

# Your News

## Learning Disability Week with Artlink

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# Welcome to **Your News!**

**I hope everyone is keeping well and you're now able to get out and about to meet friends in your community.**

There has been a great deal going on over the last few months as you will see in this newsletter.

The Artlink project has been very successful, with many tenants taking part to make their colourful pieces to fit into the giant jigsaw. It's great that people can get together again.

It was fantastic to host our Community Champions Awards earlier this year and recognise the achievements of some of our supported living tenants. For example,

Andrew won a silver award for volunteering to clean up his local park.

As we start to get together more, our Tenants' Voice group is a great opportunity to get involved and help us improve our services and ensure we communicate well with everyone. Maybe you could help? Let us know. In the meantime, enjoy reading our newsletter and let us know what you think.

## **Les Warren**

RWP (Reside With Progress)  
Managing Director



## Your housing officer is here to help



**Our housing officers are the first contact for our tenants and support providers.**

They can help you with many things including:



Applying for Housing Benefit



Dealing with any anti-social behaviour



Ensuring your gardens are looked after



Adaptations to your property to help you live independently

Here are details of who they are and the areas in the country that they cover:



### **Cheryl Harris**

– Nottingham, North Norfolk, Northampton, Rutland, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Shropshire, Warwickshire



### **Christine Knight**

– Leeds, Bradford, Retford, York



### **Claire Clinch**

– Leeds Independent Living Accommodation (LiLAC)



### **Daniella Wilkinson**

– Lincolnshire, Mansfield



### **Gemma Doyle**

– Liverpool, Halton, West Lancashire, Wigan, Trafford, Derbyshire, Bolton, Ribble Valley, Cumbria



### **Helen Sparkes**

– Essex, Suffolk, Cambridge, South Norfolk



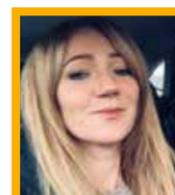
### **Ilir Demaj**

– Leicester, Devon, Cornwall, Somerset, Dorset



### **Javed Ismail**

– Newark, Worksop, Norwich, Selby, Skipton



### **Karen Lang**

– Chorley, Fylde, Hyndburn, Burnley, Rochdale



### **Laura Pryde**

– Harrogate, Knaresborough, North Allerton, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, Scotland



### **Louise Foxwell**

– Brighton, Isle of Wight, Kent, South London, Kingston and Surrey.



### **Louise Gunter**

– Buckinghamshire, Bedford, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, North London, Sutton



### **Lyndsey Rawsthorne**

– Blackpool, Wyre, Sefton, Stockport, Tameside



### **Niki Duffy**

– Durham, Darlington



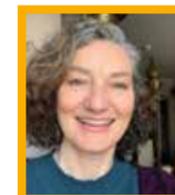
### **Paula Green**

– Blackburn, Lancaster, St Helens, Pendle, Knowlsey



### **Sarah McKiernan**

– Preston, South Ribble, Salford, Manchester



### **Tracy Bevan**

– Wales, Cheshire, Wirral, Northern Ireland



# Learning Disability Week with Artlink



**For Learning Disability Week 2022 RWP (Reside With Progress) tenants came together at Artlink West Yorkshire. They worked on a centre piece for our Progress Community Artwork Project, 'We all fit together'.**

They had a wonderful afternoon, filled with joy, music and creativity. It was the first time the group has had the opportunity to meet in person since early 2020.

Over the past two years, tenants from across the country have been using their creativity and working together to create one big piece of artwork in the form of a giant jigsaw.

The artwork will be displayed in our community spaces, and will be moved around to give others the chance to see it. Updates will also be posted on our website and in our newsletters.



All of our tenants are welcome to join in and help us grow our jigsaw. Please get in touch if you would like a jigsaw piece by emailing [community@progressgroup.org.uk](mailto:community@progressgroup.org.uk) or calling the Involvement Team on **03333 204555**.

# Congratulations to our competition winners!

**We ran two competitions in the Reside Housing Association newsletter, before the organisation joined with Progress Housing Group last September.**

The competition in the winter 2021 issue (and also in Progress People) was to win a box of art materials. We asked you to let us know what is important to you about your home. Thank you to everyone who entered, and Ben from Kent was our winner. In the spring 2022 newsletter, we asked you to tell us what made you happy in your home. Our Managing



Les, drawing the winner



James, winner of the Samsung tablet

Director Les Warren drew the winning entry, James, from Hampshire. He was thrilled to have won.

