

**HOUGHTON**  
Building 



**southessexhomes**

working **smarter** together

# BALMORAL COMMUNITY EVENTS



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# OPENING EVENT

October 2021

The event enabled staff to talk with residents especially around community events and what residents would like to get involved with.



On Wednesday 6th October 2021, we held the Balmoral community event in the communal gardens from 3pm – 6pm.

It was a fun filled day with family activities, music, food and entertainment and a mobile farm which was a great hit with children and adults! This event provided an important opportunity for residents to meet with the contractors and ask questions about the works taking place at the Balmoral tower blocks.

# BALMORAL ART PROJECT

April 2022

Over the Easter holidays, children from the Balmoral estate, SECH Youth Club and 'Get the Kids Out' worked together on a new art project. Houghton Building, in partnership with SEH, asked children to design four of the site hoardings. John Bulley, a local painter, helped them turn their work into attractive murals.

The morning sessions were held over the two-week Easter break. Children were aged between 4-14 years, so we had lots of different ideas and suggestions for the artwork. They were encouraged to discuss climate change, what it means to them and how through small actions we can all show respect for the planet and work together to address our carbon footprint.



Over the 2 weeks, approximately 20 children contributed by designing, planning and painting the hoardings which expressed their ideas about climate change. As you can see from the photographs, they are bright, colourful and display their artistic skills. This was such a fun and exciting activity as they were able to experiment with paint, mixing colours and drawing with their imagination.



The project ended with the children visiting the site and seeing their artwork displayed on the hoardings. This visit also gave the children the opportunity to meet the contractors who congratulated them on their excellent achievements. The contractors also presented each child with an Easter Egg.

# What did the children say...?



I really enjoyed the art project and meeting new people

I got to use my creative skills

the project boosted my confidence

I enjoyed taking pictures at the end with the final pieces on the wall

I loved adding to the painting and seeing it transform it was incredible

Everyone involved with the project was very supportive of me

# SUMMER EXTRAVAGANZA

August 2022

*South Essex Homes, in collaboration with residents and other organisations, held an end of summer extravaganza!*



The event was a fun day for children and families from the Balmoral estate. Activities ranged from basketball, football, ping-pong and creative activities including face painting! There was something for all age groups. We were delighted to have the Mayor and Mayoress attend and enjoy a burger with the children.



Houghton's donated paints and tote bags for the children to design and make their own! One girl designed a bag for the contractor to say thank you as she really enjoyed the afternoon. The team enjoyed burgers, chatted with residents and helped with the clear up.

Working with SECH Youth club, Get the kids Out, and Triple-T's on this project enabled SEH to make sure that we are connecting with children from the Balmoral estate and the surrounding area.



# IMPACT ASSESSMENT



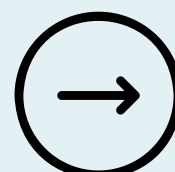
<b>Team and Lead Officer</b>	Community Development Team/ Sarah Gallagher
<b>Name of project/event</b>	Balmoral Family Summer Extravaganza
<b>Date of project/event</b>	Friday 26th August from 11am-4pm.

## Description

- Event to be held at North Road Chapel
- The event will be a fun day for families living on the Balmoral Estate. There will be between 30-40 children who will have access to this event as we are also working with the local youth organisations. Children from the estate attend the youth groups.
- The day will include garden games, sporting events including football ping-pong and painting.
- There will be a BBQ, refreshments and music and face painting.
- Arts and crafts table for children to design, paint their own tote bags

## Breakdown of Costs

<b>Brief Description of Items</b>	<b>Purchase Price</b>
BBQ food	200.00
Face painting	130.00
Additional games and prizes	No cost
Venue - North Road Chapel	No cost
Slush Puppy machine	No cost
Tote bags (donated by Houghton's contractor)	No cost



# Breakdown of Time

Staff Time	20 Hours
SECH Staff - set up and arrange games	7 Hours
Volunteer time (Staff from STRF, Get the Kids Out & Triple Ts)	15 Hours
Houghton's volunteers (Set up of BBQ & clearing away)	6 Hours

## Intended Outcomes

- Benefits for residents
- Sustainability
- Value for money
- Skills / capacity
- Community cohesion
- Cost of living



## Actual Outcomes

30 children from Balmoral Estate attended event – working with 2 local organisations enabled SEH to deliver this event directly to children who live on the estate and access youth groups.

The event was free to all residents and food was served over a 4-hour period, enabling more flexibility for tenants to attend and SEH support with Cost-of-Living crisis.

Activities included working with arts and crafts on tote bags. Discussions around sustainability and the need to reduce plastics. Children decorated bags to reflect their understanding of climate change.

Balmoral tenants were able to meet with contractors and hold conversations that were clear and open. Contractors have better understanding of tenants' environment.

SEH - Building strong relationships with other organisations to deliver community events and working together to deliver best value to tenants.

# PATCHWORK ORCHARD

April 2023

In April, we visited Grampian armed with 10 apple trees. With the help of Graham Burnett from Spiralseed, Project 49, Houghtons, SAVS, local Councillors, and SECH, they managed to get all 10 trees planted around the tower block before it was even time for a cup of tea and some lunch!

Going forward, Graham and Project 49 will be keeping an eye on the trees, making sure that they have the best conditions to grow, and will continue to maintain them.

This was a team effort, with some groups bringing the much needed strength to dig the holes for the trees, and others providing the expert gardening knowledge to make sure that they thrive. Staff also spoke to residents about why we were planting the trees and took on suggestions for locations where more trees could be planted.



# Benefits of patchwork orchards...



The project will provide opportunities for growing an abundance of fresh apples, pears, cherries, and plums, including local Essex varieties, as well opportunities for growing vegetables, herbs, salad crops and other edible yields. It will also help to increase sustainability and biodiversity, creating a healthy habitat for wildlife and encouraging pollinators such as bees.

This work can create opportunities to learn about natural ecosystems and sustainable design, as well as traditional skills such as tree care, pruning, grafting, coppicing, and other traditional crafts.

It will improve physical health through exercise that has a purpose and enabling people to have access to fresh food. It can also promote positive mental health by providing a therapeutic and relaxing landscape close to nature.

# HAWAIIAN PARTY

## August 2023

South Essex Homes worked with South Essex Community Hub to host an end of summer Hawaiian themed party!

The party included a BBQ, slush machine, plenty of games, stalls from local organisations, a crafts station, and a face painter!



*The staff at Houghton & Son popped over to get involved in the fun!*



*The Mayor also came by to say hello and to speak to residents and staff alike, as well as local councillors who all got involved and wore a Lei!*



*South Essex Homes would like to thank the organisations below for their community support and contributions to each of these projects, that wouldn't have been possible without them!*

**THANK YOU!**

**HOUGHTON**  
**Building** 



**SAVS**  
Southend Association of Voluntary Services