

# 'A' Team wants to hear from YOU

## PETRA News

Parkhill Estate Tenants &  
Residents Association

Number 155, April 2017

**PETRA works to create a vibrant, caring community, and we do this, in part, by organising social events and activities.**

Just in the last few years, we have organised trips to the Christmas Panto, Rochester Market, Stubbers Activities centre, Barleylands Farm, Hever Castle and Clacton Air Show.

Closer to home, we have put on fun days, pamper evenings, baking and jam-making sessions, Easter egg hunts, coffee mornings and arts and crafts for the under 8s.

All this (and more) thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of residents and staff working together.

The current (A)ctivities Team - Lesley, Sheila, Lauren, Tess and Amber - are keen to continue this fine record. But they can only do so if their fellow residents are interested and willing to join in.

**“Please tell us now what activities and trips you would like us to organise”**

‘We particularly want to hear from parents and children,’ says Lesley.

‘The summer holidays will be here soon, so you need you to tell us now what activities and trips you would like us to organise.’



• Would teenagers like PETRA to help them organise an event or activity over the summer break?

**“Let’s get planning!”**

Lesley says, ‘We can’t promise to do everything asked of us, but we are keen to hear your ideas. Pop into the office today and let’s get planning!’

- Where would you and your kids like to go for a day trip?
- What activities would you like us to organise especially for younger children?

### **PETRA'S VISION**

**A safe, pleasant neighbourhood where people want to be part of a vibrant, caring community**



### **Colin's bench**

**Isn't it looking splendid? The care taken - by Brad, Jim and Mick among others - to make this a fitting tribute to Colin says much for the fond memories we all have of the man.**

**We will unveil a commemorative plaque for Colin on Friday 30 June at 3pm followed by drinks and nibbles in the office. All welcome.**



# The Rubbish Page!

**Our Vision is to create 'A safe, pleasant neighbourhood where people want to be part of a vibrant, caring community.'**

The work we put in means that we receive some really lovely comments on the way we manage our estate and how it always looks so neat and tidy. Indeed, many people are surprised when they hear that this is a council estate.

So what has made the difference? The answer is that we have worked very hard over the past 14 years to achieve and maintain a high standard. This is very much down to our staff, their tidying up and grounds maintenance.

However, we all have to play our part in making this an estate to be proud of. And that means residents and staff working together. Let's stop dropping litter in the lifts and on the grounds when there are plenty of bins around the estate. Let's stop chucking rubbish from cars in the parking area when a bin is just a few yards away.

Every issue of the newsletter seems to include examples of this kind of anti-social behaviour, so we decided to devote a whole page to it this time. Wouldn't it be lovely if this was the last time we had to devote space to it!

**Regards,  
Jan Davis**



## Chutes

**Our rubbish chutes are designed to handle rubbish no larger than 8 inches square. That's why we provide separate facilities for the disposal of bulk items (the clue's in the name).**

**Yet some people continue to misuse the chutes, causing blockages - which are expensive to clear - and worse.**

**If you are putting pizza boxes down the chute, tear or fold them up properly beforehand.**

**And if you think that's bad, listen to this. Recently one resident, too lazy to visit the bulk items bin, decided to throw an umbrella down the chute, handle first. Guess what happened? Another threw a Christmas tree down the chute, top first. Again, guess what happened!**

**Also, do not throw cat litter straight down the chutes. Like all other waste products, this should be bagged properly before disposal.**

**And again, if you thought that was bad... Some people even think it's ok to throw unbagged used nappies down the chute! It is not! These nappies unravel, smearing the sides of the chute with the most disgusting, stinking, unhygienic waste imaginable.**

**Please help to keep our estate looking smart. Common sense, and consideration for others: that's all it takes.**



## Give us a break!

Here in the PETRA office we pride ourselves on being available to help residents, wherever possible and whatever the problem. But even we need a lunch break. So we have decided to close the office every day from 12 noon to 1 o'clock. We hope residents will understand and respect this decision.

# News in brief



## Budget

We still await news regarding PETRA's future funding. Havering Council has still not told us the details, but we are expecting a cut in our allowance of up to 20%. We will also shortly lose our funding for the maintenance of the Serena, Sunrise and Solar court gardens, so our Committee have some tough financial decisions ahead.

## Works

Despite this uncertainty, and thanks to careful budgeting, we plan to redecorate the Entrance lobbies shortly, and are also looking at options for renewing the three main entrance doors and the interior signage in each of the tower blocks. Suggestions for these works are always Welcome.

## Parking



Can all residents be mindful when parking, please. Overlapping the curb, such as here, prevents Brad (pictured top of page) and Mick from cutting the grass as expertly as they would like to.

## Ball games

Seeing children once again playing on the green is one of the pleasures of the spring season.

But hearing their footballs slamming against entrance doors and parked cars, or close to windows, is not!

