

Wythenshawe Life

www.wchg.org.uk

Spring /
Summer
2016



Welcome
to our
new Chair

Page
3

Page
12

Thank you
Eddy, Paul
and Dave

Page
19

**WYTHENSHAWE
GAMES**

Page
24

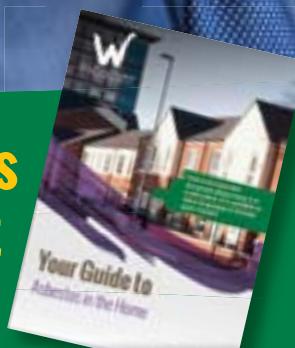
**STRANGER
DANGER
-be aware**

If you
or anyone you know
would like this publication

IN LARGE TYPE

or audio format please
contact us on
0800 633 5500
0300 111 0000

**Asbestos
Leaflet**
in this issue





If you would like a
Magnifying Strip
to help you read
the newsletter,

NEWS

...please contact the
Communications team on
0300 111 0000 or email
communications@wchg.org.uk

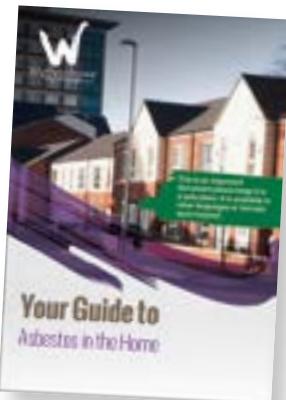
Asbestos Aware

Our new leaflet on asbestos (enclosed with this edition) contains vital information for tenants and leaseholders. Please take time to read it for details of our policy and retain it for reference.

Although nearly all our homes have received major refurbishment over the last 15 years there may still be materials in some homes which contain asbestos. Materials containing asbestos, if in good condition, are often best left where they are and monitored.

If you are considering carrying out DIY on your home, you should always submit a formal request using the Tenants Alteration form available on our website or by contacting us on the phone. Inspections may be required to assess the area before you undertake work.

A copy of the leaflet is available on our website or contact Vicky Hartill or the Development and Investment Team on 0161 946 9566 if you have any queries.



At the cutting edge!

Thanks to partnership working with Manchester City Council over the last two years, we are improving the way we deliver the grass cutting service.



Thrilled to be three!

It only seems like yesterday when we were celebrating the launch of Wythenshawe Community Housing Group (WCHG). Since then we have developed our services, built new homes and supported our neighbourhoods.

As you will see throughout this issue, we are continuing to provide the new housing Wythenshawe so desperately needs; we are listening to you and developing the services you tell us you want.

Better safe than sorry

Are you aware that WCHG is not responsible for insuring the contents of your home?

To help you protect yourself financially against the risk of damage to your possessions, we offer a home contents insurance scheme which is payable by weekly instalments.

Provided by Aviva, it insures your possessions against fire, flood, theft, storm and other perils. There is no excess to pay in the event of a claim, no minimum security requirements and the application process is simple.



For a quote call 01962 892086. Please make sure you read the policy summary in the application pack before applying for cover.

One team will work across the area, rather than two. This will:

- promote working together with MCC
- make it easier to cover for annual leave
- minimise the impact of machinery breakdowns
- allow us to continue to litter pick before cutting grass

Our target for 2016 is to reduce the number of days we cut to minimise the amount of grass left behind. We will do at least 13 cuts a year.

The grass cutting teams will be supported by six litter pickers from our Futures Trainees programme, giving local people the opportunity to get back into work, see page 16.

Meet our new Chair ...the Bishop of Manchester



Wythenshawe Community Housing Group welcomed its new Group Chair of the Board, The Bishop of Manchester, The Right Reverend Dr David Walker, in April.

Bishop David says he is keen to build on the successes and numerous achievements since the Group came into formation on the 1 April 2013.

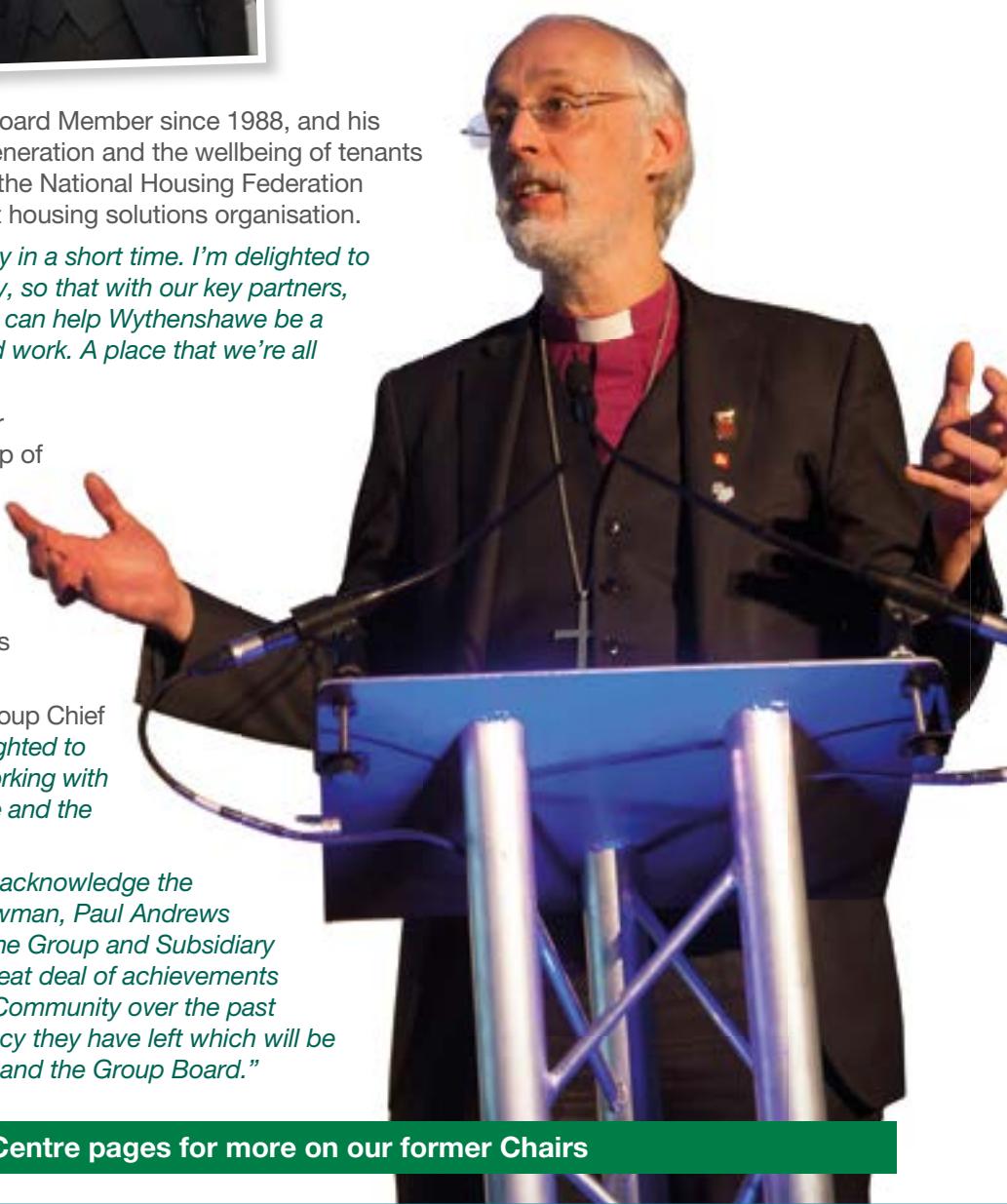
He has been a Housing Association Board Member since 1988, and his passion for social housing, urban regeneration and the wellbeing of tenants has also included being a member of the National Housing Federation Board and Chair of HACT, a specialist housing solutions organisation.

