

AGM 2023

This year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was once again held in the Lauriston Hall, which is a spacious Hall situated very close to our community, on Lauriston Place.

We were very pleased to welcome 31 tenant members (and thanks also to the 7 people who sent in a proxy form).

People were able to gather socially and meet with friends and neighbours. Refreshments were also on offer, and after the formal business a raffle was held, and prizes were won by new and long-standing ten-

ants - well done to the winners.

At the AGM, there were no new people standing for election to the Management Committee this year, but 4 members of the Committee were re-standing, and were re-elected without the need for a vote, as there were more vacant places than people standing. They were Colleen Littlewood, Jennifer McCuaig, Jennie Renton and Jean-Luc Addams.

There was no Special General Meeting this year— the new Rules which had been agreed by members last year had been approved

by the the Financial Conduct Authority, and are now in effect.



The AGM was once again held in the nearby Lauriston Hall

Management Committee 2023-2024

At the first Management Committee meeting after the AGM, the Office-Bearers for this year were elected and they are as follows:

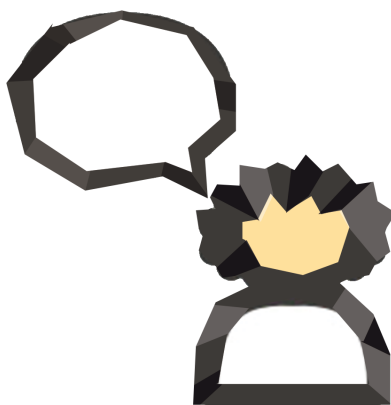
Chair: Louise Alexander

Secretary: Jennifer McCuaig

Treasurer: Angus McDonald

The full Committee for 23-24 is as follows:

Louise Alexander, Angus McDonald, Colleen Littlewood, Jean-Luc Addams, Lucille Bald, Susan Baxter, Joanna Dydak, Carol Goodwin, Jacquie Leith, Jennifer McCuaig, Jennie Renton.



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Lister Advice and Support



The cost of living crisis continues to affect all our tenants, and we want to take this opportunity to remind you of the free advice and support services that you are able to access as one of our tenants.

Please remember that these services are not just for other people. They are there for you if you need them, and we would encourage you to contact them if that is the case.

If you would like support accessing any of the services on offer below please let the staff team know, we would be happy to assist.

Welfare Rights

Remember that Lister has teamed up with one of our local Housing Association Partners, Harbour Homes (Formerly known as Port of Leith Housing Association), to offer free Welfare Benefits advice to our tenants.

If you are interested in this service please contact Fiona Dodds, our Housing Assistant for more info.



Debt Advice

We offer a free, independent debt advice service for our tenants, which is provided confidentially by the Community Help and Advice Initiative (CHAI).

If you are interested in accessing this service please contact the office. However, if you prefer to self-refer you can contact CHAI direct by calling them on 0131 442 2100, or by email: chai@chaiedinburgh.org.uk



Energy Advice

As mentioned in our last newsletter, Lister now has access to an Energy Advice service to support tenants with any energy or utility issues they are experiencing.

If you would like some help in this area, you can make contact with the service directly:

energy@harbour.scot

or via a member of the Lister staff team.

City of Edinburgh Council Advice



To support Edinburgh residents during the cost of living crisis, The City of Edinburgh Council has created web pages

which are full of useful guidance, information and links for support if anyone is struggling.

The pages include guidance and advice on:

- Money worries
- Food support
- School meals and clothing grants
- Welfare funds
- Benefits advice
- Housing and homelessness

The Website can be found here:

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/costofliving



Lister Housing Co-Operative



Home Heating Efficiency- Advice From Lister's Gas Contractors



Lister's Gas Contractors, Lothian Gas, have produced the following guidance for Lister Tenants who have gas boilers/ gas central heating, on managing them in an energy efficient way.

Check and Set Your Room Thermostat

A room thermostat prevents your heating system from using more fuel than it needs to. It will turn the heating on until the room reaches the temperature you have set and then off until the temperature drops below your programmed temperature.

The thermostat should be set to the lowest comfortable temperature, typically between 18°C and 21°C. You don't need to turn your room thermostat up when it is colder outside; the house will heat up to the set temperature whatever the weather, however it may take a little longer on colder days. Turning up your room thermostat won't make your home heat any faster.

