Selected DNA Property Marking kits can be used to mark and protect a wide range of valuable possessions and assets ranging from laptops, ipads, tablets, phones, TV’s, jewellery and fine art to tools, gardening and plant machinery, caravans, trailers and bicycles.

The Selecta DNA Kit is a forensic property marking solution that marks about 50 items. It consists of a bottle of clear liquid which carries its very own unique DNA forensic code that is only visible under ultraviolet light and allows stolen goods to be traced back to the rightful owner.

The kit comes with window stickers which householders are encouraged to display which aims to act as a deterrent to opportunist burglars and is an important first line of defense to warn criminals that DNA marking is being used on items of value at the property. The kits cost £20 each.

Police have already claimed that the use of DNA Property Marking Kits has been able to successfully reduce the incidence of burglaries.

The Association has agreed to subsidise this project through the Neighbourhood Investment Fund so the first 20 tenants to contact us will get the kit for half price—£10. First come first served.
Day to Day Repairs

If the repair is non-urgent just ring the office on (01900) 602906 and leave a message on the answer machine. This will be dealt with on our return to work.

Please remember it is your responsibility to report any problems and repairs at your property as soon as possible.

Reporting Repairs Out of Hours

In an emergency, please ring 0845 345 7808 (but not if you are in a home built by Storys at Cairns Chase—see below)

Story Homes

If you have lived in a new Story Home at Cairns Chase for less than 12 months please ring 01228 404566.

For emergency repairs press “option 1” which diverts to an emergency out of hours service. For a non-urgent repair press “option 2” and leave a voice mail message.

An emergency is usually one of the following:

- Major or non-containable plumbing leak.
- Complete loss of central heating between October and March.
- Complete loss of sockets or lights (please check trip switches and appliances).
- Blocked drains.
- Failure of door locks (where the house cannot be reasonably secured).

Please only use the out of hours number for genuine emergencies as you will be charged for this service if the work is not deemed an emergency, (for example, no central heating reported but when the engineer attends they find the room thermostat was accidently turned off).

Please do not ring our regular contractors out of hours.

We have advised our contractors that if they experience any abusive behaviour in future they should leave the property immediately and report the incident to the Association.

Please make sure you treat our contractors with respect. If you have any issues with any of our contractors these should be directed to James or Sandra.

Kitchen and Bathroom Improvement Scheme 2017/18

On the back page of this newsletter is a form to complete if you wish to be considered for the Kitchen and/or Bathroom Improvement Schemes.

For those people living at Westfield Bridge Court, Ashmore Gardens or Casson Road you may be able to have a walk-in shower installed instead of a bath.

For further information please just complete this form, and Sandra will be in touch in due course.

HomeSwapper

In your newsletter pack you will find a leaflet showing you how to use HomeSwapper. If you need any further details please contact Catherine, Nicola or Susan on 01900 602906 or enquiries@westfieldha.org.uk.

Estate Inspection

On our estate inspection we have noticed a number of dropped kerbs appearing.

We would like to remind you that you need the Association’s permission before you go ahead with works such as dropped kerbs. We very rarely refuse permission and we will also be able to advise what you need to do next.

If you wish to form a vehicular access from your boundary to the carriageway of a public highway you need to employ an approved contractor and obtain a permit from Cumbria Highways. This is called a Vehicular Access Request.

Please respect our contractors

Our contractors have a code of conduct they must abide by when dealing with our tenants.

In the main our tenants treat our contractors with the respect they rightly deserve, but on a rare occasion our contractors have experienced abuse and intimidation when all they have done is to try and complete a repair.

Obviously this is not right and cannot and will not be tolerated. This behaviour is a breach of your tenancy agreement.
Westfield Estate
Tenants Consultation

Following last year’s consultation we are currently working on a Neighbourhood Plan which we hope will help with some of the issues our tenants said they were experiencing.

When this plan has been finalised we will let you know what this plan includes and how we hope to progress with any issues.

In the meantime we thought you would like to know that we are working closely with other agencies like the Police, Cumbria Community Safety Partnership and Allerdale Borough Council on issues such as neighbour nuisance, fly tipping, dog fouling and litter in order to improve our estate. If you have any suggestions please do not hesitate to contact the office on 01900 602906.

We are happy to report that Street Scene have already completed a full walk-about at Westfield and Moorclose to pick up litter and dog mess.

You will be pleased to know the Police report that crime here at Westfield is very low in comparison to other estates, including private estates, in and around Workington and surrounding areas like Seaton and Harrington.

