



Tenants Association celebrates 10th anniversary



Paul Bungey (centre left) with Mayor of Winchester Cllr Michael Read and other members of the Worthy's TA.

The Mayor of Winchester was guest of honour at the 10th anniversary of The Worthy's Tenant and Leaseholder Association in July.

Councillor Michael Read, together with Mayoress Jan Read, heard the association had won many improvements for the area since 1998.

They also learned of future plans including a 'play area' for pensioners.

The association represents council tenants and leaseholders in King's Worthy, Headbourne Worthy and Martyr Worthy and is supported by the Parish Council

and Winchester City Council.

In the last 10 years it has lobbied for dropped kerbs throughout the estate and road markings to improve parking. It was also involved in fighting

a proposed development at Churchill Close.

More than 40 people came along to the anniversary celebrations – and the association signed up several new members.

Paul Bungey, Chair of The Worthy's Tenant & Leaseholder Association, said: "It was a great day and I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to organise and run a very successful event."

There are only six Tenant Associations across the Winchester district. The City Council actively encourages tenants to form associations and provides training and support so they can become involved in their own neighbourhoods.

Tenant Involvement Manager Glynis Cole said: "Tenant participation is a key part of our housing work. Tenants play a full part in decision making and are represented on several council committees, including Cabinet.

"The Worthy's Association has shown what can be achieved and I would urge other tenants and Residents to think about forming their own Tenants and Residents Associations."

For further information about tenant involvement or Tenant and Residents Associations please contact 0800 716 987 or email tenantinvolvement@winchester.gov.uk

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Moonlight Robbery protest at Parliament



Winchester's Alan Rickman with Big Bill and fellow campaigners at the House of Commons.

It was Big Bill and not Big Ben who caught the attention during June's Moonlight Robbery protest at Parliament.

TACT joint chairman Alan Rickman took part in the good-hearted demonstration and this is his account of the day.

"I can say without doubt it was a very productive day, but I think everyone else chose the same day to protest on the same patch of grass – although in theory we were all given time slots.

The TV cameras tended to stick with the Gurkhas followed by a protest over post office closures in Devon.

By the time it was our turn most of the Press had gone but we did have a photoshoot with various MPs, including Anne Widdecombe.

I must say the invoice for Gordon Brown was done very well – nearly as tall as me and about 5ft wide!

The members of the public who stopped and had a chat gave us their full support and wished us well in our fight for justice for council tenants.

It was great to be right at the core of things: with the House of Commons in the background made it feel that we were so much more involved in bringing our case to the MPs' doorstep.

It was quite impressive afterwards because the MPs fast-tracked us through security for our meeting in the House of Commons.

MPs Tom Brake, John Hanning and Brian Iddon listened to our comments and brought us up to speed on what was going on in the House regarding Negative Subsidy.

They showed great interest in my case taking the British Government to the European Court of Human Rights over the negative subsidy.

Then the lobby bell rang and the MPs were called to vote in the Chamber – it was an interesting day and well worth the time and effort!"

BBC's Adam gives TACTful advice

Former Radio Solent presenter Adam Kirtley took to the classroom in July to share his tips of the trade with TACT's Alan Rickman and Beryl White.

The broadcaster, who lives near Winchester, guided the pair through the do's and don'ts of presentation – honing their skills and building on their individual styles.

Having gained confidence in their own abilities, Alan and Beryl put down their written notes and rounded off the training session with an entertaining five-minute presentation on the negative subsidy.

Tenant Involvement Manager Glynis Cole, who arranged the course, said: "It was brilliant to see how they responded to the advice and took on board Adam's suggestions. I was really impressed!"

Want to join or set up a Tenants and Residents Association?

Contact the Tenant Involvement Team for more information on **0800 716 987.**

Surrey tenants call on Alan's expertise!

TACT joint chair Alan Rickman was invited to talk to the AGM

of Guildford's council tenants about the negative subsidy.

The Guildford tenants knew very little on the subject before his talk.

Alan said: "They had their eyes opened that evening and asked many questions once they

realised just what they paid back to the Government in the way of a stealth tax.

"I was very glad I took up the invitation to go. I look forward to keeping them updated and there may be further visits. We are all fighting the same battle after all."

The TPAS Annual Conference at Birmingham

It was an excellent conference and Winchester's party consisted of: Paul Bungey, Pippa Cole, Elaine Fullerway, and TACT chairs Beryl White and Alan Rickman.