He says: "*WCHG has come a long way in a short time. I'm delighted to be part of the next stage of the journey, so that with our key partners, not least Manchester City Council, we can help Wythenshawe be a place where it's good to live, learn and work. A place that we're all proud to be associated with.*"

David has been Bishop of Manchester since 2013 and before that was Bishop of Dudley from 2000, following 17 years in assorted parish ministries and industrial chaplaincy in the Diocese of Sheffield. He is also Chair of the Advisory Council on the Relations of Bishops and Religious Communities and holds a number of other posts.

Wythenshawe Community Housing Group Chief Executive, Nigel Wilson, said: "*I'm delighted to welcome David and look forward to working with him to contribute to the strategic future and the next leg of the Group's journey.*

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Eddy Newman, Paul Andrews and Dave Chorlton, former Chairs of the Group and Subsidiary Boards. They have contributed to a great deal of achievements and successes for the Wythenshawe Community over the past three years and I am proud of the legacy they have left which will be nurtured going forward by the Bishop and the Group Board."



See the Centre pages for more on our former Chairs



How to avoid the SUMMER TIME BLUES

Make a budget so you know exactly how much you have to spend over the holidays and stick to it!

The long summer holidays can put a lot of pressure on the family budget.

Don't risk falling into debt with your rent or finding yourself borrowing money to pay for essentials, holiday activities or summer clothes.

Before you start planning for your school holiday activities, work out your budget. Discuss it with



your children and get them involved in working out how much activities will cost.

You could set a daily or weekly spending limit and then ask your children to work out activities that are priced within that limit.

We know it can be hard if children expect to have the same holiday experiences, toys and trips as their friends but there are plenty of fun things families and children can do for free.

FREE ACTIVITIES TO DO AT HOME:

Plant a vegetable garden – even if you only have a small outdoor area you can create a simple vegetable patch with your kids or you could plant seeds in pots on a window sill.

Cooking – plan a day of cooking or baking with your kids – this is a cost effective activity because you get to eat the results!

Movie night – borrow some movies from your local library and have a cinema experience in your home.

Games and toys – get out old toys or games that haven't been used in a while and organise swaps with friends and families or have a car boot or yard sale. Visit a charity shop and pick up cheap toys.

Arts and crafts – try face painting, painting or making masks or jewellery. Use craft materials from around your home – it's amazing what you can create from buttons and bits and pieces from your kitchen drawers.

Read a book – get your children to pick a few books you can read together as a family over the school holidays. Borrow books for free from your local library.

Playdates – invite one or two of your child's friends over to play for a low cost day at home. Provide paint and paper, toys or dressing up gear and the kids will be happy for hours.



SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES OUT AND ABOUT:

Depending on your budget and transport options, there are plenty of low cost school holiday activities away from home:

Libraries – visit your local library and see if they have a free story time. Libraries also run other school holiday activities like arts and craft and computer courses for older kids.



Go to the park – take your kids to the Wythenshawe Games (see p19) or any other local park. You can take your bike, walk the dog or use the playgrounds. Pack refillable drink bottles and a picnic so you're not paying out for food and drinks at cafes or shops.

Shopping Centres – these sometimes hold free school holiday activities that your children might enjoy such as live entertainment, music or art and craft activities.

Community Centres – both Benchill Community Centre and Woodhouse Park lifestyle Centre will be running events over the summer, details of how to contact them are in this newsletter.

You can also check out Manchester City Council and the Manchester Evening News for details of free summer holiday activities at
www.manchester.gov.uk/directory/30/allsorts_to_do

and www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/whats-on/family-kids-news/free-things-manchester-school-holidays

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING is to make sure you understand your finances, and you set a budget you will be able to stick to so you are still able to pay your rent and all those other essential costs while still enjoying the summer.

Phase 2 handover at Greenfields Development

All 17 shared ownership properties on the Greenfields development in Woodhouse have been sold and we have been delighted to welcome new residents to their new homes bought on the shared ownership scheme.



To find out more about our other developments visit www.gardencityhomes.org.uk and see page 9 for the latest on our Village 135 development.

Phase 2 handovers at Greenfields now underway and @GardenCityHomes are looking forward to welcoming our new residents.



Green fingered date

If you are already out sowing, potting up or weeding, make sure you look out for details of our ever popular **Gardens Competition** which will be running in July. Every year we discover some truly wonderful winners and we feel sure 2016 will be no exception!

Closing Date – 5th August

Downsizing? - a helping hand



Struggling to pay the bedroom tax and want help to downsize? Carol Ingham and Adele Harrison in our Welfare Reform Team can:

- discuss your options
- help you apply for a Discretionary Housing Payment whilst you try and get rehoused
- assist you with Manchester Move registrations and bidding – you get priority if you are downsizing

If you are in rent arrears, they can help you work out possible solutions. Contact them through our Contact Centre.



Helping more and more people!

Our Digital Inclusion Team has seen an influx in local people getting in touch after they attended a Jobs Fair at Manchester Airport.



There were more than 2,500 jobs available at the fair and the first hour was dedicated to Wythenshawe residents. Many of those attending made their way via our Wythenshawe Digital stand and signed up for free IT workshops to improve their computer skills.

The Wythenshawe Digital project helps equip local people with the skills to access online services and opportunities as well as offering refurbished computer equipment at affordable rates.



