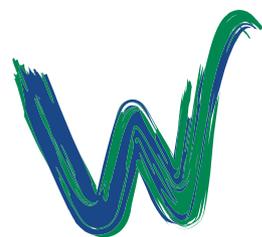


# Wythenshawe Life

www.wchg.org.uk



Wythenshawe  
Community Housing Group

Summer  
2013



**FREE!**

Garden Competition  
open to all.

Fantastic prizes  
See leaflet inside

Meet our  
Young  
Flyers

Page  
**2**

Our  
launch

Page  
**3**

Spotlight on  
Community  
Safety

Page  
**10**

If you  
or anyone you know  
would like this publication  
**IN LARGE TYPE**  
or audio format please  
contact us on  
**0800 633 5500**



Tenant  
Approved

# ‘Young Flyers’ take off

Our trainee Human Resources Officer Lauren Pollitt has set a course to success after winning ‘Young Employee’ at the Airport Group Young Flyers Awards at Old Trafford.

And she was not the only young person from WCHG on the runway to success!

Our other award winners were:

- Runner up Young Community Group – ‘Youth Reborn’, for challenging negative views of young people in Wythenshawe
- Highly commended Young Volunteer - Mark Hadrell, who volunteers at Woodhouse Park Lifestyle Centre
- Highly commended Young Volunteer - Sheryll Dyson, who supports other young people and staff at The Hub.

For Lauren, 23, it was a moment to be proud: *“All the nominations were really good so it came as a bit of shock when they announced me as the winner. I feel really proud of what I have achieved.”*

St Paul’s R.C. High School in Wythenshawe showcased their magazine *Hot On The Goss*, developed as part of the Starship Enterprise project, an Airport Group competition.



\* Any young person interested in either the youth panel or volunteering, please contact Claire Lloyd-Davies, Youth Involvement Manager, at Wythenshawe House on 0800 633 5500

The Airport Group, is a partnership of 13 stock transfer housing associations operating across the North of England that have evolved into one of the major employment and skills providers across the North of England.

▲ Group Chief Executive Nigel Wilson, centre, and Young Employee of the Year Lauren Pollitt (3rd from right) and members of the Youth Reborn Group at the Awards

## Apprentice makes the cut!

Trainee carpenter Adrian Wetton has been named North West Apprentice of the Year by developers Lovell.

Adrian, 19, who joined Lovell after attending a jobs fair organised by Parkway Green said: **“Every single day I learn new things. I absolutely love it and wouldn’t trade this for any other job. Becoming an apprentice is an excellent way of getting a job.”**

He is **WORKING** on our New Foxfield development.

Find out more about the New Foxfield development on page 7.



Apprentice of the Year: Adrian Wetton ▲

## Congratulations Bernard...

...for becoming runner-up in the Tenant of the Year awards!



Bernard Caine is chair of the Northern Moor Tenants and Residents Association and the chair of the WCHG Tenants Committee. He dedicated his award from the Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS) to his local community.

Wythenshawe Games were shortlisted in the ‘Best Practice in the Community’ Award.



Dedicated to Northern Moor: Bernard Caine collects his award ▲

# Stronger Together!



## Our Vision

*A community where people choose to live and work, having pride in their homes and services.*

A new era began on 1 April 2013 with Parkway Green and Willow Park Housing Trusts joining forces to create Wythenshawe Community Housing Group (WCHG).

### The new parent group:

- is responsible for almost 14,000 homes across Wythenshawe
- employs more than 500 people
- will deliver efficiencies and an improved service
- aims to generate savings of up to £2 million per annum to be re-invested for the benefit of tenants and the entire Wythenshawe community.

Chair of the WCHG Board, Eddy Newman, says: "Being Chair is a great privilege. I look forward to working with WCHG's new Board and building on the existing skills and talents of our two Trusts. Together we will be working for the benefit of all our tenants in Wythenshawe."

Group Chief Executive for WCHG, Nigel Wilson, says; "The excellent track record of both housing trusts means that, together, we have a fantastic opportunity to invest in and benefit the entire Wythenshawe Community."

WCHG headquarters is at Wythenshawe House on Poundswick Lane, Wythenshawe, (formally Willow Park House). All other Parkway Green and Willow Park offices remain open for tenants to drop by. All contact details remain the same, see back page for details.

## LOOKING FOR... ...GREAT GARDENERS

Our first-ever Wythenshawe-wide Gardening Competition is open to all our tenants with **£1,375 worth of prizes to be won!** See the leaflet in this issue for details.





# Calling All Tenants!

We are looking for Tenant Board Members to join the Boards of Parkway Green and Willow Park Housing Trusts.

Becoming a Board Member is a great way to Get Involved and help WCHG manage its subsidiary Boards.

You would be joining a group of people dedicated to your local community, working with Local Council representatives, expert independent members and our Leadership Team to help run our business!

You will be helping to develop the Trust's future strategy and therefore the Board is not a tenants' representative group; it is a legally accountable body whose primary purpose is to ensure the Trust is run effectively and in accordance with statutory and regulatory requirements.

If successful we will provide you with support, guidance and training to help you in this important role, helping to put tenants at the heart of everything we do.



1

## The Process

Expression of interest received by 2nd August 2013

2

Initial briefing sessions will then held to discuss the role and what it involves in the week commencing 26th August

3

Applications will then be invited



4

A date will then be set for the interview



5

If there are more candidates than places a tenant ballot will be held

6

New Board Members appointed at September AGM

If you are interested contact **Andrea Percival** on: 0161 946 9591 or email: [andrea.percival@wchg.org.uk](mailto:andrea.percival@wchg.org.uk) by no later than **2nd August**.

