WECH
Walterton and Elgin Community Homes

Newsletter
Summer 2024

Inside this issue:

Thanking Karen Buck for her many years of service

Practical help with the Cost of Living Crisis

Get gardening with WECH in Bloom competition

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Thanking Karen Buck for her many years of service

On 18 June, WECH welcomed North Paddington community and voluntary sector partners to a reception to thank Karen Buck, who has served her constituency and helped so many people since she was elected as our local MP in 1997.

Her late husband, Barry Taylor, was a local Councillor from 1986, during the height of the campaign to save the WECH estates and supported the residents to defend their homes from sale and demolition.

Karen has helped countless residents over this long period and she is held in very high regard by those who know her. We were heartened to learn she wants to continue to be involved with the community and we wish her all the best.

From left to right: Suzanne Wolfe, Chief Executive, Gordon Quinlan, WECH Chair, Neale Coleman, former WECH Board Member, Karen Buck and Georgia Gould.

Greetings from our Chair

Greetings to one and all. As I'm writing this we are approaching the Summer Solstice on the 21st June where the light is at its optimum. Unfortunately we haven't had much of a summer so far, just a conveyor belt of dreary grey skies. Hopefully things will pick up in July and August, especially on the 14th of July, the date of the WECH Summer Festival.

We have generally been blessed with good weather on that day so let's hope that's the case this year as it's a good opportunity to engage with neighbours and fellow residents. In the midst of all this there is the small matter of a General Election on the 4th of July. Karen Buck who has represented our constituency since 1997 is not standing at this election after 27 years of service to the local community. Karen has always been very supportive of WECH and was a regular attendee and speaker at our AGMs and we wish her all the best for the future. We can only hope her successor will be as good an ally as Karen was.

Whilst on the subject of farewells, our Finance Director, Costas Constantinou, is retiring for the second time! With all the upheavals of last year, I will be eternally grateful that Costas agreed to 'unretire' for a period of time and, with his knowledge and experience of WECH, helped steady the ship during the last nine months. I am sure we haven't seen the last of Costas and it goes without saying that he is welcome to pop in at any time.

As highlighted in this newsletter, there are a variety of activities in the Community Centre and beyond, both developing new skills and tackling the pressing issue of the cost of living. Money doesn't seem to go very far these days, so we are doing our very best as an organisation to offer services such as the Food Bank to help people make ends meet.

We are developing a range of activities, starting with the yoga classes, to strengthen people's physical and mental wellbeing. There will be an increase in the variety of classes available which will be free to WECH residents.
I look forward to meeting you at the Summer Festival and Gardening events listed inside.

Gordon Quinlan (Chair)

A message from our Chief Executive

Hello, I hope this finds you well - and looking forward to sunnier days in time for the holidays and our WECH summer events. Besides the Summer Festival on Sunday 14 July (which we want to be the biggest and best yet), we're launching 'WECH In Bloom'.

Building on the successful greening of our estates, WECH in Bloom is a new opportunity for all our residents, including those living on the Walterton Estate, to get gardening with a new window box or planter. A 2017 project in Salford, Manchester showed that planting up front gardens in streets just like ours increased neighbourliness, pride and wellbeing – all of which is in tune with WECH's values. I would like to ask everyone to get involved in this project and encourage their friends and neighbours to do the same. Free window boxes, compost and plants, funded by 'Greening Westminster', will be available at our pop-up event on Saturday 29 June. I will be on hand with our team and RHS trained volunteers including BBC Gardeners' World Live Rising Star, 'The Cockney Gardener' (@The_Cockney_Gardener) to help you create your prize-winning displays. WECH in Bloom will be be judged by our new Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Robert Rigby, on Saturday 27 July. You can find more details inside.

Getting our repairs service right is a top priority. In the Spring newsletter, I promised that the six-year cyclical works programme will restart on the Walterton Estate this year. We are on track to start work in August. Cyclical works to brighten up Rodborough, Campaign and Victory Courts have already begun. Earlier this year we consulted you, our WECH residents, on your priorities. Our Board listened carefully to what you said, and as a result we have increased the ways to help our community get through the ongoing Cost Of Living crisis. You'll find inside details of many ongoing activities taking place in the WECH Community Centre, including the weekly Food Bank and Brunch Club, which are free for everyone, and some new ones including the Clothes Bank. Please come along, get involved, and see what is on offer. Without the strength of our community both past and present, WECH would not exist - and one of the very best bits of my job is meeting you. I will be out and about at all of our events, but please get in touch with Reception if you would like to meet up with me or a member of the WECH team, or to arrange a home visit. I look forward to meeting you in the coming weeks.

