

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN!



In the last issue, we told you about Get Digital project, where the Government is funding computer equipment and training for older people in sheltered housing across the UK.

Yeomanry Close in Warwick has been provided with two new computers, big keyboards, new chairs, a new printer and some useful software including Microsoft Office, Skype and Google.

I visited the tenants during one of their training sessions to find out how they were getting on....

Elsie Golding and Joan Pugh were just getting started on their training and the funding covers seven weeks of training for them, as well as follow up sessions. They were both absolute beginners on the computer and so the training involved going right back to basics, but they both said "learning something new" and "keeping in touch with family and friends" is what inspired them to take it up.

Both found that as they were less able to get out and about, the internet and emailing would bring the world of shopping, emailing and Skype, as well as researching their interests, closer to home and give them a

whole new lease of life. They were really enjoying the challenge!

It is hoped that students from the local Kings High School, will be able to help with the follow up sessions and encourage the tenants to keep up their interest in the internet.



DON'T LOSE IT ALL!

We strongly recommend that you insure your home contents. You might believe that your landlords will insure your personal belongings against theft, fire, vandalism or burst pipes.

This is not the case.

HOME CONTENTS INSURANCE

We offer home contents insurance which has been specially created for our tenants and includes;

- Affordable price
- Weekly payments with your rent
- Personal and quick claims service
- No excess to pay if you make a claim



Call the team on: 01926 456408 to find out more or ask for a quote.



Using Technology to Fight Fraud

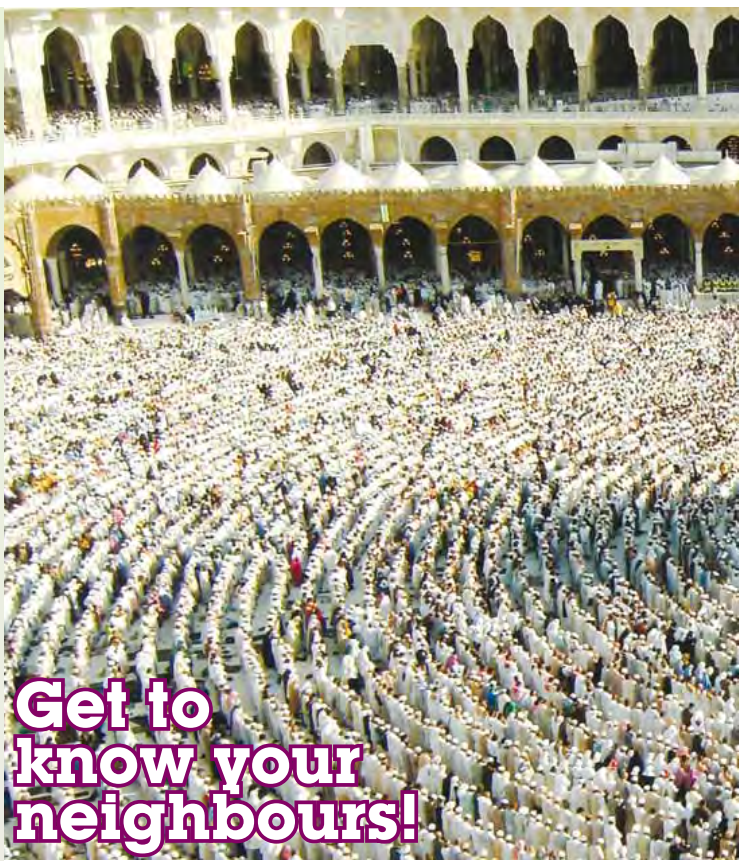
We told you last year about the National Fraud Initiative and its crackdown on the unlawful subletting of social housing properties.

At a time when the country's economic situation is forcing major cuts in public spending, the fact that fraudsters continue to pocket billions of pounds of public money, is scandalous! It makes it more important than ever that we do all we can to detect fraud, deter and prevent it.

