



Prior's Close News

Issue 1: Autumn 2017



Message from the Chairman of the Management Committee

Welcome to the first edition of "Prior's Close News". The aim of this newsletter is to keep you informed about the various projects taking place around the site and other matters of interest, including any social events in the area that you might wish to attend.



First of all, let me introduce myself: My name is David Biggs. I was appointed Chairman of the Prior's Close Management Committee at the AGM of the East Lancashire Mark Benevolent Fund on 26th June 2017. I succeeded Graham Smith who served as Chairman for 3 years and to whom I extend, on your behalf and that of the Management Committee, our thanks for his past services.

I also take this opportunity to welcome Gordon Fletcher onto the management committee as our new Secretary from 1st September and thank Eric Bond who has retired as a member of the committee after seven years, the last three years in the role of Secretary.

You will already have seen a great deal of activity around the site in recent months. We are now working on a number of projects to maintain and, wherever possible improve, the facilities at Prior's Close, not only for the short term, but also to ensure that our properties are suitable to meet the needs and expectations of our tenants in the future.

I hope you find this newsletter of interest. If you have any comments or items you would like us to include in a future edition, please let us know. You can leave a note in the letter box at the conservatory or send me an email at chairman@priorsclose.org

Roofing Works

The project to replace the flat roofs on the ground floor extensions is now complete. The replacement of the main roof on Block 'A' housing Flats 1-8 has also been completed with only minor remedial work outstanding. The next stage is to obtain quotations to replace the main roof on Block 'B' (Flats 9-12) with a provisional start date for the work in Spring 2018.



Gas Safety Inspections



The contract with British Gas for the gas safety inspections and routine maintenance of the gas appliances at Prior's Close expired in July 2017 and we have appointed a new contractor with effect from 15th August 2017. You will therefore in future be contacted by Richard Mallinson from North West Gas Ltd to arrange your annual inspections which, we should remind you, must be carried out at least every 12 months to comply with legal requirements.

If you have any problems with your gas boiler, please alert Bob Lowe as soon as possible to arrange a visit by the service engineer.

Grounds Maintenance

We pride ourselves in maintaining the grounds at Prior's Close in tip-top condition, to ensure your fullest possible enjoyment of the facilities (weather permitting!). John Clarke of 'Your Plot' has been re-appointed as our grounds maintenance contractor and we hope you will continue to be pleased with the quality of his work.



Fire Safety

Work will shortly begin on a major upgrade of the fire safety measures at Prior's Close. These will include integrated heat and smoke alarms and emergency lighting systems to ensure your continued comfort and safety. There will inevitably be some disruption while the new facilities are installed in your various properties, and we hope you will bear with us (and the contractors) while this essential work is being undertaken. We will also be communicating new policies and procedures to be followed by all tenants in the event of a fire or other emergency.

Social Events

- Accrington Masonic Fellowship meets at Mill House Masonic Hall, Clayton-le-Moors on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (except July and August). Start time 1.30 pm. Contact Brian Maden on 01254 299169 for details.
- Clitheroe and District Masonic Fellowship meets at West Bradford Village Hall on the 2nd Monday of each month throughout the year with a Christmas Party in December. Contact Bill Fishwick on 01254 392502 for details.
- Darwen Masonic Fellowship meets at the Hawkshaw Suite, Hawkshaw Avenue, Darwen on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (apart from June and July). Dining at 1 pm. Contact Mary Thompson (Flat 4) on 01254 581203 for details.
- Gala Concert at King George's Hall, Blackburn on 28th October, 7 pm. Acts include the magnificent Greater Manchester Police Band, the fifty-five member Haydock Male Voice Choir and the stunning mezzo soprano, Jill Taylor. Tickets £15 from the box office or can be booked online at <https://www.kinggeorghall.com/whats-on/gala-concert-freemasons/>

Transport on the evening to King George's Hall and return to Prior's Close can be arranged if there is sufficient interest. Contact Gordon Fletcher on 01254 390548 for details.

If you have any ideas about social events you would like the committee to arrange, we welcome suggestions. You can leave a note in the letter box at the conservatory or send the Secretary an email at: secretary@priorsclose.org

Note: The Prior's Close website and associated email addresses of the Management Committee have been updated:

The new website address is <https://priorclose.org>
The Chairman's email address is chairman@priorsclose.org
The Secretary's email address is secretary@priorsclose.org