

PARTNERSHIP **NEWS**

Spring 2011 Issue 32



OLD FRIENDS REUNITED AT BHP TEA PARTY

IN THIS ISSUE:

UP CLOSE WITH THE CHAIR OF THE GROVES

LOCALISM BILL

YOUNG APPRENTICES JOIN BHP

CREDIT UNION



Chair's chat



Welcome to the Spring Edition of Partnership News 2011. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year. My daughter came over from Australia to spend Christmas with us, we had a lovely time but it was very emotional when she left.

It was great to see that residents joined together over the festive period to organise their own Christmas celebrations in their community halls. (see pg. 8) There is now a "Community Event Group" which residents have set up, and they aim to hold many more celebrations on their estates in the future. The next big event is street celebrations for the Royal Wedding; speak to your Resident Association to get involved.

There are a lot of changes taking place at the moment both nationally and locally. BHP is currently undergoing a review by Brent Council; this will help the council to look at the range of options available to them for the ongoing delivery of housing management.

Gerry (Chief Executive of BHP) and I are still conducting drop in surgeries with residents across Brent. These have been very productive and it has been lovely to meet you all and have a chat and a cup of tea. I apologise for missing the drop-in surgeries that were held before Christmas, but I had to have a knee operation which left me quite immobile. However, I'm back on my feet now so looking forward to seeing you all again at the forthcoming surgeries.

We are always looking for more residents to get involved with BHP and have a say in the way services are delivered. There are so many ways you can come on board which suits your lifestyle, please get in touch with us to find out more.

Anyway, look after yourselves and I look forward to our next chat.

Kathy

Kathy Ellison, Chair of BHP Board

Future of BHP

Brent Council has appointed external consultants to carry out a review of BHP's housing stock, the purpose of which is to decide how the housing stock will be managed in the future and looking into the options available.

The council executive will be examining the recommendations from the review and will provide feedback to BHP in April 2011.

We will update you on the outcome of the review in the next edition of Partnership News.



Housing Benefit – Non Dependant Charges

The government have now announced the new charges for Non Dependents from 4th April 2011 (see table). If you are in receipt of housing benefit and incur a Non Dependant charge, it is important that you make the necessary changes to your payments.

If you wish to discuss this or any other rent matters then please contact the Income Management Team on **0208 937 2730** or **0208 937 2740**.

2010 rates	2011 rates
£7.40	£9.40
£17.00	£21.55
£23.35	£29.60
£38.20	£48.45
£43.50	£55.20
£47.75	£60.60

Localism Bill- What it means for you

The Localism Bill was introduced to Parliament on 13 December 2010. This Bill will shift power from central government back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Empowering local people.
- Freeing local government from central and regional control.
- Giving local communities a real share in local growth.
- A more efficient and more local planning system.

The Bill has a great impact on the housing sector. Some of the main changes are:

- Councils will be able to decide who goes on their housing waiting lists - although central government will set the categories considered to have the greatest housing needs.
- Major housing reforms, including changes to homelessness duties, allocations and tenancies, giving councils the 'flexibility to use their social housing stock to the maximum effect and reduce waiting lists'.
- Changes to the "homelessness duty" will mean councils can offer people private sector accommodation instead of being obliged to offer social housing.
- Councils will be able to offer new social housing tenants shorter, fixed-term tenancies - ending the right to a council house for life.

- The Bill will formally scrap the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system and replace it with a self-financing system, to come into force from April 2012.
- The Bill also abolishes the Tenant Services Authority and creates a new regulation committee of the Homes and Communities Agency. MPs, councillors or tenants' panels will be able to refer complaints against social landlords to the housing ombudsman.
- A new national homeswap scheme will be introduced.
- Home information packs will be abolished.
- A new community right to challenge to run local authority services. Community and voluntary sector groups, parish councils and council employees will be able to lodge proposals to run local services.
- Councils must look at the impact of the proposals and if they turn them down, publish their reasons.
- Local referendums: residents will be able to trigger these on any local issue via a petition signed by 5% of electors.

If you would like further information please go to the following websites:

www.hqnetwork.org.uk

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/localism.html>

www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/decentralisation/localismbill

www.number10.gov.uk (search for 'localism')

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-11985408



Reunited after 60 years at BHP's Tea Party

BHP hosted a traditional afternoon tea party for residents who have lived in a council property for over 50 years. Long-standing residents of Brent were invited to BHP's head office to enjoy tea and cake and reminisce about their history and the changes they have seen in Brent over so many years.

