

homingin

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/councilhousing

June 2009



Ava aged 3 and Joan aged 85 enjoying the rewards of gardening with the Craven Vale Gardening Club. More inside with entrance details for our City in Bloom competition 2009.

In this issue

Capital Programme update

Tackling anti-social behaviour

Young people and homelessness

Important fire safety messages

Tributes to John Jolliffe and Ted Kitchen



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Time to spend this Summer!

Summer is here at last, and I hope you will be able to relax and enjoy the sunny weather, knowing that your home is in good hands now that the council is in a position to invest £20 million this year to improve council housing, an increase of £8 million on last year.

With the help of tenants and leaseholders, we have established how the money will be best spent - on new kitchens, bathrooms, doors, windows and heating.

Improvements will include:

- 430 new kitchens and 419 bathrooms
- replacing shared bathrooms with self-contained units in sheltered housing
- over 4,000 replacement doors
- improving the energy efficiency of communal heating and lighting
- £25,000 to install five solar systems to reduce carbon emissions and reduce fuel poverty

Surveys will be carried out at Laburnum Grove, Jasmine Court



“Many disabled residents can expect a visit from one of our officers to talk about adaptations to their property, a number of which will be carried out in this financial year.”

and Hazel Holt sheltered housing schemes to establish a schedule of improvements, including self-contained bathrooms. Many disabled residents can expect a visit from one of our officers to talk about adaptations to their property, a number of which will be carried out in this financial year.

Also in this issue we are delighted to report on the successes of our Anti-Social Behaviour Housing Team. Read stories from relieved and grateful tenants who have been brave enough to stand up for their rights and work with us to resolve some extremely difficult and sensitive situations.

Councillor Maria Caulfield

LDV update

Work continues on setting up the Local Delivery Vehicle (LDV) to help bridge the funding gap to bring your homes up to the Decent Homes Standard.

We are working closely with the Communities and Local Government department to ensure that the Secretary of State has the information to give consent to our housing company.

The LDV is formed, a board of directors has been appointed, and we are in the process of agreeing the legal contracts between the council and the new company.

Councillor Caulfield said: “We chose this route following options set out in the government’s green paper. We are determined to raise the funds to allow us to improve your homes and will do all we can to make the LDV work.”

Homing In is produced by Brighton & Hove City Council’s communications team and the tenant editorial board.

Contributors: Barry Hughes, Chris Cooke, Chris El Shabba, Beverley Weaver, Ray Freeman, Tina Urquhart and Ivy Trower.

If you have a story or an item to include in the next issue, please email homingin@brighton-hove.gov.uk, call 01273 291496 or write to Homing In, Communications Team, Room G10, King’s House, Grand Avenue, Hove, BN3 2LS

Council and tenant meetings

22 June Housing management consultative committee, Hove Town Hall at 3pm

15 July Housing cabinet members meeting, Hove Town Hall at 4pm

9 September Housing cabinet member meeting, Hove Town Hall at 4pm

All council meetings are open to the public – and you can submit public questions.

Call 01273 291058 for more information. View reports and decisions at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk

New repairs & maintenance contracts move closer

We're approaching the next stage of setting up the 10 year repairs and maintenance contracts that could help generate millions of pounds to provide tenants with improved and well-maintained homes.

Improving the quality of council housing is a top priority for the council. The 10-year contracts will make the most of available money and help close the gap on the investment

needed to bring tenants' homes up to the Decent Homes and Brighton & Hove Standard.

Over the past few months, we have been working with the tenant Asset Management Panel to go through the bids, and we'll be selecting our preferred bidder at the beginning of June. We then carry out consultation with our leaseholders before the final decision is made by the council's cabinet on 9 July.

Investing in your homes

With £20 million to invest in your homes this year, and money for disabled adaptations increased by £100,000 to £850,000, we're carrying out a series of improvements in line with tenants' priorities.

Investment will reflect the council's five housing priorities:

- improve services to an excellent standard, with residents at the heart of everything we do
- improve the quality and sustainability of our homes and neighbourhoods
- deliver value for money services
- make best use of our housing to address housing need
- ensure that social housing provides a platform for reducing inequality and creating opportunity

There are 12,320 homes and 2,230 leasehold properties that we need to consider when

putting these priorities into action. We will follow government guidelines to reduce our carbon footprint with energy efficiency measures, such as the introduction of smart meters and energy use displays. We have inspected communal boilers and hallways, and will be carrying out a running programme of sustainable improvements starting later this year.

