



# "THE BUZZ"

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOLIHULL CARE HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD

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## Parkgate Scheme Underway!

**Building work is now underway on SCHA's exciting new extra care housing scheme for the elderly at Parkgate, off Haslucks Green Road in Shirley.**

The development comprises 33 x 1 bed flats for rent and 18 x 2 bed flats to be offered for sale on a shared ownership basis. In addition, a range of communal facilities is being provided including lounge, dining room, laundry, hairdressing salon, activities room, assisted bathrooms and a rooftop conservatory. Two guest bedrooms for visitors are also being provided

All of the flats are fully self-contained with their own front door. However, residents will benefit from the provision of care and support packages, along similar lines to those on offer at Phoenix House, to enable them to maintain independent living for so long as they are capable of so doing.

The £multi-million development, which is due for completion in March 2015, has been designed by Nicol Thomas Ltd and is being built by award winning contractors Jessup Build Develop of Cannock.

Hunters Estate Agents have been appointed as the Association's marketing agents for the shared ownership flats but will not launch the main marketing campaign until Summer 2014.

"We completed the purchase of the site from Shirley Advance in November 2013 and have secured the necessary funding from the Homes & Communities Agency and Lloyds Bank to enable the scheme to proceed" said SCHA General Manager Lloyd Bradshaw. "We are delighted to have entered into a design and build contract with Jessup Build Develop whom we have every confidence will produce a top-class building for us.

It is a superb location with a full range of facilities virtually on the doorstep.

We will be working closely with Solihull Council both during the development period and once the building has been completed so as to ensure the flats are allocated to those most in need."

***For further information please e mail:  
administrator@scha.org.uk***



*Happy New Year from the team at SCHA!*



## Memories

**As an ex-member of the Women's Land Army, I thought you would like to hear one of the funny stories which happened to me.**

After going home for the weekend, I collected my bike on the Sunday evening and rode about two feet when a voice said "I hope you are not going far on that!" I got off, turned around and saw the village policeman.  
"Yes" I said, "I'm going to Shuckburgh Hostel."  
"Not on that bike, you have no lights" I hadn't realised they weren't working. My answer was "Oh dear, I'll have to walk and push it" and then carried on.

I walked a couple of miles out of the village then decided to risk it so got on my bike and rode for about a mile before I came to the place where we all met.

I saw someone riding a bike towards me – he shouted and asked if it was Marjorie and I said "yes." He came across to me and said "Get off your bike." He was a farmworker I had been working with and he had come to meet me because the village policeman who had stopped me had rung the village police where I was going to look out for a land-girl who might be riding her bike with no lights.

The girls were waiting for me in the pub and the police had come in to tell the manager and was overheard so Tom borrowed one of the girl's bikes to come to warn me so we walked back together.

The policeman was outside the pub but could do nothing as I was walking.

Tom fixed my lights as I was about to ride the other three miles to the hostel with the girls.

**Marjorie Eglinton, Phoenix House**

**Do you have some fond memories? If so, why not send them to us.**



## Successful Promotional Event

**Supported housing providers came together for a promotional event in November at the Civic Centre in Solihull.**

The services provided are aimed at supporting some of the most vulnerable people in Solihull and helping them to cope with some challenging situations.

The Mayor of Solihull, Joe Tildesley and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, Cllr Bob Sleigh toured the event and were particularly impressed with the passion and commitment of staff from the various services represented.

"By intervening early, we can help to prevent problems from getting worse and requiring statutory intervention," said SCHA's Supported Housing Officer, Jayne Hudson who is pictured with Mayor Joe Tildesley and SCHA Support Worker Greg Pyne.

## Poets' Corner

### Sounds

The tumbling of a mountain stream  
It's gurgling, over stones,  
The clatter of an unlocked gate,  
The wind that sighs and moans.

Bacon, spitting on the stove,  
Click! Clack! of heels on wood,  
Grazing munch of cows in fields  
Of wellingtons squelching mud!

Chimes of ice-cream vendors,  
A peacock's eerie cry,  
Flap and crack as flag unfurls,  
A lover's heart-felt sigh.

The bark at dawn of hungry fox  
Male voices in a choir,  
Hammer and nails fix wooden box,  
Hiss and crackle of a fire.

Scratch on paper of student's pen,  
A squirrel's angry chatter,  
Click of coins in busy till,  
Cutlery noise on platter.

The whirr and screech of landing plane,  
A telephone's urgent ring,  
Pigeons cooing happily,  
The lark that soars to sing.

This world is full of myriad sounds,  
So different each to me.  
Now I thank God as each day comes  
That I can hear and see.