Suzanne Wolfe (Chief Executive)

Practical help with the Cost of Living:

Jacqui's Maida Hill Projects

Free Community Brunch
Every Wednesday @ WECH 11:00 – 13:30, all welcome.

Food Bank
16:00 – 18:00 every Thursday @ WECH Community Centre, welcome to all local residents struggling to afford food.

Free Zumba
Thursday 19:30 – 20:30 @ Lydford Community Centre – all abilities welcome.

Free Yoga
Thursday 20:30 – 21:30 @ Lydford Community Centre – all abilities welcome.

Games Nights
Tuesdays @ the Lydford Community Centre, 18:00 – 22:00 – all welcome and free.

Social sessions
Wednesdays @ the Lydford Community Centre 18:00 – 22:00 – all welcome and free.

Support for our Food Bank

Due to the cost of living crisis, the numbers visiting Jacqui's weekly Food Bank at WECH have increased significantly and their donations received from The Felix Project are not enough to feed all in need. If you can spare or contribute any non-perishable items from your weekly shop, please drop them off at the WECH reception, so they can be distributed to those in need at the Food Bank. Every little really helps when families are struggling to feed their families.

Harrow Road Goes to Ascot!

Thanks to donations from The Felix Project and others, Jacqui, her amazing volunteers and Maida Hill Projects members got all glammed up for a day at the races!

Well done Jacqui and all your volunteers for all your tireless hard work and the big difference you make to so many local residents. Your day out is so well deserved.

You all look amazing and have done Harrow Road proud.

Best wishes, Debs

Practical help with the Cost of Living

Clothes Bank

A new Clothes Bank delivered by Garmhub

Recycle & Reuse Unwanted Clothes @ The WECH Community Centre weekly on Wednesdays from 2:30 – 5:00 pm, starting 3rd July 2024. Bring clothes to swap, donate and limited amounts of free clothes per person will be available, for all ages, styles and sizes! Volunteers are also needed to help deliver these events, sort clothes etc, if you can spare some time to help please call Fergus on **07768 005749** or email **Debs@wech.org.uk**

The WECH Summer Festival

Sunday 14 July, 12 – 5 pm @ Tamplin Mews Gardens

Come and join your neighbours for a day of fun. There's something for all ages, including:

- Local DJ's (Wayne & Lady Touch), Anita Mason singing her own songs.
- Face painting, t-shirt art, children's arts and crafts and henna tattoos
- Food and make your own smoothies on our smoothie bike
- A Magician, Bouncy castle, Rodeo Bull
- Planting, making bug hotels and competitions
- Raffle and competitions with lots of great prizes to win.

And lots more stalls so you can come and meet local organizations to find out how they can help you.

Summer Festival Volunteers

We wanted to make sure this year's event is led by our residents and would like to thank all of you that have attended the planning meetings so far. All your ideas and feedback have helped create this year's festival.

We still need more help on the day. All helpers will receive a specially designed t-shirt.

Donations for the raffle stall

We would also appreciate any unwanted items for our raffle stall. If you have anything to contribute, please drop it off at the WECH reception.

Practical help with the Cost of Living: Support available at the WECH Community Centre

N-POP! North Paddington's Programme of Opportunities

The Paddington Development Trust have been serving the local community for over 20 years, supporting people into work, by removing barriers and enabling personal progression, training or work.

N-POP! is a project supporting residents of North Paddington towards economic independence. Providing a personal adviser to help you understand your benefit entitlements, developing skills, exploring future opportunities, to increase your potential. Providing:

- A personal adviser - Setting goals and action plans
- Information, advice and guidance - Understanding benefits and Universal Credit
- Signposting and referrals for further support
- Support to upskills, change jobs, courses and IT training
- Job Clubs, skills and workshops i.e. CV's, Applications & Interviews and more

Also delivering N-POP information sessions at the WECH Community Centre – Support to maximise your benefit income and ensure you are claiming all you are entitled to:

Benefits: Tell me more about Carers Allowance

03 July 2024, 13:00 – 15:00

Find out more about care related benefits and how to access them.

Benefits: What am I entitled to? Benefit calculation

17 July 2024, 13:00 – 15:00

Providing benefit calculations, to highlight the benefits you are entitled to.

