

Trust Times

Dear Residents,

Like it or not and, to be honest most of us are not keen, change is now an inevitable fact of life!

2016 will be remembered for quite a number of changes within the Trust and in the country / world generally. Sadly, we still have worrying international tensions and conflicts and, of course, now and in future years all the uncertainty surrounding Brexit. Much closer to home though, we have wished happy retirement to valued colleagues and sadly said goodbye to a longstanding and highly influential Trustee in March this year, but please see pages 18 /19 and 29.

We continued to invest heavily again this year to change bedsitter accommodation into modern and attractive one-bedroomed flats, and our Trustees are anxious to complete all these conversions. More older people than ever seem to be looking for our type of housing (together with support and care), and we must ensure that we are well-placed to respond in the future.

I do hope you find this edition of **Trust Times** interesting, and please remember we really do appreciate feedback from you.

Best wishes



Richard Hall
Chief Executive



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Summer Newsletter, Issue 8— September 2016

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy 90th Birthday to Barbara Baker

Mason Cottages, 19th March 2016

We are delighted to announce that Barbara Baker celebrated her 90th birthday on the 19th March 2016. Barbara had a party with her family and friends at Goldieslie Bowling Club in Sutton Coldfield, followed by a second party, when she enjoyed tea and cake with her friends at Mason Cottages. A photo of Barbara's beautifully-decorated birthday cake can be seen on the right. Barbara is a keen bowler and is Vice President of the West Midlands Police Bowling team at Tally Hoe. She started bowling in 1976 and is still very keen. She has two daughters, Judith and Susan, and three grandchildren, Christopher, Charlotte and Kate. **Happy Birthday Barbara!**



Happy 90th Birthday to Marjorie Timmings,

Mason Cottages, 17th June 2016

Marjorie Timmings celebrated her 90th birthday on the 7th June 2016. She had a party at The Royal Hotel in Sutton Coldfield, which was attended by family and close friends. Her immediate family also took her out on her birthday for dinner at Moor Hall Hotel in Sutton Coldfield. Marjorie has lived at the Cottages since 1990 and is one of the longest residing residents. She moved from Erdington to Bournemouth just after she was married, as her husband was posted there during his time in the Army. She subsequently returned to Erdington and worked for Dunlop, providing clerical work, later moving on to be a Wages Clerk at ICI Witton.



Marjorie was a keen dancer and partnered a professional for a while! She likes gardening and embroidering; however, jigsaw puzzles take up most of her spare time these days, together with sitting outside in the sunshine. **Happy Birthday Marjorie!**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy 90th Birthday to Florence Hill, Mason Cottages 14th March 2016

Florence Hill or 'Flo' (as she is affectionately known to her friends) celebrated her 90th birthday on 14th March 2016. Flo's son, Stephen, arranged a party for her and 50 members of her family at Erdington Social Club. Her family came from all over the country including two of her nephews, who had not seen anyone in the family for 40 years! A board was arranged displaying photos of key moments in Flo's life, and she still has it in her Cottage in Erdington. Flo previously worked in the Jewellery Quarter in Birmingham, making earrings using a power press. The Jewellery Museum is housed in the premises where Flo worked for John Mott's. In her spare time, Flo enjoys her crosswords and baking cakes. **Happy 90th Birthday Flo!**



PLEASE NOTE:

Any milestone birthday celebrations that have occurred after this Newsletter was formatted will be included in the next edition.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy 90th Birthday to June Lycett, Mason Court

We wished June Lycett a very happy 90th birthday on 6th June 2016. She celebrated her milestone birthday with her family and friends who, held a party for her at Mason Court. Her special day was attended by her brother, Trevor, her sister-in-law, Lesley, and her nephew, Stephen. June is a very popular resident at Mason Court and her party was well attended, those present included Richard Hall, our Chief Executive, who presented her with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. **Happy Birthday June!**



Happy 90th Birthday to Reginald Beetison, Alexandra House

Reginald Beetison celebrated his 90th birthday on 16th June 2016. He enjoyed his birthday with his family and friends, who organised a party at Alexandra House, our Residential Care Home. Reg has led an exciting life and has visited many countries, including Belfast in Northern Ireland, and also served in the army in India. Reg previously lived at Alexandra Court, our Extra Care Scheme, but has now moved to Alexandra House where we hope he will be celebrating many more birthdays to come. **Happy Birthday Reg!**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy 90th Birthday to Edna Preece, Alexandra Court

