



**Alasdair McKee**

**23.10.64 - 3.11.22**

**It's hard to believe that it's been almost a year since the passing of our former Chief Executive, Alasdair McKee. He was a remarkable man and we were very privileged to have known him. Alasdair's commitment to the housing sector, and his dedication to improving the local community and the lives of its people, is almost impossible to measure.**

Paying tribute to Alasdair, Glen Oaks' Chairperson Simon Gaunt called him a "true champion of the housing association movement". He added: "The entire staff and Board of Glen Oaks, along with many of our tenants, are devastated and profoundly distressed by the loss of Alasdair. His contribution to the work of Glen Oaks, serving our communities with distinction for over 30 years, is incalculable and we grieve his passing most deeply. Our sincere condolences go out to his family and we know the wider housing association movement in Scotland and beyond will share the widespread

sorrow felt by so many."

Nicola Logan, Glen Oaks' Chief Executive, added "Alasdair's loss was a profound shock to the Association and to everyone who knew and worked with him but we remain comforted by his incomparable achievements."

It has been said that the definition of a lasting legacy is the positive impact a person's life has on the people around them - Alasdair's personal values, achievements and actions really did make a difference to everyone who knew him.

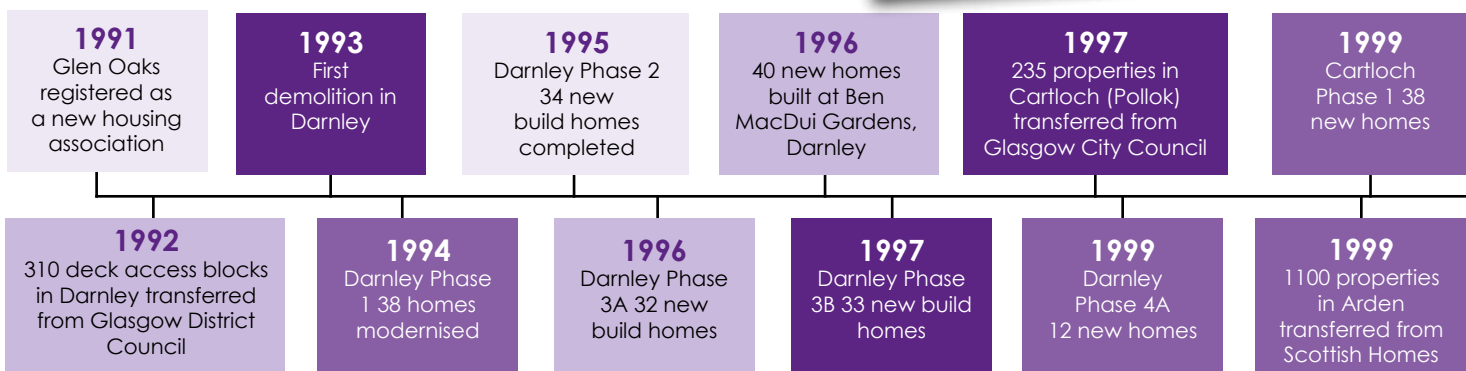
## Commitment to Glen Oaks Housing Association

Alasdair was involved with Glen Oaks from the very beginning and helped to develop and shape the Association into the thriving organisation it is now. While he was still in his 20's, Alasdair started working with the Darnley Steering Group and, recognising their commitment to improving the homes and lives of tenants in their local communities, he guided their transformation as they became Glen Oaks Housing Association. The Association took ownership of 310 homes in the Darnley area from Glasgow District Council in 1991, with the aim of replacing the cold, damp flats with good quality, affordable housing for local people. Glen Oaks' success in Darnley led to them winning a tenant ballot to transfer 235 homes from Glasgow City Council in 1997. The majority of these properties were demolished and replaced with attractive, new homes and a small number of homes that were not demolished were extensively refurbished.

Under Alasdair's leadership, Glen Oaks went from strength to strength. In 1999, the Association acquired 1100 homes in Arden following a successful tenant ballot. The least-desirable properties were quickly demolished and the Association began a comprehensive new build development programme in the Arden estate. In less than 10 years, Glen Oaks had trebled in size. This was a remarkable achievement for the Association and was a direct

result of the hard work and determination of Alasdair, the Board/Committee and the staff team.

We've added a brief timeline below to give you a snapshot of some of the Association's successes during Alasdair's time as Director and Chief Executive. As you can imagine, when someone has done so much in their life it's incredibly difficult to mention all of their achievements in just a few pages, but we've given it a go and we really hope you will join us in appreciating Alasdair's life and work.



## Working for the Community

Alasdair believed that housing associations were more than just landlords and he enjoyed encouraging everyone in the local community to get involved in the Association's work. It was more than just asking what tenants thought about our performance, Alasdair was keen for them to actively take part in our decision-making and help to improve our services. In 2002, Glen Oaks launched Gold Service, a tenant reward scheme to give something back to loyal tenants. Alasdair even took part in a TV show to promote the Association's need for funding to improve its housing. Alasdair was very proud of our award-winning scrutiny panel, the Service Improvement Group, and he really valued their local knowledge and their ability to be the voice of the community.

