

homing in

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-housing

Winter 2020



Volunteers at East Brighton Food Co-operative are cooking and delivering more than 1,000 meals a week during the pandemic.

Find out more about community food projects helping local people on page 5.

In this issue

- Housing services update
- Covid-19 help and support
- Citywide Conference news
- Win Preston Manor tickets



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Welcome to the winter issue of Homing In

After such a difficult year for everyone, we hope you will be able to relax over the festive season – even though it will be very different to usual.

In this issue there's information on money advice and help available if you have been affected by Covid-19, and tips for looking after your mental health.

And there's news of how residents are continuing to reach out to help and support others in their local community during the pandemic, to ensure no-one is forgotten.

There are updates from across the housing service, including the latest development of 30 new council homes, part of work to provide hundreds more council



Councillor Siriol Hugh-Jones



Councillor David Gibson

homes to tackle the city's housing crisis. We are delighted that a recent deal to rejig the joint venture with Hyde should provide us with an additional 173 new council homes at significantly lower rents than most new council homes by 2023.

Plus there's information on the annual Citywide Conference for tenants and leaseholders which was held online for the first time in the autumn, due to Covid-19 restrictions. Although we couldn't get together in person, it was

great to meet residents at the event and hear more about your concerns and ideas for improving the housing service.

Thank you to everyone for continuing to play your part to help control the virus.

Stay safe and best wishes for 2021.

Councillors David Gibson and Siriol Hugh-Jones

Joint chairs of the Housing Committee

Housing services update

We are working hard to keep services operating during the pandemic. Our customer services offices remain closed until further notice, however our staff are working remotely and will respond to emails and telephone messages.

Housing Customer Services

We are still experiencing high levels of enquiries, but please do contact us online where possible.

E housing.customerservices@brighton-hove.gov.uk
T 01273 293030

Repairs

There is a backlog of repairs and we are prioritising repairs around safety issues, those that have a significant impact on residents, and those likely to cause further damage to properties.

We are continuing to carry out surveys and health and safety inspections, including gas safety checks and fire risk assessments. These are done in a safe way and in line with government guidance.

Please use our online form to request a repair if possible, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/repairs

T 0800 052 6140

(or 01273 294409 if calling from a mobile)

Estates cleaning

The Estates Service has increased the level of cleaning to help prevent infection spread. Extra staff have been employed and feedback from residents has been positive.

Seniors Housing

Seniors housing scheme managers are providing a service remotely to reduce the risk of infection spread, and staff will continue limiting scheme visits to essential or emergency work only. We continue to offer phone and email contact, and a daily wellbeing call from Monday to Friday.

Supporting vulnerable residents

Housing staff contacted over 5,000 tenants during lockdown to check if they needed help or support. We are continuing to work with other organisations such as food banks, community groups, and advice networks to raise awareness of support available for tenants.

For the latest information on council services, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/covid-19



Supporting you to pay your rent over Christmas and New Year

Avoid the worry of starting 2021 in arrears by keeping up with your rent payments.

Even though the festive season can be busy and expensive, don't be tempted to put off paying your rent.

We provide a range of different ways to pay and help is available if you are struggling to pay and/or have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Pay by standing order or direct debit

Paying by standing order or direct debit is quick and easy and means your rent will be taken directly out of your bank or building society account.

You can choose to pay by standing order, which you set up yourself through your bank or building society.

You can set up a direct debit online at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/rent or we can arrange it over the phone.

Call the Rent Accounting Team on 01273 293065 to find out more about these and other payment methods, email rentaccounting@brighton-hove.gov.uk or visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/rent.

Other ways to pay

- Pay securely online with a debit card at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/pay and go to the 'pay online' section.
- Call our 24-hour automated payment line on 01273 291908 to pay by debit or credit card.
- Use a PayPoint card at PayPoint outlets.

We're here to help, so if you are struggling to pay your rent or are worried about debt, please call the Housing Income Management Team on 01273 293224.

Help available from Money Advice Plus



Money Advice Plus advisers

At Money Advice Plus we give expert debt and benefit advice that is free and confidential.

In the last year our team of advisers, who only work with Brighton & Hove council tenants and leaseholders, helped more than 350 people like you to get control of their money, by getting them over £320,600 in extra benefits and getting £390,000 of their debts written-off.

If you are struggling to pay your bills or worrying about how you are going to pay for things you need, especially as Christmas is coming, we will be able to help you too.