# Straight from the garden!

**Tenants in Cleveleys, Lancashire are doing a great job planting and growing their own vegetables.**

Support worker Carole applied for a Community Support Grant so that there was funding to help tenants get more involved in growing produce.

Carole said: "The tenants are so proud of their first crop of potatoes! The raised planters have been a great buy for all involved in our gardening projects."



Brian and Neil



# Soup Dragon's Den is back in the community!

After a two-year break, Soup Dragon's Den is back LIVE and in the community, with homemade soup and crumble. And what a welcome back it was!



Seven groups took part in this year's Soup Dragon's Den. The event was held at St Mary's Community Centre in Leyland.

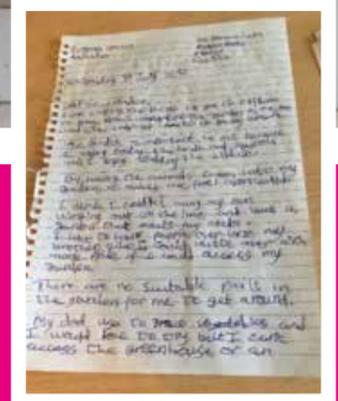
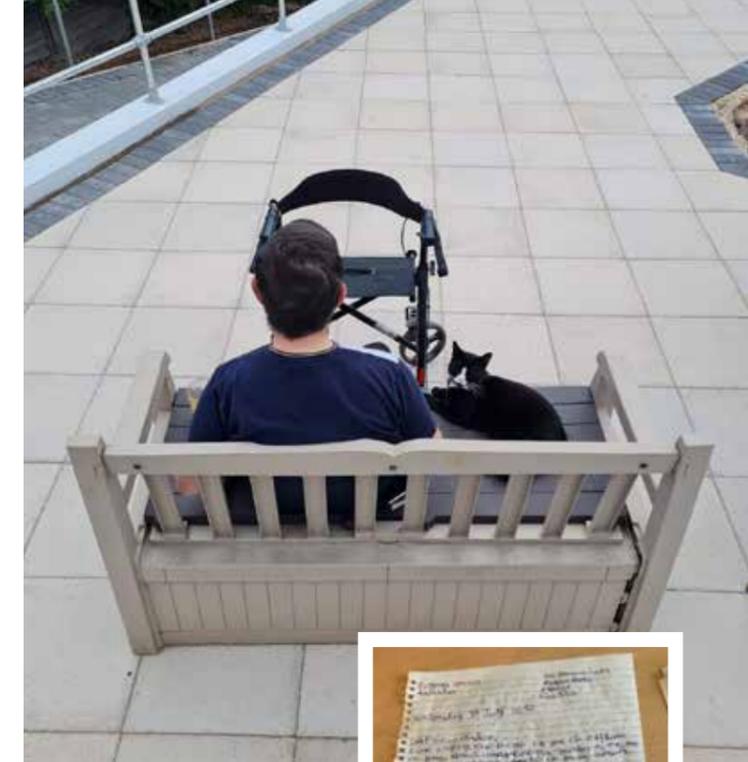
The community groups who were pitching to the Soup Dragon's Den were Affinity Performing Arts, Fylde Food Community, Hebden Court Community Garden, Leyland Knit (Crochet) & Knatter, Leyland Pain Support Group, St Mary's Community Centre and the Taboo Project.

The overall winner on the night was Leyland Pain Support Group. Started by Siobhan Walker, this group has only been running for a couple of

months and is already growing. The group will receive £1,000 which will help the members to run events, activities and social support. All of the other groups will receive £200.

We're looking forward to the next event which is in November - hope to see you then!!

If you would like to apply for Soup Dragon's Den funding or would like to know more about funding from Progress Housing Group, please contact the Involvement Team on **03333 204555** or email [community@progressgroup.org.uk](mailto:community@progressgroup.org.uk)



## Garden revamp in Devon

At a property inspection last year for a housing scheme in Devon, our Supported Living Housing Officer Ilir Demaj was given a letter that was written by one of the tenants called Christopher. Writing the letter was a good way for Christopher to express his feelings about the garden.