Baguley Hall Friends log on

Wythenshawe Digital has presented Friends of Baguley Hall with a refurbished laptop to promote their activities via social media to the local community.

Wythenshawe Digital is looking forward to helping even more local residents to get online and develop the basic IT skills that we all need in this ever changing world!



Boosting job chances

More than 50 people attending the Jobs Fair were able to do so with added confidence.

They had all attended a 'Get Ready Get Hired' event at the Wythenshawe Forum and gone on to receive help from our Wythenshawe Digital team, Employability team and Dyslexia Foundation UK on basic IT skills and writing a CV.

Can you help?

Wythenshawe Digital has recently sold several refurbished computers to allow local job seekers to continue to search and apply for work. If you have any old computer equipment you would like to donate to the project please get in touch.

GET IN TOUCH

Contact Wythenshawe Digital on 0161 946 6444 or email getonline@wchg.org.uk to find out more about workshops which could help you or if you have a laptop you can donate to the scheme.



0161 946 6444



Be Entertained



Find Work



Find Information



Stay In Touch



Explore Interests



Save Time & Money



You can bank on Unit-e

It was celebrations all round when the doors to Unit-e, a food storage warehouse like no other in Wythenshawe, were opened.

Unit-e holds and distributes food to seven food banks across Wythenshawe, supporting individuals and families living in food poverty and addressing long-term solutions.

Its opening was the culmination of two years hard work between Real Foods and the Food Poverty Group which was originally the brain child of the late Paul Goggins MP, who was passionate about making a difference and improving the lives of local people.

For more information on how to get involved, or to signpost someone in need, please contact Jacqueline Naraynsingh, Real Food Programme Manager, at Jacqueline.Naraynsingh@wchg.org.uk or Pam Moran, Real Food Cooking and Skills Coordinator, at Pamela.Moran@wchg.org.uk

ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR:

- £46,000 grant funding for the refurbishment and running costs provided by Manchester City Council
- 7,000 kilos of food brought in
- £19,000 raised for renovations
- Distribution to seven food banks
- 307 volunteer hours completed over seven sessions
- Recruitment of one warehouse worker



Real Food Wythenshawe is a Big Lottery funded project managed by WCHG. Follow us at: www.realfoodwythenshawe.com on twitter @realfoodteam or call the team on 0161 946 7554.

Real Food. Wythenshawe.

Edible Interchange springing into life

Spring and summer 2016 see a variety of new plants and edible flowers take root at the Edible Interchange.

As the plants become more established in traditional beds across the interchange site and in four substantial planters at the bus stops opposite the Metrolink station, we hope passersby will take sprigs of herbs home to enhance their cooking. Other produce will also be shared with volunteers and interested travellers!

Launched in summer 2015, Wythenshawe's Edible interchange is a partnership project with Real Food Wythenshawe supported by Transport for Greater Manchester (TGF), Groundwork Manchester, Manchester City Council and the Forum Trust.

Students from Newall Green High School have been assisting with winter maintenance. Haveley Hey and The Willows will also be joining 'Friends of the Interchange' to keep the growing on track.

Volunteers to help weed, plant and support this project are very welcome. We meet every Tuesday afternoon from 1.30pm at the Interchange site next to the Forum in Wythenshawe Civic Centre.





Non Charging Weeks

A reminder to Willow Park Housing Trust tenants that your rents calendar changed from April 2016 to bring you in line with all our other tenants. It has no effect on the amount of rent that is charged and it is still payable over 50 weeks of the financial year as per your tenancy agreement.

We can provide all our tenants with a rent calendar to keep in your payment card carrier which details non collection weeks. If you have any queries or would like a calendar please contact the rents team through our Contact Centre.

Universal Credit CHECK LIST

If you have a change in your circumstances and claim Universal Credit (UC) we have the following check list to help you. Remember, you can always contact our dedicated officers for help, see right:

if you want help making your claim because you don't have access or are not confident using the internet, contact us and we will make an appointment for you to come in

do not make a claim for Universal Credit if you are still due your last payment from work or holiday pay

take key information with you to your first interview at the job centre: a copy of your tenancy agreement and rent statement. Contact us for this information

confirm when your first payment date will be and let us know and we can offer advice and support on how to manage while waiting for your first payment which will be approximately six weeks from making your claim

claim Council Tax Support – as soon as you make your claim for UC you need to claim Council Tax Support separately. This can be done via MCC's web site or we have paper claim forms available

if you have a change in circumstances, such as starting work, that will affect your payment, you must let us know

Benefit Cap reduced

The Benefit Cap has been reduced. Later in the year, for those who live outside of London, it is set at:

£384.62 a week

if you are a couple or have children

£257.69 a week

for a single person

The cap limits the total amount of income "working age" households can receive from certain benefits. If you are affected by the reduction in the Benefit Cap, your Housing Benefit will be reduced at some point after April 2016. Exact dates have not yet been decided.

Call the Financial Inclusion Team via our Contact Centre if you are worried you may be affected. You may be entitled to a benefit that would make you exempt or be able to claim temporary help to meet the Housing Benefit shortfall.

Meet... our Universal Credit Officers



Vicki Broadbent and **Liam Knocker** support tenants receiving Universal Credit, particularly those finding it hard to a move from weekly to monthly payments.

They can:

- check your Universal Credit claim is correct and support you if you need to contact the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
- help set up monthly budgets to ensure all your bills are paid
- advise on benefit advances during your first assessment period
- tell you what to do if you have been sanctioned
- signpost you to services to help with your work search

You can contact **Vicki** or **Liam** through our Contact Centre or email: UChelpME@wchg.org.uk



If you are claiming Universal Credit you will need to make a separate claim for Council Tax Support. Call Manchester Benefits on **0161 234 5003** or claim online at www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500180/housing_benefit/5766/online_benefit_claim_and_calculator

Live Life with Extra Care



SHOW HOME
NOW OPEN

Over 55s



Apartment Features:

- Fitted with a modern contemporary kitchen
- Vinyl non slip flooring
- Low energy lighting
- Wet rooms with showers Ceramic wall tiling
- Fully programmable heating system, powered by Biomass Eco Communal System
- Low surface temperature radiators in specific rooms
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- Secure by design locking system
- Fire and Smoke alarms
- Secure door entry system
- Fully covered CCTV
- 24/7 on-site care team
- Emergency Call System



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Wythenshawe, Manchester

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or 0161 946 9577

or email us at

enquiries@gardencityhomes.org.uk

Hollyhedge Court,
Wythenshawe M22 4GW

*Viewings by appointment only, subject to availability

www.gardencityhomes.org.uk

Fancy a change?

