

ConTACT

A NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY TENANTS OF WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

ISSUE NO.14

MARCH 2002



Bryan Whitfield

THEY'VE DONE IT AGAIN!

"The City's councillors have done it to us again" say TACT Chairmen Bryan Whitfield and Cyril Gilbert-Wood. "We are hopping mad that members did not listen to what we were saying about consulting tenants on rent restructuring" says Bryan "and what happens – councillors seemingly took a decision in Cabinet to close the Cash Office without asking tenants first!"

"Quite frankly, what is the point of spending all that time on creating a Tenant Participation Compact – which is binding upon

the Council – and then not use it the first opportunity they get. We are disgusted at the way we have been treated. What happened to working together? The City's tenants are being brushed aside – the members are not thinking about us at all – they believe that they can do just what they like. There is a legal framework in place that says that the Council must consult with its tenants and it is riding rough shod over the TP Compact and our feelings."

"Winchester's tenants will not just lie down and do what they are told. TACT is now more important than ever, and we urge all tenants to get involved in their local Tenants Associations to make sure that our voice is heard" says Bryan.

For more information on TACT meetings and details on how to contact your TACT Chairmen, see the back page of ConTACT.

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TENANTS SAY YES

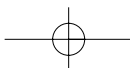
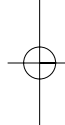
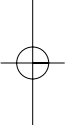


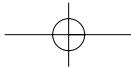
Sarah Maginness with 3 year old Tom, Georgina (6) and Bridie (11)

Tenants in Highcliffe have said yes to setting up a new Tenants Association (TA). After discussion last autumn at the community forum with Glynis Cole and Peter Roberts, it was decided to circulate all the tenants in Highcliffe and see who would be interested.

Sarah Maginness is keen to get something off the ground, "Highcliffe has been forgotten for too long," she says. Tenants have already discussed the problems of dog fouling and pest control on the estate and high on the agenda of the new TA will be getting involved in creating a play area for local children at King George's playing fields.

Continued on page 2 ▶





EASTER WORDSEARCH

T	C	A	T	K	I	N	S	H	O	W	E	R	S	E
N	H	E	W	K	M	O	S	S	O	L	B	L	N	B
U	O	T	S	Z	L	T	N	L	G	N	B	I	Y	L
H	C	U	D	O	V	I	L	K	W	O	H	L	J	U
G	O	O	D	F	R	I	D	A	Y	S	T	A	D	E
G	L	R	B	N	W	M	P	O	N	Q	N	C	J	B
E	A	P	Y	Y	T	S	I	U	F	K	I	P	A	E
T	T	S	S	N	G	S	S	R	S	F	C	O	Q	L
A	E	S	B	O	N	N	E	T	P	S	A	R	N	L
D	U	A	R	M	G	U	Y	N	R	U	Y	D	D	U
P	X	F	S	Y	A	A	B	W	I	C	H	W	B	O
O	J	B	L	T	D	L	F	C	N	O	W	O	X	T
L	V	U	T	N	E	D	R	A	G	R	N	N	Z	K
E	S	D	U	C	Y	R	C	H	I	C	K	S	E	V
M	Y	S	N	A	P	I	L	U	T	J	V	A	Z	J

- | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|-------------|--------------|----------|
| Blossom | Chicks | Frogspawn | Nest | Spring |
| Bluebell | Chocolate | Garden | Pansy | Sprout |
| Bonnet | Crocus | Good Friday | Primrose | Sunday |
| Buds | Daffodil | Hyacinth | Pussy Willow | Sunshine |
| Bunny | Easter | Lamb | Showers | Tadpole |
| Catkins | Egg Hunt | Lilac | Snowdrop | Tulip |

If you can solve the Easter Wordsearch in this issue of ConTACT, a £15 voucher will be on its way to you, provided that you are the first correct entry drawn out of the hat. Entries should be returned by Friday 19th April, 2002.

Send your entries to: ConTACT c/o Housing Services, Winchester City Council, FREEPOST, Licence Number SO6048, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 9BR.

Name: _____

Daytime Phone No: _____

Address: _____

For competition rules send an SAE to the above address.

WORDSEARCH WINNER

Congratulations to Mark Johnson from Kings Worthy whose correct entry was drawn in our Doggone Wordsearch competition. A £15 worth of M&S vouchers are winging their way to you.

Continued from page 1

"I asked all my neighbours if they would be interested in getting involved and we dropped leaflets through doors," says Sarah. "The first meeting was held in January at All Saints School, when over a dozen people came along."

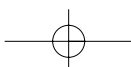
"The next step is that we will have a meeting in March when we will formally set up the TA. The important thing is that even if people don't have the time to get involved, they tell us what they want to see happen in Highcliffe in the future."

TROUBLE WITH DETECTORS

You may have heard that there is a problem with the carbon monoxide detectors. Some of them may be faulty. If yours goes off get on to Transco as usual – don't leave it and assume it is because the battery has expired – the detector may have gone off because of carbon monoxide in your home.

GET IT TAPED

If you are visually impaired or have a friend or neighbour who would like ConTACT delivered to their home on an audio cassette, please call Glynis Cole on Freephone 0800 716987 for your copy today. These publications are recorded by the Winchester & District Talking Newspaper Association. Larger printed versions of ConTACT can also be made available, call the above Freephone number to obtain your copy.



MORE WINCHESTER MEMORIES

Pamela Broomfield remembers – Part Eight

Dad was eventually invalided out of the RAF and came home on sick leave. When he was fully recovered, he managed to find an office job. One drizzly morning on his way to work, the siren sounded and a lone enemy aircraft flew low overhead, with its markings very plain to see. Its bomb load was jettisoned with disastrous effect on Hyde Street - houses were demolished and one little girl who was on her way to school, was never found. We always felt that Winchester must have been a landmark for aircraft. They flew from the Channel straight up the river to the city, then diverted to their target for that particular raid. And on the return journey out to sea, any bombs left over from a raid were dropped to save fuel and a crash, should the pilot be so unlucky. As children, we always hoped the siren would sound after midnight as we were allowed an extra half-hour in the morning before going to school.

One morning, Dad was approached by a former colleague at the bakery and asked if he would be their key man because he knew all the rounds. Motor vans now took the place of horses. Dad had never driven a car before and was given twenty minutes tuition around the town. He was then sent out on his own. I think he must have died a thousand deaths that day. And it was not until he returned to the bakery, he was told they were all hanging on to the end of the telephone, waiting to hear that he had had an accident. In all the time Dad was driving a vehicle, he was never tested for his skill - I believe driving tests were dispensed with during the war.

Each member of staff was obliged to do fire watching on the firm's premises. This was carried out on a rota basis. Standing on the roof-top of the Co-op, Dad had a grandstand view of the activities that went on during a raid. At home, Dad and I would stand just inside our back door and watch the night sky – searchlights, shell bursts, gunfire from aeroplanes. We were idiots to do this – it could have been disastrous. We were very lucky not to have been hurt when shrapnel hit the roof tops and schwizzled through the air. Depending on the weather, we could tell which town was having a bad raid by the orange-red glow reflected on the clouds.

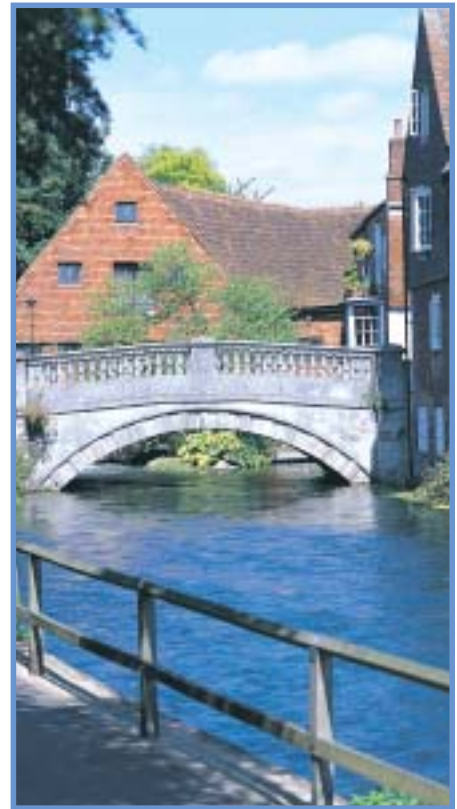
The government asked householders to search for any old tins, saucepans - anything made of metal to be used to make armaments. Even railings were taken away, all for the war effort.

The Red Cross depended on the community for help of any kind and so Dad decided to give conjuring shows in our house. We borrowed long forms, and with extra chairs, made our living room into a little theatre each evening. Word spread around and children from the surrounding area came, (Dad played to full houses), and at the end of the performance put their pennies in the Red Cross collection boxes. One boy in particular, came every day for a week, despite the fact that he had a broken leg and was in plaster. He virtually crawled up the road from where he lived. He later became a professional footballer and played for England.

Many works premises were taken over by the government. Mr Chisnell's two garages in Chesil Street were used for making parts for aircraft. Although the posters told us that "Walls have ears", word went round that the parts were for Wellington bombers. How true, I do not know. Just across the road from the "factories", a communal canteen was opened up offering two course meals for anyone who wished to use it. I cannot remember the cost of the meals, but by today's standards, they were very cheap indeed. I have to say, having tried the food once I didn't bother to sample it again.

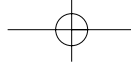
Every evening the city was filled with Americans - GI's. Their social club was where Dorothy Perkins once traded. Local girls clamoured for jobs in the club and although we were issued with clothing coupons (not many at that), the girls who worked for the Americans looked very smart in their skirts and dresses, which were obviously made from the light khaki and fawn material used for officers' uniforms.

The blitz which devastated Southampton and Portsmouth caused families to flee their homes and many arrived in Winchester. After one very heavy raid on Portsmouth, families filled the Broadway. They had come just as they were, some



dressed, some in night clothes with eiderdowns draped around their shoulders. Old people, young mothers with babies, children of all ages. One of our neighbours took in a family of four but could make room for only two, the mother and younger daughter. We were asked if we could take the young mother with her six month old son. She was given my bedroom and slept with my sister.

When Dad arrived home from work, he was surprised and shocked to see the young woman expose her breast to feed the baby while he was having his meal. Poor Dad did not know where to look. The situation did not work out well. No help with housework, the baby continually wet the mattress and items of cutlery went missing. We were always puzzled as to how, when they came home from shopping, they brought in extra rations, especially eggs, when we had the bare necessities. The situation became so fraught that Mum had to ask the woman to leave. She went over the road to her mother and sister and the next thing we knew, there were yells and calls and swearing from the middle of the road, which ended with, "Hope the Germans drop a bloody bomb on you".



TACT MEETING DATES

TACT meetings are open to all City Council tenants and leaseholders and new members are always welcome.

Meetings are held on Wednesday afternoons at Makins Court, Alresford (from 2–4pm), and also on Wednesday evenings at The Guildhall, The Broadway, Winchester (from 7.30– 9.30pm), unless held jointly – see dates below:

10 April, 2pm & 7.30pm
29 May, 7.30–9.00pm Annual General Meeting Saxon Suite, The Guildhall
12 June, 2pm & 7.30pm
10 July, 2pm & 7.30pm
14 August, 2pm & 7.30pm
11 September, 7.30–9.00pm Joint Meeting The Guildhall
9 October, 2pm & 7.30pm
13 November, 2pm & 7.30pm

WANT MORE?

If you would like to find out where your nearest Tenants Association (TA) meets, or would like to set up a TA in your community, call Glynis Cole, the City Council's Tenant Liaison Officer, for information or advice.

You can call Glynis free on 0800 716987.

NEW HANDBOOK

You should have received your brand new Tenants Handbook. Please keep it safe. It is a handy guide to everything you need to know about the Council and its services. TACT representatives have been involved throughout its creation and had important comments to make on what it should like and what it should contain. It has taken many months of hard work to put together but we think you are worth it. Use the pre-paid card to tell us what improvements you think we should make – or tell us what bits you don't like!

IT'S A SIGN!

"Some years ago, when my wife and I moved into our old folks bungalow in Kings Worthy," says Cyril Gilbert-Wood, "apart from being delighted with the property, we remarked on how poorly the road we lived in was signposted."



"Later I joined the new tenants association - and then TACT - and very soon, with the help of them both, my road was provided with a more helpful road sign - the system can work, I thought."

"You must have heard the phrase you get the Government you deserve – well, you could substitute Government for local council, or landlord, and if you don't care about what your landlord is doing for you, then don't be surprised if they don't bother about you either."

COME ON DOWN!

We want more tenants to get involved in their local community and we will be holding Roadshows around the district in May in order to meet you and tell you more about TACT and the Tenants Associations. We will be coming to Alresford, Bishops Waltham, Wickham, Colden Common, Winnall and Weeke, so keep an eye open for adverts in the local press and an ear open for news on local radio. We want to recruit more tenants to make our voice even stronger right across the district. In the meantime call Cyril Gilbert-Wood or Bryan Whitfield if you want to find out more about what we get up to, their details are below:

Cyril Gilbert-Wood BEM
22 Mountbatten Place
Kings Worthy
Winchester SO23 7PL
Tel. 01962 884505

Bryan Whitfield
25 The Valley
Stanmore
Winchester SO22 4DG
Tel. 01962 842910



This edition of ConTACT has been produced by a Tenant team including George Brown, Cyril Gilbert-Wood BEM, Ken Gore, Paddy Murray, Barry Whitfield and Bryan Whitfield – all members of TACT (Tenants and Council Together), the City Council's district-wide consultative group.

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