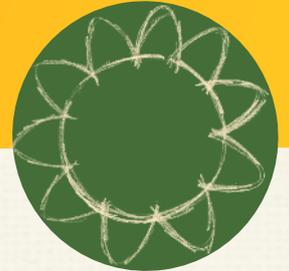


BETRA News

Issue 3, July 2015

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It's all happening!

Bringing the community together, to make new friends, celebrate the seasons, or just have a bit of fun, is something BETRA does, and we're doing a lot of it this year.

It began back in May with our first **Family Fun Day**, held on the lawn to the rear of Oundle House. See our photos from the day on page 4.

Recently, we set up a **Bingo Night** for the over 50s, held once a month in BETRA's boardroom. It costs £2 per book to play, and the winner

takes the kitty. So if bingo is your thing, do join us for the next one.

Early in July, our trip to **Adventure Island**, Southend was a huge success. 'Everyone had a fantastic time,' says estate manager Lindsey Taylor. 'The chance to get up to Southend was a real treat for those who don't have cars. That's why BETRA does what it does. My board members give their time freely to support what we do here and to ensure that we keep the community spirit alive.'

Now plans are underway for our second **Family Fun Day**, coming soon. It will feature many of the attractions we enjoyed

last time, plus some very special guests. Can you guess who? Here are some clues...



Then it won't be long till **Halloween**, and once again BETRA is planning a special, ever-so-spooky event for the children,

involving dressing up, making masks and, no doubt, trick or treating the neighbours.

Come November, we're thinking of **going to the dogs** – Romford Greyhound Stadium to be precise. We'll book a coach, so if you fancy a flutter and slap-up meal, do join us. It's a great night out.

Then, in no time at all, it will be **Christmas**... but that's for the next newsletter!

For details, see Events, Page 4.



Cars, trees and baskets

**Estate Manager
Lindsey Taylor**

As a result of the new houses going up in Darlington Gardens, our tenants are struggling to park their cars. With this in mind, we approached Havering Council about providing more car parking spaces for our tenants. We presented the Council with the plans we had drawn up, and they are considering them carefully.

One of the Council's concerns is that there is an oak tree in the area we would like to extend our car park (oak trees are protected). With this in mind, we are still in negotiations and hope to have news for residents soon. Once the go ahead for extending the car park has been given, we will ballot the residents to ensure that they are happy for this to happen as it will somewhat change the layout. We will, of course, keep residents informed of any works due to take place.

With regard to the parking in Montgomery Crescent, the Council went ahead and put in their yellow lines. However, they did provide us with extra space along Bridgewater Walk to compensate the loss of parking in Montgomery Crescent, which has thankfully led to us not losing any car parking spaces.

By the way, BETRA has recently replaced the old hanging baskets with new ones. Have you seen them yet? They are a lovely sight, brightening up the place for the benefit of all.

Regards,
Lindsey



Bloomin'

Management agreement

BETRA and its sister TMOs, DELTA and PETRA, have had a further setback in our attempts to reach agreement with Havering Council over our budgets for the next three years.

Negotiations have been ongoing for some time, and we expect a reduction in our funding. Now we hear that this cut may be even deeper than previously expected.

To maintain our funding, BETRA proposed extending our responsibilities to include cleaning of all residential blocks and the preparation of so-called 'voids' – empty flats waiting to be reallocated – providing additional funding was available to cover it. This has now been put on hold while the Council reviews its position.

Estate manager Lindsey says: 'This uncertainty about our future funding is frustrating. We know that TMOs provide excellent value for money, and we know that residents get a better service from us than they would do from the Council.'

While the sun shines, take a look around. Our estate really is a picture at this time of year.

A lot of that has to do with the hard work of BETRA's grounds maintenance team, but we can all play our part.

So when you see your neighbour disposing of their litter properly, or clearing up after their dog, or cultivating a window box full of flowers, give them a smile and a thumbs up.



Fortunately, because we have been prudent and saved for a rainy day, BETRA's short term finances are secure. But still, the sooner these funding issues are resolved, the better.'

The three TMOs will meet with the Council in September. Look for the update in our next newsletter.

