

DOWN YOUR

# Street

Tenants' Magazine

## Summer fun



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#DYSFife

FFOTRA open day p6



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### Language lines

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## Get in touch

Edited by: The Tenant Participation Team

If you need to get in touch about this issue, or setting up a Tenants and Residents Association for your area, you can contact us in the following ways:



Tenant Participation Team, Kirkcaldy Customer Service Centre, Town House, 2 Wemyssfield, Kirkcaldy, KY1 1XW



tenantparticipation@fife.gov.uk

www.fife.gov.uk/housing



@fifecounciltp

# Welcome!

**You will be aware by now that the Council decided to declare a Housing Emergency in March and since then we have been working hard with our partners, other Council Services, the Tenants Forum, Housing Associations and the voluntary sector to define how we respond to that Emergency. The Council's Cabinet Committee agreed a high-level Housing Emergency Action Plan with a further report due back to Committee in September.**

My in box on a daily basis is dominated by tenants and housing applicants asking when I am going to get a house from the Council. That is a very difficult question for me to answer. It is taking far too long for anyone to get a formal offer of a house or flat and people are waiting in sometimes unacceptable housing conditions for an offer of housing. That is unacceptable here in Fife. We are facing an extreme housing shortage and the only way to address that is for the Council and our Housing Association Partners to keep building affordable housing. This will take time.

As short-term actions, we are reducing the number of council empty properties and seeking to turn them around in fewer days. The Council is also focussed on trying to move people out of bed & breakfast and hotels that we are using increasingly for temporary homeless accommodation.

The Council is committed to making it easier to access all housing options in Fife and we will be bringing forward additional plans to do that over the course of the next 1-3 years.

*John*

**John Mills**

*Head of Housing Services*



**In the face of massive cuts to the Housing Budget, I had to look at all the facts and I declared a Housing Emergency on 21st March. We are formulating a 3-year Housing Emergency Action Plan for 2024-2027, to tackle Fife's Housing Emergency.**

We are looking at 3 main high-level themes:-

1 – Boosting Affordable Housing Supply, 2 - Making best use of existing properties and 3 – Enhancing Housing access and prevention of homelessness

We need to ensure that all stakeholders, especially tenants are at the table to influence how to identify the issues and look at ways to mitigate them. The best way for you to do this, is to have you say is through your local Tenants and Residents Association.

Scan the QR code to see if you have a TRA in your area or email the Tenant Participation Team [tenantparticipation@fife.gov.uk](mailto:tenantparticipation@fife.gov.uk) and they will advise you if you have a TRA in your area, or assist you to set up a TRA. My door is always open and I look forward to hearing from your TRAs, as we progress. Remember that your voice matters and we need to hear your ideas big or small. it's often the smallest ideas that affect the biggest changes.

*Judy*

**Cllr Judy Hamilton**

*Convener of the Community and Housing Services Committee*



# Penumbra

**Penumbra is one of Scotland's leading mental health charities, providing a range of community based mental health services. Penumbra supports people on their journey to better mental health by working with each person to find their own way forward.**

Penumbra's Short Term Housing Support service offers high quality short term housing support to people in West Fife. Support is offered within your home and around your local community. Penumbra's team will support you to become empowered to make informed choices about your daily living through promoting wellbeing and recovery.

Penumbra will support you to gain the skills you need to manage and sustain your tenancy and to live

independently and meaningfully within your local community. They work together with you to discover your strengths and support you to set and achieve your goals one step at a time. Short term housing support is delivered over a 1–6-month period.

Penumbra's community drop-in provides a place where anyone struggling to manage their home can pop along for support and advice. Penumbra also provide advice on benefits and can assist with completing applications.

Come along for a cuppa and a friendly chat with one of the team. Penumbra's drop-in is open every Wednesday from 2-4PM at 89 New Row, Dunfermline, KY12 7DZ. For more information, please call 07876258721

**Community  
Drop-in**

**Every Wednesday  
2pm-4pm**

**Penumbra**  
Mental Health  
*Your journey. Your way.*

**@ 89 New Row, Dunfermline.  
KY12 7DZ**

**Come along to Penumbra's  
Community Drop-in for some  
advice and support with any  
tenancy needs.**

**Monthly information from local  
support agencies in Fife.**

**For further information contact us on: 07876258721**



# Byron Court BBQ

In July, Byron court hosted a BBQ for all friends and family to attend. The BBQ was designed to try and create a good relationship between sheltered complexes in the Levenmouth area. This was arranged by the tenants of Byron Court and on the day, they hosted for 25 people including tenants' family members. It was great to see new tenants' & their families coming along and allowing them to meet their new neighbours. This gave them real confidence and helped settle them in their new homes in Byron Court.

Luckily the weather was fantastic and tenants and residents from Sea Road, Kirkland Parade and Bayview Crescent came along to enjoy the BBQ and meet new friends! Byron Court now hope that by having this BBQ, it will attract new members from the complex to their Tenants and Residents Association. A special thank you to Pauline, who organised all the food and ensured everyone had a fantastic afternoon!