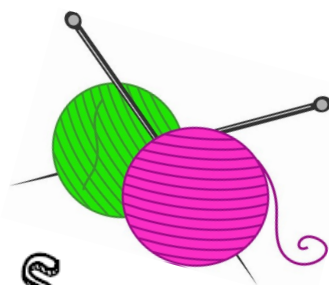
We are happy to announce that Edna Preece celebrated her 90th birthday at Alexandra Court on 24th March 2016. Edna moved into Alexandra Court in October 2015 and regularly goes on days out with close members of her family. She enjoys socialising and joins in all entertainment that the Trust offers. Edna celebrated her 90th birthday with a party at Alexandra Court, attended by her family and friends. 'Vintage Class', a 1940's style singing group, also attended Edna's birthday- and Edna even took the microphone and sang a song to a full house of people. **Happy Birthday Edna!**



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Friday Knitters

Pictured below are the ladies from the knitting group at Mason Cottages, who regularly meet up on a Friday. Audrey Mary Heard, an 'adopted' resident at Mason Cottages, who regularly visits the scheme, together with Sylvia Morrison, Muriel Bentley, Barbara Baker and Elaine Holyoak (who all live at our scheme in Erdington), helped to knit 'twiddle muffs' at the request of Walsall Manor Hospital's Older Person's Mental Health Team. This was after it was discovered that these greatly helped patients who get anxious and move their hands a lot. The 'twiddle muffs' have attachments to both the inside and outside, which include buttons, ribbons and pom-poms, enabling people to do something with their hands. This helps to calm them down.

Judith Toase (Scheme Manager at Mason Cottages) is a member of the Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (SIGBI), which helps to improve the lives of women and girls locally, nationally and internationally, and they also asked if the group of knitters at Mason Cottages would like to knit these — which they did with great enthusiasm. Other knitters included Maureen Grant who is also a resident at Mason Cottages. The mother of Chris Jones, the Trust's Sheltered Housing and Care Services Manager, has a craft group in Tamworth and they also heard about the request from Walsall Manor Hospital.

The local SIGBI group in Walsall have also knitted a lot of these and it was one of their members, Barbara Housiaux, who originally suggested the idea and held a coffee morning at her house, where the photo was taken (on the right).

Maureen Grant showed the 'twiddle muffs' to her son who was visiting from Germany and they are now knitting them there too!

If anyone is interested in getting involved, Judith Toase at Mason Cottages has a pattern and most hospital's with dementia units are now very happy to receive them.



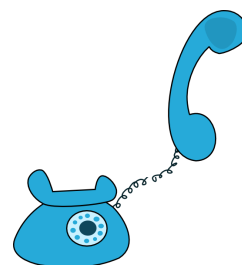
EMERGENCY CALL OUTS – When to call the repairs team...

You will be aware that our staff attend emergencies when our offices are closed in the evening, weekends or bank holidays, to carry out repairs to prevent a health and safety hazard or to avoid major damage to a property.

We know that this service is much-valued by residents and we are keen that you continue to use it when you require assistance.

However, sometimes residents call out staff for reasons that are neither emergencies nor the Trust's responsibility, and that can prevent our staff attending real emergencies elsewhere in the Trust.

Please remember the Trust reserves the right to make a £50 charge to a resident if our emergency out-of-hours service has been called out unnecessarily in circumstances that do not constitute an emergency.



If you are unsure about what constitutes an emergency please contact your Scheme Manager or Keith Terry, our Property Services Manager.

Sue's Surgeries

Sue Stobart, our Debt Management and Benefits Adviser, is continuing to hold her monthly Advice Surgeries at each of our Schemes to provide help and advice to residents who may be experiencing financial management difficulties. The upcoming dates for Sue's Surgeries are listed below:



Mason Court	Wednesday 5th October 2016	10.30am
Mason House	Thursday 6th October 2016	10.30am
Mason Cottages	Wednesday 12th October 2016	10.30am

The Queen's 90th Birthday



No doubt you will be aware that, it was the Queen's 90th birthday on 21st April 2016. From the countless television programmes, newspapers and photographs which have recorded the Queen's life over the past 90 years, you may think that you know everything there is to know about the longest reigning monarch in British history.