Warwick District Council is committed to doing that and is using computer technology to help. Participating in the National Fraud Initiative makes us part of one of the nation's most successful public sector anti-fraud schemes and this involves sharing data about our tenants with the body that runs the scheme, the Audit Commission.

We want to reassure you that we respect individual rights of privacy and any personal data shared with other organisations is subject to strict security policies and procedures to prevent it from falling into the wrong hands.

If you would like to know more about the National Fraud Initiative, please contact Ian Wilson in Finance on 01926 456 817, or the Citizens Advice Bureau, or visit the Council's Website at www.warwickdc.gov.uk/nfi.



Get to know your neighbours!

How well do you know your neighbours? Gone are the days when we stand chatting over the garden fence! Our lives are much busier than they used to be and sometimes we might not even see our neighbours for weeks on end – this is why we are going to help you “get to know your neighbours!”

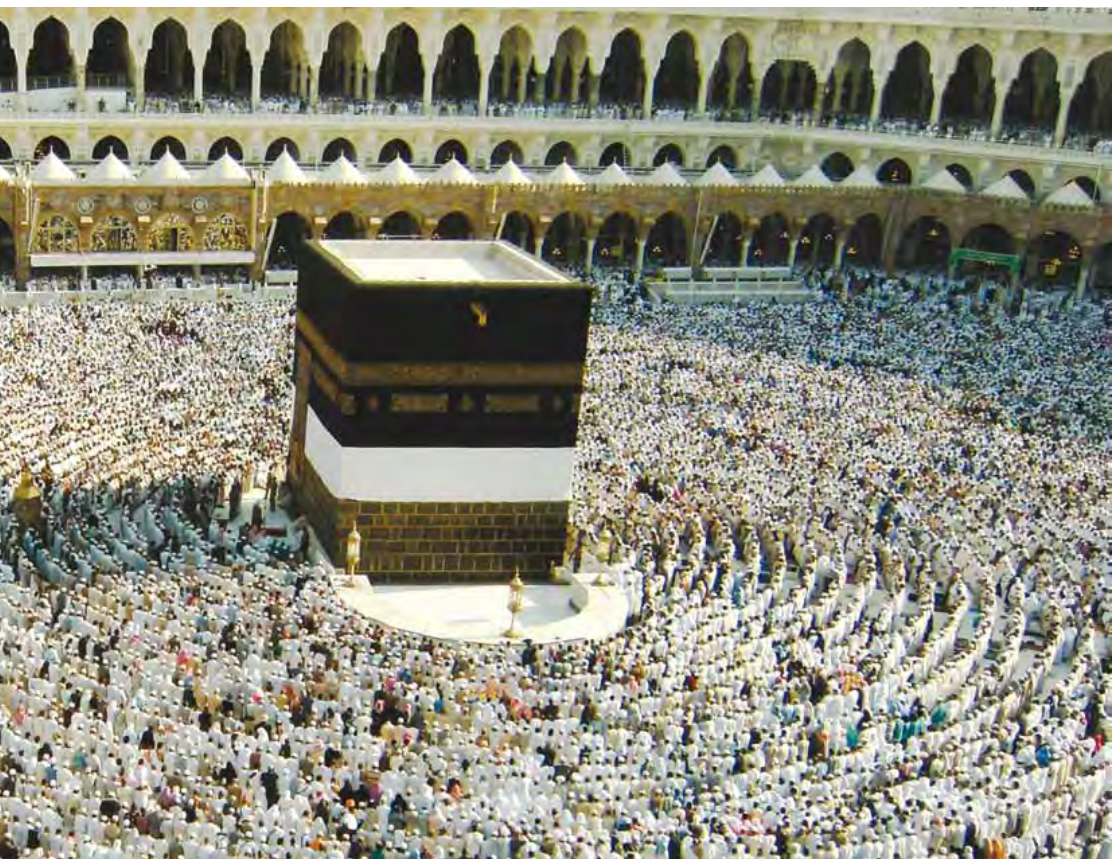
Over the next few issues, some of our tenants will be sharing their lives with us, letting us into their homes to find out what daily rituals they practice, the festivals they celebrate and generally discover a bit more about them. We hope you will enjoy this new series, which will

open our eyes to the interesting and exciting diversity of our communities today!