Old boilers and heating control systems will be replaced with new energy efficient models where required, and we are fitting five solar energy systems on suitable properties. Look out for rewiring of public areas and the introduction of new power saving lighting in shared areas.

Hundreds of properties will receive new kitchens, bathrooms and doors in order to meet the government Decent Homes Standard and the Brighton &

Hove Standard.

We fitted 2,500 new front doors last year, and will be fitting a further 2,000 by 2010.

Safety and security has been foremost, with the doors meeting the

highest fire safety and police crime reduction standards.

For an update on work being carried out across the city, go to www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/housing-capital-work



Jean Lish of Ditchling Gardens with her new kitchen

Making the best use of city housing



The council is making the best use of its existing housing, releasing more family homes than before due to the success of our 'under occupancy scheme', which helps council tenants downsize to smaller homes



when they need fewer bedrooms freeing up larger, family homes for families who need them.

However, too many families are still living in homes that are too small and so, thanks to a new leasing scheme between the council and private sector landlords, tenants will now have the option of finding a new home with a local private landlord with a tenancy for up to ten years. This new opportunity offers

tenants the chance of a settled future in affordable accommodation for long enough to provide a stable environment for children while they are going through school.

Private owners of empty properties are also being encouraged to bring their properties back into use with grant assistance provided through the council's private sector renewal programme - and then make them available under the council's

leasing scheme. The grant offers funding for works to make a building fit for occupation in exchange for a five to ten year nomination agreement with the council.

Using grant aid to encourage landlords to bring empty properties back into use and the leasing programme has been extremely successful in tackling the problem of empty properties and helping to meet housing needs of the city.

Picking Patching!

Gwen was one of the first residents to move into the new Patching Lodge this May. She is pictured here in her purpose built apartment with Extra Care Team Manager Neil Bain who is helping her to settle in. Extra care accommodation offers residents a wide a range of state-of-the-art facilities and excellent security. An on-site care team provides the care you need and responds to emergencies 24 hours a day.

As part of the Capital Programme, the council is also carrying out a series of improvements to sheltered housing schemes, including self-contained bathrooms for Hazel Holt, Jasmine Court and Laburnum Grove. Work is due to be completed by spring 2010.



Tackling youth homelessness

Homelessness is an issue for hundreds of young people in the city today. There are 32,000 young people in Brighton & Hove aged between 16 and 24. They represent less than 13% of the population, yet people in that age group made up nearly half of the city's accepted homelessness cases in 2005/06.

Hundreds of under 18's leave home every year with nowhere to go. There are many reasons - behaviour, teenage pregnancy, drug or alcohol abuse, the financial strain of supporting dependents on a low income or even a clash of lifestyles.

To tackle this growing problem, the council joined with a number of partner organisations and young people to research and develop a strategy to combat youth homelessness in the city.

As a result, the council's Housing Options Families and Young People Team and Hove YMCA Housing Services have five specialists working with local families and young people in a bid to prevent what has been an increasing problem.

Team member Sue Moran has been working with vulnerable young people for three years now and agrees that avoiding eviction through early intervention is usually the answer. Sue said: "We aim to resolve family problems before a crisis point is reached, hopefully persuading the family to let their child remain at home and offering continued support to ensure that a stable situation is maintained, because home really is the best option, unless there is a risk of violence or abuse.

"However, we are not always successful - in some cases there

"We aim to resolve family problems before a crisis point is reached, hopefully persuading the family to let their child remain at home and offering continued support to ensure that a stable situation is maintained, because home really is the best option, unless there is a risk of violence or abuse."