# Cleish Area TRA

**There is a new TRA in town and they are looking for new members to join them in making a difference in the area. Cleish Mackie Tenants and Residents Association, based in Abbeyview, Dunfermline covers Cleish road, Cleish place and Mackie place.** The TRA meet the Third Tuesday of every month at 7 pm in Abbeyview Community Centre and new members are encouraged and will be made welcome.

Coming along is a great opportunity to play your part within your community, to voice and discuss local concerns and gather ideas to better the area you live in to make it a safe and better place for all. The TRA requested a walkabout of their local area in May, so Fife Council could listen to ideas or concerns from residents first hand.

Housing Management Officer Jackie MCGowan, along with Tenant Participation Officer Rab Clark, sent invites to teams and Services to attend. This year already, the TRA Committee have a working action

plan for the area following this walkabout. We were joined by local Councillors and staff from the Safer Communities Team and actions have been fed back to the community caretaker and Transportation Services. This has resulted in road surfacing works and drain covers being completed which was a great achievement for the TRA.

Find us on Facebook CleishmackieTRA or email us at [cleishmackie@gmail.com](mailto:cleishmackie@gmail.com)



# FFOTRA - Open Day

**FFOTRA were officially given the key to their new office at 251 High Street, Kirkcaldy, on Saturday 8th June, by Cllr Judy Hamilton, Convener of the Community and Housing Services Committee.**

It was lovely to see so many people from different Tenant and Residents Associations across Fife turn up on the day to support FFOTRA.

The new offices were purposely built and are disability accessible. FFOTRA provide advice, training and support to their Tenant and Residents Association members. Feel free to pop in, no appointment needed or call them on 01592 641968



# Burnside Place all set for summer!

**Burnside Place, Kelty has enjoyed a makeover just in time for Summer. Officers for the area Lynn Sweeney and Janet Scade initiated the project with the view of improving the garden areas and providing designated areas for tenants.**

Opportunity Bid Funding was granted for improvements to be made and from there the grassed areas were removed and replaced with chips for easier maintenance. Bow top fencing was added to mark out individual gardens and pathways were cleared to allow an easier walkway for all.

Bins were regularly left on the public footpath which caused issues for residents and members of the public walking past, these have now been replaced with industrial bins which are located in their own storage area making it much tidier and better looking.

We think it looks great!



# Tenants take a seat at Jubilee Grove

Tenants of Jubilee Grove have purchased a new bench for residents and visitors. The tenants thought this would be a good addition and allow everyone the opportunity to enjoy the garden, fresh air and a blether with others. Glen Sheltered TRA received funding for all 6 complexes in Glenrothes area and this money has been used to create a enjoyable garden area for all.



# There's a new TRA in town



**After years of having a small social committee, Napier Tenants came together and decided that they would like to form a tenant's association. Napier Tenants Association was created in May of this year and have had their first couple of meetings recently where a good number of tenants have attended to have their say on what happens in their complex. Napier have recently been looking at the Garden area and what they can do to improve this. In a recent meeting with Grounds Maintenance the Tenants asked what they can do themselves to make this area their own! As part of the Tenants Association, Napier will be looking for funding opportunities to help with this alongside planning events for tenants of the Complex to enhance the community spirit!**

In the photo are the board members of Napier Tenants Association after their first inaugural meeting. Since then other Tenants from the complex have been attending these meetings and Napier Tenants Association will encourage other to have their say!



# Highlands and Islands Bin Stores renewed

**New bin stores have helped to revamp the Highland and Islands Area of Kirkcaldy.**

Through consultation with Tenants and Residents Shetland, Orkney, Sutherland and Caithness Place have seen the area improved with the recent fitting of new bin store doors in all blocks. This has helped make the buildings more secure for residents and allow all rubbish to be safely stored away until cleared by the recycling team on bin day. This has helped with preventing littering in the area.

Previously the doors were damaged and in a bad condition with no security locks. This was causing various issues within the estate however the installation of the new doors have created a brighter, safer environment for everyone making the area more welcoming.



## Improvements at Buchanan Court

**The Buchanan Court improvements came about following improvements at Forth View which left Buchanan Court next door looking a little grey in comparison. Fencing work had taken place as part of an opportunity fund bid at Forth View previously but there was no colour to the area. In Buchanan Court there is a mix of sheltered and mainstream tenancies and the Retirement Housing Officer had suggested that the sheltered housing tenants would like to have some planters to add some colour to the area, from here the idea came to have a mural. A meeting was held at the Philp**

**Hall with all Buchanan Court tenants and residents invited. The suggestion was to do a mural on the side of the fence that the flats looked out on to along with some planters and some new planting at the communal grassed areas.**

An opportunity fund bid was successful for financial year 23/24 and work was completed in March 2024 just as we were coming out of winter and into spring. The tenants and residents have given the improvements lots of positive feedback and it has brightened up a once dull area with the colours of the flower meadow scene in the mural and the planting.