Places are limited for each session, so to find out more about N-POP or book the above session/s you want to attend please scan below QR code, email **pdtesocial@pdt.org.uk**, call **020 7266 8253** or drop in and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis, so book to guarantee a spot. We will also be attending the **WECH Summer Festival on Sunday 14 July,** so hope to come and meet you then.

'MONEY & ME' Event

06 August 2024, 13:00 - 17.00 @ The Happy Hub,
23 Third Avenue, W10 4RS

A family money session, advice from HSBC, CreditWise, and more, number related competitions and crafts, interactive activities open to all residents. All ages welcome, so come down to meet us, get some advice and have some fun.

Get some support.
Raise your potential.

WECH Welfare Benefits Advice Service

WECH's Welfare Benefits advisor is available to give benefits advice and help complete benefit forms. To book an appointment, contact him on **Cihan@wech.org.uk** or call him on **07517749784**

Regular Weekly Community Activities at the WECH Community Centre

Take a look at our regular activities available below, lots of which are FREE.

Mondays

FREE Treasure Boxing for all ages

5pm: After School Boxing Club for 6 - 12 years old

6pm: Boxing for young people aged 13 - 25 years old

7pm: Female Only HIIT for 13 years old +

Email: Info@TreasureBoxingClub.com for booking form and more info

Tuesdays

Hartbeeps Babies, Toddlers and Preschoolers

9.45am – 12.45pm

9.45am: Happy House class for toddlers and pre-schoolers

10.45am: Baby Beeps class for babies from sitting unaided to first steps

11.45am: Baby Bells class for babies from newborn to sitting

FREE TRIAL SESSIONS available to WECH residents.
£13.50 per week when you book the term, £16 for drop-ins.
Book online at www.bookeo.com/hartbeepslondon

Performing Workshops

4 – 5pm for 4 – 7 year olds, 5 – 6pm for 7 – 12 year olds

Drama dance and singing classes for children aged 4-7 and 7-12 and welcoming new children to its classes.
To book a FREE TRIAL SESSION call 0207 2559120, email enquiries@perform.org.uk or visit www.perform.org.uk/try to book a free class and quote WECH300524 before for discount.

Wednesdays

FREE Maida Hill Project - Jacqui's FREE Community BRUNCH

11.00 am – 1.30 pm

Halal and vegetarian food available - all welcome to come along.

FREE women's only yoga from Queens Park Bangladeshi Association

11.00 am – 12.00 pm

All women of all ages and abilities are welcome, come along and give it a try, no booking is required.

WECH Gardening Sessions, delivered by HCGA & Charmaine

2 pm – 4 pm:

Weekly gardening, meeting at 2 pm in the Community Centre for a cuppa and chat. All welcome to come and do some gardening around WECH.

N-POP

1 pm – 3 pm on 3 and 17 July:

Information sessions with benefit entitlement checks and support for carers. All welcome to drop in.

Garmhub Clothes Recycling

Bring clothes to swap, donate or collect free clothes, many sizes, ages and styles available.

FREE WECH Over 60's Bingo

Every Wednesday, 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm:

FREE and all over 60's welcome

See page 14 for more community events.

Regular Weekly Community Activities at the WECH Community Centre (continued)

Thursdays

FREE Maida Hill Food Bank
4 pm – 6 pm
Open to all struggling with the cost of living crisis on a drop-in basis.

FREE Health Advice Drop-in
3 pm – 5 pm
Drop in for health information and initiatives to support healthy lifestyles available.

WECH Adults Yoga
5.30 pm – 6.45 pm
All ages and abilities welcome. FREE for WECH; Non-residents £10 per class or £60 for one months' classes (£7.50 a class)

Fridays

NWMCA Muslim Prayer Group
12 pm – 2 pm

FREE Protouch Children's Afterschool Club
Every Friday, 5 pm – 7 pm
FREE for 5 - 12 year olds. Multiple activities for children, including arts & crafts from the WECH Community Centre and Sports from the Sport's pitch at Watson Gardens, Elgin Estate.

Saturdays

WECH Adults Yoga
9.30 am – 11 am
All ages and abilities welcome. FREE for residents.

