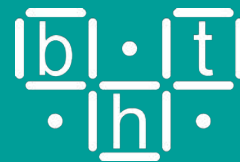




Combating Homelessness, Creating Opportunities, Promoting Change

Lighthouse



ISSUE THIRTEEN | JUNE 2018

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Opportunity to apply to be a BHT Board Member

Following the recruitment of five new Board members, BHT has also made a commitment to recruit two people with lived experience as a BHT tenant or client (within the last three years) to join the Board of Trustees.

It's a great developmental opportunity for a tenant to bring their ideas to the table, share with other tenants how the board is working for them and to be involved in decisions the board makes about housing and other services. Full training will be given and a mentor assigned to help the representatives learn about board policies and protocol. Out of pocket travel expenses will be reimbursed.

We are looking for someone with integrity, a willingness to speak their mind, an ability to think creatively, good independent judgement, an ability to work effectively as part of a team and a willingness to attend ten meetings a year.

We are holding an open evening on Monday 30th July 5.30-7.30pm at our office – **144 London Road, Brighton, BN1 4PH.**

If you are interested in finding out more and booking your place at the open evening please contact Juliet at juliet.obrien@bht.org.uk or call on **01273 645443**. Interviews will be held in July/August with the role starting in September. For more information please see: www.bht.org.uk/press-office/interested-in-joining-bhts-board-of-trustees/

Want to get involved in Brighton Pride?

BHT has now booked an open-top bus in the Brighton Pride Parade on Saturday 4th August and is inviting any tenants who are interested to join us. The theme this year is 'Colour my world' in celebration of 40 years of the rainbow flag and Britney Spears is the headline act.

The bus holds a maximum of 30 people. Of the 30 people, we need 4-8 people to commit to being wheel stewards. We also need 26 people to join us early on Pride morning to dress/decorate themselves and the bus. Everybody who takes part will get free entry to the Pride festival at Preston Park (though we may ask for a small contribution to the cost of the ticket). A place on the bus will be on a first come, first served basis. To book your place contact juliet.obrien@bht.org.uk or call **01273 645443**.



GDPR A new Data Protection law and how it affects you

There is a new Data Protection law which has now come into effect. It is called the **General Data Protection Regulation** or GDPR for short. This is updating the old **Data Protection Act** from 1988.

Brighton Housing Trust takes great care of the information it holds about you and we are committed to being open, honest and transparent about how we use your information.

If you would like a copy of our privacy statement, please let us know. It will also soon be available on our website too.

For our General Needs tenants, we are monitored by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Continuous Recording of Social Housing Lettings and Sales. We also enclose a copy of their privacy statement.

The purpose of GDPR is to help you understand and control how organisations and businesses manage the information they hold about you and to set rules for those businesses in how they can use your data.

The law gives you the following rights:

- The right to be informed about what data a business holds about you and what they do with it.
- The right to ask for a copy of the data a business holds about you (often called a Subject Access Request).
- The right to make sure your data is correct and accurate.
- The right to be 'forgotten' – if a business no longer needs your information or does something with it that you don't agree with, you can ask for it to be deleted.
- The right to restrict processing if they have inaccurate data or are doing something you don't like, such as sending you lots of marketing information via email or making nuisance calls.
- The right to 'portability' – meaning the ability to move your data from one service provider to another similar one.
- The right to object to 'automated decision making' or 'profiling,' which is when computers make decisions for the business based upon information about you.

All the above rights have rules and exceptions, especially if there are other laws that require businesses to keep certain information. You can find out more about the law and your rights on the **Information Commissioners website** - www.ico.org.uk.

Congratulations to our prize winner

Congratulations to Lisa from Brighton who won a £50 Sainsbury's voucher in the prize draw for the repairs survey.

Have you had a repair carried out recently? If so, how did you find the service? Your feedback is vital in helping BHT to improve the service that you receive. Please take five minutes to fill in the survey that you received in the post and you could be in with a chance of winning a **£50 shopping voucher** in our quarterly prize draw.



