



Summer 2022

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ARAWAK WALTONS WINDRUSH DAY CELEBRATION

Read more inside

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We are delighted to announce that following a full In-Depth Assessment (IDA) by the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH), we have been awarded a G1/V1 grading. This rating is the highest grading achievable and confirms that we have effective governance in place and are financially viable.

The rating was officially announced on 25th May 2022, following an IDA in March 2022.

You can read the full report here:

Regulatory judgement: Arawak Walton Housing Association Limited – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

As a Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) specialist housing association born out of the community, we have continued to grow, and we moved into mainstream regulation in 2016 due to owning over 1,000 homes. We have successfully maintained the G1V1 rating annually since then. Ms. Cym D'Souza, Arawak Walton's Chief Executive, said

"This result is a testament to how a strong partnership with our stakeholders, Board, staff, tenants, colleague associations and local authorities delivers a great result. All thanks must go to the Board and staff for remaining true to purpose".

Our Chair Ms. Evelyn-Asante Mensah (OBE) said **"We are absolutely delighted with this result. We have stayed true to our mission, vision and purpose and we have ensured that our organisation is properly governed, well managed and remains financially stable to deliver our vision objectives. I am incredibly proud of what the association has achieved."**

The Regulator of Social Housing regulates registered providers of social housing to promote a worthwhile, efficient and well-governed social housing sector, able to deliver homes that meet a range of needs.

Their objectives are to ensure that housing associations provide value for money and protect the taxpayer, whilst validating financial viability and effective governance. They also set consumer standards and may take action if these are breached or pose serious detriment to tenants and potential tenants.

You can read more about RSH here:

Regulatory standards, procedures and guidance – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL TENANT CONFERENCE?

You are invited to join us on 22nd September from 12-2 pm for our annual celebration event where we will be saying thank you and a fond farewell to our current Chair of the Board, Evelyn Asante-Mensah OBE, who has served her full 9 year term on our Board. We will also be welcoming our new Chair, Adrian Carridice-Davids, and formally appointing him to our Board.

There will be food and drinks and the opportunity to talk to members of our team and we will be holding the event at the Methodist church in Whalley Range – M16 7EX.

If you would like to attend, please complete and return the reply slip enclosed either by post or email. We hope to see you there.

SCHEME EVENTS



Over the past few months, our schemes have been busy hosting a selection of events for our tenants. These events are a good way for our tenants to get together, learn new skills and receive important updates and advice.

- Our tenants attended the cookery club where the recipe for the week was cottage pie. All tenants thoroughly enjoyed the end result.
- Tenants listened to a presentation from Manchester police on scam alerts.
- The weekly coffee/tea morning take place at Sycamore court where our tenants enjoy tea coffee and biscuits.
- The Luncheon club at Sycamore Court hosted regular fish and chips afternoon.



JUBILEE PARTY



The Queen become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee after 70 years on the Throne!

To Celebrate the occasion, tenants at Bougainvillea Gardens & Antilles Close hosted a garden party. Sabrina, our Scheme Manager at Daisy Bank Court also marked the occasion by arranging a street party for our tenants with the neighbouring houses. The events were enjoyed by all!



JAMAICA'S 60TH "DIAMOND JUBILEE" ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATORY EVENT IN MANCHESTER



Arawak Walton supported Jamaica's 60th Diamond Jubilee anniversary of independence which kicked off with a major business and cultural event on Saturday 26th March 2022. The theme: "Collaboration Across Communities".

Mr Wade Lyn, Jamaica's Honorary Consul, officially open the event and was the keynote speaker. There were also, noticeable contributions from:

- Richard Davis (CEO, Amazin' Business Solutions (ABS) Ltd) & one of the original Founders of Arawak Walton
- The Jamaica Tourist Board,
- Sonia Stewart - Jamaica Society – Manchester
- Deanne Heron (Author, Qualified Counsellor & Trainer) – Jamaica's Patois Poem / Windrush Generation Child
- Dr Kevin Brown (Global Jamaica Diaspora Council)
- Plus, many more.
- The event was organised by Amazin' Business Solutions (ABS) Ltd and Making Connections Work (MCW) in collaboration with the Jamaica Society (Manchester).