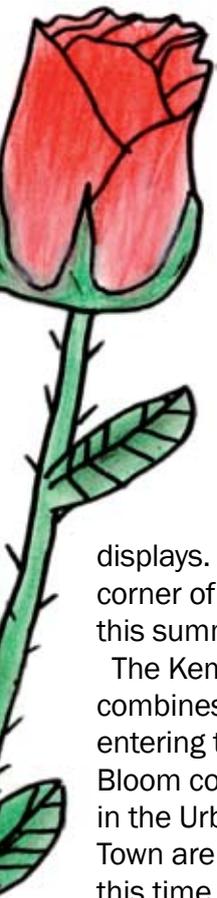
has been no time to get to know the family before the young person comes to us for help. At this stage we hope to offer them the most appropriate housing. Safe, supportive surroundings have been shown to be the most important factor in maintaining a manageable lifestyle for these vulnerable young adults, along with opportunities for training, and advice and guidance to improve their chances for the future, ultimately breaking the cycle of homelessness."

Since its introduction three years ago, our Youth Homelessness Strategy has improved the situation significantly. In that time, the take up of bed & breakfast temporary accommodation for under 18s has been reduced by 71%.

There are now 139 supported

living units in the city for young people between the ages of 16 and 25, and the council has made a successful bid to government to develop more supported housing for teenage parents - work starts on the project in July. The council has also set up a new respite scheme where teenagers can stay for three weeks in a hostel while the relationship with their families is repaired through mediation and support.

If you think you're at risk of becoming homeless, call the council's Housing Options Families and Young People Team on 01273 293111 or e-mail housing.advice@brighton-hove.gov.uk



Digging it in Kemp Town!

The City in Bloom judges will be busy in Kemp Town this July. The New Chair of Kemp Town in Bloom is Essex Place resident Chris Cooke, who is working closely with the newly reformed St James's Area Action Group, which comprises local businesses and residents. One of their many bright ideas is to enhance St James' Street with attractive street planters and floral displays.

Chris has promised that this unique corner of Brighton & Hove will be a riot of colour this summer.

The Kemp Town in Bloom working group, which combines local businesses and residents, are also entering the prestigious South & South East in Bloom competition. As winners of the silver award in the Urban Community category last year, Kemp Town are hoping to turn its green fingers to gold this time round!

Anyone interested in Kemp Town in Bloom should contact Chris at chrismartyncooke@yahoo.co.uk



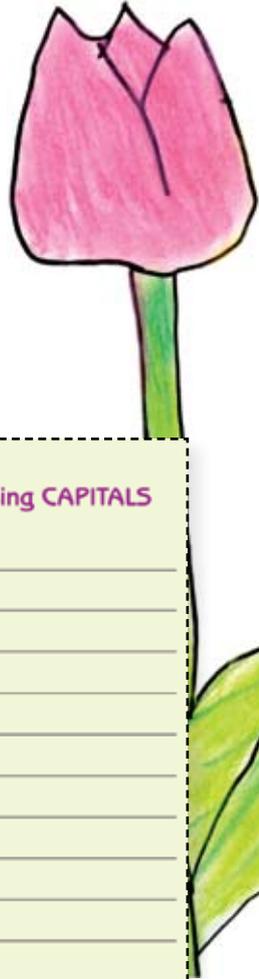
Chris Cooke, Chair of Kemp Town in Bloom, with Betty Dickens of the Kebbell Gardening Club, enjoying the beautiful communal gardens at Ardingly Court and Kebbell Lodge.

Flower power!

Craven Vale gardening group is blossoming this summer thanks to enthusiastic planting, potting and pruning by green fingered volunteers. Now they are arranging to visit a number of hidden Sussex gems open to the public this summer as part of the Open Gardens Scheme. Sue Hes, Community Development Worker, from the Trust for Developing Communities, said: "What could be better than a visit to a beautiful garden with new friends, tea and cake and a chance to pick up some planting ideas – and help a charity in the process."

The group meets at The Vale Community Centre, Hadlow Close, Brighton at 11am on the first Saturday of each month to do a few hours gardening around the estate. Refreshments are provided. Anyone interested in joining the gardening club should contact either Grant on 01273 571573 or Sue on 07772 269686.

Let your fingers do the planting and enter City in Bloom this year



You don't have to own a garden to enter. There are prizes for the best window box, balcony display or hanging basket. Allotment holders can enter for the Coronation Bowl, best newcomer, best organic or best kept plot.