We won't sell you an expensive and inappropriate IVA (Individual Voluntary Arrangement), we'll find a way out of debt that works for you.

We can help when bailiffs and debt companies are threatening you, we can help you claim the benefits you are entitled to and sort out benefit claims that have gone wrong.

So, don't sit and wish there was a way out of the financial mess you're in, we know there is a way out and we are here to help you make it happen. Ring us on our free adviceline 0800 988 7037.

For more information, visit www.moneyadviceplus.org.uk

Splash of success for community garden project!

Water butts are going to be fitted to all blocks of flats on the Bristol Estate in Brighton to collect rainwater for gardening projects.

It's one of a range of ways residents are working together to improve the estate's open spaces and create communal gardens for neighbours to enjoy.

The Bristol Estate Leaseholders' and Tenants' Association successfully bid for £1,000 from the Estate Development Budget for the water butts, which will be attached to existing pipework.

Ben D'Montigny, from the association, said: "Residents in some blocks have already started their own communal gardens and there are lots of other ideas for gardening projects and creating outdoor spaces for socialising.



"Water is obviously key for maintaining gardens, and the water butts are an environmentally friendly solution which mean residents don't have to carry heavy watering cans up and down tower block stairs."

He added: "Around 1,000 people live on the estate and making the most of our open spaces has been important during the pandemic and lockdown."

Got an idea for improving your neighbourhood?

To find out more about the Estate Development Budget visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/edb or call 01273 291211 or 291518.

Remembering Terrence Hill

Resident Terrence Hill who worked tirelessly on behalf of the community in Bates Estate and Moulsecoomb sadly passed away in the summer.



Terrence (pictured) was chair of the Bates Estate Tenants' & Residents' Association and secretary of the Moulsecoomb Local Action Team.

Both groups paid tribute to Terrence, saying: "Our highly regarded friend, neighbour and committee member Terrence Hill is very much missed by the community in Bates Estate and Moulsecoomb.

"Terrence has been an integral part of many committees and community activities, a great networker and so passionate about making Moulsecoomb and Bates Estate great places to live.

"We are raising funds to install a memorial bench for Terrence on Bates Estate, to have a place to remember him fondly."

For more information, visit www.gofundme.com/f/terrence-memorial-bench

Making it easier to recycle

A new accessible recycling bin is making it easier for residents on the Ingram estate in Hove.

The bin was installed in response to concerns from residents using wheelchairs who wanted to recycle, but could not reach the recycling containers.

Ann Packham (pictured) said: "The bin is making a big difference for elderly and disabled people. It's nice to be independent and be able to do the recycling ourselves."



Community groups across the city are running food projects in response to the ongoing impact of Covid-19. These are just some examples of the fantastic work going on.

Serving up some Christmas cheer!

Volunteers at East Brighton Food Co-operative will be cooking and delivering lunches on Christmas Day to bring some festive cheer.

The Food Co-op was set up at the start of this year to make it easier for local people to get fresh, nutritious food.

During the pandemic, they have delivered more than 180 freshly prepared meals a day to people finding it difficult to go out to get food.

Bryan Coyle, one of the founders, said: "We have an amazing team of volunteers

producing over 1,000 meals a week, and we'll be carrying on as normal over Christmas and New Year. We're determined people don't miss out on Christmas lunch!"

Next year, the group plans to start community cookery classes as well, when it moves from its temporary kitchen at Robert Lodge to Kingfisher Court in Whitehawk.

The council is converting a disused community room at Kingfisher Court into a new kitchen and classroom, to provide a permanent base for the Food Co-op.

To find out more, or if you are interested in volunteering: visit www.eastbrightonfoodcoop.uk, email eastbrightonfoodcoop@gmail.com or call 01273 885068.



Volunteers at East Brighton Food Co-operative



Community stores open their doors

A new community market in Moulsecoomb is bringing more affordable food to local residents.

The market (pictured) is held every Wednesday from 10am to 12 noon at St George's Hall in Newick Road. It has a membership scheme which costs £1 to join. Then for £3.50 each week members can choose 16 items from a selection, worth up to about £16.

Membership is open to anyone from Moulsecoomb and the surrounding areas.

The market is one of a range of community food projects set up by volunteers with support from Brighton & Hove Food Partnership.

