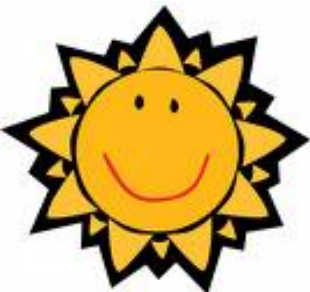


Get Involved!

Update Number 7

Welcome to our Summer edition of 'Get Involved'



Summer is here at last – we hope that you are enjoying the nice weather, let's hope it stays with us for a while! Since our last update we have been an extremely busy here at Rykneld. Our inspection by the Audit Commission is now complete and we would like to thank all the tenants who took the time to be part of the process by participating in various focus groups and meetings. Please read on for more information about the inspection, as well as details of other ways in which you have been getting involved and some new and exciting opportunities.

If you have any ideas or suggestions please get in touch:

Tel: 01246 217670

Email: get.involved@rykneldhomes.org.uk

Address: Community Involvement Team, Rykneld Homes, Pioneer House, Mill Lane, Wingerworth, Derbyshire, S42 6NT

Join our Youth Panel

Are you aged 11-19 and ready for a new and exciting challenge? We are looking to recruit to our Youth Panel and involve young people in their local community and the running of our business.

The Panel is being re-launched in partnership with North East Derbyshire District Council. The members of the Youth Panel will be asked to give their views on issues which affect young people and their local communities and will also be offered the opportunity to get involved with planning issues, join focus groups and run community projects.

Anyone aged 11-19-years-old can become a member of the panel – you do not have to be a Council tenant or live in a Council home. All we ask is that you live in the North East Derbyshire district. The Panel will mainly communicate by email or post, but members may be invited to attend occasional meetings. Members will receive regular feedback on how you have helped us to make decisions and improvements, and what impact this has had. **Get involved and make a real difference!**

If you would like to join the Youth Panel please contact Jessica Popplewell in the Community Involvement Team. If you are under 16 years of age you need to get a parent or guardian to give you permission to join the Panel.

TSA Consultation events



Following on from the successful TSA consultation events in January, the Federation of North East Derbyshire Tenants and Residents (FNEDTR) organised two further events in April in Arkwright and Killamarsh. The consultation was about the new proposed local standards and provided tenants with an opportunity to put their views forward on how Rykneld Homes can work to provide excellent services to meet the needs and aspirations of its tenants locally.



Rykneld Homes are committed to ensuring tenants have the opportunity to influence service provision on both a local and national level.

Inspection Update



Rykneld Homes have been successful in gaining 2 stars with promising prospects for improvement as a result of our Audit Commission inspection. This is a great achievement for us with lots of positive feedback contained within the final report. Resident Involvement was praised for the work completed and the outcomes achieved over the past 2 years. A big thank you goes out to all those people who have helped us along the way by getting involved and helping us to improve our services to you. However the work does not stop here, we still have lots to do to ensure involvement stays at the heart of everything we do. We have a full schedule of involvement activities and events throughout 2010 and 2011. To read the final audit commission report on the Rykneld Homes inspection simply visit our website at: www.rykneldhomes.org.uk.

Eckington gets a Spring Clean!



Parts of Eckington have received an early spring clean when tenants and residents joined forces to give the town a tidy up.

Two events were organised by Woodview Residents Group in Eckington and volunteers collected bags of rubbish targeting play areas, footpaths, garage sites and hedge bottoms in the Woodview/ Pitt Street and Birkhill areas.

The litter-pick was supported by Rykneld Homes who provided the equipment and Eckington Parish

Council who organised disposal of the rubbish. The group is now offering help to other organisations with environmental projects within the parish.

At Rykneld Homes we are keen to help communities keep their neighbourhoods clean and tidy and would look forward to hearing from other volunteers who would like to do something similar."

Focus on Mickley

There have been a lot of activities at Mickley this year including the renovation of the Village Hall, allowing an increase in services and activities within the community of Mickley. So far the hall has been re-painted internally by Community Payback, new flooring has been laid and new blinds fitted.

The Village Hall is now a good place to hold venues, such as community events, parties, toddler groups, youth clubs, exercise classes and bingo to name a few!!

The renovation project has been supported by Leanne from the Community Involvement Team and other agencies including, Probation Services, Derbyshire County Council, NEDDC Community Safety Partnership and Mickley Infant School. £10,000 Funding has recently been awarded from the lottery; this will be spent on further renovation work including new kitchen facilities.



Mickley Community Health Group

The MCHG are a group of volunteers from Mickley and the surrounding area who have formed to help promote the health and wellbeing of the community. The group have successfully been awarded £10k lottery funding which will enable them to deliver a wide range of community activities to enhance the health and wellbeing of people living in Mickley and the surrounding area. Some of the ideas and planned activities for this coming summer at Mickley are:

- **Summer Scramble 2010 – A 3 mile walk for children, starting from Teversal Visitors Centre with challenges along the way, to be held on 20th August**
- **Chair Based Exercises – to be held at the newly renovated village hall for disabled and elderly people from 4th May 2010**
- **Parent and Toddler Group – Commencing on Tuesday 20th April at the village hall, providing a valuable service to the families in Mickley**
- **Various Day Trips – The group have funding to provide up to 6 day trips and these will soon be advertised!!**

For further information on these initiatives and projects please contact Leanne in the Community Involvement Team.