**Ethel McColl, Phoenix House**

### Dreams

What is this life  
But that of dreams  
Beautiful, timeless  
They build up my esteem.

All is bright  
The sun always shines

I shall always be happy  
Never sad or sublime.

Think good  
You will feel good  
Smile no matter what  
Rise over adversity  
Keep what you have got

Yesterday is dead  
Tomorrow not yet come  
So love and care  
In every way  
What matters most is for today.

**J. M. Morris, Phoenix House**

### The North Star

I looked into  
the deep blue night  
and saw a star  
shining bright  
thousands of miles  
above the Earth

--  
What purpose is there  
in this light  
shining on the Earth  
so bright

Yet brave men  
can guide by it  
to reach safety

--  
The great North Star  
will shine forever  
beyond eternity  
beyond Heaven

**Joan Morris, Phoenix House**

We're always pleased to showcase the talents of our residents so why not show us what you can do? Perhaps you've taken an unusual photo or written something interesting? If so, please send it to us for possible inclusion in a future edition of "The Buzz."



## Farewell to Sheila

**SCHA will soon be bidding farewell to its longest serving member of staff.**

Sheila Sayers, who first started work with the Association in October 1992, has decided to retire at the end of February.

Sheila was appointed General Manager of SCHA in December 1988 but in 2012 decided to reduce her working hours resulting in the appointment of Lloyd Bradshaw as General Manger in April 2012 and Sheila taking on the role of Finance Officer on a part-time basis.

"I have fond memories of the challenges and achievements of the organisation over the past 21 years and am pleased to have contributed towards its growth and recognition as an important provider of homes and services in Solihull. I am fortunate to have worked with a dedicated team of colleagues who bring their individual strengths to the organisation whilst supportive of each other. I wish SCHA every success for the future."

"Sheila has proved to be an extremely loyal and reliable member of staff who has served the Association remarkably well over many years" said Lloyd Bradshaw. "We all wish Sheila a happy and fulfilling retirement."

## Making a Real Difference

**SCHA has recently co-ordinated the carrying out of work in two of the properties it manages which has helped to make a real difference for the better in the day-to-day living experience of residents.**

At a property in Wildmoor Road, Shirley adaptations were carried out to provide bedroom and bathing facilities on the ground floor for a disabled resident with learning disabilities who was finding it increasingly difficult to negotiate the stairs but was keen to remain living in the property.



In Yorkminster Drive, Chelmsley Wood a new Gainsborough bath was fitted in one of the three bungalows owned by SCHA to facilitate the bathing of residents with learning and physical disabilities. The fitting of the new bath necessitated a full bathroom refurbishment being undertaken including the fitting of aqua-boarding and a new non-slip floor covering.

## New Rules

**The Homes & Communities Agency and Financial Conduct Authority have both recently approved a new set of Rules for SCHA.**

The Association was first registered in October 1990. Apart from some relatively minor amendments registered in 2009, the Association's Rules had remained unchanged.

"There had been many improvements to governance arrangements within the social housing sector which were not reflected in the Association's previous Rules" said General Manager Lloyd Bradshaw who also fulfils the role of Company Secretary. "The new Rules now in place are much clearer and will enable key stakeholders to understand the Association's constitution more easily than was the case previously."

## Not sure? Don't open the door!

Your home should be a safe and secure place. Most callers will be people you know. However, you need to be really careful when people you either don't know or haven't invited ring your bell or knock your door. If they are claiming to be from a company, always ask to see their ID. If you are asked to sign something, do not do so without reading it carefully, especially the small print.



## Silky Skills

**A number of talented residents of SCHA's Phoenix House extra care housing scheme regularly put their artistic skills to good use in a silk scarf painting activity group.**

"I really enjoy the silk painting" said group member Joyce Bridgwater. "The last we did were silk scarves and afterwards we heated them up in the microwave to seal the colour in. They turned out lovely and the colours were brilliant."

"This is one of a number of popular activities provided in Phoenix House" said Estate Manager Beverley Miles. "We discuss activities at each of our monthly residents' meetings and positively welcome ideas for new ones."



# Question-Time

The Board is the governing body of SCHA and is ultimately accountable to key stakeholders for the Association's performance.

Members of the Board of SCHA serve in a voluntary capacity and are unpaid.

The Chairman of SCHA's Board is David Mattocks JP. David trained and qualified as a bio-medical scientist. He was appointed Chief Officer of Solihull Community Health Council in February 1987 and retired when Community Health Councils were abolished in December 2003.

