

## FINANCIAL FACTS AND FIGURES FOR 2018

CASH IN	£	CASH OUT	£
LDC & ESCC grants	21,750	Loans advanced	144,090
Charitable grants	16,500	Grants to tenants	10,300
Loan repayments from tenants	92,538		
Subscriptions, donations, legacy	37,580	Employee expenses	19,977
Fundraising events	2,418	Other expenses	4,682
Gift aid tax refunds	3,267		
Interest	474		
<b>Total cash in</b>	<b>174,527</b>	<b>Total cash out</b>	<b>179,049</b>

### REPORT FROM THE HOMELINK TREASURER

For the last twenty years, **HOMELINK** has played a unique role in the pattern of housing provision in the Lewes District. By helping individuals, couples and families to afford the down-payment on a rented home, HOMELINK is often able to open doors and bring hope of a bright new future.

In the last five years alone, the number of loans made has soared from around 30 per year to almost 100 per year. This would not have been possible without the support of those many people who subscribe regularly, or come to enjoy our special events. We also thank our local councils, churches and a number of charities which have helped to build up our strong financial position. We currently have 375 tenancies in place, the repayments from which now fund more than half of the new loans made each year.

In order to future-proof our work, in view of the hugely increased workload, we are at present engaged in seeking funding to strengthen our paid staffing. We have also begun the transition from charitable trust to a stronger legal foundation as an incorporated charity.

*John Howes, April 2019*

**HOMELINK TRUSTEES:** Ethane Ashling-Perry, John Cornish, Diana Dixon, Linda Fisher, Terry Howell, John Howes, Jane Lee, Malcolm Mazey, Rev. Jacqueline Parson, Joanna Slaughter, Christine Tutt, Joan Wignall.

## LEWES DISTRICT CHURCHES HOMELINK



You are invited to attend the

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

and

ANNUAL MEETING for SUPPORTERS  
& PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

on Saturday 18th May 2019 at 5.15 pm at

The Phoenix Centre, 26 Malling Street, Lewes, BN7 2RD

RSVP to: [secretary@leweshomelink.org.uk](mailto:secretary@leweshomelink.org.uk) or 07783 020869



### Directions to the Phoenix Centre

Malling Street is accessed via a roundabout on the main road through Lewes, near the Phoenix Causeway bridge over the river. The nearby public car park is in Harvey's Way, (first right off Malling Street) and is free of charge after 5 pm on a Saturday.

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

HOMELINK was founded in 1998 as an ecumenical charity, in order to assist people with little or no savings and on a low income. It offers interest-free loans to enable suitable applicants to rent in the private sector, within the Lewes District Council area. Similar loans are offered to mentored ex-offenders from Lewes Prison, in association with Sussex Pathways.

Registered Charity No. 1068735 and CIO No. 1174895

# HOMELINK ANNUAL REPORT for 2018

## REPORT FROM OUR SERVICE MANAGER, PIPPA GRACE



Because of the Reduction Act, Council referrals to HOMELINK dropped steeply in 2018, but less interviewing meant more time productively assisting and encouraging successful applicants to find new homes! We still signed our target of 95 tenancies (including children, that's 373 people helped into long-term housing) so we have adapted to the year's challenges well.

The number of grants arranged for those in need of essential furniture and white goods, or of emergency accommodation on release from HMP Lewes rose significantly from 15 to 40 since 2017.

We have made new partnerships with the Lewes & Newhaven Job Centres, the Sussex Rough Sleeper Prevention Project, the Newhaven Foyer and ES Children's Services: we aim to ensure that a far greater number of local social support staff can let clients know what HOMELINK offers within the Section 21 two-month notice period. Many individuals and families have already been saved an interim move into disruptive and traumatic Temporary Accommodation.

It's a very great privilege to work with our wonderful volunteer team and with Fran, who now oversees tenant repayments in the Lewes office.

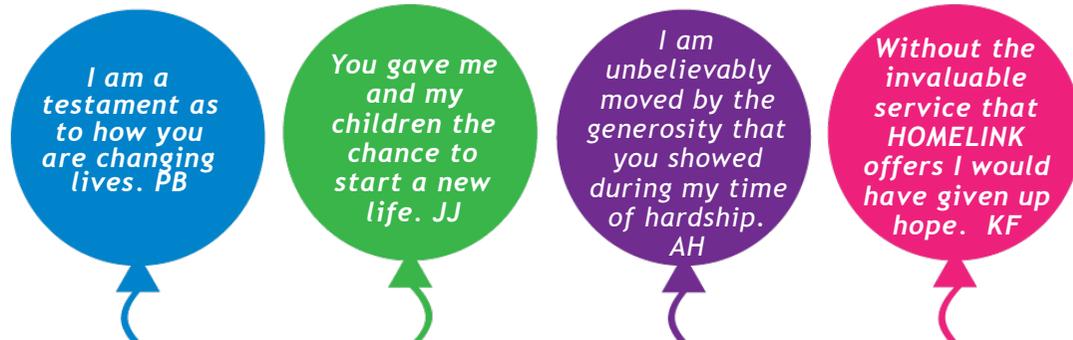
## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, JOAN WIGNALL

2018 has been a year of growth, change and adjustment. Pippa has developed her role expertly, and strategies are being implemented to cope with the hugely increased workload that John mentions in his Report. We are pleased to say that we comply with the new data protection procedures. Thank you to everyone involved with HOMELINK - in whatever way.

It is 20 years this year since HOMELINK's first tenancy! Please come and celebrate with us. Note also the dates of our Open County Garden and Glyndebourne Concert and support us by coming to these brilliant events too.

## EVENTS IN 2018

After the entertaining Old Tyme Music Hall in Seaford, we enjoyed a sunny coffee morning in Ringmer. Then there was the Christmas concert by the Ashdown Singers. Many thanks to all who contributed to these.



*I am a testament as to how you are changing lives. PB*

*You gave me and my children the chance to start a new life. JJ*

*I am unbelievably moved by the generosity that you showed during my time of hardship. AH*

*Without the invaluable service that HOMELINK offers I would have given up hope. KF*

## ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION and ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKERS

On Saturday 18th May we shall be hearing from:

- Pippa Grace, telling us about her HOMELINK work;
- Other speakers with knowledge of the local housing scene.

## OPEN COUNTRY GARDEN and CONCERT at GLYNDEBOURNE

On Saturday 20th July the delightful and unusual garden of David and Karen Allam will be open from 1.30 pm to 4 pm, with live music and refreshments.

On Sunday 17th November the gala concert at Glyndebourne with celebrities and local performers starts at 3 pm. The gardens will be open beforehand and the restaurant will be open for light lunches and teas.

## FUTURE PLANS

We will ensure HOMELINK's sustainability by taking on more staff and developing a future-proofing 3 year plan with new website and logo.

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Thank God for all those we have helped over 20 years, and for all who have supported our work. Ask God to guide our trustees and office team in their decisions and ask for His help in working for those who need a home.

## CONTACT US

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