

What's on the



horizon

Housing Association Ltd

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SHE'S A REAL WINNER.

In our last newsletter, we advised you that Sharon Smith is working with us for a year, as part of a project to assist disabled people gain work experience.

We are delighted to report that Sharon recently received an award from the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

Accompanied by husband Alan and faithful guide dog, Steffi, Sharon received a special award for

achievements in Adult Learning, at a ceremony in Motherwell Civic Centre on 13 May 2003. Sharon hopes to use her £250 training voucher to further her skills in touch-typing and embark on an advanced Administration course.

Our warmest congratulations to Sharon on her achievement, which is an inspiration to us all.

SCOTTISH SECURE TENANCY - UPDATE

We have signed up 95% of our tenants to the Scottish Secure Tenancy Agreement since October last year.

We hope to sign up the majority of the remainder in the next few weeks.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all tenants for their assistance. If of course you are one of those still to sign up, please contact your Housing Officer to arrange a mutually convenient appointment.

TENANT PARTICIPATION WE NEED YOU!!

Remember, we are still seeking volunteers to assist in a number of policy reviews and initiatives. If you wish to be involved let us know and we will either include you in our mailings or invite you along to a working group meeting.

If you wish further information please contact your Housing Officer.



GARDEN COMPETITION

It's the time of year for all you keen and not so keen gardeners to try and win this year's most desirable competition - "The Garden Competition".

This year we are seeking nominations for the most improved gardens and the best estate.

If you think either you or a neighbour should win, drop us a note or telephone and we will call round and take a photograph.

We hope to show the winners in the autumn newsletter.

The prize for the most improved garden is a £50 voucher.

The best estate prize will be a £50 voucher plus a plaque to publicise the achievement.

Please have your entry in by 28th July 2003.

Kids you can also get involved. If you have a planter or strip of garden that you tend to, please let us know by the above date and we will choose the best and give a mystery prize.

Best of luck.

YOUR ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU

Are you aware that as a tenant, sharing owner or owner-occupier within a Horizon estate, you are eligible to become a member of the Association and thereby, become eligible to stand for election to our Management Committee.

If you care about the housing which we provide and the services we deliver, why not become a member and have a say in how we do these in future.

If you want further information about membership, the role of the Management Committee or other ways you can become involved, then please give me a ring. I will be happy to visit you at home to provide further information if that would be helpful.

Remember it's your Association, help shape its future.

Jim Watt
Chief Executive

Property Available for Rent in Kilmarnock



**2 apartment 2 person ground
floor flat**

**Comprising kitchen / dining
room, livingroom, double
bedroom and bathroom.**

**Please contact the office for
further information or an
application form.**

ADAPTATIONS

WHAT ARE THEY?

Adaptations are often carried out for people who require alterations to their property to meet their needs and to enable them to live more independently.

There are two types of adaptations:

Permanent adaptations are items such as a level access shower, Clos-o-mat or tracking for hoists.

Non-permanent adaptations consist of bath aids such as moveable shower seats or hoist and slings.

Non-permanent adaptations are obtained through your Local Authority Social Work Department.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR A PERMANENT ADAPTATION?

All tenants or sharing owners are eligible for grant assistance but the funding sources and processes are different.

IF YOU ARE A TENANT

Tenants wishing to apply to have a permanent adaptation to their home require to have their request supported by a referral letter from an Occupational Therapist/Social Worker, or for minor adaptations, from their doctor.

The Association will first of all check budget availability, and if funding is not available then you and your Occupational Therapist will be informed.

If funding is available, the Association's Clerk of Works will visit your property to assess the work required. Once a contractor is selected, a work order will be issued to them and copied to you showing the timescale for the works to be carried out. On completion of the works, the Association's Clerk of Works will visit your home to inspect the works and ensure it has been satisfactorily completed.

In some circumstances the nature of the adaptation may incur an additional rental point increase. For example an overbath shower is seen as an additional bathing facility and a rental point increase will be applied to your rent. Acceptance of this charge is required prior to the adaptation being undertaken.

IF YOU ARE A SHARING OWNER

Sharing owners should apply for adaptation grants through their Local Authority Social Work Department. Permission for any permanent adaptation must be sought from the Association prior to works being carried out.