We don't want to put 'No Ball Games Allowed' signs up

everywhere - they are a depressing sight at the best of times. But we do expect children to play responsibly, ie away from doors, cars and windows.

Will all parents please make sure their children understand and respect this simple rule.

Thank you.

## Tumble dryers

There have been a spate of tumble dryer-related fires in the news recently, and safety notices have been issued for 4-5 million Hotpoint, Creda, Indesit, Proline and Swan appliances. So we all need to be aware of what to look out for and what precautions to take.

### Safety First

- Always register a new appliance with the manufacturer.
- If you're concerned about fitting a new tumble dryer yourself, ask a qualified electrician.

### Safe Maintenance

- Clean out lint and fluff from the filter and around the door after every use.
- Watch out for scorching or burn marks, and check for loose or worn wires.
- Have your dryer serviced annually by a qualified engineer.

### Safe Use

- Never overload – take large or bulky items to the dry-cleaners.
- Always allow each drying

programme, including the 'cool down cycle', to complete fully.

- Don't stop the dryer before the end of the cycle unless all items are quickly removed and the door is left open to dissipate heat.
- Leave clothes contaminated with combustible substances such as solvents, grease, oils or fats out of tumble dryers.
- Don't leave dryers, dishwashers and washing machines on overnight. If possible, unplug or switch off appliances at the socket overnight and when going out to avoid the risk of an electrical fault causing a fire.

### Tumble Dryer Safety Notice

If you have a Hotpoint, Indesit, Swan, Proline or Creda tumble dryer manufactured between April 2004 and September 2015 visit one of these websites to confirm and arrange a free visit from an engineer:

- [www.safety.indesit.eu](http://www.safety.indesit.eu)
- [www.safety.hotpoint.eu](http://www.safety.hotpoint.eu)
- [www.safety-swan.eu](http://www.safety-swan.eu)

Creda and Proline customers should visit [www.safety.hotpoint.eu](http://www.safety.hotpoint.eu) Freephone hotline at 0800 151 0905

Information taken from [electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk](http://electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk)

## Pamper Evening Thursday 11 May, 6pm

Ladies, following the successful recent session, we have asked Revive Treatment's Ravinder Kaur (pictured here with some of our ladies) back for another Pamper Evening.

Book early to avoid disappointment. Ravinder is also available for private treatments.  
Tel 07866272734 or email [ravinder\\_\\_5@hotmail.com](mailto:ravinder__5@hotmail.com)



## Caring for our pets



**Here's a reminder of the rules governing the keeping of pets on all council estates including PETRA.**

If you live in a flat with direct access to an individual garden you may keep up to two pets such as a dog or cat but you must obtain our prior written permission if you wish to keep a dog. Dogs are required by law to have an identification 'chip' inserted.

If you live in a flat or your home is in a building where there is a warden service and/or shared access areas you are allowed to keep one pet.

You are allowed to keep fish or small caged animals in any property.

You are not allowed to keep reptiles (including lizards or snakes) requiring live food, farm animals (including

ferrets, hens, chickens, cockerels, ducks, geese, horses, pigs, cows and goats), pigeons or dogs as defined under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 or any endangered species.

You and anyone living with you or your visitors must not allow your pets to frighten or cause a nuisance to anybody.

This includes:

- Letting your dog bark loudly and continuously, particularly late at night
- Failing to clean up after your pet both inside and outside the property
- Failing to keep your pet under control
- Not keeping dogs on a lead
- You must keep any pet in proper and humane conditions.
- You must not leave any dog alone for more than six hours, either inside or outside your home.

Please abide by these simple rules, and if you have any questions about them, or concerns for an animal's welfare here on the estate, please visit the PETRA office for a confidential chat.

## Letterbox Lotto!

**Every month we give away three gift vouchers worth £25 each to residents who go on-line and spot their door number on our home page. Play Letterbox Lotto today!  
[www.Petratmo.weebly.com](http://www.Petratmo.weebly.com)**

**Emergency First Aid Training**  
6th and 13th May, in the concierge.

PETRA recently organised and hosted a highly successful first aid course. Emergency First Aid Basic Training is a one day course run by Tutor Care, and, as it proved so popular, we have asked them back for two more days' training.

This training is open to all, but booking is essential. Visit the office for more details.

### Committee meetings

April 24th

May 22nd - Brought forward one week due to bank holiday

June 26th

July 31st

**PETRA's regular Coffee morning**  
The first Wednesday of each month, 11-1pm, in the Concierge.

### CONTACTS

Jan Davis, Chair  
Caroline Edwards, Estate Manager  
Bradley Pavey, Repairs and Grounds Maintenance Officer  
Micky Hughes, Repairs and Ground Maintenance Officer  
Naomi Cooper, Accounts Administrator

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