Maintenance updates from Scott Richardson, Head of Property Maintenance

Stock condition surveys

We are still running our property stock condition surveys and have been made aware by 'Surveying People Limited' that we still have a large amount of homes that have not yet been visited. This is delaying us from understanding the overall condition of elements such as windows, kitchens and bathrooms. We have now written twice to all residents that have not given us access for this. If we have not yet visited your home, please get in touch to arrange an appointment.

Energy Performance Certificate surveys

Surveying People Limited, are also carrying out Energy Performance Certificate surveys on all properties that do not have a current certificate. Having this information will assist us in understanding what we need to do to make our buildings more energy efficient.

Electrical testing inspection program

We have now started our electrical testing inspection program for all WECH properties and the communal areas. Once we have the reports, we will be reviewing the actions and then organising a planned works programme as required.

External cyclical works programme

We are moving towards resuming our external cyclical works programme on the Walterton Estate. We have the list of addresses that were due to be done next before COVID. It is a 6 year programme and works expected to start in August.

Campaign, Victory and Rodborough Courts

Campaign, Victory and Rodborough Courts are now in the process of having their long awaited communal works program started, this will include decoration and new main doors to the entrance of the building.

WECH Guerilla Gardening

WECH Guerilla Gardening
Every Wednesday 2 - 4 pm @ the WECH Community Centre

WECH is working with HCGA to deliver weekly gardening sessions developing a team of 'guerilla' garden volunteers, starting with a cuppa at the WECH Community Centre from 2 pm. So far, the gardening events and weekly sessions have planted up the communal gardens on the Elgin Estate, Watson Gardens and raised beds on Barnsdale and Errington. In addition to Easter and Half Term Gardening events, planting sunflowers and making bug homes. Pop in to find out more and join your neighbours, Bongo, Charmaine and Megan (from HCGA) to make WECH Bloom.

WECH Summer Festival Gardening Zone, Sunday 14 July 12 – 5 pm

Children's seed planting activities (micro herbs and lettuce) and making mini nature reserves! Competitions to win window boxes and plants, so drop in to find out more.

Propagation Tips from our Lead Guerilla Gardener – Charmaine

Did you know you can create a plant from a plant? This is called propagation and it's easier than you may think. One of the easiest types of plants to propogate are herbs. When you buy fresh cut herbs from the supermarket you can remove lower leaves from the stem and if it is a soft stem (such as basil) add to water and add to soil if it is a hard stem (e.g Rosemary). The soft stem herbs will grow roots in water within a couple of weeks, then you can transplant them into soil and enjoy using them again!

You can propagate herbs from the two WECH herb planters located at the ends of Barnsdale and Warlock Roads.

You can also join Megan from HCGA (Healthy Community Gardens Association) and me at our Wednesdays 2pm – 4pm drop in gardening sessions, starting with a cuppa at the WECH Community Centre at 2 pm. All welcome and its's great way to meet your neighbours, keep fit and make WECH bloom!

Introducing North Paddington's new Climate Action Co-ordinator

Hello! I'm Lola, the Community Climate Action Coordinator for Paddington Development Trust. I'm working to build Climate Champions in the area. These are local people who go on accredited training to understand the environment, the climate crisis, and ways in which we can make a difference in our local areas. From this, we'll be creating 15 projects in Westbourne, Queen's Park and Harrow Road, including as many residents and people who work in the area as possible! I'd love to hear from you about what you want to see – it can be really broad, as long as it involves the environment or greening in some way.

You can meet me at the WECH Gardening Pop-Up event, showing children how to repurpose plastic bottles into bird feeders, baths and bug hotels. I'll also be at the WECH Summer Festival and the Westbourne Summer Fete or you can contact me on **lola@pdt.org.uk** or **07762825271**. This is a great chance to make new friends, learn new skills and knowledge, and help improve your area.

Launching the 'WECH In Bloom' Project – Making Our Neighbourhood Brighter and Greener

Last year, we were given £25,000 by Westminster City Council's 'Greening Westminster' fund to make our streets and estate brighter and more beautiful and get more WECH residents gardening.

So far, we have put the money to good use with tree and shrub planting events on the Elgin Estate, raised planters on the corners of Barnsdale Road and Warlock Road, and supporting our weekly community Gardening Group, WECH Guerillas. Lots of you have said how much you enjoy the results - and we are looking forward to seeing the new Cherry and Magnolia trees in bloom next spring.

