



“ A message from the Editor



It has been a busy Summer for everyone in our communities across the District and in this issue we hope to celebrate some of the events that have taken place. Well done to everyone and a big thankyou for all

the contributions we have started to receive for In Touch!

Please don't forget that this is your newsletter! – as your Tenant Editor it is my vision to have a newsletter that really lives

up to its name; “In Touch”. In Touch with all Tenants and Leaseholders of North West Leicestershire, in touch with the needs of our communities and in touch with the changes and challenges we all face today.

Let's build on the success of the Summer, there are so many ways to get involved now and yes you really can make a difference to your housing service, the only thing stopping you - is you!

We need you to get In Touch with In Touch. ”

SHEILA SHARPE **TENANT EDITOR**

Can you Dig It?

Residents of Kegworth have been discovering their history and heritage using only trowels, picks and brushes!

For three days in August the Sideley recreation ground in Kegworth was transformed into an archaeological dig as hands young and old excavated dozens of objects from the ground. The project was designed to encourage communities to come together through a shared interest in the past.

Kegworth tenant and museum volunteer Sheila Sharpe suggested the idea to the District Council. Sheila, a long serving volunteer and spokesperson for Kegworth Museum, also organised a number of museum visits during the three days.

The event was organised by North West Leicestershire District Council's Housing Management team with funding from the Tenants and Leaseholders Consultation Forum.

One of the more interesting objects was found by Bradley Robinson (13) who said; “I was digging with the little pick axe when I noticed something shiny sticking out of the ground. I dug it out and it was a small brown 1920s poison glass bottle.”



Mr Davis, a local resident, said “I had a great time over the 3 days. I have not had so much fun in years and it was all very interesting and exciting. It made me feel like a child again. Since the dig I have been trawling the internet looking into Kegworth's history. Bring on the next one!”

We are holding a coffee morning in Kegworth to show off all our exciting finds on the 26th October, if you would like to come along, call our Resident Involvement team on 01530 454795 or email Beverley.curry@nwleicestershire.gov.uk



Welcome

From the new Chair of the Tenants and Leaseholders Consultation Forum.

Chairman sounds kind of grand. The reality is that I have been given the task of managing a small group of people from our area, all of whom are willing to give a little of their time to help our community.

The Forum is made up of Tenants and Leaseholders of properties governed by NWLDC. We are all volunteers who have an interest in making our environment a better place.

It is almost impossible to turn on our televisions without news of yet more cuts to council budgets and threatened changes to social housing. We all understand the inevitability that a lot of changes will be implemented and it is up to us to make sure that social housing does not bear more than its fair share of these.

Why not give up a few hours of your time to let the Council know your feelings.

Dates of meetings are printed on the back of 'In Touch'. Call the Resident Involvement Team on 01530 454795 or contact by e-mail at housing@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

Don't let the lack of transport worry you, it can be arranged.

Bob Dawe

(Chair of the Tenants and Leaseholders Consultation Forum)

Learning Experience



My name is Glynn Truswell. I have been a council tenant for the last seven years and decided to volunteer my services in the housing sector.

As a new volunteer I was asked by Beverley one of the council's Resident Involvement Officers if I would like to go on an Opportunities to Influence your Landlord training course. I didn't know what to expect from the two day course at Trafford Hall but readily agreed to go.

When I arrived at Trafford Hall they made me feel very welcome and were quick to introduce me to people on the same course from other counties, I learned that I was not the only person to be unsure of what to expect.

Our instructor Rachael Vernella made us all feel at ease in the fun way she introduced us to one another. The course gave us the opportunity to consider how recent changes to regulations might help tenants influence their landlord on decisions made. There was a lot to get through in two days but we certainly received a lot of useful information that we were not aware of in regard to not only council landlords but also housing associations. There were several guest speakers who for the last four years had been working with their landlords they explained the difference this had made in final decisions by their landlords,

Trafford Hall is a very beautiful Georgian Country House set in 14 acres of managed gardens, fields and woodlands 6 miles outside of Chester.

The rooms are very relaxing with an abundance of refreshments throughout the day.

All in all a very enjoyable place to be while at the same time gaining useful information from these courses. I would recommend that all tenants take advantage of the training opportunities offered through the council.

Linford & Verdon residents go back in time

Residents of Linford and Verdon in Coalville were taken back to Victorian times during a trip to the Black Country in August.

The trip, organised by the Tenants and Residents Association, was a huge success. Bob Dawe, secretary of the Association, said, "We were asked to arrange a trip to the Black Country and we were able to fund it with just a small charge to those who went."

Bob continued; "During the day we were taken back in time to take Victorian lessons at the St James Church School and relaxed on a barge trip through tunnels under the limestone hills. The day was topped off by a visit through the old mine workings showing how miners worked the 'Thick Coal,' and other seams in the Black Country in about 1850."

"We treated ourselves to an original fish and chips lunch from Hobbs and Sons who have been frying since the 1930s. The sun shone and everyone had a good time."



The Association are already planning further events for the future, so if you're a resident of Linford and Verdon look out for the leaflets!

Environmental Week Greenhill Estate August 2011

Greenhill Tenants and Residents Association (TARA), Councillors and Officers of North West Leicestershire District Council joined forces, to provide a week of events for the residents of the estate of Greenhill.

The week kicked off with Bouncy Castle and slides on 'the green', paid for by the tenants association, for children on the estate.