You will then be invited to an initial briefing session the week commencing the **26th August**.

## 'Bedroom Tax' (under occupancy) - are you coping?

Around 3200 WCHG households were affected by the introduction of the 'Bedroom Tax' on 1 April 2013. Each of the households is losing between £11 and £24 a week in Housing Benefit depending on how many spare bedrooms they have.

If you are affected and you are struggling to meet the extra payments needed to pay our rent in full, the Welfare Reform Team can help if you:

- wish to downsize
- are looking for a job
- want to stay, but have debts or are worried about affording the 'bedroom tax'
- live in a property that has been "significantly adapted" for your needs and wish to apply for a Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)
- are disabled and need help to apply for an exemption for a regular non-resident overnight carer
- have people living with you who are not registered on your Housing Benefit claim.

Regular direct debits from your bank to make the additional payments are the easiest way if you are happy to stay and pay. We can help you set up the payments.

Our Welfare Reform Team is now based at Parkway Green House. Call or email them for an appointment.

### Prepare for Universal Credit

Most in-work or out-of-work benefits, including Housing Benefit, will be rolled together and paid to working age claimants

once a month in a new Universal Credit.

Only one person in each household will receive the benefit and most people will have to claim online.

Universal Credit will be introduced from October 2013 for new claimants and those with significant changes in circumstances. A phased move to Universal Credit for other claimants will take place between April 2014–2017.

If you are receiving benefits you will have to think about budgeting monthly. There are exceptions for the most vulnerable.

### Are you online?

If not you are one of those people affected by Digital Exclusion - a term which refers to people who, for whatever reason, don't go online.

The Universal Credit, along with most other government and council services, will be "digital by default" and you will need to know how to make your claim. Getting online can be daunting but there are lots of advantages.

Watch this space! WCHG will also be offering plenty of opportunities and venues for you to complete your Universal Credit claim online and for you to learn how to go on line and manage your claim yourself.



### Our Position

Willow Park and Parkway Green strongly opposed the 'bedroom tax' and, working alongside the National Housing Federation (NHF) and Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH), vigorously campaigned against the proposed changes that affect over a quarter of their tenants.

The reality is that there is an acute shortage of one and two bed properties in Wythenshawe which means that the working age tenants in this community are amongst the hardest hit in the country.

**We have a team of experts on hand to help you with any questions or queries you may have.**

**Contact Us Now...  
We are here to help**

**Willow Park Tenants:**  
E: [welfarereform@willow-park.co.uk](mailto:welfarereform@willow-park.co.uk)  
T: 0800 633 55 00

**Parkway Green Tenants:**  
E: [welfarereform@parkwaygreen.co.uk](mailto:welfarereform@parkwaygreen.co.uk)  
T: 0300 111 0000



### Customer Feedback

I would like to commend a lady in your contact centre. She is always polite, jolly, very helpful and always puts me through to the questionnaire after my call.



# Hollyview - New Homes



It is 'Home Sweet Home' for Luke Hesketh and his two-year-old daughter, Sienna, as they became the first residents to move into our new shared ownership homes at Hollyview on Hollyhedge Road.

A local lad from Wythenshawe, Luke works as a care worker at a residential home in Wythenshawe. He is a single parent, sharing childcare for his young daughter. His parents live just around the corner from the Hollyview development, so when he saw the new homes being built he wanted to find out more. He was the first person in the queue when the Show Home opened!

As Luke explains, "I had been saving up FOR a deposit to buy a house with my partner, but when we split up a year or so ago, I didn't quite have the money to buy a house on my own. With the shared ownership scheme I have been able to organise a mortgage for 45% and I pay rent for the remaining 55%. I was in a privately rented 2 bed flat before this, paying more in rent than I am in total now."

This £2.14 million Hollyview scheme of affordable homes includes 15 two-bed houses for shared ownership. The show

home was officially opened by Paul Goggins MP, who said; "In Wythenshawe we simply do not have enough houses to rent and it has become virtually impossible for first time buyers to get a mortgage. This imaginative development will provide young families in particular with an important and affordable new option."

The show home is open Saturdays and Sundays between 10am and 5pm To find out more, contact the Sales Team on **0800 731 4327** or visit [www.willowparksharedownership.com](http://www.willowparksharedownership.com)

▲ Holding the key to a dream home: Dennis Finnegan, Eddy Newman, Paul Goggins and Joe Doherty

Nigel Wilson, Group Chief Executive WCHG, Luke Hesketh and his daughter Sienna; Tony Roden, Executive Director of Property, WCHG. ▼



## Investing in the future

We are busy developing new homes across Wythenshawe both for new tenants and existing tenants.

By increasing our housing stock, and the variety of homes we have on offer, we are giving tenants who might wish to swap homes a greater choice to help meet changing family needs.

All homes are being built to meet the latest standards on appearance, quality, security and efficiency to provide tenants with an attractive, safe, secure and comfortable home.

### Altrincham Road, Baguley

6 affordable two bedroom apartments in Baguley

Built by Wiggett Construction Ltd

Completion December 2013

#### Special features:

The scheme has been grant funded £150k by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).

Looking to the future - artist's impression of Altrincham Road development



### Gladeside Court, Gladeside Road, Brownley Green

12 two bed bungalows on a former Anchor Trust site

Demolition work by contractors M J Finnegan completed in May

Construction starts this summer with completion in 2014

**Special features:**

Two homes specifically designed for wheelchair accessibility. All bungalows will have energy efficient features such as solar panels and high performance thermal insulation.