There are, however, many interesting facts that you may not know about the Queen...

For instance, in 1945, Princess Elizabeth joined the army and worked as a mechanic. When her parents, the King and Queen, visited her at the base she was wearing overalls and working on a lorry engine. Because of this, she is said to be one of the only Royals who could change a tyre and spark plug!



She collected coupons for her wedding dress. In a time of post-war austerity, the Queen collected rationing coupons in order to pay for the materials from which her wedding dress was made.



Queen Elizabeth married her distant cousin Prince Philip in 1947 at Westminster Abbey and the ceremony was broadcast live on radio to 200 million listeners worldwide.

The Queen officially does not require a passport to travel. Exempt from strict immigration laws, the Queen can move as freely in and out of border control as she pleases because British passports are issued in her name.

In honour of the Queen's 90th Birthday residents at Mason Cottages celebrated with a party, held on Thursday 21st April 2016. The Communal Hall was beautifully decorated in patriotic colours, and residents enjoyed a delicious buffet. Judith Toase, Scheme Manager, said "it was a lovely event and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who came."



National Citizen Service

Over the last couple of weeks, Alexandra House our Residential Care Home in Olton, has been able to support The National Citizen Service students. The National Citizen Service aims to bring together young people from many different backgrounds in a common purpose. It offers new experiences and gives students a chance to take on new challenges, learn new skills and meet new people. This helps them discover their own talents and realise their personal potential, whilst having fun.



The team visited the care home on 4th July and took part in some activities with the residents as part of a team/ resident bonding day. Residents, staff and students enjoyed a day of getting to know one another and played games such as Bingo, quizzes and card games. They also joined in activities with our motivation specialist, Andrew, which they much enjoyed.

Another part of the challenge was helping residents at Alexandra House to tidy up and titivate the garden with plants, new planters and bird boxes. The team also helped by weeding the borders and patio. Photos from the day can be seen below...



Care Home Open Day...

We were delighted to hold our Care Services Open Day again this year at **Alexandra House and Alexandra Court**, our Residential Care Home and Extra Care schemes in Olton, Solihull. We are very proud of our schemes and on **Saturday 20th August 2016** we opened our doors to the public and welcomed visitors to spend the afternoon with us to see what we are all about.

Entertainment was provided courtesy of 'Vintage Class' (a 1940's style singing group) and by a musical motivation specialist who regularly visits our schemes. Our Catering Manager, Patricia Hines, put on a delicious afternoon tea, which was greatly enjoyed by all of our visitors.

The new Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Mr Mike Robinson and the Mayoress of Solihull, Mrs Jenny Robinson, attended our open day this year and photos from the event can be seen below...



If any of you would like to contribute to this Newsletter, please do get in touch with the Customer Services Team, 0121 245 1002 or email enquiries@sjmt.org.uk

What's Your Reason For Quitting?

We all know there are benefits to giving up smoking such as breathing more easily and increasing energy levels, but there are more reasons than you might realise. The immune system recovery, improved taste and smell and most importantly having a healthy heart and lungs are just some of the major benefits.

Our body's ability to mend is a beauty to withhold and when stopping smoking after:

20 minutes	Your blood pressure will return to normal and your heart rate will fall.
12—24 hours	Your blood oxygen levels will have increased.
48 hours	Your taste and smell will start to return to normal
72 hours	Your body will test 100% nicotine free
5-10 days	Cravings reduce significantly throughout this period
2-4 weeks	Improved mood changes and lung function
3 months	Coughing, if any, has disappeared and circulation is improved.
9 months	Your body's overall energy will have increased
1 year	The risk of heart disease will have reduced by about 50%.

A little bit of will power and having a goal to aim for can help you start on a healthier road, and it doesn't take as long as you think to make a difference.

For other useful tips please visit the NHS website (below) and search for "Take Steps to Stop Smoking".