What's On this summer

BRIGHTON

Free clubs to join and money and IT advice sessions:

BHT Whitehawk Inn, Whitehawk Road, Brighton BN2 5NS

A number of free clubs to join and low cost courses:

Knitting Club, Games Club, Drama Club, Book Club, Creative Writing, LGBTQ meet up, Gadget Surgery Drop-in and One-to-One Money Advice.

bht.org.uk/services/the-whitehawk-inn

Gilbert and George pop art exhibition

Brighton Museum, Royal Pavilion Gardens, Brighton, BN1 1EE

On-going until Sunday 2nd September

£3.50 residents/£5.20 non-residents

brightonmuseums.org.uk/brighton

BHT Greater Brighton Cycle Challenge

Preston Park Velodrome on Sunday 1st July

BHT's Around the World Cycle Challenge is a family friendly challenge that starts at 7am and runs throughout the day, with cyclists aiming to reach the combined target of 69,215 laps (equating to cycling 40,075km around the world) in just 12 hours!

bht.org.uk/about-the-greater-brighton-cycle-challenge



Hotdog and Cider Festival

The Level, Union Road, Brighton on Saturday 7th July

£8.00/ Children under 12 free if accompanied by an adult

Brighton Luna beach Big Screen

Beach by Palace Pier, Brighton

Thursday 14th June to Sunday 15th July

lunabeachcinema.com

Brighton Pride

Parade in town,

main event in Preston Park

Saturday 4th August

brighton-pride.org

Brunswick Festival

Brunswick Square, Brighton, FREE

Saturday 18th to Sunday 19th August

brunswickfestival.org.uk

Brighton & Hove Triathlon

Hove Lawns, Sunday 16th September

brightonandhovetriathlon.com

EASTBOURNE

Towner Art Gallery

Devonshire Park, College Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4JJ
Tuesday to Sunday, 10am – 5pm, FREE
townereastbourne.org.uk

999 Emergency services display

Western Lawns, King Edwards Parade, Eastbourne
Saturday 7th July to Sunday 8th July, 11am - 5pm, FREE
999display.co.uk

Eastbourne Pride

Princes Park, Eastbourne
Saturday 21st July, FREE
eastbournepride.co.uk

HASTINGS

Jerwood Art Gallery

First Tuesday of the month 4-8pm, FREE
jerwoodgallery.org

Hastings Beer and Music Festival

Alexandra Park, Thursday 6th July to Saturday 8th July
hbmfc.co.uk

WELCOME BACK BONNIE

Welcome back Bonnie Bird, our Building and Maintenance Surveyor who has now returned after maternity leave.

INTRODUCING WENDY

We are also pleased to welcome Wendy Marie Anderson who has recently been appointed as the Housing Officer for Brighton covering Kate's maternity leave. She says .

“ I have worked in social housing for more than 25 years for both Housing Associations and Local Councils mostly in the East Sussex area. I enjoy meeting people and always like the challenges that residents can bring. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible while I am here. ”



Lammas Festival

Western Lawns, King Edwards Parade, Eastbourne
Saturday 28th July to Sunday 29 July, FREE
lammasfest.org

Eastbourne Airborne

Eastbourne Seafront, Thursday 19th August
to Sunday 20th August, FREE
eastbourneairshow.com

Hastings Old Town Carnival week

Saturday 28th July to Sunday 5 August, FREE
oldtowncarnivalweek.co.uk

Hastings Pride

Sunday 26th August, FREE, hastingspride.org.uk



Benefit News CORNER

Universal Credit Survey Results Are In

We recently sent out questionnaires to all of our tenants who are claiming Universal Credit. Congratulations to Ann from Hastings who was the winner of the survey prize draw. She received a £50 Sainsbury's voucher.



The survey was sent out to prepare for more tenants migrating over from existing state benefits to be claiming Universal Credit, so that BHT is able to provide all tenants with as much assistance as possible once they start to claim Universal Credit.