In **Hollingdean**, a new membership based social grocery store called BrightStore is open every Tuesday from 1pm to 5pm at Hollingdean Community Centre in Thompson Road.

BrightStore aims to give Hollingdean residents in need access to high quality, affordable food. Membership costs from £4 a week and is based on a 'pay what you can afford' principle.

For more information, email brightstorebrighton@gmail.com or search for BrightStore on Facebook

For more information about community food projects, visit www.bhfood.org.uk

New council homes completed early

Thirty new council homes have been completed in Selsfield Drive, Brighton, the latest in the council's New Homes for Neighbourhoods building programme.

The development, called Hawkridge Court, is made up of 14 one-bedroom and 16 two-bedroom flats, including two wheelchair accessible homes.

The properties are being let to people on the council's housing register and residents began moving in this autumn.

The homes are built on the site of a former housing office and were completed five weeks ahead of schedule, despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The building is constructed to high energy and water efficiency standards, with solar panels and a sustainable drainage system. Facilities include cycle storage and a small garden for residents and visitors.

The new homes are part of plans to provide 800 more council homes to help tackle the city's shortage of affordable housing.

Since April 2019, 139 additional council homes have been provided. This includes former council homes which have been bought back through the Home Purchase Policy.

For more information, visit:

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/nhfn

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/home-purchase-policy

Improving Homemove

We've now replaced the Homemove system which manages choice based lettings for council and housing association properties in the city. The new system went live on 9 November.

The switch includes a new Homemove website to make bidding for available properties quicker and simpler.

If you're a current member of Homemove, you don't have to do anything – your Homemove number will allow you to access and make bids on the new website as you do now. Full guidance covering the changes will be available on the website.

To log in for the first time you'll need to click 'can't access my account' on the home page, then put your BRH number into the 'User ID' field. It is important that you leave out the '/' from your BRH number as the new system won't recognise it. You can then go through the process of creating a password.

Homemove allows tenants and prospective tenants to bid for the available properties they are interested in.

All available properties are advertised on the Homemove website. To bid, you must become a member of the Homemove scheme by applying to the council for housing or a transfer if you are a current tenant of the council or one of the partner housing associations in the city.

For the latest updates on the switch, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/homemove.

Changes to Homes for Brighton & Hove partnership

Councillors have agreed changes to the way the Homes for Brighton & Hove partnership operates to increase funding opportunities for the venture.

The council started the joint venture partnership with the Hyde Group in 2017, to speed up the delivery of low-cost homes.

The partnership is now switching to a development company –

this operational change will allow it to attract additional funding. The rented homes will also come directly into council ownership with lower rents than previously possible.

Sharing views and ideas at conference

Tenants and leaseholders from across the city took part in a 'virtual' Citywide Conference in October.

Although it was not possible to meet in person, the online conference was a chance for residents to share views and ideas about improving the housing service and their local area.

The annual conference is organised by residents and chaired by Chris El-Shabba, a tenant representative from Whitehawk.

Councillors David Gibson and Siriol Hugh-Jones, joint chairs of the Housing Committee, spoke about their priorities for the future of council housing – providing hundreds more council homes, improving existing properties and making them more energy efficient.

There was also an opportunity to put questions to Rachel Sharpe, Interim Executive Director Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities, and take part in workshops on how the housing budget is spent, how council homes are allocated, and building new homes.

Residents Emma Salcombe, from Essex Place, and Barry Hughes, from Sylvan Hall, were guest speakers and talked about the benefits of tenant and resident associations.



Emma Salcombe, Secretary of Essex Place Residents' Association and Barry Hughes, Chairman of Sylvan Hall Residents' Association were guest speakers at the conference.

Chris El-Shabba said: "Thank you to everyone who joined in with this year's conference. It was different to normal, and we've been on a learning curve to organise it, but it meant we could all still get together."

Resident Mo Ali hopes to set up a resident association in the Upper Lewes Road area, after attending the conference for the first time. He said: "The meeting was incredibly informative, and everyone was extremely friendly, welcoming and helpful. I've been guided with plenty of resources in order to set up our very own resident association."

If you are interested in finding out more about local resident associations, or setting up one in your area, contact the Community Engagement Team, see details below.

Whitehawk garden drop-in

A garden 'drop-in' session in Whitehawk in October gave residents a chance to share ideas and concerns on their doorstep.

Community Engagement Team staff set up a table in the communal garden at Robert Lodge to meet residents.

