

# BETRA News



Issue 7, September 2016

## Day to Remember

For much of the morning the weather threatened to spoil everything, but in the end our party on the green in celebration of the the Queen's 90th birthday was a rip-roaring success under a clear - even occasionally sunny! - sky.

Sunday 12 June may seem a long time ago now, but it's worth remembering for the way it brought the community together, to work and play for the benefit of all.

And yes, these occasions do involve work. BETRA's staff, committee members and volunteers put one heck of lot of effort into making them a success. They also cost money, and as the rain fell on that Sunday morning, this was very much on estate manager Lindsey's mind.

'It was so nearly a washout. All morning we were trying to set-up and organise in atrocious weather, not knowing if it would go ahead, or if anyone would turn up. It got me thinking about the risk we take when we do these big outdoor events.

'The fact is these type of events cost money, and at a time when BETRA is facing cutbacks, we have to think very carefully about how we spend our funds.'  
- Continued on back page.



### Late News

We apologise for the late arrival of this newsletter, due in July. With a holiday mishap hampering the operation, let's just say one or two jobs got left lying around (see Lindsey's report, page 2).



**Estate Manager  
Lindsey Taylor**

## Some holiday!

On July 14, whilst on holiday in the Isle of Wight, I unfortunately fell over some cobbled stones. One minute I'm on the way to have dinner – the next I'm in an ambulance being offered pain relief. I had fallen with a mighty thud. The pain was excruciating.

One hour later I'm told that I have broken my foot and that my x-rays would be passed to my local hospital, where they could plaster me – I was going home the next day. Unable to drive, my partner had to come to pick me up from the Isle of Wight – not something he envisaged doing that day!

Move on another 24 hours and we are at the A&E of my local hospital. Sadly the same can't be said for my x-rays, which have not arrived. So more x-rays are taken. It's 3.20 am by the time it's established that I have a broken toe and hairline fractures all over. They send me on my way with crutches and a boot, and an appointment for the fracture clinic.

Skip five weeks, and I am now free of said 'dreadful boot' and can even walk - well, hobble - a bit. This means, in theory, I can get back onto the Estate and to my work. This, of course, includes my doing the rounds to dispose of dog faeces that so merrily get left behind by irresponsible dog owners for muggins here to deal with. Ah, the joys!

Finally, I would like to say a quick thank you to those of you who bought me flowers – they really cheered me up.

**Lindsey**

## In the neighbourhood

### Shared Lives

Shared Lives is a scheme whereby someone in the local community offers a room and support in their home to someone with social care needs. It is a very rewarding way for someone to offer support to a vulnerable/disabled adult and can be a very effective way of people having their needs met without having to go into residential care. Carers are paid for providing this service and the payment is generally paid by social services.

Shared Lives has now been commissioned by Havering Council to provide this service locally. The scheme is currently recruiting new carers. If you, or someone you know, could be interested in becoming a Shared Lives carer, please email [info@bettertogether.org.uk](mailto:info@bettertogether.org.uk) or phone 020 8519 9536 for more information.

### Men's Walking Football

Over 50? Okay, so the England call up may now never come, but that doesn't mean your playing days are over. Have you thought about Walking Football?

Walking football is a slower paced version of the beautiful game, aimed at men who are keen to keep an active lifestyle despite their age or ability. There are two sessions per week to choose from.

For more details, and to book your place on the team, email Stuart Robinson at [wellbeing@tapestry-uk.org](mailto:wellbeing@tapestry-uk.org).

Monday 12 noon at the YMCA, Rush Green Road, Romford.

Thursdays, 7pm at Abbs Cross Health and Fitness, Abbs Cross Lane, Hornchurch.

Charge: £3 per session.

### Best wishes Wendy

For some time now,

Wendy Thomas,

BETRA's social

events organiser,

has been unwell.

We're thinking of you,

Wendy, and wishing you a speedy recovery.