### Leybrook, Brownley Green

6 two bedroomed bungalows for affordable rent

Build managed by Wiggett Construction

Completion expected in March 2014

**Special features:**

More than 35 Apprentices from WCHG and Manchester College, including bricklayers, joiners, roofers, plasterers, plumbers, electricians, painters and decorators, will be involved in the build.



### Scout Drive, Newall Green

14 affordable bungalows (12 x two bed and 2 x four bed adapted family homes)

Build by locally based Lovell

Completion January 2014

**Special features:**

The scheme has been grant funded £350k by the HCA in partnership with Manchester City Council.



### New Foxfield, Newall Green

68 affordable homes

This development will be officially opened in September

**Special features:**

A mix of housing to cater for families as well as older tenants looking to downsize and free up family homes. The HCA invested £1.7m in the development as part of its Affordable Homes Programme.

More to follow on this development next issue!



◀ pictured left:

Nigel Wilson, Group Chief Executive WCHG, and Chair Eddy Newman



### Customer Feedback

Willow Park are a super landlord ... I NEVER mind paying my rent as what we get is good value...., I always pay one month ahead, it is the only way I can say thank you

## Making contact easy

Our combined customer services teams make sure tenants' and leaseholders' needs are at the forefront of everything that we do.

Come and talk to us in one of our four local offices (Wythenshawe House, Parkway Green House, Portway and Bowland Road).

Call our customer services teams between 8am and 6pm on **0800 633 5500** or our contact centre on **0300 111 0000** from **8am-5.30pm**.

Go online at our new website [www.wchg.org.uk](http://www.wchg.org.uk) to access all these services or follow us on facebook and Twitter [@wythenshawe\\_chg](https://twitter.com/wythenshawe_chg)



**Watch this space as we continue to make contacting us even easier!**



# Money worries?

Affected by benefit changes?  
Struggling to manage your finances?  
Want to feel confident about money?

**FREE MONEY ADVICE DROP-IN SESSION**  
Every Monday 1-4pm  
Wythenshawe House

**We can help you:**

- cope with benefit changes
- find ways to save money
- open a bank account
- avoid loan sharks
- deal with your debts
- improve your job prospects
- understand the cost of borrowing

Contact the Mind Your Money team on **0161 227 1125** or email [mindyourmoney@citysouthmanchester.co.uk](mailto:mindyourmoney@citysouthmanchester.co.uk)

Mind Your Money is Lottery funded and run by City South Manchester Housing Trust, in partnership with Gingerbread, First Asian Support Trust, Wai Yin, and Young People's Support Foundation

## Forging friendships

**Real neighbours. Wythenshawe.**



Real Neighbours volunteers and tenants at four sheltered schemes are forging ever closer links.

At Alfred Morris Court the 'Yarn Bombing' project has resulted in plans for a flower display made out of wool. Tenants have also been receiving 1-2-1 support in IT skills.

At Johannesburg Gardens joint coffee mornings and fund raising events are proving popular. In the pipeline are a Fun Day, BBQ, quizzes and much more.

At Frank Price Court, the weekly social group has been meeting for over a year for bingo, quizzes and afternoon tea.

Real Neighbours are also supporting a six-week pilot at The Forum to host Our Day for a group of people with learning disabilities who used to meet at Hall Lane Resource Centre, until funding ran out.

They also hold the 'Grand Day Out' out every Wednesday 10am-3pm at The Forum for the over 55's. It involves trips out to various places, a silver surfers club, yoga & dancing. For more information please contact Nicola Hamilton on **07525 905 014**.

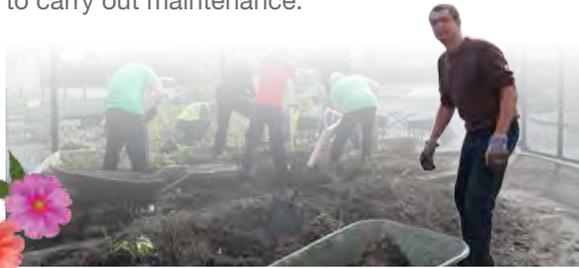


# Spring cleaning on a grand scale

Neighbourhood Officer Leanne Fishwick led a day's environmental project to give Royal Oak and Bideford a great spring clean.

Four skips were brought in and swiftly filled with household waste and bulky items which tenants had been unable to get to a local tip or which were over and above their allocation for bulky collections from Manchester City Council.

As a result, Wellfield Road, Westage Gardens, Longcroft Grove and Pitfield Gardens are looking spick and span, helping tenants look after their gardens in accordance with tenancy agreements and making it much easier to access properties to carry out maintenance.



## Our Performance

WCHG is building upon the excellent performance of the two Trusts and continues to deliver some of the best performance figures in Manchester.

The Group has set stretching performance targets and actions are in place in order to ensure they are achieved for customers.



## Join the Festival fun ... and meet Mr Bloom

Wythenshawe's annual Garden City Festival on Saturday 14 September is set to be a celebration of local horticulture, produce and good food.

This free community event in the town centre includes cooking demonstrations and a children's cookery theatre; Simon Tetlow, Tatton Park's head gardener, will be holding a Q&A session and young gardeners will love Mr Bloom's 'Growing up Green' workshops - with Ben Faulks, the presenter of Cbeebies 'Mr Bloom's Nursery'.

WCHG's team will also be on hand to answer all your housing queries. Visit [www.facebook.com/gardencityfestival](http://www.facebook.com/gardencityfestival) or follow @GardenCityFest for the latest updates.



