


Haig News

WINTER 2021

HAIG HOUSING'S NEWSLETTER



The statue
'Embracing Peace'
was erected at
Portsmouth Historic
Naval Dockyard to
coincide with the 75th
anniversary of D-Day
in June 2019

TRUST NEWS • TENANT NEWS • EVENTS • FUNDRAISING • INFORMATION

Message from Tim Stockings, **Chief Executive**

As I write the skies are blue, the sun is shining, the trees are putting on a fantastic display of colour but the temperature is plummeting. It may not be everyone's favourite time of year but I love the crisp mornings and the rustle of leaves as I walk the dog along the paths near me, a haven of tranquillity in a busy city. Which is what I hope many of our estates provide. It's also a time to plan for the year ahead, something we're busy doing here at head office.

We have ambitious plans for the next five years. We are going to dramatically increase our spending on upkeep, to make up some lost ground and to improve. In total we'll spend over £40 Million to make sure we can provide you with homes to be proud of. We recognise that we need to improve; it will take us time and we cannot do everything at once, especially given the problems with building supplies and skills shortages. We are also working behind the

scenes and you will shortly see a new branded website that we hope will improve access to our services.

We have frozen rents for most residents, which shows the value of being a charity. I hope that helps you balance your finances. We are looking to the future; trying to become more sustainable, respond to green initiatives and help look after our planet on which we depend. You'll see more work on habitats – the green areas that surround your homes. We encourage you to play your part in looking after your gardens and making them great places to spend time. It is Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee next year and we are planning how we can mark that very special occasion. If you have any ideas please let us know.

As I visit properties I am often asked: 'What more can Haig do for me?' I'd like us all to think 'What more can I do for others?' Being a good neighbour



takes many forms so please help us to build strong communities. At this time of year it is particularly important that we keep an eye out for those who might need an extra hand.

May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Tim Stockings
December 2021



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Front page picture:

The 25ft high statue 'Embracing Peace' at Portsmouth Historic Naval Dockyard was erected to coincide with the 75th anniversary of D-Day in June 2019, and was unveiled by D-day veterans on Sunday 2nd June before they travelled to Normandy the following day.

This is the European replica of the US based original that has been touring Europe to signify the outbreak of peace at the end of the Second World War. Both the original and the replica were created by sculptor Seward Johnson and depict an embrace between a returning serviceman and a local girl in Times Square, New York, based on a photograph of which originally appeared in Life magazine celebrating VJ Day.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

PLATINUM JUBILEE WEEKEND

In 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking seventy years of service, having acceded to the throne on the 6th February 1952.

The Jubilee will be celebrated throughout the year with a central weekend and extended bank holiday on Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June. The four days of celebrations will include public events and community activities, as well as national moments of reflection on her 70 years of service. Communities are encouraged to come together on Sunday 5th June for their own Jubilee celebrations and lunch.



THURSDAY 2ND JUNE

The Queen's Birthday Parade
(Trooping the Colour)
Platinum Jubilee Beacons

FRIDAY 3RD JUNE

Service of Thanksgiving

SATURDAY 4TH JUNE

The Derby at Epsom Downs
Platinum Party at the Palace

SUNDAY 5TH JUNE

The Big Jubilee Lunch
The Platinum Jubilee Pageant



Some ideas for marking our Patron's Platinum Jubilee

We'd love to see all residents celebrating together and there's plenty of time to start planning your festivities. We'll be sending out lots of suggestions and resources during 2022. We'd love to get your ideas too - communications@haighousing.org.uk

Have a street party – a long-standing tradition of celebrating. Simple to organise and a great way to get together with community.

A memorial plant or garden – we are planning to do something with the whole Haig Community to mark our Patron's Platinum Jubilee - this may be as simple as a memorial rose or could be a sustainable garden. We'll be sending out more details early next year.

Decorate your house and garden – once again, another great tradition and we've seen some spectacular decorations in the past.

IT'S COMPETITION TIME!

This competition is for your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews!

In 2022 Haig Housing will be working towards becoming more sustainable. We would love to get children's ideas for sustainable garden designs, for example:

- **A WILDLIFE GARDEN**
- **A GARDEN USING RECYCLED MATERIALS**
- **A RAINWATER GARDEN**
- **A WILDFLOWER MEADOW**

Send us their designs and the winning child will receive a £25 Amazon voucher and have their design featured in a future edition of Haig News.



BEST DECORATED HOUSE OR GARDEN

Send us your photographs of the Platinum Jubilee decorations in your house or garden. The best ones will be featured online and in a future edition of Haig News, and the winning entry will receive a £25 Amazon voucher.

We'll keep you posted on our website www.haighousing.org.uk and on social media. Keep a lookout for updates.

NEW STAFF MEMBERS

We like you to be able to put faces to names when you call us. These are just some of the new staff members we have welcomed in the last few months.



SIMON GILES has joined us direct from his career as Chief of Staff in the Royal Marines to become the new Regional Manager for Scotland. Simon brings with him extensive experience in MOD Estate and domestic property management.



JO HAWKINS is our new Communications & Digital Officer and is currently heavily involved with the new Haig website. Jo will be also be editing future editions of Haig News for the Trust.



STEPHEN POTTS joined us in July as our new IT Manager with a wealth of experience in developing, implementing, and improving IT services in busy demanding environments.



SHARON KEARSLEY has worked for Haig in various temporary positions over the years and we are delighted to finally welcome her onto the staff as our new Senior Support Hub Officer within Property Services Department.



DEBBIE SJOSVARD has been helping us out over the summer and we are pleased she is now joining Property Services Department on a three year contract as a Support Hub Officer.



BILL LINDSAY has been with the Trust since 2018 as Regional Manager (Scotland). After a short spell this year as Change Manager, we are excited to announce that Bill will be joining us in Morden as the new Housing Director.



