



EDINBURGH TENANTS
FEDERATION

Federation Matters December 2014



Introducing our new on-line monthly bulletin

ETF is delighted to announce the publication of our first brilliant monthly on-line newsletter. This will be sent out to our members who have already signed up to receive information by email. This has been the result of months of hard work and we are really pleased with the final result. We have yet to come up with a name for our new on-line newsletter, so if anyone has any suggestions, please contact Mark on 0131 475 2509 or email mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk. If you would like to receive our monthly bulletin by email please sign up by going to our website www.edinburghtenants.org.uk and register; you can also receive paper copies of *Federation Matters* if you wish. Our website allows you to book for any forthcoming Federation events that are advertised in both our online bulletin and *Federation Matters* via Eventbrite. As this is our first on-line newsletter we would greatly appreciate any feedback you may have as we do on all our publications.

We are also hoping to launch a system to notify people when *Tenants Voice* is available to download as a means to reduce all the envelopes that fall through your letterbox from us. It's friendlier to the environment and of course less postage costs for us. If this is something you are interested in please drop Mary an email – mary@edinburghtenants.org.uk and she will set this up for you.

Hope you enjoy the bulletin.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Quiz Night on Monday 24th November 2014, with an especially big thank you to our Executive Committee members Lynne Tait and Maud Wylie for organising such a successful event. The feedback we've had is that everyone had a great night. Congratulations to the winners and commiserations to the losers. We managed to raise £200 in aid of Children in Need – thank you to everyone for your generous donations.

ETF website

The Federation's website is live at www.edinburghtenants.org.uk and has links to our Facebook and Twitter pages. Each member group can have their own page on the website and we are encouraging as many groups as possible to get online. To find out more, please contact Mary on 0131 475 2509 or email mary@edinburghtenants.org.uk.

Tenant Led Inspections

Tenant Led Inspections are where tenants take the lead in finding out how a landlord's service really works and reports back suggestions for improvement. ETF successfully ran three Tenant Led Inspections and we are now inviting more tenants to get involved as we begin to prepare for our next Inspection. You don't have to be a member of a tenants' group or have any specialist knowledge, just a willingness to find out how things work with a view to improving services. If you would like to know more information, please contact Mark at the Federation Office.

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Smith Commission

ETF submitted a response to the Smith Commission, making recommendations to the UK Parliament on strengthening the devolution settlement for the Scottish Parliament. ETF's response was also submitted to the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) for inclusion in the overall Third Sector response for Scotland. If anyone would like a copy of ETF's response, please contact the Federation office on 0131 475 2509 or email info@edinburghtenants.org.uk. You can download a copy of ETF's response on our website at <http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/etf-responds-smith-commission/>.

Executive Committee Members

The Federation needs you! After recent retirements from the Executive Committee (EC) we are actively recruiting new members to the EC. The EC is the board responsible for running the Federation as an organisation.

You'd need to be:

- Nominated by a Member Group of the Federation
- Willing to attend monthly Executive Committee meetings (usually Monday evenings)
- Interested in housing issues.

If you'd like to have an informal chat about joining the Executive Committee, please contact the Federation office on 0131 475 2509 or email info@edinburghtenants.org.uk.

Advance notice – Council Tenants' Conference, 'Fair Rents?' Saturday 24th January 2015, Norton Park Conference Centre, 9.30am-1.00pm

Our Council Tenants' Conference 'Fair Rents' will take place on **Saturday 24th January 2015** in the **Norton Park Conference Centre** from **09.30am-1.00pm**. The focus of the meeting will be a discussion on what steps ETF should take to influence the City of Edinburgh Council's rent strategy and rent level for 2015/16. This is a very important meeting and it would be good to see as many tenants' groups and tenants as possible there. Papers and more information about the meeting will be sent out in due course.

Diary Dates

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

January 2015

24 January Council Tenants' Conference, 'Fair Rents?', Norton Park Conference Centre, 9.30am-1.00pm

February 2015

9 February High Flats Safe Talk Training, Birnies Court, Muirhouse View, 7.00pm-9.00pm

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.

The Federation Office closes on **Friday 19th December 2014 at 12pm** for the Christmas and New Year holidays and re-opens on **Monday 5th January 2015 at 9am**.



*Seasons Greetings from everyone at
Edinburgh Tenants Federation*



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