Social distancing was maintained, and it's hoped to hold more open-air sessions in the new year.

Online meetings – thanks for your feedback

Area Panels and lots of other community meetings have also been online this year, because of Covid-19.

It's a big change and we appreciate all the feedback received from residents. We are listening to your views and are learning from them.

Some people prefer taking part in meetings online, but we know it is not so easy for others, and we are linking residents to digital support if needed.

For more information contact the Community Engagement Team, email communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call 01273 291211 or 291518.

Speaking up for BME communities

Two key new appointments will sit at the heart of local democracy.

Dr Anusree Biswas Sasidharan has joined the council's Policy and Resources Committee to ensure the experiences of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) people are heard in local decision making.

Stephanie Prior has joined the Tourism, Equality, Culture and Communities Committee in the same important role.

The move follows the council's pledge earlier this year to become an anti-racist council and make Brighton & Hove a more inclusive and equal city.

The appointments are voluntary positions and both have full speaking rights on their committees.

Dr Anusree Biswas Sasidharan works for the Local Government Association. She said: "I hope this new role enables me to embed equalities and diversity within the heart and spirit of the council."

Stephanie works for an international law firm based in Brighton. She said: "Whether it be age, gender or race, it's extremely important for politics (on a local and national level) to embrace diversity to support a fair and democratic society for all."



Dr Anusree Biswas Sasidharan



Stephanie Prior

To find out more,
[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/
becoming-anti-racist-city](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/becoming-anti-racist-city)

Funding for community groups

A £25,000 package of grants has been made to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic community groups.

A total of 25 organisations received grants, including the Sussex Indian Punjabi Society, Black & Minority Ethnic Community Partnership 50+, Salaam FC, and SEAS Socially Engaged Art Salon.

The money is coming from the Engagement Fund, which was launched in the summer to support projects that improve the well-being of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic residents and promote fairness, as part of the council's work to tackle inequality.

Groups could apply for grants of up to £2,000 to help with running costs and activities.

Many of the groups are reducing isolation and helping residents stay connected. For example, the grant to the Sussex Indian Punjabi Society helped people to get together online for Diwali celebrations in November. Salaam FC is supporting healthy exercise with football training sessions for young people aged from 12 to 16, from predominantly African or Middle Eastern heritage.

The Engagement Fund is part of the council's Communities Fund, which supports local community groups, voluntary organisations and not-for-profit social enterprise.

For more information, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/communitiesfund

Fresh view on lockdown

Photographs taken by two Rose Hill Court residents are on display in an online exhibition.

Lanie started experimenting with photography at the beginning of lockdown, and in the following months captured the garden and building around the seniors housing scheme in Rose Hill Terrace, Brighton.

Lanie said: "During lockdown I was shielding, using photography as a way of connecting with the outside world.

"The ever-changing scenery in the garden amazed me with how much it evolved over six months. Watching new life develop with our bird visitors and their offspring gave me something to focus on during these months of being inside."

Lanie's neighbour, Joe, has been a keen photographer for many years. He said: "Normally I carry my camera wherever I go around the city, and aim it at anything that catches my eye, but in lockdown I took pictures close to home around the garden."

The pair are members of the Rose Hill Rebels art group. Lanie's lockdown pictures, and photographs taken by Joe over recent years, are on display in the Brighton Photo Fringe exhibition, visit:

- **Lanie's photos** <https://2020.photofringe.org/exhibitions/rose-hill-rebels-collective/view>
- **Joe's photos** <https://2020.photofringe.org/exhibitions/rose-hill-rebels/view>



A selection of Lanie and Joe's photographs

Lanie taking pictures in Rose Hill Court's garden, photo by Joe



Time for tea!

Residents at Muriel House seniors housing scheme in Hove enjoyed a cream tea delivered to their doorstep.

A local charity, called Time to Talk Befriending, organised 'cream tea in a bag' for the residents to celebrate International Day of Older People.

Jill Isaacs, a resident at the scheme in Ingram Crescent, said: "Everyone at Muriel House was thrilled to receive their cream tea and also little extra items and personal touches in the bags."



Julie Williams, from Time to Talk Befriending, delivering teas



Help to keep warm and cosy this winter

If you need support to keep your home warm and reduce energy bills, LEAP (Local Energy Advice Partnership) can help.

A local advisor could help you find a cheaper energy deal and fit free energy saving kit in your home.

