



NORTH news



The Government Standard

One Vision: Create a great place to live, learn, work, visit and invest in

ISSUE 36

LOCAL CYCLISTS ON TRACK AT SIR CHRIS HOY VELODROME



Young people and coaches from North Glasgow are pictured with ng homes CEO Robert Tamburrini, the Executive Member for the Commonwealth Games, Councillor Archie Graham, and Head of Regeneration John Devine

great place to LIVE

Scotland's only world-class indoor cycling facility – the stunning Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome in Glasgow – has attracted thousands of people since it opened in October.

Demand for track sessions is so high that the velodrome at the £113 million Emirates Arena is almost fully booked until Christmas.

While some of the world's top cyclists have graced the track – at events such as the sell-out UCI Track Cycling World Cup – a group of young people from schools in North Glasgow took visitor numbers over the 4,000 mark.

The school pupils from Springburn Academy and All Saints Secondary visited the velodrome as part of

the ng Sports Legacy project being delivered by Glasgow Life, ng homes and the Winning Scotland Foundation.

The ng Sports Legacy Project aims to connect residents in the north of the city with the ongoing Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games legacy initiatives.

ng sports legacy co-ordinator Greg Cann is already working hard to increase participation in sport and improving health and wellbeing. The project is the first of its kind in the city.

Chair of Glasgow Life and the Executive Member for the Commonwealth Games, Councillor Archie Graham, said: "The Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome was built for the people of Glasgow and the response has been nothing short of incredible.

"We are determined to make sure that the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games leave a lasting legacy. It was fantastic to see young people from the north of the city riding on the very same boards as some of the world's greatest cyclists including our very own Olympic gold medal winners Sir Chris Hoy and Laura Trott. We want this venue to inspire the next generation of cyclists."

Chief Executive of ng homes, Robert Tamburrini, said: "The London 2012 Olympic Games showed just how inspirational sport can be. For young people in our area to be given the chance to cycle on the same track that Sir Chris Hoy himself rode on just a few weeks back

is very special."

Built next to the Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village and Celtic Park, the Emirates Arena is one of the largest facilities of its kind in Europe and is already home to a world-class sporting events programme.

For further information on sessions or events, customers are asked to check www.emiratesarena.co.uk or telephone **0141 287 7000**.



review of the year



new kitchens and heating for kemp street



ng homes staff Susan Mellon and Kerry Stephen with new recruit, Commonwealth Apprentice Jennifer Paton, check out the new website

new look website

great place to **LEARN**

We have launched our new website - www.nghomes.net

The move is part of our ongoing drive to improve communications with customers of ng homes and partner organisations. The website offers quick and easy access to essential information for tenants, residents and the wider North Glasgow community.

The user-friendly design provides site visitors with better access to information about our services. Users can check out the latest news, hear about upcoming events in the community as well as make

payments to rent and factoring accounts.

Tony Sweeney, Head of Organisational Development at ng homes, said: "Our new website has all of the features you'd expect from a community based social landlord and it has the North Glasgow community at its heart. The website is constantly being updated with news, events and information so it will be an important resource for anyone interested in ng homes or the North Glasgow community in general."

ng homes now on twitter



As well as launching a new look website ng homes is also embracing social media and now has a twitter page. If you wish to follow us on twitter log on to www.twitter.com/ng_homes. Our twitter name is **ng_homes**. We will be tweeting about what we've been up to and letting you know about upcoming events where you live.

great place to **WORK**



a real chance for future employment



offered their expertise as we move forward, they have a team that cares."

Thomas McAlister, Award Manager of Scotland UnLtd, said: "Pat's idea is a fantastic example of how our awards programme can help individuals who want to tackle society's most pressing issues. Overcrowding in prisons is a real concern and the Government recently highlighted the importance of reducing re-offending and supporting prisoners' rehabilitation. Pat's idea could not be more relevant and we are delighted to be able to support him."

An employability initiative for prisoners and ex-offenders in Possilpark has been launched thanks to a £4,468 award.

Funding for Open Gates comes from the Millennium Awards Trust delivered by support organisations Scotland UnLtd, Firstport and ng homes.

Open Gates will support prisoners and ex-prisoners through an employment and training programme with the aim of reducing re-offending and stopping the revolving door back into prison.

Operating as a social enterprise, the organisation will manufacture, recycle, and upcycle furniture and white goods and sell to the general public.

Individuals who have managed to break the cycle will use their experience to mentor and support other offenders to do the same.

The man behind the project, Patrick Clark, had first hand experience of the struggles of the re-offending cycle before setting up a sandwich business employing over 70 staff.

His new venture will see him working with a team of volunteers who are helping to set up the enterprise. Many of the volunteers are ex-prisoners or have an interest in supporting offenders.

On receiving the award Patrick said: "As a new social enterprise we found it difficult to get on the first rungs of funding. Scotland UnLtd listened to our aims and goals, their advice and understanding in what we are doing was invaluable. The grant itself not only helps us to move our project along but it also gives our team of volunteers a boost and has encouraged us to move forward quickly to the next step. I would like to add that Scotland UnLtd have

The award was made through a partnership initiative run in conjunction with ng homes, Scotland UnLtd, and Firstport. The partnership is part of a strategy to encourage social entrepreneurs in North Glasgow to test out ideas that can make a big difference to people and communities. The initiative offers access to free support and advice in addition

"...another great initiative that ng homes are supporting to help local people..."

to start up awards to help individuals turn ideas into reality.

Chairperson of ng homes John Fury said: "This is another great initiative that ng homes are supporting to help local people make a difference in our communities."