DEPARTURE

We are sorry to be saying goodbye to **John Lau** who has been Haig's Housing and Development Director for the last fifteen years. Among his many achievements during this time was the delivery of the new Centenary Development at Morden. We will miss John and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

John (far left) introduces Her Majesty The Queen to two members of his team in 2019.

ANDY DUFFY retired at the end of August. Many of you will know Andy, who has been a Housing Manager with Haig since 2011. We will all miss Andy, and wish him well in his retirement.

Christmas Closing:

Please note that this year the office will be closed from Christmas Day 25th December and will reopen on Tuesday 4th January 2022 (Wednesday 5th January in Scotland)

IN MEMORIAM: SARAH HARDING 1981-2021

AMBASSADOR FOR HAIG HOUSING TRUST

Sarah became our Ambassador in 2017 when our campaign for severely wounded Veterans, Coming Home, was in its early years. She was impossibly glamorous and enchanting, and so keen to help. When she won Celebrity Big Brother in 2017 she could have elected to donate her Prize cheque for £50,000 to any number of worthy charities, but decided immediately that it should go to the Trust and the work that we undertake, especially in finding housing solutions for severely injured or wounded serving personnel and Veterans. As her mother, Marie, said soon after she slipped away peacefully on the morning of Sunday 5th September, she was a 'bright shining star'. That is how we will always remember her.



Sarah Harding presenting her winning cheque to former CE James Richardson and Michael Swain MBE, one of our Coming Home heroes, in 2017.

STAFF DAY OUT TO PORTSMOUTH



After more than 18 months of largely working from home due to Covid, it was a rare treat to meet up with colleagues old and new for an away day at the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. There was so much to see, from the Mary Rose Museum to Nelson's legendary warship HMS Victory. We can highly recommend this as a day out for any of you that live within reach and have an interest in Naval history, or just fancy a boat trip around Portsmouth harbour. Regular tickets are valid for a year, so you can return as many times as you want.

REMEMBRANCE FOR PHILLIP

On the 30th July 2021, we had another chance to remember Phillip Johnson at a memorial service held outside the Lawrence Weaver Institute in Morden. Phillip was our much valued friend and colleague who sadly passed away earlier this year. As a lasting memory, a new bench was unveiled outside Alban Dobson House.

The touching ceremony, during which a piper played a lament, was attended by Phillip's wife Vicky and his daughter Jessica, shown in the picture opposite, as well as many friends and colleagues.



60 years living in Southwood Court – Mrs Jean Hudson

“My late husband Spencer and I came to Southwood Court, Hampstead Garden Suburb, on 1st September 1961 as tenants of HAOF. Spen had been in the RAF and suffered quite long periods of ill health, so we felt very fortunate to find a pleasant flat in such a nice area. It was very kind of Tim Stockings, Haig CE, to come here to mark the occasion of my 60th anniversary here, bringing flowers and cake. I was only sorry that Spen was not here too.

The make-up of the residents has changed from being mostly fairly elderly (including widows from both wars) and entirely English, Scottish, Welsh or Northern Irish, to a lovely mix of age groups (elderly, middling and three families with little children who all play together on the lawn in summer) and different countries of origin (ten are represented here). It makes for a wonderful community and, until Covid, we were able to meet together every summer for a party on the



A tenant get-together at Southwood Court



communal lawn.

Since Spen died on the 3rd December 2012 I have been helped and encouraged by my very supportive neighbours. I am fortunate that I can say a thank you to them, and to all the helpful Haig Housing staff, by being the VEM. About 11 or 12 years ago Barbara Byrnes, our then

Housing Manager, asked me to take it on, and I have been well supported since by Andy Duffy until his recent retirement.”

Jean Hudson, November 2021

“Haig Housing hasn’t just given us a home, it’s brought us a life!”

Surrounded by family photographs of two happy, healthy, smiling boys, **Brian** and **Laura** from Norwich tell their story of the lifeline provided to them by Haig Housing.

Brian served in the Royal Logistics Corp from 2006 to 2012 and the couple are extremely thankful to have now found a home which suits their growing family. Their boys, Jake, aged 14 and Ethan, seven, are both autistic and when they were living in a small housing association

house, life was a struggle. Hit by unemployment, illness, mounting debts and lockdown, Brian and Laura, like many others, found it harder and harder to cope.

They reached out and the Royal British Legion and Haig Housing stepped in to help. They moved into their Norwich home in April this year and their lives changed overnight.

“We had literally nothing when we moved; debts were snowballing and we didn’t know where to turn.”

RBL helped them manage



their debts, Brian found work with a local Veteran friendly company and Laura started a course.

Both boys now have their own rooms which suits their needs. *“Our life chances have gone from zero to a billion” says Laura, “everyone on the estate has been so friendly and we’ve settled in really well.”*

“The boys are both flourishing. They are doing well at their new schools and have made friends on the estate” adds Brian “Haig is wonderful, the boys are thriving and we are optimistic about the future. There is a real feeling of community here and the banter is amazing”.

Bernice Little 1931–2021

Having resided in Haig Place, Penzance for forty years, Bernice Little possessed many characteristics; the most apparent being her ability to smile and encourage others to join in. Bernice made plenty of friends, many of whom were her church followers. Bernice also reminisced about her holidays in Scotland during which time she and her husband, John, became very friendly with those they met and delighted in the places they visited.

To all at Haig Place, the sad and sudden loss of Bernice came as a complete shock. We will always hold Bernice close to our hearts. Bernice will be remembered for her lovely smiling face and her beautiful style, funny jokes and the way in which she spread happiness. She will be sorely missed.

All our love to you, Bernice, bless you.

J Montgomery
October 2021



Birdman of Norwich

Sometimes you meet people who have interesting and unusual hobbies. Shane, one of our Norwich residents, has an all-consuming passion for his canaries.

Shane served in the Royal Tank Regiment from 1983 to 1988 and is a wheelchair user after a car accident in Germany left him paralysed from the chest down. In his aviary, he has over 100 birds which he breeds, and he finds this is essential in keeping him busy and occupied.

