

# Trust talks

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## Children weave their way to meet the Queen

**Pupils from Short Wood Primary School in Wellington have weaved their way to the opening of our Shireliving extra care scheme in the town, Oakwood, while learning all about the development too!**

Following a talk from Jane Kind, Assistant Project Manager for the Trust, about the scheme, which will provide apartments for the over 55s, the children created a weaving of an oak tree which will be on display in the public area at Oakwood.

The weavers, all in Year 5, were then invited to the official opening of the development along with local residents. And as the event was held on the Queen's 90th birthday weekend the children even got to meet our very special guest Queen lookalike Patricia Ford!

This isn't the first time that Short Wood has been involved with the extra care scheme, as the reception class's artwork was recreated as a 14 metre mural on the hoarding of the site last summer.

# Nominate a neighbour

Once again, we're sponsoring the Pride of Shropshire Good Neighbour Award.

One of our tenants, Rachel Jones from Ellesmere, recently won a Community Health Star award on Good Morning Britain for her work setting up a charity helping ladies with postnatal depression.

Do you know someone worthy of an award? Someone who goes the extra mile for their community

or neighbours, has helped set up a community group or charity, or simply brings a smile to local residents' faces with their amazing attitude?

If so, make sure they get recognised by nominating them for the Good Neighbour Award; entries close on 22nd August.



Last years 'Good Neighbour Award' winner, Jean Griffin

Go to: [www.shropshirestar.com/pride-of-shropshire-awards](http://www.shropshirestar.com/pride-of-shropshire-awards)



Getting the garden furniture or BBQs out this summer?

## Make sure they're covered!

Hopefully you won't experience a flood, fire or burglary but if you do, having to buy your belongings again is a costly expense most people can't afford.

Contents insurance offers peace of mind so you can enjoy the summer without this worry.

Unlike most policies, home contents insurance from the Trust offers no excess to pay. Over 1,200 of our tenants have chosen home contents insurance with us, which is exclusive to Trust tenants.

Here are just some of the reasons why:

- Accidental damage can be included for as little as 23p per week.
- A named contact at The Wrekin Housing Trust to help with any enquiries.
- No need for a bank account as there are lots of different ways to pay the premiums.

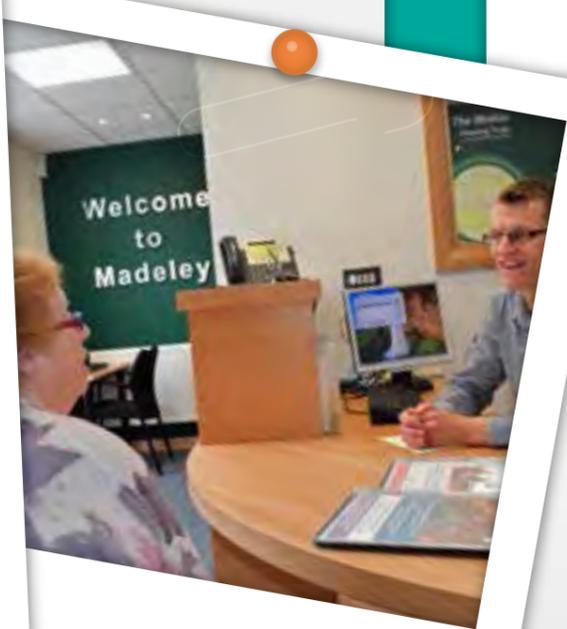
For a quote and application pack call Tom Gregory on 01952 217046, visit your local Trust shop or [www.wrekinhousingtrust.org.uk](http://www.wrekinhousingtrust.org.uk)



## Our new Madeley shop is now up and running!

You can find us opposite Tesco, next to the Anstice Memorial Hall (5-6 Horseshoes Court). This shop has replaced our old Hills Lane Drive and Woodside shops, providing you with a modern, well-located shop to visit our staff and get advice or help when needed.

