

NORTH NEWS

CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE



The Government Standard

North Glasgow Housing Association's newspaper for tenants and owners

AUTUMN 2010 Issue No 29



Unveiled... our brand new recruit

★ NORTH Glasgow Housing Association has a new character to help promote its work.

★ HOUSE was recently unveiled and among the first to welcome our new recruit were local MP Willie Bain, MSP Paul Martin and Councillor Phil Greene.



HOUSE ABOUT THAT our new mascot in action **Pages 6 and 7**

Free insurance cover for 60+

NORTH Glasgow Housing Association is set to sign a deal that will provide FREE contents insurance for tenants who are aged over 60 years.

The exclusive arrangement with our insurance underwriters will give contents cover of up to £10,000 at absolutely no cost to elderly tenants.

The free insurance cover will be incorporated into our already successful tenants reward scheme as an

additional benefit for elderly tenants, many of whom are on low incomes. The policy will start from 1st January 2011.

Chief Executive Robert Tamburrini said: "This is another first for North Glasgow Housing Association and I know it will be a great help to our many tenants who are aged over 60 years.

"The elderly are a priority for the Association. They are often on low fixed incomes

so providing £10,000 home contents insurance cover free should make a big difference to them.

"It's also really good to recognise every one of them for their loyalty and support over the years."

Home contents insurance was identified many years ago by a Government report as a key aspect of financial exclusion, along with bank accounts.

Half of the poorest households in our society do

not have home contents insurance, compared to one in five on average incomes.

Local politicians have responded positively to news of the free insurance deal.

MP Willie Bain said: "I know from personal experience just how good a housing association North Glasgow is and this is another example of forward thinking and extra commitment to the most vulnerable in the community.

"I also know from my

surgeries that insurance cover can be a big worry particularly for older tenants and this initiative will greatly benefit many North Glasgow tenants."

MSP Paul Martin said: "Tenants should be rewarded for being good tenants and for being loyal to their landlord. This scheme is a good incentive for every tenant to be a good tenant and to provide them with a very important home

Continued on Page Two

Adaptations to improve quality of life

IN the past two years, the Association has spent almost quarter of a million pounds on medical adaptations for tenants.

Archie Gilmore is just one of the many tenants whose quality of life has been helped by this investment.

Archie and his wife Catherine (right) live in a two bedroom terraced property in Killearn Street. When Archie suffered a series of strokes, he was left with mobility problems.

Special handrails have now been fitted to the front and rear entrances to their home so Archie can still get out and about with the aid of a walking stick.

Catherine said: "I have nothing but good to say about North Glasgow and its staff. If we have needed something done, it has always been carried out quickly and efficiently."

Archie said: "I had a bit of a fall at the back when my walking stick slipped and our housing officer visited and decided that I needed

hand rails so hopefully it wouldn't happen again.

"The work was completed very quickly and I am very grateful for the adaptation to our house so we can continue to enjoy living here."

In the past year almost £100,000 has been spent on medical adaptations like those done to the Gilmores home. They were also one of 16 tenants who had a full wet room installed to replace their bath and shower.



AGM Reflecting on a year of continued achievement

A FULL review of the Association's work was given at the Association's AGM including a report from the Management Committee.

It proved North Glasgow is more than just a housing association, managing over 6,000 homes and investing around £10 million annually.

Planned growth and continuous improvement are the two key factors of our success.

Elmvale Phase 2, with 22



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family homes, was completed at a cost of £3.8 million and a further £4.2 million provided 32 family homes at Fernbank Street.

The Broomfield Road development started and 52 family homes for rent and 20 shared equity properties will be built at a projected cost of £9.6 million and will include the 1000th new build home constructed for the Association.

New build has benefited the wider community with homes that have a range of special needs including wheelchair bungalows.

The Association also installed new double glazed windows in 68 homes, new central heating in 370 homes and 204 new bathrooms. Over the year, a total of 4,101 repairs were carried out.

North Glasgow plans to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standards two years ahead of the 2015 deadline. By March this year, 73% of the housing stock met the standard.

The Association works closely with Anniesland College to provide a range of educational and training opportunities for jobseekers, tenants, staff, refugees, asylum seekers and committee members.