The sloping garden had a crazy paving pathway down to the chicken hutch, which Christopher and all the other tenants cared for. It wasn't easy for them to walk down to the garden, so it was arranged for works to be carried out to landscape the garden, to make it better with a ramp and

rails for extra safety. Unfortunately the company carrying out the work had to stop halfway through and couldn't complete it. This meant that the garden was in a terrible state with no access for the tenants at all.

In Christopher's letter, he wrote about how important the garden was to him. He said: "I like to invite people over like my brother, and I enjoy feeding the birds and squirrels."

Progress Involvement Officer Alan Greig said: "We worked out what we needed to do next. New contractors finished the garden. We made sure that they understood that the tenants' views were a priority. It was great that tenants were involved with the garden design."



# Community Champion Awards 2022

## Our Community Champion Awards took place in March to recognise the achievements of our supported living tenants, community groups and young volunteers.

We received a range of applications which included five in the Groups category, 17 for the Individual category and three for the Young People category (under age of 25). Our judges scored the categories with their first, second and third choices, and vouchers were given out, ranging from £200 to £25.

With the aim of having a positive impact, supporting independence and creating opportunities, we were particularly thrilled to award two tenants who have additional needs from our supported living schemes.

Rebecca Gammon from Euxton and Andrew Grant Salmon from Worsley were both given a silver award in the Volunteer of the Year category. Progress Involvement Officer Alan Greig, who nominated Rebecca,

said: "Rebecca gets involved with many issues and represents tenants' views, championing concerns. Rebecca attends events that have a direct effect on tenants' welfare and has great knowledge on support issues within supported housing."

Rebecca, 39, said: "I am over the moon about winning the award. I get involved in the local community and try to help those who need my support, as we all go through the same things."

Andrew, 30, was nominated by his support worker Angela Hart. She said: "Andrew does a lot of volunteering twice a week. He goes to Blackleach Country Park and Parr Fold Park with a support worker and helps to clean up the park, litter pick, pull out weeds and cut trees down safely."



Rebecca



Andrew

Andrew said: "I am really pleased with my voucher. I am going to use it to buy a chair so I can sit at my computer."

Chloe Leeland, 16, and Megan Sumner, 17, are two of the Young Volunteer of the Year gold winners. The pair have volunteered at The Base Community Centre in Leyland since they were 13, helping to deliver food parcels and running children's activities.



Megan

Andrea Andrews, Youth and Community Worker at The Base, who nominated them, said: "These young women are amazing and dedicate their spare time to helping out. They delivered food parcels and care packs throughout the lockdown period, helping vulnerable people within the community."

If you volunteer your time to help out a worthy cause and would like to showcase what you do in the next newsletter, contact the Progress Involvement Team on **03333 204555** or email **community@progressgroup.org.uk**

# Cake and coffee event



**Tenants at Old Mill Court, Preston held a cake and coffee event and raised awareness for 'Breast Cancer Now'.**

Wilma baked cakes and fancies for all to enjoy. She also applied to our Charity Fund and received matched funding (where we 'matched' the money raised), which was donated to Breast Cancer Now.

Suzanna Denham, Independent Living Co-ordinator at Old Mill Court, said: "The ladies raised £176 with their 'wear it pink' coffee and cake morning. We were also joined by Councillor Graham Gooch."

If you are fundraising and want to apply to the Charity Fund, please contact the Progress Involvement



Councillor Graham Gooch with Melita (left) and Wilma (right)

Team by calling **03333 204555** or email **community@progressgroup.org.uk**.

## Quiz questions



These were kindly supplied by David, one of our tenants.

- 1, Brie, Mozzarella, Cheddar and Wensleydale are all types of which dairy food?
- 2, Wellington is the Capital City of which country?
- 3, Corniche, Silver Shadow and Phantom are all names associated with which brand of luxury car?
- 4, If you were a horologist what would your interests be?
- 5, Which German football manager recently succeeded Ole Gunnar Solksjaer as manager of Manchester United?
- 6, What is the nickname given to Glasgow's underground rail public transport system?
- 7, In US currency how many dimes are there in a US Dollar?
- 8, In which US city is the former Ocean Liner RMS Queen Mary preserved?

