

# Tenants Times



Written by tenants for tenants

Spring 2010



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## Bootcamp

In February a group of young people from Oxfordshire attended a Bootcamp. Here is an article from Sally saying how the experience made her feel.

"When I received the letter, I was very excited. I told my friends and family about what I was going to do on Saturday 6th February. They all wished me luck and told me to enjoy myself. I enjoyed Bootcamp in Dorking, Surrey and I hope I will be able to do it again. Bootcamp has made me realise that life is not

as easy as you think e.g. the army fight for their country and we need an education to get a job and earn money. They are both related because they show hard work and effort.

I have learnt how to work as a team and now I have a better relationship with local police. Bootcamp has helped each of us achieve something".

Sally Ann Hobbs

## Quiz Winner

Well done to David Major from Didcot, our Winter Quiz Winner.

### Quiz Answers

1. Sputnik 1
2. The jolly roger
3. A wildebeest
4. Casualty
5. The Congo
6. Big
7. Seven
8. Bugsy Malone

## Smiling is infectious

Smiling is infectious  
You catch it like the flu  
When someone smiled at me  
Today, I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner,  
And someone saw my grin,  
When he smiled I realised,  
I'd passed it onto him.

I thought about that smile  
Then realised its worth,  
A single smile just like mine,  
Could travel around the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin,  
Don't leave it undetected,  
Let's start an epidemic quick,  
And get the world infected!

# Wren



WREN is a not-for-profit business that helps benefit the lives of people who live close to landfill sites by awarding grants for environmental, heritage and community projects. Soha Housing has been successful in their bid for funding and have achieved a grant of £22,800. The funding will be used in partnership with Groundwork Thames Valley for the creation of a new community garden on the Great Western Drive Estate in Didcot which will act as a springboard to achieving a greener estate where people are proud to live. Using the expertise of Groundwork the lesson learnt in this project are hoped to be mirrored on more of Soha's estates.

In designing, creating and maintaining this new community garden local residents will be able to learn a range of new skills and increase their awareness of climate change issues, biodiversity and how their efforts will feed into the wider green infrastructure of the Didcot area.

At a time when Didcot is about to grow, this innovative project will pilot a green approach to building and sustaining new and existing communities.

Involving both young and old residents of the community through inter generational working, it aims to bring pride to the local area resulting in a reduction in the fear of crime, greater community cohesion and a greener environment!

## What's going on in your neighbourhood?

We want to hear about what is going on in your neighbourhood! If you have a story or a community event that you would like to see published in the Tenants' Times, please send it in to Nicki Peedle, Soha Housing, FREEPOST SCE2680, 99 Station Road, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 7YW.

A shopping voucher will be sent to everyone who sends articles in.

## £2,000 for The Tenants' Forum

The Tenants' Forum has been awarded £2,000 from Soha for small community grants. Groups of Soha tenants can apply for grants for projects that will benefit their local community, provided it includes Soha Tenants. The Tenants' Forum will be responsible for inviting bids and agreeing the grants.

The application pack will be available at the start of May. Applications will need to be in by 28 May, and the decisions will be made by the Tenants' Forum on 22 July. There will be a second round of applications in November for awards in January. If you would like more information please contact Suzette Starmer at Soha Housing on, 01235 515900 or email [sstarmer@soha.co.uk](mailto:sstarmer@soha.co.uk)

## Do you like the new design?

What do you think of the new design for Tenants' Times? Do you think it is better or perhaps you have an idea you would like to suggest. If you have any feedback please call Nicki Peedle on 01235 515900 or email [npeedle@soha.co.uk](mailto:npeedle@soha.co.uk).

# Tenants' Forum Fun days

**School half-term!** Thursday 3 June	Tenants' Forum invite you to a fun-filled lunchtime Free BBQ	Thame Barns Centre 11– 2.30 pm
**School half-term!** Saturday 5 June	Tenants' Forum invite you to a fun-filled family afternoon	Crowmarsh Village Hall 3 – 5 pm
Thursday 10 June	Tenants' Forum invite you to fun-filled family afternoon followed by Tenants' Forum AGM	Woodcote Village Hall 4.30 – 6.30 pm
Wednesday 4 August	Silly Sports activities for children, join the team for rounders, races and competitions!  (Times to be confirmed, please call the Resident Involvement team for details on 01235 515900)	Van Diemans, Thame
Thursday 5 August	Silly Sports activities for children, join the team for rounders, races and competitions!	Kinecroft, Wallingford 10 – 12.00 noon.
Wednesday 11 August	Silly Sports activities for children, join the team for rounders, races and competitions!	St Edmonds Park, Didcot 10 – 12.00 noon
Thursday 12 August	Silly Sports activities for children, join the team for rounders, races and competitions!	Aquarius Development, Witney 10 – 12.00 noon
Friday 13 August	Silly Sports activities for children, join the team for rounders, races and competitions!	Mount View Henley 10 – 12.00 noon
Saturday 31 July	Silly Sports activities for children, join the team for rounders, races and competitions!	Mary Price Close, Marston 12.00 – 2.00pm

TO BOOK YOUR FREE PLACE AT SILLY SPORTS OR TO LET US KNOW YOU ARE COMING TO ANY OTHER EVENT PLEASE CALL

**NICKI PEEDLE OR JACKIE SILVER ON FREEPHONE 0800 014 15 45 or 01235 515900**

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

# Revamp of the Tenants' Times

The editorial board has decided the time has come to bring the magazine into the 21st century. To this end we would be very grateful to receive any suggestions of how you would like to see the layout or content.

This magazine was originally formed by the Tenants' Forum to be an independent mouthpiece for the tenants. The editorial board would like to hear from any tenant with a story. This can be anything loosely connected to tenants. Ideas could include:

- Comments about Soha's service
- Someone's milestone birthday
- Practical advice
- Feelgood stories
- A special achievement
- Good news stories
- Poems you may have written

If you have any articles you would like to see published you can either:

Phone Nicki Peedle 0800 014 15 45 or 01235 515900

Email npeedle@soha.co.uk

Or post your article c/o Nicki Peedle,

FREEPOST SCE2680, Soha Housing Royal Scot House, 99 Station Road, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 7YW.

We will give you a £5 shopping voucher for every article that is published.



## Putting supermarkets to the taste test.

I have always wondered whether the supermarkets own brand products really are as good as branded items. I decided I would put some basic everyday items to the test.

I brought three everyday items, butter, cheese and sandwich filler. Each of the items were very similar in taste and quality so I would say that in my opinion the own brand items were just as good.

I even noticed that some branded good were in fact considerably cheaper than the own brand items so it really is worth a look at the prices whilst shopping.

I also noticed that most of the buy one get one free promotions were on items that were always branded goods that seemed rather expensive. This means you really are not getting the bargain you had hoped for.

Elvina Goddard

## Winter Quiz - £25 prize

1. What Roman god is January named after?.....
2. What year did we go to decimalisation?.....
3. Which river flows through Rome?.....
4. What TV series featured Emma Peel?.....
5. What is fastest mammal on earth?.....
6. What sport is called the sport of Kings?.....
7. Who set to sea in a beautiful pea green boat?.....
8. Who was the Prime Minister during the Falklands War?.....
9. What is the common name for sodium chloride?.....
10. Who said "I have a dream"?.....

Please return replies, letters and articles by 30 June 2010 (no stamp required) to Don Harrison c/o Soha Housing, Freepost SCE2680 Royal Scot House, 99 Station Road, Didcot, Oxon OX11 7YW

Title.....First name..... Surname.....

Address .....

Postcode.....Daytime phone number.....

Email.....