# Blalowan Park & Maitland Drive, Cupar AGM + Afternoon Tea

**Earlier this month, Blalowan & Maitland Drive Sheltered Tenants and Residents Association held their Annual General meeting which included new members of the committee being elected.**

The TRA also welcomed new members to the board as well as existing members.

Blalowan & Maitland Drive TRA have been running for several years, the group is constantly learning about new parts of the services in their local community and having questions answered from Fife Council representatives who attend meetings regularly. As the committee grows, it is hopeful that by working together we can achieve more and get information out to tenants.

The TRA has a Floral Project ongoing which will allow group the chance to buy equipment, seeds/

soil. This will hopefully bring a bit of community spirit back after restrictions and encourage new tenants to feel welcomed into their new homes.

The TRA also held a small afternoon tea paid for on behalf of the Tenants and residents association. This was well-attended, and we would like to thank Kath Briggs-Retirement Housing officer, for organising our individual afternoon tea boxes. These were thoroughly enjoyed by all, and we plan to do similar events in the future.



## Kinloss Park

**A walkabout is where a Tenants and Residents Association and the Housing Officer invites staff from various council services and partner organisations to meet onsite and “walkabout” the local estate to see first-hand the issues or problems that residents are experiencing. Everyone then works together to identify solutions and have these topics addressed successfully.**

Kinloss Park, Cupar is one of the largest streets in Cupar, and the newly formed Kinloss Park Tenants & Residents Association highlighted the need for a second local Area Walkabout this April to raise current and historical issues - local Flooding & Play parks were the two areas to be focused on in their local community. On the day the large turnout of locals was supported by the local Housing officers, Safer Community Officers, Cleansing, Tenant participation & Community Police.

We were led by the group around Kinloss Park and

locals insured we noted the key important issues. These included Anti-social issues, illegal dumping, lack of modern and safe play spaces, street lighting and localised flooding- amongst others.

Following on from the Walkabout the residents also held a Public Meeting to discuss the issues from the Walkabout and voted in favour of starting their own Tenants & Residents group.

Local children also gave a petition for modern and safe play spaces to local Cllr Margaret Kennedy.



# Estate Improvements completed in Rolland Avenue

In a previous edition last year, it was highlighted that the wall at Rolland Avenue, East Wemyss needed repairs. Not only aesthetically but also from a safety aspect. Over the last Year the Housing team have been working hard to ensure this project is complete and can create a cleaner and safer environment for all tenants and residents.

Mark Moir Housing Management Officer explained; *“The walls are now completed making them structurally sound and looking much better. The next phase of the projects is still being worked out but we’re looking at the roughcasting and the footpaths. New bow top fencing was also installed as seen in the pictures giving safe access to the shared drying greens and garden areas.”*



# Dunfermline Estate Walkabouts

**It is important for Housing Services to liaise with our tenants and communities about projects or improvements in our Estates. The Dunfermline Area team have focussed on carrying out community led estate walkabouts following the start of the new financial year in April.**

The purpose of a walkabout is to bring Council Services together with people in the community to create an action plan. The Housing Management Officer (HMO) together with the Tenants & Residents Association (TRA), if the area has one, identify a suitable time and place for everyone to meet. The HMO invites colleagues from Grounds Maintenance, Safer Communities, Transportation, Police Scotland and Elected Members to attend and give their input. The group walk through the community and discuss ideas and identify any issues. The HMO will create an action plan and give actions to relevant Services, the document and any progress updates can be followed up at TRA meetings.

Many improvements have been made through estate walkabouts, these can range from untidy gardens being cleaned up, new bins being sited, dog fouling patrols to much larger projects such as new parking areas or lock up demolitions.

The Dunfermline Area has so far carried out walkabouts with BASICSIM TRA (Abbeyview), Cleish Area TRA, Leishman Drive and Halkett Crescent TRA, Brucefield

TRA and in the Headwell Avenue & Bellyeoman areas. Each walkabout has been well attended and has an action plan created, thank you to all residents who have joined us or given feedback.

If you would like to find out if there is a walkabout planned in your area or would like to suggest one, please contact your HMO through the housing advice line 03451 55 55 33, visiting your local office or requesting contact from your HMO online.



# Trust in Fife's mindfulness garden

## Taking positive steps to assist vulnerable and homeless people in Fife...

Trust in Fife is a charity which provides housing and homelessness services within our local community.

Trust in Fife has two temporary accommodation projects: the Oasis Project and the Valley Accommodation Unit. These projects are for single people aged 16 – 60 who are experiencing homelessness. Both units offer housing support to assist individuals to sustain future accommodation.