The high point of the afternoon was when two childhood friends recognised each other and had not seen one another for 60 years. Mrs Edith Richards from Ely Court (South Kilburn) and Alice Rolfe from Clement Close (North Kilburn) used to live across the road from one another and had lost contact over the years. The tea party brought them together and they exchanged contact details, it was a very emotional reunion.

Kathy Ellison said: "It has been a wonderful experience talking to the long-standing residents of Brent and sharing their life stories. They have led some very interesting lives and have a wealth of knowledge about the local area I felt honoured to invite the residents along for a traditional afternoon tea and to let them know that their stories are valued and a big part of our history."



Laminate Flooring

It is very clear in your tenancy terms and conditions that laminate flooring cannot be installed in your home unless you request and receive BHP's written permission first.

The reason for this is that laminate flooring can cause noise nuisance especially if you live above someone else. BHP will only agree the installation of laminate

flooring on the ground floor of flats and maisonettes, but permission must be sought and granted **in writing** before the flooring is installed.

If you do install laminate flooring in the property without first receiving written permission, you will be required to remove it.

Sam hard at work



Young Apprentices Join BHP

Two young aspiring plumbers from Brent have joined BHP's repairs contractors, Linbrook, as apprentices.

Sam Page and Shailesh Ramji, both 18 years old, started their new roles with Linbrook in January 2011, whilst also studying at the College of North West London for the NVQ Level 2 qualification in Plumbing.

Both students are directly employed with Linbrook and work a full-time shift, Monday to Thursday, with a day release on Friday to attend college. This gives them both the practical and technical knowledge needed to be successful in their future careers.

By working for BHP and Linbrook, Sam and Shailesh have the opportunity to serve their local community while achieving a significant advancement in their careers and qualifications.

Abandoned Vehicles

We are committed to working with the council and partner agencies to achieve a cleaner, safer, greener environment for the benefit of all residents. Abandoned vehicles are a blight on the landscape, and can be a target for vandalism and arson.

Residents reporting abandoned vehicles to us

If any resident is concerned about an abandoned vehicle they can contact the Estate Services Team on:

Telephone: 020 8937 2400

email bhp.corporateservices@bhphousing.co.uk

PLEASE NOTE: SORN vehicles should not be parked on BHP managed estates



Up Close with the Chair of the Groves

Sheila Perry is the Chair of the Groves Residents' Association (RA) in Kingsbury. The Groves is one of BHP's most active associations, and they hold a variety of activities for residents on the estate. I spoke to Sheila about her busy schedule.

How long have you been Chair of the Resident Association?

I have been the Chair of the Residents' Association for three years. Before this I was a volunteer. I am passionate about the community and want to help others, it makes me feel like I am doing something beneficial.

How often does the RA meet and how many members do you have?

We have about 30-40 members and we meet every two months in our community room which is on the estate. The committee are very dedicated to the community as well and we all have a passion for making our area a great place to live.

What activities/events do you hold for residents?

We hold regular activities for the residents at the Groves. We do painting, craft making, knitting, flower arranging, card making and scrapbook classes. Once a week we take our older residents swimming to a special orthopaedic pool in Stanmore and hold regular exercise classes for them.

The community centre also hosts a chiropody clinic every six weeks, so residents do not have to travel very far if they have issues or concerns.

In order to pay for these activities we fundraise and have applied for the BHP Community Fund as well.

This is a great resource and I would recommend that people apply for the fund for activities they want to hold for their local community.

How do you keep local people informed?

Our community centre is in a central location and accessible to all the residents. We have a noticeboard outside the centre which contains information about what activities are taking place. We also have drop in sessions at the community centre every Monday and Wednesday and residents are welcome to come along and get more information about what we are organising.

5. Do you have any future plans?

We want to start a gardening club and keep fit classes for all ages. Residents have expressed an interest in dressmaking and we have a resident on the estate that is trained in this field and can teach others the basics.

We are planning to start a newsletter to keep all residents informed about what is happening on the estate and plans are already underway for an estate party for the forthcoming royal wedding.



Preventing Rats, Foxes and Pigeons

Did you know?

If you dump rubbish and leave food lying around outside, this will attract rats, foxes and pigeons. They are ALL vermin, pests and carry disease.

