

# Lister Newsletter - December 2020

*Coronavirus—stay safe, keep well, stay strong*

The Lister office continues to be closed to tenants and the public, however staff are covering the telephones and liaising with contractors. Please observe all Scottish Government guidance and restrictions to keep our community safe.

## IMPORTANT - WELFARE BENEFITS and DEBT ADVICE

Lister, using the new ARCHIE Alliance of smaller independent housing associations and co-ops in Edinburgh, has signed up for two new services.

### WELFARE BENEFITS ADVICE

Lister, along with another housing co-op, is buying in specialist welfare rights advice from an experienced worker at Port of Leith HA. They can provide support and assistance for those needing help on checking entitlements and other benefit issues.

Please contact Fiona Dodds, our Housing Assistant for more information.

The service is confidential and complies with GDPR (data protection) requirements.

### DEBT ADVICE

Do you have significant and/or multiple debts that you have difficulty managing? Are you wishing to get help to manage your debts - and get a plan for the future?

Lister is trialling a new link to a specialist debt adviser who works for another HA and has time to spare for referrals from Lister and other Archie members. Trial from Jan-Mar 2021.

Please contact Fiona Dodds, our Housing Assistant, for more information.

*There may be a waiting list at times for these services if demand is high. Register your interest now.*

## AGM success & Office-Bearers

**The 2020 AGM held at the end of September was successful - thanks to all those who attended or sent in proxy forms.**

**There were no elections as there were fewer people standing than places vacant.**

**Those re-elected were - Jean-Luc Addams, Colleen Littlewood, Jennifer McCuaig, Jennie Renton.**

**Those continuing on are: Louise Alexander, Lucille Bald, Susan Baxter, Carol Goodwin, Michele Gunn, Jacquie Leith, Angus McDonald, Maureen Midgley, Detelina Todorova.**

**At the first Management Committee meeting after the AGM, the following were elected as Office-Bearers:  
CHAIR: Jennifer McCuaig  
TREASURER: Angus McDonald  
SECRETARY: Colleen Littlewood**

## LANDLORD REPORT - SHR

Attached is Lister's Landlord Report produced from information submitted to the Scottish Housing Regulator by Lister. It shows certain outcomes and compares them to the Scottish average.

## ENERGY REDRESS SCHEME - UPDATE

We had a small number of tenants signed up for an Energy Redress Scheme where assistance (in set circumstances) could be sought and provided to tenants towards fuel bills.

Unfortunately the central funds held by the approved organisation ran out as they were more and more people accessing the scheme. It is hoped that more funding will become available and if so, we shall re-apply for voucher assistance for all the tenants we have assisted already, and also publicise the scheme for any other tenants who could be eligible. Existing tenants approved on the original scheme do not need to re-apply. We shall publicise again if and when there is news about more funding coming available.

## MAIN SITE KITCHEN PROGRAMME

This programme is on course and our consultant Surveyors will be issuing a formal tender for pricing in early January. Once the tenders have been returned and assessed, the contract will be let. It is hoped that surveys will start in March 2021.

Meanwhile the Maintenance Sub Group has been looking carefully at options and specifications. Lister aims to offer an enhanced set of choices from a high quality range of fittings.

Once all the contract arrangements are in place in early spring, we shall have a display for individual households to view, in turn, and each household will also have a visit from a kitchen surveyor to measure up.

Lister's Management Committee is pleased to progress this very important programme of work.

## CYCLE REPAIR SCHEME

There is information about free funding towards bicycle repairs up to £50 on this website: [cyclinguk.org/ScotCycleRepair](http://cyclinguk.org/ScotCycleRepair) Use this to get your bike in good shape.

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GOT A CO DETECTOR THAT HAS EXPIRED. Return it to the Lister office and we can recycle them.

## Home Energy Scotland

**Home Energy Scotland is a network of local advice centres and a very useful website. Their expert advisors give free, impartial advice on energy saving, keeping warm at home as well as advice on cutting waste and greener travel.**

**Visit their website - [homeenergyscotland.org](http://homeenergyscotland.org) or ring them on 0808 808 2282**

**Calls are free and they are available between Monday - Friday 8am to 8pm and Saturday from 9am - 5pm.**

## EXERCISING YOUR DOG

We are having an increasing number of reports of people exercising their dog away from their own flat/stair, but they going somewhere else in Lister. Thus we have problems of dog faeces in various locations including Archibald Place pavements.

It is an offence to allow a dog to defecate and not clear up afterwards. Please help keep Lister and the local community clean and safe and avoid the risk of a fine from dog wardens.

*Clean up after your dog*