This issue we will find out about Ramadan and how it affects the lives of Muslims;

Ramadan is the 9th month of the Islamic calendar, the most holy month and the one when the Quran was revealed. The Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar and the months begin when the first crescent of a new moon is sighted.

We talk to a local Muslim about how it affects their lives;



What does Ramadan mean to you?

It is one of the five pillars of Islam which makes it an extremely important part of my life. It is a blessed month, and in the Quran God has ordered all Muslim men and women to fast during this time. People who are ill can consult with a scholar/imam for guidance.

The first third of the month are days of mercy from Allah, the second third are days of forgiveness and the last third are salvation from the hell fire.

How is life different for you and your family during Ramadan?

We must wake up and eat before dawn (known as Sehri) and then fast until we break it at dusk (Iftaari), and we go without food or water during the fast.

We must recite the Quran as much as we can and engage in extra prayer as the rewards for worship are highest during this month.

Do you eat different food?

I try to eat more fruit and porridge to give me energy throughout the day and drink plenty of water.

Is it difficult to carry on your job/daily routine without your usual eating pattern?

You can feel the change during the first couple of days and then the body does get used to it and adjusts after that.

Does it change life for your children?

No they keep to their usual routine and do not fast.

Have any of your neighbours ever commented on the change in your pattern?

They have invited me into their house and offered to cook for me and my family.

What religious practices take place?

Tarewah prayers - special evening prayers, take place during Ramadan. The last ten days of Ramadan are very special in particular those with an odd date – 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th and 29th and one, usually the 27th is the most important. Known as the night of power (laylatul qadr) a small prayer on this night is worth the same reward as over 1000 months worship.

DIGITAL SWITCHOVER

In April 2011, we will say goodbye to analogue TV as we know it and hello to Digital Freeview Channels. This means that you should be able to see up to 15 more TV channels through your TV aerial.

If you own an analogue TV then it will need to be converted by the addition of a digital box, or replaced with an integrated digital set before the switchover date. We should have all of our properties with communal TV Aerials converted by the end of this year; however you will still need to supply your own Digi-box or Digital TV.

There is help

The Help Scheme has been set up to help people to switch one of their TV sets to digital, by installing what you need into your home and explaining it clearly and simply.



You may be eligible for help if you are;

- Aged 75 or over
- Get or could get Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance, Constant Attendance, Allowance or mobility supplement
- Have lived in a care home for six months or more
- Are registered blind or partially sighted

You will need to pay £40 towards the equipment, installation, aerial check and 12 months aftercare service. However, if you are eligible and also get pension credit, income related employment and support allowance, income support or income based jobseeker's allowance then the help will be free.

For more information visit the website www.helpscheme.co.uk or call 07817 411 267

What to do... with your kids!



We're always on the lookout for events for you and your children and we have found these **FREE activities at the Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum during October;**

BIG DRAW

Make your mark on the future!
**Saturday 9 October,
12 noon – 3 pm**

Experiment with different materials and be inspired by the collections to create your own drawings. All ages welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Half Term Art Club
Thursday 28 October,
2 – 4 pm**

Just drop in and join in! Let your imagination run wild and create patchwork wall hangings to take home. Sessions last 30 minutes, last entry 3.30pm. Recommended for ages 6 – 12 years.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

LIVING THE GOOD LIFE

Neighbours and friends, Mr Gerald Wyatt and Mr Mark Brundle of Kipling Avenue, Warwick, have created an amazing garden between them through their sheer hard work and dedication. The front is awash with colourful marigolds, French marigolds and tagits. As you go through to the back you're met with a really well maintained garden full of flowers, vegetables and beautiful hanging baskets which are the work of Mark's wife Sally Brundle.

They grow row upon row of vegetables, including potatoes, beetroot, French beans, marrows, tomatoes and aubergines which means they eat fresh produce every day and then they generously give away any surplus for their friends and neighbours to enjoy.