Trust in Fife introduced mindfulness sessions with Be Mindful Fife. Sessions are available for residents and ex-residents of both homeless units.

Trust in Fife aimed to develop a reflective and peaceful outdoor area. They successfully applied to the B&Q Foundation to create a mindfulness garden in the grounds of the Oasis Project. A redundant area of land was identified, and work began. Staff and residents painted fences and benches, built furniture, and chose plants. Planting aims to be finished by Spring 2024.

Trust in Fife also offer other services, including:

- Fife Private Rental Solutions (FPRS)
- Fife's ethical letting agency helps people access the private rented sector. The team also work with landlords and letting agencies to support tenancy sustainment and prevent homelessness.

## Cairn Centre

Charity shop at 81 Dunnikier Road, Kirkcaldy which sells pre-owned furniture, clothes, electrical items, books and bric-a-brac. All profits help local people experiencing homelessness.

For more information, please contact Trust in Fife:

[www.trustinfife.org.uk](http://www.trustinfife.org.uk)

[admin@trustinfife.co.uk](mailto:admin@trustinfife.co.uk)

01592 646677



# National Good Practice Awards

**Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS) Are Scotland's national tenant and landlord participation advisory service help tenants, landlords and communities to have a strong influence on the future of their homes and communities.**

TPAS hold a annual National Good Practice Awards ceremony to celebrate and highlight the outstanding efforts, contributions and achievements of Tenants and Residents Associations, individuals and landlords, showcasing what they have done to improve their communities and services.

There were 9 different categories this year with the highest ever number of entries. We are delighted to report that Auchmuty and Dovecot Tenants and Residents Association were runners up in the Tenant Team Of The Year category and Christine Ritchie of Brucefield TRA won the "Tenant or Resident of the Year - The Alan Ferguson Award" for her dedication and service to her community.

The awards inspire others to show what can be achieved in their communities and best practice and ideas are shared.

A huge congratulations to both Auchmuty and Dovecot TRA and Christine Ritchie of the Brucefield TRA for their outstanding dedication and contributions they have made to improve their communities and the differences they have made.

**Michelle Barnes and Avril Dullea – ADTRA - It was an honour to be put forward for tenant team of the year award never mind coming runner up in the category, it was humbling and amazing. ADTRA have been running for 42 years, it shows we are a committed group of people (old & new) who live for our community. We wouldn't be able to do it without our volunteers and mentors from Fife Council our Tenant Participation Officer and Community Learning and Development Officer.**

**Christine Ritchie - "I enjoyed my time at the TPAS conference, I found the workshops very interesting and met some fantastic people. I was utterly gobsmacked when my name was called as the**

*winner of the 'tenant or resident of the year award'. It was a complete surprise and such an honour to receive"*

**John Mills – Head Of Housing "I am delighted to recognise the achievements of Auchmuty and Dovecot TRA and Christine Ritchie of Brucefield TRA for their Team and Individual awards at the TPAS Conference. Well deserved and underlines the excellent tenant volunteers we have here in Fife. Congratulations**



# Awards



# Dog Watch Fife

## Do you have a dog and require a dog walker that is 'approved'?

Fife Council Safer Communities Team runs a voluntary "approved user" accreditation scheme called Fife Dog Watch, for professional dog walking companies.

Professional dog walkers provide a valued service to busy working people, the elderly and infirm. Currently, professional dog walkers are unregulated, and do not require licences or formal registration, to operate. The Fife Dog Watch initiative looks to ensure that professional dog walkers who join the initiative have relevant knowledge, adequate insurance, suitable vehicles and adopt an acceptable code of practice, giving dog owners reassurance that their dog is in safe hands.

## Take The Lead

### Do you know that there are approximately 12 million pet dogs in the UK, meaning 31% of households own at least one dog?

Many dog owners and walkers who visit Fife's countryside, woodlands, parks and beaches are considerate and responsible, however the minority aren't, allowing dogs to foul, and roam free.

Fife Council Safer Communities Team and Police Scotland have joined up with other partners to ask all dog walkers to 'Take the Lead' and to keep their pets on lead and under control when out and about.

Fife has many great places to walk your dog and we want people who own a dog or are looking to own a dog in Fife to take responsibility by:

- Keeping their dog on the lead in the countryside, particularly when near livestock.
- Being aware that any dog can become a danger to animals and wildlife.
- Always picking up and bagging their dog's poo.
- Never letting their dog approach any animal or human uninvited
- Sticking to designated paths to ensure animals and birds remain undisturbed

We are taking our message around Fife by attending popular dog walking areas where we can speak and

This approach aims to acknowledge and support responsible dog-walking businesses while ensuring the safety and enjoyment of our shared spaces for all. For more information on our Fife Dog Watch initiative please see [www.fife.gov.uk](http://www.fife.gov.uk) and search for Dog Watch Fife.



engage with dog walking public. At these events we carry lots of educational and informative leaflets to hand out to all.