Regeneration Co-ordinator for ng homes Margaret Layden, said: "We are delighted to be part of such an important initiative and we congratulate Pat on achieving this award which will support the development of this vital programme in North Glasgow."

If you have an idea to address a problem in your community or would like further information please contact: Margaret Layden, Regeneration Co-ordinator at ng homes on **0141 560 6000** or e-mail mycommunity@nghomes.net Thomas McAlister, Scotland UnLtd Award Manager on **07545 933798** or e-mail thomasmcalister@unltd.org.uk

primary school challenge

great place to **LEARN**

Pupils from Wallacewell and St. Martha's were among the local schools who took part in the North East Glasgow Games - a sporting challenge for primary schools.

The event was designed to allow the pupils the opportunity of showing a commitment to sport and healthy living, working together as a team, encouraging others and developing skills.

The youngsters had to take part in a variety of sporting challenges involving running, jumping and throwing skills, encouraged by a PA announcer.

Although there was a healthy competitive spirit on display, the challenges were great fun to take part in.

John Fury, chair of ng homes, is pictured presenting certificates to mark the schools participation in the event, with ng sports legacy co-ordinator, Greg Cann.

Wallacewell Primary School



St Martha's Primary School



COMMUNITY SPORTS COURSE

A new full-time introductory programme to community development through sport will start in January at John Wheatley College in a partnership with ng homes.

The course will provide successful learners with a range of skills in community development and sports coaching.

It is aimed at people who wish to study at entry-level and gain practical skills and knowledge that will help them find employment or further study in either field.

Working in the Community subjects include values and principles, equality and diversity, working with community groups and local

community investigations.

Sports subjects include an introduction to sports development, citizenship through sport and fitness and how to lead sporting activities.

There are no formal entry requirements but candidates must possess a good level of communication skills, both verbal and written.

The programme is three and a half days per week attendance and will be delivered in a community venue within the Springburn area.

To apply or seek more information, contact the John Wheatley College Advice Team on **0141 588 1500** or Margaret Layden, ng homes, on **0141 630 4252** or email mycommunity@nghomes.net

winter photography competition



Are you a budding photographer? Over the winter months we'd like you to get snapping in our winter photography competition. The top three photos will win prizes of gift vouchers for Jessops.

All you have to do is take some photos around North Glasgow, it could be Springburn, Balornock, Possilpark or Parkhouse. It could be a nice winter day, a historic North Glasgow landmark, a community event or anything that shows winter in North Glasgow.

Send your pictures to northnews@nghomes.net

The best of your photos will be published in the Spring edition of North News and could even feature in a future photographic exhibition.

sporting events for all...

Greg Cann, ng sports legacy co-ordinator, has been working with our partners over the last few months and has arranged sports activities across North Glasgow including Golf, Gymnastics, Table Tennis, Football and Athletics.

The events were held at various venues across North Glasgow including Possil Point Community Centre, Balgrayhill Community Centre, Petershill Park, Tron St Mary's Church and Springburn Leisure Centre.

There was football coaching for children aged 5-8 and 8-12 delivered in partnership with Partick Thistle, Falkirk Community Foundation and Glasgow City Women's FC.

The gymnastics sessions were delivered in partnership with Scottish Gymnastics and local club Storm Gymnastics for nursery and primary school children.

There were also Table Tennis sessions for all ages & abilities.

These events will be taking place again in the New Year so for more information or to book space(s) call Greg on **0141 630 4254** or email mycommunity@nghomes.net with name(s), age(s) and a contact number.

GET INVOLVED!

ngsportslegacy is all about YOU and YOUR community. We want your ideas and help. If you want to discuss sport or physical activity in Springburn/Possil, or want to get more involved - please call **0141 630 4254** or email mycommunity@nghomes.net. Full support will be given and all ideas considered!

Like & Tag on Facebook

Were you at one of our recent sports sessions? ng sports legacy is now on Facebook. Why not go to our new Facebook page and tag yourself and your friends in some photos? The new site will be the place to go to find out what sports activities are available in North Glasgow: www.facebook.com/ngsportslegacy



focus on

HEALTH SMOKING



Cigarette smoke contains about 4,000 different chemicals that can damage your body.

At least a fifth of them – 800 – can cause cancer and when a smoker inhales problems can occur, ranging from cell death to genetic changes that lead to cancer.

Smoking is a greater cause of death and disability than any single disease.

The World Health Organisation say that smoking is responsible for around

FIVE MILLION deaths worldwide every year.

And they fear that number could double by 2020.

There are many pressures on young people in particular to start smoking because it makes them appear 'cool' or smart.

But nicotine is a highly addictive chemical that hooks a smoker into their habit.

Health authorities and tobacco companies are waging an almost constant battle – one trying to get people to give up while the other seeks

to keep smokers hooked and attract new ones with glitzy advertising.

In Scotland we have a no smoking in public places law and a growing number of other nations are following the lead.

According to Cancer Research UK, smoking is by far the most important preventable cause of cancer in the world.

They say smoking accounts for one in four UK cancer deaths and kills five times more people than road accidents.

Giving up is the best thing a smoker

can do to improve their health and greatly reduces the risk of smoking-related cancers.

The earlier you do it the better but it's never too late to gain valuable years of life by giving up on smoking.

The time for New Year resolutions is approaching so why not choose a new, non-smoking, life for 2013 and beyond.

GPs can give smokers help to quit but ultimately it takes determination and will power.

But the benefits in terms of health and wealth are very significant.

