



Winter 2023

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Arawak Walton Housing Association
Margaret House,
23 Manor Street,
Ardwick,
Manchester M12 6HE

Tel: 0161 272 6094 **Out of hours:** 0800 389 4616
Fax: 0161 273 4080
Website: www.arawakwalton.com
Email: contact@arawakwalton.com
Check us out on X: @arawakwalton and facebook.

CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS



Our office will close on Friday 22nd December at 3pm
and will reopen on Tuesday 2nd January 2024 at 9am.

Our emergency repairs service will operate throughout the holiday period.

EMERGENCY REPAIR TELEPHONE NUMBER: 0800 389 4616

Non-emergencies/non-urgent repairs should be reported to our office
(0161 272 6094) on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

*Arawak Walton would like to wish you all health and happiness
over the festive season and a Happy New Year!*



2023 EVENTS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT BOUGAINVILLEA GARDENS



We held our annual celebration event at Bougainvillea Gardens to celebrate Black History Month in October. We had an incredible turnout from staff, tenants and friends of Arawak Walton. We had a performance from world renowned Storyteller Jan Blake, a presentation by Winston Jones who shared his personal experience of being stuck in Jamaica for 10 years, after what he thought would be a 2 week holiday - A remarkable case involving the Windrush Scandal and an interactive workshop by a community-based organisation called Afrocats.



SYCAMORE COURT MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



On Monday 25th September, staff and tenants at Sycamore Court held a coffee morning to support MacMillan Cancer research.

**I am proud to say that we were able to raise £106.67
for MacMillan.**



TENANT VOICES

ARAWAK'S OLDEST TENANT



Mrs. Grant is officially Arawak Walton Housing Associations' oldest tenant, having turned 93 years old earlier this year. Having arrived in Manchester in 1959, Mrs Grant shares a story of hope, sadness and achievement in equal measure on how she came to live in Manchester. Still young at heart.

My early memories of being a child in Jamaica were being in church every Sunday, being the eldest of 8 children in a large loving family. Meal times were always a big deal and even today the smell of burning coal or wood always takes me back to meal times as a child.

10 years after Windrush had sailed, the British Government was still asking for people in Jamaica to come and work in England, with promises of jobs, housing and free medical care. I chose to join my then childhood sweetheart, Rupert who had travelled out a few months earlier.



I sailed on a Spanish ship, called SS Gigwana. It took 22 days and stopped off at various places like Tenerife and mainland Spain

before arriving at Southampton on 4 November 1959. I then travelled up to Moss Side in Manchester to meet Rupert. When I arrived I thought it was a city of factories, because of all the smog. You could not see 10 foot in front of you on some days. All the houses were joined up and it was bitterly cold.



The first few years were really hard, we were told that there were lots of jobs, plenty of houses and I thought everyone would be pleased to see us, but sadly this was not the case. We really struggled to rent a property to live in, with landlords openly putting signs up saying no blacks,

no Irish and no dogs. Unless you knew someone, jobs were hard to find, and generally we were treated very badly. But with perseverance we both got work, Rupert at Hyde Road bus depot and me at Bowaters in Trafford Park, saving enough money to get a deposit to buy a house.

Having married Rupert at a church off Moss Lane East in Moss Side, we traveled to Skegness on our first holiday as Mr & Mrs. Grant. Being a Christian meant that Sunday prayers were very important to us, so no matter where we were we would always find a local church to pray at. As we approached the main doors to the church we were turned away by a church elder because we did not look like the people in the congregation. This left me and my husband feeling rejected and angry.

When we returned to Manchester we decided that we would never put ourselves in that position again and chose to buy a house in Moss Side, in an area where we felt safe, free from persecution and where we could raise a family.

For over 50 years Moss Side was our home, often traveling back to Jamaica to see family and raising two beautiful children in a vibrant community. Unfortunately Mr Grant developed Dementia and needed intensive care, resulting in him moving into a care home, where he sadly passed away in early 2023.

I made the difficult decision to move into Bougainvillea Gardens, a scheme for older people because I had become isolated and felt lonely. Being one of 8 children and having lived in a vibrant community it was difficult to accept the silence. A decision I quickly realised was this right move. Although I miss my husband and my friends in Moss Side, Jackie, the scheme manager, has helped so much. She is so easy to talk to, and does everything to help us keep involved, like themed events and Bingo.

I am looking forward to Christmas and will reflect on my life with pride and hope any young people reading my story will not be put off their dreams to travel and see the world.