SPRING FAYRE



The spring fayre at Birch Court back in March was a great success. Unfortunately, due to rainy weather, our tenants were unable to play outdoor games as planned. However, we had a caricaturist, 2x vendors - a baker and home furnishings businesses, Music by DJ Ged, as well as a raffle where we raised a total of £46.28 for comic relief!



TRIP TO BURY



Tenants from Sycamore Court recently visited award winning Bury market. Tenants spent the day looking in various shops and food stalls and made some purchases along the way. The day was finished off with lunch at a café before returning home.



KIDZ RECYCLE BIKE SCHEME



Our friends at the Millennium Powerhouse in Moss Side are working on a Bike project that aims to provide children with reconditioned bikes. Children will also receive a free helmet and some information on cycle lessons and routes.

If you or anyone you know has any unused or unwanted bikes, please make contact with Millennium Powerhouse to arrange collection or delivery on 0161 226 4335.

Alternatively, you can also contact them if you would like to add your child to the waiting list.



Women's Matters is an over 50's women's support group for women of Hulme. Sandra, a tenant of Arawak Walton is one of the co-founders of the group which provides a safe space for women to share ideas and experiences about mental health and wellbeing, reduce social isolation together and develop friendships through a variety of activities.

The latest session was led by Patsy Johnson from Buzz (NHS) where there was a discussion about 5 ways to wellbeing. It was an informative session with lots of useful information and conversation on various health and wellbeing topics as well as booklets to fill in at home.

If you would like to attend the next Women's Matters session, the group gets together every Thursday between 2pm and 4pm at the Aquarius Centre in Hulme.

Please contact 0161 226 8254 for more info



TAI CHI CHAIR EXERCISES

Tai Chi Chair Exercises have been taking place once again at Bougainvillea Gardens. The classes started on 12th May and lasted 8 weeks.

Tenants were really excited and couldn't wait for the classes to start after being postponed during lockdown. The trainer was also very happy to be back and remembered a few of the tenants from previous classes.



Coffee Mornings have also restarted at Bougainvillea Gardens every Friday from 10.30 am to 11.30am where tenants meet & socialise over coffee, tea, toast & biscuits.

PLANNED WORKS



Our maintenance team are due to start work on the below programmes;



**NEW DOORS AND
WINDOWS TO THE ST.
GREGORY'S ESTATE**



**KITCHEN
REPLACEMENT AT
ANTILLES CLOSE.**

REPAIRS



Did you know – minor blockages such as the ones below are the responsibility of the tenant. By following these tips, you will be able to resolve these issues in no time...

SINK BLOCKAGES

Sink blockages occur when the U-Bend gets blocked with food and other debris so to unblock it, you will need to do the following...

- 1 Locate the U-Bend, you will find it underneath your sink directly below the plug hole and it will be a "U" shape, like in the photo below.
- 2 Place a bowl underneath the U-bend to catch excess water
- 3 Loosen the threads slowly and detach the U-bend from the threads. Please note, excess water will drip in to the bowl.
- 4 Clean the U-bend with a cloth and warm soapy water.



- 5 Once clear, re-attach the U-bend by tightening the threads. Then run the tap slowly to check that it has been attached securely.

It is much easier to prevent blockages rather than rectifying them. You can prevent blockages by taking the following measures:

- 1 Use a plug hole cover to catch debris before it goes down the drain
- 2 Pour baking soda, vinegar, and hot water down the drain once a month. Pour plenty of baking soda down the drain, and then pour in some vinegar. You will hear it fizz which means the debris is being broken down. After it has stopped fizzing, pour a large bottle of hot water down the drain.



BLOCKED GULLEY



By regularly checking your gully and removing any trapped leaves or soot, you will prevent blockages.

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT



Countries around the world are facing rising goods and energy costs, inflation, cost of living pressures after the pandemic and the continuing war in Ukraine.

You can get help with:



Supporting your income



Help with bills



Help with childcare costs



Housing support



Help with transport costs



Help finding work

See what support you could be eligible for by visiting:
<https://costoflivingsupport.campaign.gov.uk/>

DON'T FALL FOR A SCAM!



Criminals worldwide are tricking millions of people into parting with billions of pounds every year. These criminals are called scammers.

Scammers are sophisticated, cunning and clever, employing many devious ways of collecting people's personal information. This enables them to know exactly who to target, and which type of scams those people are most likely to fall for. They contact victims by post, phone, email, text and on the doorstep.