Gardening groups can enter our 'flowers in my street' campaign which aims to bring keen gardeners together to create glorious displays in their communal

gardens and frontages. If you haven't already, round up your neighbours and get planting!

There are lots of other awards that you can enter. Why not cut out, complete and send the entry form on this page to the given address. Or pick up one of our City in Bloom leaflets from your nearest town hall, housing office or library, or enter on-line at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/cityinbloom

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/cityinbloom

The closing date is 30 June and judging takes place throughout July.

This year the panel will be looking out for evidence of a sustainable approach to gardening with low maintenance plants that can flourish without too much water, and an inclusion of vegetables and complimentary planting to encourage those butterflies and bees that we all love so much.



Entry form Please fill in using CAPITALS

Contact name _____

Organisation/Association (if applicable) _____

Address of contact _____

Postcode _____

Address of entry (if different from above address) _____

Postcode _____

Daytime telephone number _____

What category(s) do you want to enter?

- Most attractive block of flats
- Most attractive street
- Best hanging basket
- Best wildlife garden
- Best basement garden
- Best front garden
- Best window box/balcony
- Allotment Coronation Bowl

Nominate your favourite blooming business:

- Best pub _____
- Best restaurant _____
- Best Shop _____
- Best hotel/B&B _____

Send all entries or enquiries by 30 June to:

City In Bloom 2009,
Brighton & Hove City Council, Hollingdean Depot,
Upper Hollingdean Road, Brighton, BN1 7GA.
01273 292929 www.brighton-hove.gov.uk

The name and address of all finalists may be published and photographs of the entrants and/or their gardens may also be used for publicity purposes. If you enter the competition you are deemed to accept this.



ASBOs and ABCs spell a better future for all

Without the help of neighbours speaking up, the Anti Social Behaviour Housing Team wouldn't be able to do their job. What we often don't hear about is how carefully the team work to avoid evictions if they can. Prevention and support are seen as the key to improving tenant relations, and the preferable alternative to eviction where possible.

One of the four strong team of housing officers will often work with young offenders before their behaviour can lead them into more serious trouble.

Sometimes a six month 'Acceptable Behaviour Contract' (ABC) will be issued. This can help the person recognise the harm their behaviour has caused the local community and guides them towards making amends. It may be a letter of apology or clearing litter in a local park. It is hoped that this form of 'restorative justice' will help raise their awareness of the importance of their local community. Support

comes from the police and a designated member of the housing team, who will meet regularly with the young person, their family and, if necessary, their school.

Graham Page, who manages the ASB Housing team, said: "To deal effectively with anti-social behaviour you need to look beyond the individual reported incidents. Our team unpick the issues at the cause – it could be children witnessing

“It is crucial to build trust and respect, and often a lot of bridge building has to take place. It can be a slow and difficult process, requiring skill, patience and an open, non-judgemental approach.”

domestic violence, parents with substance misuse issues, or that the young person has mental health problems or learning difficulties and is not receiving the appropriate education and support they need.

“We often work with the same families over months and sometimes years, occasionally working with more than one generation of the same family. It is crucial to build trust and respect,

and often a lot of bridge building has to take place. It can be a slow and difficult process, requiring skill, patience and an open, non-judgemental approach.”

One of the biggest dilemmas for the team is finding the balance between offering family support and applying enforcement action - weighing up the needs of an individual or family against the needs of the wider community.

Often there is pressure to take possession of a property, which could result in eviction, but that can simply move the problem rather than solve it. This is

why housing officers will always attempt to explore the cause of the anti-social behaviour, and work to bring about positive change and resolution, rather than uproot the family. If successful, the family and the wider community will see the benefits.

If you're having trouble with anti-social behaviour, please contact your housing officer at your local housing office.

New Tenancy Agreement

We apologise for the delay in sending the first 'notice of variation' about the changes to your tenancy agreement. We are still finalising arrangements for their delivery but aim to send them out shortly.

When you receive your copy, there will be a number of ways you can give us your views,

including a feedback form, e-mail, or telephone – full details will be included in the pack. We will also be holding surgeries at sheltered housing schemes for residents.

If you would like to receive the draft tenancy agreement in an alternative language or format, please contact your housing office now.

