



# on the house

housing news for Winchester City Council tenants and leaseholders

## gardeners defy the summer showers!

Tenants from across the area vied for first place in the annual Garden Competition – a hard fought battle given the terrible summer weather! Winners this year came from Boarhunt, Bishop's Waltham and Winchester.

Retired cook Mary Heath says her recipe for gardening success is a bit of hard work mixed with lots of tender loving care - and it must work because Mary won top prize for the Best Front Garden.

Mary, of Trampers Lane, Boarhunt, entered the competition for the first time last year winning the best newcomer's prize and now she has come first again.



*Best Front Garden: Mary Heath (right) from Boarhunt with Sandy Worth.*

She said: "I've got colour all year round, there is always something to look forward to because I've got

flowers for all four seasons."

Residents of Richard Moss House, Winchester, celebrated two wins this year. They won top prize for the best Sheltered Housing garden, and resident Genney Barnes scooped the best balcony award.

Scheme Manager Bee Derrick said the garden was a haven for the residents. "They enjoy doing the garden and spend hours out there.

We have a fund to buy plants,

### inside this edition:

- **Get fit** with "chair-obics"!
- **Top Tips** - Beware! Be Safe!
- **Tenancy Conditions** Under Review
- **New Home Improvements** Scheme
- **Win £25** of High Street Vouchers by returning the "tell us what you think" form

### ● Annual Report pull out

although we were given a hibiscus recently from Kew Gardens."

Ron Ruddle, 75, from Bishop's Waltham won top

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*Best Hanging Baskets: Bishop's Waltham's Ron Ruddle with young neighbour Olivia.*



*Best Balcony: Genney Barnes, of Richard Moss House, Winchester.*

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prize for the second year running for his hanging baskets. But it is not just the plants that Mr Ruddle is nurturing - he is also helping his young neighbour Olivia learn about plants.

With Mr Ruddle's help the nine-year-old is growing her own crop of tomatoes - and last year they grew sunflowers. Her mum Melanie said: "We've lived here for about eight years and Ron is a really lovely neighbour - he keeps everything so nice!"

Judge Sandy Worth, of Water Meadow Nursery, Cheriton, paid tribute to all the winners. "They have worked so hard and created such colour and beauty - it was a pleasure to see the gardens and meet the gardeners!"

## get it taped



If you would like any of the information in On the House translated into another language, or made available in large print or audio format, please call Glynis Cole on **Freephone 0800 716 987**.

## Language line

The City Council has access to Language Line, which provides an instant interpretation service 24 hours a day, with a team of qualified interpreters used to communicating in over 100 languages.

**If you, a relative or a neighbour would like to talk to the City Council through the Language Line service, please contact your Area Housing Manager.**

# dear tenants



Glynis Cole

What a wash out! Each year I look forward to July and spending a day out of the office, in the sunshine visiting your beautiful gardens! The gardens were still beautiful and really brightened up a pretty dismal summer!

Thanks and well done to all of you who took part in this year's garden competition - hopefully the weather will be kinder to us all next year!

As you've probably already noticed, this edition of On the House looks slightly different - almost topsy turvy!

We've been trying to save money while preserving On the House as well as an independent newsletter for tenants. We have worked closely with TACT and have found an exciting way to do both. We

hope you like the new look!

We would really welcome your comments on the enclosed form. There's a chance to win vouchers worth £25.

Once again I have had the privilege to meet one of our more senior tenants. It was a pleasure to meet Ivy Smith who looks so well at 103!

I wish you all a very happy autumn and Christmas and look forward to our next edition of on the house early next year!

Best wishes,

Glynis

## TEXTPHONE

This facility is available for tenants that are deaf or hard of hearing.

**Please telephone 01962 878 982.**

Winchester City Council,  
City Offices, Colebrook Street,  
Winchester, SO23 9LJ.

telephone 01962 840 222

fax 01962 841 365

email [housing@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:housing@winchester.gov.uk)

website [www.winchester.gov.uk](http://www.winchester.gov.uk)

Telephone calls may be recorded.

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# bingo playing Ivy is 103!

The smiles say it all! Ivy Smith was treated to a surprise party in August to celebrate her 103rd birthday and received a visit from Glynis Cole who delivered a special bouquet from the council.

Ivy, who lives at Blanchards Close, Bishop's Waltham, moved to the sheltered scheme just three years ago to be near her niece Vivienne who lives in Durley.

Ivy is an avid bingo fan and more than 20 fellow residents joined Ivy for the party after the weekly bingo session.

