

REFLECTING THE NEWS AND VIEWS OF CHARTER SENIORS

The Window

Issue 23

Spring/Summer 2009

Charter Seniors Information Day

The first Charter Seniors Day was held on Wednesday 20 May, many attended and everyone enjoyed listening to the presentations and visiting the various information display stands. A couple of raffles took place and Charter's raffle prize of a Marks & Spencer Hamper was presented by Ailsa of Charter to the winner Olive Allnatt of Pant y Celyn and Fairlake's raffle prize of a bouquet of flowers was presented by Caroline Gillings to the winner June Harding of Stratford House, congratulations to them both!



Welsh Assembly visit by Tenants & Friends of Pant y Celyn

Tenants & Friends of Pant y Celyn were met by Rosemary Butler AM, who took them on a tour of the Senedd, the Welsh Assembly building. The tour ended in the Debating Chamber where they listened to a debate by the Assembly Members. Everyone enjoyed the day.

Local Bobby visits Summerhill

Summerhill House tenants enjoy visits from their local bobby PC Neilson. During his visits he has resolved issues that concern the tenants. He is greatly admired by the tenants and has a really good relationship and hope his visits continue. The photo shows PC Neilson having a chat with Peggy Welton, tenant of Summerhill.



Organist Entertained Summerhill House

Organist Dorothy from TOC H. came to Summerhill House to entertain the tenants for a Sing-a-long. The tenants organised a buffet and a raffle. Two of the main prizes in the raffle were won by Vivian Hammett, friend of Summerhill and Peggy Tweeney, tenant. Everyone enjoyed themselves and hope Dorothy will come again soon.



Bush Healthcare visit to Stratford House

Bush visited Stratford House to show tenants and friends of Stratford disability aids available. This was a very successful event and many tenants and friends of Stratford bought items for themselves. The photos shows Winnie Price looking at the different aids and Leigh Walker demonstrating an aid to help clean the feet of a person who is unable to reach. Bush Healthcare have promised to visit Stratford again.



Sunflower Clothing at Stratford House

Sunflower Clothing has been visiting Stratford for many years and the tenants are very pleased with the quality of clothing and it's a bonus not to have to wander around the shops. The photo shows Phyllis Williams being shown the clothes by Paul from Sunflower Clothing.



Ty Hafan Fundraising at Pant y Celyn

Pant y Celyn tenants were entertained by Lloyd Rees on the keyboard, had tea and a raffle and raised £58 for Ty Hafan.



Fire Safety Talk at Pant y Celyn

Terry Lewis, Fire Safety Officer from Pontypool Fire Service gave a talk on what to do in case of fire in the home and about the different types of smoke alarms. Tenants were given a free bag and tenants with a hearing impairment with given free 'deaf' fire alarms.



Pant y Celyn Skittles Evening

Every Thursday tenants play skittles which is enjoyed by all ages and tenants are sometimes joined by young people including Kath Wheeler's Granddaughter Georgina. Georgina has won the cup twice.



Assembly Government Help for Pensioners

Tackling Fuel Poverty

- Tackling fuel poverty is a key priority.
- That is why we have invested over £95 million in the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme, to help 93,000 pensioner and low income households from across Wales with heating and insulation measures to make homes warmer, healthier and more energy efficient.



Income Maximisation

- The Welsh Assembly Government has provided £1m a year over a three year period to support local authorities in their efforts to increase the take-up of Council Tax Benefit and Housing Benefit.