Arawak Walton were delighted to support the Cheetham Hill Cultural festival this weekend. The Festival is in its 19th year, celebrates the diversity of the area, and is crucial to bringing together people from all ethnicities and faiths across Cheetham Hill. Community Centres and places of worship throw open their doors to welcome those who want to understand, want to learn more, and want to connect with others in their community that they may not otherwise have the opportunity to talk to.

Housing Services Manager, Tara Horner, attended. She enjoyed meeting Pakistani and Turkish community members and learning about traditional South Asian attire at the Guidance Hub's Family Fun Day. She made links with community partners Winning Hearts & Minds, watched performances at Manchester Jewish Museum, visited the Ukrainian Cultural Centre and immersed herself in Sikh history and culture at Central Gurdwara.



PROPERTY UPDATES

NEW AQISITIONS



We continue to acquire properties to add to our stock portfolio. Below are some photographs from one of our recent acquisitions. As you can see the transformation is amazing.

THE RENOVATION CONSISTED OF:

- New roof
- Damp proofing works
- Plastering
- Utility room created into a breakfast bar area, old kitchen units disposed of
- New radiators
- Full property decs
- Money left in the budget so was able to fully carpet throughout

BEFORE AQISITION



AFTER AQISITION



UPCOMING PROJECTS FROM MAINTENANCE



New kitchens at
Walmer Street, Great
Western Street,
Siddall Street,
Linwood Grove,
Slade Hall
Drive

New windows,
doors and porches
at 209/211
Withington Road

New front doors
at Antilles Close

WELFARE UPDATES

ARE YOU OUT OF WORK, OR OFF WORK DUE TO SICKNESS?



At Arawak Walton we understand that the cost-of-living crisis has caused many tenants financial difficulty. It has come to our attention that some tenants have been further impacted due to being out of work or off sick from work for a short period, and that not everyone is claiming all the support they would be entitled to.

We encourage all tenant to check the entitledto website: <https://www.entitledto.co.uk/>

You may think you aren't eligible for any support, but it doesn't take long to check, and you may be surprised!

You may also be entitled to discretionary housing payments, which can help to pay your rent.

If you need help to check your entitlement, please make an appointment with your Housing Officer by calling 0161 272 6094.

CRIME PREVENTION AT CHRISTMAS



Christmas can be the most expensive time of the year, with some families saving all year round to make the festive period extra special. According to the insurance industry, statistically more home burglaries happen in December. Please find below some tips to keep your home safe.

Don't make it easy for opportunistic burglars. When you go out, or to bed, check you have shut and locked all windows and doors. Don't leave your keys in locks when you are in, as a burglar may be able to reach them through the letterbox.



PRETEND SOMEONE'S IN

Put lights on timers and leave the radio on to make it look and sound as if someone is at home or leave an ironing board up with a pile of clothes near the window.

DON'T BE A SHOW OFF!

Do not leave presents in full view of windows, even if they are empty boxes. Dispose of any boxes, and don't put large expensive packaging outside for everyone to see.

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOURS

If you or your neighbours are away for the festive period help each other by bringing in each other's bins. By leaving bins out for a matter of days, you are telling burglars that you are away.



ARAWAK WALTON UPDATES

EQUALITY DIVERSITY & INCLUSION COLLECTION

NEWS

Arawak Walton values equality, diversity and inclusion and regularly monitors the data we hold to continually improve our service to our tenants.

You may recall receiving a text message from us recently, asking you to complete your details so we can check this against the information we hold for you.

If you haven't already, please submit or update your details to help us achieve our aim <https://arawakwalton.com/edif/>

EMERGENCY CONTACTS OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

NEWS

Below are some emergency contacts you may need over the Christmas period in the event of an emergency.

SERVICE	HELP WITH	NUMBER
NHS direct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical advice• Repeat prescriptions	111
National gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong smell of gas	0800 111 999
National Grid	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Power failure in your area	0800 6783 105
Emergency repairs for Arawak Walton Housing Association tenants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repairs that are deemed a health and safety risk• Floods and major leaks• No electricity• No heating and hot water	0161 272 6094
Samaritans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Having a difficult time and need to talk to someone	116 123

COMMUNITY NEWS

BIN COLLECTIONS

NEWS

Please note the following changes to bin collections over the Christmas period.

USUAL DAY (2024):

Monday 1 January
Tuesday 2 January
Wednesday 3 January
Thursday 4 January
Friday 5 January



CHANGED TO (2024):

Tuesday 2 January
Wednesday 3 January
Thursday 4 January
Friday 5 January
Saturday 6 January

If you are unsure of your collection days, you can check them in advance at manchester.gov.uk/bincollections

CHRISTMAS RECIPES

CLASSIC EGGNOG



Get into the festive spirit with eggnog, a classic Christmas drink made with brandy, cream, eggs and vanilla. Serve with plenty of ice in tumbler glasses.