This is not a new interest as he has had canaries for 25 years and has always

had a passion for birds.

“Since the age of 13, I’ve kept birds – except for my time in the army of course – in the past I have kept Barn Owls, Snowy Owls and many other birds.”

As with many animals, Shane says that once you get to know them, you can see different personalities. He adds *“Some don’t shut up and you know which are the greedy ones”*. Luckily, wife Susan is also a fan and helps out with the feeding and cleaning.

If you know your canaries, these are Northern Royal Dutch Frilled Canaries, an attractive, neat little bird.



And, with such a hobby, you’d have thought Shane must be a supporter of the local football club, Norwich City, who are known as The Canaries.

However, in his own words,

Shane says *“I’ve no interest in football at all”*. He probably doesn’t have the time!

Paralympic skier; naval officer; public speaker; charity founder and racing motorcyclist **Talan Skeels-Piggins** was paralysed from the chest down in a motorcycle accident in 2003. A resident on the Ashted estate, he has now found the time to write a children’s book *“The Little Person Inside”*. It’s an inspirational story of love, positivity, bravery, sadness and hope, and a great read for children of all ages. Available on Amazon. We hope to tell you more about Talan in a future newsletter.



Staff talk by Haig Housing Trustee **Paul Findlay**

In October the entire Haig Housing staff were privileged to hear a talk from Haig Housing Trustee, Paul Findlay. Via Zoom from our home-working desks, our offices and with some watching together on a big screen, we listened to Paul's account of his early years growing up in 1980s Glasgow and how, following 9/11 and facing an uncertain future, he felt he should do something so he went down to the Army recruiting office and joined up.

After training and three operational tours of Iraq, Paul deployed to Afghanistan in 2009. His minute-by-minute account of the engagement where he was involved in an IED strike which resulted in the loss of his right leg, completely took us to the heart of the action, and we got an insight into Paul's experience in the midst of an enemy engagement.

The talk was not only engrossing and an inspiring story of courage in the face of the enemy, it also achieved its purpose in giving the Haig Housing staff more knowledge about what it's like to be a Veteran who has seen action. Paul went on to tell us about how this has affected his life and how many of the effects are not immediately visible but are long standing.

Paul was given a medical discharge in 2012. He has enjoyed a varied post-military career and is currently

working for The Football Association. He was awarded an MBE in the 2020 Queen's Birthday Honours list for his services to charity.



Paul pictured just hours before the IED attack in 2009.

INTRODUCING THE **TRUSTEES**

We have two more Haig Trustees here for you to meet. Trustees are essential to the running of every charity. Our amazing Trustees give us support and guidance, and receive no payment for their time. You can read more about them all on our website.



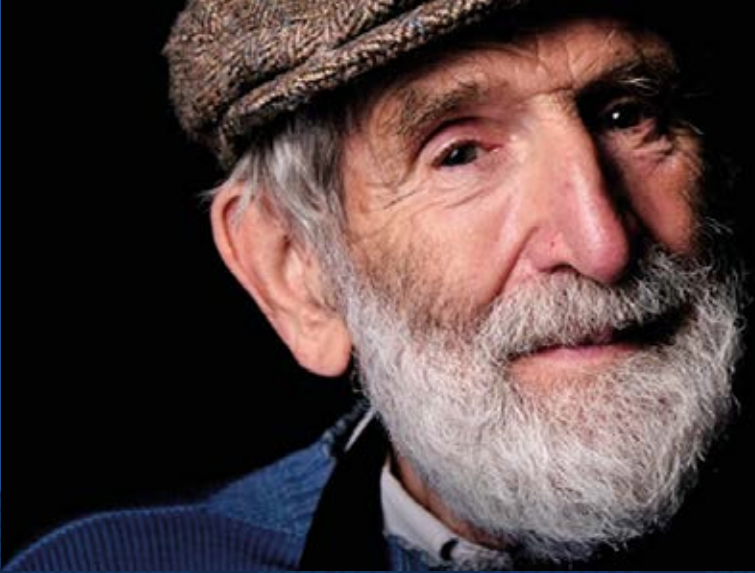
Ian Vere Nicoll is our Vice Chair and has been a trustee of Haig Housing since 2018 and serves on the Finance and Risk Committee. He is a former regular Royal Artillery officer who served in UK, Germany, Northern Ireland and Bosnia. He commanded the King's Troop RHA and

14 Regiment RA. He was the General and Regimental Secretary of the Royal Regiment of Artillery for 13 years running their numerous Charities, which included some housing. He is also a Trustee of the Forces Pension Society Charitable Fund.



Andrew Weir has been a trustee of Haig Housing since 2017, serving on our People Committee. He began his career 30 years ago at Saatchi & Saatchi, and currently he has a leadership role at Publicis Media, a global communications consulting agency. He works with blue

chip global clients on strategy, creativity and new ways of working in a new communications world driven by changes in technology, digital and data.



Remembering JOHN WIGHTMAN

BY PETER BESGROVE
(FORMER HAIG CHIEF EXECUTIVE)

Commodore John Wightman, who died earlier this year, was a senior Trustee of Haig Homes and also Chairman of Haig's Scotland Committee for almost 20 years. As a former Commodore RN, Chairman of Morton Fraser and Her Majesty the Queen's Solicitor in Scotland, he used his formidable skills to the benefit of Haig Homes. He was a driving force in de-registering the Trust from the Housing Corporation and forming Haig Housing Trust. His clear, incisive advice to the charity was always much appreciated and he was an energetic champion of the charity's beneficiaries. He personally visited every tenant of the Trust in Scotland at least once a year if not frequently more often. His connections to the charity world in Scotland were many and he was rightly held in high regard by all. He was a passionate advocate for those who found themselves in difficulties.