Please feel free to pop and see us, our opening hours are 9am to 5pm Monday, Thursday and Friday and 10am to 5pm on Tuesdays. See you there!



## New Bungalows prove a big hit



We recently completed a development of new Wrekin Retirement bungalows at Apley Court in Wellington. Here's a pic of Mary by her new home which she absolutely loves!

Mary moved from Oliver Court in Wellington and said: "I love the space in my new bungalow and really like to sit out in the garden. The bungalow is in a fantastic position which lets me continue my passion of walking. Thank you."

For more information about Wrekin Retirement Living visit:

[www.wrekinhousingtrust.org.uk/retirementliving](http://www.wrekinhousingtrust.org.uk/retirementliving)

### How could we improve your newsletter?

Is there something you would like to see in this newsletter? Maybe you have an idea for a feature or section we could add? Which bits are your favourites? Would you prefer to receive a digital version instead of a paper copy?

If you have any ideas for future editions of Trust Talks please let us know by emailing [trust.talks@wrekinhousingtrust.org.uk](mailto:trust.talks@wrekinhousingtrust.org.uk) or calling 01952 217100.



# Pay your way

A guide to the many ways you can pay your rent

We pride ourselves that we have the best customers in the country for paying their rent in good time, meaning that we have the income to provide you with great services.

You might not be aware of the different ways that you can pay your rent, especially if you've always popped to your local shop or PayPoint.

Here are the other ways you can pay your rent quickly and easily so you have more time to do the things you enjoy!

## £1000

### up for grabs!

If you swap to pay your rent by Direct Debit, you could be in with a chance of winning £1,000 thanks to Bacs; the organisation behind Direct Debit in the UK. To be in with a chance of winning this amazing prize, you simply have to be a new, or existing, Direct Debit payer – it really is that easy!

We've made some changes to our payments line to make it easier and quicker to pay. It's an automated line so all you need is your AllPay ID number and your payment card.

Call us on **01952 217111**

**Direct Debit** is a simple and convenient way to pay regular outgoings like your rent, especially with the changes to benefits. Payments are taken automatically, weekly or monthly – on a date you choose, so you don't have to worry about falling behind with your bills. Once set up, you can relax safe in the knowledge that you won't forget those important payments.



Like **43%** of our tenants, Mrs Ebertowska pays her rent by Direct Debit having previously paid over the phone.



*"As we both work and have a very busy life, paying by Direct Debit means we have one less thing to worry about and gives us more time to spend doing things together as a family."*

Mrs Alderson from Donnington recently changed to pay her rent this way and said:

*"If I can give any advice that would help other people on Universal Credit it would be to set up a Direct Debit. It's the best thing I did, my rent gets paid and I'm not tempted to spend it on anything else!"*

Mrs Hunt from Ketley Bank uses the payment line because her husband's self-employed so she's never sure of the household income.

*"Using the payment line means that I can pay different amounts when my husband has completed jobs, so I can always keep my account in front."*

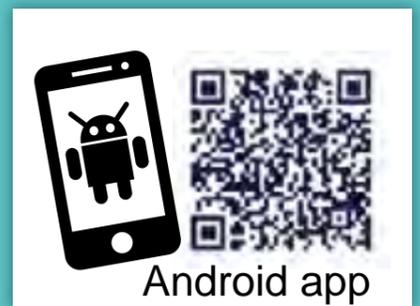
## Do you currently pop to your local PayPoint outlet to pay on a regular basis?

Save yourself the time you spend queuing and pay it online. It's a simple, quick and safe process that makes it even more convenient to pay. Follow the link from the front page of our website to our payment portal. Then log in with your 19 digit number on your rent card, enter the details of your payment card and confirm your payment. You can use the system any time, day or night, so no more rushing to call during our Contact Centre opening times or waiting to speak to someone. It's completely secure, and you will receive an email to say your payment has been processed.



