



# EXETER HOMES TRUST BULLETIN

MARCH 2022

## COST OF LIVING

We are living in difficult times and experiencing new challenges like increased energy prices which are pushing up the cost of living and causing us to find it hard to cope physically, mentally and financially.

Most of us have family and friends who care for us and help us to remain calm in these difficult times and we are grateful for their assistance, but nevertheless, we tend to worry about our finances and are fearful for our future.

Keeping warm is a priority nowadays and many are finding that they have to make difficult decisions concerning utility bills and food.

At EHT, we are committed to ensure to the best of our ability, that our beneficiaries can receive our support, care and encouragement to live their lives to the full. The EHT Team includes our office staff, plus ten voluntary directors, who between them, have a variety of expertise.

So we would like to assure you that if you are having any problems that are causing you difficulties then please pick up the phone, or send us an e-mail and discuss it with us. Please don't suffer in silence.

Our EHT Emeritus Chaplain, Trevor Perkins is also available to EHT beneficiaries, either by phone, or home visit. Confidentiality is assured. Simply call our office (01392 421162) to make arrangements.



The Queen's Green Canopy is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

The communal gardens afford a complimentary setting for the 143 Almshouses and residents and visitors often remark on how well kept the lawns, shrubs, flowers and trees are.

The ceremony will be on 31st March 2022 at Hurst Trumps.



Ivor Hayes, three decades Exeter Homes Trust's gardener.



## HOME SAFETY VISITS

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service are re-commencing home visits and will be in contact regarding making appointments.

### Warning of fire risk when using emollient products

An emollient product may be a moisturising cream applied to the surface of the skin that softens dry skin, keeps it supple and prevents further moisture loss.

Emollient products come in two forms; those that contain liquid paraffin or soft white paraffin as key ingredients. And products containing non-paraffin-based materials.

Cosmetic or medicinal liquid paraffin should not be confused with the liquid paraffin used as a fuel, (also called kerosene). There are a range of medical emollient products on the UK market, some prescribed by the NHS.

However, new fire safety advice, based on scientific evidence, confirms that non-paraffin emollients pose the same fire risk as those containing paraffin.

People who use emollient skin products must be extra careful when near naked flames or other potential ignition sources, (such as when lighting a cigarette or near halogen heaters).

Previous advice had been to wash clothes at suitably high temperatures, however new scientific research has shown that washing does not remove the risk.

### Why are emollient creams a fire risk?

- People who smoke and use emollient creams are at greater risk of setting themselves on fire, as the flammable residue from the cream soaks into clothing, bedding, or dressings.
- Following a number of fatal fires in the UK, Anglia Ruskin University, De Montfort University and the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) Emollient Group confirmed that emollient creams that contain both paraffin and non-paraffin ingredients can be absorbed into clothing and react to an exposed naked flame or heat source, causing the clothing to ignite.



- At De Montfort University Analytical Forensic Chemistry labs, flammability tests have shown that fabrics contaminated with both paraffin and non-paraffin emollients ignite much **quicker** than uncontaminated fabrics.
- The time to ignition can be just a few seconds, which means if someone accidentally sets themselves on fire, their chances of extinguishing the fire or escaping are greatly reduced.
- So please be aware and extra careful when using emollient creams/products.

### Electrical based fire hazards

Please ensure that you do not leave your electrical appliances unattended if you go out. Tumble dryer lint can ignite. Please also check that your USB charger cable is not frayed, as this can be another potential fire hazard.

We will be hand delivering Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service publications during March 2022. Meanwhile please browse the website at [www.dsfire.gov.uk](http://www.dsfire.gov.uk)



Grendon Road Almshouses, 4th Remodelling Project to be undertaken by Exeter Homes Trust