It also continues to provide Information Computer Technology and Steps to Jobs courses and the Keys to Learn project. Other initiatives include an internet café for youths in Possilpark, test wind turbines and the progression of the senior village for elderly residents in Carron.

Chair Pat Kenna said: "It has been another successful year for the Association and its tenants."

Free insurance

From Page One



MARGARET TOWART

insurance policy.

"I'm delighted that North Glasgow HA have brought forward this initiative. It is a tremendous step by the Association and will be a great relief to many of their tenants."

MSP Patricia Ferguson said: "For many people contents insurance is an expensive extra but it is something that everyone should have so I am delighted that North Glasgow HA have decided to include free contents insurance to tenants over 60. That's one worry less for many in our communities'."

Among those who will benefit is Carron tenant Margaret Towart.

She said: "This will be a great saving for me and many others and for some will mean they now have insurance cover for free that they were unable to afford."

"I transferred to North Glasgow from another landlord where benefits like this were just not provided."

Committee elections...

THERE was competition for all the executive places on the Management Committee following the AGM.

After votes were counted, Pat Kenna was re-elected as Chair, Frank Miller elected as Vice-Chair, John Fury elected Treasurer and Ronnie Rodden elected as the new secretary.



READY FOR PLAY... players from the four teams pose before the kick off with the Association's mascot, HOUSE

Local schools are up for the cup...

SCHOOL pupils from three local primary schools enjoyed a feast of football when they competed for the New North Cup.

Teams from Keppoch, Elmvale and St. Cuthbert's took part in the competition, which was played at the Keppoch campus and supported by the Association.

There were two teams from hosts Keppoch plus St. Cuthbert's and Elmvale

schools and they played each other in a round-robin tournament with enthusiastic parents and relatives cheering them on.

St. Cuthbert's were the winners after gathering seven points with two wins and a draw.

All of the participants received medals and North Glasgow Housing Association goody bags from Chief Executive Robert Tamburrini, Senior Depute Chief Executive

Ann Marie Devlin and Management Committee Vice-Chair Frank Miller.

Chief Executive Robert Tamburrini said: "We are committed to our local community and these schools are very much part of it.

"It was great to see the skills of the boys and girls who took part in the New North Cup and also the enthusiasm of all their supporters."



WINNERS... St. Cuthbert's team with Ann Marie Devlin, Robert Tamburrini, Bobby Fleming, back left, and Frank Miller back right

New jobs for local people



FIFTEEN young people from North Glasgow have been recruited as part of a new £500,000 employment initiative.

The Kick Start Futures development programme has been introduced to assist young people aged 18 to 24 into employment, working in Estate Maintenance in the north of the City.

The young recruits responded to an article in North Glasgow Housing Association's summer newsletter.

The Association is working in partnership with the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations, Community Initiative to Reduce Violence and Sporting Solutions to bring new career development opportunities that are unique to North Glasgow.

Almost £500,000 is being invested in the project to kick-start the housing association's vision for a New North Glasgow and make it a great place to live, learn, work, visit and invest in.

The Kick Start programme gives them training and sustained employment for a minimum of 26 weeks.

The new recruits are currently involved in a 10-week training period and are already making a big impact.

At Partick Thistle FC the recruits have been making a real difference by tidying up around the stadium, painting offices and landscaping. They also get sports coaching and time in a local gym to help them stay fit.

Robert Tamburrini, Chief Executive of North Glasgow HA, said: "As part of their training the recruits are learning a range of personal skills such as self awareness, teamwork, communication, motivation, confidence building and time management. All these skills are just as valuable off the field as they are on it."

The new recruits are pictured with the Green Machine, one of the items of equipment used to help clean up the local area.

Glasgow MP backs Family Fund lifeline for disabled children



Family Fund members with MP Willie Bain and the Association Chief Executive Robert Tamburrini

WILLIE Bain, MP for Glasgow North-East, has met local families at North Glasgow Housing Association's offices to find out more about the Family Fund, a UK-wide charity that helps families with severely disabled children and young people aged 17 and under.

Willie Bain said: "Disabled children and their families face huge challenges to get the things they need to lead ordinary lives and it was good to hear from families in Glasgow North-East how the Family Fund makes life that bit easier. The stories I heard

were nothing short of inspirational and I will spread the word about what the Family Fund has to offer."

