Housing 21. Together, the Extra Care service provides providing wrap around care, restaurant facilities and a programme of activities which support enablement and meeting new friends.

Friends and family are welcome, and schemes also have guest accommodation available on request.

THE FRIDAY CLUB - FAQs

What is it?

A social group aimed at encouraging people to try new activities and meet new friends.

When is it?

Every Friday from 10am – 2pm (start date 18th October 2019).

Where is it?

Oldham Leisure Centre.

Who is it for?

For people who are looking to make new friends, become more active and try new activities with like-minded people

Cost?

£3 per week.

What is included / involved?

- 10am – 11am in the sports hall offering activities such as badminton, table tennis, indoor curling etc. These activities can be changed each week depending on what the group would like.
- 11am – 12pm will enable people to use the swimming pool, sauna, steam room and gym (with gym instructor support). People can also go to classes in yoga, aqua, walking football and indoor bowls.
- 12pm – 1pm is lunch time. A light lunch and drink is included.
- 1pm – 2pm a guest speaker will be invited to do a talk.
- People do not have to stay for the full 4 hours. They can attend for as long as they wish.

What to wear?

Loose, comfortable items of clothing and footwear is recommended. High heeled footwear would not be suitable.

How do I book?

Contact the customer contact team on 0161 207 7000 or email info@wellbeingleisure.org for more information.

Other information:

Volunteering opportunities are available. Email info@wellbeingleisure.org for more information.

Contact details of Oldham Active Communities Health and Wellbeing Advisors:

Phil Brooke: Phil.Brooke@wellbeingleisure.org 07950 437 478

Mark Woodcock: Mark.Woodcock@wellbeingleisure.org 07715 078 233



Green Ambassadors

Do you want to be more involved and have your say?

We are looking for Green Ambassadors who would like to have more involvement with the service we provide, provide feedback and help shape the service in the future.

What is a Green Ambassador?

Green Ambassadors will be asked to provide feedback on grounds maintenance services to other tenants, Housing 21 and the Grounds Maintenance Contractor, Greenfingers, as needed. This may be through joining our inspections, generally keeping an eye out for how the area is looking, and/or joining in discussions about how to make improvements.

Having a keen interest and passion for either horticulture, public green spaces or nature, you would join us in walking around the local schemes periodically to inspect the grounds maintenance work.

You would provide updates from these inspections to the tenants within your Scheme or area and be able to provide Housing 21 and the Grounds Maintenance Contractor with constructive feedback from tenants.

If you are interested in becoming a Green Ambassador or would like to hear more please let your Court Manager know and provide your name and contact details. We will then contact you to arrange provide more detailed information and arrange training for the role.

Telephone line and Helpline units

Your home is fitted with a Helpline unit which is connected to a phone socket in the loft. At the time of refurbishment this socket was connected to a BT phone line as this was the most widely available network and as such was considered the most appropriate service provider at that time.



Housing 21 recognise there are now many differing providers of telecommunication (telephone lines) and that residents may wish to change providers from time to time.

If you are considering changing your telecom provider, please ask your new provider to ensure they connect your new phone line to the master socket in the loft as this will ensure your helpline unit continues to work.

You need to be aware that Sky is now fitting as standard digital phone lines, which are incompatible with the Helpline units. Consequently, if you live in a bungalow and wish to change your telephone line provider with Sky, that you ask to go on to the "White List", which is a list for people who need old style phone lines.

In addition, anyone who has recently transferred to Sky needs to phone them, to make the same request.

In the event that the new telecom provider does not connect the new phone line to the master box in the loft, it may be necessary for a Housing 21 engineer to visit site and reconnect your unit which may result in a charge to yourself.

If you require any further advice please contact the Customer Services Team number on Tel: 0345 6044447

Getting ready for the colder months

Central heating programmers allow you to set 'on' and 'off' time periods. The programmer will automatically switch your heating off when you're not at home, or when you don't need it, such as when you're in bed. They will let you set the central heating and domestic hot water to go on and off at different times.

HERE ARE SOME USEFUL TIPS:-

- Check that the timer on the programmer is correct before you set your programmes. You may also need to adjust it when the clocks change.
- Ensure that your programmer is set for when you need the heat, this will help you to save money.
- Make sure there are no unnecessary obstructions in front of radiators.
- Bleed your radiators to get rid of air locks to ensure water circulates properly.
- To prevent frozen pipes, which can cause hundreds of pounds of damage, leave the heating on low during winter, even if you go away for a period of time. The rule of thumb is to keep your heating at a minimum 14 degrees, when you are out rather than switching it off.

If you need assistance or help to set your central heating programmer, please ask your Court Manager.

WHAT SHOULD I DO DURING A POWER CUT?

Switch off all electrical appliances that shouldn't be left unattended, ready for when the power comes back on -

- Leave a light on so you know when the power outage has been resolved.
- Wrap up warm.

Contact Electricity North West to report the power cut, either by calling 105 or via their other channels (0800 195 4141 or www.enwl.co.uk)



HOW CAN I PREPARE FOR A POWER CUT?