If you want to make improvements, alterations and additions to your property, we are happy for you to do so provided they are in line with your tenancy agreement.

This means you must get our written permission **BEFORE YOU START ANY WORK**. This applies to any kind of alteration other than decorating, for example:

- removing internal walls
- taking out or replacing any built in fixtures or fittings
- putting up any structure like a shed or play house in the garden
- cutting down trees or removing hedges or other boundaries to create a driveway
- altering the type of flooring in the property
- fitting a satellite dish, aerial, CCTV or other equipment



Laminate floors - the ups and downs

Laminate flooring can look great, but there are some downsides.

- it is much more difficult to lift up if any work is needed below, and you would be responsible for lifting and re-fixing it
- there is a lot less insulation than underlay and carpets so ground floor temperatures will be colder and that can increase the risk of condensation in your home

If you want to fit laminate flooring, complete a Tenant's Alteration form before you fit it and we can then discuss all the pros and cons with you.

Gadget Power!

CLAIM YOUR FREE HYGROMETER

This is a special type of thermometer that can go on the table, worktop or wall to monitor the humidity and temperature in your home.

By helping you understand how humid it is and knowing how warm or cold it is, you can take action to prevent condensation which will create black mould.

To claim your free hygrometer ask at reception in Wythenshawe House or Parkway Green House. If you have condensation you can request a surveyor's visit to advise you and they will also provide you with a free hygrometer.



FIRE WARNING

We want you to be both warm and safe! Wood burning and other solid fuel stoves are increasingly popular, but if you want to install one you must first check with us:

- to install one without permission is against the terms of our tenancy agreements
- by law, all new appliances must be fitted by a HETAS (Heating Equipment Testing & Approval Scheme) registered installer and servicing agent and a carbon monoxide detector must be fitted. Unless you requested permission BEFORE solid fuel is installed we will not have checked that this is the case
- solid fuel appliances that burn wood or coal must be serviced by WCHG twice a year meaning these systems cost us more to maintain than other heating systems

If, during our annual inspections, we find an unauthorised solid fuel appliance has been fitted the gas engineer will ask for the solid fuel installation record to check it was carried out by a recognised HETAS installer. If you are unable to provide this you may be re-charged for any remedial works in addition to the costs of the six monthly service inspections.



News from the Courts

WCHG has been praised for the part it played in helping police catch a drugs gang. At Manchester Crown Court, Stuart Walsh was jailed for eight years after pleading guilty to conspiracy to supply amphetamine; Christopher Swaine and Daniel Whelan were both sentenced to 42 months after pleading guilty to conspiracy to supply amphetamine, cocaine and heroin; a 17-year-old was sentenced to a two-year detention training order for his role and Steven Anderson, who had pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply cannabis at an earlier hearing, was sentenced to 12 months in prison.

The drugs gang was smashed after police raided their safehouses, including two in Wythenshawe. Police also went undercover as addicts.

Greater Manchester Police Inspector Derek Hewitt said: "The court results are evidence of all the hard work and commitment by GMP, the community and partner agencies such as Wythenshawe Community Housing Group to make Wythenshawe a safe place to live, work and visit."

"The community and GMP have stood shoulder-to-shoulder to take a strong stance against those involved in drug related activity in Wythenshawe."

Group Chief Executive of WCHG Nigel Wilson said: "Joint work with our colleagues in GMP has a key role in helping to keep our community safer and reducing the risks from these forms of criminal activity in Wythenshawe. I join with GMP in encouraging community workers to source information which can help tackle illegal activities that put local people at risk."

Operation Challenger targets organised crime across the whole of Manchester. Anyone with any information on the activities of organised gangs should call Greater Manchester Police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

If you are worried about ASB, you can request assistance or report an incident to the control room/Wardens by calling 0161 946 9501.

ASB Performance

100%

Satisfaction with the ASB service

72

Average number of days to resolve a case

431

ASB cases dealt with

26

Legal actions secured

Operation Lock



Police have arrested nine people following dawn raids across Wythenshawe. The joint police operation targeting organised crime gangs which resulted in the seizure of more than £500,000 worth of illegal drugs and firearms ammunition.

Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse can take many forms and is not just physical. One in four women and one in six men will experience domestic abuse. If you want some assistance or advice to report Domestic Abuse you can speak in confidence to **Bernie Woodward**, ASB Manager, on **0161 946 7518** or find information at www.endthefear.co.uk

TACKLING RACE HATE

We took part in Let's End Hate Crime week, supported by GMP and MCC.

LET'S END
HATE CRIME

STOP
HATE
CRIME

We hate...
Hate crime!

LET'S END
HATE CRIME

To report Hate Crime
please contact Wythenshawe
Community Housing Group on

0300 111 0000
0800 633 5500



A total of 70 questionnaires were completed. Some of the results were:

Do you understand the term Hate Crime?

Yes = 75%
No = 25%

Have you Experienced Hate Crime?

Yes = 27%
No = 73%

Of those who had experienced Hate Crime:

52% reported to Police
26% reported to WCHG





Cllr Paul Andrews

Chair of the Parkway Green Board



Paul Andrews has lived in Wythenshawe since 1959 and served on various committees of the Council and outside bodies.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- The creation of the Tony Burns Gardens development and the fight to name the road after Councillor Tony Burns (previous Chair of Parkway Green).
- The work we did in creating the right relationship between Willow Park and Parkway Green to bring to life Wythenshawe Community Housing Group.

"I have really enjoyed my time as a board member for Parkway Green Housing Trust. Helping to develop and grow the organisation over the past nine years has been a privilege for me. It is always hard when something you are passionate about comes to an end, but I know that Wythenshawe Housing is being taken forward by a good group of people and it is in safe hands."



Dave Chorlton

Chair of the Willow Park Board



"Since I was invited to join the board at Willow Park, I have made some great friendships and been privileged to meet some amazing and dedicated people."

"I am very proud of what we achieved and also what we have done since joining together with Parkway Green in April 2013 to form Wythenshawe Community Housing Group. It has progressed beyond our original expectations and that is purely a result of the sheer hard work and dedication of all our staff, tenants, volunteers and partners."

Our on-going investment programme has enabled us to build hundreds of new homes with further new housing projects continuing to develop. In particular, our new flagship £20m Village 135 scheme.

Wythenshawe continues to develop and grow and WCHG is at its heart. Together we have built, and continue to build, a better future not just for our tenants, but for all our neighbourhoods.