<https://www.nhs.uk/smokefree>



**Don't give up
giving up.**



Summer Olympics Wordsearch

G	N	I	M	M	I	W	S	A	G	G	G	N	Q	T
H	L	D	G	W	D	P	O	S	N	O	O	C	M	Q
C	B	I	S	E	H	Q	D	A	H	C	L	N	V	K
R	B	V	B	U	N	J	U	L	K	P	D	Y	C	S
U	R	I	N	D	A	I	J	B	E	V	P	L	I	G
X	X	N	O	K	T	K	L	R	M	A	Q	L	U	H
C	C	G	L	F	H	Y	B	O	F	K	V	X	O	X
V	X	R	H	L	L	R	T	N	P	E	V	W	P	G
X	M	I	T	D	E	O	N	Z	R	M	H	Q	O	G
I	N	M	A	W	T	W	W	E	T	V	A	C	F	V
Q	V	R	I	K	I	A	K	S	T	N	E	R	I	C
E	E	R	R	E	C	B	N	B	C	H	S	Q	T	N
W	D	E	T	G	S	L	L	A	B	D	N	A	H	R
R	S	Z	T	J	X	D	B	Z	F	M	V	D	Q	K
Q	E	N	C	E	S	S	K	F	L	Y	A	Y	Q	W

TRIATHLON
DIVING
TRAMPOLINE
ATHLETICS
GOLD
SILVER
BRONZE
JUDO
HANDBALL
SWIMMING



Life Stories...

Muriel Bentley, Mason **Cottages (Born in 1928)**

In 1961, George, my late husband, to whom I was married for over 60 years, decided that he would like a pub of his own, and in November that year we became pub managers.

We moved to a little pub called 'The Royal



George' in Aston Cross and our customers were nearly all 'brummies'.

The pub had a really nice atmosphere and we'd have a sing-song on Saturday nights. We also had a barman, who

would throw people out if they were playing up! We really enjoyed our time there but only stayed until June the following year.

We were offered a new pub and were taken to see the new site. The new pub was named 'The Farthings' because it was built on a site where cottages used to be called 'The Farthings', so we had to keep the name. In September 1962, the pub was opened and the Brewery decided they would sell beer

for 1 farthing per pint, just for one hour between 6pm and 7pm – thinking nobody used farthings anymore. However, children were selling

farthings outside for sixpence each, so during the first hour the pub was open it

was very busy. In the first hour we took 1,400 farthings and sold out of beer which was supposed to have lasted us a week! 4 farthings are worth about 1p in today's money and a pint roughly cost 1/7, so a farthing a pint was a marvellous deal!



The Brewery was not expecting the promotion to work as well as it did because farthings were going out of circulation at that time. As the opening of the pub was advertised in the local newspaper (unbeknown to us) there were consequently many visitors—but Muriel's favourite drink is a gin and tonic with no ice and a slice of lemon!

Following this, people used to send us farthings, which we took to Father Hudson's

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homes in Coleshill because they would make some money out of them. They were Catholic homes and 'The Farthings' still exists today in Castle Bromwich.

We stayed at 'The Farthings' for four happy years before moving on to a pub called 'The New Inn' in Erdington, situated on Summer Road. We stayed there for 12 months before moving to 'The Gas Club' (now Hollyfields Sports Club) on Woodacre Road (pictured right as it is today). It was a lovely club. In the summer we had cricket and in the winter we had football. We had lots of different activities going on throughout the year such as cricket, tennis and bowls. We had a big playing field and three or four footballs teams used to make use of it. We always had a pot of tea ready for the teams on a Sunday morning which they enjoyed.

During the summer season, we used to put on an afternoon tea, which included meat, salad, bread and butter and, of course, jam and cakes.

We coped well whilst raising our two children, John and Janet. They were of a similar age with just two years' difference between them. While we were down in the bar, they used to play upstairs. They

settled in quite well to that kind of life and it was a particularly exciting time for them at the Gas Club with the large playing field. John would also enjoy watching the

television or going to a football match. It was a good time and we

thoroughly enjoyed it. I don't think we'd get those happy years the same today.

I particularly enjoyed Sunday lunch times. Wives gave their husbands permission to come away for the morning while they cooked the lunch, and the men would be quite happy here. We also had a darts team and occasionally did suppers for them.