Scheme Manager Val Phillips said: "Ivy is a very independent lady and cooks all her own meals. She never complains and is always bright and cheerful."

Ivy had two celebrations for her 103rd Birthday – a lunch party for family and friends at The Cricketers in Curdridge and then the surprise birthday tea following bingo.

Vivienne, who is a school cook, prepared the buffet for 22 fellow bingo players and residents at the Scheme with the help of Val Phillips the Scheme Manager and residents.

Ivy hit the international headlines in November 2005 when, at the grand age of 101, she was baptised and confirmed in Portsmouth Cathedral.



*Birthday bouquet! Ivy Smith with Tenant Involvement Manager Glynis Cole.*

## tenants run a successful tenant talk conference



*Tenants get talking at Winchester's summer conference.*

Winchester's first Tenant Talk conference held in June this year has been hailed a great success with more events planned for the future.

More than 20 tenants and leaseholders came along to the 'taster' session at the Guildhall.

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## NEWS in BRIEF

### what tenants want – the launch!

Following your requests for a home improvements scheme, Property Services is delighted to report that a trial project is now up and running. Enclosed with this issue of "on the house" is a handy reference card outlining the details of the scheme for you to keep in your Tenant's Handbook.

At the moment this is only a pilot scheme so you need to take advantage of the available improvements so we can monitor its popularity and report back to you. Watch out for updates in future issues.

### derek parker

Following a brave two-year battle with lung cancer, we announce with great sadness that Derek Parker has passed away peacefully. Derek was the Area Property Surveyor for Highcliffe and the Southern Parishes. He was very engaging and friendly and we will all miss him.

### tenancy conditions under review

Landlord Services is working with a group of Officers and Tenant Representatives to undertake an extensive and wide ranging review of your Tenancy Conditions, which is expected to be completed by the end of this year. Full consultation with all tenants will be undertaken district-wide when the review is complete. Look out for further details of the review and the revised tenancy conditions which will drop through your letter box by the end of the year.

The event was planned, organised and run by a tenant team and helped by Tenant Participation Officer David Lumby.

Most of the delegates had never been involved with tenant groups or committees and were keen to see how they could support each other.

David Lumby said: "It was a good step forward for tenants in Winchester to play a leading role in planning and being involved in delivering the conference programme.

"The success of this event confirms the view that the best people to promote involvement are tenants themselves."

Alan Rickman, Chair of the evening TACT Group, added: "It was a good day packed full of information and was very well attended by tenants and leaseholders. Everyone was eager to learn more about Tenant Involvement in Winchester. Well done to all our tenant reps for their contribution!"

# get fit

and have fun from the comfort of your own home



Armchair aerobics: Residents keeping fit at Makins Court

Winchester City Council and GetFit121 have joined forces to promote healthy living to residents living in sheltered accommodation across the area.

The fitness classes are designed for all abilities but are specifically targeted at elderly residents who want to improve their mobility and avoid a sedentary lifestyle frequently associated with ageing.

The Instructors are also able to give advice on healthy eating and diet which is particularly important to elderly people many of whom live on a budget.

Classes are subsidised by the Council and cost £1.50 each.

- Classes are currently running at the following seven sheltered schemes across the Winchester district but are being extended: Chiltern Court & Makins Court, Alresford, Eastacre, King Harold Court, Richard Moss House, Winchester, Simmonds Court, Abbotts Barton, and Normandy Court, Wickham.

# TOPTIPS


## BEWARE! BE SAFE!

**Bogus callers are becoming an increasing hazard to tenants in both urban estates and rural areas.** They have a nasty habit of targeting elderly and vulnerable people but everyone is at risk.

If anyone approaches you in the street or knocks on your door claiming to be from the council remember:

- Council staff and approved contractors always carry ID. Do not open the door without ID.
- The council DOES NOT collect money on the doorstep.
- The council will usually inform you in advance if repairs are to be carried out.
- Bogus tradesmen may offer to give you a quote for internal works. They may just be trying to get inside to see what you have of value.
- If you are in any doubt contact the **Customer Service Centre** on **01962 840 222**.

Local Crime Prevention Officers suggest you display a small notice at the front door stating:

 **Cut out and keep!**

- **I DO NOT BUY ANYTHING FROM DOOR TO DOOR CALLERS**
- **I WILL ASK FOR PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION**
- **I WILL CONTACT YOUR EMPLOYERS TO VERIFY DETAILS**