

News and Events

Awards - Bowhill Miners Institute



We are happy to announce that The Miners Institute has won the award for New Build or Renovation Project of the Year 2025

Stained Glass Window Project



Our Community Stained Glass Window Project, aims to bring together individuals from all walks of life to collaborate on a beautiful piece of artwork that will be installed within the window space of our office in Cardenden and showcased for everyone to enjoy.

Whether you're an experienced artist or a curious beginner, there's a place for you in this endeavour.

Together, we'll explore the intricate art of stained glass, learn new skills, and create something truly special that reflects the spirit and diversity of our community, while strengthening the bonds that already exist within our local community.

Please contact Vicky Murdoch on 01592 721 917 for further information.

Big Summer Sit Doon 2025

The month of August signals the date for our annual Big Summer Sit Doon and this year we are taking this to The Secret Bunker in St Andrews!

**ORE VALLEY'S
BIG SUMMER
SIT DOON 2025**

JOIN US ON THURSDAY 28TH AUGUST

FOR A TRIP TO THE SECRET BUNKER
JUST OUTSIDE ST ANDREWS

COACH WILL LEAVE FROM OUR OFFICE
IN CARDENDEN AT 9.30AM AND WILL
RETURN FOR 3.30PM
ALL REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

ENTRANCE

THE SECRET BUNKER

NUCLEAR COMMAND CE

WWW.SECRETBUNKER.CO

If you would like to attend, please contact our office on 01592 721 917 or email - vmurdoch@orevalleyha.org.uk - with your name, address, how many will be attending and if you have mobility requirements or dietary request.

Spaces are limited so please let us know ASAP if you would like to come along



The month of March

This was a busy one. We hosted our Reading Rooms event and travelled to Fife Cycle Park for our annual Spring Fling.

Both events were equally successful and we are looking forward to engaging with you all so much more in the future.

Spring Fling 2025

This was an amazing day at Fife Cycle Park in Lochgelly, everyone enjoyed themselves with activities to match everyone's abilities. The pizza and refreshments were a hit also!

Big thank you to the team at Fife Cycle Park and Ralph Jessops from Greener Kirkcaldy for putting on such a fun event.

The weather wasn't the best, but that did not dampen our spirits or our efforts to enjoy all the activities on offer, including making Easter bonnets and sampling the delicious pizza from "Massimo Panarella" Donbasilico Pizza truck.



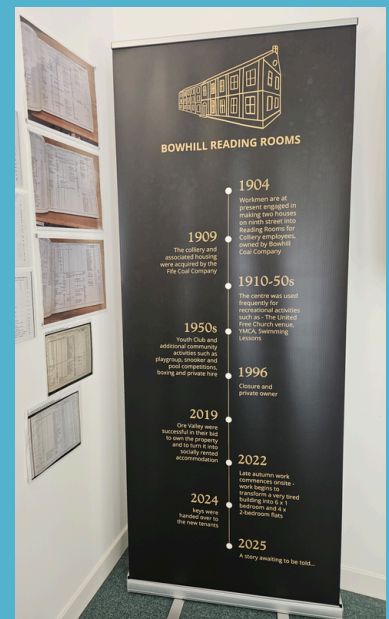
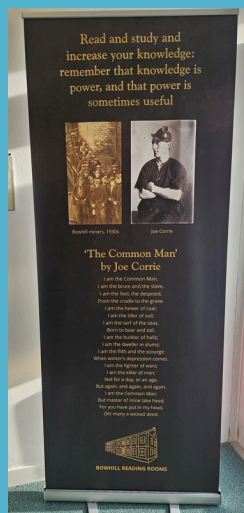
Reading Rooms Event

What's the story behind this building, that has stood at the heart of our community for as long as even the oldest residents remember? The Institute was originally converted by the Bowhill Coal Company from 2 houses in Ninth Street and was opened as the Reading and Recreation Rooms in 1904.

It was then gifted to the community and run by a committee of locals, providing an extensive library of books for loan as well as space for other activities,

This building has been at the heart of our community for over 100 years and had a story that deserved to be told. It was an honour to be able to research its history which at times was difficult to match information with the official documents. In the end we got there with the help of the wonderfully knowledgeable team at OnFife and The Archive Team at Bankhead.

Maryjane was delighted to model some of our dresses from the 1960s



Remember knowledge is power and power is sometimes useful.

Enhancing our natural green space through increasing areas of Biodiversity

Increasing biodiversity in small villages like ours can offer numerous benefits. Not only can this add an aesthetic value but evidence shows that the introduction of more areas with small and large scale Wild Flower meadows can enhance community well-being and improve mental and physical health.

Encouraging diverse ecosystems not only supports a positive climate regulation, but also offers recreational and socially engaging opportunities that can strengthen social bonds and create a healthier environment.