We stayed at the 'Gas Club' for four happy years and then decided to 'pack up' and move back to a privately owned house. We had many more happy years together and George later worked at a different brewery as a Cellar Inspector. I now live happily at Mason Cottages in Erdington.





PENSION CREDIT

Did you know that one in five pensioners miss out on hundreds of pounds' worth of benefits they could claim? Does this apply to you? You may be surprised.

Recent research has shown that around 1 in 3 of the 4 million UK residents entitled to claim **Pension Credit** have never done so. As a result many are losing out not only on a guaranteed minimum weekly income but additional assistance from the Government. Claiming even a small amount of Guarantee Pension Credit can make you eligible for extra money as part of several other benefits including health costs and help with council tax.

There are two types of Pension Credit - Guarantee and Savings

The first part is called Guarantee Pension Credit because it guarantees you a minimum weekly amount to live on. Currently, that amount is £155.60 for singles and £237.55 for couples. If your total weekly income is less than the amounts shown, we can help you.



The perks you can get when you are in receipt of Guarantee Pension Credit:

You may not have to pay Council Tax.

You don't have to pay for NHS dental treatment and you can claim help towards the cost of glasses or contact lenses and claim travel costs to and from hospital appointments.

If you are disabled, you may also qualify for a Severe Disability Addition, worth £61.85 per week.

As you can see, membership of the Guarantee Pension Credit club is a very good thing! You have nothing to lose by applying and everything to gain.

The second part is a Savings credit (for those aged 65 and over before April 2016) paid by the Government as a reward for people who have made a provision for their retirement in the form of savings or a private or occupational pension. The maximum weekly savings credit is currently £13.07 for singles and £14.75 for couples.

Unfortunately, benefits don't arrive automatically. You have to claim them, and 'if you don't ask, you don't get'



Our Debt Management and Benefits Adviser Sue Stobart is available to anyone who would like more information on Pension Credit and we can assist you to make a claim if you are eligible.

Please contact Sue on **0121 245 1003** to make an appointment.

NOTE TO RESIDENTS:

If a resident intends to move to other accommodation, in accordance with the Occupancy Agreement, he/she must give **4 weeks' Written Notice** to the Trust.

Scheme Managers have copies of the necessary Termination Form that must be completed.

Residents should ensure that when they depart their home is left in good order, empty of all personal contents and any rubbish, and that all keys and fobs are returned to the Scheme Manager's office.

STAFF CHANGES...

Mike Smith, Sheltered Housing and Care Services Manager



Sadly we said goodbye to Mike, our Sheltered Housing and Care Service Manager at the end of March when he decided to retire. Mike had been with us for nearly five years and made a real, and long lasting contribution to our housing and care service. Mike truly cared about the value of good quality affordable housing and the difference and unique nature of Sir Josiah Mason Trust.

Not only was Mike a valued colleague here, he was also highly regarded as a knowledgeable and trusted housing professional, by the local authorities and other organisation with which we work. We wish him all the best and a long and happy retirement!

Chris Jones, Sheltered Housing and Care Services Manager

So, we now welcome Chris, who joined us in March 2016, as our new Sheltered Housing and Care Services Manager. He is also based in the Mason Court offices but of course frequently visits our other sites.

Chris is a fully qualified and highly experienced housing professional, and before joining us had worked for other housing organisations in the region.

Chris is also passionate about delivering the best service possible and ensuring that every resident of the Trust feels well-supported and happy living in our accommodation.



STAFF CHANGES □□□

Mick Stenson, Property Services Manager



Mick retired in May 2016 after working for the Trust for just over 15 years. He takes much of the credit for buildings, ground maintenance, health and safety and the continual improvement in the quality of our housing stock, and the communal areas. All of our estates are extremely pleasant and well maintained. We wish him a long and happy retirement!

Keith Terry, Property Services Manager

Keith joined the Trust in May 2016 to replace Mick as our new Property Services Manager. Keith is also a highly experienced and qualified building surveyor, having worked in the industry for some 40 years. He has already made a really good start in prioritising the work plans for this year and, of course, getting to know his team.