Mr Wyatt was head gardener at Warwick Castle and whilst there he grew posies for the Queen, Princess Diana and Princess Margaret. He has also grown award winning vegetables such as 6 feet tall leeks and 5 feet onions!!

Their teamwork has enabled them to make the most of what they have, creating a beautiful garden and spending many a happy and productive hour there.

And you could do it too with our new "garden share scheme".

It is being trialled on the Forbes Estate in Warwick. It means that those people who are unable to look after their gardens can share with a neighbour, who will maintain the garden for them in return for a part of the garden to grow their own flowers or vegetables. It's a great way of supporting your neighbours and pursuing a love of gardening

even if you don't have a garden of your own.

This might be of interest to you if you would enjoy passing a few hours working on someone else's garden. Pupils from Aylesford School are also getting involved, undertaking this garden share project as part of their school work and we will be finding out what they have been up to in the next issue of Home News.



Left Mr Wyatt,
right Mr Brundle



Do you have a garden that could benefit from this scheme? Perhaps through illness or other commitments you can no longer work on your garden and would welcome some neighbourly support and help?

If so please call Margaret Allen, Tenant Participation Officer for more information about this scheme on 01926 456451 Full contact details on Page 5.



GARDENING NEWS

Continuing our series from tenant and Home News editorial panel member, Helen Scott

Hopefully the weather will be less severe this year. There is still much to enjoy as the summer flowers give way to the vivid colours of Dahlias, Chrysanthemums Asters (Michaelmas Daisies) to name a few, together with the glory of autumn leaves, fruits and berries.

We are into bulb planting time again. If your garden is mature it probably has many different types of bulbs waiting to emerge.

I love that part of the year, but then I say that all the time! Plant bulbs fairly deeply, according to their size, tulips can be the last to be planted.

You may prefer Pansies in your garden or tubs, but do watch out for white fly during the winter. Daisies have been making a comeback in recent years and they are very striking.

It is important to clean and oil your tools before storing for the winter - they will be easier to use and their life will be prolonged. Safety and security is a must, make sure all locks and bolts are sturdy and in good repair before everything is locked away.



Helen Scott

Even if you do not have a garden, any small space will house a small tub or pot for your enjoyment or for people passing by.

Bread Pudding Recipe

An easy and wholesome treat
Ideal for Halloween or Bonfire Night!

1/2 lb (100g) stale bread
4-6 oz (100-150g) mixed fruit
1/4-3/4 pt (140ml-425ml) milk
1 egg
2oz (50g) suet
2-3oz (50 - 65 g) sugar
pinch of mixed spice if preferred

METHOD

Soak bread in water for half an hour, squeeze excess water off by hand and place in a bowl.

Add fruit, suet, sugar and spice
Add the well beaten egg and enough milk to make a fairly smooth mixture

Put into a well greased tin or dish and bake in a moderate oven Gas 4, Electric 350 for about 1 hour, until crisp & brown on top. Enjoy hot or cold.

From tenant and Home News editorial panel member, Joy Coop



VEGETABLES WORDSEARCH COMPETITION

WIN a £40 Tesco voucher or one of four runners-up prizes of a £5 Tesco voucher

One word from the word bank is not in the puzzle. If you can find it, complete the form below and post it to us. In the event of a tie, first out of the hat wins.

Name:

Address:

Tel:

The missing word is:

SEND YOUR ENTRIES TO:

Fiona Walsh, Housing Services, PO Box 2175, Warwick District Council, Riverside House, Milverton Hill, Royal Leamington Spa, CV32 5QE to arrive by 15 October 2010

e	p	s	e	a	h	i	i	m	n	r	p
g	i	c	e	d	h	c	t	w	e	f	o
a	n	p	o	r	i	t	a	w	e	b	t
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c	o	e	n	i	g	r	e	b	u	a	s
t	r	i	l	s	o	d	i	t	a	p	a
o	r	u	m	o	e	e	l	a	t	n	e
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c	c	u	s	a	h	n	h	a	o	t	a
d	d	e	w	c	a	f	o	h	o	i	n

**WORD
BANK**

aubergine
beetroot
cabbage
carrot
cauliflower

courgette
leek
onion
pea
potato

spinach
swede
turnip

Wordsearch Winner

Congratulations to Mrs Gilbert of Leamington Spa who won £40 of ASDA Vouchers in our Summer Wordsearch Competition. She used the money to stock up on some extra shopping.