Dumped items such as mattresses and furniture provide cover and protection for rats and foxes to live under.

You should dispose of all your food waste in the communal bins provided or wheelie bins with the lid firmly closed. If you have dogs or cats, don't feed them outside and leave food lying around.

Rat Disposal Service

If you continue to see rats or there is clear evidence in the garden of the presence of rats, such as holes, excavated soil under sheds, runs or droppings, the council run a rat disposal service.

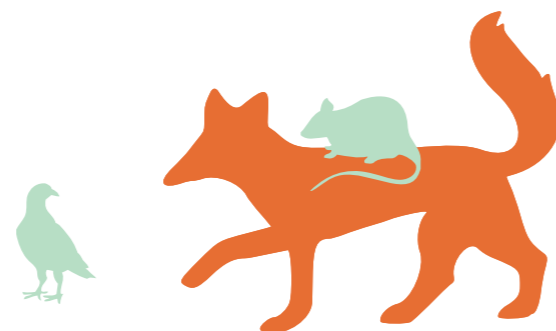
Please contact:

Brent Pest Control Brent House 349 - 357 High Road Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6BZ

Telephone: **(020) 8937 5252**

Email: env.health@brent.gov.uk

Website: www.brent.gov.uk (see Environmental Health)



HEALTH & SAFETY

Smoke Alarms - They can save your life

A smoke alarm is the easiest way to alert you to the danger of fire, giving you precious time to escape. They are cheap, easy to get hold of and easy to fit.

How many do you need?

The more alarms you have, the safer you'll be. At minimum you should have one on each floor. However, if you have only one alarm and two floors, put it somewhere you'll be able to hear it when you're asleep.

Maintaining your smoke alarm

To keep your smoke alarm in good working order, you should:

- test it once a week, by pressing the test button until the alarm sounds
- change the battery once a year (unless it's a ten-year alarm)
- replace the whole unit every ten years

Battery Alarms

If the alarm is chirping, or the test button does not work, it may be the result of a weak or empty battery. Call BHP repairs for a replacement (**020 8937 2750**)

Mains Powered Alarms

If the alarm is chirping, or the test button does not work, the alarm may be faulty, call BHP repairs to request an electrician.

To receive further information about fire safety, please call London Fire Brigade on **08000 28 44 28** or BHP's Building Services Team on: **020 8937 2475**



Energy Saving Tips



Why save energy?

Using less energy reduces carbon dioxide emissions (CO₂) which is one of the biggest causes of climate change. Insulating your home is a great method of reducing your carbon usage and will also save you money.

Did you know?

There are numerous easy methods of saving energy, below are some useful tips for you to try at home.

- Turn your thermostat down. Reducing your room temperature by 1°C could cut your heating bills by up to 10 percent and typically saves around £50 per year. If you have a programmer, set your heating and hot water to come on only when required rather than all the time.
- Is your water too hot? Your cylinder thermostat should be set at 60°C/140°F.
- Close your curtains at dusk to stop heat escaping through the windows and doors.
- Always turn off the lights when you leave a room.
- Don't leave appliances on standby and remember not to leave laptops and mobile phones on charge unnecessarily.
- If possible, fill up the washing machine, tumble dryer or dishwasher: one full load uses less energy than two half loads.
- Only boil as much water as you need (but remember to cover the elements if you're using an old fashioned electric kettle).
- A dripping hot water tap wastes energy and in one week wastes enough hot water to fill half a bath, so make sure they're fully turned off!
- Use energy saving light bulbs. They last up to 10 times longer than ordinary bulbs, and using one can save you around £45 over the lifetime of the bulb. This saving could be around £70 over its lifetime if you're replacing a high wattage incandescent bulb.

Please see www.energysavingtrust.org.uk for more information

Resident Christmas Parties

Representatives from Residents' Associations have formed a Community Event Group whose aim is to organise activities which bring people together.

The Group's first venture was to organise Christmas parties for their local communities. There were nine parties that took place across Brent at Barham Park, St Raphael's Estate, Carlton House, Fiveways, Lodge and Manor Court, Kilburn Square, The Groves, John Perrin Place and Brentfield Estate.

Here are some pictures from the events that took place in December and January.

The group would like to thank all those who sponsored the events and donated gifts for the children including John Lewis, The Body Shop, Household Cavalry, Tesco, Loon Fung, Asda, Wilkinson, Sainsbury's and the House of Lords.

