

# ALMONDVIEW

ALMOND HOUSING ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2016

**DIGITAL  
WEEK**  
17-21 October



## Elsie found new hobbies online

Before Elsie Dempster (85) took part in our computer course she knew nothing about

computers and the internet. Now she's googling and watching YouTube. *More on page 2.*

**We are now on Social Media!**

Find us on



and follow us on



# A googling grandmother

Mrs Elsie Dempster (85) – Proof that age is no barrier to getting digitally connected.

Last year Almond tenant Mrs Elsie Dempster completed our free computer course, which she describes as 'her first introduction to the digital world':

*'I belong to a whole other generation and didn't grow up with this technology. But I see its benefits and wanted to learn.'*

Elsie, who lives in Ladywell, took part in our very first Computer and Online Basics course at West Lothian College in 2015, a beginners course for tenants who wish to learn how to use a computer. Everyone on Elsie's course was even provided with a refurbished laptop from charity Reusing IT on completing the training.

Elsie says: *'I was very impressed that we all got laptops! That's how I've been able to keep learning at home too.'*

Since the course ended, the 85 year old has been googling and surfing the web. The greatest benefit of learning how to use the internet, she says, is that she has discovered new hobbies and interests:

*'I now use Pinterest to keep up to date on knitting and other crafts, and I enjoy watching animal videos and other videos on YouTube.'*

Elsie says she would recommend the course to anyone who wants to learn, young and old. In fact, she enjoyed the course so much that she posted us a beautiful thank you card. Because certain things are still better the old fashioned way:

*'I'll always prefer letters to emails. Nothing can change that!'*



**'I now use Pinterest to keep up to date on knitting and other crafts'**



## Free computer courses

Do you want to learn how to use a computer? We provide tenants with an opportunity to go on a free Computer and Online Basics course at West Lothian College. We also offer an intermediate course for those who have been on the beginners course or have basic computer knowledge and would like to learn more.

If you want to know more, please get in touch with Community Engagement Officer Saima Akhtar on **01506 439291** or email [enquiries@almondha.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@almondha.org.uk)



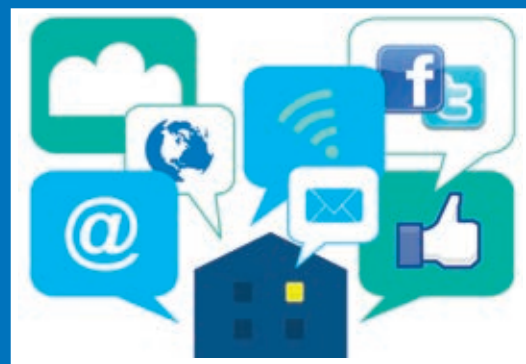
## Almond on Facebook and Twitter

We are now on Facebook and Twitter where we'll keep you up to date about all Almond news and events. We hope you will look us up and follow us!



ALMOND  
Digital  
help you

**DIGITAL  
WEEK**  
17-21 October



## Get online in Digital Week

Get Online Week is coming up, with events taking place all across the country, showing people how the internet can make life easier, cheaper, healthier and more fun.

At Almond we're hosting our own Digital Week 17-21 October with plenty of digital events:

### TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER

*You're invited to a Techy Tea Party @ Almond*

Come along to learn how Almond can help you get online over a cup of tea and a slice of cake. We will have lots of information on courses, internet deals and an opportunity to try different devices to see which suits your needs best. There's no need to book, come along anytime between 10.30am – 12.30pm.

### WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER

*Come see our IT buddies*

Wednesday afternoon from 12.30pm to 3.30pm we have IT buddies available in our office for one-to-one digital support. We can provide devices or you can bring your own, and we can help with any digital enquiries you may have from accessing emails to learning how to use Skype. No digital enquiry is too big or small.

### THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER

*Book a free place for the Driving Forward workshop*

Would you like to know how to save money on your shopping, find out about price comparisons and make your money go further? Then this workshop from Almondbank IT Suite could be for you. To book a place, please contact our Community Engagement Officer on 01506 439291.

*Time and place: 2.00 – 4.00pm at Almondbank Centre, Shiel Walk, Livingston.*

### FRIDAY 21 OCTOBER

*Book a place for Switching Labs – an energy workshop*

If you want to understand the benefits of switching your energy tariff, become confident in reading your bills and carrying out a tariff check, find out when it's okay to switch and look at whether you are eligible for the Warm Homes Discount Scheme, book a place for Changeworks' Switching Labs workshop. To book a place, contact our Community Engagement Officer on 01506 439291.

*Time and place: 10.00am – 11.00am at Almond's offices*

For more updates about our programme, check our Facebook, Twitter or website [www.almondha.co.uk](http://www.almondha.co.uk)

**We look forward to seeing you!**

# We have a winner!

Congratulations to Miss Amanda McKenzie of Whitburn, who has won our Almond Award of this quarter! Amanda was delighted to be presented with **£250 worth of vouchers** for Almondvale Shopping centre.



The draw is our way of thanking folks for keeping on top of their rent payments, taking care of their home and generally being a good tenant! Our next Almond Award will be run in Winter 2016. All you need to do in order to be entered for the draw to win £250 worth of vouchers is to:

- 1 Have maintained a clear rent account for a minimum period of three months immediately prior to the draw
- 2 Not be involved in any anti-social behaviour in your area
- 3 Maintain your tenancy and any garden area to a satisfactory standard
- 4 Have allowed our contractor to gain access to your home to complete the annual gas check

*Well done to Amanda and a big thanks to all our tenants!*



## We're planning a Christmas event!

Christmas keeps getting closer and, just like last year, we're planning a big Christmas events for all our tenants! More information about the event will be sent to you shortly, so watch out. You can also keep informed about all upcoming events on our website [www.almondha.org.uk](http://www.almondha.org.uk) and on Facebook and Twitter. We hope to see you all at the event!

**Correction** In last edition of the Almond View we incorrectly stated that the winner of the Almond Award was a Miss L Wishart whilst the winner's correct name is Miss L Reilly. We're sorry for getting the name wrong, and we hope Miss Reilly has enjoyed her prize. Congratulations once again!

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY "OUT OF HOURS" REPAIRS: 0845 038 0040

Almond Housing Association	01506 439 291	Homeless Persons	01506 280 000	Scottish Power	(General) 0845 270 0700
Gas Leaks	0800 111 999	Howden Health Centre	01506 423 800		(Emergency) 0845 272 7999
Citizens Advice Bureau	01506 432 977	Litter Hotline	0800 616 446	St John's Hospital	01506 523 000
Craigshill Health Centre	01506 432 621	Police	101	Street Lighting	01506 280 000
Energy Advice	0808 808 2282	Refuse Collection	01506 280 000	West Lothian Council	01506 280 000