It is not surprising that one of his many outside legal duties was the careful dissolution of the Carnegie estates in Scotland. His brief was that any actions taken, and they were not time limited, were to be for the benefit of the people of Scotland. He was meticulous and generous in carrying out this duty. He was also a much respected Scottish historian, skilful sailor, salmon fisher and bird watcher. He chaired the Forestry Commission Scotland and was also a senior figure in the RSPB Scotland. His recognition of birds by their call alone in the remote Highlands was an

unforgettable experience, particularly after an exhausting trek across harsh terrain. His energy and enthusiasm for all he undertook was inspiring and he undoubtedly helped modernise and move Haig Homes forward. The Trust will be forever in his debt, as will I; he was a dear friend and a superb Trustee of the Charity.

BY MARY FORGIE
(EDINBURGH), OCTOBER 2021

Mary has lived on our Saughton Mains estate in Edinburgh for over 43 years and these are her recollections of John. Mary stresses that times and expectations have changed over the years, and the houses are no longer neglected!

The phone rang. I picked up and said "Hello", to hear "John Wightman for Mrs Mary Forgie" in slow, measured tones. I almost stood at attention!! That was the effect John had on people. Respect – not fear.

Back in the 1990s the Edinburgh tenants had formed an association to make us a community, as the houses were neglected. Joining together gave us a louder voice. Repeated requests to meet the Scottish Committee were ignored.

Then Commodore John Wightman arrived in the Scottish Committee and the whole system changed. He began to visit us, looked all around. Things improved on the estate. We invited him to our annual

meetings resulting in many more changes – the grounds were kept better and repairs made faster. He listened to tenants; if he disagreed, he made sure they understood why. He and I could speak openly to each other without rancour. He backed us up when we had problems with the council, leading to him and a councillor standing nose to nose once. John won.

When he discovered that grounds in our area belonged to Haig Homes, he set about obtaining backing for more houses. He organised a lunch with Earl Haig at the head of the table, with John on one side and me on the other. He said "you can talk to anyone, Mary" (a backhanded compliment?). By this time I was on the Scottish Committee. Earl Haig fully backed the plans, and Dania Court was the outcome.

Around 2008 John talked me into going onto a Morden Committee as Scottish representative, but after three years I had to resign as my husband Bill was ill. John came down many times to talk Navy talk, and his kindness when I had cancer was also appreciated.

A true gentleman.



Commodore John Wightman (centre right) meets HRH The Duke of Edinburgh at the opening of Dania Court and Pollard Glebe in Edinburgh in 1997



Bridge Recruiting Charity Golf Day



Haig Housing has been Bridge Recruitment's 'Charity of the Year' for two years now, since fundraising had to be curtailed in 2020 because of Covid. They held a fundraising golf day for us at Dartford Golf Club on the 16th July. Managing Director Sue Penman said *"what an absolutely fantastic day we had, and I was over the moon that we were able to raise what we did for Haig Housing"*. Thank you so much Sue, we were over the moon as well.



L to R: Pat Horgan, Sue Penman, Tim Stockings and Paul Sangster

Haig was represented at the event by Patrick Horgan, Corporate Director, and David Waggott, Senior Surveyor. Pictured below is the cheque for the amazing £6,000 that Bridge raised, presented by Sue Penman, Managing Director and Paul Sangster, General Manager, to Haig Housing's Chief Executive Tim Stockings.



Ready for a challenge in 2022?

If you are thinking of taking up a challenge for 2022, why not raise some money for Haig Housing at the same time?

Challenge events help raise money for the Trust and take part across the UK. They include various marathons and cycling events and usually require a place to be booked well in advance.

There are thousands of events to choose from and if you sign up to run / cycle / walk / climb / row or anything else, please think about doing so

for Haig Housing. **WE CURRENTLY HAVE THREE PLACES AVAILABLE FOR RIDE LONDON 2022, 29TH MAY NEXT YEAR!** Ride London starts in central London and takes a route around Essex, and you need to pledge to raise £600. Contact us for full details!

Contact our fundraising team on **020 8685 5777** for help and advice or email **fundraising@haighousing.org.uk**

You can also fundraise for Haig while shopping online!

Shop online at www.smile.amazon.co.uk, choose Haig Housing Trust as your charity, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases at no cost to you. It really is so easy.

Another way to raise funds is to sign up with www.giveasyoulive.com and select Haig Housing Trust as your charity. Through the Give as you Live website, choose from hundreds of online retailers and hit the Shop Now button. Anything you buy will generate a donation of between 1-3% of the purchase price for Haig Housing.



Communicating with HAIG HOUSING

The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the significant role digital technology plays in all of our lives. From the way we work and learn to keeping in touch with family and friends, digital technology has been a life-saver all round.

Most organisations made rapid changes to the way they worked and Haig Housing was no exception. We recognise the importance of having the right systems in place to support our tenants.

Why is this important?

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to do business with Haig Housing. Whether it's to report a repair or pay your rent online, we want to make sure that it's as simple for you to do it online as it is to pick up the phone. Just like online banking, ordering a pizza or using the NHS app.

You will have much more choice in how you interact with us – you'll be able to use all of the usual methods to keep in touch with us but we'll also give you more digital options.

What will be different?

You will notice very little difference; we'll have some new services rolling out alongside our existing ways of communicating with you. We'll also soon have a brand new website with the same address **www.haighousing.org.uk**



What if I don't have a digital device or use technology?

You can still contact us by the usual methods – by telephone and in writing.

We'll roll out digital services slowly and make sure that they are working properly. In October we set up a new texting service (see details below) to let people know the details of any repair which they have booked. You will have much more choice in how you interact with us – you'll be able to use all of the usual methods to keep in touch with us but we'll also give you more digital options.

NEW TEXTING SERVICE

We have a new text service with alerts about your Repairs visits.