Keith is very keen to make sure residents have a genuine opportunity to be properly consulted on any property-related matters or changes that might affect them, and no doubt will regularly attend residents meetings to hear your views.



STAFF CHANGES...



Amy Weller, Administration Apprentice

We said goodbye to Amy, our Administration Apprentice, in June 2016. Amy proved to be an invaluable member of the team and worked towards achieving her NVQ level 2 Apprenticeship in Business and Administration. She has now gone on to complete this qualification at a Dental Practice in Solihull and we wish her all the best!

Olivia Roberts, Administration Apprentice

We welcome Olivia, who joined us in August 2016, as our new Administration Apprentice in the Mason Court office. Olivia has settled in very well and is proving to be hardworking and a valuable asset to the customer service team.



Useful Organisations:

The Citizen's Advice Bureau provides free, independent, confidential and impartial advice on people's rights and responsibilities.

The address of your local branch can be found on their website - www.citizensadvice.org.uk or your local branches can be contacted on the numbers shown below:

Shirley Centre (Stratford Road) - **0121 744 3238**

Solihull (The Priory) - **0121 705 2212**

Kingstanding Bureau - **0844 477 1010**



Citizens Advice
the charity for your community



Resident Rep News

MASON HOUSE

We said goodbye to Glynis Maisey recently as the Deputy Resident Representative for our Sheltered Housing Scheme in Shirley. We thank Glynis for her hard work in this role. The position of Deputy Resident Representative is now vacant so, if you are a resident at Mason House or Ruth Patrick House and are interested in supporting your Resident Representative in this important role, please see Jackie Whyte, your Scheme Manager.

MASON COTTAGES

At the beginning of this year we welcomed Colin Carter into the role of Deputy Representative; we hope Colin enjoys his new position!



Dates for
the Diary:

RESIDENT MEETINGS

Mason Court

10.30am **Wednesday 21st September 2016**

Mason House

10.30am **Tuesday 11th October 2016**

Mason Cottages

11.00am **Wednesday 9th November 2016**



Learn, Laugh and Live!



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Learn, Laugh and Live!

If you are retired or semi-retired The University of the Third Age (U3A) is a great way to develop old or new skills and interests that you never had time for before. It is also a way of meeting people and making new friends.

The University of the Third Age is a nationwide organisation that provides retired and semi-retired people with a way to come together and learn together, not for qualifications but for its own reward: the sheer joy of discovery! Members share their skills and life experiences: the learners teach and the teachers learn, and there is no distinction between them. In no way is it academic, in spite of its title!

A new branch of U3A has just started in Olton. It currently has fourteen interest groups, which are Book Club; Bridge; Embroidery; Family History; Gardening; Meals Out; Singing; Strolling; Sugar Craft; Tai Chi; Trips and Walking. Each group meets at regular intervals. They also hold a general monthly meeting at the United Reformed Church on Kineton Green Road. Of particular interest to us is the next one, as Betty Foster, one of our Trustees, who lived as a child at the Sir Josiah Mason Orphanage, gave a talk on her experience there on 13th September 2016. There is a small charge of a £1 for visitors; it's free for members who pay an annual subscription of £25.

If you are interested, contact Jo Robinson, on **0121 682 4143** or go onto the U3A website at www.u3a.org.uk.

There is also a U3A in Shirley, and the nearest ones to Mason Cottages are in Sutton Coldfield, Castle Bromwich and Handsworth Wood.

Let's Get Cooking

Chorizo and Soft Boiled Egg Salad

INGREDIENTS:

- 250g baby new potatoes, halved
- 2 eggs
- 112g green beans, trimmed
- 122g chorizo rings, sliced
- 1/2 garlic clove, sliced
- 1 tbsp sherry vinegar
- 1 tbsp chopped parsley

Prep & Cook time: 30 minutes
Serves: 2



1. Cook the potatoes in a large pan of boiling salted water for 12 minutes and add the eggs after 6 minutes.
2. Add the beans for the final 2 minutes.
3. Drain everything and cool the eggs under running cold water.
4. Meanwhile, fry chorizo slices in the pan for 1-2 minutes, until they begin to crisp. Remove them from the pan with a slotted spoon and set aside, leaving the oil from the chorizo in the pan.
5. Add the garlic to the pan and cook gently for 1 minute.
6. Remove the pan from the heat, stir in the vinegar and parsley, then toss with the potatoes, beans, chorizo and seasoning. Finally, de-shell the eggs, cut into quarters and add to the salad.