Pamela saving a packet of cash



Pamela Hutchison is already experiencing the benefits of quitting smoking.

A Housing Assistant working in Benefits and Rents at ng homes Kenna Rossine House in Possilpark, she has first hand experience of dealing with tenants where every single penny counts.

Pamela gave up smoking in August and decided to save the money that would normally go up in smoke.

So far, she has netted over £600.

Pamela said: "I am astonished and delighted at the money I have saved – enough for a holiday if I wanted but will probably mean better Christmas presents for my family."

"Of course the benefits are much longer term and not just financial and I am determined not to fall back into the smoking habit."

"I do notice a difference already in my breathing and when I'm out walking around and I would urge other smokers to try to give up too."

"It's a money winner if you can."

energy bills advice

GEMAP and ng homes held a free information session recently in Possilpark offering advice on how tenants can save money on their energy bills. We're planning to have more similar events soon.

Some tenants are pictured with ng homes Lynne Cooper, Liz McMillan and Angie Maguire from GEMAP.



New Face in Possilpark - Say hello to Rosie!

Rosie Robertson is the Link Up Co-ordinator in Possilpark. Rosie will become a familiar face in the community as she develops initiatives designed to increase self-esteem and improve community well-being. She is pictured here with Margaret Layden, Regeneration Co-ordinator. You can contact Rosie Robertson on **0141 336 1300**

Christmas visits

Christmas is an expensive time for all families and though money may be tight, ng homes want to ensure that rent is your first priority. Rent pays for the roof over your head and that of your family.

Our staff will be visiting people who are currently in arrears to make sure they will maintain agreements made with us, especially over the festive period. We can also make an arrangement with you, if you feel you need one and don't already have one in place.

The rent you pay is used for essential repairs and investment works to your home, so it is very important that it is paid on time.

If you need help with benefits or money advice, please contact your Housing Officer, who will arrange an appointment with a money advisor.

personal independence payment

Next April, Personal Independence Payment will replace Disability Living Allowance for working age people aged 16 to 64.

Applications for Disability Living Allowance won't be accepted after June 2013.

If you have a medical condition/disability that affects your ability to look after yourself or you have walking difficulties now is the time to submit a claim for Disability Living Allowance.

ng homes work in partnership with both GEMAP Scotland Ltd and Long Term Conditions and MacMillan Service to assist our tenants in claiming these benefits. Contact either the Possilpark or Springburn offices to speak to Patrick, Linda or Phyllis or email us on **rentteam@nghomes.net**

bedroom tax

Glasgow City Council have recently issued letters to ng homes tenants who will be affected by the bedroom tax.

If you have received a letter your Housing Officer will be visiting you over the coming weeks to give you advice and to discuss your concerns.

For more information, contact the Rent Team on: **0141 560 6000** or **0141 336 1300** or email us on **rentteam@nghomes.net**

affordable warmth scheme

Glasgow City Council will again offer the Affordable Warmth Dividend to residents aged 80 or older by 31 March 2013.

If you applied last year, you'll get a letter inviting you to re-apply. If you've reached 80 since last year and are first time applicants or over 80 and didn't apply last year, you will also be contacted. If you are not yet 80 but will be before the 31 March 2013 you can submit an application now. Applications must be submitted before 31 March next year.

sheltered housing praised for quality of care and support

The quality of care and support provided by ng homes staff across its five sheltered housing complexes has been graded Very Good by the Care Service Inspectorate.

The Inspectorate regulates care services in Scotland.

Inspector Jacqueline Young visited over two days at the end of September and commended ng homes for good staffing, management and leadership.

She said in her report: "Service users speak very highly of the service and believe the support helps individuals to remain independent. Staff were found to be very motivated and committed to making improvements for the benefit of tenants."

The type of inspection was "low intensity" which is carried out when the Care Inspectorate is satisfied that the organisation is working hard to provide consistently high standards of care.

ng homes is registered with the Care Inspectorate to provide sheltered housing to older people and have five complexes supporting 170



great place to LIVE

tenants living in North Glasgow.

The complexes provide sheltered or very sheltered housing at various locations in Springburn and Possilpark.

Many tenants spoke about feeling safe because of the support they receive from the service and said the support from staff helped them to remain independent. Quotes from residents and their families were included in the report, which is published online by the Inspectorate.

Karen Johnson, Sheltered Housing Manager, said: "We are pleased with the findings in the Care Inspectorate's Report. It's good to hear all the

positive comments from the residents surveyed and recognition of the excellent work being carried out by our staff team."

Ann Marie Devlin, Depute CEO added: "Thanks to all of our staff for achieving this terrific result. In the spirit of continuous improvement we recognise that there is still work to be done and we will be implementing an action plan to support us in achieving our aim of delivering an excellent service for our sheltered housing residents."

John Fury, ng homes Chairperson, said: "This is a great result and a very positive outcome for the organisation."



Residents from ng homes sheltered housing complexes in North Glasgow had a great day in recently when Scottish Opera turned up to perform a little bit of The Magic Flute.

Scottish Opera's a little Bit of... performances bring opera out of the theatre with full-scale shows cleverly

singer and two instrumentalists.

The ng homes residents were captivated by Mozart's Magic Flute.

Helen McGarry from Carron Crescent, Springburn said: "The performance was magnificent. I've never been to an opera before but this has made me want to hear more, it

A WEE TOOT OF THE MAGIC FLUTE

re-written into lively 20-minute versions.

Based on a form of Japanese storytelling, the tales unfold to a series of colourful illustrations, brought to life by a storyteller,

was lovely."