To book a free energy advice call, ring 0800 060 7567 or visit www.applyforleap.org.uk

Heating your home to at least 18°C (65°F) is important for your health, especially if you have reduced mobility, are 65 or over, or have a health condition such as heart or lung disease.

Top tips



- keep your bedroom at 18°C all night if you can and keep bedroom windows closed
- use a hot water bottle or electric blanket to keep warm in bed – but do not use both at the same time
- have at least one hot meal a day – eating regularly helps keep you warm
- have hot drinks regularly
- draw curtains at dusk and keep doors closed to block out draughts

Having your boiler checked regularly is key to making sure it is working safely and efficiently. Our annual gas safety checks on boilers and other gas appliances have continued for tenants throughout the pandemic.

Leaseholders Action Group News

The Leaseholders Action Group is the voice of every leaseholder in a council block.

After a hiatus caused by Covid-19, we are now in action again. Our major concerns include setting up procedures for real, early consultation about any work that may become necessary to our blocks, including independent surveys before works are commissioned.

We know that, from time to time, buildings require work done on them - we want to be sure that what gets done is necessary, reasonably priced, carried out properly, and preserved by appropriate maintenance.

We are also concerned about sorting out defects in previous major works, monitoring works projects so such defects do not arise in future.

Unfortunately, the lockdown prevented us holding our AGM in April, or reconvening the Leaseholder Summit about future works contracts. We hope to be able to hold both in the early part of 2021. Meanwhile, the committee elected in 2019 are continuing.

We are currently meeting “remotely”. All leaseholders are welcome - either by telephone as an ordinary phone call, or by video conference.

Please get in touch for details. Phone 01273 605225 or email lag@clarend.com

Thank you for helping to stop Covid spreading



Preventing the spread of Covid-19 is as important as ever.

Everyone has faced tough challenges and made huge changes in everyday life this year, and it is vital that we continue to be vigilant to help us get back to normal.

If you experience any Covid related symptoms – even if very mild - please self-isolate, along with your household members, and apply for a test immediately. Apply online at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119.

The main symptoms are:

- A high temperature
- A new continuous cough
- A loss of, or change to, your sense of taste or smell

Closely follow the self-isolation guidelines to stop the virus infecting more people, visit www.nhs.uk for details.

Respond to NHS Test and Trace if they contact you, to help break the chain of transmission.

Community spirit has been amazing during the pandemic and looking out for older and vulnerable neighbours is particularly important during the winter.

The council's Community Hub can provide support and advice, including for those who are self-isolating. If you need help, please don't hesitate to ask for it, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/coronavirus-help or call 01273 293117 (Monday to Friday 10am to 4.30pm).

For the latest information on the government's restrictions visit www.gov.uk

Looking after your mental health

Looking after our mental health will be important over the next few months as we continue to adjust to living with Covid-19 and the start of winter.

If you or others in your household are looking for support and information about ways to look after your mental health, the Every Mind Matters website www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters is a good starting place as well as the Rise Above site for young people www.riseabove.org.uk.

Simple things can make a difference - talking to friends, going for a walk outside, taking more breaks at work, getting some exercise or doing something creative.

Specialist support is available for those who need it:

- **Community Roots** – a network of local services offering a range of mental health and wellbeing support. Visit www.communityroots.org.uk or call freephone 0808 196 1768.
- **Sussex Mental Healthline** – available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Freephone 0300 5000 101.
- **Samaritans** – available 24hrs a day, 365 days a year, call 116 123.

There's more information and advice on our website, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/wellbeing-zone



How we've been doing

Here are the highlights of our performance over the last quarter...

July to September 2020



Repairs and improvements

We carried out 3,350 routine (non-emergency) repairs, up from 1,032 during the previous quarter, as we have been able to carry out more of these safely.



Customer services and complaints

Housing Customer Services have been dealing with an increasing volume of customer emails, up from 3,888 last quarter to 4,833 during this one.



Anti-social behaviour

209 new anti-social behaviour cases were reported, up from 191 during the previous quarter. There has been a nationwide increase in cases during this time.



Tenancy management

We've helped 18 people to keep their tenancies which were at risk.



Estates service

The team completed 95% of cleaning tasks, including additional cleaning of handles and rails in response to Covid-19.



Rent collection and current arrears

We've collected 96.68% of rent and this is up slightly on the previous quarter.