I am immensely proud to have served as a board member and I will miss all the friends I have made over the past nine years but am certain that WCHG will continue its successes and wish everyone my very best for the future."

Dave Chorlton currently works as Business Development Manager for a printing company in Stockport. Previously he worked for 15 years for Remploy Print based in Sharston. He was a founder member of BW3 and his association with the area covers over 45 years. In addition, he has extensive experience helping people with disabilities improve their lives and esteem through working.





Cllr Eddy Newman

Chair of the Wythenshawe Community Housing Group Board

Eddy Newman has previously worked for the Post Office as a Counter Clerk in main Post Offices, he was elected Union Organiser for the Communication Workers Union and North Manchester Councillor.

He was then elected Member of European Parliament for Manchester from 1984 to 1999. Eddy returned to Manchester City Council in 2002, representing Woodhouse Park and is particularly interested in Housing and Health issues.



"As a Woodhouse Park Councillor I supported the transfer of Woodhouse Park's remaining council housing to Willow Park which had been formed in 1999. As the City Council's then Executive Member responsible for Housing, I was involved in the formation of Parkway Green in 2006.

I was Board Member of Willow Park from 2004 to 2013, including over three years as Chair of the Board. I supported the partnership of Willow Park and Parkway Green into Wythenshawe Community Housing Group, chairing the Group Board since its formation in April 2013.

I am proud of the many achievements of Willow Park, Parkway Green and WCHG, and the contribution I have made.

The homes of thousands of Wythenshawe people have been modernised with new kitchens and bathrooms, double glazing and many other improvements.

Hundreds of new affordable homes have been built, and more will be built in the next couple of years.

The neighbourhoods on our estates are managed effectively. Neighbourhood Wardens, CCTV, debt advice, the annual Tenants Conference, community centres and activities for youngsters are just some of the good things that take place. All this has been done with the support of Manchester City Council and other partners such as the Police, local schools, Manchester College and Wythenshawe Forum.

I am most proud of the success of Woodhouse Park Lifestyle Centre as a thriving and popular community, youth and sports centre – built by the Council and managed by WCHG. Although my membership of WCHG's Board is ending, I am not going anywhere. I will still be around as an active local Councillor, will still take up my constituents' housing problems and still support WCHG's work in the community. Thank you to all the tenants, residents, Board members and staff for your support over the years."



Woodhouse Park Lifestyle Centre
Portway (junction with Selstead Road), M22 1QW
Tel: 0161 436 0560
www.WoodhouseParkLifestyleCentre.co.uk
Follow us on twitter @WPLifestyleCent
or Facebook Woodhouse Park Lifestyle Centre

Save the Date



Watch this space for events taking place this summer to mark our 10th anniversary, including a family fun day on Saturday 13 August 2016. For more information contact Lifestyle.Reception@wchg.org.uk



We are proud...

... to be a purpose-built thriving community facility in the heart of Woodhouse Park. We offer activities such as indoor bowling, over 50s groups, youth clubs, learning disability sessions, tots groups and exercise classes to suit everybody's needs.

Why not drop in to our friendly Styles Café and enjoy a healthy meal for as little as £2.99 and speak to a member of our team about what we can offer you?



FOR HIRE...

We have four 3G floodlit sports pitches for hire for five-a-side football at reasonable rates and with weekend and daytime concessionary rates available.

Our rooms are ideal for sports coaching and training and incorporate up-to-date learning resources.

If you are a budding instructor, or have always wanted to set up a class, we can offer advice and support. We can signpost you to funding to help get your new venture/club started.



Looking for a venue? ...you need go no further!

The Lifestyle Centre offers everyone some of the very best facilities in town – and all at prices which are hard to beat!

So, whether you are organising the party of a lifetime, running a community function, want to set up some regular sporting or other activities, or are looking for a venue for a business event, give us a call and we will be happy to see what we can do.

As a vibrant community facility managed by WCHG we have a range of meeting rooms, sports facilities, and, of course our Styles Cafe, which means we can cater for people from all age groups as they socialise, learn, and stay healthy.



Party Time

BOOK AND ENJOY!

We cater for

- ✓ birthdays
- ✓ weddings
- ✓ christenings
- ✓ corporate events
- ✓ community functions

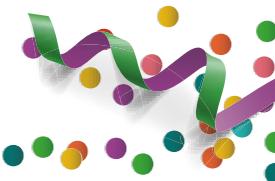
We can help you create the party or event you want. Rooms for up to 120 guests can be transformed with tablecloths, seat covers and bows to make them really special for parties and anniversaries.

Our Styles Café Team can create bespoke and tasty menus to suit your every need and pocket! And we can help source a range of party services, including:

- ✓ bouncy castles
- ✓ facepainters
- ✓ sports coaches



- ✓ DJs
- ✓ catering & bar



Making dreams come true

You don't have to break the bank to celebrate your wedding in style – our specialist events staff can help you plan your perfect celebration with all the trimmings at prices to suit your budget.

Just give us a call. There is nothing we like better than helping to make it an extra special day for the bride and groom!

Good to meet!

If you need to set up a business event, we can provide you with the venue, catering and all the back up and business facilities you will need to make sure it is a success.

BOOK BY THE DAY OR BY THE HOUR!

Creating Community Art

Our Youth Team has helped transform a breezeblock wall at a local primary school into a work of art for the community.

Over just five days during the Easter holidays, local young people came together through WCHG's youth provision at SS John Fisher & Thomas More Catholic Primary School to turn an unattractive dull wall into a piece of art to be enjoyed for years to come.

The project was designed and led by the Young People and was inspired by the themes of positive thinking, caring for each other and raising aspirations to be the best you can be.

Jason Moffat, a young person from Wythenshawe, said: *"I have never done anything like this before and it gives me the experience to be creative in a fun way."*

WCHG Youth Work Operational Coordinator Joe Amos said: *"This project allows young people to engage in something that is not only fun but makes a difference to the community. It's been great to see so many turn up in the school holidays and get involved in creating a design that matters to them."*



The artwork took five days to produce and young people were able to learn the art of painting murals by working alongside professional graffiti artist Russ Meehan. He said: *"These projects are important to show young people there is a professional industry to graffiti, that you can make a living from it rather than the stereotypical view that graffiti is negative and always committed illegally."*

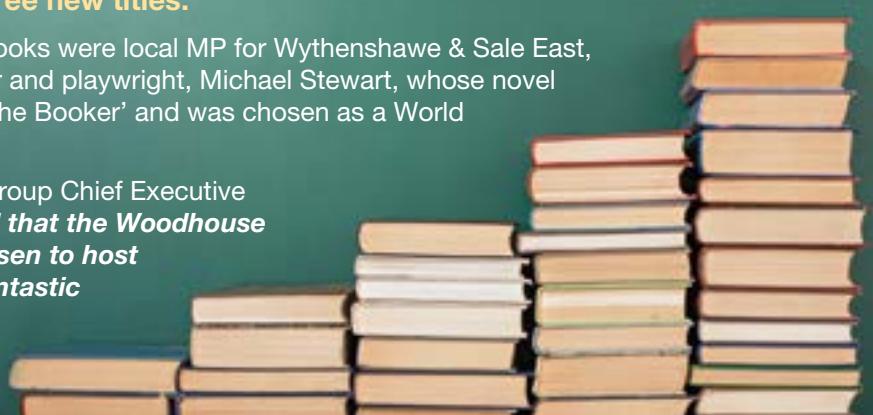
A special thank you goes to C. Saycell & Son Limited and AB Building & Electrical for their kind donations to this project.