Just report a repair in the normal way

- **Telephone:** call 020 8685 5777 and choose Option 1 for the Repairs department
- **Email:** email the issue through to repairs@haighousing.org.uk
- **Letter:** please mark for the attention of Repairs at Alban Dobson House, Green Lane, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5NS

We will arrange the repair the usual way and contact you to let you know when the work will be carried out. We will now also send you a text message to confirm your works order details.

eNEWSLETTER

October saw Haig Housing's first eNewsletter with lots of news and useful information. We'll be sending these out quarterly to all residents for whom we have an email address. Please make sure that your details are up to date. And if you don't have an email address, you won't miss out as all of the information in the eNewsletter will be in the next edition of Haig News.

NEW WEBSITE

We're developing a brand new website which will make it easier for you to access Haig Housing services. Look out for updates early next year.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Love it or hate it – it's here to stay! If you use Social Media please follow us and help us share our news and stories.

 [HaigHousingTrust](https://www.instagram.com/HaigHousingTrust)
 [@HaigHousing](https://twitter.com/@HaigHousing)
 [Haig Housing](https://www.linkedin.com/company/HaigHousing)
 [@HaigHousingTrust](https://www.facebook.com/@HaigHousingTrust)



John with Harriet Myers and her portrait.

John Bradbury

Charity Founder and Artist Submariner fascinated by Outer Space

It's not often you meet with someone who has so many passions. Mr John Bradbury is such a person with many interests – from sci-fi to family military history and from Space travel to Submariners welfare.

John has lived on the Morden estate since 2019 and since retirement has spent his time making models and putting his considerable artistic painting skills on canvas.

Born in Stoke on Trent, John joined the Navy in 1976 and was drafted into the Submarines which he served on from 1980-1998. "In those days, they often didn't get enough volunteers for the submarines, so if you were told that's what you were doing you followed orders". John's career included serving on Polaris submarines with tours of duty lasting 14 weeks. Staying sub-surface for weeks at a time didn't faze John, although it seems the crew

lived in pretty cramped conditions. "There was a crew of 164 men and not enough bunks for all of the men so many hot bunked" John recalls. With little news from families, it must have been hard at times, but John says "it was a good atmosphere on board, everyone just got on with their jobs."

We Remember Submariners

Submariners are a close-knit, proud and resourceful bunch of people. Following the tragic murder of Lt Cdr Ian Molyneux GM RN on board HMS Astute in April 2012, John simply wanted to collect some money to provide a wreath for the funeral. Amazingly, over 200 submariners joined together via Facebook and contributed to this quest.

By selling pin badges, John Bradbury raised enough money for a wreath for the funeral and, with money left over

and growing support on Facebook, We Remember Submariners became an official charity in 2017.

The charity continues to support submariners, sending a wreath and condolence card for serving or retired submariners who cross that bar, providing wreaths for submarine memorial ceremonies such as The National Submariners Memorial Service and also by giving financial assistance to submariners who have fallen on hard times.

When there is a submarine disaster anywhere in the world, WRS is on hand to raise money to support the families of the crew members. £31,000 was raised for the families of the 44 submariners that sadly died aboard the Argentinian submarine, ARA San Juan, in November 2017. Following many months of dealing with bureaucratic difficulties,

eventually the money was transferred after a 'gargantuan' effort by many individuals and further cemented the relationship between UK and Argentina.

Earlier this year, Indonesian submarine KRI Nanggala-402 went missing on 21 April 2021, hours after losing contact with surface personnel. Three days later, debris from the submarine was recovered from the surface. WRS raised money for the families of the 53 who sadly perished and a cheque for £53,000 was presented from the gangway of HMS Richmond at Jakarta, Indonesia.



<https://we-remember-submariners.com/charity-information/make-a-donation>

Ever since school, John has been interested in art and manages to fit painting and model making in alongside his many other activities.



Interestingly for someone who has spent many years below the surface of the sea, one of his major interests is space. A keen collector of memorabilia from the NASA space programme, John's models of the Apollo missions are superbly intricate.

John has also painted many portraits including one of Lt Cdr Ian Molyneux GM RN which will be presented by his

wife, Gillian Molyneux, Patron of WRS to the wardroom Faslane.

John's proudest work is the portrait of Nat Gould (left) who was a submariner in WW2 and won the Victoria Cross.

Some of you may recognise John's portrait of Harriet (opp page) who was awarded the Mayor of Merton's Covid Award for helping residents of the Morden estate during the early part of the pandemic. She helped out enormously doing shopping and running errands for residents on the estate.

If you or anyone you know has an interesting story or hobby you would like to share, please contact your Housing Manager or send us an email to communications@haighousing.org.uk. We'd love to hear your stories. Also if you know of any 'Covid Heroes' that you think should be recognised in a future newsletter, please send us their details.

KEEPING WARM THIS WINTER

Here is some sensible advice from Age UK which is useful for us all to remember however old we are:

- Make sure you get your annual flu jab, which is free if you are over 50, a carer, or have a long-term medical condition.
- Stay warm when you're out and about. When you go out, a scarf and layers of clothing will help you stay warm.
- Keep your home warm – find a temperature that suits you and keep your home at a stable temperature.
- Get a benefits check at your local Age UK to check you're claiming all you're entitled to.
- Contact your energy supplier and ask them about their Energy Companies Obligation scheme which could save you money.
- Write down emergency numbers, such as the doctor, energy suppliers, a plumber, a neighbour or emergency contact just in case.

For more information, contact Age UK on **0800 169 65 65** and order a Winter wrapped up information guide or visit their website at www.ageuk.org.uk/winter.