## Estate Walkabouts

These are a great way for you to meet Neighbourhood Officers and other staff and highlight any issues good or bad.

### Willow Park tenants\*

- 21.8.13**  
Sharston/ Benchill (10am);  
Poundswick / Browley Green (10.30am);  
Woodhouse Park/Moss Nook/ Peel Hall (2pm)
- 20.11.13**  
Sharston/ Benchill (10am);  
Poundswick / Browley Green (10.30am);  
Woodhouse Park/Moss Nook/ Peel Hall (2pm)

\*call us on 0800 633 5500 for more details if you want to take part.

### Parkway Green tenants\*

- 30.7.13** – Newall Green North
- 20.8.13** – Northenden
- 24.9.13** – Royal Oak
- 29.10.13** – Brooklands
- 19.11.13** – Butcher Lane
- 17.12.13** – Northern Moor
- 21.1.14** – Newall Green South
- 25.2.14** – Northenden
- 25.3.14** – Bideford

\*call us on 0300 111 0000, text 0161 945 5730 or email [info@parkwaygreen.co.uk](mailto:info@parkwaygreen.co.uk) for details if you want to take part.



### Customer Feedback

I just want to say how pleased I was with the operative who did the work on my carbon monoxide detector. He was very quick and cleaned up, leaving no mess.

# Neighbourhood Wardens on patrol

Neighbourhood Wardens are out and about patrolling the streets of West Wythenshawe as part of WCHG's commitment to reducing crime and anti social behaviour (ASB).

They work from 1.30pm to 9.45pm on foot, bike and in vans to:

- Patrol the area, in particularly those with specific problems
- Keep an eye on what is going on (their presence often deters ASB)
- Offer crime prevention advice
- Act as professional witnesses and provide mobile CCTV surveillance
- Work with the community and residents groups
- Keep in contact with vulnerable people
- Liaise with the police and support joint operations.



## How will I recognise the Wardens?

The Wardens have distinctive uniforms and patrol the area in blue vans that carry the Wardens' logo.

## How can I contact the Wardens?

You can request assistance or report an incident to the Wardens by calling 0161 946 9501

For further information about the Neighbourhood Wardens service contact Simon Melloy, Housing Services Manager, on 0800 633 5500.

## Targeting ASB hotspots

A hard-hitting initiative has been launched to target ASB hotspots and improve the quality of life for Baguley residents.

In a six-week operation, which began in June, the Community Safety Team and the Neighbourhood Wardens are working with partner agencies, including Greater Manchester Police, to patrol Royal Oak and the Bideford Estate.

They are tackling low-level crime and anti social behaviour, and referring young people to diversionary activities available in the area. Special patrols are being held on Friday nights.

Residents should contact Greater Manchester Police on 101 to report any incidents so that dedicated officers can respond.

## Caught on camera!

CCTV cameras are to be installed in hotspot areas for crime and anti social behaviour in West Wythenshawe over the coming months.

The cameras, which can be monitored 24/7 by CCTV staff and the police from the control room at Wythenshawe House, will both deter crime and ASB in the area and help to apprehend offenders.

The cameras have already had a massive impact on crime in East Wythenshawe.



## Junior Wardens transform woods

Our Junior Wardens have been working hard over the last 12 months helping to clean up Crossacres woods and Hatchet woods, and getting involved in the "Grow Wild Project" on Greenwood Road. More than 15 Junior Wardens have also completed a First Aid Course.



They have been rewarded with a weekend away at Kingswood Outdoor Education Centre - a chance to develop their skills and confidence and have lots of fun.

## Joining forces to fight crime

All WCHG tenants and leaseholders can use a new service which puts police officers in the heart of the community with police posts at Wythenshawe House and at Parkway Green House.

It means you can speak to representatives from Parkway Green or Willow Park, Manchester City Council and Greater Manchester Police in one place, rather than making three separate trips.

It also means we can easily share information with police to ensure that appropriate action is taken to keep Wythenshawe's communities **SAFE**.



### Your invitation

Talk to representatives from Greater Manchester Police, Manchester City Council, Parkway Green and Willow Park

**Every Wednesday | 11am to 12 noon**

at Parkway Green House or Bowland Road

**11am to 2pm**

at Wythenshawe House

**Contact the police**

To contact the Wythenshawe Policing Team, please call them on **0161 856 4882** or email **wythenshawe@gmp.police.uk**.

Residents can also keep up-to-date with news from the Wythenshawe Neighbourhood Policing Team by following them on Twitter and Facebook. Follow **@GMPWythenshawe** or like **GMP Wythenshawe** on Facebook.

You can also follow Parkway Green on Twitter: **@parkwaygreen** or Willow Park **(@willowPKhousing)**.

## News from the courts



### Jailed

A tenant has been sentenced to 56 days in prison after breaching an Injunction Order obtained after Parkway Green received reports about intentional and repeated loud banging, verbal abuse, threats and loud music. The tenant was arrested after serious threats were reported to the Police.

### Excluded

A man has been excluded for twelve months from his parents' home where he had been staying, and the tenants received a court injunction with the power of arrest after Willow Park provided evidence to the Courts that the man has threatened neighbours with violence.

### Home Possession

The Courts granted Parkway Green possession of a property following anti-social behaviour and criminal activities. The tenant has allowed family and visitors to be verbally abusive, use cannabis at the address and allowed groups of youths to congregate and cause a disturbance.

### Customer Feedback

We turned up to carry out brick cleaning works to a tenant's home and they were unaware that our contractors were attending. They felt they should have been informed.