Gardening Competition

Rykneld Homes is running its 2nd Gardening Competition. So if you have a garden to be proud of why not enter and you could be a winner! There are different categories to enter to make sure there is something for everyone, no matter what type of property you live in. Categories are:

Best Garden

Best Pots or Baskets

Best Vegetable/Fruit or Innovative Garden

To enter all you need to do is send in photographs of your garden (maximum of 4 pictures) to the Community Involvement Team here at Pioneer House, Mill Lane, Wingerworth, Derbyshire, S45 6NT together with a completed entry form, available on our website, in the next edition of Homing In or by calling the Community Involvement Team on Tel: 01246 217670 or email your entries to get.involved@rykneldhomes.org.uk

Deadline for all entries is: 30th July 2010.

Good Neighbour of the Year Competition

Thank you to everyone who took the time to nominate their good neighbours. We had a great response to the competition and received many inspiring stories from tenants who told us that the help and support they receive from their neighbours makes a huge difference to their lives. Our panel of tenant judges have carefully considered all the applications and will announce the winners at this year's Tenants Conference.

Funding Training

The team recently organised for a group of tenants and residents to attend a funding training session led by East Midlands Funding Forum. The two hour session provided voluntary and community groups with information on what they need to consider when applying for funding, suitable places to apply to and tips on making a good bid. The session was well received and feedback from attendees was extremely positive. If you are interested in finding out more about training opportunities please get in touch.

Marx Court & Woodview House

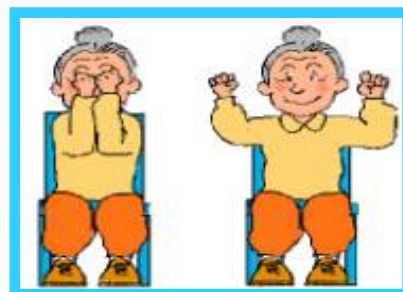
The Community Involvement Team has been working closely with the Independent Living Service and the residents of our Sheltered Schemes to co-ordinate and deliver a schedule of activities for the residents to enjoy.

Marx Court - Now have a very successful Film Club every week, where residents enjoy their favourite classic film and socialise with their neighbours in the newly refurbished communal lounge.

Further activities are currently being considered with the residents of Marx Court to expand on the social activities taking place at the scheme.



Woodview House – Residents at Woodview House meet fortnightly to enjoy a coffee morning with the Community Involvement Team. Residents are really enjoying this opportunity to socialise with others and have expressed an interest in a Chair Based Exercise instructor visiting the scheme to deliver some very gentle exercise, promoting health and wellbeing for the residents of Woodview House.



If you require any information on the activities at our sheltered schemes then please contact Leanne in the Community Involvement Team.

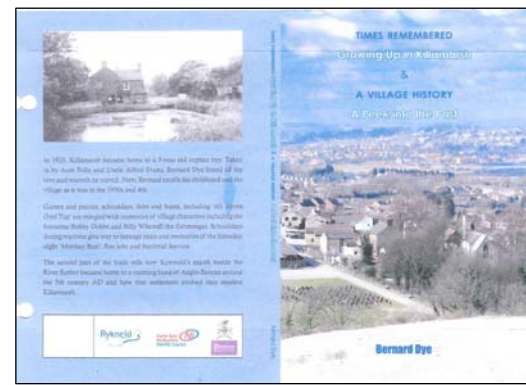
TSA Local Offer Consultation

Our new regulator, the Tenant Services Authority, has published their requirements and expectations of all Social Landlords across the UK. As part of these requirements Rykneld Homes will be developing what the TSA are calling 'Local Offers' of which will add flexibility to services we provide in order to meet local priorities and needs. Throughout the summer we will therefore be attending lots of local events such as summer fairs, open days and galas to talk to you about what you find important in your local area. We will be asking tenants to look at the services provided by Rykneld Homes, rate them in terms of priority to you and suggest any improvements you feel would be beneficial to you and your neighbours.

Once all the feedback has been collated we will be asking tenants to form a working group to help us decide how our services could be improved as a response to tenant priorities. If you would like to know more about this process or would like to get more involved, please contact Heather Summers, Community Involvement Manager at Rykneld Homes. Tel: 01246 217670.

Killamarsh Book

Bernard Dye, Chair of Killamarsh Tenant and Residents Forum, recently had a manuscript of his memoirs and history of Killamarsh published. The book which is in two parts "Times Remembered" (Growing Up in Killamarsh) and "A Village History" (A Peek into the Past) will be on sale shortly priced at £6.99. The publication received sponsorship and funding from a number of agencies including Rykneld Homes, in order to ensure Bernard's life time's work was duly recognised.



Holmgate Multi-use games area update

Holmgate Tenant and Residents Group continue to progress their community project to provide a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA). They have now reached the funding stage and have applied to the Big Lottery Fund (Reaching Communities) to secure the finances required to complete the project. Having submitted an outline proposal form to the funders they now await a response to see if the scheme meets with their approval. We wish the group every success with their application and will keep you informed of any progress made

Community Group Funding Opportunity

The Community Involvement Team offer a grant to community and voluntary groups of up to £150, to help groups meet their aims and objectives. So far this year we have approved grants for Pilsley Cricket Club, Danesmoor Youth Club and Woodview Tenant's and Resident's group.

If you know of a community group that could benefit from additional funding to contribute towards a project or an event which is beneficial to the community, then contact: Community Involvement Team 01246 217670 and ask for Heather Summers.

Launch of Café WY

We are pleased to announce the opening of Wingerworth's Youth Café – Café WY on Friday 27th August.



Jessica in the Community Involvement Team has worked with a group of volunteers and the Parish Council to get the café up and running. **Café WY** will benefit the young people in the area by providing a safe and fun place to hang out on Friday evenings. Funding has been secured from Rykneld Homes, The Parish Council, the Community Safety Partnership and fundraising from the community.

If you are interested in volunteering or finding out more about the café please get in touch with the Community Involvement Team on 01246 217670.

Jessica with some of the Café WY volunteers and Parish Councillors