He was appointed a magistrate in Birmingham in 1979.

## How did you become involved with SCHA?

I was regularly involved through my professional work with the Community and Voluntary Sector. I was invited to serve on the Board of Age Concern (Solihull) and nominated as its representative to serve on the Committee of Management of SCHA in 1996. I am now a member of the Association's Board in my own right and was elected Chairman in September 1998.

## What are your responsibilities as Chairman?

I seek to ensure the efficient and effective conduct of business at all Board and shareholder meetings in accordance with the Rules of the Association. I liaise regularly with the General Manager to ensure the Association is maintaining consistently high standards of performance, and also to ensure that any urgent matters needing attention between meetings are dealt with promptly and effectively.

I carry out an appraisal of the General Manager's performance each year and make recommendations to the Board on his personal objectives for the following 12 months.

I also attend various meetings and events on behalf of the Association.

## What do you enjoy most about the role?

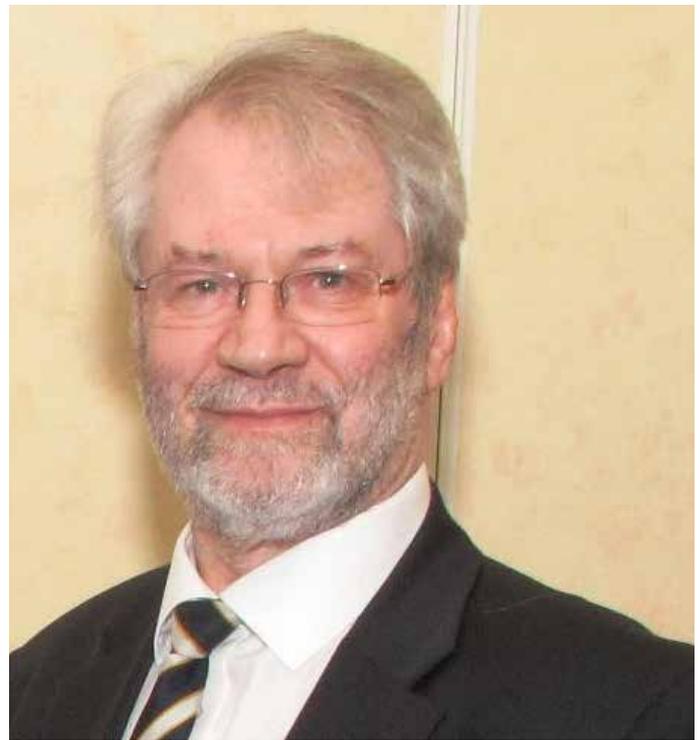
Working with an energetic team of dedicated and talented people. Also, seeing first-hand the real difference the work of SCHA staff and Board Members is making to the lives of the vulnerable people for whom we provide homes and services.

## Which three words best describe you?

Community-minded, pragmatic and tenacious.

## If you could have dinner with three other people who have lived within the last 50 years or so, who would it be and why?

1. My father who died over 40 years ago. The changes in society and advances in technology would make for an interesting discussion between us!
2. Aneurin Bevan – I have been a health professional for all of my working life and am a great believer in the principles of the NHS. Having the opportunity for a meal and discussion with its founder on how the NHS has evolved would be a great honour.
3. David "Bumble" Lloyd – I am a devoted cricket fan and have



travelled far and wide to see some exciting and absorbing test matches. Dining with David who has been a marvellous servant of the sport and is now a highly entertaining and knowledgeable commentator would be a stimulating and memorable experience

## How do you see the future for SCHA?

I believe the Association has a bright and secure future provided the Board and staff maintain a clear focus on delivering high quality homes and services, and that the Association's finances continue to be well-managed. Although SCHA is likely to remain a relatively small organisation, it does have growth ambitions which will be fulfilled in the short-term by the exciting new extra care housing scheme at Parkgate. However, we are now also actively seeking to identify some potential new opportunities for providing additional homes for people with learning disabilities and/or mental health needs.

## Contact SCHA

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Formed in 1990, Solihull Care Housing Association Ltd (SCHA) is an industrial and provident society registered on charitable rules with the Homes and Communities Agency (Reg. No. L4191). SCHA is also a member of the National Housing Federation.

The principal activity of SCHA is the provision of good quality housing accommodation and related services for people with a range of special needs including frail elderly persons, people who have learning disabilities and people with mental health needs.

SCHA provides dedicated support to residents in a number of schemes but does not itself provide care. Care is provided to residents in several of SCHA's schemes through contracting arrangements between Solihull Council and specialist care agencies.