Ivy's life is a bowl of cherries now

Recently a 60 year old female tenant was causing a number of problems for neighbours in Cherrycroft flats in Brighton. Complaints were made about her drunken behaviour, drug

taking, and numerous visitors disturbing the peace at their small, friendly and quiet block of flats.

Ivy Trower, aged 86, lives in the flat above. She has lived in Patcham

all her life, having spent 21 years as warden of Charles Kingston Gardens, a sheltered housing scheme a few roads away. Ivy said: "As a former warden I am used to dealing with people and do have some sympathy. At times she could be very pleasant and polite but as time went on, the damage to property increased and her behaviour became more and more upsetting."

The team visited the woman and established that she was struggling with alcohol and drug addiction. They also visited Ivy and other tenants on the estate and found that almost everyone agreed this was an intolerable situation. No one wanted to see the person made homeless, but neither did they want the problem shunted to another area.

The team worked with the police to achieve a positive solution for all parties. Between them they helped the tenant confront the reality of her behaviour. She has left her flat and lives under the restrictions of her Anti-Social Behaviour Order, and has been re-housed in a supported living hostel where she is receiving help for her addictions.

Easy as ABC

"There are two sides to every situation, and something we want to stress is the importance of taking a holistic approach," said Graham Page, Anti-Social Behaviour Housing Team manager. "Our team strive to help everyone involved in these situations. We agreed an Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) on a tenant last October and worked with him to help him change his behaviour. He is now attending an alcohol addiction programme and has started a computer training course, which he is really enjoying.

"He has redecorated his home and cleared up his garden. The ABC has finished and there have been no further complaints from the neighbours. In fact, one of his friends was so impressed with the change that he asked one of our visiting officers if he could get the same help."

"As a former warden I am used to dealing with people and do have some sympathy."



Ivy standing outside her flat in Cherrycroft. The property below will be re-let.

Do your bit to keep safe from fire



Five hundred people lose their lives and 10,000 are injured in house fires across the country every year. In response to these figures, the council and East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service are carrying out safety checks on all blocks of flats. Communal fire doors, escape routes and signage will be thoroughly inspected to ensure they comply with rigorous fire safety standards.

The Fire Brigade's role is essential, but you, as a resident, can play your part to help prevent fires starting and spreading. Most fires don't spread further than one or two rooms and if there is a fire elsewhere in the building you're usually safest in your own flat unless heat or smoke is affecting you. In fact the council and the fire service has a 'Stay Put' policy, meaning the majority of fires can be extinguished with residents remaining in their homes.

If you have a mobility problem you should discuss a personal emergency evacuation plan with your housing officer. You may elect a neighbour who can be called upon in an emergency to help you. If you need special equipment to help with walking, you should always keep it in an accessible place near the front door, but not blocking your exit.

If you do discover a fire in your flat

- **Alert everyone**
- **Get everyone out**
- **Don't delay for valuables**
- **Don't investigate the fire**
- **Before you open doors check them with the back of your hand. If they're warm don't open them – the fire is on the other side**
- **Don't use the lift. Go down the stairs**

What else can I do?

- **Fit smoke alarms that have the British Standard Kitemark on them**
- **They can give you more time to get out**
- **Test them weekly and change the battery once a year**

Keep safe

- **Don't smoke in bed. Use proper ashtrays and make sure that cigarettes are put out. All common ways in flats are non smoking areas by law**
- **Beware chip pans - don't leave them frying on their own. Ensure cooking appliances are turned off when you have finished cooking**
- **Unplug appliances at night or when your home is empty**
- **Avoid using adaptors and extensions that may overheat. If you are using extensions, use one with a circuit breaker that will break the power if in danger of over-heating**
- **Be careful with candles. Don't leave them burning unattended, and make sure they are properly extinguished**
- **Use fire guards on open fires**
- **Don't put clothing close to open fires, storage heaters or electric fires to dry off**
- **Switch off irons before you answer the phone!**

Lift breakdown



In a fire, lifts should never be used. Lifts will sometimes break down and we have had occasions where both lifts serving the same block have broken down at the same time. Many of our blocks have lifts that stop on alternate floors and residents who use wheel chairs and scooters are at risk from being stranded. **If this is your situation, we need to know about it so that we can best help you.**

We want to collect this information to be kept securely at your local housing office and shared with the fire service so that we can access this in emergencies and help you directly in the event of lift failure or fire.