A big thank you also goes out to Karin Jaeger (Vice Chair of BHP's Board) who coordinated the group and Mr John Finney (Resident, Kingsbury) who coordinated the fundraising activities.



BHP CAN Save YOU Money



BHP has launched a partnership with Ealing Credit Union (ECU) to promote their services with staff and residents.



Did You Know?
 Typical APR for £500 loans:
 Credit Union 25%
 High Street Lender 22%
 Door Step Lender 235%

How do they work?
 Once you join, you can make regular savings, as little or as much as you wish.
 Your savings form a cumulative pool of money from which loans are made to members.
 When you have been saving for a certain period of time (usually about 12 weeks) you can apply for a loan from the pool.

With a Credit Union you can:

- Save money from as little as 50pence
- Access loans at a very reasonable rate of interest
- Prevent people turning to loan sharks
- Bill-payment facilities

BHP Credit Union is registered with the Financial Services Authority
CONTACT US:
 Louise Egan, Senior Directorate Support Officer
 Brent Housing Partnership, Chancel House, Neasden Lane, London, NW10 2UF,
 Tel: 020 8937 2244
 Web: www.bhphousing.co.uk

Money Saving Tips

Things are very tight at the moment for everyone so we have put together a list of 10 ways to save the pennies.

1. Give up your daily cappuccino. You'll save at least £10 a week.
2. Go for supermarket's own brand. They're cheaper and for the basics rather than the finest - the difference is often little more than packaging.
3. Take a packed lunch to work. You'll save about a fiver a day, and cut down on calories.
4. Use up leftovers. The end of a chicken, and all the off-cuts of veg, can be transformed into stock; and if you are rigorous when picking flesh of the bones, fish can be turned into a tasty pie.
5. Buy in bulk. Markets and greengrocers will give good deals on apples, potatoes and other staples if you buy by the box.
6. Grow your own. Find a corner of the garden to sow a rich variety of salad leaves, which grow like weeds.
7. Book a restaurant online. Reservation websites like Top Table (www.toptable.co.uk) lists discount offers - often 50 per cent off - from restaurants all over the country.
8. Get cut-price cinema tickets. The three large multiplex chains - Vue, Odeon and Cineworld - all offer cheap weekend deals for families.
9. Make your own special occasion cards, these are much more special anyway.
10. Circulate the books you've read among your friends. That way, you declutter your house, and will get good tips on what's worth reading.



Area Housing Board Dates:

1st CYCLE - MARCH 2010	Dates	Venues
HABTR	Tues 8 March 11	Gwenneth Rickus Building, Room 11
East Brent	Thurs 10 March 11	Willesden Green Library, 1st floor, Space 2
South Kilburn	Tues 22 March 11	Alpha, Gorefield & Four Courts meeting room, Gorefield House, Kilburn NW6
Wembley	Thurs 24 March 11	Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane, Wembley, Committee Rooms 1 & 2

From Housing Hero to Judge



Francis Kabia (Neighbourhood Warden) who won a Housing Hero Award last year, has been asked by the organisers to be a judge on the panel. Francis said:

"I am delighted to have been asked to be a judge at the Housing Heroes Awards. It is a real honour and I look forward to meeting this year's heroes who are doing a brilliant job serving their communities".

Local Offer Update

The new Tenants' Services Authority (TSA) regulations require local authorities and other housing providers to make a "Local Offer" to their tenants each year.

Local Offers are the priorities for service improvements which tenants have told us they want in areas where they live.

Please note that an update on Brent Council's "Local Offer" will feature in the next edition of Partnership News.

Census 2011 is coming soon!

The 2011 Census is on its way! In March every household in the country will receive a form through the post asking a few pages of questions about the household as a group and the individuals within it. The information you enter is kept secret and secure for one hundred years; the Census is independent of government and the forms are not seen by anyone. What is released are counts of people and characteristics in areas. It is important that you fill yours in because the council can use these counts for planning purposes and the government use the counts to allocate funding.

The forms will arrive early to mid-March and should be filled in as if it is the 27 March, either by post or online. You can fill them in early or up to a few weeks afterwards. If you need additional space for more people you can request it. Translation and other help can be found at www.census.gov.uk. Absolutely everybody must be included, including small babies and visitors. Brent is proud of our diversity so fill in the ethnicity and national identity questions in plenty of detail.