"I've never seen so many children on the estate, enjoying themselves" said Trish Richardson residents of Greenhill.

Jeanette Collins chair of Greenhill TARA, added "It's nice to see the community coming together. We have had about 30 kids everyday this week taking part in everything we've been doing. We've made a lot of new friends and I think it will make a lasting difference."

Members of the TARA opened the community shop and provided refreshments, along with a range of

activities from cress heads through to mask making. Volunteers also went out and helped mow, trim and cut back gardens around the estate.

The week ended with a children's prize bingo and a community pick and chips.

The TARA is not stopping there with its community activities and events. They are holding a Halloween Disco on the 28th October 6pm – 8pm. A Children's Christmas Party on the 17th December 2pm – 4pm with the Adult's Christmas Party on the 10th December.



Want to find out more? Why not pop into the Community Shop, Cropston Drive, Greenhill, Coalville to book your FREE place or join residents for a Coffee Morning every Tuesday and Thursday 10am-12pm.

Summer Fun at Robin's Nest

Riverview Tenants and Residents Association in Measham held a 'Fun Day' at Robin's Nest over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

There was a bouncy castle, games, a barbeque and many other activities for all the residents to enjoy in the sunshine.

Kate Nicholls, Chair of the Association, was really pleased with the event.

"It was great day and fantastic that so many residents of all ages came out to support us. The bouncy castle was a big hit with the kids and most of the grown ups."

Kate has worked tirelessly for the Riverview community for many years and it's these events that really make a difference. Kate said, "The fun day really brought the community together and I would like to thank everyone involved in making it happen, the support was fantastic."

My Place -
An Independent
Living Skills Course
for Young People

Look Out for My Place

A practical and fun course
aimed at people aged 25
and under.

The **FREE** course starts on Monday 10th October and will run for seven weeks from 5:30pm until 8:00pm. It will include the following sessions:

- Managing your money and budgeting.
- Cooking and eating well.
- Managing your tenancy - your rights and responsibilities.
- DIY-home maintenance
- Health and Safety in the home
- First aid and personal safety
- Healthy Living - local leisure facilities and health advice.

The course will be very hands on and practical. For more information contact the Resident Involvement team on 01530 454795

Big Hearts

Every now and then stories come to our attention of the actions of our residents which we feel deserve to be recognised.

These are untold stories of kindness and concern, even bravery from individuals and groups toward others. If you feel there is someone you know whom you think deserves to have their story told please let us know and we will do everything we can to make sure it is published.

Mr Cyril Watret, Bonchurch Road, Whitwick

Cyril Watret and his mate Peter Hicking have been tidying up the gardens of elderly residents in the area in which they live for some time now. They also plant broad beans and other plants to add a bit of colour and interest.

Cyril said 'I do it because it helps people out. If they're in hospital or are struggling to maintain the gardens themselves then I'm happy to help. I'm glad to get out and do something to make it a bit better for them.'

CONTACT US

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in any other format, including
translation, braille, audio
or large print, please phone
01530 454605

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB at Greenhill Community Shop in Cropston Drive, Greenhill, Coalville.

After School Club every Monday 3:45 to 5pm

Free drink & biscuit

Contact Jeanette Collins 01530 831420

2011 Working Group Dates

Tenant and Leaseholder Consultation Forum	Monday 31 October 2011 Monday 28 November 2011	All meetings start at 6pm	Council Offices North West Leicestershire District Council
Performance & Finance Working Group Tracy Ashe 01530 454792	Thursday 27th October 2011 Thursday 1st December 2011	All meetings start at 10am	Council Offices North West Leicestershire District Council
Housing Management Working Group Council Offices Andrew Wallace 01530 454700	Wednesday 16th November 2011 Wednesday 18th January 2012	All meetings start at 10am	Council Offices North West Leicestershire District Council
Older Persons Working Group Grainne McAndrew 01530 454819	Wednesday 12th October 2011 Wednesday 30th November 2011	All meetings start at 10am	Council Offices North West Leicestershire District Council
Repairs working Group Nick Jones 01530 454605	Tuesday 4th October 2011 Tuesday 1st November 2011 Tuesday 6th December 2011	All meetings start at 10am	Council Offices North West Leicestershire District Council
Greenhill Tenants and Residents Association Jeanette Collins 01530 831420	Wednesday 12th October 2011 Wednesday 9th November 2011 Wednesday 7th December 2011	All meetings start at 7pm	Greenhill Community Shop, Cropston Drive, Greenhill Coalville
Riverview Tenants & Residents Association Kate Nicholls 01530 454605	Tuesday 4th October 2011 Tuesday 1st November 2011 Tuesday 6th December 2011	All meetings start at 7pm	Robins Nest, Eagle Drive, Riverview Measham
Linford & Verdon Tenants & Residents' Association. Pat Guymer 01530 837947	Tuesday 6th December 2011 Tuesday 10th January 2012	All meetings start at 3pm	Greenacres Linford Crescent, Coalville

Following an incident of an apparent bogus caller in the district.

**If in doubt
keep them out**



Each member of staff working for or on behalf of the Council is required to carry a photo identification card which will clearly state the name of the person and the contractor they are working for. This card should be shown upon arrival at your property and we would remind tenants and leaseholders to request to see identification before allowing access to your home.

If you are in any doubt about the identity of a member of staff or contractor, you should call the Council in the strictest confidence on telephone number **01530 454545** before allowing access to your home or allowing works to start.