Lift breakdown emergency contact form

Name

Address

Telephone number (s)

Please describe your mobility problems

If you live in a block of flats that has alternate floor lifts, are you able to walk to the next floor to access this lift?

Yes

No

Not applicable

Do you have anybody you can stay with or that you would like us to contact if you can't get into your flat. If so please tell us their name, address and telephone number below.

Would you like your housing officer to visit to discuss what to do in a fire? Yes

No

Please return this form in an envelope to the address below – you don't need a stamp.

**Brighton & Hove City Council
FREEPOST BR115
Selsfield Drive Housing Office
BRIGHTON
BN2 4ZZ**



Shooting to success!

The Haven Youth Group took part in the Brighton Festival Open Houses Art trail this year with a fascinating exhibition of digitally enhanced photographs from their home patch. Claire Burchell, development worker for the Trust for Developing Communities helped the teenagers aged between 11 and 17 to go out and about taking shots which they then edited into all sorts of creative pieces.

Claire said: "For many of them this was their first experience of photoshop, and they were all naturals! We all had so much fun putting this exhibition together and I know the group felt a huge sense of achievement as the public came and viewed all their hard work."



Amelia Teague, aged 12, one of the young photographers at the exhibition

The Haven Youth Group meets at the Pankhurst Community Centre every Monday from 5 – 7pm. If you live locally, are aged between 11 and 17 and want to join in the

fun why not just come along or call Claire at the Trust for Developing Communities on 01273 262220.

There is also a free drop-in service for 11 to 19 year olds every Thursday from 4.30 – 6.30pm, and on Fridays from 3.30 – 5.30pm at the Vale Community Centre (formerly known as the Shed) on Hadlow Close. There you can speak confidentially to someone about issues that may be a cause for concern, such as finding work or housing, sexual health, drugs and alcohol problems, or bullying.

Those aged 20 – 25 are also welcome to come along and get information about housing, benefits and job searches.

Find out more from Caroline on 07870 168947.

Celebrating a golden time at Craven Vale

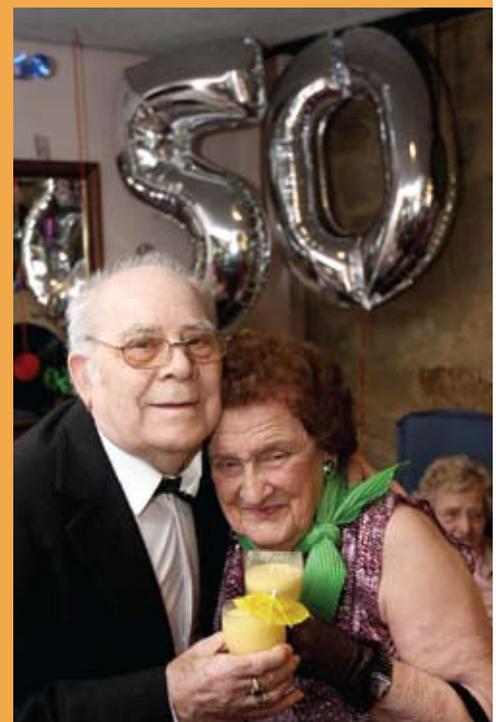
The Craven Vale Resource Centre has just celebrated 50 years of providing excellent care to the older people of the city. Residents enjoyed a special cake and rockin' tunes at a fifties-themed party with music from DJ Tommy Jones.

"Craven Vale has become very important to the local area since it opened 50 years ago and is now one of the city's leading centres supporting older people's independence," said Councillor Ken Norman, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care. "Celebrating its 50th birthday with service users who can remember the 1950s is a fitting tribute to a centre that has cared for thousands of people

over the years."

Rosemary Deacon, who has lived in the area since the 1950s and now attends the friendship group at Craven Vale, said: "When I first moved here the area was called Baker's Bottom. There were allotments all around and where the centre is now was a baker's, which gave the area its name."

The centre was refurbished in the early 90s, after which it developed into the short-term care centre that it is today. It now offers a variety of services including intermediate care, respite care, transitional care and day care.