Planned Central Heating and Electrical Upgrade

We have now completed a planned central heating and electrical upgrade on most of our properties on the Westfield Estate.

If you live at Westfield and have not yet had a central heating and electrical upgrade please contact the office on (01900) 602906.

Grass Verges

Please can you refrain from parking or driving your vehicle over the grass verges on the estate.

Not only does this cause an eyesore but it is also very dangerous as it makes the ground very slippery when it has rained.

We have had a recent report of someone falling on their back and being very badly shaken.

Unfortunately, we will charge for any repairs to these grassed areas in future.

Meeting Room

We have a lovely meeting room available for hire within the Minto Centre anytime between 8.30 am and 7.30 pm.

The cost to hire is £10 per hour or £50 for the full day. This cost includes tea and coffee which you can prepare in the small kitchen area within the room.

The room can be adapted to seat up to 20 people in a comfortable meeting style or can be adapted to seat 30 people in a cinema style layout.

It can be hired up to 7.30 on a weekday so if you know anyone who is looking for somewhere to hold an exercise class or slimming class or similar then ask them to contact us on (01900) 602906.

For further information please contact Lesley or Mary on (01900) 602906.

Reporting Dog Mess

Did you know, it takes less than a minute to register to be able to submit and track the progress of your enquiries and reports on-line using “myAllerdale” on-line reporting. Go to http://www.allerdale.gov.uk/forms/report-dog-mess.aspx to register.

Once registered you can report problems 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

FREE
Money Advice

The Association is working in partnership with West Cumbria Community Money Advice to provide a free and confidential service to our tenants on financial matters.

If you have creditors threatening legal action, or simply need budgeting advice, they can help you. They know the right steps to take—the worst thing you can do is nothing.

You can gain access to the service using any of the following ways:

- Call them directly on (01900) 62677 or 07716 176 204;
- Arrange a Free home visit from one of their 10 trained advisers;
- Drop in or make an appointment at The Bridge Centre, Central Square, Workington during the following hours:
  - Tuesday: 9.30 am to 12 noon
  - Wednesday: 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm
Calling all children

Are you looking for something to do?

Did you know the Association, through our Neighbourhood Investment Fund, provide annual funding of £2,000 to help support the South Workington Youth Partnership.

They do amazing work, with limited funding, and provide youth clubs and learning disability projects but on top of these activities they also deliver fun days on behalf of Workington Town Council and provide community support to families and the local community.

New members are always welcome.

Mega Mix Youth

Sessions are held at St. Mary's Youth Wing, Mossbay—Tuesday and Wednesday, 4.30 to 8pm (5 to 18 years) and Friday, 6 to 8pm (11 to 18 years). and the Oval Centre—Fridays, 6pm to 9 pm (11 to 18 years).

Duke of Edinburgh, table tennis, wii, xbox, arts and crafts, gardening, youth café, music, special holiday activities, trips and residentials.

Life and Soul Social Club

Session held at All Souls Church, Maryport—every Monday, 7pm to 9pm. 16+

Multi Mix Social Club

Session held at United Church, Workington every Thursday, 7pm to 9pm. 16+

If you would like any further details please ring them on 0771 386 4850

The Association thinks projects like this are vital to provide activities for our tenant’s family members who may need that extra support and encouragement. Hopefully being engaged in activities like the Mega Mix Youth Club, Multi Mix and Life and Soul Social Clubs will help keep the more vulnerable active, learning and making friends.

Do you have an hour or two or more to spare every week? If so, they are always looking for volunteers and helpers. Please ring 0771 386 4850 for more information.

Cumbria Fire and Rescue

Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service, as part of the Fire Kills campaign, is asking people to test their smoke alarms monthly. Why not circle it on your calendar and tick it off when you have tested your alarms?

Cumbria Fire and Rescue are encouraging people to make sure they have enough smoke alarms in the home and that they work. It only takes a few seconds and saves lives. Smoke alarms can give someone a few extra seconds they need to escape in the fire.

For people who live in a multi-storey home or a larger property a single smoke alarm is simply not enough.

Last year, in nearly half of all fires in the home where the smoke alarm did not give a warning, the reason was that the alarm was not close enough to detect the fire. A missing or flat battery was another cause.

Cumbria Fire and Rescue are asking people to make sure that their alarms are up to date and up to the job.

To keep your alarms in working order:

- Make sure there is at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home.
- Test your smoke alarms by pushing the button every month.
- Smoke alarms should be fitted on landings and hallways, near bedrooms. Also consider in rooms which have electrical appliances e.g. a heater or charger or other fire risks.
- Take a moment to check on your loved ones who may need help to ensure they’re fully protected.
- Never disconnect a hard wired smoke alarm or take the batteries out if the alarm goes off by mistake—contact the Association immediately.

