

UPDATE

BERWICKSHIRE
HOUSING
ASSOCIATION



CHIRNSIDE DEVELOPMENT REFLECTS LOCAL DEMAND

Glebe Place in Chirnside is the latest of our affordable and energy efficient housing developments to be completed.

Our vision of creating thriving rural communities is there for all to see following the completion of our new affordable and energy efficient housing development in Chirnside.

Reflecting local demand, this 25 unit development at Glebe Place is a good mix of housing types and flats suitable for individuals and families.

BHA has worked in partnership with Scottish Borders Council (SBC) and the

Scottish Government, with BHA and the Scottish Government providing the funding to develop these much needed, new affordable homes.

As with all of BHA's new-build homes they are of a very high standard when it comes to energy efficiency.

This new development was built by Hart Builders and Smith Scott Mullen.

During the construction phase Hart Builders recruited all of their joiners and labourers locally and several Borders firms were sub-contracted.

Angela Taylor, BHA's Property Director, said: "BHA is delighted with the high quality of these homes and standard of this new development. These 25 homes provide a range of house types which people can afford to rent, are energy efficient and warm, and are much needed in the area."

During the construction, Hart Builders were particularly pleased to offer a local school pupil (and neighbour to the development) a placement on site to gain work experience and an overview of the career opportunities available to her in construction.

More on our new developments on Pages 6 and 7



Welcome to our Summer Update

Dear all

I hope you enjoyed the summer weather we have had and that it bodes well for the school holidays.

In this edition we will be telling you all about our new developments, maintenance programme, new website, freedom of information, community benefits and much more.

We have been listening to tenants about the things they like about us and the things they want us to improve.

We have heard we need to respond to queries and concerns quicker and follow up on repairs and explain what is happening. To do this we need to improve our systems and use modern up to date technology to do things quicker and make it easier for you to talk to us and to get things done quickly for you.

Over the coming few years we will be improving the speed at which we do things for you, make it easier for you to pay rent, make a complaint, report and get feedback on a repair.

We hope you will bear with us as we make this transition. Our plan is that it will be easy for you but it will take time to put it all in place. We will keep you posted!

Warmest Regards

Helen Forsyth - Chief Executive

We're going on a Digital Journey ... we hope you'll join us

More and more people use their smartphones or tablets to do everyday tasks like shopping, banking, booking holidays or simply keeping in touch with friends and family.

Over the next few months we will start to offer more of our services in this way so you can access them at a time that suits you.

Some of the things coming this year will be a new look, easy to navigate website with all the key services you should need just one press away and "My BHA" - a tenant portal that you can register for then check your rent account, report any repairs that are needing done and send secure messages without having to phone into the office.

Our staff will also be out and about more with mobile devices that allow them to deal with any queries and record information without having to travel back and forth to the office.

We want you come with us on our journey.

To be in with a chance of winning one of three tablets (your choice of apple iPad/Samsung Galaxy Tab - or similar), send us your email address and mobile number. We will only use these to update our database so we can use them to contact you in future regarding your tenancy. You can send them, with your name and address by email to:

info@berwickshirehousing.org.uk or text your answer and details to 07786 200690 starting your message BHA.



New Appointment

Our new Operations Director

Dan Blake has been appointed as our new Operations Director with responsibility for the strategic delivery of all housing services and wider community initiatives.

Working alongside customers, staff and Trustees, Dan will ensure BHA delivers integrated housing and social care services to all we serve, remaining deeply rooted within our local communities.

He began his career in Glasgow's East End with Milnbank Housing Association, progressing to West Lothian Housing Partnership, Barony Housing Association and latterly Loretto Housing Association, all part of Wheatley Group.

A proud member of the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH), Dan formerly sat on its Board over a two-year term. He has been involved in work with Glasgow and West of Scotland Forum for Housing Associations and more recently

he has been an active contributor to the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations 'Innovation and Future Thinking' programme.

Dan said: *"I am delighted to be joining Helen Forsyth and her team at Berwickshire Housing Association. I've long admired and observed BHA as a sector leader and feel very privileged to be joining this high performing team."*

"BHA are well renowned throughout the housing sector for their innovative, outward facing and collaborative approaches to service delivery. It's clear BHA have excellent foundations upon which I intend to lead, learn and grow our collective ambitions further."