## If you've got a smartphone, why not download the Allpay mobile app?

It's a free mobile application you can download on your Apple, Android or Windows smartphone which enables you to pay your rent at the touch of a button. Just download the app from the Apple app store or Google Play, or scan these QR codes using your smartphone and start making payments straight away. When using the app for the first time, you'll need to register using your 19 digit payment reference number. Once you've registered, you can log in using a four digit code of your choice.



Android app



Apple app



Mrs Calland has been paying her rent the smart way for the past few months after previously paying at the local newsagents.

*"It's much easier for me to pay on the app. Before I would have to fit going to the newsagents around my job; paying on the app means I can do it any time of the day or night and can focus on work and playing with my baby son."*



## Are you thinking about changing the way you pay?

Let us know and you could be in with a chance of winning a **£25 shopping voucher!** Email [trust.talks@wrekinhousingtrust.org.uk](mailto:trust.talks@wrekinhousingtrust.org.uk) with your story. For more information about changing how you pay your rent, please contact your Housing Executive.

# Ben gears up for the Rio Paralympics!



Here at the Trust we sponsor Ben Rowlings, a wheelchair athlete from Newport, who is constantly amazing us with his progress. 2016 is a big year with the Rio Paralympics being held in September. Whilst the team is still to be announced, Ben is hoping to be selected to represent Team GB at the Paralympics. We asked him a few questions to see what he's been up to...

## Are you looking forward to Rio Paralympics?

I'm really looking forward to Rio; it's been on my mind for the past four years and for it to be so close now is exciting.

## How intense is your training schedule for the months running up to the Paralympics?

My training's been really intense for the past couple of years, making sure I'm in the best shape to get selected. Over the winter (October to March) I do 2-3 sessions a day, six days a week - that's a mix of track and road sessions

in the chair, strength and conditioning and stretching. Then over the summer season the training eases off, becomes more speed based and goes down to one or two sessions a day with races most weekends.

## What do you do to relax after a race?

The way I relax after a race is usually to sleep! Sometimes I'm doing 3 or 4 races a day or racing back to back days. It takes a lot out of you mentally and physically so nothing beats a power nap.

**"2014... that was a big breakthrough year for me"**



## What's your favourite post-race snack?

Probably a cold chocolate milk! And something sweet like a cereal bar.

## How old were you when you started training seriously?

I'd say my training started to get serious in 2014 when I was about 18; that was a big breakthrough year for me.

## What outcome are you hoping for in Rio this year?

Everyone would love to win a medal in Rio and I'm not going to lie, I would too, but I'm just taking it step by step. I need to get selected first, then make the finals and then anything after that is a bonus. I know I have the speed to mix it with the top guys, but anything can happen between now and then.

## What are your hobbies in your spare time?

Racing takes up so much of my time but I love watching any sport - football, rugby,





# Win, win, win!

Mrs Smyth from Parkwood was the lucky winner of a £50 Sainsbury's voucher after completing the Christmas wordsearch. She said: "I couldn't believe it when you rang to tell me I'd won, it was a lovely surprise! You enter competitions and never think that you'll be the winner."

Four-year-old Devlin from Wellington was very excited to be picked as the winner of our dot-to-dot competition; he won a craft set and some sweets. Devlin is looking forward to writing a story about his favourite things (including jumping and dinosaurs!) using the glitter pens from his new craft set. Well done, Devlin.