**We acted:** We reminded staff that all tenants must be advised in advance when contractors are carrying out work to tenants' homes.





**Benchill Community Centre**  
Benchill Road, Benchill, M22 8EJ  
Tel: 0161 945 0879  
[www.benchillcommunitycentre.co.uk](http://www.benchillcommunitycentre.co.uk)

## Benchill Open Day

**Healthy Fun in the Sun**

### Saturday 20th July 2013

**11am - 3pm**

- FREE attractions including bouncy castles, carousel and helter skelter!
- Donkey rides!
- Football Tournament with MUFoundation Trophy & Penalty Shoot out
- BBQ, tuck shop and refreshments
- Tombola
- Face Painting
- Pharmacy & Health checks
- Ice Cream, Popcorn and Candy Floss
- Raffle
- Beach area
- Fruit Kebabs and Cocktails
- Games and Gift Stalls
- Entertainment—dancers, DJ and more!

**Don't miss out on what's guaranteed to be an amazing, fun-filled day!**

For more information or to book a stall on the day contact Rochelle on 0161 945 0879 or [rochelleonergan@willow-park.co.uk](mailto:rochelleonergan@willow-park.co.uk)  
Benchill Community Centre, Benchill Road, Wythenshawe, M22 8EJ



**Meet Fred the Red!**










◀ Fun memories with people at a Benchill community day.



## Bideford Centre

The Bideford Community Centre has successfully re-launched its Garden Project with volunteers and WCHG staff getting stuck in!

All the potting and hanging of flower baskets, making wooden plant boxes and digging out of overgrown flower beds across Bideford has paid off!

Paul, who lives on the estate, said:

**“It is great to see the place looking more summery with the baskets. It cheers me up to look out of the windows.”**

Why not take part? The garden project at the Bideford Centre happens every Tuesday and Thursday alongside other activities.



**Bideford Community Centre**

**Bideford Community Centre**  
Bideford Drive, Baguley, M23 0QH

Tel: Nicola Hamilton, Well Being Coordinator on: 0161 946 6468 or email: [nicola.hamilton@wchg.org.uk](mailto:nicola.hamilton@wchg.org.uk)



Woodhouse Lifestyle Centre  
Portway (junction with Selstead Road), M22 1QW

Tel: 0161 436 0560  
[www.WoodhouseParkLifestyleCentre.co.uk](http://www.WoodhouseParkLifestyleCentre.co.uk)

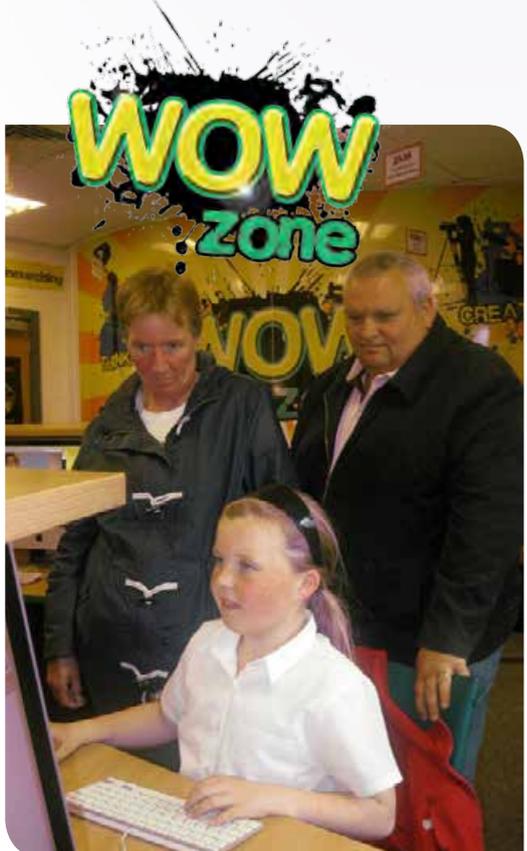
# WOW ..ing their families

Excited children at the WOW Zone in the Woodhouse Park Lifestyle Centre, were able to amaze their families during an Open Week.

The children have been working on ICT based learning programmes such as movie making, music technology, animation and web design. Pupils from Peel Hall Primary School have been helping to promote the Real Food Wythenshawe Project- see page 16.

One parent commented; "The WOW Zone initiative has been a fantastic experience for our family - thank you very much!"

Up to 400 children a year from schools across Wythenshawe take part every year, after school, in holidays or during the daytime.



## Great news:

The Lifestyle Centre's funding bid to Manchester City Council's Youth Commissioning was successful - safeguarding the programme for young people in Woodhouse Park for the next two years.



# It's Ace!

Lifestyle Centre staff were amongst those taking part in Tennis Activators first steps tennis coaching to learn how to introduce local kids to the game.

Woodhouse Lifestyle Centre  
Portway (junction with Selstead Road), M22 1QW

Tel: 0161 436 0560  
[www.WoodhouseParkLifestyleCentre.co.uk](http://www.WoodhouseParkLifestyleCentre.co.uk)



## Trying to stop smoking?

**You don't have to do it alone!**

Get free support to help you stop smoking from Manchester Stop Smoking Service

- Health benefits
- More money
- Free nicotine replacement medication etc — if appropriate
- Information on latest treatments
- No lectures, just friendly support

Woodhouse Park Lifestyle Centre  
Portway  
Tuesdays 12:00—2:00

For more information, please tel:  
**0161 205 5998**





# Back in Work

WCHG Work Clubs have been running since February, and have helped more than 30 tenants and **WYTHENSHAWE** residents in all sorts of ways. The first two people to get jobs following help from the club are simply delighted!