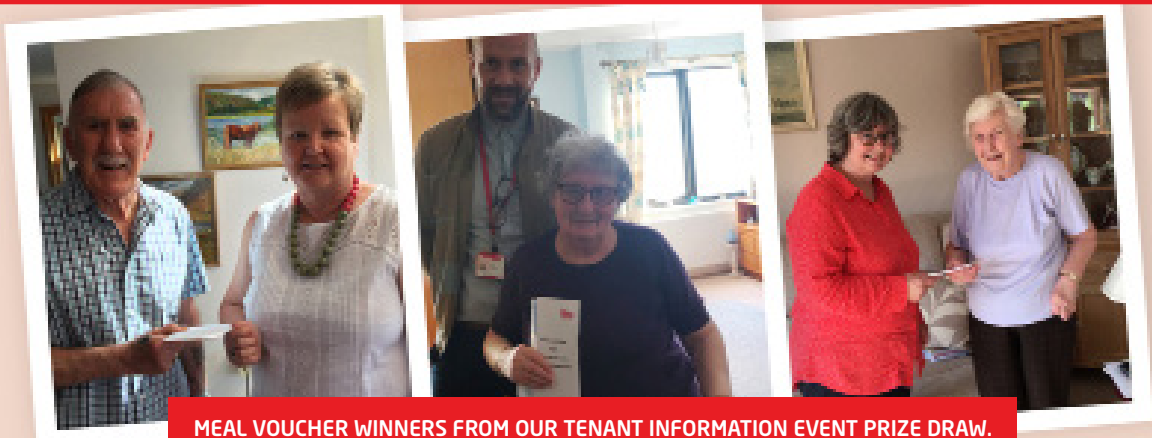


"I am delighted to be joining Helen Forsyth and her team at BHA"

DAN BLAKE



Our Lucky Prize Draw Winners!



MEAL VOUCHER WINNERS FROM OUR TENANT INFORMATION EVENT PRIZE DRAW.

They are, left to right - Mr Birrell from Coldstream receiving his prize from Carolyn Veitch; Jessie Quin from Eyemouth receiving hers from Tim Rennie and Alison White of Coldstream being presented with hers by Sheila Mowitt. The fourth winner was Mr Battison from Cockburnspath.



Investing in Your Homes

Improvement works planned to homes in 2019

We have a number of Planned Maintenance programmes underway to improve our homes, and surveys of the homes concerned have been carried out to allow us to develop these programmes of works.

The tables below list the streets where we plan to be carrying out improvement works in June 2019 through to March 2020. Where we are replacing heating systems, these will be with a gas boiler, if there is already a gas heating system in the property, or with an Air Source Heat Pump heating system if there is no gas supply available.

The kitchen upgrades will replace the units and sink, and the kitchen manufacturers Joinery and Timber Creations (JTC), will

have already visited your home and agreed the layout with you together with your kitchen choice.

The bathroom upgrade will include replacing the wc, wash hand basin and bath (or shower if the property has a level access shower, rather than a bath), and an over bath shower. If your home is included in these programmes of works, we will contact you well in advance of the works, and advise you of the likely timescale, and who your contact officer will be while these works are being carried out.

Please note - your home may have recently had a new heating, kitchen or bathroom upgrade, and the street you live in is shown on these tables, but we would not carry out a further replacement to your home under these programmes.