Benefits and work at Westminster

- Measures have been introduced such as pension credits to cut pensioner poverty. Since 1997, 900,000 pensioners across the UK have been lifted out of relative poverty and 1.9m out of absolute poverty. For the first time in a generation, a pensioner is no more likely be living in poverty than any other group.
- The annual Winter Fuel Payment for all pensioner households has been introduced—Households with someone over 60 will this year receive an extra £50 on their Winter Fuel Payment, taking it up to £250. Those over 80 will get £400, an increase of £100.
- The over 75s now receive free TV licences.
- The full basic State Pension will rise in 2009-10 in line with prices by £4.55 to £95.25 a week in April 2009. The minimum income guarantee in Pension Credits will have an above indexation increase for 2009-10 to help those pensioners on the lowest incomes, rising by: £5.95 a week to £130.00 a week for single pensioners and £9.10 a week to £198.45 a week for pensioner couples.
- The Pre-Budget report in 2008 also included £60 for each pensioner, which is equivalent to bringing forward the up-rating of the basic State Pension from April to January.
- The New Deal 50 Plus has helped older people who want to work find a job paying a decent wage. Discrimination in employment and vocational training on the grounds of age has been outlawed.
- There has been a VAT cut on fuel to 5% - the lowest level allowed under EU rules.
- The new Pension Protection Fund has been established to step in and pay out pensions when employers go bust, guaranteeing 100% for pensioners and 90% for working-age members. A £400 million financial assistance package to help workers who've already lost out.



Other Initiatives

- Abolished prescription charges for everyone.
- Free eye tests for pensioners.
- Free dental checks in Wales.
- Free local bus travel for all people aged 60 and over, and disabled people.
- Free swimming for older people in Local Authority owned pools
- The world's first Older People's Commissioner (Ruth Marks) has been appointed.



Strategy for Older People

- The Assembly Government's groundbreaking Strategy for Older People in Wales aims to ensure that older people have the right to live independently with dignity. The strategy looks at how services for older people can be provided in the most timely and appropriate manner possible and in a way which maximises their independence, potential and participation. The latest phase of the strategy, covering 2008-13 is building on the progress made in the first five year phase, including a close focus on the economic status, well-being and independence of older people and improving active engagement of older people.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Swansea Pension Centre: 0845 6060265

Citizen Advice Bureau: 01633 265688

Community Alarm Service (Newport): 01633 214222

Crossroads (Sitting Service): 01633 661841

Newport Carers Contact: 01633 258376

Newport City Council Contact Centre: 01633 656656

Age Concern Gwent: 01633 240190



Birthday Wishes!

Marian Lee of Stratford House, celebrated her 80th birthday with a party with family and friends—photo of Marian and her three sons.



Pack of Seeds

I gave my friend a pack of seeds
To cheer her through the Spring,
She sowed them in a tray of earth
They grew like anything.



So many seedlings that,
in fact,
She passed some on next door.
Her neighbours put them in the ground -
You should have seen them soar.

The flowers bloomed so bright and fair,
A dazzling sight to see,
So plentiful that, can you guess?
Yes, some were passed to me.

It's nice to think that just like seeds,
Kind thoughts can grow and grow -
So sprinkle them with generous heart
You may reap what you sow!

Sent in by Summerhill House

What do you think of this newsletter? Send your comments to:

Babs Tayler, 6a Summerhill House, Albert Avenue, Newport. NP19 8FY. Also send details of your events to jane.baldwin@charterhousing.co.uk

General Knowledge Quiz

1. What legless lizard has a name that suggests it's a worm?
2. What is an archers arrow case called?
3. Were the rulers of Venice called Doges, Loges or Coges?
4. What else could Aladdin rub to produce a genie other than his famous lamp?
5. What are the names of the Chuckle Brothers?
6. Which Disney character starred in a Disney film & book, sang I've got to grow?
7. Which Manchester Utd player was Britain's most expensive soccer player in 1995?
8. Which band is led by Jarvis Cocker?
9. Which go faster—water skiers or snow skiers?
10. What nationality is the cardigan?

**Quiz sent in from Pant y Celyn.
Answers in the January Issue.**

Answers to Winter Quiz

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| 1. Dime Bar | 2. Turkish Delight |
| 3. After Eight | 4. Dolly Mixture |
| 5. Double Decker | 6. Black Magic |
| 7. Match Makers | 8. Tic Tac |
| 9. Lollipop | 10. Wine Gums |