We are also looking to create a more pleasant environment with selective planting that could improve air quality and increase the green infrastructure. Along with our partners at FCAAN we have the possibility to create wildflower meadows, tree circles and an enhanced green-space that will complement the existing walking/cycle paths that are already situated within our local community.

Garden Competition 2025



We are thrilled to announce the return of our much-loved Garden Competition! After a brief hiatus, we are bringing back this cherished event to celebrate the beauty and creativity within our community. Whether you have a sprawling backyard, a cosy balcony garden, or a collection of potted plants and veg plots.

Join us as we embrace the joy of gardening and inspire each other with our vibrant creations.

We invite gardeners of all levels to showcase their green thumbs.

Judging is ongoing until the end of August so you have plenty time to enter your own garden or if you know of a neighbour or a friend who works hard to make their space an extension of their home, please just let us know!

You can contact us on 01592 721 917 or email vmurdoch@orevalleyha.org.uk with your name, address or address of garden you want to enter.



Lets make this year's competition a Blooming success!

Join Our Board

Make a Difference Where It Matters Most!

We're on the lookout for passionate, positive, and community-minded individuals to join our Housing Association Board as volunteer members – no previous board experience needed!

Do you care about your community? Want to gain meaningful experience, meet inspiring people, and help shape the future of housing?

Then we've got just the opportunity for you!

We're looking for people who can commit to monthly board meetings, have a willingness to learn (we'll help with the rest) and have a passion for making a positive impact?

Sound like something you'd be interested in? Give us a ring and we'll happily send you an application pack in the post! Lets do something amazing - Together -



Tenant Forum

Have you ever wondered how and why we make the decisions we do that effect you and your tenancy?

Being part of Ore Valley's Tenant Forum gives you the opportunity to ensure your voice is heard and in doing so you can help us to shape the service/s you receive from us and our contractors.

Become a member of Ore Valley Housing - Anyone aged 16 or older can become a Member of OVHA. All you need to do is purchase a Share for £1 and you will then be invited to attend our Annual General Meeting, due to be held in September 2025.

We are always looking for interested tenants to help us improve our services, and if you are a member you can also apply to become a board member.

If you would like to apply to become a member, please contact us on 01592 721917 or email ovha@orevalleyha.org.uk

Join us and help build a brighter future for our community



Changes within our Housing Team

There have been a few changes within our Housing Team lately and we wanted to let you know what these were.

We listened to your feedback and understand and agree that it is important for you to know who your Housing Officer is and for us to be more transparent with the services we provide.

By making these changes we hope to encourage a positive relationship that supports a sense of security and trust in us as an Housing Association

This approach not only empowers you to voice your concerns in a non-judgemental setting but also enables Housing Officers to build stronger, more personal relationships with the community they serve.

We are working to provide you with an update on who your Housing Officer is and make it easier to get in contact with them directly. Elaine who is one of the valued members of our Housing Team has inspired the above postcard and we wanted to share this with you so you will know what to expect when one of these pops through your letterbox.



Limited Capability for Work-Related Activity - Changes Ahead

The Limited Capability for Work-Related Activity (LCWRA) element of Universal Credit (UC) is for claimants who the DWP consider have such severe health problems that there is no current prospect of them being able to undertake work or work-related activities. The UC Bill has now been passed by the House of Commons. This means that the value of the LCWRA Element will be reduced for those UC claimants who become entitled to it on or after 6th April 2026 (unless an exception applies).



These changes don't just affect new claims for UC after April 2026, they also affect existing UC claimants - including those who currently have Limited Capability for Work. This means that some claimants could miss out if they don't start the work capability process this year. If you think these changes could affect you, please call us on 01592 721 917.

Grass Cutting/Estate Management

Our aim is for our Housing Officers to inspect gardens and communal areas every few weeks. Over the past 2 or 3 months we have given advice to many tenants about garden conditions, un-taxed vehicles in driveways and rubbish being stored within gardens.

Being active outdoors can support a positive mindset and improves our overall well-being.

To help with this we encourage tenants to keep a tidy garden and where able to clean, weed paths and driveways, as these areas can deteriorate if not cleaned and weeded regularly.

If you are finding it difficult with the upkeep of your garden please contact us and we will do all we can to assist you with this. We also encourage you to contact Fife Council who now provides a free bulky uplift service that includes most household items. If you are not sure how to access this service, please call us on 01592 721 917.

Biofilm & Legionella

Biofilm? what is it?

Biofilms are collections of microorganisms that can form on wet surfaces, such as sink drains, showerheads, and inside plumbing.

At times, a black jelly-like substance can accumulate inside taps that you may see wash out into the sink, as well as accumulate between bathroom and kitchen tiles.



This growth is triggered by airborne spores that thrive in warm, damp environments, making bathrooms and kitchens ideal breeding grounds.

Biofilms can also be seen as pink staining particularly between tiles and is caused due to the growth of an airborne bacteria known as *Serratia Marcescense*, often found in new build properties or where recent construction/refurbishment has taken place.

