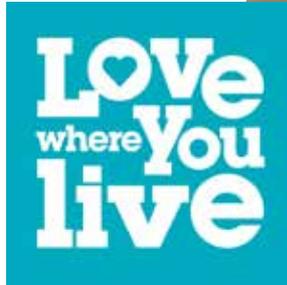


**WELCOME TO
THE SUMMER
2016 EDITION
OF NEWS 21**

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- **Around the courts**
- **Dates for your diary**
- **Looking after your safety**
- **Crudens contractor update**

AROUND THE COURTS



Hopwood Court Community Day

Dementia awareness was the focus of an event for older people at Hopwood Court on 17th May.

The event during Dementia Awareness Week (May 15-21) featured a live session run by musicians from the charity Making Space and a Dementia Friends awareness session to give people a better idea of what it is like to live with dementia. By popular request, the musicians will now be a regular weekly feature at Hopwood Court, providing music and drop-in sessions.

Hopwood Court resident Pauline Miller brought along 30 twiddlemuffs that she has been knitting for the last few months. A twiddlemuff is a woollen muff, with twiddles such as bells, ribbon and buttons attached inside and out, designed to

provide a stimulation activity and comfort for restless hands of disoriented or confused people, particularly those with dementia. Pauline will now donate the twiddlemuffs to one of the local dementia units based in Oldham. She wants to thank Julie from Hopwood Court restaurant for all the wool.

Representatives from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, Oldham Council, Macmillan Cancer Support and Age UK were on hand to speak to local people about the support they can offer.

Resident Pauline Miller said: *"I like to do things to help people, I knit one of these a night in front of the television and it keeps me busy. I'm really pleased to make even a small contribution to people living with dementia."*

AROUND THE COURTS

Twiddlemuffs at Violet Hill

Violet Hill residents have been busy knitting to support dementia patients.

The group have created a large number of twiddlemuffs, with bits of ribbon, bells, buttons and zips attached. If you're not sure what a twiddlemuff is, they are knitted woollen muffs with items such as ribbons, large buttons or textured fabrics attached that patients with dementia can twiddle in their hands.



Holland Close hit the jackpot!

Residents at Holland Close in Delph have won a share of the Oldham's Respect our Community Awards (ROCA) for their project, 'Peaceful Moments', to bring two parts of the scheme together through gardening.



Lees House gets a garden makeover

Cruden Property Services, our repairs contractor have built three new garden planters to brighten up the back of the Lees House.

Cruden's Apprentice Joiner, Warren and Joiner Adam worked hard to create the wooden planters which will make a big difference to the scheme. Court Manager, Marian comments "We are extremely grateful to Cruden's and their team for listening to our ideas and coming up with a solution which suits our garden."

housing&care21

Make your views count

Take part in our 2016 Oldham residents' survey and help us shape services fit for the 21st century

YOU COULD WIN **£50!**

All questionnaires returned by **30th June 2016** will be entered into a **PRIZE DRAW!**

- 1 x £50 prize draw and
- 2 x £25 prizes and
- 1 x £100 for court or bungalow area with highest percentage return!

Questionnaires will be sent to over 1,400 Oldham residents. This is your chance to tell us what we do well, what we don't do so well and how we can do better.

Your views are important to us - so please help us by filling in the survey.

If you have any questions about the survey:
Call our Oldham Team on 0345 6044 447 or
Muneer Wahidi from MEL Research 0121 604 4664

DON'T FORGET TO FILL IN YOUR TENANT SATISFACTION SURVEY!

Let us know what you think of our service.
Deadline is 30th June.

It pays to tell us what you think!

SPARE WOOL

If you have any spare wool, ribbon, buttons or bells lying around at home that you don't want, please get in touch with your Court Manager about getting it to us.



Trinity House chair based exercise

Residents in Coldhurst have been taking advantage of free chair based exercise.

Victoria Gardens get creative

Monday is busy for the ladies of the Water Painting Club held at Victoria Gardens.



Spring into Chew Vale

15th March saw Spring arrive in Chew Vale.

A host of organisations including Oldham Council, Macmillan

Oldham, Age UK and local community group, Funky Fitness attended and provided information and activities for residents and the local community to enjoy.

Court Manager, Beckie and Partnerships Manager, Issie were on hand to chat to residents and find out what activities they wanted happening within their communal lounge. Suggestions included bingo, keep fit classes, film nights, a gardening club and chippy tea nights.