Jessie Wallace from Hawthorn Street, Possilpark said: "I thought the performance was truly wonderful. The singer had a beautiful voice, the music was so relaxing and the narrator had great patter."

After the show the performers stayed to pose for photos and chatted with the residents.

Robert Tamburrini, CEO of ng homes, said: "Speaking to the residents it's clear they thoroughly enjoyed the performance. We want to see more of this in North Glasgow so I say bravo to Scottish Opera and all of our staff involved in bringing the

Magic Flute to our community."

After the opera the residents tucked into fish suppers before a sing-song courtesy of New Rhythms for Glasgow who are based in Springburn and provide FREE music workshops and special projects for people living and working in North Glasgow.

The residents got into the swing of it singing such classics as I Belong to Glasgow and King of the Road.

Sheltered Housing manager Karen Johnson said: "Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day, thanks to Scottish Opera and New Rhythms for Glasgow it was music to everyone's ears."

barloch street is best for thomas and mary!

When Thomas and Mary McFarlane realised they were spending so much time climbing up stairs with heavy grocery bags they thought it was time for a move after 42 years in their home in the Westercommon area.

They were interested in the sheltered housing at Barloch Street so went in to ng homes Possilpark office, Kenna Rossine House, and spoke to Housing Officer Caroline Wilson and Assistant Liz McMillan.

Thomas, 84, picks up the story: "When we went for shopping we tended to leave half of the stuff in the car as to carry the lot would have been too much for us. I found myself going up and down to the car all the time

and with my health and Mary's not what it used to be we were finding it a struggle."

Mary, 82, said: "The staff at the housing office couldn't have been more helpful. They helped us fill in all the forms and Ann and Margaret, the wardens at Barloch Street, are always checking to see if we need anything and letting us know what's going on in the community lounge. I was playing bingo there last week!"

The couple have a long association with Possilpark, both having come

from Fruin Street and Torr Street respectively. Thomas worked for Caterpillar as a Tools Inspector and Mary worked at the City Bakeries.

Thomas and Mary moved in to their new home at Barloch Street in October and Thomas says they only have one regret: "We wish we'd put in to move here sooner! With the health centre just across the road and no more stairs to climb we have everything we need right on our doorstep."

Mary has the final word (as usual Thomas says): "Anyone in a similar



situation and thinking of applying to live in sheltered housing shouldn't hesitate to fill in the forms. We have our own wee flat and the wardens are only minutes away if we need them and so is the community lounge."

To find out more or apply for sheltered housing with ng homes please contact: Housing Services on **0141 560 6000** or **0141 336 1300** or e-mail **info@nghomes.net**

reflections on another great year for ng homes

It's been another incredible year for ng homes with a host of highlights reflected in just some of the photographs on these pages.

We have collected a number of awards, started to use our new trading name and maintained our commitment to helping our community to grow and develop.

Most importantly, we have continued to deliver great housing services for our 5,400 tenants and factoring for another 1400 customers.

CEO Robert Tamburrini said: "We seem to grow from strength to strength and part of that is down to the teamwork not only by our staff but also by tenants, residents and our partners who are committed to making a difference to our local community."

The housing association won many awards not only for housing services but also for helping the environment with an innovative waste plan.

Being named as Large Housing Association of the Year at the UK Housing Awards is one of the best accolades achieved in our 36-year history.

Millions of pounds have been invested in improvements in various parts of North Glasgow including the £3.5m community energy saving programme in the Carron area.

We provided lots for young people in the community to do but perhaps the highlight was bringing the beach to Possil and by luck we also enjoyed some glorious sunshine too.

Individuals past and present in our community were recognised with the opening of the Ron Davey Enterprise Centre, Kenna Rossine House and Fishwick House.

We again took part in the world's biggest coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Support and staff supported other charities through fun runs and other fund raising initiatives.

Here's to the future and even more success in 2013.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE.
Staff of ng2 have made a huge difference to the community – cleaning, collecting, power washing and more.



great place to VISIT

Picture courtesy of Evening Times

COSTA POSSIL.
Young people had a glorious time when we brought the beach to town.

ACTIVATE.
Another 13 local people have successfully completed the community development Activate course supported by ng homes and delivered by Glasgow University.



SWEET SUITE.
Lord Martin had a room named in his honour in our superb new learning facility, the Ron Davey Enterprise Centre.

KENNA ROSSINE HOUSE.
ng homes stalwarts Pat Kenna and Bill Rossine had the new Possil office named after them. It was officially opened by Councillor Chris Kelly



BEST IN BRITAIN!
We were named best Large Housing Association at the UK Housing Awards.



ZERO WASTE.
Innovative ways to recycle and re-use waste led to ng homes being awarded the Best Partnership Initiative at the Scottish Waste & Resources Awards.



SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR.
CEO Robert Tamburrini, Regeneration Co-ordinator Margaret Layden and Head of Regeneration John Devine.



ng SPORTS LEGACY.
Local youngsters helped launch the Commonwealth Games Legacy Project and many more are taking advantage of projects organised by our Sports Co-ordinator.

PLAYING THE OLD FASHIONED WAY.
We have been supporting 'traditional play activities' through funding from Inspiring Scotland.



SHELTERED HOUSING.
We transformed Gourlay Street and Mary Fishwick was honoured.



PROFESSOR SIGN IN.
Professor Joe Goldblatt came to see a new Event Management training programme aimed at young people in North Glasgow



LOCAL HERO.
Concierge team leader Tosh Hamilton helped to prevent a young woman jumping from a bridge and was recognised by the police and ng homes for his bravery.



