

Remembering Maud Wylie

Everyone at ETF is shocked and saddened at the recent passing of the Federation's Vice Convenor Maud Wylie. A dedicated community activist and an ETF stalwart, Maud served on the Federation's Executive Committee for many years, firstly as an ordinary member, then as Secretary and most recently Vice Convenor. Maud was also very actively involved in her local area of Wester Hailes, where she served as Chair of the Hailesland Park Neighbourhood Council and the South West Area Board. We would like to pass on our sincere condolences to Maud's family at this difficult and sad time.

Update from ETF

It's very pleasing to see restrictions continuing to ease, however at present the Federation's Office remains closed to ensure the continued protection of both service users and staff. Nonetheless, ETF continues to operate on a daily basis and staff can be contacted at info@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 0131 475 2509. Discussions are underway regarding the office and a further update will be provided soon.

Federation Meeting, Wednesday 9th March 2022, 7.00pm, Zoom

The next Federation Meeting will take on **Wednesday 9th March 2022, 7.00pm, Zoom**. The topic of the Federation Meeting will be an update on the City of Edinburgh Council's (CEC's) Repairs Service and their plans for moving forward. The guest speaker will be Willie Gillhooly, Acting Housing Property Manager, CEC. Members will also have the opportunity to hear about the activities ETF has been involved in over the last few months as we discuss our quarterly Progress Report.

There will be a Planning Meeting on **Wednesday 23rd February 2022, 7.00pm, Zoom**, where all members will be able to discuss and plan the format of the Federation Meeting and help formulate the questions to be put to CEC staff.

To book a place at the Federation Planning Meeting, please email ETF's Development Worker Mark Henry mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 07918 742468 by **Tuesday 22nd February 2022** and you will be sent an email invitation with the link to join the meeting. You can also take part in the meeting by phone, just contact us as above and you will be given a number to phone in order to join at no cost to yourself. To book a place at the Federation Meeting, please email mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 07918 742468 by **Tuesday 8th March 2022** to receive the link to the meeting.

Tenants Voice

Everyone should have received copies of December's edition of *Tenants Voice*. It's a full edition, with plenty of interesting stories and information. If anyone would like to request extra copies, or provide feedback on this edition, please contact the Federation Office by email at info@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 0131 475 2509. You can download a copy of *Tenants Voice* at <https://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/tenants-voice-december-2021/>.

Is your tenants' group involved in an exciting piece of work, are you proud of an initiative that is taking place in your area or would you simply like to share an example of good practice? If any of the above apply then we would love to hear from you. The deadline for material for the next issue is **Monday 7th March 2022**.

Edinburgh Tenants Federation Norton Park 57 Albion Road Edinburgh EH7 5QY

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Edinburgh Tenants Federation is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) SC048236, regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)

Articles and letters for publication should be sent into the Federation office at Norton Park, 57 Albion Road, Edinburgh EH7 5QY, or emailed to mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk. Alternatively, give us a call on 07918 742468 if you'd like help to pull an article together.

CEC Accessible Housing Survey

CEC is inviting Edinburgh residents of all ages, living in all types of housing, to take part in an Accessible Housing Survey. The survey is an important part of a wider project which will help CEC understand more about the need for accessible and adaptable homes in the city, now and in the future. The survey should take around 10 minutes to complete and is open until **Friday 4th February 2022**. You can complete a copy of the survey at <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/accessible-housing/>. You can also email housing.research@edinburgh.gov.uk.

CEC Advice Shop

Are you a CEC or Housing Association tenant who is experiencing money or debt problems? The Advice Shop is the place to go to for information, advice and assistance with any benefit or debt matter. Advisors can help check benefit entitlement, apply for every type of benefit, identify how to maximise income and assist with problems you may have with the Department of Works and Pensions, Council or Social Security Scotland benefits. All this is free and independent so you will get assistance that is non-judgemental and focused on individual situations. You can contact the Advice Shop on 0131 200 2360 or email advice.shop@edinburgh.gov.uk. You can also go to a locality office and call the Advice Shop from the free phone there. The Advice Shop's webpages contain helpful information including links to benefit calculators so you can work out for yourself what you may be entitled to at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/advice-shop.

Scottish Housing Regulator Tenant Advisors

Would you be interested in becoming a Tenant Advisor? The Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) is currently recruiting 12 new Independent, volunteer Tenant Advisors. Some of the work of Tenant Advisors includes:

- Testing landlord services by acting as mystery shoppers, assessing information and materials produced by landlords for their tenants;
- Reviewing SHR's draft publications and website facilities;
- Helping SHR to make sure their material is both accessible and user friendly for tenants.

You don't need any formal qualifications, training or experience to become a Tenant Advisor.

You can find out more and access the application pack and form at

<https://www.housingregulator.gov.scot/for-tenants/volunteer-tenant-advisors-information-pack-for-applicants>, email at shr@shr.gov.scot or phone 0141 242 5642. The deadline for applications is **Monday 14th February 2022 at 10am**.

Tenant Grant Fund

The Scottish Government has provided funding to Scottish Local Authorities to supplement the work they are doing to prevent homelessness by creating a grants fund. This fund is being administered in line with the Scottish Government guidelines and the overall aim of this fund is to support homelessness prevention.

The award of any grant and the amount is discretionary but, to ensure the funds are used in line with the Scottish Government guidelines and are used fairly across tenancies in Edinburgh's social and private rented sector, key criteria has been set and will be applied consistently across what is expected to be a large volume of requests. As the funds are limited and will only be available for payment up until **31st March 2022**, all landlords and tenants should ensure the criteria is met before making a request.

Please check the City of Edinburgh Council website at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/tenantgrantfund for information on criteria and for any future updates relating to the Tenant Grant Fund. You can also email [Edinburgh \(underscore\) TGF@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Edinburgh_(underscore)_TGF@edinburgh.gov.uk) or phone 0131 200 2360.

Lothians' Improving the Cancer Journey Service

If you are living in Edinburgh and the Lothians and have been affected by cancer, *Improving the Cancer Journey Service* is here to help you live as well as possible. The service can meet with you to discuss what matters to you and help you get the right support.

Being diagnosed with cancer can be overwhelming and many people don't know where to go for support. Here are some of the aspects the service can help with:

- Money or housing worries;
- Work;
- Caring responsibilities;
- Physical concerns;
- Emotional Concerns;
- Other types of support.

To find out more about how the service can help, please contact 07977 307 286/07929 784 315 or email loth.icj@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk.

Diary Dates

February 2022

4 th February	Deadline for completing CEC's Accessible Housing Survey
14 th February	Deadline to complete application form to become a SHR Tenant Advisor
22 nd February	Deadline to book for Federation Planning Meeting
23 rd February	Federation Planning Meeting, 7.00pm, Zoom

March 2022

7 th March	Deadline for <i>Tenants Voice</i> articles
8 th March	Deadline for Federation Meeting bookings
9 th March	Federation Meeting, 7.00pm, Zoom

Contact the Federation office on 0131 475 2509 for more information. Don't forget that *Federation Matters* and other Federation publications can be downloaded from our website at www.edinburghtenants.org.uk. Do get in touch if you need any more information from us about anything mentioned here.