AN INSPECTOR CALLS

We put a call out in March to ask which of you wanted to get involved in more of a practical way through our Tenant Inspectors.

Nine residents got in touch and were very keen to find out more. We organised a training session in May to train our new Tenant Inspectors and tell them more about the process of inspecting empty properties.

Since the training two Tenant Inspector have already carried out pre inspections with Howard in Greenfield and Royton. Brain Gaskell from Holland Close comments " *It's very interesting, it's a chance to see other schemes and help people who are potentially moving into the properties, we're another set of eyes.*"



We're always looking for new Tenant Inspectors to join the network, so please get in touch if you want to find out more. We are particular interested in speaking to residents living in Failsworth, Shaw, Chadderton and Lees.

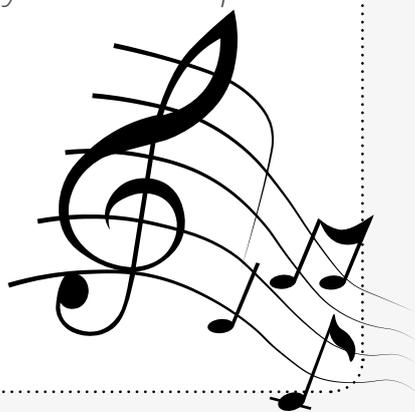
CONTACT ISSIE HOWARD ON 0370 192 4444

MUSICAL SWOOP AT THE LIBRARY

Residents Janet and Alma took advantage of free tickets for a special one off performance by 'Trio Volant', a wind trio who are part of the 'Live Music Now' group at Oldham Library. The group performed several well known pieces of music including Beatles songs, Sleeping Beauty and Antonín Dvořák's Symphony No. 9, infamous with the Hovis advert.

Janet comments *"What a fantastic show, I thoroughly enjoyed it and I would recommend the Library Live theatre space to anyone, it's an intimate space with an excellent view of performances."*

Thanks to Oldham Library for the free tickets.



Getting to the pointe

There are also opportunities for Oldham residents to support MIF and Giselle in a number of different ways such as:

- distributing information through their networks
- speaking to contacts about the production
- as well as other opportunities to get involved

In return MIF will be able to offer a complimentary ticket to a preview. Ben Turner, Community Engagement and Audience Development freelancer on: 07976 560 498 or ben.turner@mif.co.uk

Manchester International Festival (MIF) and English National Ballet present....

AKRAM KHAN'S GISELLE

The world premiere of Akram Khan's Giselle – a landmark new version of the greatest of all romantic ballets – will receive its world premiere at the Palace Theatre in Manchester city centre in September 2016.

More information can be found here www.mif.co.uk/event/giselle

£12 tickets

A number of tickets have been allocated for priority audiences, including older people who live within Greater Manchester. Please ring 0844 871 3019 and quote the code 12GM to book.

You can also book tickets via the internet – go to www.mif.co.uk/event/giselle click 'book tickets', enter the promo code 12GM in the box, select your preferred date and click BUY and the £12 tickets will appear on the seating plan (highlighted in bright purple).

Please note that booking fees and a transaction fee might also apply on top of the ticket price.



My move Oldham

A new, simple and easy way to find a home in Oldham



Housing& Care 21 along with our partners, who have homes to rent in Oldham, are pleased to let you know about a new and improved way to find your new home.

We have listened and acted on the feedback and suggestions from customers and colleagues and hope that you are pleased with the changes we have made.

Our partners include Anchor, Contour, First Choice Homes Oldham, Great Places, Guinness Northern Counties, Hanover, New Charter, Places for People, Regenda, Riverside and Villages.

All these partners advertise their homes on the new My Move website, so that you don't have to register for housing separately with each partner and you don't have to look in more than one place to find a home.

This site has been designed to make it easier to apply for social housing and to look for a new home.

You can:-

- **Register for social housing in Oldham**
- **Bid for available homes**
- **Manage and update your account details by using the self -serve tools**
- **Check your bidding activity**

A new mobile app will be launching soon, to make it easier for you to access the site at any time and from any place.

Support is available on the website with 'Area Guides' and 'Frequently Asked Questions' to guide and help you.