For more information on Take The Lead, please see [www.fife.gov.uk](http://www.fife.gov.uk) and search for Take The Lead.







# Lismore Place Tenants Association

Lismore Place Tenants Association set up in September 2023 with a focus on making their complex an enjoyable, social place for all to live. Since then, they have been taking action to improve their area starting with a walkabout, teaming up with housing, safer communities, and other services to highlight issues and suggest improvements that would improve the area, and more recently working together with the local school in a community litter pick.

The Tenants Association teamed up with Fair Isle Nursery children, staff, and our mascot Sandy to carry out a litter pick tidying up the garden area and the car park at the front of the building which regularly has rubbish thrown. The children enjoyed helping Sandy to gather the rubbish with their litter pickers and great fun was had colouring in and enjoying a chat with tenants. The children are working towards their Green Flag on recycling, so this helped with their project too. Everyone enjoyed the afternoon and look forward to more intergenerational work between the nursery and Lismore Place Tenants Association.

Sandy thinks it everyone done a fabulous job!





# Forth View floral project

**Forth View Tenants & Residents Association** have been a long-standing association, covering the three multi-storey blocks on the Esplanade, Kirkcaldy they have championed the rights of the high rise residents for over 15 years. The new Forth View committee have worked tirelessly in the same manner and this year they wanted ideas from residents on what to do with the grass communal areas around the blocks. The response was very positive, so they immediately began to source funding for a community Floral Project.

On site visits identified a communal area and the TRA were very well supported by Parks & Open Spaces, local Councillors and the Kirkcaldy Area Housing team.

As you will see in the pictures the area already looks so colourful and different with more planting work to follow.

*I visited Forth View this morning and was very impressed by the gardening work. It has made a huge difference and brightened up the area. What a difference you have made to this corner, and it now looks great.*

*Well done and thanks for all your hard work and efforts.*

**Joan Lamie- Service Manager**

*We have had an overwhelming response to what we are doing from our community from all three blocks so that is great as I have been able to let people know we are there for them and trying to make a difference to our area.*

**Tony Whinfield – Forth View-TRA-Chairperson**



# Fife Private Rental Solutions (FRPS)

**Trust in Fife, a local homeless charity, launched Fife Private Rental Solutions as the first ethical letting agent in Fife. They work to prevent homelessness and help people access and sustain accommodation in the private rented sector.**

FPRS have launched their new website: [www.fifepriaterentalsolutions.co.uk](http://www.fifepriaterentalsolutions.co.uk) The website supports prospective tenants, tenants, landlords and letting agents.

FPRS offer a full range of services:

## For tenants

FPRS offer free services including:

- General advice and guidance
- Help with tenancy sustainment
- Issue resolution and tenancy assistance
- Rent resolution
- Advanced income maximisation
- Deposit assistance services

## For landlords

FPRS offer paid services - from one-off services to let only and full property management services. As a non-profit agency, rates are competitive. Free services are also available including general advice and guidance, issue resolution and tenancy assistance, landlord and tenant mediation, and rent resolution.

## For letting agents

FPRS have created a free bespoke service to help tenants sustain their tenancy. The team can help with tenancy assistance, advanced income maximisation, rent resolution, agent and tenant mediation and deposit assistance.

Caroline McCall, CEO for Trust in Fife says: *“Since our registration as a letting agent in September 2023, the team have been working hard to build a new website to promote services. They have created and launched new services to help people in Fife who live in the private rented sector to sustain their accommodation and prevent homelessness. The team also support landlords*

*and letting agents to do the same. FPRS will do all it can to make the private rented sector a long term, sustainable, and affordable housing option.”*

## A new service

FPRS offer a deposit assistance service where the team can access cash funds to help pay a deposit. This can pay a partial or full deposit and includes getting this lodged in a deposit scheme.

## Success stories

The Advanced Income Maximisation service can help increase the income of clients in a private let or looking to obtain a private let. Since this service began, the team have assisted 24 people to backdate benefits to the value of £55,722.60 and 39 people have experienced an increase in their monthly benefits to the value of £17,119.63.

## Rent Resolution

The Rent Resolution Service can assist if a private tenant falls into rent arrears. This includes mediation, manageable payment plans, and sourcing grants to clear arrears and keep the tenant in the property.

For further information on Fife Private Rental Solutions, please get in touch using the contact details below:

**Phone: 01592 201849**

**Email: [info@fprs.co.uk](mailto:info@fprs.co.uk)**

**Web: [www.fifepriaterentalsolutions.co.uk](http://www.fifepriaterentalsolutions.co.uk)**

**Facebook & X: @FifePRS**



# 100 years celebration

## John Kilpatrick,

North East Fife tenants & Residents federation (NeftrfChair)

**A huge happy 100th birthday to Neftrf outgoing Chair John Kilpatrick, who celebrated his special day with colleagues in the Neftrf-Community Voice shop, Cupar.**

John is a popular and long standing Neftrf member and has also been a loyal member of many other local Cupar community and charity groups in Cupar over his lifetime. This commitment to his home town of Cupar earned him the prestigious honour of Cupar Citizen of the Year-2019.