CUP OF KINDNESS.
Sheltered Housing Manager Karen Johnson and local MSP Patricia Ferguson at one of our charity coffee events

new kitchens and heating

great place to **INVEST**



Residents at Kemp Street Sheltered Housing are delighted with the latest improvement works carried out by ng homes.

New kitchens were fitted and central heating installed as part of an investment in excess of £300,000.

In total 58 properties were improved in the central Springburn area at Kemp Street, Angus Street, Springburn Way, Cowlairs Road, Atlas Road and Vulcan Street.

The work is part of ng homes ongoing investment programme and was carried out by contractor CCG with approximately

£6,000 spent on each property.

Among the delighted tenants is Ena Murphy, from Kemp Street, who said: "I'm really pleased with my new kitchen. It's so bright and modern and my new heating is just great too."

The next phase of work on the programme is due to start at Barloch Street in Possilpark early in the New Year.

BECOME A ZERO WASTE VOLUNTEER

If you care about the environment and your community and have some spare time then you could become a Zero Waste Volunteer.

Volunteering is an excellent way to share your skills and enthusiasm, develop new skills, meet new people and contribute to protecting our environment for future generations.

The Wise Group's Zero Waste Volunteer programme helps householders in Glasgow and other areas to reduce their domestic waste.

This is achieved by eliminating food waste, composting at home, reducing unwanted mail and recycling.

And they are always looking for more volunteers. You can help by attending events, holding workshops, giving advice to householders and promoting the campaigns to friends, family or groups you attend.

You can give as little or as much time as you can spare and you choose the campaigns and activities you would like to get involved in.

To find out more, contact zerowaste@thewisegroup.co.uk or call 0141 303 3131.



The Love Food Hate Waste team will be staging a pre-Christmas special event at Balgrayhill on Friday 14th December from 1 to 4pm. It's all part of the MAD scheme launched earlier this year – **MAKING A DIFFERENCE.**

Zero waste is the key message of the event and there is good information on how everyone can play their part to improve the environment through recycling.

get on yer bike!



The success of Sir Chris Hoy at the Olympics and Bradley Wiggins winning the Tour de France has put cycling at an all time high in popularity.

A bicycle is once again among the top items on the Christmas shopping lists of lots of young people.

But safety should be a top priority and so our Sports Legacy Co-ordinator, Greg Cann, has organised a series of special events for bike users.

Ten local youngsters achieved the Level 1 Bikeability Award after three sessions delivered by Bikestation, Glasgow, in association with ng homes.

During the sessions, youngsters were taught basic bike safety and

proficiency, developing confidence in bike use and control.

Some will progress to Level 2 where they are assessed on their ability to ride safely and confidently on the road.

As you can see from our pictures it was fun...even on the days it rained.

Keep in touch with Greg's sporting events by emailing mycommunity@nghomes.net or call 0141 630 4254.

Also check out the ng sports legacy Facebook: www.facebook.com/ngsportslegacy

players technique and ball skills but there were also group games and small sides games plus other competitions.

Some of the youngsters who took part are pictured with a few of the coaches.

Coaching staff from Falkirk Football Community Foundation and Partick Thistle Charitable Trust provided local youngsters with some fun during the October school break.

Football coaching camps were run to improve

Robert Tamburrini named Leader of the Year



great place to **WORK**

Our Chief Executive, Robert Tamburrini, has been named as Scottish Social Enterprise Leader of the Year.

He was presented with the award by Cabinet Finance Secretary John Swinney at the annual Scottish Social Enterprise Awards 2012 in a ceremony at the Scottish Parliament.

Mr Tamburrini heads up both ng homes and the sister organisation, ng2.

Fraser Kelly, Chief Executive of Social Enterprise Scotland, said: "The winners demonstrate the diversity and innovation of our social enterprise community."

Robert Tamburrini said: "Winning this award would not have been possible without the support

of the respective Boards of ng homes and ng2, together with our staff and business partners. Social Enterprise is clearly thriving in Scotland and it was fantastic for us to win this award."

Chairperson of ng homes John Fury said: "Winning this award shows we are on the right track to making North Glasgow a great place to work."

Chairperson of ng2 Ronnie Rodden added: "It's great that we are employing local people to provide quality services to our customers."

At the start of 2010, ng2 had one member of staff

seconded from the housing association. Recently, ng2 appointed its 43rd employee this year.

The judging panel included the distinguished journalist Alf Young, Chair of Social Investment Scotland, Linda Hanna of Scottish Enterprise and Gordon Merrylees of RBS.



staff honoured at community awards

Four staff of ng homes were recognised in the Regen Stars in the Community Awards.

Concierge Team Leader Tosh Hamilton received the "Regen Star" award for going that extra mile after he helped prevent a young woman jumping from a bridge.

Already commended by Strathclyde Police and Glasgow City Council for his actions, Tosh reckons he was in the right place at the right time.

He said: "It's very humbling to be recognised in this way and I share this award with my concierge colleagues who would have acted in the same way in the circumstances."

Our Tenancy Sustainment Team received an award in the category of Building Stronger Communities.

The team help tenants to enjoy living in their homes and assist when people find it difficult to manage their tenancy.

Gail Nicolson, who accepted for the team, said: "Our team work really hard for our tenants and it's nice to receive recognition for our efforts."

Head of Regeneration, John Devine, received special recognition for the work he has done in the North and East of the city. John was

instrumental in the Glasgow Fort development in the East and in the North he has developed ng2, our social enterprise.

