Four decades of service to Shettleston...

For more information about the Association, go to: www.shettleston.co.uk
Welcome to this special 40th anniversary edition of Shettleston Matters.

We want to celebrate our achievements and the work of the Association over those 40 years. We hope you will appreciate the changes that have been made.

In 1976 Shettleston, like the rest of the East End, was not a pretty sight. Its tenements were run down or lay derelict, awaiting demolition. Gap sites were aplenty. Flats were lacking in basic amenities and employment opportunities were diminishing as the old heavy industries closed.

The road out lead to areas like Easterhouse or perhaps for the luckier the new towns such as Cumbernauld. Photographs cannot tell the full story of Glasgow's East End in those days but they do present a sorry tale of decline and decay – as a few pictures in this edition make clear. It's all the more remarkable that there remained a strong enough community spirit that led to the Association being formed in 1976.

Housing Associations were not completely unknown in 1976. A few had been formed in the City over the previous few years but the idea was new in Shettleston and the concept remained novel. Giving responsibility to local communities for the re-generation of their area, as opposed to having it done for them by central and local government, was a departure for everyone. But in 1976 everyone thought it worth a go and so the Association started work.

A great many people have served on Shettleston's Management Committee over the years. Whatever reasons gave rise to their membership in the first instance the vast majority found their work rewarding and came to appreciate the difference that their contribution made to the wider community.

Few of those committee members in 1976 could have guessed that the Association they set up would grow to be what it is today. The tenements have been improved, new housing has been built, community projects have been established and advice, help and assistance given to hundreds, indeed thousands, of our local community. What may have been dreams has become a reality and Shettleston is the better for it.

This edition of Shettleston Matters show some of the changes over the last 40 years. We hope you agree with us that Shettleston is a better place for the work of the Association.

I hope that you enjoy our celebration today. I hope that you will enjoy the film that you are about to see in celebration of our work. And if you take anything from this afternoon I hope it is this, that Shettleston is a better place today than anyone could have imagined those 40 years ago and for that we should thank all of those voluntary members who gave up their time and energy for the benefit of their community.
We hope you agree with us that Shettleston is a better place thanks to the work of the Association.
Shettleston Housing Association is first and foremost a landlord and that means we have to make sure that our houses, our buildings, are well looked after. But if buildings give shape to a community, it’s the people that make a community work.

At the Association we put a lot of emphasis on working with people in the local community and we have been instrumental in setting up, or helping, a range of projects and services for local people. The following pictures tell their own story...

“...it’s the people that make a community work.”