- Keep a torch handy – it's much safer than using candles.
- Get a battery-powered or wind-up radio (useful for keeping up to date with relevant local news).
- Keep warm – keep a blanket and warm clothing handy, and fill a vacuum flask or hot water bottle.
- Stock your cupboard with food and drink that doesn't require electricity to prepare it.
- Keep your mobile phone and laptop fully charged.
- Check your network operator's website or social media channels for updates.

CAN I USE MY PHONE DURING A POWER CUT?

Cordless phones probably won't work during a power cut. They take their power from the mains and most don't have battery back-up. Traditional corded phones will work. In most cases, mobile phones will work if they are charged.

If you are on the Priority Services Register and you have a power cut, you should continue to call the phone number that you have been given.

Tenant Conference 2019

Housing21



Oldham
Council

This year's annual Housing21 Oldham Tenant Conference was held at the St Herbert's Parish Centre, Chadderton and was an outstanding success.

The event was attended by your Oldham Court Voices and other invited guests, including winners and runners up in the Housing 21 garden competition, those recognised for the RHS North West Britain in Bloom and those people chosen by you to receive our 'Fab Neighbour' Awards.

The event was opened by Councillor Hannah Roberts, Oldham Council's lead Cabinet Member for Housing and there was a welcome from the Housing 21 Chair, Neil Reverley. A number of speakers and performers offered a variety of information and entertainment throughout the day, including Fitness with a Twist, Oldham Coliseum Theatre, Platform 1 Men's Community Group, GM Police, MIO Care, Making Space, Age UK and a quiz.

In the afternoon, awards were made to our outstanding gardeners and the recipients of this year's 'Fab Neighbour' awards – those people nominated by you, as a neighbour you can always rely on and who deserve recognition for their contributions to the local community! Thanks to everyone who submitted a nomination this year. We were only able to award a small number of prizes and selecting the recipients was a very difficult job, because the calibre of all the entries was extremely high.

We would like to offer our thanks to the Tandle View Court Choir, who entertained everyone during the lunch break.

This year's winners were:

- **Margaret and Ron Pearce**, School House Flats, Hollinwood
- **Dougie Crowther**, Lido House, Grotton
- **Susan Broadhurst**, Hood Square, Springhead
- **Trevor Woodhouse**, Wildmoor Ave, Holts

This year's Housing 21 garden competition winners were:

- **Front** – Mr & Mrs Rimmer, Iris St, Hathershaw
- **Back** – Mrs Armstrong, Cypress Ave, Chadderton
- **Edible** – Walton House, Failsworth
- **Communal** – Old Mill House, Springhead
- **Creative** – Throstle Court, Royton
- **First Time** – Mr & Mrs Bowskill, Fir Grove, Chadderton

Six of our Courts also earned regional recognition after submitting entries for the RHS North West Britain in Bloom 'It's Your Neighbourhood' Awards:

- **Throstle Court** – Level 5, Outstanding
- **Millgate** – Level 5, Outstanding
- **Walton House** – Level 4, Thriving
- **Violet Hill Court** – Level 4, Thriving
- **Wood Square** – Level 4, Thriving
- **Trinity House** – Level 2, Improving



live@thelibrary

Visit Oldham Council Libraries - www.oldham.gov.uk/liveatthelibrary or phone 0161 770 8000 (booking essential).



**live@thelibrary. At Oldham Library ,
Greaves Street, Oldham, OL1 1AL.**

The Secret of Christmas Eve

Tues 10th December to Sat 28th December 2019

After the huge success of last year's 'Hansel & Gretel', Oldham Theatre Workshop are back with another magical family Christmas musical.

A snowy night, a magical adventure and a little girl who unwraps a secret that will change Christmas forever. With enchanting characters, original music and filled with breathtaking on-stage magic, this show will be the perfect festive treat!

Box office 0161 770 3240.

Oldham Coliseum Theatre

Jack and the Beanstalk

Sat 16 November 2019 – Sat 11 January 2020

Fi Fo Fum, Christmas in Oldham is cracking good fun! Oldham Coliseum Theatre's nationally renowned pantomime has been putting the extra sparkle into the festive season for generations; with all the ingredients for fantastic family fun: hit songs, silliness, a sprinkling of fairy dust and a generous helping of It's Behind You! Tickets - Adults from £17.50, Concs from £15.50, Children (under 16) tickets from £13.50

Christmas Tree Festival 2019

Friday 6 December to Sunday 15 December

This tree-mendous annual festival is back with more than 65 individually decorated trees for you to browse and get inspiration from. Don't forget, the café will be open throughout the festival so you can warm up with a cuppa.

Oldham Parish Church, Oldham, OL1 3UH

Playhouse2 - A Christmas Carol

Sat 7 December – Sat 14 December 2019

Playhouse2, 2 Newtown Street, Shaw. Charles Dickens' timeless classic is brought to life in a joyous adaptation by Karen Louise Hebden.