Saleena Begley from the Family Fund said: "Families really appreciated Willie Bain's support and his understanding of the problems facing disabled children and their families.

"We want to let as many families as possible know we are here to help disabled children and young people enjoy an ordinary life. A big thank you to North Glasgow Housing Association for

hosting the meeting."

Robert Tamburrini, Chief Executive of North Glasgow Housing Association, said: "It was really good to host the meeting in our offices and meet local families who had been helped by the Family Fund.

"Scottish housing associations like North Glasgow are in a strong position to promote the Family Fund."

In Glasgow North-East last year, the Family Fund provided 121 disabled children's families with things

they needed such as washing machines, driving lessons, computers and a rare family holiday.

Across the UK, it supported some 55,000 families with nearly £33 million in grants. The Fund is very efficient and gives families 91p for every pound it receives. To find out more about the Family Fund or apply for a grant to help make life easier while caring for a disabled child or young person under 17, please visit www.familyfund.org.uk, email: info@familyfund.org.uk or call 0845 130 45 42.

Bijay is our latest PATH recruit



BIJAY Karki is the latest recruit to the Association through the Positive Action Training House (Scotland) Programme.

Originally from Nepal, he moved to Scotland last year with his wife Nahid.

In his native country he worked with disadvantaged young people for a UK based charity.

Before taking up the PATH traineeship, Bijay worked for Quarriers and a homeless shelter for young people in Glasgow.

He said: "This gave me more of an understanding about housing in the UK and specifically social housing.

"When I found out about PATH

and its three year housing traineeship, I felt it was a good opportunity to gain skills that I needed.

"I have now been at North Glasgow Housing Association for four months and am already gaining valuable experience and opportunities to utilise my skills.

"I have also had the opportunity to get involved with the Second Stage Transfer which has added an extra flavour to my traineeship."

North Glasgow HA has been at the forefront of the PATH (Scotland) traineeship programme and previous recruits include Bola Akintoye and Kofi Ampofo-Asare.

Pupils will get the chance to brush up on football skills

School pupils from Primary 1-6 in North Glasgow are being given the chance to take part in a four-day football coaching programme with professional coaches from Falkirk FC.

Three camps will be run during the October schools break at Possil Point, the Red Road Multi-Storey Flats and the former tennis court now small pitches in Springburn Park.

North Glasgow Housing Association is funding the programme which will include football skills development and individual technique, group games, small sides games, fun challenges and competition.

The coaching will also have fun themes each day, such as crazy hair day, design a strip and North Glasgow's got talent.

There will be daily awards for the player of the day and on the final day a player of the week will be presented with a Falkirk strip and special certificate.

The coaching sessions will be held Tuesday to Friday, from 11 until 3pm, and each player will be presented with a certificate and Falkirk FC goodie bag.

Robert Tamburrini, Chief Executive of North Glasgow Housing Association, said: "It is often said that we are more than a housing association and this is a further demonstration of our commitment to the local community."

To register for this exciting programme please call Falkirk in the community, 01324624122 and press option 3 or alternatively email: jackm@falkirkfcgroup.co.uk

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Winning gardeners

AS part of the Association's commitment to promoting a colourful and well kept environment we have an annual garden competition.

Judging has now been completed and six prizes have been awarded.

Mrs Elizabeth McInnes of Redmoss Street won first prize in the Possilpark area for her lovely and decorative garden.

Miss Ann Marie Bannerman of Mireton Street was second and Jessie Martin of Hayston Street third.

In Springburn, David Henderson of Syriam Street celebrated his 80th birthday by winning the top prize.

Second was Ms Rose Elizabeth Shearer of Campsie Street and third was Edward Rankin of Springburn Road.

B&Q vouchers went to the winners with £50 for first, £30 for second and £20 for third.



Blooms galore Elizabeth McInnes in her garden



Birthday bloom bonus David Henderson had a double celebration

Calling all owners

IN an ongoing commitment to review and improve factoring services for our owner occupiers, North Glasgow Management Services is keen to hear from owners interested in meeting together in an open forum.

The purpose of the open forum would be to discuss general areas of mutual interest and seek your views regarding current and future delivery of factoring services.

Please call Eileen or Stevie on 0141 560 6000 or email: owners@northglasgowha.com if you would like to participate.