Answers: 1, Cheese 2, New Zealand 3, Rolls Royce 4, Watches & Clocks 5, Ralf Rangnick 6, The Clockwork Orange 7, 10 cents = 1 Dime = 100 cents in 1 US Dollar 8, Long Beach

## Have your say!

**Have you got ideas about how we could make our services better? If so, we might have just what you have been looking for.**

We are really lucky to have a group of volunteer tenants who help us to look at the way we provide some of our services. They can tell us what they like about the way we work, but also what they think would make things better for tenants.

To give you an idea of what our volunteers get involved with, over the last few months they have been looking at how we contact tenants to arrange the electrical safety test for their home.

We have listened to what our volunteers told us and are now working on the nine suggestions they made. Their suggestions included making a leaflet or video to help explain what electrical testing is and why it is important.

Being a volunteer can be really rewarding when you see the difference you are making for other tenants and Progress Housing Group.

We can help you to get involved, so if you would like to find out more, we would love to hear from you. Just email us at **community@progressgroup.org.uk** or call **03333 204555** and ask to speak to a member of the Progress Involvement Team.



Alan, our Progress Involvement Officer

## Out and about again!

**As restrictions have been lifted, Alan from the Progress Involvement Team has been to properties to speak to tenants about involvement opportunities.**

Tenants Sarah and Lucy from Sheffield said: "It was great meeting Alan. We chatted and talked about our interests and what we want out of getting involved. We're looking forward to future meetings."

Tania, a team leader from Liverpool said: "It was so much better for us all to be involved in the meeting and see Alan personally. We're going to apply to the Community Investment Fund to start a project with tenants that will benefit them all."

Karen, a support worker said: "I enjoyed the meeting and got to know more about involvement opportunities. We learnt about the Community Support Grant, so we applied and were successful with our application to help the tenants with a garden project."

If you want to know more how to get involved, please contact the Progress Involvement Team on **03333 204555** or email **community@progressgroup.org.uk**

# Scarecrow and Sunflower Festival 2022



**We've been busy promoting the Scarecrow and Sunflower Festival by seed planting at our tenant meetings and giving out free sunflower seeds at community events.**

Some of you proudly told us that the sunflowers are growing nicely. It might be time for a bigger pot and some fresh compost if they are to grow really tall.

It has also been great to hear that many of you have been busy making your scarecrow plans. We can't wait to see your scarecrows!

You can apply for both the scarecrow contest and the tallest sunflower competition up until Sunday 4 September. You can do this, by emailing [community@progressgroup.org.uk](mailto:community@progressgroup.org.uk) or calling the Progress Involvement Team on **07976 707982**.

## Spot the sunflowers competition!

**How many sunflowers did you find in this issue?** Let us know by writing to us at the Leeds office address (see right) by 30 September. Please write the number of sunflowers you have spotted, your name, address and telephone number so we can enter you into our prize draw - and you could win a £10 voucher!



## Useful addresses and telephone numbers



### Write to us at:

RWP (Reside With Progress),  
Sumner House, 21 King Street,  
Leyland, Lancashire, PR25 2LW



### Opening hours:

Monday to Friday,  
8.30am-4.30pm



03333 202675



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



RWPenquiries@  
[progressgroup.org.uk](mailto:progressgroup.org.uk)



### Repairs

To report a repair call  
03333 202675 or email  
[RWPrepairs@  
progressgroup.org.uk](mailto:RWPrepairs@progressgroup.org.uk).

**Remember:** Repair lines are usually very busy first thing in the morning. If your repair is not urgent please try calling after 11am.

You can also report repairs using the online form on our website and if you have questions, there is a Live Chat function, too.



### Leeds office:

LiLAC tenants  
New Pudsey Court, 101 Bradford  
Road, Pudsey, Leeds, LS28 6AT



### Office opening hours:

Monday to Friday 9am-5pm



LiLAC tenants, for repairs, please  
call 0345 241 6041 and press 1

This newsletter is available in other formats, such as audio or large print. Please contact us on 03333 204555 or [marketing@progressgroup.org.uk](mailto:marketing@progressgroup.org.uk)