Looking for a parking space?

Did you know there may be car park spaces or garages available to rent near your property? If you would like to apply for a dedicated space or garage, you can do so on the council website at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/garages

An interactive map shows what spaces are available and you can apply for your chosen space online. There are also discounted parking charges available for council tenants, resident council leaseholders and Blue Badge holders.

If you don't have access to the internet but would like a space or garage, call the Housing Customer Services Team on 01273 293030.

Homing In packaging

We looked at a number of options when reviewing Homing In and moved to compostable potato starch packaging last year.

Paper envelopes were a much more expensive option, while the cost of potato starch packaging had come down. We've checked again and this is still the case.

The production and disposal of potato starch has less impact on the environment compared to plastic.

It is compostable, but if that's not available, it is a bio-degradable product so has less impact on the waste stream if thrown away.

The most sustainable way of receiving Homing In is by email, saving on paper, packaging and postage. Details of how to do that are on the back page.

Win tickets to Preston Manor

Enter our free draw for a chance to win tickets to historic Preston Manor.

We have five pairs of tickets to visit the manor which provides a fascinating glimpse of 'upstairs and downstairs' life in Edwardian times.

Preston Manor is surrounded by beautiful gardens and overlooks Preston Park – it also has a reputation as one of the most haunted houses in Brighton!

The winners will also be able to take up to four children under 18 on their visit.

Simply answer the following questions, based on information in this issue:

- **Which estate is getting water butts to collect rainwater for gardening?**
- **How many new council homes have been completed in Selsfield Drive?**
- **Which park does Preston Manor overlook?**

Send your answers by email to homingin@brighton-hove.gov.uk or post to Homing In competition, Performance & Improvement, Housing Centre, Unit 1, Fairway Trading Estate, Eastergate Road, Brighton BN2 4QL.

Please include your name, address, postcode and phone number.

The closing date for entries is 8 January 2021. Winners will be contacted and their names published in the next issue of Homing In. The competition is open to all households who receive Homing In by email or post.

- At the time going to print, Preston Manor was closed because of lockdown and due to reopen as soon as restrictions are eased.



Photo credit: Royal Pavilion & Museums, Brighton & Hove

For the latest visitor information, visit www.brightonmuseums.org.uk or call 03000 290900.

Try something new for 2021

Residents are being offered the chance to take part in a range of courses and workshops for free.

The council is funding adult learning activities being organised by the Hangleton and Knoll Project.

A new membership scheme will provide free activities for tenants and leaseholders until the end of July 2021 and priority booking.

Activities in January and February include online exercise classes and a wellbeing course in partnership with mental health charity, Mind.

Courses covering computing skills and arts and crafts are also being planned, following a survey of local residents to find out what they would like.

Because of Covid-19, there will be a mix of online sessions and some small class courses when regulations allow

To find out more call Lulu on 01273 881446 or email info@hkproject.org.uk

Congratulations

Thanks to everyone who entered our autumn competition for tickets to the Royal Pavilion. The lucky winners were Megan Salih, Debbie Budgen, Patricia Prior, Trevor Blackman and Karen See.

Make the most of your Christmas roast pie

Don't know what to do with that leftover meat and veg after Christmas dinner? Try this seasonal recipe from Brighton & Hove Food Partnership.



Ingredients – serves six

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1 dash olive oil | 2 celery stalks |
| 1 onion or leek | 100g cooked lentils |
| 200g leftover cooked turkey, gammon or other meat | 250ml stock |
| 2 carrots (or other root vegetable like parsnip or swede) | 500g potatoes, mashed |

Method

- 1 Heat the oil in a frying pan and add the onion and cook until soft.
- 2 Add the carrots, celery (and any other vegetables you want) and cook for five minutes (add a dash of red wine if you have it).
- 3 Add the leftover meat (preferably minced or small chunks), lentils and then the stock.
- 4 Let the mixture simmer for 10 minutes then put into an oven-proof dish, cover with the mashed potato and bake in a medium (180° / gas mark 4) oven for 30 mins or until the top has browned.

For more recipes, local food news and events, check out the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership website www.bhfood.org.uk

Area Panels

Area Panels are a way for tenants and leaseholders to work with the council on local and strategic housing issues. At the Area Panels the council shares information and listens to the views and ideas of residents to inform how council housing is managed and maintained.