Eat and enjoy!

ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

Sir Josiah Mason Trust recently contributed to Age UK Solihull's World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was developed and launched on June 15, 2006 and is recognized annually. It aims to focus global attention on the problem of physical, emotional, and financial abuse of elders.



On Wednesday 15th June 2016, to help raise money, staff members at Head Office wore purple and 'dressed down' for work, donating £1 each to Age UK Solihull. Several staff members also brought in purple-themed cakes to sell, to help raise money for this important cause.

In our care schemes, Alexandra Court and Alexandra House, residents and staff also joined in and entertainment was provided. Our Catering Manager, Pat Hines, arranged an afternoon tea with purple-themed cakes, and donations were also collected. Photos from the day can be seen below...



TEST YOURSELF

(Answers can be found on the back page)

Can you guess the names of the 'London Underground Stations' in our Quiz?

1. Down by the riverside?
2. Dog talk?
3. Peruvian Bear?
4. Is it falling down?
5. Mooring for cage birds?
6. Wombles live here?
7. No clowns at this university?
8. Holmes' home?
9. Put beans in tins here?
10. Birthplace of the Bard?



LOCAL HISTORY . . .

History Around Us...

The canal boat children's home in Erdington

On the opposite side of Erdington town centre to Mason Cottages, is a little known piece of local history which compliments the original and continuing objectives of the Trust - the education of children in need.

Unlike our orphanage the Wood End Hall Children's home was a canal boat children's hostel. It wasn't actually a children's home but a hostel providing temporary housing for canal boat children so that they could access schooling at Birches Green School in Erdington. The hostel had places for 29 children at any one time.

One of the main forms of transporting goods at the time was by narrow boat on the country's canal network. Whole families would live on their boats, constantly on the move collecting and delivering raw materials and goods on the route from Birmingham to London or Liverpool.

The education of children from the canals had been fiercely debated in Parliament

since the 1870s, following the work of leading children's rights campaigner, George Smith. Though laws were passed in 1877 and 1921 to improve the living conditions of the children on the working canal boats, their educational wellbeing was largely ignored.

The canal boat families and their employers were, on the whole, strongly opposed to the children leaving the boats, as it would mean breaking up the families and losing a cheaper and often skilled workforce. Boaters conspired to swap children between families so that they couldn't be taken away or traced by inspectors.

Children did get some education from Sunday schools and charitable foundations including the Salvation Army.



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However, the 1948 Children Act transferred responsibility to Birmingham City Council and it was felt boat children should be given a hostel to enable them to attend school.

It is believed that Wood End Hall was the first hostel of its kind in England. It was ideally located, as Birmingham has a significant network of canals, and Wood End Hall itself is only a few minutes' walk from the junction of the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal, the Birmingham and Warwick Junction Canal and the Tame Valley Canal. Known as

Salford Junction, this canal meeting point is now underneath the Gravelly Hill Interchange (Spaghetti Junction).

The hostel is thought to have closed in the 1960s, when commercial haulage by canal boats ceased, and the families finally moved off the boats.



Like us on
facebook®

We are delighted to inform you about our new Facebook page which will include all the latest news, events and exciting activities going on at the Trust.

We invite you and your friends and family to 'like' our page. If you have a Facebook account, you can ensure you are kept up to date.

Our Facebook page can be found at the following address:

<https://www.facebook.com/sirjosiahmasontrust/>

In case you haven't already looked at our new website, we strongly recommend that you do—and it can be found at the following address:

www.sjmt.org.uk

We hope you enjoy our new sites!

Do you know someone caring for an elderly relative or friend?

Do they need a break?

The Trust provides respite facilities at Alexandra Court, our Extra Care Scheme, and Alexandra House, our Residential Care Home. Our friendly, professional, attentive staff focus on the individual needs of our residents, and our respite facilities are available for just a few days or for a longer term.



