



Spring 2021

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PUZZLER

Spot the difference, Wordsearch



OUR CHAIR OF THE BOARD MS EVELYN ASANTE-MENSAH
LEADING THE WAY FOR COVID VACCINATIONS.

MAINTENANCE UPDATES



Our Maintenance team have just completed their internal decorating project at City Road and are currently installing new kitchens at some of our properties.



For update service arrangements, please visit the COVID 19 page of our website www.arawakwalton.com

DEVELOPMENT NEWS - NEW YEAR NEW HOME



We are pleased to announce that we have completed a purchase from Guinness which is a 3-bed end terrace house in Levenshulme.

The property is social rent, with a rent of £97 per week.

We are also in discussions with Jigsaw Homes regarding a further 4 acquisitions in various locations – all on streets where we currently have properties, so **WATCH THIS SPACE!**

FIRE SAFETY



As more of us self-isolate and spend an increased amount of time at home, it is important to look after your fire safety. You may be spending more time cooking, heating your home, using electrical appliances, and lighting candles. There are plenty of ways to keep you and your family safe from the risk of fire at home.



- Take extra care when cooking with hot oil and don't leave children alone in the kitchen when the hob or oven is on
- Test the batteries in your smoke alarm every week and change them every year - never remove them
- Try to keep to one plug per socket - too many electrical appliances plugged into one socket can overload it
- Always stub cigarettes out properly and dispose of them carefully



Remember! If there is a fire in your home - GET OUT, STAY OUT and CALL 999 - don't try to tackle the fire yourself, and never go back into a burning building.





Manchester Metropolitan University and the Centre for Ageing Better are launching a new survey to better understand older people's views about the homes and communities they live in.

The survey is part of the 'RightPlace' programme, which aims to investigate the reasons why some older people want to move home in later life, while others choose to remain in their current home as they grow older.

The survey will be used to provide better information for local and national government, housing associations and property developers. It aims to highlight opportunities to improve the housing offer for older people who want to move, and to inform programmes supporting others to 'age in place' within their current homes and neighbourhoods.

The survey can be completed online and can be found on the home page of our website
www.arawakwalton.com

The survey should take no more than 20 minutes to complete. It is open to anyone in England aged 55 and over and is entirely anonymous.

THE SURVEY IS OPEN UNTIL 31/03/2021

LGBT + HISTORY MONTH



February marked the start of LGBT+ History Month and this year's theme is Body, Mind and Spirit.

Throughout February we supported LGBT + History Month by sharing resources such as the United Kingdom wall chart which highlighted important legal milestones and identifies visible and significant contributions made by individuals, groups and particularly the labour movement.

We have also shared stories of 5 iconic faces from history who all played a part in the development of the LGBT movement.

All the resources we shared can be found on the new section of our website.
www.arawakwalton.com/news



COMMUNITY COMPUTER PROJECT



Arawak Walton are delighted to promote a project which is run by My Outsourced IT, an independent charity which aims to provide a free computer in every home, along with offering IT support and classes to get the most out of the equipment.

The project is focused on getting as many of our tenants online and digitally inclusive, so if you need access to a PC or laptop for online schooling, to look for work, or if you would just like to stay in contact with friends and family, you can apply.

To apply visit the address below and fill out the application form. Please note- any queries need to be directed to My Outsourced IT who are running the project.

Equipment maybe limited so don't wait around and apply today at
<https://www.myoutsourcedit.co.uk/scheme-request/>

THE SHARP PROJECT



Arawak Walton have also supported an initiative called the 'Sharp Project' and donated £100. The project receives donated hardware which they will then recondition in order to provide free laptops, desktops and tablets to digitally excluded members of the community.

GOOD NEWS



We are always delighted to hear compliments from Tenants! Below is a compliment one of our scheme managers received from one of our tenants while carrying out the communal carpet consultation.

"I became a tenant when the scheme was managed by the previous landlord and was very worried of building security i.e the front layout was awful and was easy for anyone to kick the door in. I also felt that the previous landlord was not going above and beyond for their customers, whereas with Arawak I have seen dramatic changes and improvements and I really appreciate all the efforts Arawak Walton have put into their customers, community and staff'."

Due to the COVID19 Pandemic, many people across the nation were unable to enjoy their Christmas celebrations as normal.

As a result, the wonderful Donna Shaw, Sheltered Scheme Specialist at S4B came up with the innovative idea of providing Dinner in a Box for tenants of Elizabeth Yarwood Court and Arawak Walton Housing Association.

The initiative was supported and funded by S4B, Buzz Health and Wellbeing, Greater Mental Health NHS Foundation and Arawak Walton Housing Association.

Donna and her family were able to provide and deliver; a soup starter, a turkey dinner with all the trimmings, dessert, hot chocolate, and a box of chocolates to 50 households!