HEATING REPLACEMENTS

AYTON	Lawfield Drive, The Crofts
BERWICK-UPON-TWEED	Newfields
BURNMOUTH	Cowdrait, Upper Burnmouth
CHIRNSIDE	Croftsfield, Crosshill, East Croftsfield, Erskine Road, Greenwell Avenue, Homes Buildings, Lammerview, Market Road, South Crofts, Windram Road, Windsor Locks
COCKBURNSPATH	Callander Place, Croftsacre, Crofts Road
COLDINGHAM	Braehead, Fishers Brae, Hallbank, Priors Walk, Abbots Row, Applin Cross
COLDSTREAM	Duke Street, Hillview, Parkside, Priory Hill, Victoria Place, Home Place, Leet Street
DUNS	Ainslie Terrace, Blinkbonnie, Blinkbonnie Gardens, Briery Place, Castle Street, Earlsmeadow, Glebe Court, Glebe Park, Norris Close, South Street, Station Avenue, The Mount, Trinity Park, Bridgend Place
EYEMOUTH	Albert Road, Glebe Crescent, Gunsgreen Circle, Gunsgreen Crescent, High Street, Marine Square, St Ella's Court, The Avenue
FOULDEN	Kerrigan Way
GAVINTON	The Glebe
GORDON	Murrayfield, Station Road
GRANTSHOUSE	Mansefield
GREENLAW	Church Hill, Duns Road, Wester Row, Blackadder Crescent
LEITHOLM	Cotter Lea, School Wynd, Ramsay Crescent
PAXTON	Merseview
PRESTON	Law View
RESTON	Holm Park, Ladeside, Main Street
SPITTAL	Highcliffe
SWINTON	Carters Wynd, Wellfield



KITCHEN REPLACEMENTS

DUNS	Ainslie Terrace, Berrywell Drive, Blinkbonnie Gardens, Briery Place, Brierybaulk, Glebe Court, Trinity Park, Teindhillgreen, Winterfield Gardens
CHIRNSIDE	Chievot Avenue, Croftsfield,
COLDSTREAM	Cameron House, Duke Street, Duns Road, Hill View, High Street, Home Place, Leet Street, Parkside, Priory Hill
PRESTON	Law View
WHITSOME	The Loaning

BATHROOM UPGRADES

AYTON	Lawfield Drive
BURNMOUTH	Upper Burnmouth
CHIRNSIDE	Erskine Road
COLDINGHAM	Priors Walk
COLDSTREAM	Cheviot Terrace, Parkside, Priory Bank
DUNS	Brierybaulk, Boston Court, Ainslie Terrace, Hawthorn Bank, Winterfield Gardens, Earlsmeadow, Station Avenue, Teindhillgreen, Cheviot Way, Bridgend Place
EYEMOUTH	Marine Square, Buss Craig Place, Gungreen Crescent, Deanhead Road, Coldingham Road, Teviot House, St Clairs, Haymons Cove
GREENLAW	Church Hill
LEITHOLM	Ramsay Crescent
RESTON	The Orchard
SPITTAL	Highcliffe

EXTERNAL PAINTING

Over the year, we will be painting the outside areas of your home in some parts of the towns and villages listed below, and we plan for these works to be carried out over the next few months as long as the weather is within the manufacturer's guidelines!

BERWICK-upon-TWEED	Westfield Road, Newfields
COLDINGHAM	Applin Cross, Abbots Row, Braehead, Fishers Brae, Hallbank, Priors Walk
COLDSTREAM	Gowanlea, Priory Hill, Priory Bank, Priory Bank Villas, Victoria Place, Parkside
DUNS	Boston Court, Brierybaulk, Cheviot Way, Currie Place, Easter Street, Glebe Park, Station Court, Hawthorn Bank
EYEMOUTH	Buss Craig Place, Callercove Crescent, Callercove Way, The Avenue, Gungreen Crescent, Lairds Hill
SPITTAL	Highcliffe
TWEEDMOUTH	Braeside



FIRE SAFETY

We regularly carry out works to ensure our properties are safe, and meet the required building and regulatory standards, with programmes of work to make sure we continue to meet these standards. The Scottish Government introduced new fire safety legislation earlier this year, and we have developed a programme of works to meet these.

Fire Safety work will be carried out in 2019 in properties in Ayton, Burnmouth, Chirnside, Cockburnspath, Coldingham, Cranshaws, Duns, Eyemouth, Gordon, Grantshouse, Greenlaw, Hume, Leitholm, Paxton, Preston, Reston, St Abbs, Swinton. Surveys of the properties included in this phase of the programme have been completed, and if your home is included, we will contact you.

This programme of safety works includes Electrical Safety checks, and we will be carrying these out in a number of homes within the following areas:

Allanton, Ayton, Burnmouth, Chirnside, Cockburnspath, Coldingham, Coldstream, Eyemouth, Gordon, Grantshouse, Greenlaw, Leitholm, Longformacus, Paxton, Preston, Reston, Spittal, Swinton, Tweedmouth, Westruther.

