

Official opening of new look supported housing scheme

Tenants and guests joined Eden Housing Association (EHA) for the official launch of the remodelled Wasdale Housing Scheme in Shap. The honour of cutting the ribbon went to Connie Gale a lady who used to work at Wasdale for many years as a home carer and is now the Wasdale schemes longest standing resident!

Connie spent most of her life living and working in and around Shap so when Eden Housing Association offered her a place at 'Wasdale' Connie was thrilled and said "when can I move in! I used to work at the scheme and know how well it works with the local community. I can't praise them enough. I think I am now the oldest resident and I still love being here. The Supported Housing team looked after us well during the building work and the finished result is wonderful. I was happy living here before, now it's even better."

Joan Johnstone, Chair of Eden Housing Association said "Credit is due to the imaginative design from our architects Day Cummins and the sympathetic manner in which the construction has been undertaken by Thomas Armstrong's, minimising disruption to our existing residents. Wasdale is very much part of the community and the residents have always been involved in what is going on in the village, which epitomises the concept of this type of scheme." Joan concluded the opening ceremony by presenting Connie with a picture chosen by residents, to hang in the communal lounge.

Also at the opening was Mary Rainsbury one of the tenants who lived in one of the old bedsits. Mary has now moved into one of the bungalows and loves her new sense of freedom and independence. "It's fantastic to have more space and I can not speak highly enough about the support provided by the staff while the work was being done here. We are very much a community and have coffee together every morning in the main communal lounge."

Guests at the opening included Councillor Richard Turner, chair of Eden District Council's Planning Committee, he was full of praise for the Wasdale redevelopment saying "it is an excellent scheme with a great deal of care and attention."

The £1.2 million redevelopment has created 18 modern homes - fifteen flats and three bungalows. Making better use of the space the flats are now serviced by a newly installed lift which has made accessing the first floor much easier for residents.

There are now only two flats available for rent - anyone interested in finding out about the Wasdale supported housing scheme should contact the EHA Housing team on 01768 861470 or email enquiry@edenha.org.uk

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Pictures:

- Connie Gale, the longest standing 'Wasdale' resident cuts the ribbon with Joan Johnstone, Chair of EHA
- The scheme showing one of the bungalows to the right.
- Joan presents the picture to Connie for the communal lounge
- Mary Rainsbury in the garden of her bungalow.

For more information regarding this press release or for more pictures, please contact Tracey Errington on 07799 640 290 or email tracey@marketsense.net