All performances start at 7.30pm. Doors and Bar open at 7.00pm. Tickets £10.

Sleeping Beauty -A magical new pantomime for 2019.

Following on from the success of our first professional pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk, in 2018 - we are delighted to be bringing more traditional pantomime fun for all the family in 2019!

Millgate Arts Centre, Stoneswood Road, Delph
OL3 5DY T: 01457874644

Oldham Theatre Workshop present

The Goldfish Boy - The Old Musuem, Greaves Street, Oldham, OL1 1DN

Mon 16th December - Sat 21st - Cost: £7

This Christmas Oldham Theatre Workshop's young company present the premiere of 'The Goldfish Boy' an adaptation of the best selling children's book by Lisa Thompson.

This intriguing mystery has been turned in to an exciting immersive performance piece for all the family full of twists and turns and heartwarming characters.

Lyceum Theatre Oldham present

'The Prisoner of Second Avenue' by Neil Simon - 95 Union Street, Oldham

31 Jan to 8 Feb 2020, 7:30pm, £9 (no performance Sunday 2 February)

Economic meltdown and urban angst create the perfect setting for a Neil Simon comedy. In a Second Avenue apartment with paper thin walls, Mel has been sacked, his wife is sacked too, they are robbed and his psychiatrist dies.

Mel follows the only path he can think of....he has a mental breakdown. But this bleak picture is painted by the master of New York comedy, so it's not going to end up as bad as it sounds! Book tickets at Lyceumtheatre.org.uk

COMPETITION TIME!

ENTER OUR CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH
COMPETITION TO WIN £25 WORTH
LOVE2SHOP VOUCHERS!

Simply post your answers, along with your name, address and
contact details, to – Vince Sexton, Housing and Care 21, Chambers
Business Centre, Chapel Rd, Oldham OL8 4QQ
Correct replies will be entered into the prize draw.

The closing date for entries is Friday 3rd January 2020.



A Christmas Word Search

E	E	N	G	D	Z	Y	S	B	L	Y	U	J	F	P
G	O	W	Y	M	L	N	E	E	Y	P	Y	U	S	O
L	A	T	Q	G	O	T	O	J	O	A	R	K	Z	I
I	P	L	E	W	H	N	T	G	X	C	E	Z	G	N
T	F	P	M	L	S	D	R	E	H	P	E	H	S	S
T	P	A	E	M	T	H	E	Y	U	P	D	S	L	E
E	N	H	V	F	G	S	T	L	N	W	N	T	E	T
R	E	V	C	I	I	I	I	F	C	I	I	F	G	T
M	A	Y	E	M	V	R	Y	M	E	A	E	I	N	I
C	M	L	N	I	Y	B	S	D	O	S	R	G	A	A
A	S	A	T	R	U	D	O	L	P	H	T	I	C	E
R	N	A	N	N	S	E	L	D	N	A	C	I	M	F
O	N	E	G	G	N	O	G	D	W	U	T	Q	V	D
L	B	A	Z	B	E	Y	E	K	R	U	T	R	F	E
S	N	K	X	Y	K	R	O	G	Y	S	D	H	T	S

ANGELS
BETHLEHEM
CANDLES
CAROLS
EGGNOG
FESTIVE
GIFTS

GLITTER
MANGER
MIRACLE
MISTLETOE
NATIVITY
NOEL
POINSETTIA

REINDEER
RUDOLPH
SHEPHERDS
SLEIGH
SNOWMAN
TURKEY

**THE WINNER OF OUR AUTUMN COMPETITION WAS MRS
MCNAB, OF CHARLES MORRIS HOUSE, FAILSWORTH**





Our contact details:

Housing 21
Units 403/404
Chambers Business Centre
Chapel Road
Oldham
OL8 4QQ

Email: OldhamEnquiries@housing21.org.uk
Customer Services Telephone: 0345 604 4447

OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Repairs Line (24 hours)
0800 032 1215

Oldham Council main switchboard
0161 770 3000
You can access lots of our services
online at: www.oldham.gov.uk

Council Tax
0161 770 6622
council.tax@oldham.gov.uk

Environmental Health
0161 770 2244
environmentalhealth@oldham.gov.uk

**Housing Benefits and Council Tax
Reduction Scheme**
0161 770 6633
benefits@oldham.gov.uk

Payment line
0161 770 6611
24 hour automated payment service

Registrars
0161 770 8960

Waste and recycling
0161 770 6644
waste@oldham.gov.uk

Age UK Oldham
0161 633 0213

Ring & Ride
0161 652 0248

Citizens Advice Bureau
0844 847 2638

Silverline
(confidential friendship support)
0800 470 8090

NHS Advice
111

Police non-emergency
101

Oldham Community Leisure
0161 207 7000

Action Together
(formerly Voluntary Action Oldham)
0161 339 2345

Oldham Library
Greaves St
0161 770 8000

Making Space
Tandle View, Royton
07966 887 152

Oldham Community Transport
0161 633 0097 (mobility scooters and
wheelchairs 0161 633 0040)