

Creating sustainable homes & communities

Featuring Mrs Laird, Customer & Resident at Glengowan Gardens



Mrs Laird



Lou Lauder



Jane Lennon

Clyde Valley Housing Association in partnership with Rosewood Homes recently undertook the development of Glengowan Gardens in Larkhall, a £4.4m investment, funded through subsidy from Scottish Government and Clyde Valley Housing Association. This secured a magnificent building which has touched the lives of thousands of people in Larkhall. As well as providing 34 new high quality affordable homes the location will continue to support the vibrant Larkhall community.

The school originally called Union Street School opened in 1866 and was used for a secondary school up to 1974, it was then the home of Glengowan Primary School until the new Glengowan school opened in 2012. The building was used for a brief period as a decant accommodation for other schools in the area but closed in 2015. One of the new residents was 89 year-old Mrs Laird who returned to the school, 80 years after she studied there.

Jane Lennon, Housing Officer

“My job as a Housing Officer is to support people as they find a new home. It’s about getting to know people and their specific needs. The first time I met Mrs Laird was when she was signing up to the property at Glengowan Gardens. We select people from the waiting list and try to match people to a property which meets their particular needs. At that time Mrs Laird was struggling with the stairs and she has a problem with her eyesight. She was in touch with us regularly and luckily a property came up at Glengowan Gardens that had a wet room shower and was also on the ground floor so it was perfect for her.

“Glengowan was previously a school and was special for a lot of people in the area, including Mrs Laird. The fact she has studied there as a pupil 80 years ago really added to the sense of ‘homecoming’ for her and I think it helped her to make the transition. One of the most important events we held were Open Days where previous pupils, teachers and local people could come along and find out about the history of the school and how the heritage of the building had been preserved. Over 700 people visited. It really respected the importance in the community and it brought home to me the difference we can make.

Our aim for people moving into one of our properties is to guide them every step of the way. There is a process to follow, and as Housing Officers we try to make it easier for people.

“Communication is key, letting them know what is going to happen at every stage. For example doing an ‘assisted viewing’ so we can walk a customer around a property to check they like it and to answer any questions. We also meet them for a ‘settling-in’ visit after they have been in the property for six weeks to check if they need help with anything. That could range from anything to giving advice on the local area through to helping with any financial support they may be entitled to. As with anything that matters it’s about going the extra distance to build a relationship and understanding the person. It’s lovely to go to a property after a customer has moved in and see how they have made it a home. I think the success of Mrs Laird and how she has settled at Glengowan Gardens has shown what can be achieved.”

Lou Lauder, Construction Director, Rosewood Homes

“We are a local company and we have a large team of people many from the Clyde Valley area working with us. We are steeped in this community and I think that’s one of the reasons we have worked so successfully building new homes with the Clyde Valley Housing Association. Refurbished properties are always special and we’re so proud of the job that was done preserving Glengowan Gardens and creating apartments while also creating extra new build properties around it.

“I’m forty years in the building trade and it was so rewarding to bring that experience to make the most of this development. When you hear Mrs Laird’s story it brings home the importance of what we do and makes it all worthwhile. We have a strong pipeline of new homes we’ll be building with Clyde Valley Housing Association and I’m sure many more people will benefit from our work together.”

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“
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Mrs Laird, Customer & Resident at Glengowan Gardens

“When my husband died I was keen to look at somewhere on the ground floor as my eyesight hasn’t been great recently. Although I’m 90 this year and I’ve walked miles every day for most of those 90 years so I still have plenty of energy.”

“I’ve lived in Larkhall all my days and when I saw my old Primary School was being refurbished into flats I approached Clyde Valley to put my name down. I kept in touch with the team there and it was a great moment when I heard I’d got a place. I open my front door and see the school entrance I used to use 85 years ago. It really is very special. My neighbours are amazing. One of the first things I did was knock their doors and offer to walk their dogs to keep me fit. And that’s what I do every morning. I collect the dogs and take them for a walk and end up back at Glengowan Gardens. The people at Clyde Valley Housing Association were great and I like to think my husband would be very proud of how I’ve settled here.”