How to contact Scottish water

Web page - www.scottishwater.co.uk

Email - help@scottishwater.co.uk

Customer Helpline - 0800 0778 778



Hints and Tips for Maintaining a Healthy Home

Legionella becomes a health concern when it grows and spreads in human-made water systems like hot tubs, cooling towers, and plumbing systems. The bacteria can cause Legionnaires' disease, a severe form of pneumonia if inhaled through mist or vapor containing the bacteria. You should flush both hot and cold-water systems by running all outlets for at least 2 minutes where a property has been left vacant for any time. (e.g., holidays or working away).

Also, flushing showers which are only occasionally used, by running water for at least 2 minutes along with cleaning shower heads, descaling/disinfecting at least every 2 months.

Legionnaires' Disease is not caused by drinking contaminated water, it is contracted through inhaling water droplets or fine spray mist into your respiratory system.

Those most at risk include the elderly, smokers, and individuals with long-term illnesses. If you think you may have Legionnaires' disease, seek immediate medical attention and inform your doctor about any potential exposure to Legionella.

Report Issues:

If you experience any issues with your hot water system, such as low temperatures after running your hot water taps for 1 minute or unusual smells, report them to us immediately.

If you are worried about your heating system or want to discuss this further with a member of the team please give us a call on 01592 721 917, but if you are concerned about the cold water supply into your home please contact - Scottish Water on 0800 0778 778.



Did you know that Scottish Water offer a priority service for their more vulnerable customers which allows them to proactively offer help to those who need it most during emergency situations. If you would like to register for this priority service, you can do so online or by calling them on 0800 0778 778.

Pavement parking ban

The Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 bans pavement parking, double parking, and parking across dropped kerbs.

Fife Council are now implementing a ban on pavement parking, double parking, and parking at dropped kerbs, which will be enforced from September 1, 2025

Why they are Introducing the New Rules



The new rules make pavements safer for everyone.

Here's why:

Parking on Pavements: stops people from walking safely, it is dangerous for people with disabilities and those pushing prams.

Persistent pavement parking, damages pavements, making them trip hazards.

The Ban:

The ban is in response to Scottish Government legislation aimed at improving pedestrian safety, particularly for those with mobility issues or visual impairments.

Double Parking:

Makes it hard for vulnerable people to cross the road safely.

Parking at Dropped Kerbs: stops people in wheelchairs from crossing the road.

Enforcement

Parking enforcement officers will issue Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs).

The fine is £100, reduced to £50 if paid within 14 days.

From July 1, 2025, to August 31, 2025, Fife Council will issue warning notices instead of fines, to educate drivers about the new regulations.

What is Covered:

The ban applies to both adopted and unadopted pavements, as well as double parking and parking at dropped kerbs.

What is Not Allowed

You must not:

- Park on the pavement or grass verge
- Double park (park beside another car)
- Park across dropped kerbs used for crossing
- Even if there's nowhere else to park, these actions are now against the law. Parking attendants will be working across Fife.

How to Report:

If you witness pavement parking, you can report it to Fife Council's parking enforcement team, you can access this through the following web page -

<https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/roads,-travel-and-parking/parking-and-car-parks>

Pavement parking is unsafe, unfair, and illegal

Important Contacts

Ore Valley Housing Association

- Facebook: Ore Valley Housing Association
- Website: www.orevalleyha.org.uk
- Email: ovha@orevalleyha.org.uk
- Address: 114-116 Station Road, Cardenden, Fife KY5 0BW
- Tel: 01592 721 917
- Hours: Mon-Fri, 09:00 to 17:00

Fife Council:

- Switchboard: 03451 55 0000
- Environmental Health (Rubbish collection, dog fouling etc): 03451 55 0022
- Antisocial Behaviour: 03451 55 0033
- Fife Council Welfare Fund Team: 0300 555 0265 or email: welfare.fund@fife.gov.uk

Advice and Help:

- National Grid: 0800 111 999
- Scottish Water: 0800 778 778
- NHS 24: 111
- Homeless Emergency Number (Free): 0800 028 6231
- Citizens Advice & Rights Fife: 0345 1400 095

Have you heard of SHOUT?.

Shout offer free and confidential mental health support to anyone in distress.

Their service provides free, confidential, mental health support to anyone.

Feeling worried or Overwhelmed? Start a conversation with us.

To use the service, simply text "FIFE" to 85258.

What would you like to see in the next edition of our newsletter?

If there is something you think we should be focusing on please just let us know.

You can contact our Communications Team on: comms@orevalleyha.org.uk

Quiz Time



To be in with a chance to win £30 worth of High Street Vouchers - Please return postal entries to Ore Valley Housing, Cardenden or take a photo and email it to vmurdoch@orevalleyha.org.uk

Remember to include your name, address and contact phone number, competitions close at 5pm on Friday 29th August 2025.

Goodluck!

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US ON FACEBOOK**