Comments from residents on the day:

"A thoroughly nice meal, I really enjoyed it"

"My Mum was so overwhelmed at this gesture, she burst into tears due to Donna's generosity"

"Well executed Donna; compliments to the chef!"

"Very nice meal, it was 100% appreciated."

In addition to the above, Arawak Walton in partnership with Manchester South Central Foodbank also provided Christmas Dinners in a box to 8 families. The idea of this initiative was that the boxes would provide all the ingredients needed for a family to cook Christmas dinner at home together, aimed to help families who have been financially impacted by the pandemic.

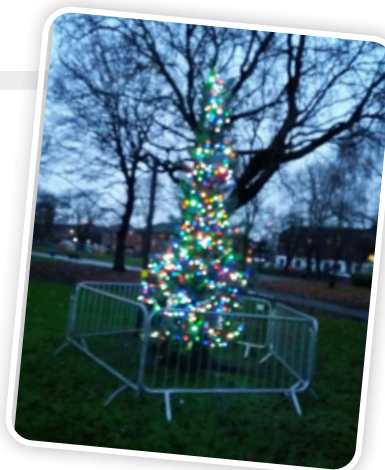
The boxes contained fresh potatoes, carrots, parsnips, sprouts alongside stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, gravy granules, oil, seasoning, crackers, mince pies, Christmas pudding, custard, and a £10 supermarket voucher for any meat of their choice.



Ebi one of our Housing Officers delivering Christmas Dinners

ARDWICK GREEN FESTIVE LIGHTS

Many wanted to have a Christmas Tree and festive lights in Ardwick Green Park, the centre of Ardwick over the festive period. Ardwick Green Residents Association, Arawak Walton, One Manchester, and Manchester City Council raised funding to make this a reality for them. The Festive Light Switch on took place on 4th December 2020 and was lovely to bring some cheer to the residents.



DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENT



Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) can provide extra money when your council decides that you need extra help to meet your housing costs.

Your council will look at your circumstances to see whether you are eligible for a DHP. They will decide whether to give you a DHP, how much you will be paid and for how long you will receive the payment.

To find out more about DHP, please visit

www.gov.uk/government/publications/claiming-discretionary-housing-payments

Sandra McKenzie, Housing Officer helped a tenant with a claim:

At the beginning of the 1st lockdown, Arawak Walton proactively worked their way through the entire tenant database to contact each tenant to establish how they were coping mentally, physically, and financially.

"It was during one of these calls, that I spoke to Miss A who advised me of her situation and confided that she was struggling to make the shortfall required towards her rent as well as finding it difficult to buy food and heat her home.

I advised her that there was help available via Discretionary Housing Payments.

I was able to assist her to apply for this by completing an online application with her over the telephone.

In addition to this, by working in partnership with another Housing Provider, I was also able to source a fuel voucher to the sum of £49 which helped Miss A with her gas and electric on a fortnightly basis.

I recently spoke with Miss A and she is still in receipt of Discretionary Housing Payment, her health has improved greatly and she has been made aware that a job opportunity is about to become available in the local community which she intends to apply for."

If you wish to claim DHP or would like to speak about any financial help you may be entitled to, please contact your housing officer.



More than a million pensioners across the country aren't claiming money they're entitled to. Could you be one of them?

Your council will look at your circumstances to see whether you are eligible for a DHP. They will decide whether to give you a DHP, how much you will be paid and for how long you will receive the payment.

To find out more about DHP, please visit

www.gov.uk/government/publications/claiming-discretionary-housing-payments

£ If you're single and your weekly income, including your pension, is below £175.20, or below £268.50 if you're in a couple, you might be entitled to a top up by applying for Pension Credit.

£ Almost 50,000 households eligible for Pension Credit across Greater Manchester are not claiming it, and the government is encouraging people to apply for it.

£ The average amount received by those who are claiming is more than £60 a week. And it's not just the additional weekly payment you could receive. People who get Pension Credit can also get a free TV licence, free dental treatment and eye tests, and possibly help with housing costs and heating bills in the colder months.