'The Cockney Gardener', a rising star on BBC 'Gardeners' World Live' will be on hand to give advice and inspiration

Gardening is a time-honoured London tradition. Greening up streets like ours increases pride, neighbourliness and wellbeing – so, to switch the spotlight onto our front gardens and windowsills, we are launching 'WECH In Bloom'. To get you started, we are giving away free window boxes, plants (including plants and advice for your own gardens and containers) and compost for WECH residents who come along to our **Pop-Up Planting Event**, which takes place on the corner of Errington Road on **Saturday 29 June 2024 from 12 pm to 3 pm**.

You will be able to enter your display in the competition, which will be judged by the new Lord Mayor of Westminster City Council, Councillor Robert Rigby and our CEO, Suzanne, who is Royal Horticultural Society trained, at a special event on **Saturday 27th July at 3 pm** in the WECH Community Centre, where prizes will be awarded and refreshments available to enjoy.

No matter whether you are an experienced gardener or a complete beginner, come along, get involved, collect a window box, compost and plants, or just get some advice and inspiration for your garden or containers from our team of gardeners on hand – including 'The Cockney Gardener', a rising star on BBC 'Gardeners' World Live'. There will also be nature-friendly activities for children at the Pop-Up event: bring along an empty plastic water bottle and create a bird feeder, bird bath or bug hotel for your garden. You can reserve your window box kit in advance by emailing Debs@wech.org.uk.

Prizes will be awarded for the following categories: Best Colourful Display; Best Bee-Friendly Display; Best Front Garden; Best National Flag Planting Scheme (using plants with the colours of a national flag of your choice); Best Edible Planting Scheme; Best Junior Entry (for gardeners aged under 16). You can get an entry form by emailing **Debs@wech.org.uk**, at the event or Summer Festival, or from Megan or Charmaine at the weekly Wednesday gardening club.

Entries must be sent to the WECH office by 5 pm on Friday 19th July.

Community Cook Off

Saturday 6th July 2024,
Tamplin Mews Gardens,
13 Arbinger Mews, London W9 3SP

10 Local Teams - DJ - Family Day
Create. Cook. Connect
For more details please email:
info@communitycookoff.org

Instagram: **@communitycookoff**
Website: **www.communitycookoff.org**

COMMUNITY Cook Off

ACTIVE WESTMINSTER | City of Westminster

Rent collection and debt advice

Dear Residents,

My name is Serene and I am the Income Officer for Walterton and Elgin Community Homes. I have been a part of the WECH team for around 2 years. My job is to help residents bring all rent accounts that are in arrears to a position whereby there is either an agreement on the account or the account is in advance as it states in your tenancy agreement.

A paragraph in the WECH tenancy agreement states:

'The payment of weekly rent is due in advance on the Monday of each week'.

This ensures that your rental account is always up to date and not showing any arrears.

The income from your rent goes towards the upkeep of your property which is why every effort is made to bring all accounts up to date. We are aware of the 'Cost of Living crisis' and there are different ways in which we can help, such as referring you for fuel/food vouchers or the baby bank and applying for various grants. So please contact us to discuss this further. We also have an in-house Money and Debt Advisor who can check that you are receiving all the benefits that you are entitled to.

We write to all residents that fall into arrears and send a rent statement showing the balance of their account. I am happy to talk through how any arrears have arisen, so please contact me if you would like to discuss your rent account. We will then be able to reach an agreement for you to clear these.

I am here to help so please do get in touch so we can resolve any problems at an early stage.

Thank you in advance.

Serene Wringer-Burnett, WECH Income Officer

Pro-Touch Afterschool Club

Free and Fun Children's 6 – 13 years Afterschool Session from Pro-Touch SA Sessions @ WECH Community Centre!

Looking for a dynamic and engaging activity for your child? Look no further and bring your child along to our weekly sessions at the WECH Community Centre.

The response so far has been phenomenal! We've witnessed first-hand the joy and enthusiasm radiating from the children as they actively participate in our sessions. From honing their athletic abilities to forging stronger bonds with friends in the community, our program offers a holistic experience in a safe and inclusive environment. We understand the importance of not only developing physical skills but also fostering social connections. Our sessions aren't just about kicking a ball or running around; they're about building confidence, teamwork, and resilience.

We aim to empower young minds to reach their full potential, both on and off the field. Whether your child is a budding athlete or just looking for some active fun in arts & crafts, our sessions promise something for everyone.

Every Friday during school term time, from 5 pm till 7 pm, we're bringing the excitement of outdoor sports and skill-building to your neighbourhood.

