

The Ferguslie Group Newsletter

For the residents of Ferguslie Park

Spring
2024



Ferguslie Park
Housing Association

Hello, is it you we're looking for?

We are looking to recruit tenant board members to serve on our management board. We aim to ensure tenants are at the forefront of our decision making and service delivery.

Voluntary board members can benefit from training and personal development, social and networking events, all whilst giving back to the community. We don't take up much of your time, we have 11 Board meetings per year on a Wednesday evening from 5pm. Meetings are held in person in the Tannahill Centre but have the option to join online via zoom.

Tenant Board Member Angela Chivers joined us in 2022 said *"Being a tenant member of the Board gives you an insight and voice on issues that directly affect them. Since I have become a board member I have a much better understanding of the standards and service tenants should expect from the association. It is really good to work alongside the other board members who have different knowledge and skills".*

We are also keen to recruit a member with a financial background to compliment the skills and experience we have around the table at present.

Please get in touch with Teresa Gallagher, our Governance & Corporate Services Officer for further information.



Spring Office Closures

Easter Weekend

We are closed for the Easter bank holiday on Friday 29 March & Monday 1 April.

May Holidays

Closed Monday 6 May, Friday 24 May and Monday 27 May.

You can find a list of office closures on our website www.fpha.org.uk

Emergency Repairs – if you have an emergency repair when the office is closed please call the main number, **0141 887 4053**, and you will be directed to our out of hours service.



A word from our Welfare Rights Team **Moving to Universal Credit Update**



Universal Credit (UC) is a benefit that will eventually replace most 'working age' benefits. Claimants who receive Tax Credits, (Income Related) Employment & Support Allowance, (Income Based) Jobseekers Allowance, Income Support and Housing Benefit (these are known as Legacy Benefits) will be moved from their legacy benefit over to UC. This process is known as 'Managed Migration'.

Managed Migration

From April 2024 the DWP may, at any time, issue 'some' claimants with a 'migration notice' to notify them that their existing benefits will be ending and they need to claim UC before a specific deadline day, the deadline day is three months from the date of the notice. It is expected that claimants, who have not applied, should receive a reminder letter 7 weeks after the migration notice and a final reminder by text or letter one week before the deadline day.

Termination of Existing Benefits

The notified person can claim UC at any time before the deadline day. UC entitlement will usually start on the date the claim is made and 'legacy benefits' will be terminated – tax credits from the day before the start of the UC claim, and other legacy benefits two weeks later. If the notified person does not make a UC claim by the deadline day, legacy benefits will be terminated – tax credits from the day before the deadline day and other legacy benefits two weeks later.

Transitional Protection

The government pledged that no-one would be worse off as a result of managed migration, at the

point of transfer, if circumstances are unchanged, however it's extremely important to make the UC claim on or before the deadline date provided, otherwise there is a risk of losing 'transitional protection' and becoming worse off.

It's not possible to provide a specific date when claimants will be notified however the DWP have said it is being rolled out by benefit type, with tax credit only claimants being the first to be affected in 2023/24 (this group is expected to have transferred over by end of March 2024) and claimants who receive (Income Related) ESA only and (Income Related) plus Housing Benefit only being the last group to transfer over in 2028/29.

The expected timetable Migration is as follows;

- 2023/24 claimants on Tax Credits (TCs) Only
- 2024/25 claimants on TCs 'and', (ir)ESA, ibJSA, IS, HB
- 2024/25 claimants on ibJSA, IS, HB
- 2028/29 claimants on irESA, 'and' irESA plus HB

If you would like to know how this change is likely to affect you please contact Robert or Ian from our Welfare Rights Team or if you need help to make the claim when the times comes please contact us to arrange a suitable appointment.

Easter competition *for the kids*

We are running a children's Easter Competition with special Easter prizes. To enter please pop into reception to pick up a colouring in sheet and an Easter treat. Competition is open only to school age children of our tenants.



Your bins...

Grey bin

Your grey bin is for rubbish that cannot be recycled, also called 'general waste'.

These items can go in your grey bin:

- non-recyclable waste
- plastic bags
- polystyrene or foam packing
- crisp and sweet wrappers
- used tissues and paper towels
- cling film, tinfoil
- lightbulbs
- pet litter
- nappies
- personal hygiene products (such as tampons, incontinence products, and baby wipes)
- food and drinks pouches
- hard plastics (such as toys, coat hangers, or CD cases)
- envelopes with interior padding, such as bubble wrap shredded paper.