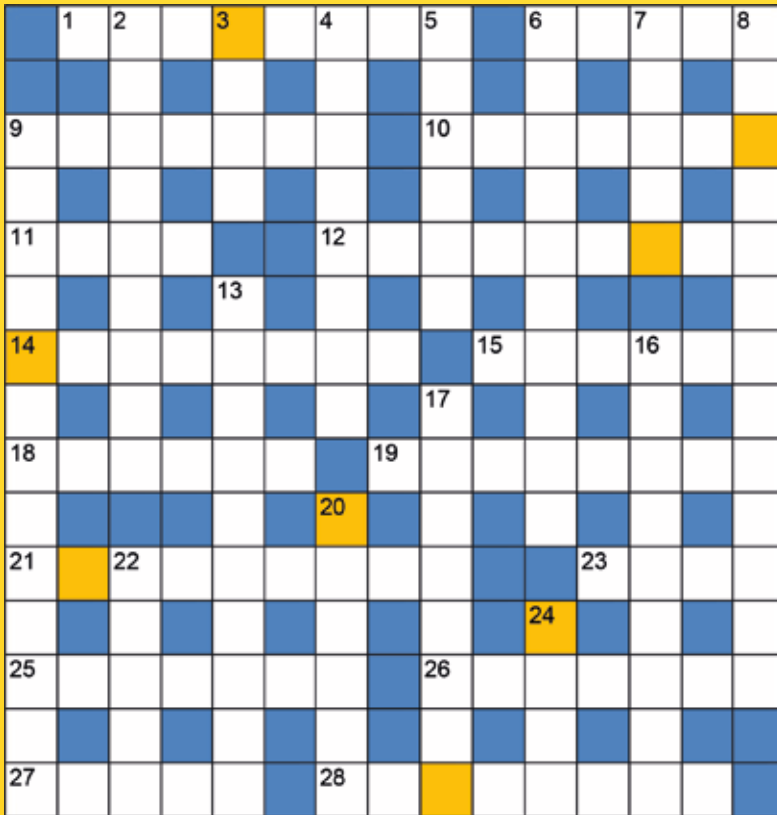
MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES



With the stresses of the pandemic we have all become more aware of how easy it is to develop mental health issues. Combat Stress provides a range of community, outpatient and residential mental health services to veterans with complex mental health problems. They provide services in-person, and via phone and online. Their **24-hour Helpline 0800 138 1619** remains available to all veterans and their families for confidential mental health advice and support and they have online self help available for guidance and support. Read the article they wrote for Haig about PTSD on the Health and Wellbeing section on www.haighousing.org.uk.



QUICK CROSSWORD



The letters in the gold squares spell the location of one of Haig's estates. Email communications@haighousing.org.uk with the name of the estate by 31st December 2021 and we'll send you a Haig memory stick. Crossword solution will be in the Summer edition of Haig News.

Across

- 1 Hypersensitive, susceptible
- 6 A person who distrusts the motives of others
- 9 Interweave
- 10 Fatty substance found on sheep's wool
- 11 Assist someone in committing a crime
- 12 Flirtation, passing interest
- 14 Jailbird
- 15 A big fancy cake
- 18 Consider; respect; esteem
- 19 Goes through the axle to keep the wheel on; an essential element of something
- 21 Chatty
- 23 Opposed to
- 25 More unclean
- 26 First letter of a word
- 27 Reacts with oxygen to make bread rise
- 28 Drew a picture of

Down

- 2 Inscription, characters on a sign
- 3 Send forth, vent
- 4 More desirous of (particularly food!)
- 5 Unemotionally
- 6 Collusion, complicity
- 7 A plastic material that gave its name to a type of women's stocking
- 8 Resulting, significant
- 9 In an irritated manner
- 13 Someone who writes about the news
- 16 Not cheap
- 17 Realistic in appearance
- 20 Genus that includes oranges and lemons
- 22 The immature form of an insect
- 24 A silvery white metal used for coating iron to prevent rust

SUDOKU

Place one each of the digits 1 to 9 in every row, column and 3x3 box. Solution on page 19.

	2			3			5
5		3			2	1	
	4	1			3		
				4		8	
				6		3	2
7			8	2			
	7	2			4	5	
	6		3	5	7		
3				9			

RIDDLES

Two fathers and two sons are in a car, but there are only three people in the car. How can that be?

What two things can you never eat for breakfast?

When is a door no longer a door?

If your uncle's sister is not your aunt, what relationship is she to you?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 19





ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS BREAKFAST CLUBS

The clubs provide a relaxed, safe and social environment for Armed Forces personnel to meet face-to-face and enjoy breakfast and banter, to combat loneliness and allow Veterans to 'return to the tribe'

There are many clubs all over the UK including Northern Ireland and Scotland and you can use the 'find a club' option to find the closest club to you.

There are no fees or subs, they are completely free to attend – you just have to pay for your own breakfast.

www.afvbc.net/find-a-club/



Our four legged friends:

HAPPY DOG HAPPY HOME

Many dogs were bought for company during the pandemic and the Dogs Trust is offering a FREE hour-long presentation on preparing them to cope with being left alone.

With people starting to return to offices and more normal life, this can mean, for some, leaving their dogs by themselves more than they have been.

If you would like some advice, support and guidance, to help you and your dog being apart more, then book a FREE place, either, for an online Webinar through Zoom, or for a face-to-face presentation at one of their rehoming centres.

Sign up for your FREE place now - www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/dogs-trust

The Poppy Factory supports veterans with health conditions on their journey into employment, helping them overcome any challenges.

The Poppy Factory has been supporting wounded, injured and sick veterans for nearly 100 years, and continues to stand by them on their journey into employment and beyond.

To register for support and for information about their employment service, please visit poppyfactory.org/employment



THE POPPY FACTORY

getting you back to work

Employment support for veterans with health conditions



CHAMPIONING ARMED FORCES PENSIONS SINCE 1966

HELP WITH YOUR PENSION

The Forces Pension Society is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that acts as a pension watchdog for the entire military community. The Society empowers its members to make better, well-informed choices about their Armed Forces Pension by providing personalised pension guidance. Their work is funded entirely by subscriptions from membership, with any surplus helping fund their outreach programmes of free-to-attend Roadshows and Webinars at bases throughout the country and overseas, and at CTP Employment Fairs.

