

### Sad death of John Fayrer

ETF was deeply saddened by the death of John Fayrer on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017. John was a very active member of his community and within ETF, was a Tenant Led Inspector, a member of the Sheltered Housing Liaison Group and the Rent Matters Working Group to name a few. Our thoughts are with John's family and friends; he will be sorely missed. There will be a tribute to John in the next edition of *Tenants Voice*.

### Tenant Led Inspection Discussion Groups on Rent Collection Communication

ETF's Tenant Led Inspectors (TLI) would like to invite members of the City of Edinburgh Council's Tenants' Panel and/or members of a Registered Tenant Organisation to attend discussion groups which will explore different ways the City of Edinburgh Council communicates with tenants about rent collection. The Inspectors are keen to hear your views on these communications. The tenant discussion groups should take no longer than 90 minutes. You will be invited to contribute about the different ways you have communicated with the Council about rent collection. All information collected during the discussion groups will be treated confidentially. This research will help deliver recommendations to the Council which will improve the way they communicate with tenants with regards to rent collection. If you are interested in taking part in a discussion group or have any queries, please contact Mark Henry, ETF Development Worker on 0131 475 2509 or email [mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk).

### ETF Learning Session: Balancing the Books, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017, 9.30am-3.30pm, Norton Park Conference Centre, 57 Albion Road

Are you terrified of finance or just not sure how to keep your group's accounts? ETF is holding a one day learning session on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017, 9.30am-3.30pm, Norton Park Conference Centre, 57 Albion Road. (Lunch will be provided).**

The learning session will look at:

- Basics of keeping group accounts;
- Good record keeping;
- How to lay out your group's financial statements.

It's not just for Treasurers though – it's everyone's responsibility to know about their group's finance, so come along and take the plunge. For bookings contact the Federation Office on 0131 475 2509, email [info@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:info@edinburghtenants.org.uk) or book online at [www.edinburghtenants.org.uk](http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk). Housing Association tenants are required to pay a nominal fee, please contact your landlord before booking a place. **Places must be booked in advance.**

### Tenants Voice: Call for Articles

Do you have any interesting stories from your area or would like to share an exciting piece of work that you or your group is currently involved in? If so; then why not contribute an article to the next edition of *Tenants Voice*? The deadline for material for the next issue is **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017**, so if there's anything you'd like to say, please speak up! Articles and letters for publication should be sent to the Federation office at Norton Park, 57 Albion Road, Edinburgh EH7 5QY, or emailed to [info@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:info@edinburghtenants.org.uk). Alternatively, give the Federation office a call on 0131 475 2509 if you'd like help to pull an article together.

## Your Executive Committee Needs You!

As you are probably aware, it's that time of year where we are busy preparing for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June. One of the main tasks of the AGM is to elect new members to the Federation's Executive Committee (EC). The EC meet on a monthly basis and are involved in decision making on behalf of the Federation and represent the views of tenants when considering housing policies and services. If you think you have the skills to contribute to being an EC member or would like more information contact Clare MacGillivray on 0131 475 2509 or email [clare@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:clare@edinburghtenants.org.uk). ETF has a system in place where new members can work with more experienced members and staff are available for support if and when required. If you are interested, firstly speak to your association, because they need to support your application. Your association needs to renew its membership with ETF, complete, sign and return a nomination form and supporting statement by **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017**. Forms will be sent out in due course.

## Inquiry into housing for disabled people consultation

In December 2016 the Equality & Human Rights Commission launched a formal inquiry into housing for disabled people. The inquiry is examining the provision of accessible housing or housing that can be adapted to increase accessibility. The Commission would particularly like to hear from disabled people, their families and carers and have produced a questionnaire which focuses on the main areas of interest. The questionnaire can be completed on-line at <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/housing-inquiry-organisations/>. If you require a hard copy of the questions, please leave a message and your details on the voicemail line: 0161 829 8878. The closing date for responses is **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017**. ETF is hosting a conversation event for our Members, and individuals, especially from disabled people and their families / carers to talk about these issues. The event will take place on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017, 6.30pm-8.30pm, Norton Park Conference Centre, 57 Albion Road, Edinburgh, EH7 5QY**. For bookings contact the Federation Office on 0131 475 2509, email [info@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:info@edinburghtenants.org.uk) or book online at [www.edinburghtenants.org.uk](http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk). **Places must be booked in advance.** Views from this session will be fed in directly to the Inquiry.

## Social Security Experience Panels

Earlier this month, Jeane Freeman, MSP and Minister for Social Security launched the Social Security Experience Panels. The Experience Panels will offer an opportunity to those with direct, personal experience of the benefit system to get involved and help shape the future of social security in Scotland. The Scottish Government is looking for people to join the Experience Panels, in particular those with recent experience of benefits, so if you are interested please complete the on-line form at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/fairerscotland/Social-Security/Experience-Panels/> or phone 0800 029 4974. **The closing date to register is Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017.**

## ETF Blog

We at ETF are very proud of the response from our blog. Our blog has been up and running for nearly a year. This month's blog comes from Kirsten Gray who was a student with ETF and will tell us about the research that she was involved in during her placement. You can read Kirsten's blog at <http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/category/guest-bloggers/>.

We are constantly looking for new bloggers, so if you are a tenant, employed in the housing sector, enthusiastic about where you live or interested in community development, then why not become a guest blogger? If you're interested in contributing a blog or would like more information, please contact the Federation office on 0131 475 2509 or email [info@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:info@edinburghtenants.org.uk). Some useful hints and tips for writing blogs can be found at <http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/draft-blog/>.

## Advance notice - Membership Renewal

ETF will shortly be sending out forms to all our members asking you to renew your membership of the Federation. All member organisations wishing to vote at the AGM or to nominate a representative to the Federation's Executive Committee must have renewed their membership by **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017**.

## Advance Warning: Annual General Meeting, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2017, time and venue to be confirmed

This year's ETF Annual General Meeting will take place on the evening of **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2017, time and venue to be confirmed**. This is the highlight of the year for ETF and we really hope you will be able to join us. The AGM will be followed by a social with buffet. All members and their friends and partners are warmly invited to attend. A formal notice and invitation will be sent out shortly but for now please put the date in your diary. Watch this space for further details.

### Diary Dates

Here are dates of upcoming events that may be of interest to you. Please pass them onto other members of your organisation.

#### April 2017

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| 3 April  | Conversation for inquiry into housing for disabled people, 6.30pm-8.30pm, Norton Park Conference Centre, 57 Albion Road. <b>Places must be booked in advance</b> |
| 10 April | Public holiday – Office closed   |
| 11 April | Deadline for <i>Tenants Voice</i> articles   |
| 14 April | Public holiday – Office closed   |
| 17 April | Public holiday – Office closed   |
| 18 April | Deadline for responses to inquiry into housing for disabled people consultation  |
| 22 April | Balancing the Books Learning Session, 9.30am-3.30pm, Norton Park Conference Centre, 57 Albion Road. <b>Places must be booked in advance</b>                      |

#### May 2017

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| 1 May  | Public holiday – Office closed  |
| 12 May | Deadline to join Scottish Government Social Security Experience Panel |
| 17 May | Federation Meeting, 7.00pm-9.00pm, venue to be confirmed              |
| 22 May | Public holiday – Office closed  |

Please use public transport where possible. If required, assistance with transport and childcare may be available on request. Contact the Federation office on 0131 475 2509 for more information or to book a place at any of the events.