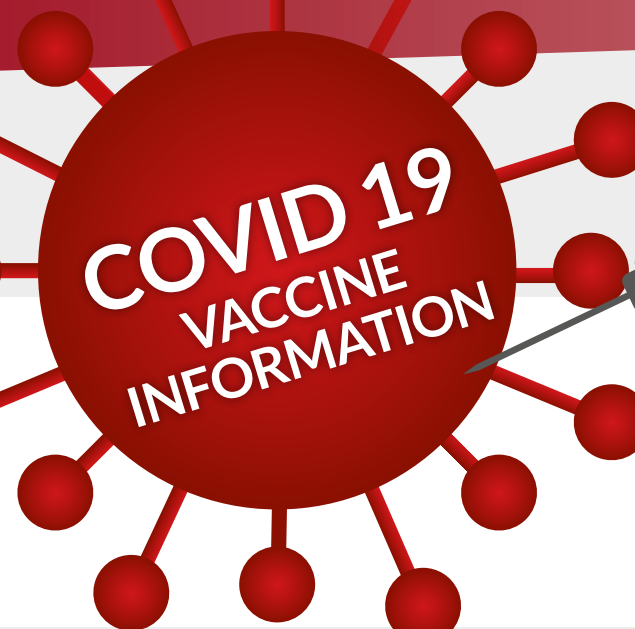
£ To help further, if you apply for Pension Credit you may be able to get up to three months backdated payment from the day you were first entitled up to the date you apply. Some people have had as much as £1,000 in backdated payments.

To apply to claim Pension Credit, Manchester residents can visit www.gov.uk/pension-credit or they can speak to the local authority they pay council tax too, or with their social housing provider.

"With extra money in my pocket, I can spend more doing the things I love."


Lynda topped up – have you?





COVID 19 VACCINE INFORMATION

THE VACCINE IS BEING ROLLED OUT TO PRIORITY GROUPS FIRST. YOU SHOULD WAIT UNTIL YOU ARE CONTACTED TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT – BY TEXT MESSAGE, LETTER OR PHONE CALL.




The vaccine is free for all adults – whatever their immigration status. You just need to take your NHS number (letters you get from your GP or hospital will usually include this). This means you may need to sign up with a GP. Everyone living in the UK can do this and GP visits are free.

After your first vaccine, it takes two to three weeks for your immune system to be ready to fight Covid-19. (Low success rates reported from Israel included people who had caught Covid shortly before or straight after their jabs.)

At the end of three weeks, you will have significant protection. Your second vaccination completes the dose and raises your protection further.

HOWEVER: We must all – even after getting vaccinated – keep wearing masks and socially distancing until enough people have had the vaccine and the rates of transmission are low. It may still take many months before life can be more normal.

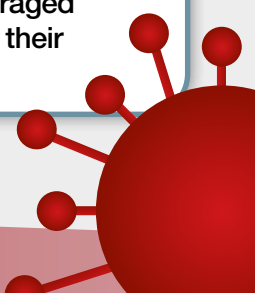


ARE THE VACCINES HALAL?

Muslims understandably need to be sure that the vaccines are halal.

Rumours spread on social media and on WhatsApp groups suggested the vaccines might contain gelatine or other animal products, or tissue from aborted fetuses.

None of these things are true. Imams at 100 mosques across the country confirmed this in Friday prayers on 22 January 2021. They encouraged worshippers to accept vaccines. Some have put details online of their own vaccinations.





ARE THE
VACCINES
KOSHER?

Jewish people have been concerned by rumours that the vaccines might contain pork or cause infertility. Neither is true. An open letter signed by 70 British Jewish doctors in December 2020 confirmed that the vaccines are kosher and that there is no logical reason to fear infertility from mRNA vaccines.

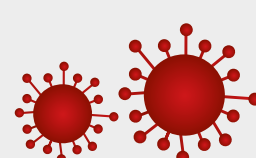
COULD A
VACCINE GIVE
YOU COVID?

Traditional vaccines like the Oxford AstraZeneca use modified viruses to trigger an immune response. The Oxford vaccine uses elements of an inactivated virus that gives chimpanzees the common cold.

You cannot get Covid from this vaccine

In a recent study, 72% of Black people and 42% of Asians said they might not get vaccinated. Eastern Europeans were also less sure about vaccines than white British people.

We understand why you are cautious. But Covid-19 is a vicious illness, which can kill young people as well as older people. It leaves others with Long Covid symptoms, lasting weeks and months. We are particularly concerned because our Black and Asian communities have a much higher risk of dying from the disease.



BUT ARE THE
VACCINES SAFE
FOR PEOPLE
LIKE US?

Fewer Black and Asian people took part in the trials than white people, because they were hesitant. People in our communities don't feel they can always trust that they get the same standard of care as white people. However, Black and Asian doctors and nurses did take part and have been among the first to get vaccinated so far. Many BME health and care workers have died from Covid-19.

The vaccines were not tested on pregnant women for ethical reasons. So, pregnant women will not be offered the vaccine routinely for now. However, pregnant women who are at high risk of catching and dying from Covid-19 may be offered the vaccine, because the risks are thought to be low.

COULD THE
VACCINES AFFECT
YOUR DNA OR
FERTILITY?

The Pfizer BioNTech and Moderna vaccines are a new type of vaccine based on mRNA. The mRNA element never enters the nucleus of your cells, where the DNA is stored. For the short time it is in your body, the mRNA teaches your immune system to recognise and fight proteins in the Covid-19 virus. The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, and the Royal College of Midwives, say there is no cause to worry about your future fertility, as the vaccines can't affect your DNA.

