

SPECIAL EDITION



CELEBRATING OUR CENTENARY





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Foreword

We are delighted to welcome you to our special edition centenary newsletter.

It's hard to believe we're coming to the end of our centenary year. It only seems like yesterday that we formed a group, which included some of our residents, to plan what we would be doing to celebrate our centenary, but this actually began back in 2017!

We had so many ideas, but we had three main objectives:

1. To link as many events as possible to our railway heritage
2. To involve as many of our residents as possible
3. To make events/activities cost neutral where possible

We are pleased to say that all three objectives were met. The vast majority of our events were linked to the railway, whether it was our signature event on the amazing Wensleydale Railway, holding our AGM at the National Railway Museum and even brewing a railway-inspired centenary beer.

Hundreds of our residents were involved in events/activities. 100 guests joined us on the afternoon tea train on the Wensleydale Railway, including John Baker, the resident who suggested a steam train trip as our biggest event.



We welcomed more residents to our grand day out in Darlington and several of our involved residents joined us at our AGM. The beer we had brewed was shared among residents and looking even wider, hundreds of people are now finding out more about Railway Housing Association and its history at an exhibition running at the Head of Steam Museum in Darlington.

Each of our sheltered housing schemes were given money to mark the centenary in a manner of their choosing. Most held scheme parties with entertainment, food and refreshments.

None of this would have been possible however without the generous support of local organisations, notably Darlington Building Society who sponsored the afternoon tea train. Other suppliers and contractors paid for the brewing of the beer or the sheltered scheme events, and we are very grateful for all their contributions.

We hope you have enjoyed taking part in, or reading about, the many events/activities that have taken place throughout 2019.

We value your support and are now looking forward to the next 100 years of Railway Housing Association.

Thank you

Berni Whitaker, (Chair) and Anne Rowlands (Chief Executive)

Thank you to MT Print for subsidising the cost of printing this centenary newsletter.

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CENTENARY NEWSLETTER



Chief Executive Anne Rowlands shares out bottles of the centenary beer.

Raise your glass

A beer brewed to a style popular 100 years ago has been enjoyed by many of our residents.

Steam Machine Brewery in Newton Aycliffe produced a limited-edition porter style beer to mark our centenary year.

The beer, which is called 'Vintage Railway Porter', was given out to residents at various events throughout the year, including on the afternoon tea train and at our 2019 residents' grand day out.

We would like to thank Shaefer PR and Marketing Ltd for their sponsorship of the beer and Shock the Senses for designing the bottle labels free of charge.

Shaefer PR & Marketing
No-nonsense communications

shockthesenses





“

It made sense to have an event connected with the railway and what better than taking people on an amazing heritage line like this; it was a fantastic afternoon.

”



Our ‘signature’ event of year was an afternoon tea experience on board carriages pulled by the Tornado, a coal-fired steam locomotive built in Darlington and operated by Wensleydale Railway.

All aboard the centenary express

An amazing 100 guests joined us on the train in June as it followed the route of the popular tourist and heritage line starting in Leeming Bar and heading to Redmire, on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, before heading back to Leeming. On route passengers were served an afternoon tea consisting of sandwiches, cakes, scones and tea and coffee.

Among those travelling was resident John Baker, from Newcastle, who originally came up with the idea of doing something related to the railway for the signature event.

Mr Baker said: “It made sense to have an event connected with the railway and what better than taking people on an amazing heritage line like this; it was a fantastic afternoon.”



The day could not have been made possible without the amazing support of Darlington Building Society and we would like to thank them for enabling us to have such a memorable event.

Darlington
Building Society

Brenda Flynn and Anne Rowlands





All aboard the
centenary express



“
”

Seeing the steam coming off the
train made my day; they don't
make them like that anymore!

100
CENTENARY NEWSLETTER

Happy birthday to you

We were delighted to share our centenary year with
two of our residents who also turned 100 in 2019.

Marion Jones and Margaret Turner both
celebrated their centenary this year

Marion lives at Great Western Court,
Hereford. A keen gardener, her friends
at the scheme had a slate name plaque
commissioned for her 100th birthday
showing 'Marions Garden' which is now in
place among her flowers.

Margaret Turner lives at Hackworth
Court in Stockton. We were delighted
that Margaret was able to join us on the
centenary steam train event in June.
She said: "Seeing the steam coming
off the train made my day; they don't
make them like that anymore!"

We would like to send Marion and
Margaret, our warmest centenary wishes.



Marion Jones



Margaret
Turner



Let's party

Throughout the year residents in our sheltered housing schemes marked our centenary by staging various events, ranging from parties to trips out.

These were made possible thanks to kind sponsorship from various local businesses who have worked with Railway Housing Association over the years. We would like to thank them for their kind support.