INGREDIENTS

- 1 vanilla pod, split and seeds scraped out
- 4 eggs, separated
- 100ml sugar syrup
- 100ml double cream
- 500ml whole milk
- 100-150ml brandy
- Ice

METHOD

STEP 1

Put the vanilla seeds in a large bowl. Add the egg yolks and sugar syrup, and beat with an electric whisk until pale, about 2-3 mins. Add the cream, milk and brandy, and beat again until just combined. Strain into a punch bowl.

STEP 2

Clean the beaters, then beat the egg whites in a clean bowl to soft peaks. Fold a third of the whipped egg whites into the milk and cream mixture in the punch bowl, then add the remaining whipped egg whites. Gently fold these in until the eggnog is fluffy and smooth. Chill until ready to serve. Will keep, covered in the fridge, for up to a day. Just before serving, add plenty of ice, then stir gently and ladle into tumblers.



FC UNITED'S BIG COAT CAMPAIGN



Arawak Walton supported FC United's big coat campaign in November and donated a selection of gloves, hats, coats, blankets and sleeping bags for distribution in our communities



IMPACT PROGRAMME ARTICLE



Cariocca Enterprises Announces Next Cohort of its imPACT Internship Programme

Cariocca Enterprises, a Manchester-based workspace provider and founded in 1986 to support entrepreneurialism in Manchester's inner-city communities, manages over 200 workspaces in Miles Platting and Ardwick.

We are excited to announce the continuation of our commitment to empowering young people within our community through our "imPACT Programme." Following the success of its initial pilot for individuals aged 17 to 29, the second cohort is set to commence in January 2024.

This innovative Cariocca programme offers a unique opportunity for young people from ethnic minority backgrounds to acquire essential employment skills and gain valuable work experience across a variety of sectors including engineering, technology, finance, education, business, health, and public sectors.

Cleveland McCurdy, Chair of Cariocca said,

"Cariocca recognises the need for more young people in Greater Manchester to gain skills and experience in careers that would normally seem out of reach to them. The imPACT programme addresses this need and, where it can, provides much-needed assistance to enable them to aspire to enter these professions."

Applicants accepted on the course will be provided with employability training, coaching, mentoring, CV writing, interview, and presentation skills, including talks from inspirational speakers, before taking up an internship with a partner organisation for up to two weeks.

Cariocca Enterprises funds this 8-week programme, including the cost of transport and lunches for those students that require assistance to and from the training centre or placement location.

Placements will take place on completion of the full training in March 2024 with our partners, including Greater Manchester Police, Manchester City Council, Arawak Walton Housing Association, and Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust.

Young people on the pilot programme felt that being part of the course had given them improved confidence in being more employable and provided them with opportunities they would not have otherwise been able to access, including meeting the Lord Mayor of the City of Manchester.

If you would like to find out more about how to secure your place on this programme, please email impact@cariocca.co.uk



DEFINE YOUR FUTURE!

The Cariocca imPACT Internship Programme

Do you want to improve your employment prospects?

- Gain new skills
- Boost your confidence
- Get experience working in Tech, Engineering, Construction, Media, Sports, or Finance

If you are 17-29 years old and live in Greater Manchester

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS FREE OPPORTUNITY

 impact@cariocca.co.uk

 07957 510321



Creating opportunities for young people in Greater Manchester
www.carioccaimpact.co.uk



STAFF NEWS

LEAVERS



CYM D'SOUZA RETIRES

The Board would like to announce that Cym D'Souza, Chief Executive has retired as at 31st October. We thank Cym for all that she achieved in the 25 years of service and we wish her well in her retirement.

The Board are currently considering the next steps in recruitment to replace Cym. In the interim Amanda Harris, Finance Director and **Kate Forrester, Operations Director** will jointly take over the leadership of the Association, with support from the Board.



ANTHONY RAWLINSON

Anthony came to Arawak Walton as our Trainee Customer Service Advisor last December. He has learnt a lot over the year both about housing and the role of a Customer Service Advisor. Anthony has secured a full time, permanent position as a Customer Service Advisor with Rochdale Borough Housing and starts his new job in January. We wish him all the best.

We wish them all the best in their new ventures.

STARTERS



STEPHEN MURIITHI – IT ASSISTANT

Stephen Muriithi has joined our IT team as our new IT Assistant. Stephen is a software developer and business analyst and graduated from the University of Nottingham Trent University with a BSc in Information Systems. Stephen is a great addition to our IT department.