Novel night!

The Woodhouse Park Lifestyle Centre hosted a special event for World Book Night in April, giving away 80 free copies of three new titles.

Among those helping distribute the books were local MP for Wythenshawe & Sale East, Mike Kane, and award winning author and playwright, Michael Stewart, whose novel King Crow won The Guardian's 'Not the Booker' and was chosen as a World Book Night recommended read.

Wythenshawe Community Housing Group Chief Executive Nigel Wilson said: *"We are delighted that the Woodhouse Park Lifestyle Centre has been chosen to host such an inspiring event. It was a fantastic opportunity for local people to meet an acclaimed and award winning author."*



More on the Lifestyle Centre on pages 14 & 15



Benchill Community Centre
Benchill Road, Benchill, M22 8EJ

Tel: 0161 945 0879

www.benchillcommunitycentre.co.uk

or [Facebook](#) [benchillcommunitycentre](#)

Twitter: @benchillcomcent

Open for you

We are open until 10pm Monday-Friday and on Saturday mornings for those who need community space. We even have a full sized, floodlit astro pitch for hire with the 'new' style playing surface (3G).

There is lots going on, from children's activities and sports to employment and skills training to sessions for older people and those with additional needs.

KIDS AND YOUTH – from play schemes and an after school club to a parents and tots group.



OLDER PEOPLE – can take part in an Art Club, Over 50s IT beginners classes and monthly coffee mornings.



MINIBUSES – two available for use by the community; one has 17 seats and the other has 15 (both including the driver). The driver must have a MIDAS certificate and we can provide MIDAS training here – details and dates available on request.



SPORTS AND EXERCISE –

including Zumba and Morris Dancing.



IT SUITE – with 15 computers and fully-qualified friendly tutors. Various sessions run throughout the week, with a number of courses available.



The cost varies with these classes, but they are open to everyone on a rolling programme.

ROOM HIRE – from a full professional conference suite, holding up to 60 people, with video projector facilities, to a community room with attached kitchen, offices and training rooms. There is a cost per hour for all room hire at the centre.

COMMUNITY SPORTS –

We have a professional sports coach and assistant who works on the Astro Pitch and 'Multi-Use Games Area' (MUGA) with children and youths aged 8 - 18 providing lots of different sports activities. The sessions are free and all equipment is provided.

Saturdays: 9.30-11.15am, ages 5-7 years (children must be accompanied by a parent/carer)

Saturdays: 11.30am-1.15 pm, ages 8-14 years

Monday to Friday: 4-6pm, from age 10

SENSORY ROOM – can be enjoyed by all ages for relaxation and therapeutic purposes and can be booked directly through the Community Centre for either a one-off or recurring sessions.





MEA – the place to be!



Manchester Enterprise Academy (MEA) has had a record-breaking number of applications for Year 7 entry in September 2016 and there are exciting building plans to accommodate the increasing demand for places.

Students have been demonstrating an extremely mature approach to progress exams and other tests, enjoying trips out, taking part in events such as Holocaust Memorial Day and attending a wide range of extra-curricular clubs – who ever knew you could make spaghetti from fruit puree!

Partnership work with local businesses such as Lloyds Banking Group is gaining great momentum and there have been a record number of university applications from Sixth Formers.

If you would like your child to join MEA in Year 7 in September 2017 make sure you get your application in on time as they were heavily over-subscribed this year.



MEA students with their incredible Auschwitz model, made out of lollipops and matchsticks, for Holocaust Memorial Day

For further information pop in and see them on Simonsway, call 0161 499 2726, email admin@meacad.org.uk, or follow @MEAacad.

Blast off!



Students at Manchester Health Academy are preparing to become space biologists by growing seeds that have been into space as part of Rocket Science, an educational project launched by the RHS Campaign for School Gardening and the UK Space Agency.

Manchester Health Academy will be one of up to 10,000 schools to receive a packet of 100 seeds that have been in space which they will grow alongside seeds that have not. They will measure the differences in growth over seven weeks. Pupils will not know which packet contains which seeds until all results have been collected and analysed by professional biostatisticians.

Newall Green's Best Ever Return



Last year our Y11 students gained impressive GCSE results with the school's overall results going up by 17%.

As well as academic prizes we recognised the service to the school of individual students. This year's winner was Kiki Adenowo – a musical star and performer who as well as performing had helped others throughout her time here.



Prizes were given for attainment, progress, individual subjects and the most improved attenders in each year. Graham Memorial Trophies went to Anastasia Madrevska and Ryan Goodwin and the Brian Ramsdale trophy to Michael Howarth, a very talented dancer who has been selected to dance with the Lowry Dance school.



Take a seat

Saint Paul's Catholic High School has just unveiled its "Buddy Bench" – a place to meet and play with new friends or old friends, eliminating loneliness and fostering friendship in the playground.

The bench was launched by three pupils, Molly, Rosie and Lily, who had been commended for their acts of kindness.

Molly and Rosie found £120 in school and immediately handed it in while Lily stopped in the street to assist an elderly lady and help tie her shoe laces.



One of the most exciting WOW Zone projects is Global Partners Junior and this year the theme is Colourful Communities.

Run by the New York Mayor's Office, children from cities around the world collaborate on a Global Curriculum, sharing their work with their international peers and participating in discussions about their lives, city and culture.

Children from Ringway Primary School are exploring gender stereotypes. A local artist helped them to create self portraits using graffiti art, digital flags and to capture animations. They have explored what our society defines girls and boys to be like and contrasted this with the views of their international counterparts, composing their own raps to express their feelings.



