

Warwickshire Rural Life

The residents' newsletter for
Warwickshire Rural Housing
Association

AUTUMN 2019

www.warwickshirerha.org.uk

Warwickshire
Rural
Housing
Association



Celebrating our
30th Anniversary



facebook

Remember to like
us on Facebook
and see all our
latest news.

Win an
Amazon Echo
Dot!
See page 3



DYAS GREEN

Our Chairman Retires

WRHA Chairman, Derrick Dyas, was stunned to unveil the sign at our new development in Stretton on Fosse and find that it's been named Dyas Green in his honour.

A special event was held with residents, partners and friends to mark WRHA's 30th Anniversary and Derrick's

retirement following a lifetime in social housing. Thirty years ago we developed our very first scheme at Stretton on Fosse and now the final phase has been completed for our anniversary.

Read the full story at
www.warwickshirerha.org.uk

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FOR YOUR BENEFIT

HELP TO CLAIM

A new service dedicated to supporting you through a Universal Credit claim has been launched by Citizens Advice.

Trained advisers are offering free, independent advice from your initial application right through to receiving your first full payment. Call free on 0800 144 8444 or visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk/helptoclaim to find your nearest service.



FREE MEALS

If you're on means-tested benefits or an annual income of less than £16,190 you could get help with free school meals, school uniform grants and transport. Visit www.gov.uk/browse/education/school-life



GRANDPARENTS BENEFITS

If you care for grandchildren aged under 12 you can qualify for class 3 national insurance credits (called specified adult childcare credits) and these count towards your qualifying years for a full state pension. Working parents need to give up the NI credits they receive when they claim child benefit and transfer them to you.



SMALL GRANTS

Many charities offer one-off payments that don't have to be paid back. They can help with things like new furniture, decorating or clothing. Visit <https://grants-search.turn2us.org.uk/> to see what's available in your area.

CHEAP ENERGY CLUB

Sign up to the free Cheap Energy Club run by MoneySavingExpert.com and state what your current energy tariff is. They'll tell you if you're overpaying and will monitor the market and email you if you can save. Visit www.moneysavingexpert.com/cheapenergyclub

FREE WILLS

Free Wills Month takes place every October and March and lets people aged over 55 get a will drafted by a solicitor for free. You'll be asked to leave money to charity in your will, but that's up to you. Visit freewillsmoonth.org.uk/

PENSION EXTRA

If you don't need your state pension immediately, especially if you're still employed, consider deferring it and earning more later. For every nine weeks you defer, your future weekly allowance increases by 1%. If you defer claiming for a year, you'll get the full pension plus 5.8% extra.

WIN AN ECHO DOT!



Don't miss our great competition to win an amazing Amazon Echo Dot smart speaker. With an Echo Dot you can use voice commands to play music, answer questions and loads of other tasks! All you need to do is email us a photo of the view from your home or garden to be in with a chance of winning. Send your entry to sue.haywood@midlandsrural.org.uk by 30th November 2019.

ANNUAL REPORT

Our Annual Report, which shows how we're delivering the best service possible for you, will be published on our website in October. If you would like a copy, please call **0300 123 4009**.

HOW TO ... RE-USE AND RECYCLE

Here's the latest guide in our 'How to...' feature to help you recycle your unwanted items. Rather than throwing away things you don't need anymore, there's sure to be someone in your community who would like them!

- List your items on Freegle and find someone who wants to come and collect them. Visit www.ilovefreegle.org
- Sign up to your local Freecycle.org group and give your things away.
- Donate any good quality clothes, books, bric-a-brac etc to your local charity shop.
- Check your council website for any local community furniture reuse schemes in your area.

FIRE KILLS

We're supporting the national campaign, Fire Kills, which aims to raise awareness of fire risks around the home and encourage everyone to test their smoke alarms regularly.

- Make sure you have smoke alarms both upstairs and downstairs.
- Test your smoke alarms every month.
- Don't overload plug sockets.
- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Put out candles before leaving a room or going to sleep.

For more fire safety tips, visit www.firekills.campaign.gov.uk

Ask us ...

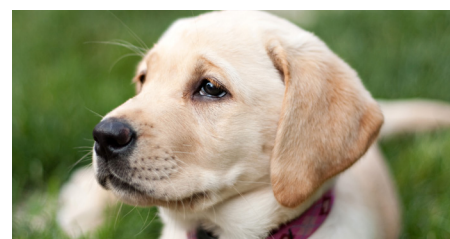
Have you got a question about your home or the services we provide? If so, ask away! We'll be answering one of your questions in every newsletter. Simply email them to sue.haywood@midlandsrural.org.uk

Jim asked: Should I call you if my electricity trips?

David Krause, Development and Maintenance Manager says:

The circuit breaker trips when too much electricity flows through it. This means the flow of electricity is cut off to stop your circuits overheating.

1. Turn off the light switches and unplug appliances in the room which has lost power.
2. Find your circuit breaker box and open the plastic lid.
3. Look for the breaker in the 'off' position – the switch which is pointing in an opposite direction to the others. Push the switch into the 'on' position.
4. You only need to call us if the breaker keeps tripping when you turn on the lights and appliances so we can find out the cause.



PETS & PROPERTY

Don't forget that if you want to keep a pet or make any alterations to your home, you need to gain our permission first.

Use myhomeonline to email us specific information or fill in the form on our website. For pets, give us details of the animal you'd like to get and let us know if there are any other pets in your property. For changes to your home, send us as much information as you can about what you're planning.

Celebrating our 30th Anniversary

We've been bringing affordable homes to local people for 30 years, helping to keep our rural communities alive. Here are some of our highlights!

1. Starting our first development at Stretton on Fosse in 1990
2. Completing new properties in Great Alne in 1994
3. Our 20th anniversary in 2009
4. Children enjoying our new play area at Angela's Meadow in 2010
5. Commemorating our 500th home in 2011
6. Celebrating Easter at our new homes in Snitterfield in 2013
7. The whole community celebrating our new homes in Ilmington in 2014
8. Local school children planting the first trees at Keyte Gardens in 2018



FAREWELL

Some 30 years ago I helped create WRHA because I felt that more was needed to help rural communities provide genuinely affordable housing for local people.

We've progressed remarkably well and by April 2020 we will have achieved just short of 600 homes that have allowed local people to stay in their communities despite the high cost of housing.

All good things come to an end. WRHA continues in fine fettle. Our performance levels are good and we're held in high regard. However, the rules that regulate housing associations dictate that I must leave the Association, which I very much regret.

I leave knowing that your Board of Management is well equipped to continue the good work that we have done in the past. I have really enjoyed my time at WRHA. So, my parting shot is to encourage you, our residents, to become involved in the work we do. If you have an interest in your home and the work we do, why not consider joining the Board and influence how we drive the Association forward?

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work for you.

Derrick Dyas, Former Chair of WRHA

Warwickshire
Rural
Life



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