John said: "I'd like to thank Pat Bradley and all the ng2 staff as I couldn't do what I do without working in partnership with others."

Frank Miller, Vice Chairperson of ng homes, received an award for his voluntary work over a number of years with ng homes, Young Peoples Futures, the Community Planning Partnership and a host of other community groups in North Glasgow.

Frank said: "This was totally unexpected and a really nice surprise, I'm chuffed to bits."

The awards were hosted by the Regen Newspaper Group and compered by Councillor George Redmond.

CEO of ng homes Robert Tamburrini was delighted with the success on the night.

He said: "These awards are testimony to the hard work and professionalism shown by our Board and staff in making a difference to our communities. It's good to get recognition but we will continue to plan improvements to the services we provide to customers."

swap til you drop

Swapping is the new (and cheaper) version of shopping right now, part of a phenomenon called "collaborative consumption." ng homes residents were the latest group to try out this latest craze.

The Swap til You Drop event was held at Balgrayhill Community Centre where a clothing store that Mary Queen of Shops would have been proud of was setup by Hazel Fulton and a team of trusty volunteers from Zero Waste, ng homes and ng2.

Vintage-lovers came along to browse the clothing items draped on racks and rails while as you would expect from a clothing store the latest tunes blared out from the sound system.

Margaret Layden, ng homes



Mrs Skinner, of Bardowie Street, won our most recent Tenants Prize Draw and popped into the office with her grandson Aidan to collect her prize from Housing Officer Terri McChesney.



Regeneration Co-ordinator said "It was about creating a fun experience for everyone, and with times hard for a lot of people at the moment it was an opportunity to pick up some nearly new clothes in exchange for ones they no longer need - It's really a treasure hunt!"

Whether collaborative consumption will really overtake our addiction to shopping remains to be seen, but, as one resident said: "Who needs to shop when you can swap?"

Budding artist Shantel Paterson's great drawing of her eco superhero landed her top prize in the drawing competition that was part of the Broomfield Fun Day.

She won a plant science project and a shopping voucher for her efforts and Debbie McNally, right, and Margaret Layden from ng homes were given the task of presenting the prizes to Shantel and her sister Chelsie.



Area Profile: Carron, Springburn

The Carron area of North Glasgow takes in Springburn Road, Carron Place, Carron Crescent, Carron Street, Carbisdale Street, Fernbank Street and Eccles St.

There are 4 multi storey flats 15 high and 3 smaller multi storeys that have 8 floors. There are also 29 tenement properties in the area. Across the estate there are 449 tenants and 80 owner occupiers.

Local buses are the 90 and the 3 which can take residents as far as Braehead or as near as Stobhill. With Health Centres, Leisure Centres and shops almost on the doorstep the Carron area of Springburn is a great place to live.

To find out more about living in the Carron estate contact Housing Services on 0141 560 6000 or 0141 336 1300 or email info@nghomes.net

improving football skills



Coaching staff from Falkirk Football Community Foundation and Partick Thistle Charitable Trust provided local youngsters with some fun during the October school break.

Football coaching camps were run to improve

making a difference



Matthew Duffy is a man who can make a visible difference.

The hard hat, face protector and the power washer give the game away but just in case you've not figured it out, he's a member of the ng2 team that have spruced up many areas.

Here's a great example of before and after images that clearly show the big impression Matthew and his co-workers can make on the area.

From humble beginnings, ng2 continues to develop and is playing a significant role in improving many of our streets, pathways and the environment in general.

During the winter months when temperatures drop, squads will be ready to respond and, as they have

great place to **WORK**

BEFORE



AFTER

done previously, help Glasgow City Council staff to keep the streets and pavement clear of snow and ice.

rolling out...

Margaret Layden gives out the sausage rolls at the Balgrayhill Community Centre as part of A Song, a Shimmy and a Sausage Roll.



welcoming our young apprentices

Four Commonwealth Apprentices have joined ng homes and will train in various business areas over the next two years whilst studying towards the SVQ Level 2 in Housing qualification. We will catch up with how they are getting on in the next issue of North News.

Commonwealth Apprentices Caitlin Heaney, Jennifer Paton, Mark Shannon, and Joy Henderson are pictured with Margaret McCann of ng homes Olynn Gaffney of SHARE and Chris Cassidy from Glasgow City Council's Commonwealth Initiative Team.

fun for balgrayhill youngsters

Parents from Springburn helped to organise a fantastic Halloween event at Balgrayhill Community Centre for over 80 children.

The youngsters had a great time as they played games and had a fancy dress parade. A big thanks to the parents who gave up their time to bake cakes, prepare the buffet and organise games. ng homes was happy to support this event through staff who helped out on the night.

The parents are working with Margaret Layden from our Regeneration Team and the team at Balgrayhill Community Centre to organise more activities in the Centre for young people. They are also looking at a service for parents and toddlers.

For more details contact Margaret Layden on 0141 560 6000. Forthcoming events in January include **Bring in the New Year on the 11th** and a **Burns Night with Scottish Dancing on the 25th**.

young at heart and keeping active

A number of community activities have been arranged for seniors who are still very much young at heart.

Opera in a Box and a Singalong at Hawthorn Sheltered Housing was a great hit and ng homes staff have come up with more activities.

A group from Balgrayhill and Carron took a trip down memory lane during a visit to the Peoples Palace where they recalled memories from the 'Barrowland', the single end and the steamie.

It was great fun and visits to other museums are being planned.