**David Steele's** previous job ended in 2004, and since 2008 he had been working as a volunteer. After spending two weeks on a Willow Park pre-employment course, and with help from the Work Club to create a professional CV, he was offered a position at Manchester Airport. He now helps disabled travellers make their way around the terminal.

**Moshood Olawale** had been unemployed for just over a year. The Work Club helped him develop his CV, complete job application forms and prepared him for interviews - and he received two job offers! He now works in Home Care and has been enjoying it ever since.

If you would like to join the Work Club or find out what it could do for you, contact WCHG Employment Coordinator Richard Hancock on **0161 946 6374** or email on [richard.hancock@wchg.org.uk](mailto:richard.hancock@wchg.org.uk).



Successful Job hunter, Moshood Olawale ▲

## Apprentices shine out

We have 21 apprentices learning a selection of trades and they are proving real stars!

Congratulations to 2nd year joinery apprentices Kirstie Sales and Matthew Preston whose dedication has meant they both completed their NVQ more than eight weeks ahead of schedule.

Roofing apprentice Reece Wheelan is also in his second year and has excelled so much that he is working at the same level as an experienced roofer.

We have nominated him in this year's National Apprenticeship Awards for Apprentice of the Year. As part of an Apprenticeship Challenge he has also visited his old high school, St Paul's, to give a short presentation to pupils on his experiences as an apprentice.

Many of our apprentices will be involved in building new bungalows on Leybrook Road, see pages 6 & 7. This will provide them with priceless experience...



Reece Wheelan, our nomination for Apprentice of the Year ▶

If you would like some help accessing work or training, pick up a Real Opportunities form from any of our offices or email [realopportunities@wchg.org.uk](mailto:realopportunities@wchg.org.uk)

Real opportunities. Wythenshawe.

**Fact file**

**1,000**  
people have signed up

**400**  
have had a positive outcome

**30%**  
of which have gone into work.

Michelle, 34, from Baguley said,  
"Before Real Opportunities, I didn't even know where to start. It has given me more of a path towards the childcare route I always wanted to follow, and since joining I have moved closer towards my goal."

NAME: Wythenshawe  
NOW: Real Opportunities

# Helping students look to the future

Around 60 students from Manchester Enterprise Academy took part in spring BW3 Get Hired workshops.

WCHG staff were amongst those giving advice on CV writing, job searching, application forms and how to present yourself. Nearly half of those taking part chose to have a mock interview with BW3 business volunteers.

One student said,

**“I will be able to take what I have learnt into my interviews and use the feedback I was given.”**

The BW3 Get Hired events take place in each of the high schools in Wythenshawe. In the last two years **232 students** have taken part, with **97%** feeling they had the skills and understanding required to get hired, compared to **79%** before the event.

## Face to face with employers

Nearly 700 Wythenshawe residents attended a BW3 Get Hired event at The Forum in March to meet with employers who were taking CVs and applications for jobs on the day.

Employers such as Aegis, Intelling and Lonely Planet each had a number of live jobs on the day or in the immediate future.

One person who attended said: “It is good that everything is in one place and nicer to talk to someone face to face rather than on the internet.”

There was also plenty of information available about training opportunities and other employment seeking advice. In feedback, 92% of people said they would like more events of this kind.

Get Hired events are organised by the BW3 group, including WCHG, Manchester City Council and Job Centre Plus. To find out more about Get Hired please speak to your Job Centre Plus (JCP) advisor or **call Stephanie Quinn at WCHG on 0800 633 5500.**



## Futures grow stronger

Half of all those who have completed the WCHG Futures programme have secured work with another 11% going on to further training.

Futures is a paid 12 month training programme, offering work experience, qualifications and personal development to those who need a stepping stone before accessing main stream employment.

To find out more contact Victoria McDowell on **0300 111 0000** or **0800 633 5500**



### Customer Feedback

We would like to thank all the staff involved in our move. Everyone has been so kind and helpful. Please thank the builders for their exceptional work carried out.

# Are you Street Red...dy?

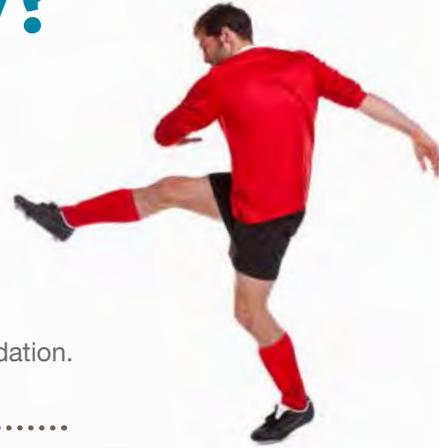


Foundation

Get coached by MU Foundation experts through the Hub of the Community Programme at the Manchester Health Academy.

Its Street Reds programme provides evening coaching for different age groups from 8 to 18.

It's all part of a link-up between WCHG and the MU Foundation. For more information go to [www.mufoundation.org.uk](http://www.mufoundation.org.uk)



# Real Food - bringing communities together



## Real Food. Wythenshawe.

A five-year Real Food Wythenshawe (RFW) project aims to give us all a taste for locally grown fruit and vegetables.

Its target is to put the area on the UK's top table for exciting and effective food projects in the 21st Century!

Real Food Programme Manager Jacqueline Naraynsingh is working with 14 community groups interested in growing fruit and veg. She has already distributed vegetable plants to Crossacre Cultivators, Bideford Community Centre, Frank Price Court and the Co-op Day Nursery, and is organising more distribution days.

