

# PAISLEY HOUSING ASSOCIATION

# SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

# BULLETIN 2024



## Welcome to this edition

Summer has now passed us by and we are now well into Autumn.

We will shortly be getting ready for Halloween, but we are starting to think further ahead to Christmas and our annual Christmas Party. If you are interested in your child attending, you can read the article later in the bulletin.

Our Tenant Satisfaction Survey 2024 closed on 19th August. We were really pleased to get so many responses. There will be a full report on this in the next bulletin.

## Annual Rent Statements

We will be posting Annual Rent Statements to all tenants at the first week of November.

## Annual Charter Report

Each year we issue a report on our performance against the Scottish Social Housing Charter.

This contains important information about our performance over the year 2023/24.

The report will be issued to you this week, as part of this you will have a chance to let us know what you think of the format of the report and the information we include.

We got lots of feedback on this last year, and we have tried to put as much of this as possible into place to improve the format of the report.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Winter Fuel Payment

Warm Home Discount

Coffee Morning and Afternoon Tea

Energy Price Cap Increases

Garden Competition 2024

Christmas Party 2024

Halloween Festival

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## Winter Fuel Payment

The Scottish Government have confirmed that the Winter Fuel Payment will not be paid to all pensioners this year. But it will still be paid to pensioners who receive Pension Credit.

We would encourage all pensioners to check if they are eligible for Pension Credit. Pension Credit is different from your State Pension and is based on your income and circumstances.

**You can sometimes be eligible for Pension Credit even if:**

- **You have savings above £16,000**
- **You have income from private pensions**

It is based on your personal circumstances and eligibility, which can be helped by having a disability or caring for someone with a disability.

If you would like to check if you are eligible for Pension Credit, **you can contact our Advice Team on 0141 583 4123** or by email at [adviceteam@paisleyha.org.uk](mailto:adviceteam@paisleyha.org.uk).

## Warm Home Discount

Warm Home Discount is a £150 payment, paid directly by your electricity provider into your energy account. There are 2 groups who are eligible

### Core Group

People who receive Pension Credit with the guarantee credit element. If this applies to you. You will automatically get a letter from DWP telling you if you are eligible.

### Broader Group

For this group you will have to apply directly to your energy provider. You will usually have to be on a benefit like: Universal Credit, Income Based ESA or JSA, Income Support, Tax Credits or Housing Benefit and you will sometimes have to meet other criteria.

Each company has its own criteria, and you can check these on your Energy Company website.

### Receiving an award

Unfortunately, not everyone who is eligible will receive the payment, each company has a quota of payments that it can make. But if you don't apply, you will definitely not receive the payment.

If you need help in applying, you can call our Advice Team on 0141 583 4123 or email [adviceteam@paisleyha.org.uk](mailto:adviceteam@paisleyha.org.uk). You will need your electricity account number to apply.

## Paisley HA supports Challenge Poverty Week

The 7th to 13th October, was challenge poverty week.

As part of this Paisley HA participated in a Cost of Living event, hosted by Renfrewshire Council at Southend Action centre on Stock Street in Paisley.

Alan Graham, our Advice and Project Manager, attended the event and met lots of tenants and other members of the community. As well as colleagues from other organisations with a similar commitment to assist people from the community in accessing the support they need.

It was a well attended event and it was great to see so many agencies and tenants.



## OFGEM announces Energy Price Cap increase

On the 1st of October the energy regulator OFGEM increased Energy Price Cap, this means that people on a Standard Variable Tariff will see their energy prices increase by 9%.

If you are on a fixed price tariff your prices will stay the same.

If you want advice on how this will affect you, you can contact our Advice Team on 0141 583 4123, or you can contact by email: [adviceteam@paisleyha.org.uk](mailto:adviceteam@paisleyha.org.uk).



## YOU SAID

Our residents at Oliphant Court told us, that many of them found it difficult waiting for the lifts due to health conditions.

## WE DID

We installed seating in the lobby area at Oliphant Court to help.

This was installed through a Community Benefit provision by a contractor CCG.