BETRA Board news

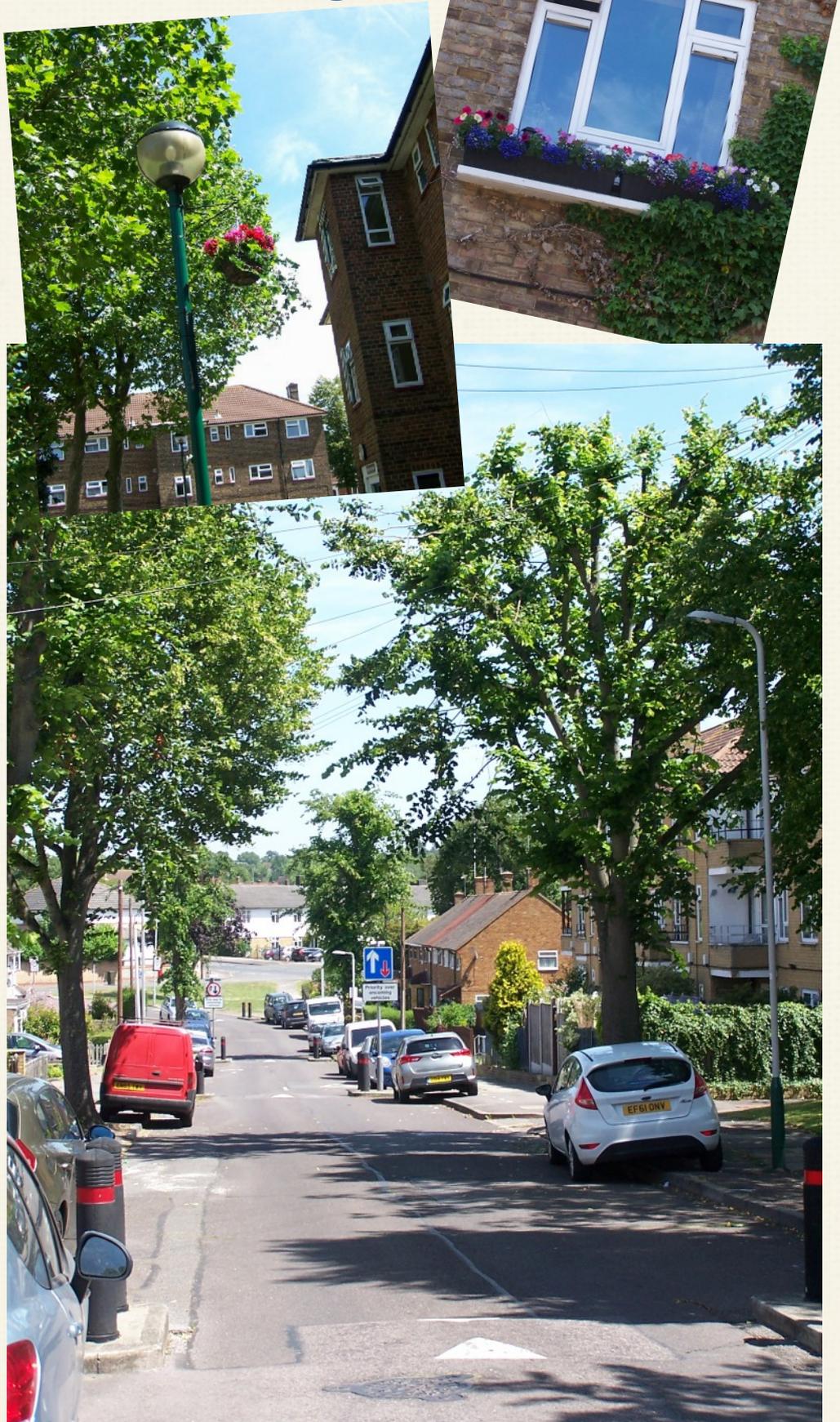
We welcome two new members to the BETRA Board. Emily O'Mahoney (right) and Ian Cook, both local residents, have taken over from Angela and Darron Colson, who left us recently to live in Harold Wood.

Meanwhile, BETRA's annual general meeting will be held on 30 July at 7pm. If you are interested in finding out how BETRA is run, do join us for this meeting, at BETRA's office. Once business is completed, we will all enjoy a glass of wine and some nibbles.





lovely!



Crime-busters

Fly tipping

There have recently been incidents of fly tipping on and around the estate. If anyone sees this happening, or suspects someone of doing it, please make a note of vehicle registration numbers and report it to the office immediately. Thank you.

Burglary

There has recently been a burglary on the estate. These can happen in clusters if not dealt with properly, so please be vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour to the office as soon as possible.

Drugs

Please be aware, if we receive reports of cannabis and other illegal drugs being grown, dealt or used on the estate, the police will be informed. Residents found guilty of such crimes can lose their tenancy.

Safeguarding children

BETRA works closely with local agencies with responsibility for child safety, in particular Havering's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). All of us have a part to play in identifying and protecting children and young people at risk of harm. If you have concerns about the welfare and safety of any vulnerable person, please talk, in confidence, to estate manager Lindsey Taylor. Lindsey will then be able to decide what, if any, action or referral is necessary.

Fun Day photos

Back in May, our first 2015 Fun Day proved a huge success. Thanks to everyone who helped make it happen.

More photos on our website at www.betratmo.org.uk



Pets' corner

With pet ownership comes responsibility. For the lifetime of that animal, it is the owner's responsibility to provide it with a home, to make sure it is fed, exercised, and cared for.

Sadly this doesn't always happen. BETRA sometimes comes across cases of animal cruelty and neglect, right here in the heart of our community.

We have a zero tolerance policy towards these forms of neglect and cruelty, and have developed a close relationship with local RSPCA officers.

If you have concerns about the mistreatment of a pet on this estate, please report it either directly to the RSPCA's 24-hour cruelty line on 0300 1234 999, or visit the BETRA office for a chat with Lindsey in confidence.

Events

Family Fun Day

September 5. From 12 to 4pm, on the lawn to the rear of Oundle House.

Bingo Night

Next meeting August 26, 6-8pm, and the last Wednesday of every month thereafter. In the boardroom at BETRA – with a little end of game buffet.

Halloween Party

Saturday, 31 October, on the lawn to the rear of Oundle House. Time to be confirmed.

Romford Greyhound Races

November. Date and time to be confirmed.

Next BETRA Board meeting:

30 July, 7pm. Annual General Meeting,
17 September, 4pm. Ordinary Board meeting

BETRA

Tenant Management Organisation

Lindsey Taylor, Estate Manager
Mark Richardson, Senior
Caretaking/Repairs Maintenance
Officer
Michael Hughes, Part-Time
Caretaking/Repairs Maintenance
Officer
Brian Pratt, Caretaking/Grounds
Maintenance Officer
Steve Richardson, Maintenance
Officer
Lloyd Edwards, Housing Officer

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