

Owners/Sharing Owners Newsletter Winter 2008



Castlehill's Chief Executive Gordon Kyle's 25th anniversary!



50 guests attended on Thursday 9th October at the Foyer at His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen to celebrate Gordon Kyle's 25th anniversary of his appointment as Chief Executive of Castlehill Housing Association. Bill Howie, Convener of Castlehill offered his congratulations and commented that when Gordon started work with the association in October 1983, the total stock was just 259 units. The 500th unit was completed in 1989, the 1000th in 1996 and now in 2008 the total stock stands at 1600. The association had 18 employees in 1983. 25 years on the figure totals 172, incorporating office staff, scheme staff, caretakers, cleaners, gardeners & casual relief workers.

Gordon was delighted with the turnout on the evening, commenting "There's been a remarkable number of changes that have happened to the association since I joined all those years ago. I'm happy and proud to have been involved in making Castlehill the successful association it is now and I'm pleased to see so many colleagues past & present here tonight."

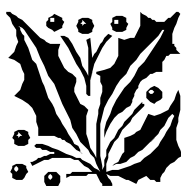
He continued, "It has been a busy 25 years, I don't know where the time has gone! – But don't write me off just yet, I'm still looking forward to being involved in the challenges Castlehill will face in the future."

OFFICE CLOSURES

The office at 4 Carden Place will be closed from **12.00 noon on Friday 19th December** and will re-open at **9am on Monday 22nd December 2008**.

Please note that our office will be closed between Christmas and New Year, closing from 12.30pm on Wednesday 24th December 2008 and will re-open on Monday 5th January 2009.

Staff would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



New look website

We've recently updated our website to make it more user friendly and we've added in some features. We've also revamped our logo which you may have noticed on recent correspondence sent to you, we hope that it looks more modern. Our website is continuously being updated and hopefully over the coming year we will be adding features to enable you to communicate with us more easily.

Online services

- Pay your rent/services
- Apply for housing – you can access our choice based lettings system Homehunt NES to apply for Castlehill and Tenants First Housing Co-operative housing
- Read our latest news
- Report a repair

Please visit:

www.castlehillha.co.uk

SPONSORED CYCLE BOLIVIA CHALLENGE



Furnished Sacaba Children's Home

A sponsored Cycling and Rowing event carried out by staff and friends of Castlehill Housing Association, raised a grand total of **£2,852.21** for charity Orkney Helping Hands (OHH). The Challenge took place during the months January to May 2008 and saw a team of 16 cover over 7,000 miles of land and water, from Aberdeen to Bolivia (not literally – they used rowing machines and static/road bikes!).

The OHH project that Castlehill decided to donate to is a Children's Home in Sacaba, a poor area outside Cochabamba, Bolivia, South America. They paid for furnishing the home. Pictured above is the decorated and furnished nursery at Sacaba. There was even money left over to pay for a Food Cart for another children's home.

OHH is a Registered Scottish Charity, SC037666, whose aim is to further the health, well-being and protection of children and their families in Latin America. See their website at www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/OHH.



New developments



Over the last few months Castlehill have allocated properties at our new developments at Portland Street, Aberdeen and Sutherland Close and Drive in Mintlaw, Aberdeenshire.

Portland Street (picture top left)

This City Centre development comprises twenty 2 bedroom flats built by Stewart Milne. The properties were all let at the beginning of October to very happy new tenants.

Mintlaw (picture top right)

This is a larger development of 1,2,3 and 4 bedroom houses and bungalows, there is a total of twenty-one properties for rent in Sutherland Close and Drive. In addition there are 20 properties that are available through 'LIFT' - Lift is a low-cost initiative for first-time buyers, that enables you to buy your own home if you cannot afford to pay the full market price of the property. The scheme is part of a range of low cost home ownership initiatives from the Scottish Government and is administered by Grampian Housing Association. **For more information on LIFT please contact the sales co-ordinators on 0800 121 44 96.**