

**Community Liaison and Equality and Diversity  
Report for the Standing Joint Committee  
of Doncaster Federation of Tenants and Residents  
Associations**

**February 2010**



**Community Liaison Team**

**AGMs in March 2010**

**Redhouse TARA 4 March 2010 Whinfell Close Communal Hall at 6.30pm**

**Polton Close TARA 11 March 2010 Polton Close Communal Hall at 2.00pm**

**Westbourne & Mallard TARA 8 March 2010 Westbourne Gardens Communal Hall at 4.00pm**

**CLO Request**

Can all TARAs please be reminded that housekeeping must be carried out at the beginning of **every** meeting? This also needs to be shown in the minutes of the meeting. This is one of the new Health & Safety requirements for all public meetings. Thank You.

**TARA NEWS**

***To get your TARA included in this report, please contact the Community Liaison Team on 01302 862292 with any good news stories.***

### **Latin Gardens & Emley Drive TARA**

Latin Gardens TARA has secured funding of around £1000 from Living Streets, the estates team, ward councillors and Brodsworth Parish Council.

The TARA is steps closer to being a 'weed free estate'. Gardening expert George Oliver shared with the group last year how he manages to keep his grass clear of weeds, and how great it would be if St. Leger Homes grassed areas could be treated with the same weed killer. Funding of £475 has been secured from 'Grass Roots' funding.

The TARA have also managed to secure 10 new lightweight chairs, which will help hall users with setting and clearing up.

The Communal Hall will also receive a brand new kitchen from Decency Contractors Henry Boot.

### **Edlington Royal TARA**

The TARA is lending their support to the Friends of Martinwells Lake. The group have entered a national funding competition to attempt to secure a £20,000 funding grant from Bovril. The closing date is 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2010.

### **Westbourne & Mallard TARA**

Westbourne have been successful in applying for an 'Awards For All' grant for £1500 for a new scooter/ wheelchair shelter for Westbourne Communal Hall.

### **Balby Bridge TARA**

The Balby Bridge TARA held activities for children over the half term holiday. These sessions featured a range of games, which took place in The Boughen Centre and were attended by around 30 children per session.

### **Intake Central TARA**

A Gala will be taking place on Monday 3 May (May Day) on the grounds of Intake library & community centre. Stalls are available to groups and individuals at £6 per pitch. To book a stall, please contact Gavin Shawcroft, Community Liaison Officer.

### **Jubilee Court tenants' club**

Jubilee Court, formed as our newest tenants' club this month. They are a social group and have expressed an interest in holding Pool tournaments with other Clubs/ TARAs. Please inform the Community Liaison team if your group is interested in linking up with this group on this.

### **Polton Close Air Ambulance bra appeal**

The number of bras collected to date adding to the campaign total is now over **7566** bras. The appeal has collected 1566 bras since January. 10,000 bras is the groups target for 2010/11. Chairperson, Eddy, is happy to pick up larger collections of bras from TARAs. If tenants have bras to donate please ring him on 01302 840014.

Polton Close TARA has just completed 6 weeks of Chair-Based Exercise and feel fitter for it, as well as strengthening the leg muscles, Eddy's biceps are well prepared for lifting his pint.

# **“Unity in the Community 2010”**

## **A FREE event for the people of Doncaster**

**Doncaster Racecourse**

**Saturday 13 MARCH 2010 – 10am to 3pm with the  
Federation of Tenants and Residents AGM held 3-4pm .**

- \* FREE Shuttle bus service from the INTERCHANGE - C6**
- \* FREE Light refreshments – tea, coffee & orange juice**
- \* FREE Family entertainment**

**Look what’s on –**

- **Moorends Carefree Marching Band**
- **Dancing demonstrations and workshops**
- **Street dancing demonstrations**
- **Sine FM Outside Broadcasting Vehicle- Transmitting on the day**
- **Irish dancing demonstrations**
- **Play buses**
- **Face painting**
- **Street Entertainers**
- **TARA Corner (Promotion of a number of new and established associations)**
- **Doncaster Gunslingers – Quick-draw display.**
- **Possibly Bungee run and sumo suits**
- **Smartwater technology – crime prevention.**
- **All Star Taekwondo Display**
- **150 – 170 agencies having stands at the event**

### **And much, much more**

**STANDS include St. Leger Homes, Bramall Construction, Wates Living Space and Henry Boot with a display of a Decency Kitchen/Bathroom and heating boilers.**

**Demonstrations by South Yorkshire Police and the Fire Service**

**Doncaster Federation of Tenants and Residents Association’s Annual General Meeting will be held on the day, along with the Federation’s very own OSCAR Awards and the Grand Raffle**

*For more details, contact 01302 737490.*

## **Everyone Welcome!**

## Community News

### St. Leger Homes Community Liaison Team

#### **TRAINING (Get £'s for your TARA)**

Don't forget that by undertaking our training sessions, up to four committee members will receive £10 each towards their TARA funds for attending any training session and up to six committee members attending Committee Skills training. Please let us know if there is any training you think would be useful to your group for us to include in the next programme.

#### **Committee Skills Training**



This can be booked through your Community Liaison Officer and it can be done at a venue of your choice, at a time to suit your members. It is an opportunity to brush up your Committee skills and have a bit of fun. Those who have already taken up this training have thoroughly enjoyed it and have been surprised at how much they gained from doing it.

40 TARAs have completed their committee skills training and some have already had their certificates presented to them at their TARA meetings. Currently Four TARAs are waiting dates when the training will take place

We would like all TARA committees to take part in this as it helps build confidence and ensures a consistent message is delivered across the TARAs. The purpose is to highlight the roles and responsibilities of a committee and how to run effective meetings. We can deliver this training in the morning, afternoon or evening in a venue near you and at whatever time suits your committee.