In early April, Census Collectors with badges will start to visit households who have not returned a form to offer help. They won't ask to come in to check your answers and they won't ask to see any documents as proof. If you don't fill in a form you can be fined.

A number of drop-in sessions will be taking place across the borough in the couple of weeks after Census Day for people to bring their forms to and request help. For more information, please visit:

www.brent.gov.uk/census.

Are you interested in working with us?

There are still jobs available with the Census, mainly in the south of the borough. The roles are mostly working as a Collector, going door-to-door to offer help to households who haven't returned a form yet.

To apply or for more information you can go to www.censusjobs.co.uk



Mrs and Mrs Dodds

New Look for Charity

Brent Council Resident, Frank Dodds from Sudbury, is dyeing his hair gold for charity, Macmillan. Highlites Hairdressers on East Lane have offered to do the deed for Mr Dodds free of charge.

This is a big step for Mr Dodds who takes pride in his full head of hair and it has always been his crowning glory. I asked him why he was doing this and he said: *"The mother of a close friend of mine had cancer and as soon as she was diagnosed the Macmillan nurses stepped in to give her and the family all the support they needed. I was very touched by what they did and wanted to do something to help. I wanted to raise awareness for the cause and if I can save someone's life in the process then it is all worth it".*

The big day is on May 7th, and Mr Dodds aims to raise £1000 by this time. If anyone would like to donate any money please contact: The Editor, Partnership News (see contact details on back page).

Mrs Auld outside her sustainable home



Housing Heroes Award

BHP has been successfully shortlisted for this year's Housing Heroes Awards 2011. BHP has been shortlisted in the categories, 'Development Team of the Year' and 'Inspirational Board Member of the Year'.

The Housing Heroes Awards are organised by Inside Housing Magazine. It is an annual awards scheme which recognises the 'unsung heroes' of the housing world, and rewards them for their contribution in making housing such a vibrant and caring sector.

BHP has been nominated for the work of the Major Works team on a sustainable energy programme on the Brentfield Estate off the North Circular Road in Brent.

Karin Jaeger, Vice Chair of BHP's Board, is nominated for her selfless attitude and inspiring others to stand up for their rights and get involved with their communities.

We would like to congratulate them both on their nominations.

Performance Figures April to December 2010

	2009-10 actual	Apr to Dec 10	BHP target 10-11
Rent arrears of current tenants as a proportion of the rent roll	2.2%	2.1%	2.5%
Percentage rent loss through void properties	0.8%	0.9%	2.5%
Number of racial incidents reported and percentage which resulted in further action	100%	100%	100%
Number of ASB cases responded to within time scale (5 days)	99.7%	100%	100% (194/194)
Percentage of residents satisfied with internal cleaning	New for 2010-2011	94%	94%
Percentage of residents satisfied with external cleaning	New for 2010-2011	89%	88%
Average number of days taken to re-let council housing	27	27	28%
Percentage of Stage 1 complaints answered in 15 working days	93.8%	94%	93%
Average number of days to respond to Stage 1 complaints	11	10	10%
Percentage of phone calls answered in 15 seconds	84%	N/A (Due to the upgrade of phone systems, the stats for October are not yet available)	87%

BRETHOUSING PARTNERSHIP

Youth Magazine
Spring 2011
issue 4



Brent Youth Parliament A Conversation with the New Chair

Earlier in February Paul Nugent interviewed the newly appointed first male chair of Brent Youth Parliament (BYP), Kishan Parshotam.

How do you feel about being elected as this term's chair?

Being elected Chair with around 69% of the popular vote was an absolute honour. However, I want to be accessible to the young people that I represent when speaking to the council and on a national level. Therefore, I urge every single one of you to find out who your BYP representative is and give them ideas to change the borough.

You were part of the executive team of last term, which saw you embark on a successful campaign to break down negative stereotypes of young people. Can the newly elected executive repeat this success?

Last year's Youth Parliament had one key quality – passion. With this, they were able to spearhead an incredibly successful campaign, with youth voice at the heart of it. Every member of last year's Parliament was fully behind the campaign and lent their views from the very beginning. This year it is the responsibility of the newly elected 72 Members of Youth Parliament to build on the success of the last Parliament and make it even better. However, we have to bear in mind that resources are limited – but we will fight to protect the rights of young people in this borough.