Go to: www.mymoveoldham.co.uk

NEWS FROM HOLTS VILLAGE

We have a really good community spirit here on Holts Village, where neighbours all look out for each other.

Last year and this year our chosen charity is Dementia UK, last year we raised £1208.00 and we are hoping to better that this year through our various fundraising events. We hold coffee mornings, have raffles twice a year and also hold two table top sales a year and we also have a donations box in the community room.



We are having a day trip to Cleveleys on Thursday 16th June. In July we will be going to the Coliseum to see Age UK's Silver Stars contest, it is a talent show for older people. Last year residents really enjoyed this event which is why we are going again this year.

Last year we held a BBQ and quiz night which everyone enjoyed. As the weather improves and the nights are lighter more events will take place over the weekends, so keep an eye out!

We will be having another day trip in September which we have yet to organise which leads us on to Christmas! Last year residents from Holts Village and Springlees Court really enjoyed the party at the Front House with Dom Collins, we hope to do the same again this year as it not too far to travel. And so starts another year.....

Court Voice, Trevor and his wife Rosina do a great job organising fundraising activities such as knitting, making hanging baskets, selling raffle tickets and collecting lottery money.



There really is a lot of goodwill and a great sense of community pride at Holts Village.

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Oldham Council is looking for your best photographs of the borough.

You don't have to be an expert photographer, anyone can enter. Win £200 plus the chance to be seen by 1,000's of people in the next issue of Borough Life by sending them your best photos of Oldham.



1st Prize - £200 - 2nd Prize - £60 - 3rd Prize - £40

THERE ARE 3 WAYS TO ENTER:

1. Upload entries to their www.flickr.com group
2. Email your entries to bloomandgrow@oldham.gov.uk
3. Tag photos on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram: #OldhamBloom16

CLOSING DATE 26 JUNE 2016

Terms and conditions
•*Photo competition terms and conditions*

You can follow the action on Twitter and Instagram with the hashtags #OldhamBloom16 and #LoveOldham.

COURT VOICE FORUM

Tuesday 14th June

If you have any comments/concerns /ideas you'd like to share with us please speak to your Court Voice or Court Manager and they can pass the information on to us.

SNAP HAPPY!

Oldham Camera Club meet at 7:30pm most Thursdays at East Oldham Methodist Church, Ripponden Road OL1 4ES. New members are always welcome.

BOWLING IS BACK!

This year's crown green bowling competition will take place on Wednesday 27th July at St George's bowling club (time to be confirmed). Crudens will be sponsoring again this year.



Look out for registration forms which will be with your Court Managers.

OLDHAM CARNIVAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Sunday 10 July, FREE!

Each year the beautiful Alexandra Park is filled with entertainment, music, stalls, the famous 'Freebie Zone' and the RootZ Stage. This year sees the return of the 'Circus Whiz', Professor Baubles' Punch and Judy' and 'Rumple the Clown' shows and – new for 2016 – a dry ice rink. Watch local dance groups, rock bands, theatre groups and entertainers throughout the day. Enjoy the best in local food and classic fairground attractions.

www.oldhamcarnival.org.uk

T: 0161 284 3826

Alexandra Park, Kings Road, Oldham OL8 2BN

live@thelibrary

**JEM ROBERTS - FREE
27TH JUNE**

Comedy historian Jem Roberts, official Blackadder chronicler and authorised biographer of Douglas Adams, is in Oldham to muse on how the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy's universe has altered in the 15 years since the great man's loss.

With exclusive unpublished extracts from the private Adams archive, this is a hilarious journey through the multiverse which no comedy or sci-fi fan should miss.

**TWO LITTLE DICKIE BIRDS
£4/£5 - 30TH JUNE- 2ND JULY**

Brit Theatre present by David Allen, Jon Clay and Mandy Hester.

Pauline is a middle aged pub landlady with a big heart and a personality to match. In this wonderfully engaging one woman show we join Pauline, as unlucky in love; she leaves Oldham to travel to Copacabana Beach in Brazil.

THE RUMBA BAR £4/£5 - 9TH JULY

A live@thelibrary script in development showcase by Cathy Crabb and Punam Ramchurn.

Commissioned by live@thelibrary, this new comedy takes a wry look at Brits abroad and their views on immigration and community. Ameer sells his inherited business to be an ex-pat in Benidorm and sets up the Rumba bar. Will his new life be better than the one he has left behind?