## News in brief

### BETRA's budget

Like a stuck record - through through no fault of our own - we just have to keep repeating the same message here. That's because along with our two sister TMOs in Havering, we are still waiting to meet with Council representatives to agree our budget for the next three years. We've been promised a much-postponed meeting this September. Let's hope it brings good news, or at least some clarity, about future funding.

### Cherry Picker



In the meantime, BETRA does all it can to deliver a quality service to residents, and our new (secondhand) cherry picker is evidence of this. Bought over the summer for a bargain price, it will shortly enable us to paint balconies on Oundle House and other north-facing blocks, tackle a wasps nest, and continue the programme we have for the replacement of our various Houses' exterior signage.



# That was some 90th!

BETRA's birthday bash for the Queen brought everyone out - even the sun, eventually! Well done and thank you to everyone who helped make it happen.



## News in brief

### BETRA AGM

This took place on 20 July. Chairman Ken Howson reported that since the previous AGM, discussions with Havering Council had continued on a TMO management agreement, but without a final settlement. Indeed, there had, to date, been no communication with the new council liaison officer. Despite this, he said it had been another busy and successful year, and he thanked the manager and all staff members for their fine efforts.

At the AGM, it was confirmed that Michele Wilson had left the BETRA committee, and we would like to say a big thank you to Michele for her support down the years.

With the recent arrival of Jill Horsham, our committee continues to thrive. However, any residents interested in the possibly of becoming involved are very welcome to get in touch with estate manager Lindsey.

### Clearing leaves

With the arrival of Autumn, this major seasonal job has begun. Senior groundsman Mark takes it for a spin.



# Events

## Colchester Zoo

Sunday September 18

Who doesn't enjoy a trip to the zoo? No one! So join us as we venture north on safari deep into Essex. The coach will be free, but you will need to pay a subsidised entrance fee. Book your place(s) at the office today.

## Halloween!

Sunday 30 October,

3-5.30pm on the large green  
Make a date in the diary to join us for this spooky favourite. The kids are guaranteed a great time.

## Darts get together

The second Wednesday of each month, in the boardroom, from 5-7pm

Why not join 'One dart Ken' (as our boastful Chairman likes to be known), friends and neighbours for a get together, to throw some arrows and enjoy a takeaway supper and drink? Chinese? Pizza? We decide on the night. All residents welcome.

## BETRA Bingo

The last Wednesday of each month, in the boardroom, from 5-7pm

Meet friends and neighbours for an easy-going chat over a few games of bingo, followed by an end of game buffet on the house. All residents welcome.

## Day to remember

(Continued from page 1)

Subsequently, Lindsey and the events team discussed the situation and came to a difficult, but we think sensible, decision.

Lindsey explains. 'For now we shan't be organising big summer parties on the green. The cost and the risks are too great. Instead we will focus on our smaller seasonal events and celebrations - for example Halloween, Christmas and Easter activities for the children, as well as day trips, where BETRA can subsidise the cost, but not pay for everything. One thing we can assure you of - we will continue to find ways of bringing people together to have some fun.'

## Wild flower meadow

Did you notice them over the summer? Planted by the green in remembrance of former resident Liz Pattinson, these wild flowers came up a treat. Indeed, so many residents commented on how lovely they were, that we have decided to plant more next spring, in selected areas across the estate.

**Next BETRA Board meeting**  
2 November

**BETRA**

Tenant Management Organisation

Lindsey Taylor, Estate Manager  
Mark Richardson, Senior Caretaking and Repairs Maintenance Officer  
Steven Richardson, Caretaking and Repairs Maintenance Officer  
Brian Pratt, Caretaking and Grounds Maintenance Officer  
Lloyd Edwards, Housing Officer

8 Angmering House  
Barnstaple Road  
Harold Hill  
Romford  
RM3 7SX

Phone: 01708 344300  
Email: [betratmo@btconnect.com](mailto:betratmo@btconnect.com)  
[www.betratmo.org.uk](http://www.betratmo.org.uk)