The Area Panels meet five times a year. Currently these are held through virtual meetings online. We are linking residents to digital support if they need this and welcome any council tenants or leaseholders to join the meetings.

Agenda and minutes of meetings are available at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/area-panel-meetings

For more information contact the Community Engagement Team, email communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call 01273 291211 or 291518.



Seasonal lantern trail

A lantern trail lighting up 12 shop windows until 21 December is being held instead of the usual Burning the Clocks parade.

Artists have created lanterns celebrating different aspects of the popular annual event. The trail starts in Trafalgar Street in the North Laine. Visit www.samesky.co.uk

Christmas & New Year recycling & refuse collection dates

Your collection days are changing over Christmas, so please put your refuse and recycling out on...

Usual day	Collected on...
Thursday 24 December	Thursday 24 December
Friday 25 December	Monday 28 December
Monday 28 December	Tuesday 29 December
Tuesday 29 December	Wednesday 30 December
Wednesday 30 December	Thursday 31 December
Thursday 31 December	Saturday 2 January
Friday 1 January	Monday 4 January
Monday 4 January	Tuesday 5 January
Tuesday 5 January	Wednesday 6 January
Wednesday 6 January	Thursday 7 January
Thursday 7 January	Friday 8 January
Friday 8 January	Saturday 9 January

Collections return to your usual days from Monday 11 January

To check your collection days in 2021 and download your collection calendar, if you have fortnightly recycling, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/cityclean and put in your postcode.

Recycle this Christmas!

Christmas trees

Christmas tree recycling sites across the city will be open from Tuesday 29 December until Monday 11 January. Please remove all decorations and the pot before leaving your tree.

To find your nearest site, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/christmas-tree-recycling



Food and drink

Plastic bottles can go straight in your recycling box or bin, washed and squashed. Rinsed drink cans and food tins can also go in your recycling, along with egg boxes, cardboard sleeves for food packaging and all tin biscuit boxes.

Please keep all glass bottles and jars in a separate recycling box so glass doesn't contaminate the other materials.

Wrapping paper and cardboard

Please only recycle wrapping paper and plain Christmas cards - foil or paper covered in glitter can't be recycled. Flatten any cardboard boxes and paper bags to make space in your recycling bins and boxes.

Batteries

Recycle used batteries at your local supermarket or our household recycling sites – do not put them in your household waste or recycling.

You can also take your recycling to a recycling point or one of the city's two household recycling sites.

Visit our A-Z of recycling at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/recycling

Useful contacts

Housing Customer Services

housing.customerservices@brighton-hove.gov.uk
01273 293030

Repairs Helpdesk

Report online at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/repairs
0800 052 6140 (local line 01273 294409)

Housing Income Management Team

housing.incomemanagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk
01273 293224

Housing Benefit

housing.benefits@brighton-hove.gov.uk
01273 292000 or 01273 290333 for people
with speech or hearing difficulties

Community Engagement Team

For information about tenant and leaseholder groups
communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk
01273 291518 or 291211

Access Point for adult social care

AccessPoint@brighton-hove.gov.uk
01273 295555

Noise Nuisance

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/noise
01273 294266 or 01273 293541 for out of hours

Other useful contacts

Moneyworks Brighton & Hove

www.advicebrighton-hove.org.uk
0800 9887037 or 01273 809288

Citizens Advice Bureau

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/brightonhovecab
0300 330 9033

The Portal

(advice and support for survivors of domestic or
sexual abuse or violence)
www.theportal.org.uk Freephone 0300 323 9985

Brighton & Hove Independent Mediation Service

www.bhims.org.uk
01273 700812

Leaseholders Action Group

lag@clarend.com
01273 605225
www.facebook.com/groups/bhlag

Online services

Visit the council housing website to check out
all housing online services at
www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-housing

Pay online at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/pay

Go to the Housing Customer online system at
www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/housingcos

Information about money matters, tax, benefits
and more www.gov.uk

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Housing Committee Meeting

Wednesday 20 January at 4pm

Meetings are currently being held online due to
restrictions on gatherings.

Agendas, minutes and webcasts of council
meetings are available at
www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-meetings

If you have any comments or suggestions
for future articles, email

homingin@brighton-hove.gov.uk or

write to **homingin**, Performance &
Improvement, Housing Centre, Unit 1,
Fairway Trading Estate, Eastergate Road,
Brighton BN2 4QL or call 01273 293030

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