John had a whirlwind of a birthday week with celebrations and lunches at many groups including his own Tenants Association in Bathgate Court.

John is pictured with his Birthday Card from the

King and enjoying a wee lunch at the Community Voice shop, Cupar.

Congratulations to John we hope you had a great time with many more to come.



## Your landlord does not cover your home contents and personal belongings.

It's a good idea to consider what a home contents insurance policy would cover you for.

When you move into your property, you should think about protecting your personal belongings and home contents.

The Crystal scheme can cover most of your household contents such as furniture, carpets, curtains, clothes, bedding, electrical items, jewellery, pictures and ornaments.

# Remembering Anne Rocks

**Anne sadly passed away on 14th April 2024.**

**Anne contributed a huge amount of to the tenants movement in Fife. Anne was involved in and supported several Tenants and Residents Associations including Headwell Avenue TRA, Golfdrum Street TRA and Canon Lynch Community TRA.**

Anne joined the board of the Fife Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations in July 2016 and her wealth of knowledge and experience will be hard to replace.

Anne was also the Chair of the Tenant Led Scrutiny Panel, looking at different parts of the Housing Service, with the other tenants, to ensure that the Housing Service are delivering on what they should, within timescales, whilst ensuring that it was done achieving value for money. A report of their findings and recommendations are then passed onto Fife Council for consideration and implementation.

Anne was well known and respected by the Community, Housing staff, managers and Elected Members alike.

Anne will be sadly missed.

A memorial cherry tree was planted in memory of Anne by the Community, to remember her.

**John Mills – Head Of Housing Services - “ During my 40 years of housing service to the Local Authority in Fife, I have had the privilege of working with several colleagues from the Tenants Movement that have been champions for tenants’ interests. Anne was one of those people. She always told it as she and other tenants saw it and ensured that council officers like me listened and acted where we could to improve housing and tenant conditions in Fife. She was a pioneer of Tenant Scrutiny and Chaired the first tenant panel in Fife. I recall working closely with Anne on the regeneration of Golfdrum Street in Dunfermline and together we brought improvement to the housing stock in the street. She will be sadly missed at FFOTRA and by me.”**



# Helping the community survive the current cost of living crisis

**Golfdrum Street Tenants & Residents Association in Dunfermline held a community event in association with Kingdom Community Bank which was designed to help people to explore the cost of living crisis and to find ways to save money.**

Douglas Millar, Chair of the TRA, said that prior to the event there was some scepticism that the event would make any real difference but by the end of the 2 hour session these views were proved to be wrong. In what proved to be a most enjoyable event, those attending were quickly reassured that everyone was finding that their bills had increased significantly over the last couple of years and that all attendees had changed their shopping habits and had found innovative ways to make ends meet. It wasn't just the advice from Kingdom Community Bank that people found helpful but it was the discussions with other participants where ideas and tips on how to save money were shared. Top tips included:-

- Not renewing expensive mobile phone contracts but opting instead for a sim only deal.
- Using supermarket clubcards etc. to get maximum savings where possible.
- Shopping around and not always buying branded products.
- Using the airfryer instead of the oven wherever possible.
- Only buy what you need instead of things you might want.
- Making a shopping list and sticking to it was the key to saving and having some money left for those much needed family treats.

The highlight of the event was undoubtedly the "taste test" where all participants tried to identify the branded product compared to the cheap supermarket alternative. Perhaps not unsurprisingly, the branded product didn't always win!





# Halbeath Village Tenants & Residents Association

**About four years ago the Community Centre in Halbeath was demolished to make way for the new Halbeath Nursery and Community Space.**

For the past two years although the TRA reformed they struggled to get committee members.

In March of this year a new committee was formed with the aim to get the community back together. The first event ever to be held in the Nursery was a multi activity event held on Saturday 11th May consisting of a litter pick, car boot and craft sale. It was deemed a success with a full skip of litter and many of the villagers coming to the Nursery for the first, with the cafe being busy throughout the event.

Our latest project is helping the Environmental Group who are preparing for the Its Your Neighbourhood, (part of the RHS) for their visit in August, with lots of planters (around 60) in need of refurbishing/painting, hedges, fences and grass areas trimmed with plants ready for potting and lots more, plenty to keep us busy.

Looking ahead we are planning a Halloween party in October and a craft fair in December. Next year larger

events programmed include the Easter Eggstravaganza and a Gala and Sports Day to be held on the third Saturday in July 2025.

We are fundraising for the above events as well as looking for ways to support those in need and food banks.

The picture below was taken at the Halbeath SPAR on 21 June 24, Left to Right: Gillian McEwan Area Manager, Ron Birnie Chair Halbeath TRA , David Soffietti Store manager .