We may be able to help

IF YOU are a homeowner and struggling to keep up your mortgage payments, then North Glasgow Housing Association may be able to help.

As part of the Government's Mortgage to Rent scheme, we may be able to buy homes and allow families to continue living in them as tenants.

The initiative is an attempt to help prevent repossessions

You can apply for help if you answer yes to all of the seven questions:

- 1 Have you obtained advice about your financial situation?
- 2 Is your home in danger of being repossessed?
- 3 Do all of the owners of the property agree to being considered for Mortgage to Rent?
- 4 Is the property the sole or main residence of someone in the household?
- 5 Is there a reason that your household has to remain in the local area?
- 6 Are you unable to sell your home and buy somewhere cheaper locally?
- 7 Is the property clear of any legal actions that would prevent it being sold?

Further information is being made available from Citizens Advice Scotland, 0845 4500 351, www.cas.org.uk and Money Advice Scotland, 0141 572 0237. A full list of advice agencies can be found at www.scotland.gov.uk

Benefits reassessment

IN October, Jobcentre Plus will start reassessing the claims of people who are claiming Incapacity Benefit, Income Support on the grounds of disability and Severe Disablement Allowance to see if they are fit to work.

Anyone claiming these benefits will be contacted when their claims are due to be reassessed.

A medical questionnaire will be sent and should be completed and returned; it will then be decided if you need to attend a Work Capability Assessment.

People who are capable of work will move to Jobseekers Allowance. People who need more support while they prepare for work will be transferred to Employment and Support Allowance.

Those people most disabled will receive Employment and Support Allowance with an additional support element.

If you require any advice or assistance with your medical questionnaire; to appeal a decision made or any further information on these changes contact Welfare Benefit Advisor Agnes Cole.

Fun Family Roadshow

NORTH Glasgow Health Improvement Team has organised a Fun Family Roadshow for October.

All the activities are free and include face painting, oral health puppet show, parenting tips, arts & crafts, story-telling and songs and healthy information.

The roadshow will be at Maryhill Sports Centre on Tuesday

5th, 9.30am til noon; Millennium Centre, Possilpark, Tuesday 12th from 1 til 3.30pm; Springburn Leisure Centre on Wednesday 13th between 1 and 3.30pm; Milton Community Campus, Tuesday 19th, 9.30 til 12 noon; and Molendinar Community Centre, Thursday 21st, 9.30 til 12 noon.

For more information call Jennifer on 0141 201 4048.

COMPETITION

£50 in shopping vouchers goes to Elizabeth Murray of Balglass Gardens as the winner of the summer competition. She was the sender of the first all correct entry.

The answers were: 1. Visit; 2. 20 years; 3. Second Stage Transfer; and 4. Our free community bus.

Runners up James Marshall, of Campsie Street and Margaret Sharkie, of Carron Place, each receive £25 in vouchers.

We've another £100 on offer and the answers are all in this edition. Usual rules apply.

1. Which school won the New North Cup?
2. Who is North Glasgow HA's Chief Executive?

3. Where is Bijay Karki's native country?

4. What's the Association's mascot called?

Send your answers on a card or the back of a sealed down envelope to:

**North News Comp No. 3,
Ned Donaldson House,
50 Reidhouse Street,
Springburn, G21 4LS.**

Draw will be made on 4th November and the sender of the first all correct entry wins a £50 shopping voucher.

The next two all correct entries get £25 in vouchers each.

Editor's decision is final.



HOUSE signs in at the Festival of Imagination box office



HOUSE films an interview at the launch event



HOUSE and the Association's Chief Executive Robert Tamburrini at the character's launch at the Festival of Imagination



HOUSE with Alex Neil, Minister for Housing and Communities... and below, with Tim Campbell, the first Apprentice recruited by Lord Sugar

HOUSE and ABOUT



HOUSE at Firhill with NG2 recruits John Wilson, William Bird, Darren Bird and Jason Turner

NORTH Glasgow Housing Association has a new recruit – HOUSE.

The specially designed character was manufactured in the Association's green and blue corporate colours and carries our logo and the familiar message: North Glasgow – a great place to live, learn, work, visit and invest in.

HOUSE was recently unveiled at the Festival of Imagination and the Possilpark Gala. The Association plans to make full use of the character's promotional charm at many more similar events.