Parties are still due to be held at Hackworth Court in Stockton, sponsored by Derek Shaw; and at Tempest Anderson House in Darlington, sponsored by Phil Burridge.



Cowans House, Newcastle

Sponsored by **Alex Scott**

Residents at Cowans House in Newcastle enjoyed a lovely buffet meal and raised a toast or two to our centenary.

Martin Cheesman Court, York

At Martin Cheesman Court in York, residents had a party with a buffet & drinks and made their own entertainment by singing and dancing.



Patrick Stirling Court, Doncaster

Sponsored by **Kingston Works Ltd**

The great, great-grandson of Patrick Stirling, who our sheltered housing scheme is named after, was the guest of honour at this centenary celebration.

Also called Patrick Stirling, we were delighted that he was able to travel all the way from his home in Cornwall to be part of the event. Patrick last visited in 1992 when he opened the scheme for us.

As well as Patrick, residents were joined by members of the community, the Mayor of Doncaster, local councillors and local MP Rosie Winterton. As well as stalls from local groups, such as MIND and Hyde Park Community Group, there was also a projection of slides about the railways in Doncaster, along with music and a buffet tea.

Great Western Court, Hereford

Sponsored by **Wayne Kostorz**

Residents at Great Western Court stepped back in time to mark our centenary.

Personal memorabilia showing items that were in use 100 years ago, along with letters and photos from the time, were put on display and many residents dressed up in a variety of costumes to commemorate the different fashions of the 1919 era.



Great music was provided by Bandamonium and a lovely buffet made sure the afternoon became a memorable social event for residents, volunteers and invited guests.

Among the residents celebrating was Marion Jones, who also had a 100th birthday this year. You can read more about Marion on page 9.

Swan House, Swanland

Residents at Swan House in Swanland, near Hull, had a garden party in August. They picked a nice day for it and enjoyed food and drinks in the communal garden.



North Eastern Court, Gateshead

Sponsored by **Tolent**

At North Eastern Court, residents had a games afternoon, including darts, indoor bowling and dominoes before sitting down to a nice tea.



Forster House & Paterson House, Hull

Sponsored by **PJD Electrical/Allan Fairfield**

Both Forster House & Paterson House held well-attended parties with buffets in the evening and a singer brought in to entertain at each venue.



Plevna Mews, Shildon

Sponsored by **Derek Shaw**

Residents at Plevna Mews spent an afternoon at the seaside for their centenary celebration.

Two minibuses were hired to take residents to South Shields where they enjoyed fish and chips at the famous Coleman's fish and chip shop.



Sayers Close, Leeds

Sponsored by **Anthony Watson**

Residents at Sayers Close in Leeds had a party with a buffet and a singer and lots of dancing and jiving.

Springfield Court, York

At Springfield Court in York, residents sat down to a slap up buffet meal and refreshments and wished Railway Housing Association a happy centenary with a special cake.



A step back in time

World Events

1919



2019



1919

28th June 1919 - Treaty of Versailles signed, officially ending the First World War.

31st July 1919 - The Addison Act was passed, marking the start of social housing in the UK.

1st December 1919 - Nancy Astor becomes the first woman to take her seat in the House of Commons.

1920s

23rd January 1924 - Ramsay Macdonald becomes the first Labour prime minister.

3rd May 1926 - A general strike is declared by the TUC in support of miners.

7th May 1928 - All women over the age of 21 get the vote.

1930s

July 1935 - First Penguin paperbacks go on sale, bringing literature to the masses.

10th December 1936 - Edward VIII abdicates in order to marry Wallace Simpson.

3rd September 1939 - Britain declares war on Germany in response to the invasion of Poland.

1940s

8th May 1945 - Britain celebrates the end of war on Victory in Europe Day.

5th July 1948 - National Health Service is established.

18th April 1949 - Republic of Ireland comes into being.

1950s

29th August 1950 - British troops arrive to support US forces in the Korean War.

6th February 1952 - Elizabeth II succeeds her father, George VI.

15th May 1957 - Britain tests its first hydrogen bomb.

1960s

8th November 1965 - Death penalty is abolished.

30th July 1966 - England win the football World Cup.

2nd March 1969 - Concorde, the world's first supersonic airliner, makes its maiden flight.

1970s

6th February 1971 - First British soldier is killed in Northern Ireland's 'Troubles'.

1st January 1973 - Britain joins the European Economic Community.

3rd May 1979 - Conservative Margaret Thatcher becomes Britain's first female prime minister.

1980s

2nd April 1982 - Argentina invades the Falkland Islands.

12th March 1984 - 12-month 'Miners' Strike' over pit closures begins.