She says; "I have been really impressed with the amount of work going on in Wythenshawe around sustainable food and growing. It's been long established here. Everyone is really up for the Real Food Project and I have been warmly welcomed by all."

Projects include the exciting creation of a biosphere at The Manchester College's Wythenshawe Campus - a hi-tech growing system which will give local schools and groups an opportunity to see new and innovative ways of growing food. Other projects are:

- Green Spaces to Growing Spaces with WCHG helping tenants use their own gardens to grow fruit and veg
- mapping and harvesting the many fruit trees in the area
- use of Wythenshawe Park Walled Garden as a hub for community growing
- a focus on cooking and eating sustainably.

Dates for the diary:  
**27 July - 3 August**, RFW will host a tent at Wythenshawe Games, providing an interesting programme of events including: how to keep chickens, cooking demos, gardener's question time.

If you have a project in mind or would like to get involved, please contact Jacqueline at: **0161 946 7554** or email on: [Jacqueline.Naraynsingh@willow-park.co.uk](mailto:Jacqueline.Naraynsingh@willow-park.co.uk)  
 More info: <http://realfoodwythenshawe.com>



▲  
**Real Food Programme Manager, Jacqueline Naraynsingh**

## Youth conference

Our Youth Conference will be held on **Friday 2 August** as part of the Wythenshawe Games events in Wythenshawe Park. For more information visit the website [www.wythenshawegames.org.uk](http://www.wythenshawegames.org.uk). We will be including details of how it went in our next issue.



# BACK BY PUBLIC DEMAND!

## THE WYTHENSHAW GAMES 2013

### FREE SPORTS FOR ALL AGES

CYCLING, TENNIS, FOOTBALL, RUNNING, BASEBALL, CHEERLEADING, CRICKET, TABLE TENNIS, HOCKEY, LITTLE SPORTS, DODGEBALL, LACROSSE, KORFBALL, MARTIAL ARTS AND MORE!

### 27 JULY TO 3 AUGUST

[www.wythenshawegames.org.uk](http://www.wythenshawegames.org.uk)



To coincide with the games there will be activities at other centres around Wythenshawe that will link to the parks! Not just sport either - there will be a host different activities going on and with something for everyone - to find out more please visit the website.

## A 'World Class' Academy

Manchester Enterprise Academy (MEA) has transformed itself to become one of the most improved schools in the country.



When Ofsted inspectors visited in March 2013 they said that:

- Teaching is GOOD ✓
- Behaviour is GOOD ✓
- Leadership and Management are GOOD ✓

Ofsted also stated that 'students are now making good progress in lessons and that students' communication skills are continually improving'.

## Wythenshawe Together

### Book 3 August in your diary!



Wythenshawe Together Carnival Day will be following on from the Games Festival in Wythenshawe Park. The day will include a parade, fun fair, stalls, food and a huge marquee filled with entertainment. Wythenshawe Together hosted a successful Diamond Jubilee celebration last year.

If you are interested in getting involved contact Eric Smith on **07950 879465**.

# Meet the Involvement Team

- they need you!!!

Pictured from left: Dean Slavin, Gemma Waddell, Graham Heslin, Jasmine Slack, Pedro Odidja, Penny Waller. ▼



A combined WCHG Involvement Team brings together the Parkway Green and Willow Park teams and is based at Parkway Green House in Northenden.

We are here to help you Get Involved and improve the jobs being done at WCHG!

Many thanks to all our tenants who are already actively involved with us. We hope that many more will take up opportunities to get involved in three more areas:

- **Service Review Group: tenant-led audits of our business to see how we are doing**

- **Local Performance Panels: to help improve your estate**

- **Inspectors/monitors and auditors: to take part in one-off exercises that help keep us on our toes!**

Involvement is free and you don't need any special skills. We also offer training and take tenants to events and conferences.

You will meet and get to know other involved tenants and take part in activities which fit the times you have available.

If you are interested in Getting Involved in any of our Panels or Groups contact the team on **0161 946 6369**, email [getinvolved@wchg.org.uk](mailto:getinvolved@wchg.org.uk) or visit Parkway Green House, 460 Palatine Road M224DJ

## Could this be you...?

Our Involved Tenants have been working with us ever since the new WCHG structure was announced. They have been helping to develop involvement opportunities for tenants from across the group.

Two events held by the Resident Involvement Team showcased the many involvement opportunities, and recruited people to the six new improved "Customer Panels".

Four of the Panels will cover several service areas:

**Home Panel** – Property Services

**Customer Involvement & Empowerment** – Customer Involvement

**Neighbourhoods & Community** – Neighbourhoods and Community Safety

**Tenancy** – Allocations and Tenancy Support

The Grants Panel and Communication Panel focus solely on these topics.

As a result of the two events, 57 residents have already signed up to fill 139 seats of membership across the panels! This is phenomenal and will allow the group to really put tenants at the heart of WCHG.

## Wordy Worm competition



Find five chunky green words **JUST LIKE THIS** in this issue to make up a word worm sentence, and send it to:

Word Worm  
Wythenshawe House,  
Poundswick Lane,  
Wythenshawe, M22 9TA

or email to:  
[info@wchg.org.uk](mailto:info@wchg.org.uk)  
by 30 August 2013.

All correct entries will be entered in a prize draw and one lucky person will **win £50**.