John and Joan enjoy the fun

Summer all year round at Tarner

Morley Street has been enjoying a tropical summer since springtime thanks to the combined creative talents of the local community and Phoenix Brighton, artist 'Nik the Brush', with art supplies from the Brighton Dulux Decorator Centre.



Nancy Pollard, Chair of the Tarner Partnership, Sara Samson Outreach Coordinator from Phoenix Brighton and artist 'Nik the Brush' in front of the colourful mural in Morley Street

The project was set up by the Tarner Area Partnership to encourage residents to get involved in their local neighbourhood and brighten up the area. Children and residents from the Kingswood and Milner Residents Association worked with local artist, Nik the Brush, as part of a new Community Outreach programme at Phoenix Brighton from which the idea of the mural was developed.

Since January, Nik has led workshops with local residents, children from Carlton Hill Primary school, and the Wednesday Art Group at the Brighton Unemployed Centre Families Project. He then spent six days transforming a blank wall into a beautiful and brightly coloured mural depicting a waterfall, tropical birds, flowers and palm trees.

Community Outreach Coordinator for Phoenix, Sara Samson said: "Projects like this mean local people can work with professional artists to have fun and put something back in to their community!"

Phoenix Brighton is the largest artist-led organisation in the South East, providing galleries, community projects, education programmes and 100 artist studios, and it is based in the Tarner area. For more information, contact Sara on 07971 226103 or look at their website on www.phoenixarts.org

Money to print!

The Resource Centre in Tilbury Place, Brighton has received a £30,000 boost with a government grant.

Community and voluntary groups now have access to a colour photocopier, a high quality digital printer, a new folding machine and an automatic booklet maker, which collates folds and staples large quantities.

The community print room is different from professional printing and copying firms because users are encouraged to do their own printing, with full training and support from Resource Centre staff. This keeps costs very low - full colour copies cost as little as 20p, and 500 black and white leaflets can be printed for just 3p a copy. For an extra charge, the centre also offers a print service.

Sue Harris of the Coldean Tenants and Residents Association said: "We deliver our newsletter to every home in Coldean, so it needs to look attractive. We think the Resource Centre does a marvellous job helping groups like ours get news out to the community. They definitely deserve more grants like this one, as they use every penny to support grass roots groups."

As well as providing print room facilities, the Resource Centre also has equipment for hire and an information service for community groups. Full details of all centre services are at www.resourcecentre.org.uk. To book the printing and photocopying machines, call the centre on 01273 606160.



Sue Harris and Elaine Mephan-Foster from the Coldean Tenants and Residents' Association on either side of Helen Brownstone of the National Association for Colitis and Crohns Disease (NAAC). Both organisations use the print facilities for their newsletters.

Tributes

Since the last issue of *Homing In* we have lost two good friends and powerful allies from the tenant movement.



John Jolliffe, who died recently, was chair of the Mount Pleasant Residents' Association, a former active member of the High Rise Action Group and the Housing Management Consultative Committee. John was also active

when Jersey Housing shaped, to some extent, their emerging tenant participation structure on their experience in Brighton & Hove. John visited Jersey, at their expense, to talk to residents. Pat McDonald, from Jersey, summed up her feelings by saying: "On behalf of the States of Jersey Housing Department and tenant groups who met John, our sincere condolences. John was a charming gentleman who gave many of our tenants' encouragement to become involved in their communities"

Ted Kitchen, former miner and 'purveyor of good sense', as one colleague put it, also sadly died, shortly after moving from Laburnum Grove where he was chairman. A member of the Housing Management Consultative Committee and very active member of the Sheltered Housing Action Group, his direct, clear and experienced voice will be much missed throughout the tenant movement.



Bring on the Boccia!

Teams from various sheltered housing schemes across the city joined together this spring to compete against each other – in a friendly way of course – in the latest bowls craze, Boccia.

Boccia can be played indoors

and is not too physically demanding. As everyone can play, it has become such a popular game with local residents. The tournament is part of a pilot scheme, funded by the Age Concern 'Fit as a Fiddle' grant scheme, which has been co-ordinated by Active for Life worker Rhiannon Johns of the Turner & Eastern Road Partnership (TAP), and Community Development Worker Cathy Gaunt of Impact Initiaves 50 plus.