If your home is included in this programme, we will contact you and advise you of the timescales, and who your contact officer will be.

We will be surveying homes over the year, to let us develop the next phases of our improvement and maintenance programmes, and we will contact you to advise you if your home is involved in these phases.



Development Manager Colin Young and Development Officer Kim Aitchison oversee the start of the work on the final phase of our Todlaw development.

Vision of creating thriving rural communities is there for all to see

Todlaw 4, Duns

Work is now underway and progressing well on Phase 4 of our Todlaw development in Duns which will create another 27 energy efficient and affordable homes.

This is the final phase of the Todlaw project which, when completed, will have provided a total of 87 new homes. It is anticipated that construction will be complete ready for handover in early 2020.

This latest phase, again being built by Hart Builders (Edinburgh) Ltd, will be made up of 11 flats and 16 houses. One of the flats will be fully accessible for anyone with disabilities and the ground floor flats will have level access showers. All the new homes are designed with level entrance paths and wider internal doors making them accessible for wheelchair users to visit.

Included in the plans is an area of ground which is classed as 'meadowlands' and BHA are looking at the possibility of joining forces with local community groups who may be interested in creating an orchard or perhaps allotments. A Sensory Garden is also planned.





Housing Officer Tim Rennie pictured with Karen Angus and her son Freddie outside their new home in Acredale, Eyemouth.

Acredale, Eyemouth

Tenants moved into the latest modern affordable homes in Eyemouth in the spring.

This is the third phase of BHA's new house building at Acredale, providing 30 new homes and contributing to the much needed affordable housing numbers in the Scottish Borders.

They are a mix of two and three-bedroomed houses with one-bedroomed flats and two ground floor three-bedroomed flats designed for households where a family member has a disability.

The homes were all designed by the architects Smith Scott Mullan Associates to be very energy efficient.

Thirty new homes contributing to the much needed affordable housing numbers in the Scottish Borders.

Springfield Avenue, Duns

We purchased this site from Springfield Properties PLC. The purchase was funded by a Scottish Government grant which was also supported by SBC. Planning permission has been given by SBC.

The building of the new homes has been funded by the Scottish Government, together with BHA funding, and the work will be carried out by Springfield Properties. The development will contribute to the Council's targets for much needed affordable housing for families.

The development of 29 units will be a mix of house types comprising of four cottage flats, 16 two-bedroomed houses and nine three-bedroomed houses. It is planned for these new homes to be completed by summer 2020.

We will be working with Springfield Properties for the first time on this development. They are well known for delivering much needed high quality housing for registered social landlords and local authorities throughout Scotland and are committed to using Borders suppliers whenever possible.

The Springfield site in Duns which will see 29 new houses built.



