Newsletter

CHICHESTER GREYFRIARS HOUSING ASSOCIATION
April 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Dear Resident

I hope you are all keeping well and enjoying the lovely weather.

This newsletter provides you with an update on a number of issues that I think will be of interest to tenants. You are welcome to contact me if you feel that there are topics that are relevant to all tenants in future newsletters. We are always looking at way of improving our services or how we communicate with tenants.

Most tenants who responded to the Tenant Satisfaction Survey last year said they valued this Newsletter as a way of keeping them up to date on the latest news.

Julia Potter, CEO

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE The Board decided in February that it would not be proceeding with the over croft flat at Royal Close. The planning application has now been withdrawn. The proposal to build 2 flats in the garden of 3 York Road and the 1 bed house adj to 36 Royal Close are progressing. Subject to funding being secured it is hoped that work will start on site towards the end of the year.





BOGNOR ROAD CROSSING The Residents Committee have been lobbying West Sussex County Council to put a pedestrian crossing in at Bognor Road to enable residents of Royal Close to cross the road safely following a number of accidents (including those involving our tenants). The Council have now installed a pedestrian refuge area. Credit for helping to get this completed goes to Jack Pink and the RCM Team.

SUPPORT WITH PAYING COUNCIL TAX You will have recently received your Council Tax bill for 2026/27. If you are having problems paying this you can contact the Council as if you are on a low income you may be entitled to receive Council Tax Reduction. The Councils **Supporting You Team** can also help you if you are facing cost of living issues. 01243 785166





ENERGY PRICE CAP

Between 1 April and 30 June 2026, the energy price cap is set at £1,641 for a typical household who use electricity and gas and pay be Direct Debit. It is a decrease of 6.6% compared to the cap set between 1 January to 31 March 2026.

KEEPING PETS We reported in the February Newsletter that the Government had written to housing associations giving guidance regarding pets in social housing. Requests for keeping a pet should be "considered fairly" and not be unreasonably refused. CGHA are planning to introduce a pet policy to reflect the guidance. The Residents Committee will be consulted and then Board will be asked to approve this in May.





TENANT SATISFACTION RESULTS

All tenants should have received a copy of the survey results in February. One of the areas that received lower satisfaction levels (77% were satisfied) was Anti Social Behaviour (ASB). Many issues that were raised by tenants related to parking, low level day to day living noise, communal gardens and issues around pets. This is not considered to be Anti Social Behaviour under our policy.

HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT POLICY After discussing the results of the survey with the Residents Committee we said we would review our ASB policy and communicate clearly when an issue is not considered to be ASB. We also said that we would deal with sues that fall outside ASB through a Housing and Neighbourhood Management Policy.





No Mow May is an annual campaign by Plantlife.
By skipping mowing, you allow wildflowers to bloom, providing essential nectar for pollinators like Bees and Butterflies early in the season. It boosts biodiversity and captures carbon.
Many Councils have adopted this policy for a number of years. West Sussex County Council for example uses a "Nature Verges" scheme to identify areas for reduced maintenance.
Bee populations are declining and CGHA would like to trial No Mow May at Royal Close. We hope tenants will support this.

In support of **No Mow May** and with tenants approval mowing will be suspended week of 11th and 25th May in three (green) areas of Royal Close grounds to allow flowering/seeding to take place for Bees and wildlife. Mowing will recommence 8th June.



FOOD WASTE COLLECTION

Chichester District Council is rolling out the new household food waste collection across the District. Residents should now have received their food waste starter packs and the first collection rounds have started. This is in response to a Government requirement but it is good for the environment as it cuts down the amount of waste that goes to landfill.



If you want to report a repair or have any issues please can you phone the office number 01243 531482 (which has an answerphone) or email the office@chichestergreyfriars.org.uk Please do not email staff members directly or leave message on their phones – if they ae away from the office or on holiday message may not be actioned and works may be delayed.

CONSDERATION FOR YOUR NEIGHBOURS

DOGS

The Office are still receiving reports of certain tenants allowing their dogs to wander on the estate without holding their leads. CGHA puts in place these basic rules to keep our tenants safe and our environment free of mess, it is a simple request easily adhered to and ignoring this is disrespectful to all. We ask, once again, that you have control of your dogs, on a held lead (extender leads at fixed short length), at all times when outside of your property.

BICYCLES

We would like to ask all tenants to walk, not ride, their bicycles on the paths within the estate to ensure the safety of all.

SEAGULLS

We repeat our request for tenants **not** to feed the Gulls. Six seagull deterrent alarms have been delivered and will be fitted to roof areas where nesting takes place to alleviate the noise, mess and chance of tenants being attacked by nesting birds.

BIKE STORE

We have had reports of tampering with bicycles in the store (letting down tyres). A CCTV system has been ordered and will be fitted in the store for the protection of your property.

The bike store has been cleared of all rubbish pending improvement works and nothing other than bicycles (no walkers, no contractor materials, no white goods, no tenant storage) should be place in there at any time.

Nothing must be put in the recessed area next to the bike store, **ever**. This area must be, at all times, completely clear to access the restricted electrical cupboard. The recess is in the process of being converted into a WC for use by Staff and Contractors. This can then be opened for public use at CGHA Courtyard events (Fete etc).

FOOD WASTE

If anyone has issues with the new food waste service please contact the Office.

RESIDENTS COMMITTEE





On **Thursday 9th July** we will be holding our **Summer Cream Tea Fair**.
This is our main annual 'Community' event and we would appreciate everyone mingling in the Courtyard together, we want to see as many of you there as possible. There will be music, refreshments, the usual smorgasbord of delectable eats, the Cake Competition (we would appreciate it if all our lovely bakers could supply cakes for judging), 'Guess how many sweeties in the jar', 'Name the Teddies', some table top games and the raffle of course (donations to No 17 RC appreciated), sunshine (pre-booked by Mary) and a visit from 'Owls About Town' (get your picture taken holding a beautiful snowy Owl). Pots in Bloom will be awarded on the day.

Saturday 16th August is the Summer Coach Trip to Eastbourne (50 seats) first paid get the seats, Tickets for Tenants £12.
Don't forget friends and family can attend at a ticket price of £27.00.



Ode To Old Age

I used to rave till early light, now I'm in bed by 8 at night
Just breathing makes my heart rate higher, and PJs are my best attire
My exercising really rocks, like struggling with a pair of socks
My knees creak like a haunted door, I leave the room but forget what for
I squint to see the TV screen, I go for a wee but I've already been (whoops)
Old age has its own perks they say, like eating cake most any day
Like only doing things that appeal, like saying exactly what you feel
Like stressing less and napping more, like no one complaining when you snore (even on the bus) ….
So laugh out loud without a care,
Because we've earned each silver hair.

From A Wonderful Friend

A friend is one we turn to when our spirits need a lift
A friend is one we treasure for a friendship is a gift
A friend is one who fills our lives with beauty joy and grace
A friend makes the world we live in a better, happier place

RC Members
Jack Pink, Chairman
Eddie Williams (Vice Chair)
Veronica Kayitesi
Dawn Cook
Angie Thomas
Brenda Clarke (Secretary)
Dave Tilley
Ray Bullock