Some tricks scammers use.



Scammers can impersonate anyone. It can be impossible to know where they are contacting you from even when they name a business or location



Scammers place text messages into a trusted text threat



Scammers ask victims to divulge their card details to pay for delivery of a free gift or sample. However, unwittingly the victim has signed up for a subscription



Scammers contact the victim and claim they have bought a debt with their name on it from a reputable company or utility supplier. They then threaten court action if the phantom bill or fine isn't paid.



Scammers behind lottery and prize draw scams try to con their victims a second time. They send out letters saying 'your unclaimed prize is being held and a payment is required to release it.

**If you have been scammed or want to learn more, you can visit the Think Jessica website www.thinkjessica.com or contact Action Fraud by phone or through their website
0300 123 2040
www.actionfraud.police.co.uk**

People arriving in the UK between 1948 and 1971 from Caribbean countries have become known as the Windrush Generation.

It refers to the ship MV Empire Windrush, which docked in Tilbury on 22 June 1948, bringing workers from Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and other islands, to help fill post-war UK labour shortages. The ship carried 492 passengers - many of them children.

It is unclear how many people belong to the Windrush generation, but they are thought to be in their thousands. They are among more than 500,000 UK residents who were born in a Commonwealth country and arrived before 1971, according to University of Oxford estimates.

The influx ended with the 1971 Immigration Act, when Commonwealth citizens already living in the UK were given indefinite leave to remain. After this, a British passport holder born overseas could only settle in the UK with both a work permit and proof of a parent or grandparent being born in the UK.

Events are held annually to commemorate the Windrush's arrival, and the subsequent wave of immigration from Caribbean countries.

Windrush Day is commemorated on 22 June - the first being observed in 2018. The lead-up to the event is marked with exhibitions, church services and cultural events.



An event was held on 22nd June 2022 at Bougainvillea Gardens to celebrate Windrush.





ASHLEY COLEMAN

Ashley Coleman initially started with Arawak Walton back in September 2021 through the Government kickstart scheme on a 6-month contract as a Housing Assistant. Following and has now been successful in securing another new role as Customer Service Advisor on permanent basis! Ashley's progress over the last 8 months has been incredible and we are pleased to welcome her as a permanent member of the Arawak Walton Team.

Here is a statement from Ashley;

"I began as a housing assistant for the communal services team back in September 2021 as part of the kickstart scheme, in which I had the opportunity to work with our over-55 tenants. The role was temporary which always made me a little crestfallen as I did not want to leave! I settled in nicely and the staff and tenants made me feel so welcome. Luckily an opportunity arose and I applied for the role of Trainee Customer Service Advisor and succeeded in January 2022. I have worked in the customer services department ever since and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time so far. I have learned so much from my colleagues and I genuinely love helping our tenants everyday with whatever issue that they have. So much, in fact, that I have now been offered the permanent position of Customer Service Advisor at Arawak Walton and I have taken it! I look forward to spending more time within the organisation and engaging with every one of our tenants."

NEW



WILL LEWIS

William is our new Trainee Customer Service Advisor and started with us at the beginning of June. Will previously worked in a primary school as an SEMH Teaching Assistant. Having been involved with community projects we think he will be a great addition to our Customer Services Team.

GOOD LUCK



DWALIQUA BROWN

Dwaliqua Brown, our Scheme Manager has left the association in April and has secured a new role for another Organisation.

GOOD LUCK

KADIE CONTEH

Kadie has come to the end of her temporary contract as a Customer Service Advisor and has also secured a new role.