Membership is just £41 a year and includes: inclusive membership for you and your spouse/partner; exclusive access to a team of Forces Pensions Consultants who will provide individual guidance through the complexities of the AFP Schemes; access to informative Member-only Webinars; copies of bi-annual newsletters and magazines, Pennant; access to membership benefits offering discounts across a range of products and services.

www.forcespensionsociety.org

Income Team Update

At Haig, we provide homes to improve the lives of Veterans and their families. We understand that your home is everything. We also understand that things can get overwhelming at times; getting advice is often the first step to putting you back in control.

There are many pressures on us all at the moment - reductions in Universal Credit, increases in fuel bills and other expenses place a huge strain on finances. Combined with the end of the Furlough scheme,

which may create more redundancies or changes to working hours, the future may be looking a little uncertain for you.

If you think you might struggle to pay your rent, don't ignore the problem. Talk to us as soon as possible. Whether the problem is caused by a change of circumstances, a budgeting difficulty or a cut in benefits, you can take some important steps to help get yourself back in control.

It's understandable that you might be afraid of explaining you're going to be late with the rent but it's far better to get the issue out in the open.

Please contact the Incomes Team at Haig Housing as soon as you think that there might be a problem.

Jan, Lorna and Toni have many years of experience in housing and

in helping people. If they can't help you directly, they can signpost you to where you can get help.

There are some **practical steps** that you can also take such as adding notes to your Universal Credit journal to say that you are a Veteran or a partner (this includes ex-partners) or if you have mental health issues – these can be picked up as alerts by the Armed Forces Champion and by other initiatives run by the DWP.



**Don't Wait
Seek Advice
Get Help**

There are many agencies which can provide support:

Universal Credit: www.gov.uk/universal-credit

Local Housing allowance - Local Authority (Where the claimant or both claimants are over state benefit age)

Benefit Calculator: www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators

Council Tax reduction - Local Authority

Pension Credits: www.gov.uk/pension-credit

Income Support Scheme for the Self Employed:

www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk

Discretionary Housing Payments: www.gov.uk/government/publications/claiming-discretionary-housing-payments/claiming-discretionary-housing-payments

U Switch: www.uswitch.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION IF YOU ARE STILL USING A POST OFFICE CARD ACCOUNT

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) was originally due to close Post Office card accounts (POcas) by November 2021. This deadline has been **extended for pensioners until November 2022**.

You should have received a letter from the DWP telling you about this and encouraging you to switch to a mainstream bank account.

Please remember, if you find yourself having problems, don't hesitate to contact us so we can give as much help and advice as possible to get you through this difficult time.

Janet, Lorna and Toni
The Income Team

T: 020 8685 5777 (option 2)
E: incomes@haighousing.org.uk

Sustainable improvement programme for Hampstead Garden Suburb estate

As part of an exciting UK-wide improvement programme and with a plan to spend in excess of £40 million over the next five years, Haig Housing Trust recently completed a major repair and renovation project on the Hampstead estate.

Southwood Court in Hampstead is a 1920s Grade II listed Arts and Crafts style building with 24 flats.

Rather than continuing with the piecemeal approach to repair and maintenance, a major refurbishment and renovation programme was put in place specifically for the windows, chimneys, brickwork, external joinery and drains.

Not only did the project need to have as little disruption as possible to the residents who remained in their homes throughout the works, it also needed to satisfy the planning requirements of the Hampstead Gardens Suburbs Trust (HGST) which sets out strict conditions on the quality of work on these listed buildings.

The main contractor, Niblock Builders

Limited, had the level of professionalism needed to complete the works to the highest possible standards. In line with Haig Housing's drive for sustainability, the objective was to maintain rather than renew and this required specialist joinery subcontractors to carry out specific renovation work.

It is testament to Niblock's communication that over the eight months of intense and intrusive works, there were no formal complaints and the residents were indeed complimentary throughout. Mrs Jean Hudson, resident on the estate for 60 years said "The contractors, Niblock Builders and Repaircare London (window specialists) were both very professional, worked to a high standard of craftsmanship and were pleasant and accommodating to tenants' needs. There was some noise and dust and the scaffolding kept our rooms dark, but the end result is well



worth the temporary discomfort. The building looks much smarter now and is in better condition."

The HGST inspecting architect was delighted and pleasantly surprised at the excellent quality of works which has transformed the estate. Tim Stockings, Chief Executive of Haig Housing said "this is the type of project we expect to replicate across all of our estates - happy residents, a sustainable and low maintenance repair programme and a good contractor relationship". This is one of the first of the planned estate improvements and over the next five years you will see many internal and external improvements being made to properties across the UK.

New homes for Scotland



From left to right: Lauren Purves, Sales Assistant, Theresa Barbour, Sales and Marketing Director, Tim Stockings, Haig CE, Lynn Hannah, Regional Sales Manager

Scotland is one of the areas of the country where demand is high for our homes. Tim Stockings recently met with Avant Homes to see the first of the four properties which have been purchased on the Highstone Hall Estate, Hamilton. These new build properties will help address the lack of three-bedroom homes in the area and will be ready for occupancy early in 2022.

This is the start of an exciting new relationship with Avant Homes who are keen to continue to help Veterans and their families. Haig Housing is extremely grateful for the generous support given.

New gate on Haig's Bristol estate

Lockdown caused problems on our Bristol estate with many non-residents accessing an area of Blaise Woods to the rear of the estate. With this came an increase in litter, dog bags and people wandering around the estate. After a survey of residents carried out by Housing Manager, Laura King, a close board fence was erected with a lockable gate to restrict access only to tenants.

The residents of the estate are delighted with the work. The overwhelming feedback is that the Trust acted quickly to address their concerns and the contractor was very professional in the execution of works.

