



Working Wonders for Waltherton & Elgin Homes

Time for Paddington is Paddington Waterside Partnership's Corporate Community Involvement programme. Established in 2004, the programme connects companies to charities and communities by brokering volunteering, skills, fundraising and donations.

Paddington Waterside Partnership introduced Time for Paddington to enable companies to build fruitful and lasting relationships with the local community. Time for Paddington assists companies by matching their core values with the needs of the community sector.

There's Glory in Gardening

It is fun and rewarding to do a garden makeover; and a great way to contribute to the local community.

Each team taking part was allocated some gardens to work with at Waltherton and Elgin Homes (WECH). These gardens belong to vulnerable people, often elderly, who do not have the capacity or opportunity to tend to them themselves.

The garden makeover is more than just turning up and working on the gardens. The teams first carry out a site visit, allowing them to get acquainted with the residents and get a feel for the job at hand. Planning, allocating tasks and budgeting is a key part of the project. These teams wanted to do more and fundraised for the tools and materials they would need to make the most positive difference to the area. One team was particularly successful, setting up a 'Cake Shop' in their department for a day.

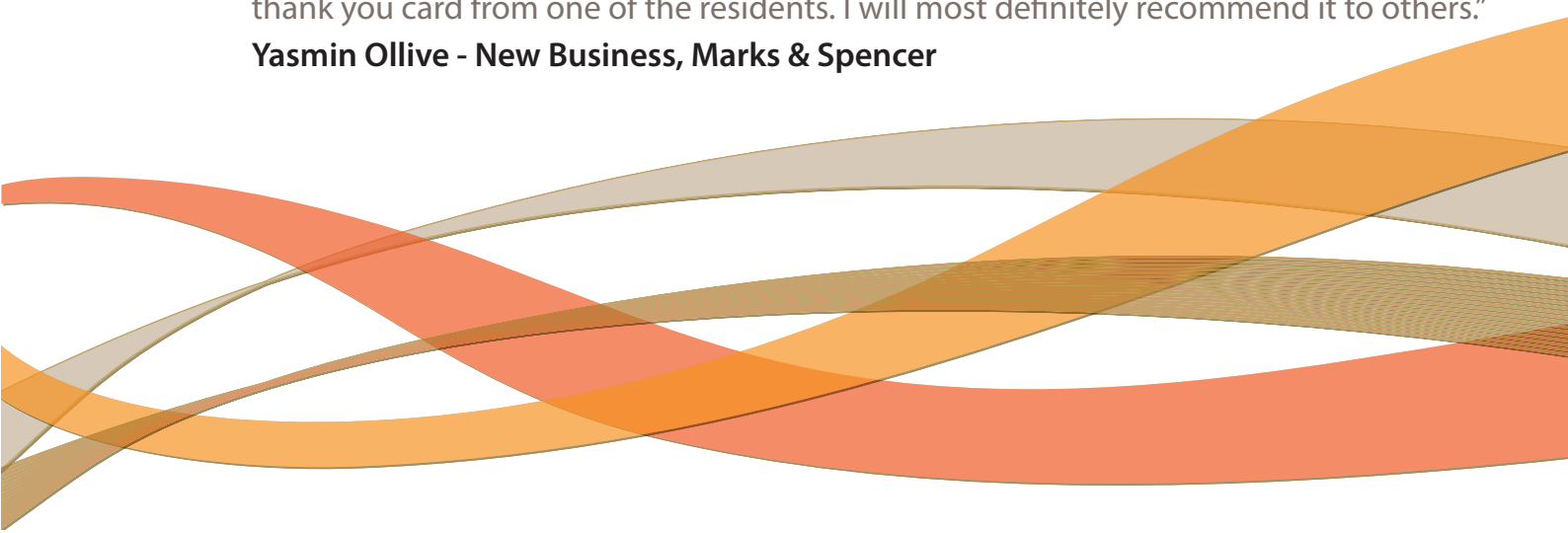
It is a rewarding experience and makes a real difference to the living area and lives of the residents.

"The team challenge was very well organised and was a wonderful experience. The group was cheerful, friendly and worked really hard. They interacted with the residents which the residents really enjoyed and appreciated."

Gina - Community Services Manager, WECH

"Thank you for giving us the opportunity to do this. We had a great day and received a thank you card from one of the residents. I will most definitely recommend it to others."

Yasmin Ollive - New Business, Marks & Spencer



M&S in the Community

M&S is one of the UK's leading retailers, with over 21 million people visiting their 700 UK stores each week. They employ over 76,000 people in the UK and abroad.

With its UK Head Office based in Paddington, M&S regularly fundraises for local charities and community organisations. M&S frequently supports St Mary's Hospital, located opposite the retailer's offices, most recently raising £125,000 for the hospital as part of its 125th anniversary celebrations.

In 2007 M&S launched its eco-ethical plan: 'Plan A', committing to change 100 things over five years. In March 2010, it expanded Plan A setting out a further 80 commitments to help it become the world's most sustainable major retailer by 2015. Fair Partner is a major strand of the M&S Plan A vision and it is committed to supporting local communities through fundraising and employee volunteering.



Walerton & Elgin Homes (WECH)

Walerton & Elgin Community homes (WECH) is a successful resident controlled housing association in Westminster. It emerged from the struggle of residents against the sale of their homes to private developers. It is now a beacon of how resident control can not only revitalise the physical environment of a run-down estate but also create sustainable and inclusive communities from the bottom up.

At WECH they believe that by working in partnership with their residents and other stakeholders in their community, they can continue to improve the quality of their homes, the quality of the lives of the residents and can also contribute to an improvement in the overall quality of the environment in which the homes exist.



M&S New Business Team