Blue bin

Your blue bin is for paper and cardboard.

These items can go in your blue bin:

- cardboard (flatten it so it's easier to collect)
- cereal boxes
- toilet and kitchen roll tubes
- paper (as long as it's clean and dry)
- envelopes (it's okay to leave the clear, plastic window on them)
- magazines
- newspapers
- office paper
- telephone directories
- paperback books
- catalogues
- junk mail and takeaway menus.

Green bin

Your green bin is for plastics, cans, and glass.

These items can go in your green bin:

- plastic bottles, milk cartons
- plastic pots, tubs, and trays
- plastic fruit and vegetable trays
- plastic takeaway containers (emptied and rinsed)
- cleaning product bottles
- shampoo and shower gel bottles
- drinks cans (emptied and rinsed)
- food tins, including pet food tins (emptied and rinsed)
- biscuit and sweet tins
- aerosols
- glass bottles and jars.

Brown bin

Your brown bin is for garden waste and food waste. You need to **buy a garden waste permit** (www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/3745/garden-waste) before you can put garden waste in your brown bin.

These items can go in your brown bin:

- grass cuttings
- flowers and plants
- weeds
- leaves
- branches and twigs (small enough to fit in the bin with the lid closed)
- cooked and uncooked food
- fruit and vegetable peelings
- tea bags and coffee grounds
- eggshells
- out-of-date food (all packaging removed)
- meat, fish, and small bones.

Your 2024 Calendar

Your collection day is **Thursday**

Please place your bin(s) out for collection by 7am on your collection day.

If you require this calendar in large print, audio or need it translated into other languages please call 0300 300 0300.



Renfrewshire Council

Bin Type	Grey	Blue	Green	Brown
MARCH 2024				
Thu 7	x	x	x	✓
Thu 14	x	x	✓	x
Thu 21	✓	x	x	✓
Thu 28	x	✓	x	x
APRIL 2024				
Thu 4	x	x	x	✓
Thu 11	✓	x	✓	x
Thu 18	x	x	x	✓
Thu 25	x	✓	x	x
MAY 2024				
Thu 2	✓	x	x	✓
Thu 9	x	x	✓	x
Thu 16	x	x	x	✓
Thu 23	✓	✓	x	x
Thu 30	x	x	x	✓
JUNE 2024				
Thu 6	x	x	✓	x
Thu 13	✓	x	x	✓
Thu 20	x	✓	x	x
JUNE 2024				
Thu 27	x	x	x	✓
JULY 2024				
Thu 4	✓	x	✓	x
Thu 11	x	x	x	✓
Thu 18	x	✓	x	x
Thu 25	✓	x	x	✓
AUGUST 2024				
Thu 1	x	x	✓	x
Thu 8	x	x	x	✓
Thu 15	✓	✓	x	x
Thu 22	x	x	x	✓
Thu 29	x	x	✓	x
SEPTEMBER 2024				
Thu 5	✓	x	x	✓
Thu 12	x	✓	x	x
Thu 19	x	x	x	✓
Thu 26	✓	x	✓	x
OCTOBER 2024				
Thu 3	x	x	x	✓
Thu 10	x	✓	x	x
Thu 17	✓	x	x	✓
Thu 24	x	x	✓	x
Thu 31	x	x	x	✓
NOVEMBER 2024				
Thu 7	✓	✓	x	x
Thu 14	x	x	x	✓
Thu 21	x	x	✓	x
Thu 28	✓	x	x	✓
DECEMBER 2024				
Thu 5	x	✓	x	x
Thu 12	x	x	x	✓
Thu 19	✓	x	✓	x



New Staff Member

James McDougall has joined us as a temporary technical officer so you will likely see him out and about in the estate.



Planned works to homes

New Windows & Doors

We are close to issuing a tender to appoint a contractor to replace windows and doors in during the summer months. We have identified 112 houses that are due to get the installation of new windows and/or doors and the Association's board have decided to invest around £750,000 for replacement in 2024.