## NEW WORKS STARTING

CCG have been appointed as a contractor for our bathroom replacement works.

They will be replacing 71 bathrooms from various areas across our Housing Stock.

This investment is worth £318,000.

This is an important part of our investment program as this is one of our tenants top 3 priorities for investment in your homes.

## Garden Competition 2024

We are delighted to welcome back our Annual Garden and Balcony Competition this year.

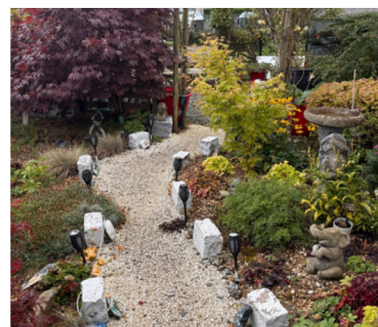
This year there were three categories:

### Individual Garden Tenement Gardens Balcony and Window

The competition was judged this week by Andy from M Squared our Landscaping Services provider and Alan Graham, our Advice and Projects Manager.

Andy and Alan were really impressed by the quality of the gardens and there were a lot of tenants that had put their own individual stamp on their garden. This made judging the competition particularly difficult and it was very closely contested.

The judges also noted that all the gardens had achieved a very high standard, given that the summer had not been kind in giving good growing conditions.



We awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category and each placed household received a B&Q voucher. £100 for 1st place, £50 for 2nd place and £25 for 3rd place, we have also posted a certificate of recognition to other gardens that were judged to be of a high standard but didn't quite place in the top 3. This year's winners in each category were:

### Individual Garden

**1st Place** – Miss Milligan – Hollows Avenue

**2nd Place** – Mr Gronan – Foxbar Rd

**3rd Place** – Mr and Mrs McBride – Hollows Avenue

### Tenement Garden

**1st Place** –

Mr & Mrs Lafferty – Oliphant Cres

**2nd Place** –

Mr Stachura – Mannering Road

**3rd Place** –

Anonymous – Argyle Street

### Balcony and window

**1st Place** –

Ms Mitchelson – Mannering Road

**2nd Place** –

Mrs Docherty – Mannering Road

**3rd Place** –

Mr McCall – Mannering Road

# Children's Christmas Party 2024

Our Annual Christmas Party, will be held this year on Thursday 12th December 2024.

This will be held on Thursday 12th December 2024 between 5pm and 7pm at the Anchor Centre on Stock Street, Paisley.

The children will be entertained by a magician, and food will be provided. All before a visit from our Special Guest!!!

If you would like to be considered for an invite, please complete our online form here [Christmas Party Expression of Interest Form](#)

or by scanning the QR code.



## Paisley Halloween Festival

Paisley Halloween Festival will take place on Friday 25 (4pm – 9pm) and Saturday 26 October (2pm – 9pm). The festival will celebrate its 10th anniversary this year with some exciting event changes.

- The return of the Halloween Parade for the first time since 2019.
- Daytime entertainment including stage and street performances.
- New funfair location at the Lagoon and East End Park.
- The parade will start at 7pm each night and last approximately 60 minutes. There will be more places you'll be able to see it from too, with the route taking in Mill Street for the first time.

The event is free-to-attend. There is also a ticketed grandstand where people can pay for a better view.

There is also a program of other spooky events, for people of all ages, around Paisley Town Centre from 23rd October to 31st October. Many of these are free, details of these can be found at [www.paisley.is](http://www.paisley.is)



## Paisley HA achieves another funding success

We have managed to secure additional funding to support tenants managing their energy bills.

The funding comes from Energy Action Scotland and Scottish Gas Networks and will allow us to deliver a Home Energy Advisor to help people with their energy bills and to increase awareness of Carbon Monoxide.

This post will be split between Paisley HA and Williamsburgh HA.

Our new Home Energy Adviser, Susan McKenna, will help tenants to:

- Help tenants to better understand their energy bills and use
- Reduce their bills by using their energy more efficiently
- Deal with energy debt by accessing grants or making affordable repayments

Our new Home Energy Adviser joined us on 9th October 2024.