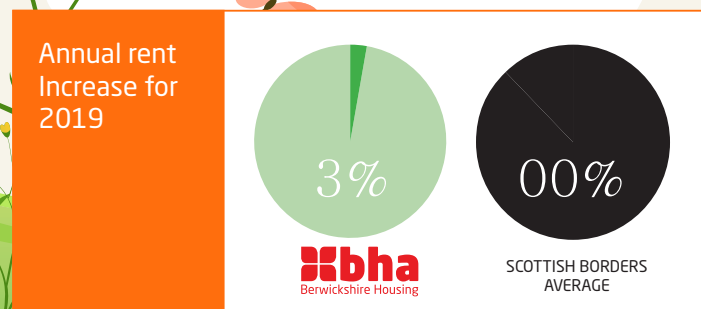
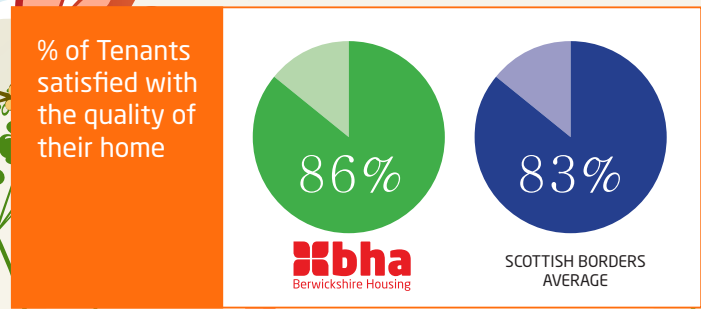
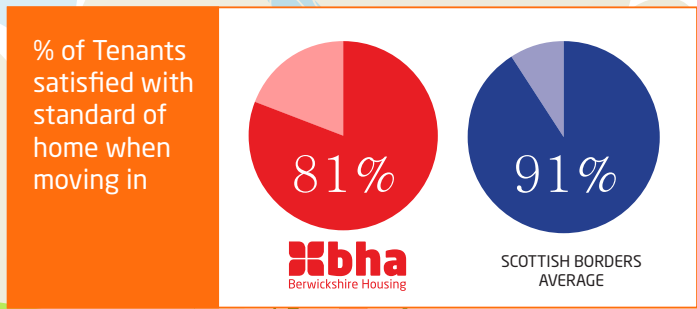
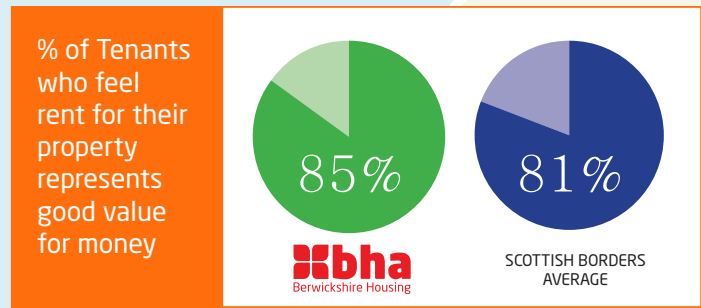
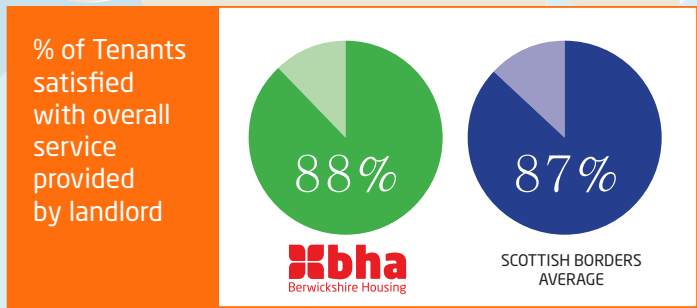
Former Eyemouth High School Site - Watch this Space!