NEW

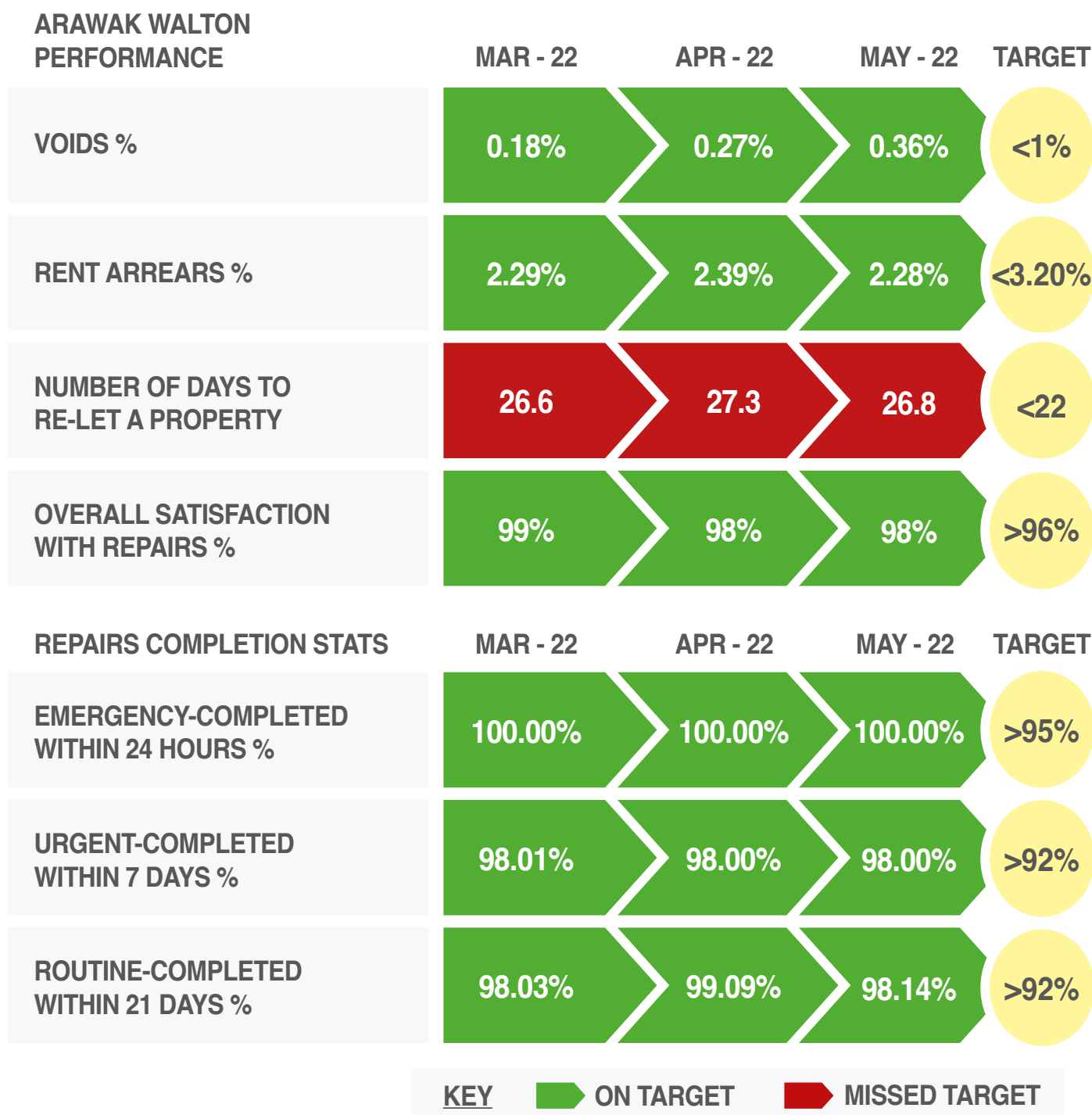


CHRISTINE ASHWORTH

Christine is our new Scheme Manager at Birch Court. Having previously temped with us at Sycamore Court, Christine was successful in her application for the permanent position. Welcome back!

We wish both
Kadie and
Dwaliqua the
very best of
luck in their
new roles!

HOW WE ARE PERFORMING (KPI'S)



PUZZLER COMPETITION WINNERS



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



MS MYRNA SALMON



MISS PERVEEN MOHAMMED



MR JOSEPH DALE



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.

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

Good luck!

Must be submitted by 29th July 2022



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



WORDSEARCH

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

BATHING SUIT
 BIKINI
 BOARDWALK
 LIFEGUARD
 PELICAN

SAILBOAT
 SANDALS
 SAND CASTLE
 SCUBA
 SEAGUL

SEASHELL
 SUNGLASSES
 SURFBOARD
 TROPICAL
 VACATION
 WAVES

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

Q: How much money did Arawak Walton raise for Comic Relief at the Spring Fayre?

A.

Name:

.....

Address:

.....

Telephone:

Email: