

# CONTACT

A NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY TENANTS OF WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

ISSUE NO.16 OCTOBER 2002

## COUNCIL SEES SENSE

*A victory for People Power is how the Daily Echo described the turn-around by the City Council in deciding to keep the Cash Office open. Certainly the dramatic protest by those of you who replied to the survey made a big difference and forced the Council into reviewing its plans to close the doors of the Colebrook Street facility.*

*Not only will it stay open but the Council will now make it a more user-friendly place for both customers and staff alike. Around 1,000 customers use the Cash Office each week and improving the facilities could cost £250,000 and take six months to complete.*

*"We are absolutely delighted," says TACT Chairman Bryan Whitfield, "we fought hard for it."*

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## TACT LOBBIES GOVERNMENT

TACT has written to the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, to express tenants' concerns over rent restructuring, introduced in Winchester this April.



*Cyril Gilbert-Wood*

*"Whilst TACT understands the value of having a national formula to calculate rents, tenants in Winchester are discriminated against because they live in an area where property values and average manual wages are high (both used to calculate rents under the new system)," said TACT Chairman, Cyril Gilbert-Wood.*

*"70% of Winchester's tenants will suffer rent increases over the next 10 years directly due to rent restructuring, unless the Council pegs increases during that time at a level below inflation. The Government should also recognise that many tenants are living on retirement pensions, and whilst housing benefit helps tenants, it excludes those who have some savings or whose earnings are marginally above the benefits limit," said Cyril.*

TACT feels so strongly about the whole issue of rent restructuring that it has also contacted TPAS (the Tenant Participation Advisory Service), TAROE (Tenants & Residents of England), the Chartered Institute of Housing and the housing press.

## WE WANT IT IN WRITING

**We are delighted that the City Council has agreed that TACT representatives can have a seat at the Cabinet table whenever housing matters are under discussion. However, TACT wants to see that pledge in writing and it will be included as part of the review of the Tenant Participation Compact.**



# RIVERS WORDSEARCH

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

Arun	Exe	Ouse	Tamar	Trent
Avon	Forth	Ribble	Taw	Tweed
Cam	Frome	Rother	Teign	Tyne
Clyde	Itchen	Rye	Test	Wandle
Dee	Kennet	Severn	Thames	Wye
Derwent	Mersey	Stour	Torridge	Yare

Put a toe in the water and make a splash with our Rivers Wordsearch in this edition 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 18<sup>th</sup> October 2002.

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

For competition rules send an SAE to the above address.

## WORDSEARCH WINNER

Congratulations to Elizabeth White of Stanmore, whose correct entry was drawn in our Jolly Holiday Wordsearch competition. £15 worth of vouchers are on their way!

# 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:

9 October – 2pm & 7.30pm

13 November – 2pm & 7.30pm

15 January – 2pm & 7.30pm

19 February – 2pm & 7.30pm

19 March – 2pm & 7.30pm

## 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 10

Towards the end of the war, Dad used to pass a German prisoner of war camp on his bread round. By this time the men were allowed outside the camp to help local farmers on the land. When the prisoners had enough money, they bought a stale loaf or cake if they could afford it. They made toys to sell; butterflies with wings wired to wheels which, when pushed along by a long handle, flapped up and down. They were beautifully painted and colourful to see.

One Boxing night, on our way home from Gran's, we saw two of these men standing in the deserted Broadway, looking very lost and lonely. Dad invited them home and Mum gave them supper. They could speak very little English.

Peace in Europe was declared in May 1945 and street parties were held in every part of the city. An ox was roasted on a spit although rationing continued for a year or two after. Our milkman delivered the milk in a hand-controlled electric trolley. One day he parked it outside our house on the bend of a steep hill, only to find the brakes had failed. The trolley rolled down the hill out of control and turned on its side. The road was awash with a river of milk and broken bottles. The poor man just stood rooted to the spot, one hand on his head and the other on his heart. I thought he was going to collapse. "Oh my heart. What will they say?" Milk was still rationed.

New pre-fab houses were built and life gradually began to settle down once more. Greyfriars' little maroon buses travelled back and forth from the island near Eastgate Street to Highcliffe and Owslebury.

In the late 1940's and the 1950's, King Alfred Boys' Club held their annual fete, beginning with a procession of decorated floats depicting different themes and there was always a float for the Carnival Queen and her attendants. The procession made its way around the Broadway and finally to Winnall Manor Farm where the entertainment and stalls were to be found.



*Mr. Harris in the Town Champion's uniform*

The winter of 1947 brought very heavy snow. At once anything which could be used to slide on was brought into use. Dad made us a beautiful sledge with metal runners. Everybody had the same idea – St. Catherine's Hill! There were accidents and spills galore.

Dances were held every week at the Lido in Worthy Lane, with visiting dance bands and vocalists, which were well attended and enjoyed. The multi-faceted glass ball sparkling as it slowly turned round. The Awdry Tea Rooms over W.H. Smith, hired out the room for dinner dances. The Cadena Café under the Pentice was another venue for dances and entertainment. The Winchester Dramatic Society produced its first pantomime at the Guildhall during the 1953/4 season.

June 1953 was the Queen's coronation and great festivities took place. Roast oxen once again - one in the Brooks and the other in the Abbey Grounds.



*An ox roast in The Brooks*

A large procession with many tableaux paraded the streets. A man riding a penny-farthing bicycle and Mr. Harris wearing the Town Champion's uniform – a very long cloak and a tall plumed helmet. He was the only person who could wear it as the uniform had been made for a very large man.

Boxing Day 1962, brought the worst snow we had had for years. It lay three and four feet deep with drifts of up to eight feet in places. Birds and animals froze to death. Three whole months when the roads, footpaths, fields – everything, was solid with ice. We eventually saw the last of the snow in March, 1963.



Winchester was becoming a one-way system and, by the late 1970's, Winchester High Street was no longer used for traffic. A precinct was built from Middle Brook Street to Jewry Street for pedestrian use only. No more George Hotel or Trodd Smith. One thing I am pleased to see is the flower trough in Jewry Street, once a drinking trough for horses. Its inscription reads "In memory of the horses lost in South Africa 1902". It is a reminder of my lovely Grandad who fought for his country with the Hampshire Carabinier Yeomanry in the Boer War.

*Thank you Pamela for letting us print your wonderful memories. If you have any memories of Winchester, please drop a line to Glynis Cole at Housing Services, Winchester City Council, FREEPOST, Licence Number SO6048, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 9BR, and if we have room, we will print them in CONTACT.*

## GRASSED UP

TACT regularly hears the complaint from tenants across the district "the grass cutting here is awful". So we met with Nigel Trowell, the city's Parks & Recreation Officer and he took note of your concerns. He also asked that you become his 'eyes and ears' if there is a problem with grass cutting/overgrown shrubs, hedges and trees in your area.

*Please call the Council on the usual repairs numbers and report it to the Customer Liaison Officers or call 01962 840222 to speak to your Area Housing Manager or Nigel Trowell.*

## ON THE AGENDA

**So what are the kinds of things that TACT gets involved with? We have recently helped to create the new Tenants Handbook; the establishment and on-going work of the Property & Contracts Forum, the creation of the new Rents & Business Planning Forum, the Cash Office campaign and recruited new tenant members.**

**TACT is currently working on a review of the Tenant Participation Compact, the installation of the new Warden Call System and is working with national organisations like TPAS (Tenant Participation Advisory Service – dedicated to promoting tenant involvement) and TAROE (Tenants & Residents of England – a tenant-run body, furthering tenant involvement).**

**In the future we will have a direct input into the City Council's Cabinet meetings.**



*New recruits Alan Rickman and Sheila Howard*

## NEW RECRUITS

Thanks to our recent recruitment campaign, we have some active new TACT members and we met two of them at the city offices to see how they were settling in. Alan Rickman is well known from his years as an antique dealer at the Kings Walk in Winchester. He has lived in Weeke for 45 years and now that he has retired, Alan is anxious to see a Tenants Association formed. He has already attended a TPAS conference in Birmingham and is keen to get stuck into his new role.

Although Sheila Howard has lived in Wickham since 1945, she travelled the world with her naval husband on his many overseas postings. She now lives at Normandy Court and is keen to get

involved to help other tenants. Both Sheila and Alan realise that it will be quite a learning curve - finding out just what makes the Council tick, and how they can make a difference - but they are keen to have a go. Other new recruits include Martin Nel from Weeke, Andy Ewing from Colden Common and David Cruden from West Meon.

"Our constitution allows TACT to have up to 50 members," says TACT Chairman Bryan Whitfield, "so that means we have vacancies for another 10 people. So, don't be shy, give either myself or Cyril Gilbert-Wood a call and we can tell you all about TACT and how you could get involved."

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

We want to recruit more tenants to make our voice even stronger right across the district. Call Cyril Gilbert-Wood or Bryan Whitfield if you want to find out more about what TACT gets 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