The main findings of the survey were:

- 68% found completing their initial claim online difficult, due to a shortage of computer skills or because they found the instructions hard to understand.
- 42% found the information that the DWP provided on what Universal Credit covered unclear.
- 68% said their work coach had not made it clear to ask for payments to be made directly to BHT.
- 84% were offered an Advance Payment of Universal Credit.
- 95% were told that it was important to update their online journal regularly.
- 53% said that they found updating their journal to be easy to do.
- 58% said they were not told to claim Council Tax separately from their local council.
- 68% said that BHT provided enough information on noticeboards and in "Lighthouse" about Universal Credit.

One tenant commented:

"It's a good idea that you have drop-ins to help people. I think with rent, people are going to struggle if they get it paid into their account and have mental health or drug/alcohol problems. Also people are going to struggle to get online to look at their journal."

The Universal Credit drop-ins are held as follows:

HASTINGS

When: **The second Friday of the month** from 2pm to 4pm.

Where: **Renaissance House, London Road, St Leonards on Sea, TN37 6AN**

EASTBOURNE

When: **The last Friday of the month** from 10am to 12noon.

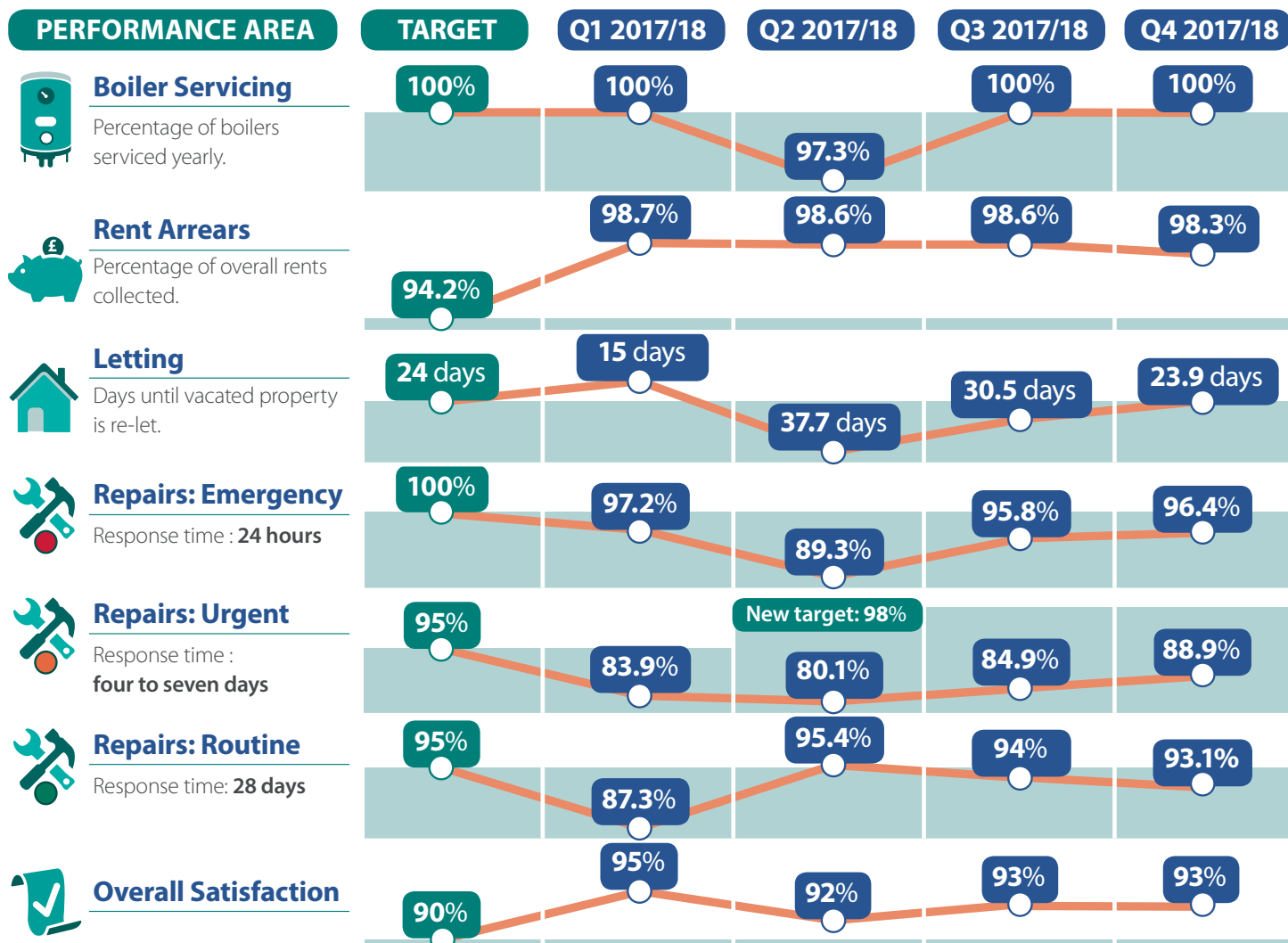
Where: **Suite 14 Highlight House, 8 St Leonard's Road, Eastbourne, BN21 3UH.**