One resident said: "We had a

fabulous time at the Peoples Palace and it was great to make new friends from other areas. A big thank you to the staff at the Museum and to ng homes for organising such a fantastic visit."

Following requests for regular get-togethers, there will be fortnightly events at Balgrayhill Community Centre on Friday afternoons from 1-4pm when you can enjoy some activities, games, bingo and a singalong.

If you are interested in taking part or want to find out more then please contact your housing officer or Margaret Layden from our Regeneration Team on 0141 560 6000 or 0141 336 1300.

All we want for Christmas is... to keep you safe

With Christmas just around the corner, Strathclyde Police is warning the public to take extra care and responsibility for their own safety at this busy time of year.

It won't come as a surprise to anyone that people tend to be out and about more, shopping for presents and spending more money than usual – and that's before you get to the partying and socialising part.

There are so many things to fit into already busy schedules, so it's easy for personal safety and security to slip to the back of people's minds. With that being the case, the festive period can be a time when thieves and criminals have more opportunities to target even more unsuspecting individuals.

Here at Strathclyde Police, our job is to keep you safe during the festive period – which is why we've once again launched our Christmas Safety campaign. Of course we want everyone to enjoy the festivities and make the most of their holidays, but we'd also like to reinforce the message that people must take responsibility for their own safety too.

For advice on how you can keep safe while enjoying the festive fun, please visit <http://tiny.cc/lyesow> or contact your local police office on 0141 532 2000 and speak to your local community policing team.

You can also follow our Christmas Safety campaign on Facebook: www.facebook.com/StrathclydePolice, or keep up to date with us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/keepingpeoplesafe

ALL WE WANT FOR CHRISTMAS... IS TO KEEP YOU SAFE

@KeepPeopleSafe

StrathclydePolice

www.strathclyde.police.uk



Sign up for Free Fire Safety Checks

Housing Officer Debbie McInally has been encouraging tenants to take Strathclyde Fire and Rescue up on their offer of free fire safety checks and Mr O'Neil of 250 Edgefauld Road did just that.

As part of their vision to make our communities a safer place to live, Strathclyde Fire & Rescue is offering free home fire safety visits to everyone in the area.

Mr O'Neil said: "It was worth signing up for the free safety check and so easy to arrange, I'm glad Debbie made me aware of it and the officers fit new smoke alarms and offer good advice, I'd urge everyone



to have the free fire safety check carried out in their home." Here's how to sign up for your **free fire safety check**: Sign up online at www.strathclydefire.org Call 0800 0731 999 Contact your local station on 0141 558 2223 Text "Check" to 61611 from your mobile phone

healthy workplace award



great place to **WORK**

ng homes has been commended for demonstrating its commitment to the health and wellbeing of its employees by receiving a Simplyhealth Healthy Workplace award.

Provided by healthcare provider Simplyhealth, the Healthy Workplace awards recognise the contribution that UK organisations, in both the private and public sector, make to the welfare of employees.

Winners of the award provide employees with a range of initiatives and benefits that help to keep their workforce motivated and healthy.

Tony Sweeney, Head of Organisational Development at ng homes, said: "We recognise the importance of a healthy work/life balance for our staff. Our Health Plan is central to this and we have a number of policies and initiatives in place that emphasise the importance we place on employee health & wellbeing.

"We recently achieved the Healthy Working Lives Bronze Award and we are currently working towards

Silver. Our staff are actively involved in developing our approach to health and wellbeing in a number of ways, including designing and implementing activities and events and this has helped to support our high level of employee engagement."

John Fury, ng homes Chairperson, said: "We are delighted that the on-going commitment and efforts of our Management Board and staff team has been recognised by the Simplyhealth Healthy Workplace Award and we will continue to support our employees to remain motivated and healthy."

Howard Hughes from Simplyhealth remarks: "We run this award scheme because we want to recognise and encourage companies to care about the health of their people. We believe that companies can make a positive contribution to the health of our nation. Congratulations to ng homes on achieving Simplyhealth Healthy Workplace status and demonstrating that the health and wellbeing of its employees is fundamental."

Competition winners

We offered books of Spree Vouchers in a competition in our last issue.

They offer discounts and 2-4-1 deals in lots of outlets.

The correct answer was a) – ng homes was originally formed in 1976.

The winners are:

Helen Carroll, Carbisdale Street
Mrs H. Chambers, Carron Crescent
A Venables, Croftbank Street,
Caroline Allison, Carbisdale Street,
Mrs Jess, Balgrayhill Road.

OWNERS CORNER...

FACTORING SERVICE
Bob Innes was appointed Property Services Manager and Denise Coyle Property Services Officer to look after owners and properties we factor.

Bob has 20 years experience in housing and Denise Coyle has a background in factoring and finance and is the first point of contact for homeowners.

Bob said: "Owners have been willing to share their thoughts on where they think the service could be improved and we have taken their comments on board.

"To progress further, we will be carrying out a survey and will then develop and implement a plan to address any issues raised."

ng property will also be inviting owners to participate in a new homeowners forum. If you are interested, please contact Bob or Denise on 0141 560 6000 and press Option 1 or e-mail property@nghomes.net

NEW FACTORING ACT
The Property Factors (Scotland) Act 2011 came into force in October 2012 and contains three main elements:-

- All property factors must be registered in order to operate a factoring service
- All property factors must comply with a Code of Conduct
- The provision of a dispute resolution scheme



ng property is now registered. We will shortly be arranging meetings to provide every homeowner with a Written Statement of Services that will provide details of our service, standards and also a revised complaints procedure.