It's expected that we should be starting these works during the summer months and those tenants that are part of this programme have been sent a letter by our Property Asset Assistant, Suzanne Davidson. In addition to the houses that are part of this phase we are also looking to continue to replace the windows and doors in more houses through 2025.



New Boilers

We are also starting a small programme to replace older boilers with high efficiency modern boilers. This programme is an investment of around £35,000 and it means that all homes have had boiler upgrades in recent years. We do however have one eye on the future and are investigating options for replacing boilers in years to come with more carbon neutral heating appliances to help reduce carbon emissions from homes.



New Kitchens

In our last newsletter we highlighted that we are aware of some kitchens installed in 2010 to 2013 where some the units were failing due to an issue we are calling delamination where the face of the units are peeling away. We'd like to thank tenants who have reported these kitchens to us.

The Association's board has recognised this issue and also the need to replace other kitchens which have reached the end of their life. A budget of around £550,000 has been created for the replacement of kitchens in 2024. We are going through the necessary work to tender the contract and appoint a contractor to undertake this programme of works.



Other Works

We are working through a small programme of replacing fences in the estate and intend to start a programme of painter work of metal fencing throughout the estate and also gutter cleaning. Tenants will be contacted in advance of when these works will be carried out.



Grounds Maintenance

Keeping on the garden theme mentioned earlier we will also be starting our grass cutting for open spaces and also tenants who are part of our garden tidy scheme.

We are continuing to work with our contractor In-Work Enterprises whom we had positive

feedback on their performance in 2023. In-Work are a Social Enterprise which makes them different from other contractors as they use any profits to help invest in people who have experienced mental health issues as well as young people who have been long-term unemployed.

Over the winter period our Senior Property Officer, Gavin McFarlane, has worked with In-Work to make some improvements to open spaces of grass. Some of you will see some more areas of planted trees; shrubs; flowers and wild flowers in different parts of Ferguslie to help brighten up spaces.



Gas and Electrical Servicing

Our Property Team would also like to thank tenants for helping us by allowing access to your home for your annual gas service and the five yearly check we have to do to the electrics in your home.

We are seeing a high rate of tenants giving us access and we do appreciate this. Carrying out checks to your Gas and Electrical safety is something that the Association has to do by law as well as keeping you and those in your home safe.

We do realise that it can be an inconvenience to you to make the time to allow access and to recognise this we have a monthly prize draw for those tenants who give our contractors access to your home at the arranged visit. To be in with a chance of winning the prize draw all you need to do is allow access when the contractor arranges a visit.

We do make several attempts to gain access to homes and unfortunately on some isolated occasions we have to consider forcing access. This is the last thing we want to have to do. If your visit doesn't suit you we are flexible and will always look to find a time that suits, just call us at the office on **0141 887 4053 (option 1)** and we will be happy to help.



Annual Garden Competition

Out with the cold... in with the view!

Spring is finally here and we are looking for tenants to participate in our 2024 garden competition.

Does your garden have what it takes to be the best overall?

If you have what it takes or know someone who does, why not nominate them to be in our competition? Forms can be picked up from the reception or sent out on request.

Even better, just call the office and we will get your garden entered. Staff will be out and about in the estate in June and July to take pictures of Ferguslie in Bloom.

Tannahill Centre News



Thank you Jamie!

We extend a heartfelt thank you to Jamie Mallan, who has been an integral part of our team for the past 7 years. Jamie's dedication and transformative efforts have propelled the Tannahill Centre from being underused to thriving.

When Jamie first joined, the centre was merely seen as a shortcut by community members. Through Jamie's leadership, we've witnessed a remarkable evolution. Today, the centre stands as a vibrant hub with over 40 weekly activities catering to diverse interests and needs.

As Jamie embarks on a new chapter, we express our gratitude for his immense contributions. The Tannahill Centre continues to flourish, thanks to Jamie's legacy of innovation and commitment to community empowerment.

Staffing changes

We'd like to inform you of some staffing changes following Jamie's departure.

Gordon Larkin, with 4 years of experience as the community development worker, assumes the role of Community Centre Coordinator. He will oversee the Facility Team, handle customer inquiries, manage hall bookings, and remain dedicated to organizing Participatory Budgeting events and supporting initiated groups. Reach out to Gordon at GordonLarkin@fpha.org.uk.

