Happy Christmas!

The spirit of Christmas fills the air,
and friendly hugs get even tighter.

At Christmas, lights burn brighter,
and people seem to really care.

Christmas poem

The Spirit Of Christmas
By: Lenora McWhorter

At Christmas, lights burn brighter,
and friendly hugs get even tighter. The spirit of Christmas fills the air,
and people seem to really care.

Happy Christmas!

Christmas Greetings

The Trustees and staff would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and wonderful holiday.
Wishing you all a healthy, prosperous and a Happy New Year!

Homefields Gardens Transformation

In the summer this year The Finchley Charities embarked on replacing the doors and windows at 40-88 Homefields Gardens, and roof work on blocks 1-18 & 19 - 36. We commissioned MNM to complete these works.

The roof project went smoothly and ended first. We are delighted with the work completed and hope residents can now be confident there will be no more leaks!

The windows and doors are near to completion, and the project team will be de-mobilising and leaving the site soon. The Finchley Charities and residents are very happy with the works completed. All are delighted with the white frames inside the properties which have made the interiors much brighter and even seem bigger! Thank you to all residents bearing with us for all the disruption for such a long period. We believe it was worth it!

Residents are very happy with the no more leaks!

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The Spirit Of Christmas poem

Happy New Year!

Wishing you all a healthy, prosperous and a Happy New Year!
The Finchley
Charities’ Open Day

On 6th October 2019, The Finchley Charities held their first Annual Open Day. It was a beautiful day and the local community got involved in the events.

There were lots of different stalls that included local artists work, flower arranging, crocheting, a plant stall, and wonderful homemade food. Some of our food was made by the residents at the event, grown from our garden. It was fantastic to see our residents, trustees, staff and the local community attending our event, with particular thanks going to our residents, who played a big part in our special day.

Weekly Maintenance Charges (WMC) for 2020

The Trustees have reviewed the increase for 2020 and are pleased to announce they have agreed not to increase the Weekly Maintenance Contribution from April 2020 and will keep this under review throughout the year.

Guest Room charges have been reduced from November 2019

The trustees have reviewed the costs of the Guest rooms and are pleased to announce the rates have decreased as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Current rate per night</th>
<th>Agreed new rate per night</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homefield Gardens</td>
<td>£35.00</td>
<td>£30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilmot Close</td>
<td>£30.00</td>
<td>£20.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Events for early 2020

New Year’s Party

Open to all residents across all our sites Friday 17th January 2020 7pm. This will be held at Homefields Gardens for all residents of The Finchley Charities.

Live music & Refreshments. We hope you can attend.

Annual Residents’ meeting with Trustees

Tuesday 4th February 2020 6pm. Pewterers Court
Tuesday 11th February 2020 6pm. Homefield Gardens
Tuesday 25th February 2020 6pm. Wilmot Close

I hope you can attend. Please submit any questions you may have to your Sheltered Housing Officer prior to the meeting.

Comfort Plus

Monday 3rd February

There will be a display of mobility and assistive aids.

Check you’re getting all the help you’re entitled to

Now’s a good time to check your finances and make sure you are receiving the benefits you’re entitled to.

There are a number of financial help schemes that can help with your energy bills this winter.

Winter Fuel Payment - this is an annual tax-free payment to help with heating costs. Make sure you’re registered to get it - once you are, you’ll receive it every year without having to do anything.

Cold Weather Payment - if it’s very cold where you live (at or below 0 degrees) for a period of time, and you’re receiving certain benefits, you may be eligible to receive £25 a week for each 7 day period of cold weather.

Warm Home Discount - this is a discount on your electricity bill. You may be able to get it if you get Pension Credit or are on a low income.

Budgeting Loans - if you’re receiving Pension Credit, Income Support, income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance or income-related Employment and Support Allowance, you may be able to get a Budgeting Loan to help with unexpected expenses. If you’re receiving Universal Credit you may be able to get other financial support.

If you would like some help and support regarding welfare benefits or any of the above, please contact your Sheltered Housing Officer.

Information from the Property Services Team

• We have just launched our Environmental Policy. If anyone would like a copy please contact us on 0208 346 9464.

• We would like to encourage our residents to get involved in the communal gardens and the gardening clubs. If you would like to plant anything such as seeds and bedding plants, please seek advice and agreement from the Property Services Team first.

• We are looking at ways to improve and engage residents in being more involved in what we do. If you have any comments or suggestions, please use the forms and boxes available in the communal areas at each site.

Mike Freer MP Tree Donation

On the 30th of October, our local MP, Mike Freer visited Homefield Gardens where he donated and helped plant a tree.