The WOW Zone is our very own Learning Centre which provides opportunities for local children to take part in a range of creative digital learning programmes. Visit us online to see examples of their work and to find out more about WOW Zone projects and opportunities:

wowzone.org.uk

@TheWOWzone1

WYTHENSHAWE GAMES
WYTHENSHAWE PARK
27 TO 31 JULY 2016
11AM TO 7PM

FREE Festival of fun activities

PERSONAL BEST PROGRAMME
30th May - 24th July
A range of activities for all ages

5 days of free family fun in the Park

INTERACTIVE HEALTH ZONE

SPORTS

POP UP LIBRARY WITH UNDER 5 ZONE
11AM - 1PM

TEEN TAKEOVER YOUTH ZONE
4.30PM - 7PM

WWW.WYTHENSHAWEGAMES.ORG.UK

FORUM **MCR** **MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL** **Wythenshawe**



A flying start

Our new Street Cleansing team of eight Wythenshawe Futures Trainees has got off to a flying start on their 12-month training programme.

Alongside completing their Level 2 qualification and training, they are collecting record breaking amounts of litter from Wythenshawe.

Meet... Futures Trainee Toni

Toni Flemming says the Futures scheme has helped turn her life around.

She was made redundant when her employer relocated and, after two years of trying to gain employment, started suffering with depression.

Toni began volunteering with WCHG at Wythenshawe Games and supported our float entry at Manchester Pride. She also started working with our Digital Inclusion team and found out about **Real Opportunities**.

Since joining the Street Cleaning team, Toni says her mental and physical wellbeing has improved. She signed up to GMPTE's Bike Back To Work scheme and now cycles in everyday, boosting her fitness levels.

She is volunteering with other departments and is considering starting driving lessons to boost her future career prospects.

Real Opportunities enables Wythenshawe residents who are currently unemployed to gain skills and confidence to help move into work. If you are unemployed and looking for support to help get back into work call the Employment and Enterprise team today on 0161 946 1056.



For businesses that deliver

Having worked within logistics over a number of years, two local budding entrepreneurs decided to set up an all-round logistics provider – JB Couriers – based at the Enterprise Centre.

Jamie Howell and Brian Campbell have quickly turned their idea into a reality. When asked why they chose the Enterprise Centre, Brian replied: "The offer for start-ups is brilliant! It's close to our customers at the Airport and easy to get on to the motorway network. We are just starting out and needed to keep our overheads down to help us grow and the Enterprise Centre helps do this."

If you have a business idea and would like to learn how to turn it into a reality or are looking for cost effective flexible office space, why not give the Enterprise team a call today!



The Enterprise Centre, 34 Benchill Road, Benchill, M22 8LF
 T: 0161 946 1056 E: enterprisecentre@wchg.org.uk
 W: wythenshawenterprise.com @thebig_EC

Bank that time!

The Real Neighbours project has launched the first Time Banking scheme in Wythenshawe for volunteers.

It means you can share your skills – such as sewing, baking or cooking – in return for getting maybe your garden done or a zip repaired. The possibilities and opportunities are endless!

Our volunteers have already given over 7,000 hours of their time since last year and will be able to use each hour they dedicate as a time credit to gain something that will be useful to themselves. This has worked well in other areas of Manchester and is worldwide.

The scheme is open to anyone aged 18 and over. For more information, please contact nicola.hamilton@wchg.org.uk or faye.greaves@wchg.org.uk



Real Neighbours. Wythenshawe.



Grand Days out

The Grand Day Out Over 55 Group meets at the Forum Room 1 every Wednesday between 10am-3pm. It is run by Real Neighbours in partnership with Manchester City Council and the Forum Trust. New members welcome!

A volunteer writes: "At the Grand Day Out we have a range of table top sales, selling cards each week, we are hoping to have a few large table top sales over the forthcoming months, selling a range of different items.

"Volunteers at the Grand Day Out are looking at holding a small celebration for the Queen's 90th birthday. A coach trip to St Anne's, could be possible in the summer months."

Wish you were here!

Volunteer Sheila Fasoli agrees it is good to Get Involved! *"The Grand Day Out happens every Wednesday at the Wythenshawe Forum for anyone over 55. It's not only a great chance to get out of the house but to meet new people and make friends.*



"We have lots going on during the day from table games to entertainment. We also work to arrange days out for our members throughout the year so keep an eye out for that. We are always looking forward to meeting new people, so come on down for a cuppa and a biscuit."



Bideford Community Centre
Bideford Drive, Baguley, M23 0QH

email: bidefordcommunitycentre@hotmail.com,
call the Centre on 0161 946 6386 or
contact Kirsty Taylor on 07871 351018

Busy at Bideford

Volunteers at the centre are making sure there is plenty going on to gain interest and attract new people.



Bideford Boutique is doing extremely well and has received lots of donations.

Bidefoods Community Cafe is up and running and helping serve the community at very low prices each week. Bingo every two weeks even comes with a free hot meal for those joining in.

The centre continues to grow thanks to all the hard work of the volunteers.

More ways to get involved, page 19.

Save the Date!

Our Annual Tenants Conference will be taking place on **Thursday 10 November 2016** at Wythenshawe Forum.

THURSDAY

10
NOV

We will be launching our new Involvement Strategy and we hope it will be the best yet! Please book now to avoid disappointment by calling 0161 946 6369 or emailing getinvolved@wchg.org.uk.

Fan of Painswick Park?



Why not join **The Friends of Painswick Park** – a new group which meets to:

- **improve the park for its users**
- **actively contribute to the upkeep of local parks**
- **arrange activities**

They have already held two litter picks – and earned much praise for their hard work.

To join them email friendsofpainswickpark@hotmail.com.

Pet Care

Thanks to the UK pet charity Blue Cross, pupils at Saint Paul's Catholic High School have taken part in workshops on responsible pet ownership and primary schools in Wythenshawe are receiving vital information about how to stay safe around dogs.

Blue Cross has also teamed up with local dog trainers and Buchanan Vet Practice (Baguley & Timperley) to offer financial support towards the cost of dog training, neutering and certain treatments for pet owners.

For further information contact Paul.hodson@bluecross.org.uk or Buchanan Vet Practice on 0161 945 0880.



SONG OUT!

The over 50s choir meets on **Thursday between 1.30pm and 2.45pm** at **St Anthony's Church, Portway, Woodhouse Park**, and is looking for new members to join the group to sing for pleasure and in concerts. To find out more please contact Margaret on 0161 998 6252



Jo'burg Gardens volunteers

Bideford's fundraising helped send Jo'burg Garden residents to St Anne's last year. Supporting their fundraising will help benefit many more people, see Grand Day Out, page 17.