David nominated the TRA to SPAR as the community group best deserving of support in this area., Thank you David

We meet in the Halbeath Nursery and Community Space on the 3rd Monday of the month (excluding July and December) at 6:30pm, if you stay in Halbeath we hope to see you at a meeting soon. You can contact us via email on [halbeathvillagetra@gmail.com](mailto:halbeathvillagetra@gmail.com)



## Cardenden Tenants and Residents Association



*Helping our community have a voice!*

We are the Cardenden Tenants and Residents Association made up of local volunteers who live within the Cardenden area. We help residents to share their views about their local community, working together to make improvements.

Fife Council, along with other local agencies and associations, consult with us about issues that may affect our community. We make sure residents have a voice in relation to matters affecting them such as rent settings, antisocial behaviour, housing issues, services in the area and improvements needed.

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month in the Corrie Centre, Cardenden Avenue, Cardenden, from 7pm and have regular attendees from Fife Council, Ore Valley, Kingdom Housing and Local Elected members.

Our meeting dates are below. If you have any further question or would like more information, we can be contacted a [cardendentra@gmail.com](mailto:cardendentra@gmail.com)

**Come along, have your say and help your community thrive!**



Meeting at 7pm on;

Wednesday 14<sup>TH</sup> August

Wednesday 11<sup>TH</sup> September

Wednesday 9<sup>TH</sup> October

Wednesday 13<sup>TH</sup> November

Wednesday 8<sup>TH</sup> January

At the Corrie Centre, Cardenden  
Avenue, Cardenden KY5 0EH



# Logo competition

**Glen sheltered TRA would like to say a massive thank you to South Parks Primary 5 class for creating a logo for the Tenants and Residents Association. The winner was Seb, and his logo will be used for any publications or advertisement that Glen sheltered will do in the future.**

The TRA presented a cheque for £100 to allow the class to buy anything they feel is necessary to develop their learning in the future. Seb also received a £30 amazon voucher to spend on whatever he desires.



Sandy made a special guest appearance, and you can see from the photo everyone was delighted to see him!

Well done to everyone involved!



# Tenants Editorial Panel

**Hello to you all.**

**I'm Lynette and have lived and worked in St. Andrews nearly all of my life.**

My main interests are reading, gardening and history. I am currently researching my family tree and putting my rather overgrown garden to rights.

I have created a wee rose garden in memory of past family members and friends.

I am particularly interested in the old part of St. Andrews. eg. - Kirkhill ( a Fife Council retirement housing complex) was in the past the Fisher School - a primary school for the fishing community. (They had their own pub too)!!

I would like to start a wee gardening column in this magazine. I worked in the local garden centre for 15 years. What do you as readers think? Perhaps on a question-and-answer theme?

I note there is not a lot mentioned about St. Andrews in past editions, so I hope to put that to rights. Let me know

if you have any stories you would like included.

We are looking to add to our tenants panel to assist with the editing of your Down Your Street, Tenants Magazine to help ensure our content is useful and interesting to all our readers.

If this is something you would be interested in, then please drop us an email at [Tenant.Participation@fife.gov.uk](mailto:Tenant.Participation@fife.gov.uk)

Please be sure to let us know your name, address, contact number and email.

What kind of people are we looking for:

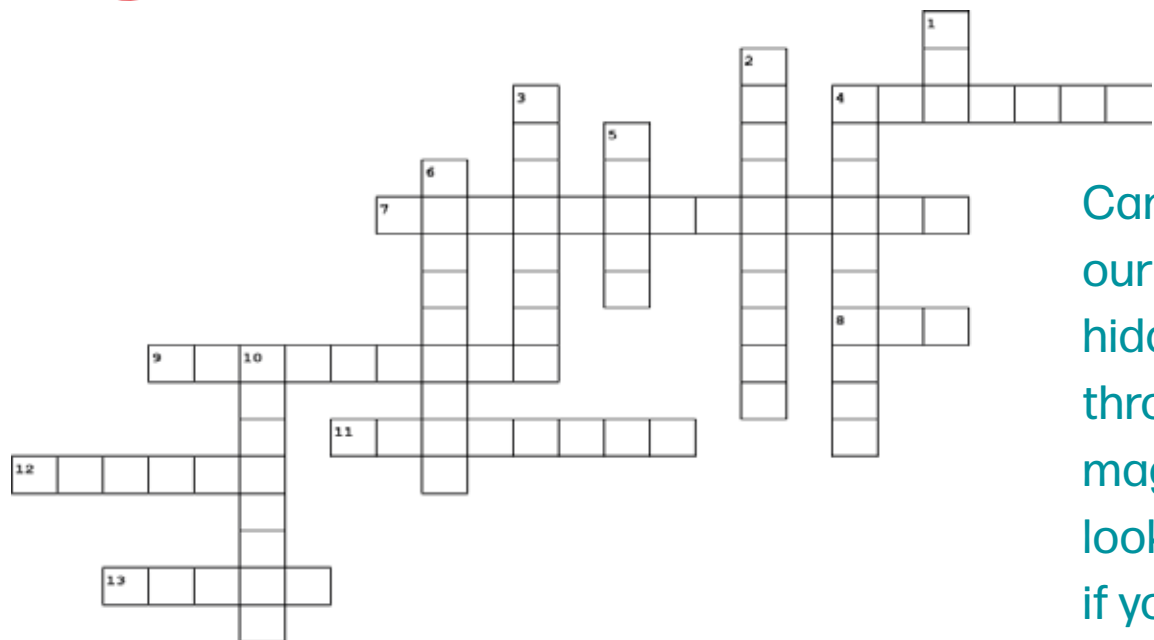
- . Representatives from across Fife
- . People who enjoy writing and reading articles.
- . People who have an eye for detail.
- . People who are creative