1989 - Tim Berners-Lee invents the World Wide Web.

1990s

17th January 1991 - Liberation of Kuwait begins as Allies launch Operation Desert Storm.

1st May 1997 - Labour wins the general election, with Tony Blair as prime minister.

31st August 1997 - Diana, Princess of Wales, dies in a car crash in Paris.

2000s

1st January 2000 - Britain celebrates the new millennium.

11th September 2001 - British people among thousands killed in terrorist attacks on Twin Towers.

20th March 2003 - Britain joins the US in an invasion of Iraq.

2010s

27th July 2012 - The Summer Olympics and Paralympics begin in London.

23rd June 2016 - Voters in a referendum opt to quit the European Union.

23rd July 2019 - Boris Johnson is chosen as the new Conservative Party leader.

A very special meeting

There was only one place to hold our annual general meeting in our centenary year – the National Railway Museum in York of course!

Our Board of Trustees was delighted to be joined at this year's event by a number of guests including residents who serve on our Scrutiny Panel, former Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Presidents of the Association and even the great, great grandson of a famous railway engineer!

The guest of honour was the Chief Executive of the National Housing Federation, Kate Henderson. The National Housing Federation represents housing associations and campaigns on our behalf to influence government policy.

Kate said: "Celebrating 100 years is a proud moment and you have an incredibly bright future. Your story is what makes this sector so special."

After the AGM, Patrick Stirling, got to see one of the almost 900 railway engines that his great, great-grandfather, also called Patrick Stirling, built.

We named our sheltered housing scheme in Doncaster after the famous railway engineer.

We left the last words to the three most important people who attended on the day, residents Brenda Flynn and Bernard and Elaine Greaves.

They said: "It was lovely to be able to be part of this special AGM and to be recognised for the part we play as residents of Railway Housing Association."

Below: from left to right, board trustees Carl Makin and Chris Fawcett, members of staff Charlotte Wallace and Paula Craggs, board trustee June Grimes, and Kate Henderson



Above: Patrick Stirling



From the top to bottom of the stairs are Eric Hayhurst, Barrie Ward, Frank Paterson and Doug Harrison, all former Presidents or Chairs of Railway Housing Association.

A very special meeting

Below: Elaine and Bernard Greaves with Brenda Flynn



What an exhibition

100
CENTENARY NEWSLETTER



Resident Brenda Flynn (left) and Board Member June Grimes (second left) with representatives from Darlington Borough Council and Head of Steam. Former RHA President Frank Paterson is far right.



Our centenary year couldn't have ended in a better way than with an exhibition about Railway Housing Association.

Running for three months from September to the end of November, the exhibition at Head of Steam – Darlington Railway Museum, charts the history of the Association, from our roots providing homes for railwaymen and their families following the end of the First World War, through to the modern day where we now have over 1,500 homes in areas such as Darlington, Durham, York, Newcastle, Doncaster, Hereford and Hull.

Featuring objects from our archives and the museum's collection, as well as personal stories from those who have lived in our homes, visitors were given a real insight into the work of Railway Housing Association over the last 100 years.

Among those present at the unveiling of the exhibition was resident Brenda Flynn, from Darlington. Brenda is also a volunteer at Head of Steam.

She said: "After all the planning of the exhibition, it is fantastic to see it now open to the public and I hope people enjoying finding out about the history of Railway Housing Association."

At the time of going to press, we were hoping to be able to transfer the exhibition to the Locomotion Railway Museum in Shildon, County Durham.





A sweet celebration

Members of staff celebrated our centenary by visiting Beamish, the world famous open-air museum in County Durham telling the story of life in North East England in the early 20th century.

The day started with several members of our team getting dressed up in period costumes for a photograph.

This was followed by a murder mystery where we had to take clues given to us by a 'detective'

and venture out into the town to visit places like the dentist and garage, asking questions of the 'characters' we found there. We then took the clues back to the detective to solve the mystery.

Following lunch, we took part in a traditional sweet making workshop.

It was an enjoyable, fun day which gave staff the opportunity to celebrate the association's centenary.



Back row left to right, Sahar Omar, Lyndsey Barton-Torr, Anne Rowlands, Shaun Brennan, Julie Dolby and Kerrie Davison
Front row left to right, Julie Clark, Andrea Abbott, Karen West and Susan Arrowsmith



Top Left: Staff making sweets. Top Right: Beamish Museum
Bottom: Murder mystery



Here's to the next 100 years

This newsletter can be made available in other languages,
or other formats such as Braille, large format, or audio tape, on request.
Railway Housing Association, Bank Top House, Garbutt Square,
Neasham Road, Darlington, County Durham, DL1 4DR.

Tel: 0800 0287428 | Web: www.railwayha.co.uk
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