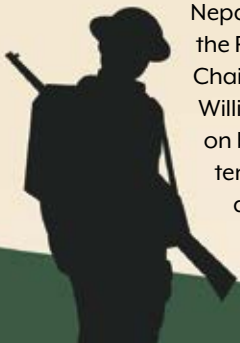


Thanks to Haig tenant Jack Holmes of King's Heath, Birmingham, who is a renowned local artist. He has sent us this amazing painting which he hopes can be used to raise funds to help heroes. We will do what we can, although we may just hang it on the wall and enjoy it for a while first!

Morden Remembrance 2021

Our ceremony this year was held on the 11th November in the Peter Walley Memorial Garden at the heart of the new Centennial Development. It was led by the Rev David Heath-Whyte of St Lawrence Church and wreaths were laid on behalf of Merton Council, Blesma, the South London Nepalese Association and the Rotary Club of Morden. Chair of Trustees David Williams laid a wreath on behalf of Haig and tenants Alan Spencer and John Bradbury did readings.

We were honoured to have the amazing Maurillia Simpson sing the National Anthem. Lance Corporal Simpson left the Army in 2013 following a car accident whilst in training for deployment to Afghanistan. She has subsequently taken part in the Invictus Games, winning a gold for discus and a silver for shotput. In 2016 she sang in the Invictus Choir at the Invictus opening ceremony in front of Prince Harry and Michelle Obama. We hope to bring you her full story in a future newsletter.



Wreaths for Remembrance Day

If you would like to lay a wreath on behalf of Haig Housing on Remembrance Sunday 2022 please contact communications@haighousing.org.uk and we will arrange for one to be sent to you

We are sorry the Newsletter had to go to print before any pictures were available from ceremonies around the estates, you can see these on our website www.haighousing.org.uk

Small Spaces Gardening Competition!

RESULTS



We only received two entries for our Small Spaces competition. Both of these beautiful spaces were to be found on our Morden estate and rather than cause any neighbourly discord we are

declaring this a draw. Many thanks to David and Sharon Heath who created the elegant dining area on the left, and to Julie Coogan who provided the colourful pot plant display on the

right. We hope your well-deserved garden vouchers will help you create something equally lovely next summer.

NEW COMPETITION!
Please see page 3 for two platinum jubilee competitions!

COMPETITION RESULTS AND SOLUTIONS

Crossword Solution Summer 2021

	F	A	S	A	I	G	B	
	R	E	M	O	T	E	C	O
A	E	A	A	O	N	O	A	
C	R	E	L	B	A	L	L	I
E	F	G	L		H	T	K	
S	W	A	N	A	G	E	F	I
	L	M	M	R	S		E	
P	U	L	P	K	A	P	U	T
R		E	T	S	L	E		
O	N	S	T	A	G	E	T	R
S	H	R		R	N	L	I	
P	Y	R	O	M	A	N	I	A
E	I	A	O	T	O	G	E	F
C	A	M	B	R	I	D	G	E
T	P	K	E	D	N	E		

Riddles on P14

- 4. Your mother
- 3. When it is ajar
- 2. Lunch and dinner
- father and son
- 1. They are grandfather,

The Haig estate to find was SOUTHEND

Answer to Sudoku on P14

6	2	7	9	1	3	8	4	5
5	9	3	7	4	8	2	1	6
8	4	1	2	6	5	3	7	9
2	1	6	5	3	4	9	8	7
4	8	9	1	7	6	5	3	2
7	3	5	8	2	9	1	6	4
9	7	2	6	8	1	4	5	3
1	6	4	3	5	2	7	9	8
3	5	8	4	9	7	6	2	1

FEEDBACK FROM HAIG NEWS SUMMER 2021

We are always very happy to hear from our readers with suggestions for stories and features and any suggestions about how we can improve the newsletter. We included a short feedback sheet with the Summer edition of Haig News and a big thank you to the seventy people who completed it and for the lovely comments we received.

We are pleased to see that the newsletter is broadly providing useful and interesting information.

Readers expressed that they would like to see more news from estates around the UK. We would like that too, but we can only print what you send us. So if there is anything you would like us to feature please get in touch via telephone or communications@haighousing.org.uk



CHRISTMAS CLOSING

The office will be closed from Christmas Day 25th December and will reopen on Tuesday 4th January 2022 (Wednesday 5th January in Scotland)

HOW TO CONTACT HAIG

Our postal address is **Haig Housing, Alban Dobson House, Green Lane, Morden, Surrey SM4 5NS.**

Our telephone number is **020 8685 5777**. This number is staffed Monday to Fridays from 9am to 5pm. Outside these times and on Bank Holidays the number will automatically transfer, after a short delay, to our Emergency Maintenance Operator. Please note if you have a **GAS EMERGENCY** you should phone **0800 111 999**.

Our email address is **enquiries@haighousing.org.uk**. You can also contact us on social media, but should note that we may not be able to reply outside working hours.



HaigHousingTrust



@HaigHousing



Haig Housing



@HaigHousingTrust



This is *your* newsletter.

Please help us to make it relevant to you.

Please let us know about the commemorations, celebrations, anniversaries and fundraising happening in your area and we will do our best to include your news in our next issue.

We are also hoping more Haig residents will share their life stories in future editions, and if that could be you, please email jo.hawkins@haighousing.org.uk, telephone **020 8685 5777**.

Is English not your first language?

If you need any Haig official information translated or need a translator for any verbal communication with Haig Housing then please contact our Head Office to arrange this.

Do you have a visual impairment?

If you need copies of any Haig information in **LARGE PRINT** or **BRILLE** then please contact our Head Office.

PRODUCTION

Produced by Haig Housing with contributions from beneficiaries, Veterans, staff and supporters. Thanks to all of you.

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If you want to comment on this edition or contribute to the next newsletter please contact Jo Hawkins, Haig News, Alban Dobson House, Green Lane, Morden SM4 5NS, telephone 020 8685 5777, email jo.hawkins@haighousing.org.uk

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