Chief Executive Robert Tamburrini said: "HOUSE is already proving a big hit with youngsters and adults alike with many wishing to shake hands and have photographs taken."

We've used some of the pictures on these pages and others appear in more detailed coverage of other events throughout North News.



HOUSE with Robert Tamburrini, Councillor Ellen Hurcombe, MSP Paul Martin, MP Willie Bain, Councillor Phil Greene and Ann Marie Devlin



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supports Springburn's

Fun in the park



Set to climb... youngsters wore helmets and safety ropes before tackling the climbing wall

NORTH Glasgow HA's staff gave away promotional material and other freebies at the Springburn Fun in the Park gala event.

The Association is one of many local businesses that supports the afternoon of free activities organised by the North Glasgow Healthy Living community.

Face painting, wall climbing, bouncy castles, an air filled assault course, sports fun, arts and crafts and a chance to get close to some birds of prey were just some of the many attractions the large crowd enjoyed.

There were also special themed zones – Green Environment, Health & Information, Music & Adventure.

Staff members Danielle Quinn and Arlene Rush took time out to pose for a picture with four-year-old Courtney Wilson with her face painted like a butterfly and her six-year-old brother Robert, who went for the Spiderman look.



Goodies galore... the Association's stall had lots of giveaways



What a hoot... Ross from the Loch Lomond Bird of Prey Centre with an eagle owl



Web attractions... Spiderman fun drew the crowds



Smiles of fun... Danielle, Courtney, Robert and Arlene

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SURROUNDED... House with Karri Greenhil, Chanelle Thomas, Chelsea Stobie, Amy McLachlan, Carly Mackay and Megan Fleming



BIG EYES... House with Elle Deegan, Franko Roy, Jay O'Donnell and Kelsey Martin



HOUSE LAUGH... with Ronnie Rodden and Robert Tamburrini



ON THE SLIDE... House joins in the gala fun

Kids love HOUSE...

OUR mascot HOUSE proved to be a big attraction at Possil Gala and everyone wanted to get in a picture. Some of the many photographs are reproduced here.

House wasn't the only attraction though. Traditional fairground games gave youngsters the chance of some fun and there were prizes for everyone.

There was a giant fun assault course with slides, bouncy castles and other fairground attractions on the red blazed area.

Inside the Possil Point community centre, there were loads of stalls offering a wide variety of information, workshops and advice.

One of the halls provided an ideal location for dancing displays featuring old and young alike.

The event was organised by Young People Futures and they were delighted with an attendance of around 3,000 people during the course of the afternoon.

North Glasgow Chief Executive Robert Tamburrini said: "Everyone had a brilliant day at the event and our new mascot HOUSE was a great addition to the fun."



HANDS UP... House with Lynne Cooper, Ann Marie Devlin, Robert Tamburrini and Gemma Lee



THUMBS UP... House with Aiden McCreath and Thomas Johnstone



HANDS UP... House with Demi Colhan and Robbie McLelland



BIG FEET... Kyler Walker gets a close look at House's feet

LEARNINGZONE

NORTH Glasgow Housing Association Chief Executive Robert Tamburrini currently chairs Asset Skills Scotland.

It is the Sector Skills Council and exists to promote learning and skills development in trades and professions with responsibility for management of the built environment.

A not-for-profit organisation funded by Government, the organisation has responsibility for skills across a wide range of job roles including housing, property management, planning and cleaning.

Here, Tim Pogson, Head of Asset Skills Scotland, gives an insight into the organisation and possible job opportunities:

The Asset Skills sector is extremely broad and diverse but there are some challenges that are common. For example, all employers need to continually invest in staff training to improve standards of customer service, communication, teamworking and management and leadership.

Many of Asset Skills sectors do not have a high take-up of recognised qualifications and consequently there are not clearly recognised career progression routes to follow for young people entering these fields new from school.

This makes these jobs less attractive and harder to recruit to. This is true of cleaning, the management of non-residential property and even the private sector housing market.

Asset Skills is working hard to improve access to qualifications to improve standards of training and service delivery.

The housing profession, in contrast, is well-established, supported by an effective professional body and a recognised structure of career qualifications.

North Glasgow promoting skills and training...

The housing sector faces different challenges. For example, many leaders of Scotland's housing organisations are approaching retirement age and it's not clear who will replace these leaders.