DOOR LOCK REMINDER

It's important to be safe in your home. You should keep your front doors closed and only use door chains on the inside when you are opening the door. If you leave your chain on all the time, this could stop Housing& Care 21 staff and the emergency services getting in quickly in an emergency.

LOOKING AFTER YOUR SAFETY

Since our last newsletter we've been made aware of a number of burglaries in the Chadderton area.

We're currently working with the Police to combat this and make sure that you, our residents are safe and secure in your homes.

We need your help in preventing these crimes occurring. Remember never leave windows and doors open, leaving the room for a second will allow the opportunistic burglar to get access into your home. Remember you don't have to let any stranger into your home. If you decide to answer the door, remember to take the following steps.

- **Lock** – Lock all your other outer doors and windows before you go to the front door. Some burglars work together – one keeps you chatting on the doorstep while another gets in through a back door.

- **Stop** – Think about whether you're expecting anyone.

- **Chain** – Put the door chain on (don't keep

the chain on all the time as it will prevent anyone with a key, such as a home help, from entering). Look through the window or spy-hole to see who's there.

- **Check** – Ask for an identity card and examine it carefully. If you've seen identification, but are still unsure, check who they are by phoning the company they represent. Get the number from a bill or your phone book rather than calling a number they give you as they could be putting you through to an accomplice.

You can always ask the caller to come back at another time when someone will be with you or tell them to write to you to arrange an appointment. A genuine caller won't mind you taking necessary precautions.

If you're suspicious, or the caller won't leave, dial 999 and ask for the Police. If you don't feel you're in immediate danger but you want to report the incident, call the police on the non-emergency number 101.

GIVING SOMETHING BACK

Age UK Oldham is looking for new enthusiastic volunteers to help them at any of their nine shops throughout the borough of Oldham. They have helped a range of people whether it's getting them experience for paid work, students or those people who are retired and are looking for something new. They provide free training and will pay volunteer expenses.

These volunteers have been helping at the Huddersfield Road and George Street shops



Joan Hardman believes *"Volunteering at Age UK Oldham has helped me to meet new friends, I have something to get up and out for in the morning and I feel part of a team."*

Karen Rodgers says *"I look forward to my weekly shift volunteering, I find working at the shops is flexible and fits around my life style, the free tea and biscuits are great too! "*

Beryl Preece comments, *"Before I volunteered I was starting to feel lonely, my volunteering role has given me a sense of purpose and I love socialising with new people."*

There are also opportunities to volunteer at the Vintage 55 shop, Age UK Oldham's vintage shop on George Street. The vintage shop sells everything from clothes and accessories to furniture and collectables. Volunteering at Vintage 55 not only gives you a chance to learn new skills and meet new friends, you can help Age UK to upcycle old furniture and get creative with quirky window displays!

Volunteer Saima comments *"I really enjoy volunteering at Vintage 55 because I like the variety of the work; I enjoy being a productive member of the community, interacting with new people and dedicating my time to a good cause."*

**For more information regarding volunteering at Age UK Oldham, please contact:
Vanessa Hamer 0161 633 0213 vanessa.hamer@ageukoldham.org.uk**

CRUDENS CONTRACTOR UPDATE

If you're expecting a repair to be completed please be mindful that one of Cruden's contractors could arrive at your property. Below is a list of contractors that Cruden use. ALWAYS ask for a workman's ID badge before letting anyone inside your property.

SUBCONTRACTOR	RESPONSIBLE FOR
JTM Service Ltd	Maintenance Laundry Equipment (Schemes only)
DRL Ltd	Drainage and groundwork
Farnworth Lock and Key (FLK)	Suited Locks and emergency locksmiths
Frontline	Planned Periodic Electrical Testing in void properties, planned electrical works and annual leave cover
James Mercer Group	Air Conditioning Units
JWS Ltd	Waste Management and property clearances
Knowsley Lifts	Lift Repairs
Lightburn Scaffolding	Scaffolding
Proline Mechanical	Commercial and Domestic Heating / Hot Water
ABCA	FIRE & SECURITY - Fire alarm systems, Extinguishers, Smoke ventilation / curtains & emergency lighting, Smoke Alarms & CO Detectors. COMMUNITY CARE - Warden Call, Door Entry, Access Control & CCTV (includes Schemes and Bungalows)
VISION	Commercial White Goods
S&C	Renewal of external doors and specialist windows
ARJO Huntly	Commercial Assisted Bathing
Floor Design	Vinyl Floor Renewal / Welded Seam Renewal
CRS	Roofing Works

We've refreshed this year's garden competition from feedback we've received from residents.