If you think you would be interested in this role, we would be delighted to hear from you.





## Summertime Crossword



Can you find Sandy our Mascot? He is hidden somewhere throughout the magazine. Have a look and let us know if you can see him.

### Across

- 4. Remember your sunscreen or you may end up with this (7)
- 7. Cliff Richard's hit "We're all going on a" (13)
- 8. The biggest star in the solar system (3)
- 9. Australian's call these "Thongs" (9)
- 11. Can come as a sauce but most well known for cooking burgers (8)
- 12. You may make one of these whilst on a hike and looking for some lunch (6)
- 13. A single seated small boat (5)

### Down

- 1. Can be fake or natural depending on the sun (3)
- 2. Protective eye wear from the sunlight (10)
- 3. Huge sports event taking place in Paris (8)
- 4. Remember your bucket and spade to build this (10)
- 5. The football event that happened over the summer (5)
- 6. You'll be able to catch some waves with this! (9)
- 10. A frozen dessert that can come in a cone or a tub (8)

Return postal entries to  
**Tenant Participation Team,**  
**Kirkcaldy Customer Service Centre,**  
**Town House, 2 Wemyssfield, Kirkcaldy, KY1 1XW** or scan or take a photo and email it to **tenantparticipation@fife.gov.uk**  
 Remember to include your name, address and contact phone number, competitions close at **5pm on Friday 13th September 2024.**

Where's Sandy?

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

---

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. \_\_\_\_\_



# Gary's gang

I'm Gary  
look at all  
my new  
furriends!

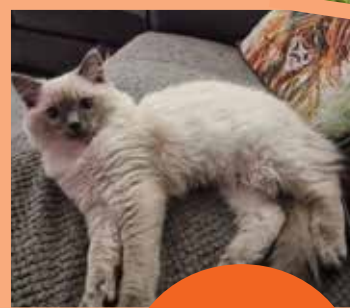
Gizzy from  
Ballingry

'If you would like your pet to feature  
on 'Gary's Gang',  
please email  
[tenantparticipation@ffe.gov.uk](mailto:tenantparticipation@ffe.gov.uk)

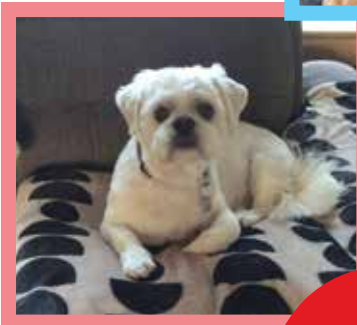
Angel



Kevin from  
Kirkcaldy



Milo from  
Kirkcaldy



wee  
Charlie



Salem and  
Otto



Princess &  
Snowbell



cute  
dog

Gus from  
Kennoway



white  
puss



# Guess who's back!!

**After a successful meeting in July, Sea Road South have now been resurrected as a Tenants and Residents Association and new positions have been filled.**

After a few years of the TRA struggling with the Covid pandemic and the passing of a few members, the tenants and residents' association were unable to hold meetings and attract new members. With the help of the Tenant Participation team, Bill Campbell

- Treasurer of Sea Road South TRA, had an idea of developing a leaflet drive around the Sea Road South catchment area. Over 200 leaflets were delivered to the surrounding properties with a meeting being held at the Savoy Centre at Byron Park. The leaflet drive was a success with the TRA able to assign new board positions and committee members which has brought the TRA back to life. The TRA will now take steps to improve their community one step at a time.



**If you are interested in setting a Tenants and Residents Association in your area and would like more information, please contact a member of the TP team on the details below.**

**Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath - Julie McDougall - 07718 422471**

**Glenrothes and Levenmouth - Ross Cameron - 07525 402597**

**Dunfermline and South West Fife - Rab Clark - 07525 392637**

**North East Fife Colin Whyte - 07525 392728.**

**Or alternatively email [TenantParticipation@fife.gov.uk](mailto:TenantParticipation@fife.gov.uk)**