Housing organisations need to have succession strategies in place so that they can be confident about their future leadership.

To help fill any gaps, Asset Skills is working with housing employers and the Government to identify ways of developing existing housing staff who demonstrate the potential to be future leaders of the sector.

We are also keen to promote the very positive news about career opportunities in housing and to attract more young people into housing careers through apprenticeships.

There's no reason why the apprenticeship model used in traditional



TIM POGSON

trades, should not be applied equally well to a young person entering the world of housing.

Asset Skills is currently working with employers to identify those skills and qualifications that would be most helpful in giving a young person a head start to a housing career and give them the first leg up to following a professional career that could go right to the top.

And the best news is that for young people aged 16-19, there is Government funding

available to pay for training an apprentice, so it is hoped that this will create a whole new generation of well-trained, highly skilled young housing staff who will one day be leaders of their organisations. Housing apprenticeships should become available during 2011.

If you would like any more information about any of the issues raised above, or would like to get involved in the work of Asset Skills Scotland, please phone on **0131 667 2448** or email: tpogson@assetskills.org.

Commonwealth Apprentices are local celebrities

TWO young people from North Glasgow have become local celebrities after signing up for Glasgow City Council's Commonwealth Apprenticeship Initiative.

Claire Burns and Jamie Bell have been taken on by North Glasgow Housing Association contractor Robert Wilson (Decorators).

Although they are delighted to be gaining valuable experience and training they never expected to become local celebrities.

Claire is just one of the faces that will appear in Glasgow City Council's new calendar which will be issued to all Glasgow schools and Jamie is taking part in a DVD being produced on the Commonwealth Apprenticeship Initiative.

Claire, from Parkhouse, enjoys the work and said: "It's a brilliant job and a great skill to learn. I also attend Anniesland College once a week as part of my apprenticeship."

Robert Wilson said: "It's always pleasing to take on local young people who want to learn a trade. Claire and

Jamie are proving to be more than capable and I'm grateful for North Glasgow Housing Association's help with the programme."

John Devine, Head of Business Development at North Glasgow said: "It's important that contractors hired by the association employ local people as it benefits them, it benefits us and it benefits the North Glasgow community."

To find out more about the Commonwealth Apprenticeship Initiative phone: **0141 287 7282** or Email: apprentices@glasgow.gov.uk



Robert Wilson, John Devine, Claire and her gaffer Stevie Mathers. Jamie missed our photocall as he was at college

north
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KEYS to Learn, the training project aimed at helping people who have experienced homelessness, has celebrated the success of the latest recruits.

An Achievement Day was organised in Glasgow North's Conference Centre to mark the successful conclusion of the 12-week course.

Almost all of the students who attended gave impressive presentations featuring their own personal project developed during the course.

Guests attending the special celebration were given an insight into Zimbabwe, Amazon parrots, a son's success in the dance world, an Albanian wedding, Ethiopian dance, a study of Otters and another on heavy metal rock.

Ann Marie Devlin, Senior Depute Chief Executive of North Glasgow Housing Association, presented the successful students with a framed certificate.

She said: "The quality of work on display and in the presentations by the students was of a very high standard."

"It seems that each Achievement Day is better than the previous one and more individuals are gaining enough confidence to stand in front of their peers and friends and tell everyone about their special project."

"All of the partners involved in the project take encouragement from these days and it is great to see local people being able to move forward to further education, other skills development and particularly pleasing when they find jobs."

The course forms part of North Glasgow Housing Association's twin-track approach to helping people who have experienced homelessness.

High standards as new students present projects

Keys to Learn is a partnership between North Glasgow Housing Association, Anniesland College, Glasgow North Regeneration Agency and the Glasgow Homelessness Network.

Participants learn a mix of academic, vocational and social skills as part of the programme, with the ultimate aim of helping them sustain their tenancy.

Students who completed earlier courses have gone on to further training and several have also gained employment.

New courses are organised on a regular basis. No previous learning experience is needed – participants just need to be interested and available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week from 10am until 2.45pm.

The course does not affect any benefit participants may be entitled to.

Topics include healthy cooking and eating advice, arts and crafts, digital

photography and computer skills from absolute beginners to those who are more advanced with a keyboard.