For most of us, there is nothing more important than keeping our loved ones safe and secure. Smoke alarms can offer vital protection but most people simply fit and forget.

If you have not got a smoke alarm on all the floors in your home please contact Sandra on (01900) 602906. If you would like to arrange a free fire safety check please contact Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service on FREEPHONE 0800 358 4777.
Westfield Housing Association does not insure your furniture, belongings or personal possessions. However we are able to offer all our tenants the chance to insure their home contents and belongings in an easy and affordable way. Westfield Housing Association has joined forces with Thistle Tenant Risks to bring you the My Home Contents Insurance Scheme.

For as little as £1.85 fortnightly (£1.24 for residents aged 60 and over), you can have the peace of mind of knowing that your furniture, belongings and decorations are insured against fire, theft, water damage, vandalism, burst pipes and other household risks.

There are many benefits and it’s easy to apply!

- No excess to pay
- You do not need to have a bank account
- Flexible pay-as-you-go payment options
- No minimum security requirements
- Covers lost or stolen keys
- Covers loss of freezer contents
- Also available to leaseholders.

For an additional premium you can include extended accidental damage cover, personal possessions (for items away from the home), wheelchairs and mobility scooters, hearing aids and building cover for garden huts, garages and greenhouses is also available.

For more information or to apply for cover today you can call My Home on 0345 450 7288 or visit www.thistlemyhome.co.uk to request a member of the My Home team to call you.

If you take up the offer this Association will give you £10 when you produce a copy of your insurance schedule—what have you got to lose?

Providing outstanding early years care and education since 2004, Footsteps Nursery provides a warm, caring environment where children can feel safe and parents feel welcome, valued and respected.

Footsteps Nursery has a highly qualified staff team who support the children to reach their full potential, allowing them to develop at their own pace with particular regard to individuality.

Available from 7.30am to 6.00pm if required, for children 3 months to 5 years 11 months.

Theme days to age 8 years.

**Cost:**
- £10 registration fee
- Hourly rate £5.56 - £2.20 for lunch - £1.80 for tea.

**Wrap around care: 7.30 am—6.00pm**

Wrap around care operates term time only, providing a full day care service for children who are accessing nursery education grant here at Footsteps or being collected from Westfield Primary School. Charged at the current hourly rate.

Contact the office on (01900) 872011 for further information or visit their website on www.footstepsnurseryworkington.com and watch their video.

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**Repairs Survey Winners**

September 2016—Mrs. Bowman, Westfield Drive

October 2016—Mr. and Mrs. Martin, Sullart Street, Cockermouth

November 2016—Mrs. McArthur, Ashmore Gardens

December 2016—Mr. and Mrs. Murphy, Ashmore Gardens

January 2017—Mr. and Mrs. Langstaff, Westfield Drive

“If you want to do something for a child — give him an environment where he can touch things as much as he wants” — William Wordsworth
**Kitchen and Bathroom Improvement Scheme**

The Bathroom Improvement Scheme is set to continue this year with a budget of £23,000 and the Kitchen Improvement Scheme is set to continue with a budget of £40,000.

Eligibility will be restricted to those whose bathroom or kitchen are at least 20 years old but excluding:

- Those with rent arrears
- Those with a Notice of Seeking Possession on their tenancy
- Those properties where a kitchen/bathroom has already been installed via the Association’s Bathroom/Kitchen Improvement Scheme.

If you wish to register your interest in either of these schemes and think you meet the necessary criteria, please complete the forms opposite, cut them out and return to this office or drop us an email to register your interest, including your details, to enquiries@westfieldha.org.uk by no later than the 31st May 2017.

Please note that you will not hear anything further about these schemes until after June 2017 and the contractor has until the end of March 2018 to complete the works on these schemes.

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**Kitchen Improvement Scheme 2017**

This is to register my interest in participating in the Kitchen Improvement Scheme.

Name: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
________________________________
________________________________
Signed: ________________________________
Date: ________________________________

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**Bathroom Improvement Scheme 2017**

This is to register my interest in participating in the Bathroom Improvement Scheme.

Name: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
________________________________
________________________________
Signed: ________________________________
Date: ________________________________

I would like to discuss having a level-entry shower fitted

YES / NO (please circle)

(only those who live at Westfield Bridge Court, Ashmore Gardens or Casson Road can apply for a level entry shower)