

ALMONDVIEW

ALMOND HOUSING ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2019

Nominate your neighbour

This year you can be one of Santa's Little Helpers
... more on page 3

Festive Wishes

On behalf of Almond Housing Association's staff and board, we'd like to wish all of our tenants and residents **Happy Holidays**



Win panto tickets

Win tickets for Cinderella ... more on page 3



Christmas Open House

Santa is coming, are you?... more on page 3

DON'T FORGET... our office will be closed from midday on Tuesday 24th December until 8.30am on Friday 3rd January 2019

My bathroom is in use again

The new grab rail has allowed me to stay in my home', says Georgina Campbell. She is one of the many tenants who have had medical adaptations carried out in their homes.

Earlier this year Ms Campbell experienced some health issues which made it difficult for her to access the bath and shower facilities in her home. Luckily, we were able to help.

After an assessment by an Occupational Therapist a referral for adaptations to Ms Campbell's bathroom was made. Just two weeks later a grab rail was installed in her bathroom. She was also provided with a bath board from the Council.

'The grab rail allows me to use my bath again, and I no longer have to worry about falling', says Ms Campbell.

We want to enable people to remain in their homes as long as possible and for tenants whose mobility, long term illness or deafness is becoming an issue we may be able to help with adaptations to properties.

MEDICAL ADAPTATIONS COULD INCLUDE:

- Installation of banisters and handrails
- Grab rails in the bathroom
- Changing from a bath to an accessible shower or wet room
- A flashing light or vibrating pillow if you are unable to hear doorbell and fire alarm
- Automatic door openers
- Anything which is a permanent change to the property to allow you to remain as independent as possible.



HOW CAN YOU APPLY?

A referral from an Occupational Therapist or GP is required, explaining what is needed and the urgency. This should be submitted to Almond HA.

If you have any problems getting a referral or want to find out more, give us a call on **01506 439291**.

Exciting new home decorating project...

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER WITH AN EXCITING NEW HOME DECORATING PROJECT?

Getting the keys for a new tenancy can be a dream come true. But we know that the dream of making the house into a home often means a change in décor to add a personal touch. However, not everyone has these skills!

This is where you can help. We are looking for people who have good decorating experience and knowledge who are interested in passing on their skills to fellow tenants. You don't need formal training, as long as you have

experience decorating your own place and are keen to share and help others.

We're looking for teams of volunteers who will work alongside tenants in their home to decorate up to two rooms. If you think you can help, please get in touch with our Community Engagement Officer, Barbara. Email into enquiries@almondha.org.uk.



Are you one of Santa's Little Helpers?

Throughout the year, we've been made aware of an increasing number of tenants who are struggling to make ends meet. The pressures of welfare reforms, low wages, increased living costs and simply more month at the end of the money are affecting more and more tenants each year.

With Christmas coming up, we want to try to make the festive season a positive experience for as many of our tenants as possible. We have a number of initiatives planned as part of our **OPERATION: HAPPY CHRISTMAS** campaign, but there's also a chance for you to get involved.

If you know of any Almond HA tenants who might need a helping hand this festive season, this is your chance

to help deliver a bit of Christmas cheer. Just drop us a note at enquiries@almondha.org.uk letting us know your name, your address, the name and address of the Almond HA tenant you want to nominate, and the reasons you want to nominate them. If you can't email us, drop into Reception and complete a short form with the same details.

We'll consider all nominations and the successful ones will receive a festive food hamper filled with essential items to help with the pressures of Christmas. Where possible, we'll also nominate families for help with Christmas gifts via the Cash for Kids toy appeal 2019.

Help us to make **OPERATION: HAPPY CHRISTMAS** a success!

You're invited
to our
**CHRISTMAS
OPEN HOUSE**

Pop along to meet Santa, as he stops by with festive boxes for the kids, at our Christmas Open House on Friday 13 December.

When: Fri 13 December, 1pm-3pm

Where: Our offices at 44 Etive Walk

We will be taking photos at the event. By attending you consent to the future use of these pictures to promote the Association's work

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Win tickets to Cinderella!

This year's pantomime at Howden Park Centre is **'CINDERELLA'** and we have tickets to give away to the performance on *Friday 20th December at 2pm*.

To enter our prize draw, please complete your details below and return to us at:

ALMOND HOUSING ASSOCIATION

44 Etive Walk, Livingston, West Lothian EH54 5AB

You can also send your details and the number of tickets you require by email to enquiries@almondha.org.uk – but remember to put

'Panto prize draw' in the subject line and get it to us by the **CLOSING DATE: Monday 9 December**.

(Please note all winners will be contacted before the 13 December and can collect tickets at the Christmas Open House on 13 December).

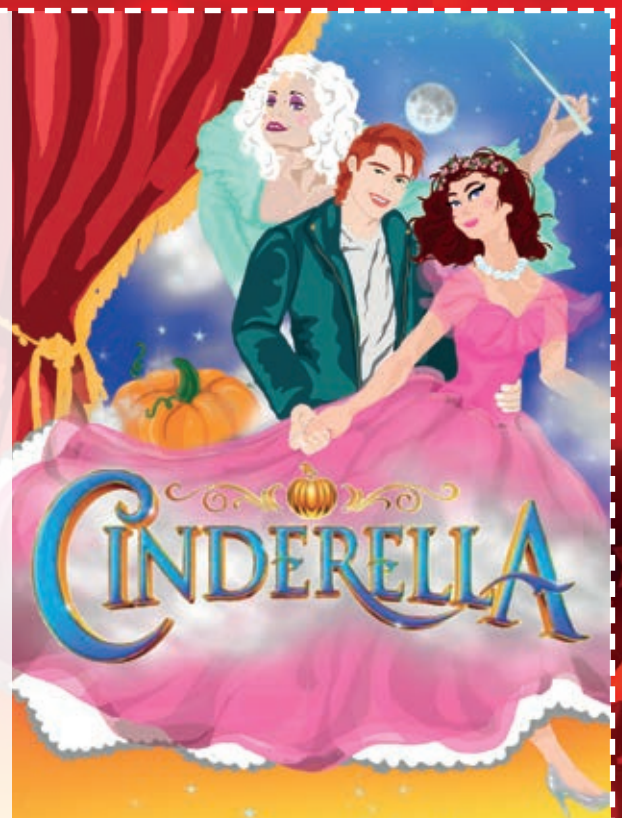
Name:

Address:

..... Tel no:

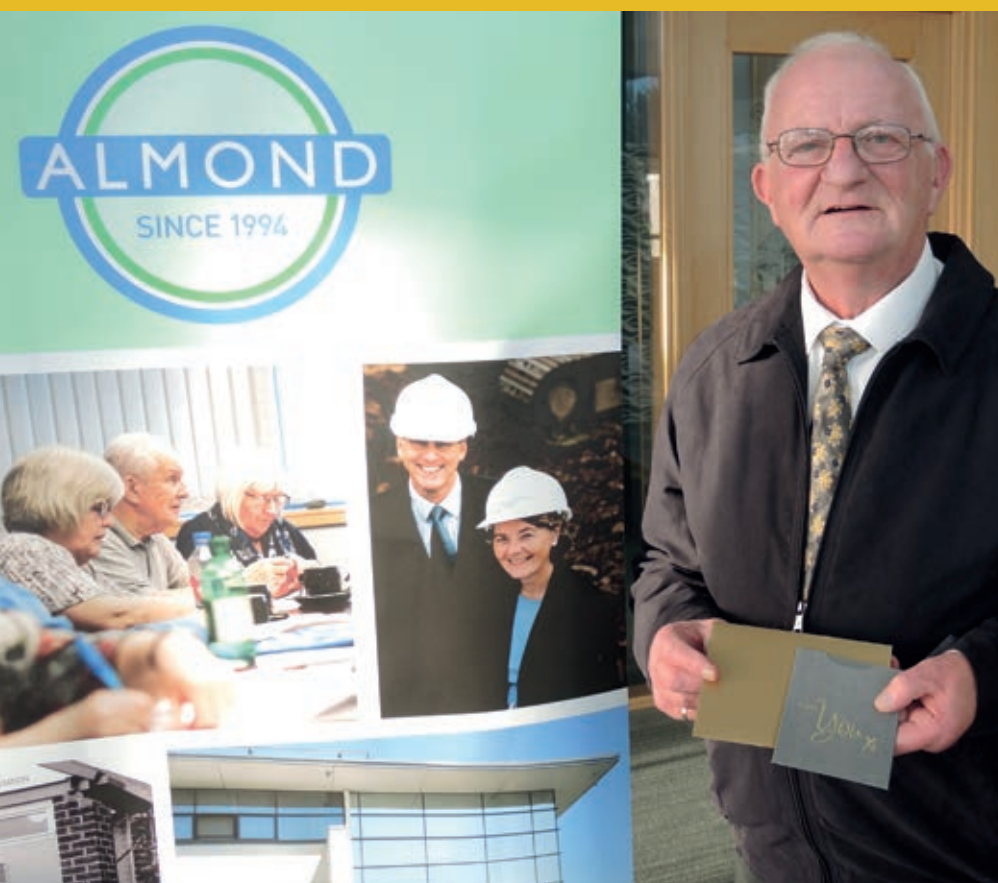
Number of tickets required:

Adult: Child: Wheelchair access:



We have a winner!

Congratulations to Mr Elliot of Craigshill, who has won our Almond Award for this quarter! Mr Elliot was delighted to be presented with **£250 worth of vouchers** for Almondvale Shopping centre.



The draw is our way of thanking folks for keeping on top of their rent payments, taking care of their home and generally being a good tenant!

Our next Almond Award will be run in Spring 2020. All you need to do in order to be entered for the draw to win £250 worth of vouchers is to:

- 1** Have maintained a clear rent account for a minimum period of three months immediately prior to the draw
- 2** Not be involved in any anti-social behaviour in your area
- 3** Maintain your tenancy and any garden area to a satisfactory standard
- 4** Have allowed our contractor to gain access to your home to complete the annual gas check

Well done to Mr Elliot and a big thanks to all our tenants!

Five new faces

In the last few months we have welcomed several new members of staff. Here are the newest member of the Almond HA clan.

From the left: Michael Bull, *Asset Management Assistant*; Steven Clunie, *Capital Projects Manager*; Andre Coelho, *ICT Officer*; Ward Linney, *Capital Projects Surveyor*; and Aileen Carson, *Quality and Performance Manager*.

Welcome to Almond!



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY "OUT OF HOURS" REPAIRS: 0845 038 0040

Almond Housing Association	01506 439 291	Homeless Persons	0800 032 3450	Scottish Power (General)	0845 270 0700
Gas Leaks	0800 111 999	Howden Health Centre	01506 423 800	(Emergency)	0845 272 7999
Citizens Advice Bureau	01506 432 977	Litter Hotline	0800 616 446	St John's Hospital	01506 523 000
Craigshill Health Centre	01506 432 621	Police	101	Street Lighting	01506 280 000
Energy Advice	0808 808 2282	Refuse Collection	01506 280 000	West Lothian Council	01506 280 000