

Junior Wardens Clean Up

This week has seen the launch of the RBH Junior Wardens at Freehold by Communities First Co-ordinator Ruth Sillence. This scheme aims to teach young people about the importance of looking after their estate.

On Monday the Junior Wardens joined the estate caretakers to do a litter pick followed by a creative activity on the kick pitch where the youngsters made large collages of Elsie and Alan (caretakers).

On Tuesday they visited to Broadfield park where they enjoyed their surroundings and played with equipment borrowed from the Play Pod on

the park. Bob Bevan (park manager) set up large connect 4, Jenga and dominoes which were played on the grass. Skipping, ball games and stilt walking as well as skittles kept the children entertained until it was time to make our way back – no one minded that the sun wasn't shining as they were having so much fun.

On Wednesday the Youth Offending Team helped the children decorate planters along with residents from Derrick Walker Court Sheltered Housing Scheme. After filling the planters with bedding plants they were taken to the sheltered scheme as a gift from

the children.

On Thurs there was a visit to Rochdale Fire Station and the children learned the consequences of starting fires and hazard spotting, they also looked around the museum and then had time to look at the appliances.

On Friday Link4Life provided a multisports session followed by a small party to celebrate the end of the week and encourage the young people to join the weekly Junior Warden club on Wednesdays from 4 - 5.30pm at the Freehold Community Centre which will start on Wednesday 28th April.

PEARLS relaunches as a Co-op

After 20 years of being part of Rochdale Borough Council, PEARLS (play, education, arts, reusables and lending service) has become a worker cooperative enabling the centre to expand into other areas to support play, education and child development through arts and crafts.

The centre collects interesting materials and objects from local businesses, which might otherwise be wasted or sent to landfill. These are available for sale to individuals and groups needing arts and crafts materials - providing low cost resources to assist in child development.

A distinctive feature of PEARLS is its ability to

combine these two diverse financial and social benefits to deliver high value services to the community.

Tina Wright, Director of the worker cooperative says: "PEARLS is unique - in this time of recession our members are still going away with trolley loads of great scrap for little cost.

"We'll be carrying on providing good quality low cost new arts and craft materials and are looking forward to expanding our art and craft workshops; crafty kids, scrap magic and introducing more specialised workshops like jewellery making and leather work.

"Thank you to our members, volunteers, Rochdale Borough

Council and Co-operative and Mutual Solutions for their support and help in the transition from council to co-op."



If you would like to find out more visit the PEARLS resource centre at Units 14-15 Globe Park, Moss Bridge Road, Rochdale or call them on 01706 861 811. They are open Monday to Thursday 10am - 5pm (open till 7pm on Wednesday).



Rochdale
Boroughwide Housing

Delivering Excellent Services –
Building Stronger Communities

Customer Involvement Team

CIT NEWS

(previously TPU News)

April 2010

Issue No 4

Share CIT News with your group. Why not make it a regular agenda item at your meetings?

All Change for TPU now called Customer Involvement Team

Below is some information for all recognised tenants' and residents' groups about some internal staffing changes RBH has made which will improve the way we work with tenants and residents to improve our services and to better support groups in the work they are involved in on estates.

The changes involve the setting up of 2 new teams. These are:

- 1) Customer Involvement Team
- 2) New Business and Regeneration Unit

The team has now changed its name to the Customer Involvement Team and the staff consists of:

Senior Customer Involvement Officer:
John Rodgers,

3 Customer Involvement Officers:

- Helen Kelsall and Cath Palin (job share)
- Nasreen Akhtar
- 1 vacant post currently being recruited

2 Admin Posts:

- Betty Whiston and Doug Croxon (job share)
- Sambo Bibi

The CIT will co-ordinate support for groups and will work closely with our area housing teams to make sure that issues raised by groups are properly addressed.

The contact details for the team are:

John Rodgers 01706 273827
Helen Kelsall 01706 273833
Cath Palin 01706 273816

Nasreen Akhtar 01706 273824
Betty Whiston 01706 273822
Doug Croxon 01706 273823
Sambo Bibi 01706 273826

Julia Block and Kate Rae are no longer with the Tenant Participation Unit and the team wish to extend good wishes to them both for the future.

All groups should be aware that Ruth Sillence, Communities First Co-ordinator is now part of the New Business and Regeneration Unit and is based at the Kirkholt Drop In Centre. Ruth's activities and the scope of the Communities First programme will remain the same. She can be contacted on Tel: 01706 651 425 ext 33 or by email at ruth.sillence@rbhousing.org.uk

There are 2 new posts which when filled will be key posts for tenants and residents' groups.

These are the Consultation Officer post which will be part of the central RBH Policy Team. This post will lead and administer our annual consultation programme.

The second post is that of Grant Funding Manager who will be based in the New Business and Regeneration Unit. Part of this post's remit will be to identify grant funding opportunities for groups and to work with them to submit successful funding bids.

As soon as we have recruited to these posts we will let all groups know the name of the persons appointed and their contact details.



rbh.tpu@rbhousing.org.uk



01706 273820



Town Hall Guided Tours



Rochdale has one of the finest Town Halls in the country. It is "widely recognised as being one

of the finest municipal buildings in the country" and is rated by English Heritage as a Grade I listed building .

Built in the Gothic Revival style at a cost of £160,000 (£11 million as of 2010), it was inaugurated for the governance of the Municipal Borough of Rochdale on 27 September 1871. The architect, William Henry Crossland, was the winner of a competition held in 1864. Upon completion, the Town Hall had a 240-foot (73 m) clock tower topped by a wooden spire with a gilded statue of Saint George and the Dragon.

The spire and statue were destroyed by fire on 10 April

1883, leaving the building without a spire for four years. A new 191-foot (58 m) stone clock tower and spire was designed by Alfred Waterhouse, and erected in 1888 as a replacement. Its stained glass windows, some of which were designed by William Morris, are credited as "the finest modern examples of their kind".

You can join a guided tour on the last Friday of every month at 2:15pm. Groups and other times by arrangement.

The next tour is Friday 30th April and tickets are £3.50. For bookings and enquiries telephone (01706) 924775.

First Aid, First Class

Tenants from Brimrod (Bratz) TRA were presented with their certificates for completing First Aid and First Aid Paediatric training.

Training was arranged by Customer Involvement Officer Cath Palin and was also completed by tenants from Bellshill, Chesham, Greave and Freehold. Additional sessions will take place later this month with groups on Hollin, Moorclose and Stansfield.

This training, provided by Victoria Sedgwick from REACH Training, is very useful for groups running a community base or planning trips as funding providers sometimes ask that adequate first aid cover is provided for activities.

There are still two vacancies on



the Stansfield training session on Tuesday 27th & Wednesday 28th April, 5.30 - 8.00pm. Contact the Customer Involvement Team on 01706 273822 if you would like to

book a place.

Feedback from the sessions done so far has been excellent and hopefully more training will be on offer soon.

Involving Young People

Have you ever wondered how to involve young people in your AGM!

RADPAC (Rochdale and District Play Action Council) held their AGM on Thursday 18th February 2010 and showed everyone how to do it.

Special guests Miss Piggy and Kermit the Frog made it fun for them to take part and young people are sat on the table at the front of this AGM, running and taking part in the whole meeting. 24 children and young people were involved in organising the meeting and producing of the Annual Report. In addition 33 adults

attended though it is not clear what their role was.

Well done to everyone involved, you did an excellent job.

The Annual Report was given out, very well produced with lots of bright pictures and children and young people's comments. Over the past year RADPAC has provided up to 376 play sessions and over 3000 children have accessed the sessions throughout the



borough.

In the future they aim to continue to provide quality inclusive play activities throughout the borough, whilst one of the biggest challenges we are facing is securing funding beyond March 2011 to remain operational.

Due to the current economic climate where local families struggle to afford quality play activities for their children and organisations increasingly compete for funding RADPAC also asked that people give support for funding needed for the future.

For more info or to find out what RADPAC can do in your area contact Helen/Kay on 01706 621332.



Disability Working Party



If you are a Rochdale Council Tenant who would like to help improve the way in which

disabled people and carers access our services then call Customer Involvement Officer Cath Palin and join the Disability Working Party.

The next meeting will take place at the Old Post Office, Rochdale on Thursday 20th May. A lunch is provided at

1pm and the meeting starts at 1.30pm.

It is essential that you book your place with Cath on 01706 273816, call the Customer Involvement Team on 01706 273822 or email rbh.tpu@rbhousing.org.uk.



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