The conference featured the usual speeches and debates but one of the highlights was a fact finding visit about tenant management.

Alan Rickman met the Walsall Alliance of Tenant Management Organisations (WATMOS) and discovered what a difference tenant management can make to service delivery and sustainable communities.

He said: "It was well worth a visit and I have a DVD all about them and hope to show it at a TACT meeting soon."

The main speeches were by Phil Morgan, the TPAS Chief Executive, and Peter Marsh, Chief Executive of the Tenants Service Authority.

There was also a full "in your face" debate on the Review of the Housing Revenue.

Alan felt the speeches were patronising and the questions on which to vote at the end were not fair – so he and many others boycotted the voting system!

He said: "It showed we would not be led like lambs to the slaughter, we had minds of our own."

Top eight energy saving tips to help you save money:

1. Turn lights off when you are not in a room
2. Boil only the water you need, this is easier if you use an energy saving kettle like the eco kettle
3. Use energy saving light bulbs
4. Seal gaps in walls, round windows and floors
5. Reduce heat loss from radiators with radiator reflector panels
6. Turn your TV or Computer off standby with Intelliplug
7. Turn everything off with Standby Buster
8. Wash your clothes at 40 degrees instead of 60 degrees. This uses nearly one third less electricity. Modern detergents work just as well at these lower temperatures.

Word search

Can you find 10 words used in both *Tenant News* and *on the house* that are hidden in this grid

TenantTalk Compact Botham Forum
 Commitment Beckett Winchester TACT
 Negative Landlord

Entries must be returned to Glynis Cole, Tenant Involvement Manager, Winchester City council, FREEPOST, NAT 15377, Winchester, SO23 9ZW by Monday 17 November 2008. The first correct entry out of the hat will receive £30 worth of high street vouchers. For competition rules send a SAE to the above address.

Name

Address

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

Daytime Telephone No

Tenants Association welcomes A2

Housing Association tenants have been invited to join the Colden Common and Twyford Tenants and Leaseholders Association.

The bold invitation was agreed at the Association's AGM earlier this year and paves the way for

greater co-operation among tenants.

The Management Committee recommended the change because there are a number of properties belonging to A2 South in both Colden Common and Twyford.

A2 tenants can now liaise with their landlord and raise issues in the same way that Council tenants do with Winchester City Council. Ian Wheeler, Chair of the Tenants Association said: "It is also hoped that we can all learn from each other".

New slim line regional forum launched

Alan Rickman is among just four people chosen to serve on the TPAS London and South East Tenants Forum.

The Forum was launched at July's meeting of the London and South East (LSE) region and replaces the former 12-person committee.

Alan said: "Having served for several years on the LSE Committee I would have been sorry to have to give up. However I was fortunate to get voted in as a member of the new slim line forum. My thanks to all who voted for me and I will do my best as always to serve tenants all around the country."

This edition of Tenant News has been produced by a Tenant team including Alan Rickman, David Cruden, Sheila Greaves, Brian Hayes, Joan Downing, Angela Stevenson and Susen Harding



TACT Meeting Dates 2008/9

Meetings are held on a Wednesday Afternoon from 2.00-4.00pm, and in the Evening from 7.30-9.30pm in The Common Room, Godson House, Central Winchester unless otherwise stated below.

- 19 November (2.00pm and 7.30pm)
- 17 December (2.00pm and 7.30pm)
- 21 January (2.00pm and 7.30pm)
- 18 February (2.00pm and 7.30pm)
- 18 March - Joint Meeting - (7.30pm – 9.30pm)
- 15 April (2.00pm and 7.30pm)
- 20 May - Joint Meeting - (7.30pm - 9.30pm)
Annual General Meeting (AGM)

All tenants and leaseholders welcome

For further information contact Glynis Cole or David Lumby on Freephone 0800 716 987.

- Contact the TACT Chairmen Alan Rickman or Beryl White if you want to find out more about TACT or want to raise any issues.
- You can call them on Freephone 0800 716 987 and leave a message, or write to them at:

- Alan Rickman, 101 Taplings Road, Winchester S022 6HG
- Beryl White, 2 Pine Road, Bishops Waltham, Nr. Southampton, S023 1EH

Now turn the magazine over to read