More and more young people are flying the nest thanks to Orbit HomeBuy Agents.

We are the HomeBuy Agent for Coventry and Warwickshire, and we help people of all ages in all sorts of circumstances to find their dream home.



In this role, we act as the first point of contact for all those seeking a home through one of the range of HomeBuy low-cost home ownership and discounted market rent products.

For full details visit www.orbithomebuyagents.co.uk or call us on **03458 50 20 50**.

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building brighter futures...
for people and communities

Terms and conditions apply – ask for details. Orbit HomeBuy Agents is managed by Orbit Homes (2020) Limited, a member of Orbit Group Limited which is an exempt charity registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965.

HOUSING REPAIRS 01926 412 828

HomeChoice and Housing Officer enquiries 01926 412828

Council Housing Estates

Supervisors

Eileen McKeogh
Christine Ledger Square07866 609 655
John Lamb - Fallow Hill 07866 609 674
Andy Smith
Kennedy/St Paul's Square..07866 609 657
Ant Collins
New Brook Street/Radcliffe Gardens –
(grounds maintenance only)
.....07866 609 656
Pat Taylor - Senior Estates Supervisor
New Brook Street/Radcliffe Gardens/Dell
House/44 Clarendon Sq (cleaning only)
.....07979 486 617

Disabled Adaptations .. (01926) 456405

Garages

Applying for a garage – Mrs Darlison/Mrs
Leech(01926) 456 424/5
Garage Repairs..... (01926) 412 828

Homelessness

.....(01926) 456 427/428/429/359

Home News

Fiona Walsh(01926) 456 447

Overdue Gas Servicing

Natalie Kearns01926 456 035
Sue Sweeney01926 456 434
Tenancy Enforcement01926 456 419

Unhappy with the service you receive from Housing?

Fiona Walsh(01926) 456 447

Leaseholder

Enquiries..... (01926) 456 421

Refuse & Recycling..... (01926) 412 464

Rents

Problems with paying your home rent.
Guy Greenland/Yusaf Ramzan/
Abigail Hay(01926) 456 438/457/239

Problems with paying your garage rent

Mark Herbert(01926) 456 435

Rent Direct Debit,

Eva Nicholls(01926) 456 409

Rent Allpay Cards,

Satnam Sangha(01926) 456 408

Pay your rent by phone

.....(01926) 412 420

Tenant Involvement

(Area Panels & Residents Groups)

.....(01926) 456 445

Tenants' Contents Insurance

Scheme

Satnam Sangha(01926) 456 408/409

Warwick Response (Lifeline Service)

24 hour number (01926) 339 577

Supporting People Services Manager

Joan Hicks (01926) 456 405

If you prefer to write, our address is:

**Housing and Property Services
Warwick District Council,
P.O. Box 2175, Riverside House,
Milverton Hill, Royal Leamington Spa,
CV32 5QE**

If you prefer to email:

Housing Register & Homelessness
hadvice@warwickdc.gov.uk
Repairs Queries – not for reporting repairs
hsgrep@warwickdc.gov.uk
Reporting Repairs
contactus@warwickdc.gov.uk
Housing Officers & Estate Management
hsgem@warwickdc.gov.uk
Rent Arrears Team
hsgra@warwickdc.gov.uk
Lettings & Moving Home
hsglet@warwickdc.gov.uk
Housing Complaints
hsgcr@warwickdc.gov.uk
Lifeline Control Centre
ccms@warwickdc.gov.uk
Leaseholders
wdclearhold@warwickdc.gov.uk