

A Fond Farewell to Julie



We recently bid farewell to Julie Watson, our Development and Asset Manager, who has moved on to pastures new within the social housing sector.

Julie was a very familiar face at OVHA having originally been one of our earliest employees before leaving to join Kingdom HA, ultimately becoming their Head of Capital Investment before returning to OVHA last year.

In both of her stints at OVHA she has been an instrumental part of our growth and leaves with our sincerest best wishes and gratitude.

Drop In Exhibition on Miners Institute

A drop-in exhibition will be held in our Cardenden Office from Tuesday 11th until Friday 14th February 2025 between 10 am - 4pm. Please come along and learn about the history of the Bowhill Miners Institute building and see for yourselves the timeline from potential demolition to full refurbishment and provision of 10 modern homes.



Winter Warmer Event 2024

Wednesday 11th December, Auchterderran Church Hall - 10am-12pm

Ore Valley Housing welcomes you to join our annual Winter Warmer event - you will have an opportunity to catch up with the Housing Team including Carolyn from The Big Idea Project and learn more about Universal Credit and Pension Credit entitlement.

Tracy will be with us from Cosy Kingdom to help with energy saving tips and check your eligibility for the Fuel Bank.

Ralph from the Active Travel team at Greener Kirkcaldy will have bikes with him including our own e-bikes which are free to use for short hires.

Catch up with the Fife Carers Centre who provide support for carers within Fife.

Who else will be joining us? Fife Tenants & Residents Association, Fife Climate Action (FCCAN) and you can catch up with the The Safer Communities Team.

This is a drop-in event although refreshments will be provided and we have a limited number of warm packs to give out which will include the ingredients to make lentil soup.

Universal Credit Migration

If you are working age and in receipt of Housing Benefit this will apply to you. If you haven't already received your Universal Credit Migration Notice letter, you will do soon and you'll need to make a claim for Universal Credit to get the continued financial support you are entitled to.

There will be a deadline in your letter. This is 3 months from the date the letter was sent out, so if you need help with this, please drop into our office or call us on 01592 721 917.



Help to keep warm this Winter



With the arrival of Winter, Cosy Kingdom have seen the usual increase in demand for their excellent services.

Because we are part of the Big IDEA Project, if you are an Ore Valley Tenant we can make a fast-track referral on your behalf so that you can get help from Tracy Marr who is one of the hard-working Energy Advisors at Cosy Kingdom.

COSY KINGDOM

Cosy Kingdom is a free and impartial home energy and utility debt advice service available to anyone living within Fife.

Our Energy Advisors can provide practical, tailored energy advice by telephone or through a home visit.

To arrange an appointment with an energy advisor please contact us on the details below.

Some of the things we can help with include:

- Help with bills, tariffs, meters and energy suppliers help to understand your heating controls, get more out of your appliances and to keep warm in the home.
- Advice on energy efficiency measures and funding for home energy efficiency improvements.
- Checking eligibility for any grants and discounts that may be available to help you pay your bills.
- Support to deal with fuel debt and self-disconnection from prepayment meters.

Call: 01592 807930

Text: 'Cosy' and your name to 88440

Email: info@cosykingdom.org.uk

Visit: www.cosykingdom.org.uk

Social Media @CosyKingdom

Closed from 3pm Friday 20 December and we will re open Monday 6th January 2025



Big Summer Sit Doon 2024

Looking back at warmer times, on Friday 23rd August 2024 the Ecology Centre in Kinghorn hosted our annual 'Big Summer Sit Doon' tenant event.

Peachy Keen and Ralph from Greener Kirkcaldy were our activity superheroes, bringing us some seriously fun experiences. One highlight was the epic 'Ultimate Cycle Energy Smoothie Experience' where you pedaled your way to deliciousness, powering the smoothie maker to whip up your own refreshing, healthy drink.

Ralph from The Active Cycle Team was also rallying the troops for a scenic ride around the Loch. And guess what? We're cooking up more of these awesome events with Greener Kirkcaldy for Spring/Summer 2025.





Department
for Work &
Pensions

Did you know you can get Pension Credit even if you have other income or savings.

Pension Credit gives you extra money to help with your living costs if you're over State Pension age and on a low income. Changes made to the Pension Age Winter Heating Payment also mean that this will now only be available to those on Pension Credit or other specific benefits.

Pension Credit is separate from your State Pension.

Find out if you're eligible for Pension Credit by checking the Pension Credit eligibility rules: <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit/eligibility>

If you need more help, you might be able to use the Pension Credit calculator <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator> to check if you're eligible and how much you could get.

The calculator will only give you an estimate and should only be used as a guide. If you need further information, or you are unsure of your entitlement please contact us on - **01592 721917**

Rent Increase - 2025/2026

At the start of October 2024, we were delighted to be joined by several interested tenants who attended a rent consultation event in our Office. We discussed a proposal to increase future rents based on inflation + 1%, with the option for higher than inflation +1% increases so that we can better improve our properties over the next 5 years.

This event allowed us to further explore future rent options with tenants and the feedback they provided has helped to inform how we can best use our rental income to improve our properties in a way that can be easily reported on so that our performance when investing in long term home improvements for our tenants can be easily understood and measured by everyone.

If we increase rents above inflation +1% this will allow us to invest this money into our older properties by delivering a component replacement programme that will likely include new bathrooms, kitchens as well as external doors and windows.

With the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rate currently sitting at 2.3% our proposed rent increase is likely to be between 4% to 6%. In addition to this we are also looking at the option of introducing service charges for our communal blocks and it was agreed that if we do this, the rent increase for these properties should be adjusted so that the overall increase for these tenants is more in line with everyone else.

Our rent review consultation letter will be issued in January 2025 with more information about what is being proposed, but if you have any questions before then, please let us know.



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, 9:00am to 5:00pm

Fife Council:

- Switchboard: 03451 55 0000
- Environmental Health (Rubbish collection, dog fouling etc): 03451 55 0022

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
- Antisocial Behaviour: 03451 55 0033
- Fife Council Welfare Fund Team: 0300 555 0265 or email: welfare.fund@fife.gov.uk

Community Food support:

- Cardenden Community Fridge is open every Friday from 2 - 4pm and runs on a £2 membership system - This will be closed from Friday 20th December and will re-open on Friday 10th January 2025.

Festive Office Hours:

We are closed over the holiday period. Our office will close on Tuesday 24th December at 3.30pm and re-open on Monday 6th January 2025 at 9.00am.

In an emergency during this time please still call 01592 721 917 and you will be directed to our out of hours contractor who will be able to provide assistance.

Please be aware that if a callout is requested but is not deemed to have been an emergency, you may be re-charged.

Christmas Word Search



Christmas Word Search

Name: _____

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

Word list:
BELLS
CANDLES
CHRISTMAS
FAMILY
GIFT
JINGLE
MERRY
REINDEER
SLEIGH
SNOWMAN



SunCatcherStudio.com

Enter our festive word search competition to be in with a chance to win a £30 High Street Vouchers. Please return postal entries to Tenant Engagement Officer, Ore Valley Housing, 114/116 Station Road, Cardenden KY5 0BW 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 Monday 6th January 2025.

Good luck!

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