Alexandra Court is our purpose-built facility, which is registered with the Care Quality Commission and has 24-hour staffing provided by qualified teams. Our complete affordable service provides daily support, meals, laundry and cleaning. Our buildings are secure and have private gardens, spacious communal areas and regular social activities.

We have respite rooms available. If you would like to know more, please contact our Customer Services Team on **0121 245 1002**.



In Memory of Roger Wood

By Richard Hall, Chief Executive



Roger was a longstanding and highly influential Trustee. He was appointed in March 1993 and for many years chaired our Finance Committee before retiring last year (September 2016) at the Trust's Annual General Meeting. He was a stockbroker in his earlier professional life and brought a wealth of financial knowledge and expertise to the Trust.

Sadly Roger's health deteriorated, and we were all shocked to learn that he passed away in March this year. I know that many of our residents will have known Roger, as he always made a point of attending resident functions and many other events.

He very much valued the unique nature of the Sir Josiah Mason Trust and had tremendous energy and enthusiasm for ensuring all three charities within the group were in good financial shape, for both today and for the future.

One of Roger's final acts was to bequeath in his will a very generous legacy, and our Trustees are now considering how to best utilise this. Roger will be very much missed within the Trust.

*"He who is not courageous enough to take risks will
accomplish nothing in life" -*

Muhammad Ali (1942-2016)



DOMICILIARY CARE - Can we help you?

Did you know that we have highly experienced and qualified Domiciliary Care Staff, who provide services that help our sheltered housing residents maintain their independence and support them to stay longer in their own homes?

They are able to provide a broad range of services for our residents, including: general housework, laundry, dusting, vacuuming and general tidying-up.



Wherever possible we try to use the same member(s) of staff for each resident, so to provide continuity and the same friendly face.

Our domiciliary services deliver excellent quality and reliability ***tailored to your needs*** and, as a Charity, our services are kept affordable at only £12.00 per hour, which can be charged in half hour sessions, with a minimum of 30 minutes for £6.00. With reasonable notice, you can either increase or reduce the weekly hours of domiciliary care you receive, depending on circumstances.

For more information please contact either:-

Anita Shan: 0121 245 1079

or our Customer Service Team: 0121 245 1002

What you said...

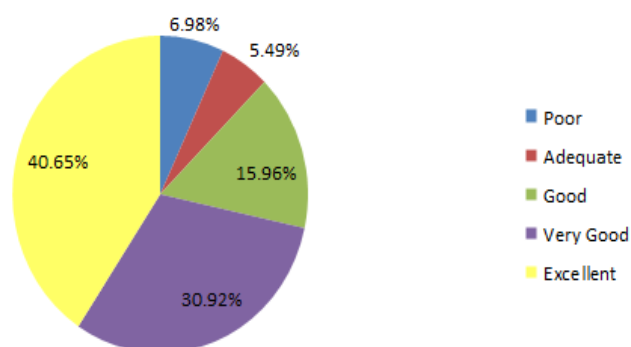
In January 2016, the Trust issued its six-monthly maintenance customer satisfaction surveys to residents at each of our Sheltered Housing Schemes. We have received a good response rate and overall there is a strong satisfaction with our maintenance service.

For example, the following percentages are of residents who considered the maintenance service to be excellent: - 40.65% overall, 27.50% with jobs being carried out promptly and on time, 37.04% with the overall quality of the maintenance service, 42.50% with tasks carried out in a safe manner, not presenting any safety hazards to residents, 51.25% with maintenance operatives conducting themselves in a responsible and courteous manner and 45.00% with our operatives leaving residents homes in a clean and tidy manner.

I would like to thank all residents on behalf of the Trust, who took the time to respond to this survey. We appreciate your feedback and value your comments.



**Sheltered Housing Satisfaction Survey -
Overall Results (Maintenance Service)**



TRIVIA ANSWERS

- * 1) BANK
- * 2) BARKING
- * 3) PADDINGTON
- * 4) LONDON BRIDGE
- * 5) CANARY WHARF
- * 6) WIMBLEDON
- * 7) OXFORD CIRCUS
- * 8) BAKER STREET
- * 9) CANNING TOWN
- * 10) STRATFORD



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