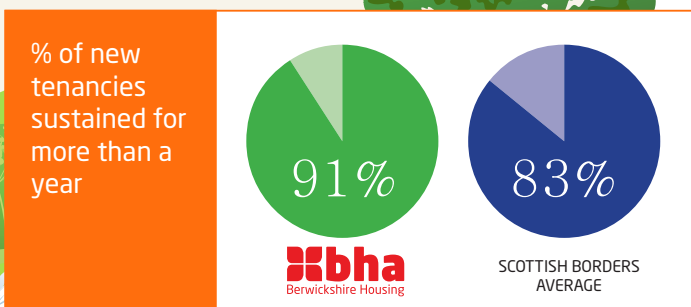
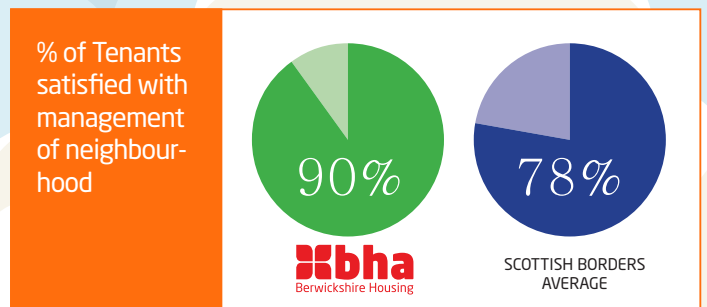
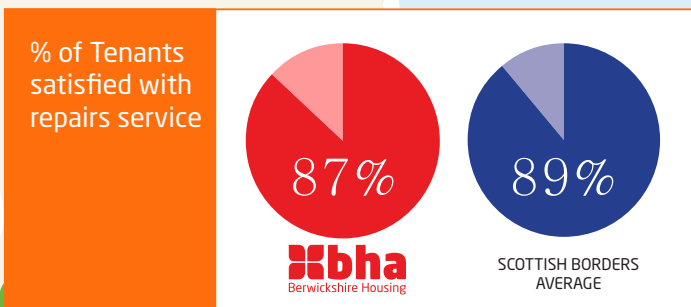
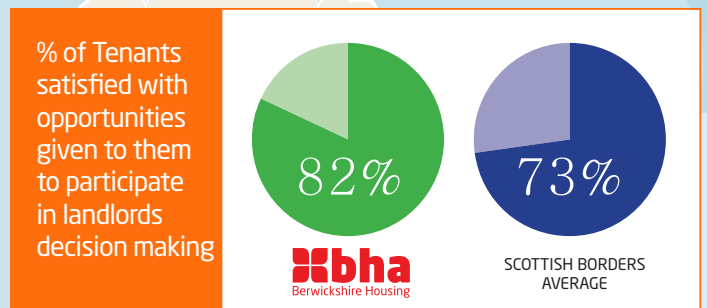
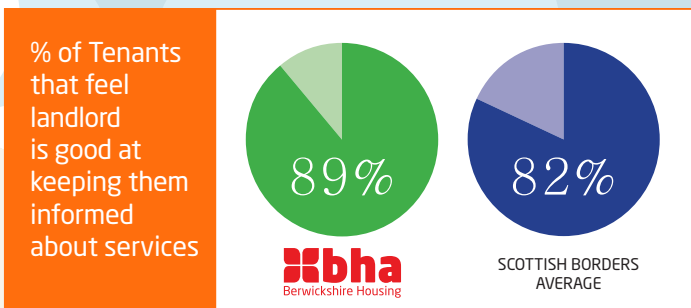
We are working with SBC and Trust Housing Association to deliver housing as part of the regeneration of the old Eyemouth High School site but discussions are still at an early stage.

It is hoped that we will see some progress once the design and programme for the new primary school are finalised by SBC.

So how are we doing?

Annual Performance for Summer 2019







Duns Juniors Football Club had their changing rooms redecorated thanks to the Community Benefits Fund.

Community Benefit Fund is open again for 2019/20

Our purchasing ability allows us to make savings whenever possible through tendering process and these savings can in turn benefit the local community.

We are always looking to give something back to the community, especially through its contracts with suppliers with a community benefit clause. These can provide a range of economic, social or environmental benefits to the local area.

With this in mind we are inviting any local community groups who need assistance with their projects to get in touch. Youth groups such as Scouts or Guides, sports groups, clubs, societies

and voluntary organisations throughout the Berwickshire area can let us know their needs and suggestions.

A number of community groups have already received assistance from Community Benefit Fund in the last year including Duns Juniors Football Club who had their changing rooms redecorated.



How to Apply

Applicants will be asked to complete a short application form to give a background description of the assistance required. This will be assessed by a small panel that will decide on which groups have been successful.

Suggestions can be submitted by:

Calling us on:
01361 884000

Emailing us on:
info@berwickshirehousing.org.uk

@Posting on the BHA Facebook page , www.facebook.com/ BHAThrivingCommunities

Sensory and Community Gardens

It's been a busy time for Community Initiatives during the last six months.

Several projects are shaping up, not least the Sensory Garden at Todlaw. Our stakeholders, including A Heart for Duns and Community Integrated Care met recently and we have an exciting design on the drawing board.

As well as being a wheelchair accessible garden in the heart of the community, the Sensory GardenN will provide stimulation for people who experience a range of sensory impairments. We hope to start making the garden a reality in the next few months.

In addition, our friends at Abundant Borders have approached us to partner up on another small BHA gap site at Todlaw. This nearby greenspace is ideal for a community garden/orchard that will be an asset for the whole community and Abundant Borders have secured Lottery funding to expand how it could be used by our tenants.

Both of these community projects should be complete by this time next year - watch this space!

Stop the Bus!

We will be hosting the Virtual Dementia Tour on 12th and 13th September to coincide with a Dementia awareness event planned for Duns on 16th September.

The Virtual Dementia Tour (VDT) is a mobile unit that gives participants an experience of what dementia might be like by using specialist equipment and creating a simulated environment.