Also, please bear in mind that room thermostats need a free flow of air to sense the temperature, so make sure

they are not blocked by curtains or furniture, and keep them away from heat sources.

As the weather has changed, Lothian Gas have received an increase in calls from tenants reporting that they have no central heating. During the assessment calls, they are finding that the majority of these are relating to room-thermostats which have been turned down to the lowest setting over the summer, and some of which require the batteries to be replaced (where applicable, as not all properties have the same style).

If you find that you have no heating please check your room thermostats/ settings. This will

help Lothian Gas to effectively prioritise their help to those who need it most, and will reduce the number of callbacks.

Of course if in doubt, please call Lothian Gas as usual, and they can advise, if for example new batteries are required.



Silicone Seals

When the silicone seals around baths and showers fail, this can cause significant water damage if the silicone is not re-done quickly.

Please take a minute to check the silicone seals around your baths and showers. If the silicone looks damaged please let us know and we will arrange for our plumber to attend to get this sorted for you.

Cellar Clearing

Recent reviews of Lister tenement stairs and cellars have shown a build up of materials being placed there for storage.

Stairs and cellars should be kept clear in the interests of Health & Safety and we ask all tenants to review, and to remove/ dispose of any items which have been placed in these areas.

Bins

Please ensure that you use the litter bins that are allocated to your flat, and that you place all rubbish inside the bins, rather than leaving on the street beside the bins.

This will help to keep the whole Lister community clean, safe, and vermin-free.



Bike Storage and Security

We have had recent incidents where bikes have been locked to railings outside Lister properties, and the railings have been damaged when the bikes have been moved or removed.

Bike removal causing damage to railings leaves a health and safety risk in terms of broken sections of railings, and of course creates a cost for Lister in terms of actions by Lister

contractors to repair damaged railings.

Please ensure not to leave bikes locked to railings outside Lister properties.

Of course bike storage is an issue for all of us in the busy city centre, and you may have seen bike storage hangars appearing in nearby streets. We have contacted the officer at the Council, who is lead-

ing the Secure Street Cycle Parking project, and he has advised that Lister's streets are on the Council's list of potential future sites, and if tenants are interested in a bike hangar being placed in their street, they should email him directly, as this will help the Council calculate demand when future selections are made:

Joe.Taylor@edinburgh.gov.uk

Gardens and Trees Update

A huge thank you from the Management Committee to the 2 Lister tenants who have recently been working hard in the Main Site Garden to assist our Gardener, Sam. Their hard work on behalf of the entire Lister community is greatly appreciated.

In terms of our trees, we have instructed a specialist contractor to 'crown raise' the trees in the front

gardens facing onto Lauriston Place. This will involve raising the lowest height of the branches to 3m over paths, and 5m over the road, as well as removing dead wood/ hanging branches. This will help protect our tenants, and passing pedestrians (as well as buses!).

We anticipate that the works will take place on 08.11.23 (although this may change eg due to weath-

er conditions). Contractors will attempt to keep disturbance to a minimum, but we do anticipate some noise etc on the day.

We are also conducting a specialist survey of all our trees, and the survey results will inform future plans for how we protect and manage our trees. We will keep you updated.

In Memory

Former Lister tenant Alan Hallgarth, who passed away in August, was a driving force in setting up our Coop. A carpenter to trade, he was active on the tenants' maintenance committee and was very interested in the possibilities of community led architecture. It's thanks to people like Alan that the Coop came into existence, against all the odds, at a time when our homes were threatened with demolition for institutional development.

We were also very sorry to hear of the death of William Kerr, of Lauriston Place.

William was a very longstanding tenant of 43 years, who very much loved living at Lister, as well as the Lister community and local neighbourhood.

We offer our condolences to Alan and William's families and friends at this time.

Diary Date

The Lister Arts and Crafts Group has created a fantastic banner for the West Port Garden (see the Charter Report!). One of the Lister tenants who created the banner will be speaking at a free talk about the West Port Garden, on 7.11.23 at 18.30 in the Central Library. Further information and tickets at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/in-the-footsteps-of-norah-geddes-new-life-for-west-port-community-garden-tickets-706728964357>