**Don't forget to include your contact details.**



Pictured above: ▲

**Our Involvement Team at the Civic Centre**

**Gemma helping you become involved in what we do**

## Bee aware!



We have had a number of calls about wasps in brickwork which have turned out to be masonry bees. Masonry bees do not sting and are beneficial for the environment, and we would only remove them if they were nesting by front doors or causing a problem inside your home. Masonry bees like to use mud to build their homes, so you may see mud in air bricks if they are present! Wasps become active from June so any 'wasps' spotted before that are likely to be masonry bees.



## £1,135 boost for Key 103's Cash for Kids

WCHG Staff raised over £1,000 for Wythenshawe Hospital as part of radio station Key 103's Cash for Kids Day. Two of our sheltered housing schemes also took part and between them they collected an additional £135. Well done to everyone!



Ken Collis Court



Frank Price court

## Surprise!

Many happy returns to tenant Albert Clarke of West View Road who has been involved with Wythenshawe Cricket Club for a number of years. The club held a surprise 90th Birthday party for him.

## Blooming great

Congratulations to green fingered tenants at West View Court who won a Silver Gilt 'Thriving Award' in the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) 'It's Your Neighbourhood's Award' for their fabulous work transforming an open space.



West View Court- Chair of the Residents Group Wilf Cooper and former chair Steve Thompson pick up the award



## Willow Park Tenant and Resident Group Contacts

Group	Contact	Phone
Benchill Tenants and Residents Association	Graham Loose	0161 946 0684
Benchill, Crossacres, Peelhall and Sharston	Graham Heslin	0161 946 7565
Woodhouse Park, Moss Nook Community Forum	Graham Heslin	0161 946 7565

## Parkway Green Tenant and Resident Group Contacts

Group	Contact	Phone
Royal Oak Community Group	Gina Hall	0161 998 2146
Shenton TA	Jackie Butterley	0161 998 6855
Newall Green T&RA	Wyn Casey	0161 998 4970
Royle Green TA	Steve Thompson	0161 945 7385
Northern Moor T&RA	Bernard Caine	0161 902 9221
Butcher Lane T&RA	Kirsty Taylor	0161 283 2800
New Baguley T&RA	Glen Kamara	0161 286 0379
Bideford TA	Viv Haslam	0161 283 3063

## Your message here?

If you would like to put a message on the Community Noticeboard, email [p.odjidja@parkwaygreen.co.uk](mailto:p.odjidja@parkwaygreen.co.uk) or ring 0300 111 0000 and ask for Pedro.



0300 111 0000



0161 945 5730



info@wchg.org.uk



Parkway Green House  
460 Palatine Road, Northenden, M22 4DJ  
or 137 Bowland Road, Baguley, M23 1LE



www.parkwaygreen.co.uk



@parkwaygreen



0800 633 5500



Text **WILLOW** followed  
by your message to **86688**



enquiries@willow-park.co.uk



Wythenshawe House,  
8 Poundswick Lane, Wythenshawe,  
Manchester M22 9TA

or 294 Portway, Woodhouse Park  
Manchester M22 1TG



www.willow-park.co.uk



@willowPKhousing



للحصول على هذه المعلومات بأي لغة أو بالبرايل أو بالحروف الكبيرة أو على شريط الرجاء الإتصال برقم الهاتف الموجود أسفله.

Arabic

如欲索取這資料以任何語言或盲人用點字、大字印刷編制的版本或錄音帶，請致電下列號碼。

Chinese

لطفا برای دریافت این اطلاعات به زبان های دیگر، به خط بریل (خط ویژه افراد نابینا)، چاپ درشت و یا بر روی نوار یا شماره تلفن زیر تماس بگیرید.

Farsi

Pour recevoir ces informations dans d'autres langues, en Braille, en gros caractères, ou sur bande sonore, prière d'appeler le numéro de téléphone ci-dessous.

French

यदि आप यह जानकारी किसी दूसरी भाषा, ब्रैल, बड़े प्रिन्ट या टेप में चाहते हैं तो कृपया नीचे दिये गये नम्बर पर फोन कीजिए।

Hindi

بۆ بڵاوست هینانی نەم زانیاریانە بە هەر زمانێک یان بە بریال، بیتی گەورە یان لەسەر شریت، نەوا تکیابە تەلەفۆن بکە بۆ نەم ژمارەیی خوارووە.

Kurdish

Si aad u hesho macluumaadkaani oo ku qoran luqad kasta, tan indhoolaha, daabacaad balaaran ama cajal ku duuban fadlan telefoonka hoos ku qoran:

Somali

یہ معلومات کسی بھی زبان، بریل، بڑے حروف یا ٹیپ پر حاصل کرنے کے لئے براہ کرم ذیل کے نمبر پر فون کیجئے۔

Urdu

Nếu cần bản tin này bằng ngôn ngữ khác, bằng chữ nổi cho người mù, chữ in lớn hay băng ghi âm, xin vui lòng gọi điện thoại số dưới đây:

Vietnamese

Neighbourhood Warden/24-hour Control Room: **0161 946 9501**

Improvement Programme: **0161 946 9501**

Planned Programme works and new builds: **0161 946 9566**

For Wythenshawe Community Housing Group go to **www.wchg.org.uk**

Our offices are open during weekdays, except on Bank Holidays.

Find us on facebook or follow us on twitter:

**@wythenshawe\_chg**



## Introducing your Wythenshawe Life

Please let us know what you think of this edition Wythenshawe Life, how it can be approved and what you would like to see in it in future editions. Email **info@wchg.org.uk** or ring **0300 111 0000**.



**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: info@wchg.org.uk**