Volunteers use a meeting room on the Jo'burg complex. They have regular soup days so come along to have a chat and enjoy lovely homemade soup. They also have regular coffee mornings, inviting all to have a chat and socialise.

Listed

There are **31 listed buildings** in Wythenshawe. They include:

St Wilfrid's Church – the oldest church in Wythenshawe

Wythenshawe Hall – a 15th century Manor House owned by MCC and opened at least once a month by the Friends Of Wythenshawe Hall, despite the recent fire



William Temple Church

– built in 1965 and dedicated to William Temple, Bishop of Manchester

Wythenshawe Bus Depot – used in the production of Avro Lancaster Planes during World War 11

Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses – originally the Forum Cinema built in 1933/34. It closed as ABC cinema in 1974

Get fit at the Forum

A £220k refurbishment funded by Wythenshawe Forum Trust has brought new state-of-the-art gym equipment and health facilities to the Forum. A new £14.95 gym membership, available without a contract, has been introduced and is proving to be extremely popular.

To join online or for details of other membership options visit www.better.org.uk/forum



Frank Price Court

We are currently running a coffee morning once a month and fortnightly bingo sessions. We plan to hold a tea party for the celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday.

For more information contact nicola.hamilton@wchg.org.uk or faye.greaves@wchg.org.uk or call 07580 87017.



Taking Pride!

We hope to stand out from the crowd at this year's Pride Parade, taking place 26th August in the City Centre. Be sure to give us a wave if you see us.



Bingo Club - New members welcome!

Eyes down and look in at **7pm every Tuesday** in the community room at West View Court, West View Road in Northenden. Open to anyone in Wythenshawe and new members are very welcome!

Contact Robert on 0161 902 0096.

17

23

88

35

69

47

Help us engage young people

Our new Detached Youth Work Project is making contact and working with young people, particularly those choosing not to engage with existing youth support services.

As part of the Youth Involvement Team, our Youth Workers are now working with young people aged 11-25 years in a variety of 'street' settings such as shopping areas and parks. They provide basic advice and support to help young people access personal, social and educational opportunities.

We are currently looking for adult volunteers to work with young people aged 10 to 19 in a variety of roles from administration and fundraising to direct contact.

If you have a genuine interest in working with young people please contact us or pass on useful information on street locations where young people are congregating to the Youth Involvement Team at YouthInvolvement@wchg.org.uk

Helping us get better

Our Service Review Group (SRG) of tenants has been looking at ways to help improve our processes for reporting Anti-Social Behaviour.

Based on their recommendations an action plan has been produced and we are making changes to incident diaries, reporting mechanisms, how we communicate with customers and more.

For a copy of the report, or to find out more about the SRG – maybe even get involved yourself – call 0161 946 6369 or email getinvolved@wchg.org.uk.



**Wythenshawe Community Housing Group
Tenant and Resident Group Contacts**

TA Group	Contact for group	Times	Location	Contact No.
Newall Green T & RA	Wyn Casey	Last Wed 2pm	Johannesburg Gardens Community Centre	0161 998 4970
Northern Moor TARA	Fred Bates	First Mon 7.30pm	Rob's Café and Shakes, 105 Sale Road, Northern Moor, M23 0BU	07891 167301
Benchill TA	Sue Loose	Second Tues 7pm	Benchill Community Centre	0161 945 0684
New Baguley TARA	Glen Kamara	First Wed 7pm	Hall Lane Resource Centre, Hall Lane	0161 286 0379
West View Court	Robert Mckenzie	Last Monday Bi Monthly	West View Court	0161 902 0096

You are welcome to attend your local meeting!



New and exciting ways to Get Involved



Do you enjoy planning events, promotions and competitions?

If so, join the new Events Committee which will consult on the WCHG newsletter, Wythenshawewide competitions, the annual Tenants Conference plus much more.

Did you know we have a panel of tenants who check that the money we spend is being well spent? If finance, value for money or figures are an interest, you could join our Value For Money (VFM) panel.

Have you got an eye for detail? If so, join our growing team of service inspectors. As a service inspector you can monitor contact centre calls, check the quality of cleaning in communal areas, carry out customer surveys and ensure our empty properties are of a decent standard before new tenants move in. It is a really important role – if you think you're up to it get in touch.





BE SAFE BE AWARE BE SURE

CHECK ID OF ALL STAFF – ID cards have the 'W' logo, the staff member's picture, name, job title and expiry date.

ARE YOU EXPECTING A CALL?

If not, use the chain on your door when opening it to give you more security.

IF YOU ARE UNSURE – call us on **0800 633 5500 / 0300 111 0000** and ask a member of staff about the visit, they can check this for you.

DON'T BE A VICTIM

Stranger DANGER

WCHG may need to visit your home for reasons such as pre-planned tenancy visits, property or garden inspections, repairs and maintenance or planned project and improvement works.

Most of these appointments or visits will be pre arranged but occasionally staff carry out visits or inspections on an ad hoc basis which may mean they call without appointment.

If someone comes to your home claiming to be from WCHG, please ask them for identification.



Pop by

You can still visit us at Wythenshawe House or Parkway Green House. WCHG service standards were launched in November 2015 and we now monitor waiting times for appointments at reception. We will also offer a room for customers if they need to speak to a member of staff in private.



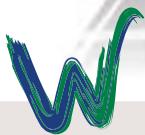
If you require assistance with translation of this newsletter, large print, braille, or an audio copy contact us by phone on: **0300 111 0000** or by email: communications@wchg.org.uk

Contacting Us Made Easier

0800 633 5500

0300 111 0000

customerenquiries@wchg.org.uk



Wythenshawe
Community Housing Group

WCHG Head Office
Wythenshawe House
8 Poundswick Lane
Wythenshawe
M22 9TA

Parkway Green House
460 Palatine Road
Northenden
M22 4DJ

FOLLOW US

[@wythenshawe_chg](#)

Wythenshawe-Community-Housing-Group

www.wchg.org.uk



Contact Centre passwords

When you call us, we need to make sure you are the person you say you are. We have now added a password option you can choose instead of answering a series of security questions each time you call us.

If you want to use this option you will need to set up a password on your account. This will enable you to simply tell us the password to continue with the call.

If you would like to do this, let us know and we will send you the form to fill in with a stamped addressed envelope to return it to us.



The Contact Centre is at its busiest between 9-10am and 4-5pm so you may have to wait a little longer for an adviser to be available. You can opt to leave us a message and we will call you back as soon as we are free – just follow the instructions given in the hold message.

Please recycle this newsletter