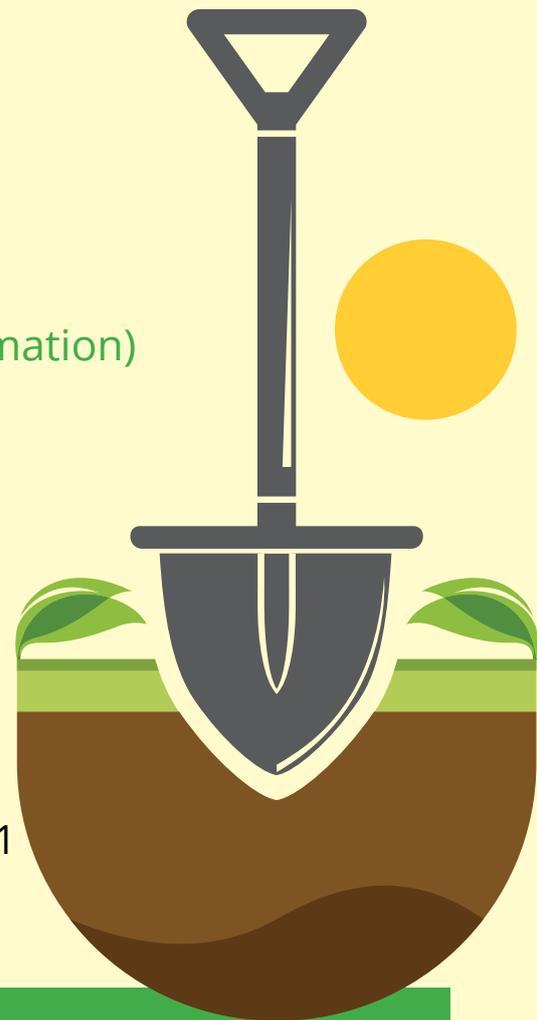
The categories are:

- **BEST ECO FRIENDLY GARDEN**
(ideas include using a water butt, making your own compost, using recycled objects)
- **BEST EDIBLE GARDEN**
(examples include growing fruit, vegetables & herbs)
- **BEST NATURAL WILDLIFE GARDEN**
(encouraging insects & birds)
- **BEST CONTAINER GARDEN**
(pots, tubs and baskets)
- **MOST IMPROVED GARDEN**
(a garden that's had a radical transformation)

The deadline to apply is **FRIDAY 22ND JULY** and your Court Manager will have entry forms.

Judging will take place in August and there will be awards for 1st prize and highly commended.

This year everyone who enters will be invited to a celebration day organised by Housing & Care 21 (date tbc).



Any questions contact Issie Howard on 0370 192 4444 or speak to your Court Manager.

housing&care21

Our contact details:

Housing and Care 21

Units 403/404

Chambers Business Centre

Chapel Road

Oldham

OL8 4QQ

Email: OldhamEnquiries@housingandcare21.co.uk

Customer Services Telephone: 0345 604 4447

OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Repairs Line (24 hours)

0800 032 1215

Oldham Council main switchboard

0161 770 3000

You can access lots of our services
online at: www.oldham.gov.uk

Council Tax

0161 770 6622

council.tax@oldham.gov.uk

Environmental Health

0161 770 2244

environmentalhealth@oldham.gov.uk

Housing Benefits and Council Tax Reduction Scheme

0161 770 6633

benefits@oldham.gov.uk

Payment line

0161 770 6611

24 hour automated payment service

Registrars

0161 770 8960

Waste and recycling

0161 770 6644

waste@oldham.gov.uk

Age UK Oldham

0161 633 0213

Ring & Ride

0161 652 0248

Citizens Advice Bureau

0844 847 2638

Silverline

(confidential friendship support)

0800 470 8090

NHS Advice

111

Police non-emergency

101

Oldham Community Leisure

0161 207 7000

Action Together

(formerly Voluntary Action Oldham)

0161 633 6222

Oldham Library

Greaves St

0161 770 8000

Making Space

Tandle View, Royton

07966 887 152