You can find details of the Property Factors Act on the Scottish Government's website: www.scotland.gov.uk

BOILER REPLACEMENT DEADLINE

Glasgow City Council has a city wide energy savings project with Scottish Power and Everwarm that is open to our factored customers, subject to qualifying criteria.

They provide an A rated boiler as a replacement for a G rated boiler for £720 including VAT.

If the house is electrically heated or has no central heating and there is a gas supply immediately available a new gas central heating system can be provided at zero cost.

Move quickly, as the programme ends on 31st December 2012 and work is allocated on a first come first served basis. Contact Michelle Mundy at Glasgow City Council on 0141 287 8601 if you think you may qualify.

blooming marvellous

ng homes actively encourages tenants and others living in our area to keep things looking good by offering vouchers in an annual garden competition.

Judged by Board Members Bill Rossine and Mary Willis, three prizes - £50, £30 and £20 – were given in Possilpark, Balornock, Parkhouse and Springburn.

Housing Officer Catherine Mather is pictured presenting one of the winners, James Leach, with his £50 of vouchers.



The winners were:

POSSILPARK

- 1st - Mr Joe Gattens, Closeburn Street
- 2nd - Kathleen McKenna, Balgair Gardens
- 3rd - Mrs McInnes, Redmoss Street

BALORNOCK

- 1st - James Leach, Syriam Gardens.
- 2nd - Mrs P & Mr W Rhodie, Wallacewell Rd
- 3rd - Mrs H Anderson, Campsie Street

PARKHOUSE

- 1st - Mr Andrew Traynor, Broadholm Street
- 2nd - Jeanette Jenkins, Buckley Street
- 3rd - Mr Hugh Williams, Crowhill Street

SPRINGBURN

- 1st - Mr Jim Murray, Springburn Road
- 2nd - (shared) Patricia Mackin, Hillkirk Street and Ray Sandford Hillkirk Street
- 3rd - Mr Kinghom, Bagnell Street



BILL'S A REAL VOLUNTEER DIAMOND

ng homes Board Member Bill Rossine is set for a Royal appointment after being recognised for his voluntary work spanning over 20 years.

During that time he has dedicated at least 15 hours per week to his community work.

To celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the charity WRVS called for nominations of volunteers who go that extra mile.

Bill was nominated and then chosen as one of 60 Diamond Champions from Scotland. Each received a certificate signed by their Royal Highnesses, the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, and

were also given a specially designed pin badge to commemorate the event.

Ten people were chosen from the 60 volunteers who attended the ceremony in Glasgow City Chambers to travel to London to join volunteers from the rest of the UK for a special event at St James's Palace, where they will meet Their Royal Highnesses.

Chairperson of ng homes, John Fury, said: "I think it's great that Bill is being honoured by WRVS for his contribution to ng homes and other community groups over a number of years. Bill is one of a number of volunteers who work tirelessly to make a difference in the community. I'd like

to congratulate him on behalf of ng homes."

Bill said: "I am delighted and wish to thank ng homes for nominating me for this award. I want to share the award with my fellow Board Members. We are all committed to making a difference in our community."

In addition to his work with ng homes, octogenarian Bill also volunteers with the local Crime Prevention Panel, Community Reference Group, Community Health and Care Partnership, Abbeyfield Nursing Home and is a volunteer walk leader with Northern Sole Mates.

After suffering a heart attack in

and 22 and 42 Viewpoint Place.

Tins, plastic containers, cardboard packaging, newspapers, magazines and items suitable for recycling can go down the chute.

A leaflet has been circulated and concierge services staff will be around to help guide tenants.

Look out also for our recycling points – a purple one for glass and green 'clothing point' for textiles.



Recycling is a major part of our award winning waste improvement plan and in partnership with Glasgow City Council we're running a pilot programme in multi-storey properties in Balgrayhill.

Fridays are now designated as recycle chute days for properties at 178 and 198 Balgrayhill Road

emergency repairs during the holidays...

Tenants can report any emergency repairs during the holidays by calling the emergency contact number at 0800 595 595.

Problems with gas central heating should be reported direct to the Association's gas maintenance contractor City Building on 0800 595 595 or City Technical Services on 0141 646 5091 TV aerial faults should be reported direct to Campbell & Kennedy on 0141 435 7780

Calls made to the office numbers will automatically divert to the emergency call centre.

During periods of extreme cold weather there is a risk of pipes freezing and bursting. At such times it may be useful to follow these suggestions:

- Keep heat circulating in all rooms
- Report any dripping taps and pipes to City Building
- Find your main stopcock in case of leaks

If you have a burst pipe please carry out the following:

- Turn off water at stopcock or tap
- Switch off your immersion heater or boiler
- Turn on taps in sinks and baths
- Turn on as much heating as you can
- If water comes into contact with any electrical fittings turn off the electricity supply at the mains
- If your pipes do freeze or burst contact the emergency office number 0800 595 595

ng homes will close for the festive season at 1pm on Friday 21st December and will reopen at 9am on Monday 7th January

The Management Board and Staff would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



How to get in touch with us:
email: info@nghomes.net
web: www.nghomes.net
Twitter: @ng_homes
Facebook: [ngsportslegacy](https://www.facebook.com/ngsportslegacy)

springburn office
Ned Donaldson House,
50 Reidhouse Street,
Springburn, Glasgow G21 4LS
Tel: 0141 560 6000

possilpark office
Kenna Rossine House,
252 Saracen Street,
Possilpark, Glasgow G22 5LF
Tel: 0141 336 1300



working in partnership