FREE Weekly Children's Football Sessions, starting Wednesday 3 July 2024 and delivered by Scott Richardson FA qualified

Weekly football sessions for girls and boys from 5 to 9 years old, for one hour every **Wednesday from 15:45 to 16:45 @ Watson Gardens Sport's Pitch.**

If you are interested and want to book a space for your child, please email **debs@wech.org.uk** or just turn up at the first session to register. If your child is older than the above and interested please let us know as we may look at increasing the sessions for older age groups subject to time and availability.

Celebrating the Extraordinary Life of Diana Payne-Myers MBE

In the vibrant tapestry of WECH, we are honoured to have had the opportunity to share our community with remarkable individuals whose stories leave an indelible mark on our hearts.

Today, we celebrate the extraordinary life of Diana Payne-Myers, a former WECH resident whose unwavering passion for the arts and boundless talent not only inspired generations but also enriched our community, making it a place of wonder and inspiration. Born on March 13, 1928, in Darlington, County Durham, Diana defied convention from an early age. In her twenties, she embarked on a daring journey, pursuing professional dance training at the prestigious Rambert School in London. Despite the challenges, it was during the electrifying postwar music hall boom that Diana's star began to shine, gracing the stage alongside legends such as Max Miller, Frank Sinatra, and the inimitable Mrs. Shufflewick.

As the curtains rose on the heyday of West End revue, Diana's artistry and versatility captivated audiences with her magnetic performances. Yet, her most unexpected and remarkable burst of stardom was still to come. Going back to class at 56 she retrained with a young dancer Matthew Hawkins performing together at the reopening of the Hackney Empire. In her seventies and eighties, Diana continued to embrace the cutting-edge world of contemporary dance, leaving audiences in awe of her agility and grace. Throughout her illustrious career, Diana collaborated with renowned choreographers, including Lloyd Newson, Arthur Pita, Philippe Decouflé, and Wayne McGregor, among others. Her affinity for props and obstacles was reminiscent of the legendary Buster Keaton, and she delighted audiences with her subversive portrayal of the housemaid Edna in Stephen Daldry's production of Priestley's "An Inspector Calls."

Remarkably, Diana's tenure in this iconic play extended all the way to the age of 91, a testament to her unwavering passion and dedication. While Diana's physical presence may have departed, her legacy lives on through the generations she inspired in the world of dance and theatre. Her influence continues to shape the arts, reminding us all of the power of passion and dedication. She is survived by her loving children, Saffron and Japheth, a dancer in his own right, and her grandsons, Harry and Joe, who carry the torch of her remarkable spirit.

Diana receiving her MBE with Harry and Joe at Buckingham Palace, 2002

As we honour Diana's memory, let us celebrate her extraordinary life with gratitude and admiration for the passion she shared with the world. Her story serves as a reminder that age is merely a number and that the pursuit of one's dreams knows no boundaries.

The Next Generation - Following my Grandmother's footsteps

I'm Joe and I am very proud to have had Diana as my grandma. I have a very clear memory of her picking me up from my primary school St Peter's in bare feet, which to her was a vital part of her ballerina life and training, and the other kids being in awe of her and realising how very special my Grandma was. I am proud to have lived locally my whole life and still constantly run into old friends and local legends who tell me stories of Diana. My grandma was an inspiration - she taught us a love of dance and took me to lessons locally at the Tabernacle and The Rambert. And maybe one day I will follow in her bare footsteps and dance until I am 93.

Joe, Diana's Grandson, at St. Peter's CE Primary School (Paddington)

Send your stories to suzanne@wech.org.uk and let us celebrate the remarkable lives of WECH residents past and present.

Keeping In Touch With You

There is a lot happening at WECH, so it's more important than ever that we keep in touch with you.

We will often write telling you about appointments, or to update you about what is going on. We would ask that you look out for letters from us to avoid delays in completing jobs or progressing projects where we need your help, for example, by giving us access for essential inspections.

Many residents have told us they prefer to be kept up to date by text (SMS) messages to their phones, so we have increased our use of these. We would ask that you save the number we text you from **07418 347067** in your phone so you can recognize us when we get in touch.

What to do if you think you have received a fake message?