St James' House beat Sloane Court in a tense tie-break finish. Everyone who took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves, with all teams asking whether it would be repeated in the future. John Turner, a Sloane Court resident who organises the team, said: "We all had a great time, it gets everyone out of their flats and gives them something to do. We've met lots of nice people from the area – even if they did beat us! Hopefully, more people will play in the regular Boccia at Sloane Court following the tournament."



Members of the winning team St James' House - Sylvie Payne, Ann Gibbons and John Henry Holbrook

City Assembly

The second meeting of the City Assembly was held in May at Hove Town Hall. Tenant representatives from 31 organisations were joined by tenants who wanted to watch and listen at the event.

Led by the Tenant Compact Monitoring Group (TCMG), the meeting adopted a 'Code of Conduct' which included the Nolan Committee Standards and an adapted standard from the Asset Management Panel.

The work will be taken forward by the TCMG as it begins the work to review the Tenant Compact and establish a full resident involvement strategy. It is expected that this will lead to an even greater variety in the ways residents can participate.

Watch out for developments and for the next City Assembly meeting which will be held in November. All representatives will be notified in good time and, as with this meeting, all residents will be welcome to attend.

Working to keep you

safe in YOUR community



Reducing crime is our job – police, drugs and alcohol teams, noise patrol and environment teams, local business forum and local action teams.

Did you know?

We all work together to make your neighbourhood safe.

For information about the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership
Visit www.safeinthecity.info



Brighton & Hove

safe in the city

Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership



Useful contacts

Housing Offices

Central (Lavender Street) **293260**
Community Participation Officer
Trevor Jones **293265**

Brighton East

Whitehawk (Manor Place Office) **293200**
Moulsecoomb (Selsfield Drive) **293171**
Community Participation Officer
Peter Mustow **296639**

West

(Victoria Road) **293377**
Community Participation Officer
Jane White **293374**

North & East

(Oxford Street) **293230**
Community Participation Officer
John Bain **292365**

Repairs Hotline **0800 052 6140**
or text 'repairs' to this number:
07786 2043522

There is a voicemail option for
tenants calling out of hours

Carelink **673105**

Housing Benefit **292000**
Housing Income Management Team
293224

Noise Patrol **293541** (operates weekends
Fri/Sat & Sat/Sun between 10pm & 3am)

Noise Nuisance **292929** (or out of office
emergency **292229**)

Police **0845 6070999**

Community Safety Team **291099**

Women's Refuge **622822**

Victim Support **234009**

Community Resource Centre **606160**

Community Grants **296746**

Estates service **293170**

Abandoned vehicles **292929**



Watch the Birdie!

Bristol Estate resident Louise Mustow (foreground) enters the spirit of Origami with artists Ingrid Plum and Janine Boyer who work out of the new, converted studios on Bristol Estate.

Join the Forum!

The Brighton & Hove Tenants & Residents Forum, an internet discussion group, open to Brighton & Hove city council tenants and leaseholders, is now in its third year. To have your say and to get involved in the debates, you can find the forum at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BHCTRF>

Translations

Translation? Tick this box and take to any council office.

ترجمة؟ ضع علامة في المربع وخذها إلى مكتب البلدية. Arabic

অনুবাদ? বক্সে টিক চিহ্ন দিয়ে কাউন্সিল অফিসে নিয়ে যান। Bengali

需要翻译? 请在这方格内划勾, 并送回任何市议会的办事处。Cantonese

ترجمه؟ لطفاً این مربع را علامتگذاری نموده و آن را به هر یک از دفاتر شهرداری ارائه نمایید. Farsi

Traduction? Veuillez cocher la case et apporter au council. French

需要翻译? 请在这方格内划勾, 并送回任何市议会的办事处。Mandarin

Tłumaczenie? Zaznacz to okienko i zwróć do któregośkolwiek biura samorządu lokalnego (council office). Polish

Tradução? Coloque um visto na quadrícula e leve a uma qualquer repartição de poder local (council office). Portuguese

Tercümesi için kareyi işaretleyiniz ve bir semt belediye bürosuna veriniz Turkish

other (please state)

This can also be made available in large print, Braille or on audio tape