The campaign for this term has not yet been decided but what are some of the ideas which are floating among the group?

After asking the young people that they represent, members of Brent Youth Parliament discovered that young people wanted to "Advertise Youth Activities and Increase Political Awareness". We will be discussing the campaign to take forward in the coming weeks and update you immediately.

Where would you rank the Brent Youth Parliament among the other Youth Parliaments in the United Kingdom?

Pretty simple – among the best. Speaking to colleagues in other local authorities, it is clear that the young people of Brent do so much more than other boroughs. In fact, we are one of the youngest Youth Parliaments in the UK but have been seen as an example of one of the strongest as well.

If you have any issues that you would like Brent Youth Parliament to raise please let us know.

You can email byp@brent.gov.uk or visit www.facebook.com/brentyouthparliament

This is your borough – we can only make a difference with your support.

Taking Cricket to the Streets

By Our Say Team



StreetChance is a project which is being delivered across ten London boroughs including Brent. The initiative uses cricket to engage young people from a range of backgrounds in areas affected by youth crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Brent sessions are held at Willesden Sports centre on a weekly basis and have engaged a number of young people from the area. They play 'Street20' cricket, which is a quick, easy to play and accessible version of the game that involves limited equipment.

The age range for the project is from 8 to 18 years old and the sessions are completely free. The young people who attend the project have formed a Brent Team that competes in tournaments with other boroughs who are also part of the StreetChance project.

Alex Bassan who is the session coach said: "It is good for the young people to attend the session; it gives them something productive to do and keeps them off the streets. We have provided a safe and relaxed environment for the young people. They enjoy the sessions and have improved their confidence with the game as well as the way they interact with each other. The young and older kids work very well together. The older kids have taken on responsibility for the younger ones which is very nice to see."

If you are between 8-18 years old and are interested in joining the session all you need to do is turn up to the session every Monday 5-7pm (except school holidays) @ The Tube, Willesden Sports Centre, Donnington Road, London, NW10 3QX
Or log on to the website www.streetchance.co.uk for more information.

Street Chance is a partnership between Chance to shine, Barclays Spaces for Sports, Cricket for Change, Positive Futures and the Metropolitan Police Service.



Meet the Our Say Team

Peter Nugent

"I've just finished my January exams and received replies from all of my universities, so the months to follow will be extremely important in terms of decision making but I'm looking forward to writing articles in my spare time"

Krupa Kanadia

"My name is Krupa and am best described as a spontaneous creative person"

Deesha Kanadia

"Hey I'm Deesha and I enjoy reading books and love music"

Michael Barrett

"Hi I'm Michael, I've recently been visiting a lot of museums like the science museum and museum of child hood. They were interesting. I also recently attended a talent show in Chelsea where Craig David was one of the judges. I spoke to him afterwards which was really cool"

Daisy Farci

"This month I've been revising for exams and relaxing, I'm tired of winter and can't wait till summer! But I have to decide my options before summer gets here"

Paul Nugent

"My name is Paul, I'm an all-round person and have a passion for football and politics. Nothing has changed"

Frank Farci

The Localism Bill from a young person's perspective

By Paul Nugent, aged 17



You may have heard about the Localism Bill on the news and were wondering what it was all about. To sum it up, the government is proposing to shift power centrally to locally. Local councils will have much more power over what happens in their area and local people will have more of a say if the bill is passed by parliament. At the moment it is in the discussion stages.

Some people think that the Localism Bill and the "Big Society" philosophy that it comes from is really a way for the government to cover all the cuts it is making and getting local people to do the work for free. It also shifts blame from government to local councils.

It struck me that there was a similar situation in most schools with the appointment of prefects. Teachers can be seen as the government and prefects the local council and people. When teachers don't want to do a job they give it to the prefects, but in actual fact the prefects don't have any real power. They still need to get authorisation from teachers before moving forward with anything. They also end up doing all the running around for little or no reward.

Personally, I believe on face level the bill is great as the local council and local communities will have more power to effect change; however they need to be careful as they can also be used as a scapegoat for the government.

What do you think? Send your views to Our Say
Email: nadia.khan@bhphousing.co.uk

Win tickets to see England vs Ghana



In the first-ever meeting between the sides, England face Ghana at the wonderful Wembley Stadium on Tuesday March 29, kick-off 8.00pm – and you could be there!