IT'S ALL BEEN
DONE SO QUICKLY
- CAN WE
TRUST THIS?

Getting to a vaccine in 10 months is an extraordinary achievement, when it usually takes years. However, there are good reasons why this was possible. Firstly, recent work on Ebola and Zika vaccines gave scientists a head start. Secondly, there was plenty of funding. The scientists found safe ways to speed up the usual trials – helped by lots of willing vaccine volunteers. The scale of the pandemic also meant they could quickly see if the vaccines were working. Tens of thousands of people in the UK, Brazil, South Africa, Turkey, the USA and elsewhere took part in trials. Since being approved for use by medical regulators in several countries, millions of people have been safely vaccinated.

PASSING OF MRS ELOUISE EDWARDS - 1932 - 2021



We were very sad to hear about Elouise, who sadly passed away on Saturday, 23rd January 2021. Elouise was a founding member of Arawak Walton who will be sadly missed by the communities upon which she made a significant impact on.



Over the years, Elouise became an active community worker and was involved in over 35 organisations throughout Greater Manchester including Manchester Sickle Cell & Thalassaemia centre, Black People In The Criminal Justice System, Abasindi Women's Co-operatives and Roots Festival to name a few.

The Nigerian Community of Manchester gave her the title of Honorary Chieftain with an official naming ceremony conducted by Chief Reogigi-ugo of Nigeria, who performed the ceremony and presented her with an award. The Manchester Black community now call her Mama Edwards.

STAFF NEWS



Sabina Ahad

Sabina Ahad joined our team in January 2021 in the role of IT Officer. Sabina will be working with us for a six months fixed term contract on a part time basis. Sabina previous experience includes being involved in IT projects, as a

project coordinator and business analyst. She has also worked on implementing finance systems and CRM systems.

Here is what Sabina had to say about starting with Arawak Walton: "Although I have started at a strange time with lockdown 3 well underway, I have had the warmest welcome from all the staff I have met".



Panaishé Nyandaro

Each year we recruit for a 12 month trainee role and this year it was Panaishe Nyandaro who started within our Customers Services team as a Trainee Customer Service Advisor.

Although he has only been here for 5 months,

Panaishé has already developed a number of transferable skills through carrying out his role and undertaking various internal and external training. We are so proud of him!

Of his experience so far Panaishe said "I have only been with Arawak Walton for 5 months but the amount of knowledge I've gained ALREADY is amazing. From gaining a better understanding of the housing market to working with people from a wide range of backgrounds. I've learned so much with Arawak Walton, life skills as well as career skills."

HOW WE ARE PERFORMING (KPI'S)



ARAWAK WALTON PERFORMANCE	DEC-20	JAN - 21	FEB - 21	TARGET
VOIDS %	0%	0.40%	0.55%	<1%
RENT ARREARS %	3.73%	2.88%	2.77%	<3.20%
NUMBER OF DAYS TO RE-LET A PROPERTY	33.2	0	8	<18.5
OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH REPAIRS %	99.7%	98.60%	99.60%	>96%
REPAIRS COMPLETION STATS	DEC-20	JAN - 21	FEB - 21	TARGET
EMERGENCY-COMPLETED WITHIN 24 HOURS %	100%	100%	100%	>95%
URGENT-COMPLETED WITHIN 7 DAYS %	98.10%	98.21%	98.14%	>92%
ROUTINE-COMPLETED WITHIN 21 DAYS %	98.02%	98.00%	98.00%	>92%

PUZZLER COMPETITION WINNERS



Congratulations to our Autumn Newsletter Winners who have all won a £10 Gift voucher!

MR BYRON WILLIAMS

MS NIRMAL KAUR

MR PHILLIP MOSS

PUZZLER



Complete the word search and spot the difference along with the survey question and send them back to us along with your name and address to **Arawak Walton Housing Association, FREEPOST, NWW 7441A, Manchester, M12 9AQ**

You will be entered into a prize draw to win a £10 gift voucher.

Six winners will be selected. We will reveal the winners in the next Newsletter! Good luck!

Good luck!

Must be submitted by 5th April 2021



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE There are 5 differences - circle the differences on image 2.



WORDSEARCH

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



Basket
Bunny
Carrot
Celebration
Chick
Chocolate
Decorated

Ducklings
Easter
Eggs
Flowers
Grass
Hop
Hunt

Jellybeans
Parade
Rabbit
Spring
Sunday
Tulip

Please answer the following questions and send them along with your competition entry in order to be entered into the prize draw.

Q: How many families did Arawak Walton provide Christmas Dinners in a box to?

A.

Name:

.....

.....

Address:

.....

.....

.....

Telephone:

.....

Email:

.....