An avid supporter of community events, Alasdair always tried to make them as enjoyable as possible for everyone who came along. His love of music meant that he championed new bands and singers and often invited them to perform at our Fun Days. There were also occasional performances from Alasdair's own band, featuring his wife Diane on vocals. And let's not forget the Darnley Fun Run which was a particular favourite ... Alasdair's warm-up routines with Colin Brown were a sight to behold!



## Helping Others

Always willing to share his knowledge and experience, Alasdair's commitment to helping people maximise their skills led to him mentoring young people who had an interest in the housing sector. Alasdair also recognised the value of developing Board/Committee members and the staff team. He actively supported their learning and

encouraged them to achieve their full potential, which was a benefit to them personally as well as improving their experience of working with Glen Oaks. A keen supporter of Workingrite, Alasdair was delighted to see the number of local young people who had been helped into work and apprenticeships by this very successful project.



**2000**

Major repairs and improvement work commences in Arden

**2003**

Darnley Phase 4B 28 unit development completed

**2006**

Arden Phase 1 42 new homes completed

**2012**

25 new homes built in Kilmuir Crescent, Arden, including 6 New Supply Shared Equity (NSSE) properties for sale

**2017**

48 new homes built on the site of the former St. Louise Primary School in Arden

**2001**

Cartloch Phase 2 22 new homes completed

**2004**

Completion of final phase of new homes in Cartloch

**2009**

Completion of Care Home and 8 flats for rent in Hopeman Avenue, Arden

**2013**

39 new homes in Kilmuir Crescent, Arden, including 4 New Supply Shared Equity (NSSE) properties for sale

**2020**

49 new homes completed in Kilmuir Close, Arden

**Maureen Cope MBE of Ardenglen Housing**

**Association said:** "I am deeply distressed at the news of Alasdair's untimely passing. Losing such a well-liked Chief Executive whose entire working life was devoted to the work of Glen Oaks is a devastating blow. Our hearts go out to his family and to the wider Glen Oaks community. Alasdair's lasting legacy will be defined by the successful, vibrant housing association he helped build over three decades and which has grown deep roots in its communities. That couldn't have been achieved without Alasdair's skill, enthusiasm and sheer hard work."

**Craig Sanderson, former Chief Executive of the Link Group, said:**

"Although Glen Oaks was a 'community anchor' focusing exclusively on Arden and the wider Greater Pollok area, Alasdair was passionate about developing ways to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone. This could be best done by 'thinking outside the box' and Alasdair was a dab hand at that."

**Charles Turner, former Chief Executive of Thenue Housing, said:**

"Alasdair's working life had been utterly devoted to Glen Oaks - as he chose to remain with the Association and lead it for over three decades. We have lost someone dear to our hearts, who we could turn to for support, inspiration and guidance. Our housing world, particularly in Glasgow, will never be the same."

**David Bookbinder, Director of Glasgow and West of Scotland Forum of Housing Associations, said:**

On top of Alasdair's fantastic contribution to the community-based housing association movement and his glittering music career, we all knew him as just such a kind, considerate person. He was conscientious, thoughtful and empathetic. And that smile of his - full of warmth and perhaps a wee bit of mischief! It's impossible to grasp that he is gone."

**Gary Dalziel, Chief Executive of Elderpark Housing, said:** "Alasdair was a constant at Glen Oaks and was widely respected as one of the Chief Executives who clearly had a strong and abiding connection with the community he served. While there can be no doubt he has had a long and successful career, what matters perhaps more was his humility, the kindness he was known for displaying and how he was valued by his colleagues and the whole sector."

**Dennis Murphy, Workingrite, said:**

"Such a shock, he was a great and gentle man. I knew him both professionally over the last 10 years and personally, meeting at many gigs and music festivals."

**Evelyn Tweed MSP, said:** I was shocked and saddened to hear the news that my friend and former colleague had died. Alasdair was a gem of a man who gave me my first job in housing. He was always there to support others and had a real passion for improving communities, as well as making a wider contribution to the housing section in Scotland."

**Audrey Simpson, the Home Group's Director of Scotland, said:**

"Alasdair dedicated his working life to serving the community and was, quite rightly, proud of what Glen Oaks had achieved over the years. But at the same time, he was very modest. He firmly believed in communities and was passionate about providing a holistic approach to service delivery, I was lucky to call Alasdair a friend."

**Ross Wilson, Ross Wilson PR, said:**

"Alasdair's friendly persona greatly endeared him to the print and broadcast media. He was a joy to work with - always listening, always willing to see things from a different angle but with a firm focus on doing his very best for the communities he served with such distinction for so long".

**Martin McKane, Glen Oaks tenant:**

"Very sorry to hear this. I always found Alasdair pleasant and approachable, with a real love for what he did and pride in everything Glen Oaks achieved."

The comments featured on this page are only a tiny fraction of the wonderful tributes we received following Alasdair's death. They all had one thing in common and confirmed what we already knew - Alasdair was warm, kind and thoughtful and was always there to support and encourage others.

We miss him.