There is help with using or improving reading, writing and number skills, confidence building and a personal project on a subject chosen by participants.

Help with childcare is given if needed plus travel expenses, lunch and refreshments, advice on further learning, training or work.

In addition to providing an opportunity to meet new people in the area, one to one support is also provided to help plan the next targets.

The course is open to over 16's who live in the North area of Glasgow and although provided by Anniesland College they are based in the Association's Learning Centres in Possilpark and Springburn.

If you want to sign up for future courses or find out more information about Keys to Learn contact Susan Kelly or Silvana Jannetta on **0141 560 6000** or **0141 336 1300**.

Aiming to improve health in the north

THE Association wants to improve health in the north of the city.

It will work with the Health Improvement Team that is part of the North Glasgow Community Health & Care Partnership (CHCP).

A banner stand will be displayed in the Association's Office. The current one relates to smoking cessation.

CHCP aim to make a difference to the health and wellbeing of the population in North Glasgow, which has some of the poorest health in Scotland.

The prevention of ill health is recognised by the CHCP as a priority for all its services. It plans to do this by:

- Working closely with other organisations and local people to tackle the different factors that affect health.
- Working to reduce inequalities in health between different areas and groups of people.

The programmes include:

- Improving the health of priority groups such as: babies and children, young people and older people.
- Working on health topics including: oral health, healthy eating, physical activity, tobacco, mental health and drug and alcohol addictions.
- Working to improve everyone's health by supporting the regeneration of North Glasgow and promoting steps to employment.

For further information on the work of the Team, please contact **0141 201 9707**. Watch out for more information in the next edition of North News.

Tenants will get chance to vote in transfer ballot

GHA's Board has given approval of North Glasgow Housing Association's Business Plan for the proposed transfer of housing stock in Springburn, Balornock, Possilpark and Parkhouse.

And the Scottish Housing Regulator has given approval, in principle, for tenants in the three LHOs to be balloted on the plans.

That means the campaign can now get underway in earnest with the vote scheduled for November.

Three Local Housing Organisation are involved in the transfer.

Balmore LHO has 1,195 properties in Possilpark and Parkhouse.

North Glasgow LHO has 1,146 homes in Springburn and Balornock.

And Red Road Balornock LHO has 703 properties in Balornock.

If a majority of tenants vote in favour of the proposals then the management and ownership of their homes will transfer to North Glasgow Housing Association.

The Association's Chief Executive, Robert Tamburrini, said: "We are delighted that

tenants in the three LHOs will have the opportunity to vote for their preferred landlord.

"Local committees were a crucial part of the ballot that preceded the transfer of homes owned by Glasgow City Council to the GHA more than seven years ago.

"Our Association has been working closely with the three LHOs in our neighbourhood for many years. We have LHO members on our Management Committee and we are fully committed to making the transfer work.

"We believe that it will be beneficial for our existing tenants and the LHO tenants and will be urging them all to vote YES and join us.

"We want their help to create a new North Glasgow - a great place to live, learn, work, visit and invest in."

GHA Company Secretary Gordon Moir said: "This is another milestone in the SST process and shows that GHA is meeting its commitment to delivering Second Stage Transfer where it is what tenants want. I'm delighted so many tenants will be given a say in November on the future of their homes."



NORTH Glasgow has hired an open top boogie bus to tour the areas that are now going to ballot.

Robert Tamburrini, Chief Executive of the Association, said: "If GHA tenants see our boogie bus we urge them to get on board and talk to our staff about our plans.

"We want to be their landlord. Voting YES will guarantee GHA tenants local control and a bigger say in what happens in their area."

Our mascot HOUSE will be touring on the bus so get on board with North Glasgow.

First winners of rewards scheme

IN the last issue of North News, we announced some details of a new rewards scheme.

It will recognise good neighbours with rewards of DIY vouchers and there will also be awards for keeping gardens tidy and other incentives for

tenants.

We asked for your ideas and have immediately put one into action.

You suggested a regular prize draw.

All tenants who abide by the Association's regulations and tenancy agreement and pay their rent on time will be

entered and a random computer programme will select the winners.

The first winners are Robert Parker, of Carbisdale Street, and Mr A. Dodwell of Carbeth Street.

They each win shopping vouchers.

How to get in touch with us

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