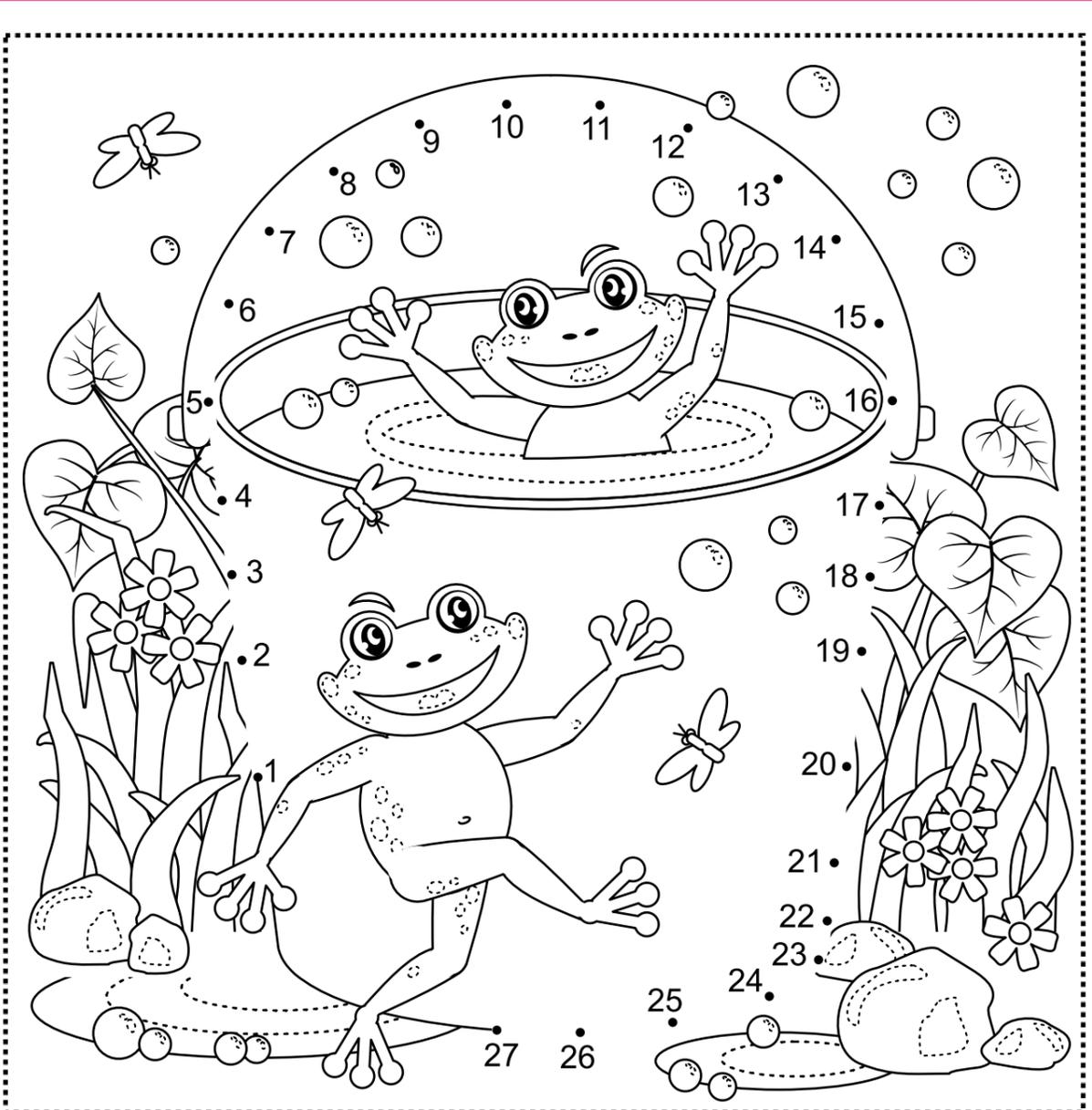
## WORD SEARCH

For your chance to win £50 of shopping vouchers, complete the word search and tell us which word is missing from the grid.

BEACH  
FAMILY  
FUN  
HOLIDAYS  
ICE CREAM  
PARK

PICNIC  
POSTCARD  
SAND CASTLE  
SEASIDE  
SUNSHINE  
TENT

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## And for the kids...

Join the dots to complete the frog picture, then colour it in. Send us your finished picture and you could win a brand new craft set!



Send your entries with your name and contact details to:

Trust Talks competition, M&BR,  
The Wrekin Housing Trust,  
Freepost (SY1 095), Colliers  
Way, Old Park, Telford TF3 4AW  
by Wednesday 31st August.