Fake text messages, also known as smishing, are unwanted SMS messages often used by scammers to trick you into providing money or personal information. These fraudulent texts can be part of SMS phishing scams that may infect your phone with malware or spyware, putting you at risk of fraud and identity theft. Here's how to spot and handle them:

Be Sceptical

Always be cautious when receiving unexpected text messages, especially those claiming to be from banks, online accounts (like PayPal or Netflix), or government organizations (such as HMRC or the DVLA). Scammers often pretend to be these entities to deceive you.

Check for Signs of Smishing

- **Spelling Mistakes:** Look out for spelling errors or poorly written messages.
- **Generic Greetings:** Scammers might address you as "Sir" or "Madam," whereas legitimate messages usually use your full name.
- **Suspicious Phone Numbers:** The sender's phone number won't match the one on your bank card, and it might even be an overseas number.
- **Verify Online:** Search the phone number online to see if it's associated with known scams.
- **Avoid Clicking Links:** Never click on any links in text messages. Instead, visit the official website directly and log in as usual. If there's a genuine issue, the website will provide instructions.

Report Suspected Scams:

If you receive a suspicious text, report it to the company or organisation it claims to be from. This helps them alert other users to potential risks.

For HMRC-related texts, forward them to 60599 (network charges apply) or email phishing@hmrc.gov.uk. Remember, scammers thrive on creating urgency and fear. Stay vigilant and protect yourself from smishing attempts!

How to BLOCK spam SMS messages

Here's how you can do it on most smartphones:

Android Phones:

1. Open the Messages app.
2. Find the spam message you want to block.
3. Long-press the message until a menu appears.
4. Select Block or Report as spam.
5. Confirm your choice.

iPhone (iOS):

1. Open the Messages app.
2. Find the spam message.
3. Tap the sender's name or phone number at the top of the screen.
4. Scroll down and select Block this Caller.
5. Confirm your decision.

Third-Party Apps:

Consider using third-party apps specifically designed to block spam messages. Some popular options include Truecaller, Hiya, and RoboKiller.

Remember that blocking spam messages won't prevent new ones from arriving, but it will keep them out of your main inbox. If you receive suspicious texts, never click on any links within them. Stay vigilant and protect yourself!

Meet Our Board

Gordon Quinlan
Chair

Lorraine Etienne
Vice Chair

Angelique Csere
Vice Chair

Nadia Faucher
Board member

Sean Griffin
Board member

Vera Mrdak
Board member

Luis-Jose Lopez-Johnstone
Board member

Alicja Johnston
Board member

Charmaine Stoukas
Board member

Monica Feeney
Board member

Paul Judge
Board member

Sarah Seisay
Board member

Dan Jones
Board member (Co-opted)

John Andrew
Board member (Co-opted)

Audrey Williamson
Board member (Co-opted)

Jan Taranczuk
Operations Committee Member

Keith Jenkins
Board member (Co-opted)

Meet Our team

Chief Executive

Suzanne Wolfe

Community Development Team

Debs Bourner
Community Development Consultant

Elaine Harkins
Community Development Support (Temp)

Finance Team

Kathryn Dowlath
Corporate Services Director

Genish Watson
Finance & IT Manager

Housing Team

Carmen Clarke
Head of Housing

Serene Wringer-Burnett
Income Officer

Eleanor Warsop
Residents' Services Assistant

Abdirahim Abi
Facilities Officer

Cihan Askin
Benefit and Debt Advisor Consultant

Jackie Dawkins
Housing Services Manager

Barbara Pereira
Neighbourhood Housing Assistant

Abdi-nur Lala
Facilities Team Leader

Florian Poama-Neagra
Membership and CRM Administrator

Maintenance Team

Scott Richardson
Head of Property Maintenance

Anita Mason
Contracts Officer

Rob Paterson
Multi Skill Operative

Natalie Sylvester
Repairs Administrator

Linda Bekkari
Repairs and Compliance Manager

Yinka Andoyi
Maintenance Surveyor

Julian Bond
Multi Skill Operative

How to contact WECH

Opening Hours
Monday to Friday
9:30am – 5:30pm

Address
Selbourne House,
36A Elgin Avenue, London, W9 3AZ

Telephone
020 7266 3347

Out of Hours Emergencies
0208 979 2220 (Just 24/7 Ltd)

Useful numbers

Emergency Gas Leaks Cadent
0800 111 999

National Grid Electricity
0800 3163 105

Thames Water
(no water or low pressure)
0800 3169 800

Disposal of large items
020 7641 2000

Crimestoppers
0800 555 111

Police Non Urgent Crime & ASB
0300 123 1212

Police Emergency
999