#### **Chair-Based Exercises for the Frailer Older Person**

Lynne Harrison, one of your community liaison officers, is now able to deliver these sessions, as she has recently passed the central YMCA qualification 'level 2' award in Chair-Based Exercise for the Older Person. Lynne, whose course was funded by Age Concern, can now teach the exercises to Tenants Clubs and TARAs.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the sessions on offer should ring Lynne on 01302 862272 or speak to their Community Liaison Officer.

## **New Tenant Training Programme for 2010-11**

**Watch this space!**

# FREE TENANT TRAINING PROGRAMME

2009-10

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone Number.....

**Please contact a Community Liaison Officer if you are interested in any of the FREE TRAINING below or you can contact the Community Liaison Team on:  
Telephone: 01302 862292; Fax: 01302 862720**

**E-mail: [communityliaison@stlegerhomes.co.uk](mailto:communityliaison@stlegerhomes.co.uk)**

Date	Time	Course	Please tick ✓	Venues *See below
17 Mar 10	9.15 – 15.00	Confidence Building /Self Esteem		TRRC
23 Mar 10	9.15 – 15.00	Minute Taking		TRRC

**CHC = Carr House Centre SAH = Salvation Army Hall; TRRC = Tenants and Residents Resource Centre; BC = Boughen Centre**

Other courses available are:

Making the Most of Later Life

Food Safety in Catering, Level 2

Basic Equal opportunities

Mystery Shopping

DIY Skills (Bentley Training Centre)

First Aid

Committee Skills

Basic English and Maths (AFCL)

Monitoring after Grants

Healthy Living

Horticulture

Asylum Seeker Awareness

Good Living/Good Housekeeping

Equality and Diversity Awareness

**Special Interest Groups**

## **Doncaster Young Tenants Action Group (DYTAG)**



The group last met on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February. At this meeting we were joined by Jackie Linacre and Rob Chappel who discuss the new, reviewed Repairs and Maintenance Policy. There have been many changes made to the way the system works to help support tenants and stay within Value for Money Guidelines. DYTAG have given the new strategy a big thumbs up and feel it will be a major improvement on an already successful service.

DYTAG have set up a plan for the Unity in the Community event on the 13<sup>th</sup> March. Several of the DYTAG group have confirmed their attendance.

### **Rural Focus Group**

This group is currently under review.

### **Disability Focus Group**

The last meeting of the Disability Focus Group was Wednesday 24 February 2010, when the Parliamentary Outreach Team followed up their visit last year, and attended to give further information on Petitions.

### **BME Doncaster Settlers TARA**

The BME Doncaster Settlers TARA met on Monday 22 February. Paul Lightfoot, Rob Chapple and Jackie Linacre consulted on the review of the Repairs Policy, requesting feedback from the group.

The BME TARA also received updates on the proposed Social Enterprise, and progress of members who have recently completed the City & Guilds 7303 Preparing for Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector course (PTLLS). The 13-week course started on Tuesday 3 November, and finished on 16 February 2010. Eight members of the BME Doncaster Settlers TARA enrolled on the course, and all sessions are now complete. Members who gain the qualification should then have the necessary expertise to set up a Social Enterprise delivering Equality & Diversity training. The group are also working closely with Tony Appleton from Doncaster CVS, who is offering advice and support regarding drawing up a Business Plan for the proposed Social Enterprise.

## **Big Word Language Line Training for Staff**

The Team are planning to visit all Team Meetings throughout February and March to deliver refresher briefings on the communication aids that are available through St Leger Homes, such as the Big Word Language Line, Translation and Interpretation services and Deaf Equipment. In addition, staff will be informed that customers, who have completed Customer Profile Questionnaires and requested that they are contacted in alternative languages, will be receiving instructions on how to access our services. By raising awareness of the nature of the anticipated calls, staff will be better equipped to deal with enquiries.

### **Facebook**

After the new innovates reported last month the use of Facebook is still increasing, not only from our tenants but also our staff. This is a very useful tool to keep people up to date with events and information. As reported last month, we now have several groups and a TARA Corner page, with attendance growing continually.

### **Action 4 Employment**

The Team have been meeting with Mark Gradley and Steven Steel from Action 4 Employment, who are involved with the Connect to Work scheme. SLH are working in Partnership with Action 4 Employment by sign posting candidates to the scheme. Action 4 Employment help and support people to get back to work, with practical jobs skills, training and strong personal support. A4E can offer the following support:

- Up to £250 to help you find and sustain employment
- "Return to Work Better Off" Benefit Calculations
- Personal "Action Plan" / job search / Career advice / CV and interview preparation
- 52 weeks in work support
- Back to work plan to maximise your transferable skills
- Work trials
- Motivation and confidence building

In conjunction with the Community Liaison Team, Action 4 Employment supplied fliers which were sent to every tenant in the January Rent Statement mail out.

### **Vulnerable Persons Database**

Vivien Binks is currently researching the feasibility of setting up a Vulnerable Persons Database, by benchmarking other organisations. This is being developed in the New Year after consultation with Andrea Jarratt, Zoe Muscroft and Julie Jablonski. The intention is to establish a coordinated approach of support and assistance for our vulnerable customers.

### **Equality and Diversity Guide**

The Team is currently drafting an Equality and Diversity Guide which will inform staff on a wide variety of issues addressed within the St Leger Homes of Doncaster Single Equality Scheme.