BRIGHTON

When: **The third Wednesday of the month** from 2pm to 4pm.

Where: **144 London Road, Brighton, BN1 4PH.**

BHT Housing Services: How Well Are We Performing?



Congratulations to our Direct Debit prize draw winners



Congratulations to Glen and Keir from Brighton who both won a £20 Sainsbury's voucher in the Direct Debit prize bi-monthly draw.

You too can be in with a chance of winning a shopping voucher if you set up a Direct Debit. Your Housing Officer can guide you through the process step-by-step, so that you fully understand when and how often you will be making a payment and how much you will be paying.

Recipe: Charlie's Bacon and Banana Cookies

Ingredients

- 40g smoked streaky bacon (approximately 5 slices)
- 220g self-raising flour
- ½ tsp salt
- 120g cold unsalted butter, cubed/or use margarine
- 260g caster sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 60g dried bananas, roughly chopped



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 190°C.
2. Put the bacon on a baking tray lined with baking paper and place in the oven for 10 minutes. Remove the bacon and pat it dry with some kitchen roll. When cool enough to handle, cut the slices into small pieces.
3. Sift the flour and salt into a bowl and set to one side.
4. Using a mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, cream the butter and sugar together on medium speed until the mixture becomes light and fluffy for approximately 5 minutes (if you don't have a mixer like me, just use your hands).
5. Reduce the speed of the mixer to low and add the eggs, one at a time, and continue to mix until well incorporated.
6. Add the sifted flour to the creamed butter, sugar and egg mixture. Continue to mix for 3-5 minutes until the dry ingredients are thoroughly incorporated and dough is formed. Add the banana and bacon and continue to mix for 2 minutes.
7. Using an ice-cream scoop, portion the dough into balls (approximately 40g per ball). Place them on a parchment-lined baking tray, roughly 10 cm apart.
8. Place the tray in the oven for 8-10 minutes or until the cookies are golden brown and crispy at the edges. Remove the tray from the oven and allow the cookies to rest on the tray for a few minutes before placing on a cooling rack. The cookies will keep for up to 5 days in an airtight tin. Yummy!

HomeSwapper Matches App - the easy way to find a swap

Are you a General Needs tenant looking to move? If so, you might be interested to know the team over at HomeSwapper have been working hard to make sure that their app gives swappers like you the best chance of finding their match. It could be just the thing to simplify your search for the perfect home and it's free! It brings together your matches and messages into one central place, meaning that you can contact potential swappers while on the go. With the HomeSwapper Matches app you can also:

- Quickly swipe through and manage your matches
- See more details about homes you might like, including features, location, property type, rent and additional notes from the current tenant
- Chat in real time with other swappers
- See who's online right now and when they last got in touch with you
- See who's serious about swapping by looking at their badges
- Easily upload and manage photos of your home
- Send prompts to other swappers if they don't have photos on their profile
- Like and share homes with other swappers
- See who's liked your home
- Receive instant push notifications when you have new matches and messages

HomeSwapper Matches is available from both the App Store and Google Play. So if you haven't already started using the app, we recommend you download it now for free and start searching!



HomeSwapper