Simply answer the question and you could win one of 3 pairs of tickets to this historic match.

Ghana were the highest-placed African side in last summer's FIFA World Cup™ in South Africa. They were just a penalty shoot-out away from reaching the last four, losing out to Uruguay in a desperately unlucky fashion.

Library Cuts Quality or Quantity?

By Krupa Kanadia, aged 17



The economy of today has been hit hard. Government spending has to be cut and many services such as libraries are being hit. There is a proposed closure of six out of the 12 libraries in Brent; these include Kensal Rise, Neasden, Barham Park, Preston Road, Tokyngton and Cricklewood.



The proposal is that the libraries which are left are to become like community 'hubs', promoting cultural activities, information and access to a range of other council and local public services.

Yes it might save money to cut libraries in the short term, but the long-term impact could be very damaging. The closure of libraries will undoubtedly have a huge impact on young people as it takes away the most valuable and reliable source of information and a place to study. Jayen Raghvani, a Neasden resident said "I use the library all the time; the closures will hit my education hard".

Furthermore, the wealth of knowledge from the resources and staff are invaluable to children who need direction for a piece of work.

How can you get involved? Firstly, many of the libraries have been hit hard by 'read-ins' and other forms of campaigns like withdrawing every book possible so they cannot close down. **Visit your local library for more information.**

Don't worry if you don't win, tickets are still available – and a family four of four (mum, dad and two kids) can go for as little as £60. That's because family ticket packages are available at £20 for adults and £10 for children – but hurry, these seats sell fast. To buy, visit: www.TheFA.com/tickets

Question:

When was the last time England played Ghana?

Please email your answers to Nadia Khan, The Editor:
nadia.khan@bhphousing.co.uk
Or call 020 8937 2363

Valentine's Day Marketing Ploy or True Love?

By Michael Barrett, aged 17



Last month we celebrated Valentine's Day and it made me think about the true meaning behind this occasion.

Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate relationships, romance and love. The day is named after Saint Valentine and was established by Pope Gelasius I in 496 AD. It has since become a day of expressing your love to someone because you are thankful that you have them in your life.

In modern times, Valentine's Day has become a day to send cards, flowers, chocolates and has really been used by businesses to make lots of money. There are those who boycott the day as they think it's a marketing ploy.

I spoke to some young people and asked them what they thought about the whole argument.

D'Andre Phillips (aged 14) said "You should celebrate Valentine's Day, because it shows your true romantic colours, and is a chance to show how much you love someone. I spent Valentine's Day with my friends and my loved ones. I also told them something really positive and lovely about themselves."

College or School What are your options?

By Deesha Kanadia, aged 17



The College of North West London (CNWL) has two main sites in Willesden and Wembley Park. The College has a great mixture of ages, backgrounds and experience and this creates an interesting and lively atmosphere.

Most students use the College as a stepping stone to employment or higher education. There are so many courses to choose from that suit varying interests and lifestyles. You can take the traditional route of A Levels or go down a more vocational path with courses such as catering, mechanics, and construction. The vocational courses are a good option for those who prefer the more practical approach and are not interested in traditional academic disciplines.

If you are a young person and don't fancy the idea of A-levels but are more interested in an apprenticeship or vocational course, then the College may be the place for you. Many students opt for this as they want more independence to develop real life skills and to escape the tight discipline of a 6th form situated in a high school. For further information check out the website www2.cnwl.ac.uk or visit one of the campuses.



Dumping Rubbish is not on...

By Daisy Farci, aged 14

Have you ever come out of your house to discover a number of open bin bags, an old stained mattress or a broken work cabinet? Not only does this look very unattractive, but it prompts rodents such as rats, mice and also foxes to use these as shelter and cover. These rodents would then move closer and closer to the home in search for more food. We need to all take care to ensure we don't dump rubbish and keep the area tidy for everyone's sake.



Translations

This is Brent Housing Partnership's Newsletter Partnership News. Please contact Communications on 020 8937 2363 should you require a translated version or the assistance of an interpreter.

Kjo fletushkë flet për sigurinë në bllokun tuaj të banimit. Lutemi kontaktoni Komunikimet në numrin 020 8937 2363, në qoftë se dëshironi versionin e përkthyer ose ndihmën e një përkthyesi.