PUZZLER COMPETITION WINNERS



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



MRS SAMIRA YUSUF



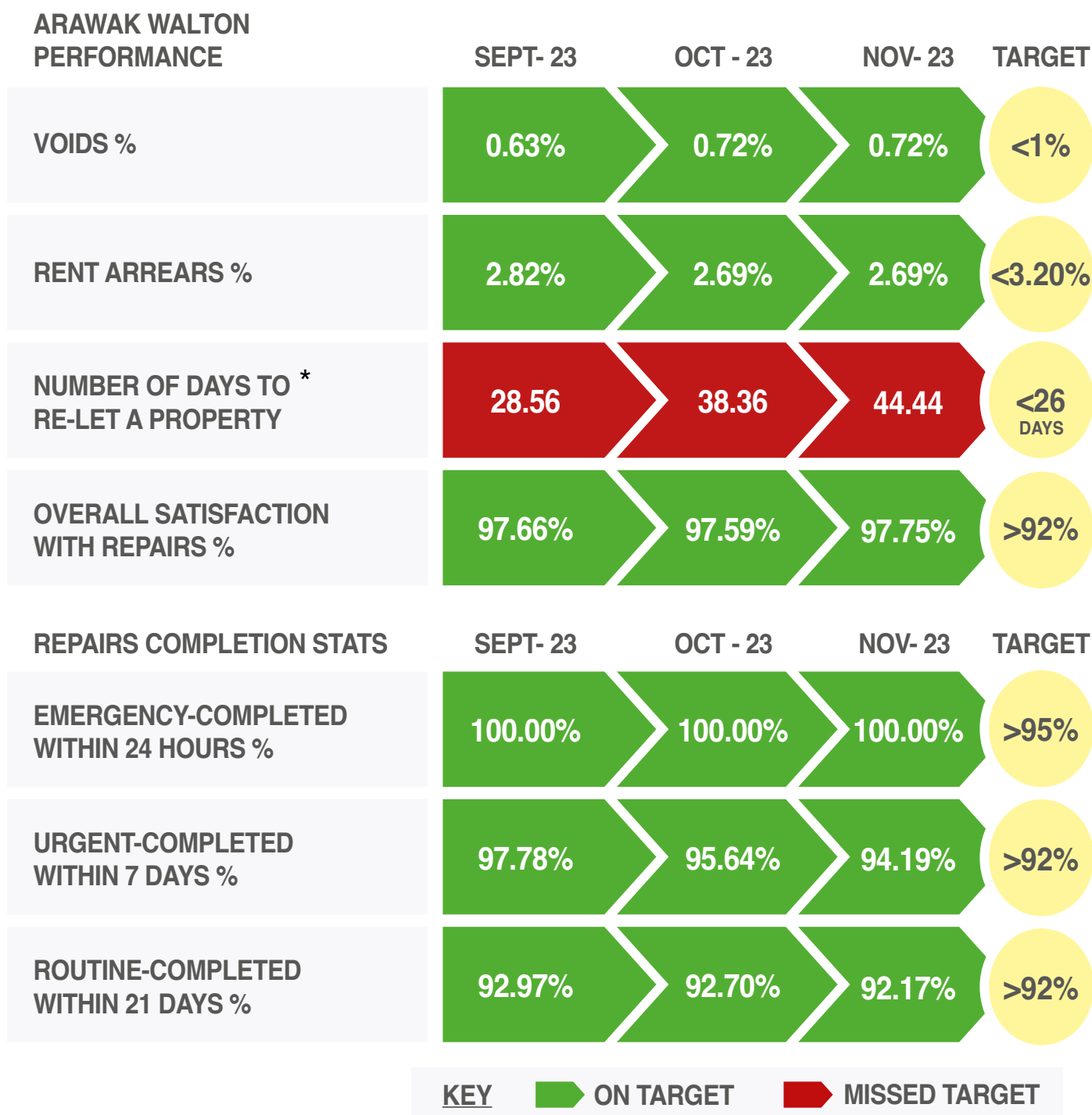
MISS NICOLA CLARKE



MRS FRANCES ANDERSON



HOW WE ARE PERFORMING (KPI'S)



*Both general needs and over 55 properties contributed to the missed targets. Voids in our general needs properties was due to a combination of staff shortages and annual leave as well as improvement works being carried out to the property once it was vacated and voids in our older people's properties can sometimes take longer to let as applicants tend to need more time to go through the moving process as they often have to downsize.



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 31st January 2024



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

1



2



CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH



COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD

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

ANGOLA
CUBA
DENMARK

FRANCE
GREECE
IRELAND

JAPAN
LUXEMBOURG
UKRAINE

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 did we raise for Macmillan Cancer Research at the Coffee Morning?

A.

Name:

.....

.....

Address:

.....

.....

.....

Telephone:

Email:

