

## FINANCIAL FACTS AND FIGURES FOR 2017

CASH IN	£	CASH OUT	£
LDC grants towards loans	11,800	Loans advanced	172,919
ESCC grants towards loans	19,000	Grants to tenants	3,031
Loan repayments from tenants	77,254		
Subscriptions, donations, legacy	33,080	Employee expenses	15,423
Fundraising events	3,107	Other expenses	4,565
Gift aid tax refunds	3,164		
Interest	592		
<b>Total cash in</b>	<b>147,997</b>	<b>Total cash out</b>	<b>195,938</b>

Applications from tenants escalated very quickly at the start of 2017, and by mid-year it was clear that we needed to apply the brakes if HOMELINK was not to run out of money by the autumn. Priority was given to continuing to help as many applicants as possible, even though this meant capping the amount that we could lend to any one client. We are also extremely grateful to supporters and churches who gave very generously to bolster the work.

In all this, no-one was turned away for lack of resources on our part, and HOMELINK ended the year with funds in hand to continue helping new tenants throughout 2018. Furthermore, following a successful application to the Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust (EKCT), a grant of £10,000 was received in the first week of January 2018.

Part of the EKCT grant is being devoted to our new scheme offering non-repayable grants towards the costs of setting up home in a new place: e.g. furniture, carpeting and removals. Twelve such awards were made in 2017, at a cost of £3,031, and we expect to more than double this in 2018.

*John Howes, April 2018*

**HOMELINK TRUSTEES:** Ethane Ashling-Perry, Rev. Ian Byrnes, John Cornish, Linda Fisher, Rita Harper, Terry Howell, John Howes, Elizabeth Mandeville, Malcolm Mazej, Rev. Martin Miller, Bryan Perry, Christine Tutt, Joan Wignall.

## LEWES DISTRICT CHURCHES HOMELINK



You are invited to attend the  
**ANNUAL MEETING FOR SUPPORTERS &  
PARTNER ORGANISATIONS**  
on Thursday 7th June 2018 at 7.30 pm at  
**Denton Island Community Centre**



**Directions to the Community Centre**  
Once on the Newhaven ring road, turn left onto Denton Island. Follow the road over the bridge, straight ahead, and then bear gently left round the island (ignoring a sharp left turn) until you see the HOMELINK banner on your left. Turn left into the parking area. The entrance to the building is through a metal gate. More parking is available on the road.

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

HOMELINK was founded in 1998 as an ecumenical charity, in order to assist people with little or no savings and on a low income. It offers interest-free loans to enable suitable applicants to rent in the private sector, within the Lewes District Council area. Similar loans are offered to mentored ex-offenders from Lewes Prison, in association with Sussex Pathways.

Registered charity No. 1068735

# HOMELINK ANNUAL REPORT for 2017

## REPORT FROM OUR SERVICE MANAGER, JAMES GARDNER

2017 was the busiest year ever for HOMELINK, with 289 applications, 322 interviews and 103 tenancies, compared to 86 tenancies for 2016. A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped with interviewing and other assistance. And thanks also to organisations such as Home Works, who make a huge contribution to helping many of our clients.

The increase in need for our service continues as benefit changes, such as the move to 'universal credit', result in greater shortfalls between income for rent and actual rent. If people run short of food they can go to a food bank but shortage of rent money means eviction, additional removal costs and can mean dislocation from your community.

As I am retiring, and handing over to Pippa, I would like to say what a great privilege it has been to work for HOMELINK.



## INTRODUCING PIPPA

The handover (seen in the photo) is progressing well. Pippa says:

*'I'm so delighted and excited to be taking over such a rewarding, challenging and busy role - but what impossibly big shoes to fill! I look forward to working closely with all our tenants, volunteers and management to provide the best service possible for all those who need our help.'*

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, JOAN WIGNALL

James has been a huge asset. He joined us when we were a small 'ticking over nicely' charity and has worked with the HOMELINK team whilst we developed into a much larger concern. His advice and experience have been greatly valued and his calm, compassionate and encouraging approach to interviewing much appreciated. We are very pleased that he will continue to work with HOMELINK, as a volunteer.

We are delighted to welcome Pippa Grace, as our new Service Manager. Pippa worked as a volunteer with James before applying for the post, so she already knows 'the ropes'. Make sure you come to our Annual Meeting, so that you can meet her!

Thank you to all of you for your support - financial and practical. We are all greatly encouraged by this.

*Thank you for providing such a service. You should be proud. JG*

*You really did lift a huge weight from my shoulders.ALC*

*I can't thank Homelink enough for giving me the chance to have a fresh start and to get on with my life. SC*

*Me and my daughter are really thankful for everything you and the charity have done for us and others.LF*

## EVENTS IN 2017

After the sunny Garden Party in Seaford, we enjoyed a Christmas concert by the Ashdown Singers. Many thanks to all who organised or supported these events. We are continuing with other enjoyable events in 2018.

## FUTURE PLANS

We will complete the change to Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and be ready to comply with the new data protection regulations.

## ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKERS

On Thursday 7th June we shall be hearing from:

- **James Gardner**, telling us about his work and the housing situation locally;
- **Cllr Ron Maskell** from Lewes District Council, who will tell us about how the Council is coping with new legislation and building more homes.

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for those facing homelessness. Give us wisdom to meet the challenges that arise in helping people into housing. Ask that our budget may prove adequate to meet the needs of as many people as possible.

## CONTACT US

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