For more information contact, Julie Squirrell, Development Assistant.

Satisfaction Survey

Thanks to all who sent back 'Satisfaction Cards'!
Here are some comments we have received over the last 3 Months.

'Quick, efficient service'

'The job was done in a professional manner, and was most appreciated'

'Time scale not good enough'

'Many Thanks'

'Association staff polite and efficient. Plumber most helpful & extremely efficient'

The top comment was simply *'No complaints'*.

The winner will receive a £20 voucher. Keep sending in your Satisfaction Cards!

NEWSDESK

NEW STARTS

In House Maintenance Team



Jim Adams (in photograph) joined the Association in April this year. He is the first Joiner to be employed by Horizon and forms part of the In House Maintenance Team. Jim can be seen here working outside our development at Ardrossan.

Brendan Murphy and David Smith (Assistant Caretakers) make up the remainder of the additional staff in the In House Maintenance Team, who also took up employment with Horizon in April this year.

Yvonne O'Hara took up her post as Office Manager on 28th April. Yvonne's role is looking after office services and managing the Admin Team.

STAFF UPDATE

You've no doubt heard the one about waiting for a bus and then two arrive at the same time. Well we feel a bit like that at the moment.

In July, our Development Manager, Fiona Birse leaves to join Scotstoun and Whiteinch Housing Association in Glasgow. In the 2 years that Fiona has been with us she has made a significant contribution to the work of ensuring that Horizon builds its houses to the highest standard. Scotstoun's gain is Horizon's loss. Due to the current level of our future development programme, we will not be recruiting a replacement Development Manager. In the interim, Chief Executive, Jim Watt, will directly manage the Development Department.

In August, our Finance and Administration Manager, Rebecca Wilson also leaves for pastures new. Rebecca is moving onto a new challenge with Barony Housing Association in Edinburgh. Rebecca joined Horizon in November 1997 and has consistently ensured that our financial affairs have been managed in a professional manner. Recruitment of Rebecca's replacement will commence shortly.

We wish both Fiona and Rebecca our best wishes in their future careers.

Finally, in July our Finance Assistant, Gail Harkins, goes off on Maternity Leave. Gail is one of Horizon's longest serving staff and joins the list of "Mothers to be" who have kept Horizon at the top of the productivity league. We wish Gail well with the remainder of her pregnancy and will update you in our next newsletter on Horizon's latest addition.

The Association produces this newsletter on a quarterly basis to keep tenants, sharing owners and members informed on issues relating to their homes and surrounding areas.

We would be happy to receive news/views that you would like to see published in this newsletter.

Please contact Kathleen Smillie at our offices. Tel: 01506 424140 Fax: 01506 400052 Email: e-mail@horizonhousing.org

FOCUS ON YVONNE O'HARA

Name
Yvonne Rose O'Hara

Job Title
Office Manager

Favourite Pastime
Spending time with my Husband - he's my best friend

Favourite Film
Carousel - at a young age it gave me a taste for acting, music and dance, which has stayed with me all my life.

Favourite Holiday Destination
Not really got a favourite, I guess if Scotland had the sun of the Mediterranean I'd never venture far.

Favourite Foods
Filetto Del Papa - A fillet steak grilled (rare) and covered with an Italian sauce - includes mushrooms/tomatoes and cherries. Mmmmh. Dauphinois potatoes or as my Irish friends would say "Garlic Spuds" - a real treat. I could go on and

on, as I love food preferably cooked FOR me. My apron reads, "If God had meant me to cook why did he invent so many restaurants!" I wear it on Christmas Day to keep my hubby company in the kitchen.

Future Hopes
To live a long and happy life, have enough money, once the kids have flown the nest, to buy a Winnebago and travel the world with my hubby.



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EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Properties in defects - Blantyre - Winton Crescent & Tennyson Gardens, Dunfermline (Inglis Lane)

Please contact Aon Home Assistance on 0845 757 3842. Aon will contact the appropriate contractor.

Kingdom Gas Service Gas Heating/Hot Water 0800 389 9463 • Aon Home Assistance 0845 757 3842