Paul Irwin, with over 7 years of service as a Development Worker, steps into the role of Community Development Manager. He will lead the community development team, report to the executive committee, and maintain his commitment to delivering the Activate course in collaboration with the University of Glasgow. Contact Paul at paulirwin@fpha.org.uk.

We look forward to the continued growth and success of the Tannahill Centre under our new leadership.



Paul and Gordon

Exciting News from the Activate Course!

Our latest cohort of Activate students recently celebrated their achievements at a delightful awards ceremony hosted at the University of Glasgow. Attendees were thrilled with the event and appreciated the opportunity to commemorate their success in such splendid surroundings.

One participant shared, *"I truly enjoyed the Activate course. It felt incredibly supportive right from the start, and learning together as a team was fantastic. Completing the course with newfound friends gave me a profound sense of accomplishment. I'm now considering applying for the community development course."*

The Activate course has yielded numerous success stories, from boosting participants' confidence to six individuals advancing to further study at University. All participants are guaranteed an interview for the University of Glasgow community development course. Excitingly, we'll be launching another course this summer! If you're keen to join, simply email paulirwin@fpha.org.uk to reserve your spot.

Let's continue to empower our community through education and collaboration!

Country Karaoke!

Ferguslie Park Community Choir will be 'keeping it country' with a dedicated fundraiser on Saturday, May 11th in the Tannahill Centre. They have been learning some country songs including much loved classics such as 'Ring of Fire' and 'Islands in the Stream'. The choir has grown in recent months and will be joined by other choirs from the Voice project. All profits will go towards the choir's running costs. please contact Bobbie on 0141 2808801 or email bobbiemccabe@fpha.org.uk for more information. If the recent ABBA Karaoke is anything to go by this one will be a belter!



Seekers Youth Club

The "SEEKERS YOUTH CLUB" is open to anyone currently in P4 to P7. The Group runs every Friday at 3.15pm by the Ferguslie Community Church team of Stuart, Linnie and Lesley.

If you enjoyed our Holiday Clubs over the last 6 years then this is right up your street with more of the same every week: games, songs, craft, drama, bible stories, chilling times, etc.

To register click onto the QR code icon on the poster or use the link below:

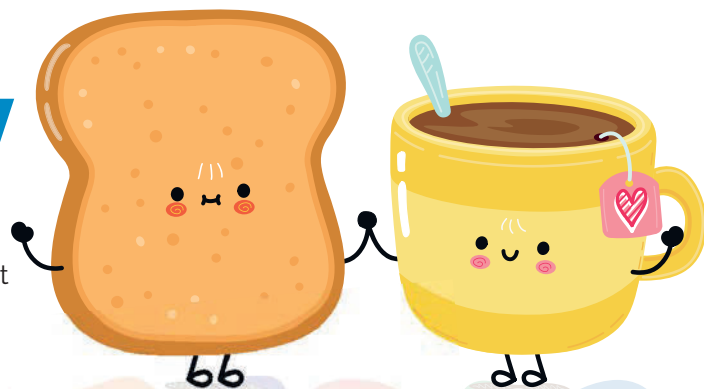
<https://form.jotform.com/240392704257355>

Seekers ~ Youth
P4 to P7
Every Friday
(during term time)
3.15 pm to 4.45 pm
Large Hall
Tannahill Centre
Organised by Ferguslie Community Church

To register use the QR Code or
Email:
ferguslieparkholidayclub@hotmail.com

Tea at the Tanny

Tea at the Tanny Reminder: Join us for tea and toast from 10am and a delicious bowl of soup from 12 noon every weekday. While you're here, discover other free activities at the centre like joining the Choir on a Monday, Wednesday yoga sessions, or Thursday crafts. See you there!



Love is all around at Ferguslie Seniors



In February, the Ferguslie Seniors group hosted a highly successful Valentine's tea dance. Janet Gibson serenaded the crowd for a full 3 hours, belting out all the beloved classics.

The event warmly welcomed special guests, including the children from Ferguslie Learning Centre, who delighted the seniors with red roses. The nursery kids couldn't contain their joy, dancing non-stop throughout the afternoon. Our dedicated volunteers curated a delightful spread, and even some newcomers mastered the art of the slosh!

Join Ferguslie Seniors for their lunch club every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Pop in or contact tmcternan@fpha.org.uk for more details. Let's keep the community thriving.

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