هذا المنشور يخص الأمن في قطعك السكنية. الرجاء الاتصال بالاتصالات على الرقم: 020 8937 2363 إذا احتجت نسخة مترجمة أو مساعدة من مترجم.

این نشریه مربوط به امنیت در بلوک تان است - لطفاً در صورتی که شما به متن ترجمه شده و یا به کمک مترجم شفاهی نیاز داشته باشید با ارتباطها (Communications) به شماره تلفن 020 8937 2363 تماس بگیرید.

આ પત્રિકા તમારા બ્લોકમાં સુરક્ષા વિશે છે. જો તમને તેનું ભાષાંતર કરાવેલું જોઈતું હોય અથવા દુભાષિયાની સહાયતા જોઈતી હોય, તો કૃપા કરીને કમ્યુનિકેશન્સનો 020 8937 2363 પર સંપર્ક કરો.

ਇਹ ਬਰੈਂਟ ਹਾਊਸਿੰਗ ਪਾਰਟਨਰਸ਼ਿਪ (BHP) ਵਾਲਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਨਿਊਜ਼ਲੈਟਰ ਪਾਰਟਨਰਸ਼ਿਪ ਨਿਊਜ਼ (ਸਾਂਝੀ ਖਬਰ) ਹੈ। ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਜਾਂ ਦੋਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਮਿਊਨੀਕੇਸ਼ਨ (ਸੰਚਾਰ-ਸਾਧਨ) ਵਾਲਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਨੰਬਰ 020 8937 2363 ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾਲਤਾ ਕਰਨੀ।

Kan waa Warsidaha Akhbaarta Shuraakadda ee Guryeynta Brent. Fadlan kala xiriir xarunta Xiriirada taleefanka 020 8937 2363 haddii aad u baahato qoraal tarjubaan ama caawin qof tarjubaan ah.

இது பிரென்ட் ஹவுசிங் பார்ட்னர்சிப்பின் பார்ட்னர்சிப் செய்திகள் செய்திக் கடிதம். உங்களுக்கு இதன் மொழிபெயர்ப்பு அல்லது மொழிபெயர்ப்பாளர் ஒருவரின் உதவி தேவையாயின் தயவுசெய்து 020 8937 2363 ல் தொடர்பாளருடன் தொடர்பு கொள்ளவும்.

یہ بریٹ ہاؤسنگ پارٹنرشپ نیوز لیٹر کی مشترکہ خبریں (پارٹنرشپ نیوز) ہیں۔ اگر آپ کو ترجمہ شدہ کاپی یا مترجم کی خدمات درکار ہوں تو براہ مہربانی کمیونیکیشن سے ٹیلیفون نمبر 020 8937 2363 پر رابطہ کیجئے۔

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A COPY IN A LARGER PRINT, PLEASE CONTACT COMMUNICATIONS ON 020 8937 2399

How & where to pay your rent

You can pay your rent:



By **DIRECT DEBIT**: Mandates are available from your housing officer, any One Stop Service or online at www.bhphousing.co.uk



At any shop, petrol station, newsagent or outlet displaying the **PAYPOINT** double PP sign. If your card is lost or damaged you can get a replacement from BHP by calling 0208 937 2480. Please keep your PayPoint receipts as proof of payment.



By **STANDING ORDER**: Forms available from any One Stop Service or **ONLINE** at www.bhphousing.co.uk



On the **CREDIT CARD HOTLINE** by debit or credit card on 020 8937 1717



At any **POST OFFICE** branch using your PayPoint card, debit card, cash or cheque. Cheques must be made payable to Post Office Ltd.

BHP SERVICES

Repairs Contact Centre	020 8937 2750 020 8937 2666
Leasehold Management	020 8937 2601
Estate Services	020 8937 2400
Right-to-Buy Team	020 8937 2600
Anti-Social Behaviour Team	020 8937 2951
Housing Support Team	020 8937 2952
Housing Tenancy & Rent Enquiries	020 8937 2740 020 8937 2730 020 8937 2424
Customer Services	020 8937 2323
Gas Monitoring	020 8937 2475
Major Works	020 8937 2490
Communications	020 8937 2363
Wardens Service	020 8451 5050

REPAIRS NUMBER

There have been cases of residents misdialling the BHP repairs number.

This is a reminder that the Repairs number for Brent is:

020 8937 2750

Please dial carefully!

Contact us

If you would like to contribute to the next edition of Partnership News, please contact:



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