Participants will be expected to carry out simple tasks during the tour and will be able to empathise with challenges that people living with dementia may experience.

This learning experience for staff, volunteers and partners will help increase our understanding of dementia and how we can best support those affected by it.

The Proposed site for Sensory Garden



BHA is to host the Virtual Dementia Tour in September

The Tenant Volunteers

Tenant Volunteers are a group of tenants who meet on a monthly basis to give BHA a tenants view.

We talk about events as well, such as our presence at Berwickshire County Show in Duns.

If you are interested in coming along to one of our meetings please contact Dougie Paterson, Community Initiatives Manager, at the Duns office on **01361 884000**.

We are very proud that we celebrated our 10th Anniversary last year and we are looking forward to another very

busy year working alongside BHA. Last year we ran a colouring in competition at Duns Show and the winner, Sofia De Sena from Cockburnspath, won a £20 Amazon gift voucher.

Attention all young budding artists! At this year's Duns Show we will be running a drawing competition with the theme being 'Favourite part of the community you live in' with the winning entries forming the 2020 BHA Calendar.



The competition is open to all young adults up to the age of 16. So come on all you budding artists, pencils out, as your drawing could appear in next year's calendar which goes out to over 1,700 tenants. Each winner will also receive a £25 voucher of their choice.

All entries must be sent to one of BHA's offices by Friday 16th August. Winners will be notified by the 1st September.

George Pickering, Chair.

Scrutiny Panel Update

Towards the end of last year the Scrutiny Panel delivered their report into "Planned Programme Communication to Tenants Report" to the Property Director Angela Taylor. The group were asked to review this area of the business as we are about to enter into a comprehensive Three Year Planned Programme of improvement works to our homes including kitchens, bathrooms, windows, fire alarms, heating and painting, (detailed on page 5).

Historically tenants have expressed frustration about a lack of communication prior to works starting and having listened to this we have asked the panel to review how this is done and have suggested improvement in this area.

On 20th May, 2019, Property Director Angela Taylor met with the group to discuss in detail their recommendations and feedback comments from the Leadership Team.

It is hoped that throughout the duration of the works our tenants will have a clear understanding of when works will commence, what to expect and who to speak to if they have any issues with the improvement works.

During 2019 the Panel will be looking to identify any areas of service for review using the results from February's Tenant Satisfaction Survey together with the data provided for our 2018/19 Annual Return Charter submission to the Scottish Housing Regulator.

Regular updates will appear in our Updates and on our web page, however, if you would like further information on how you can become involved with the Scrutiny Panel please feel free to contact Kimberley Hoddinott, Business Improvement & Performance Officer on **01361 884000**.



The Scrutiny Panel working with staff to develop this year's Annual Report.

Let's BeFriend

BeFriend is expanding! We've had some changes in staffing within the project recently. Kerry Hague, who was our Project Worker, is now our dedicated Group Worker, and we have also welcomed Sarah Barnard as our new Administrator.

BeFriend is a Lottery funded befriending scheme for people over 55 who feel isolated or lonely. Our older people are visited on a one-to-one basis by trained and checked volunteers. We also run groups in Duns and Coldstream.

A recent recruitment drive means that we have a few new volunteers but we are always on the lookout for more. Our volunteers can help out in our groups, making refreshments, providing transport, chatting to folk who come to the group and joining in with a huge variety of activities. One week, a group might be dying silk scarves and the next, playing a competitive game of New Age Kurling. When volunteers visit people at home, they might stay in the house and have a cup of tea and a chat but quite often they go out. Our intrepid people can often be seen on the promenade in Spittal, browsing in Kelso's garden centre or eating together at one of the community lunches in the area.

We also organise regular music events and recently helped some of our folk to get to a trishaw taster session.

It's not all tea and cakes in our project and volunteers are often the people on hand when things go wrong for their friends but with proper training and support, they're often the people who get problems sorted out too. Could you be a friend to someone who needs one or could you help out at one of our exciting groups? Get in touch to find out more.

Diane and May thoroughly enjoyed their trip in the trishaw and have been practising their royal waves!



It's Public Knowledge

The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act is being extended to housing associations from the 11th November this year.

This means that we will now be required to publish certain information on our website and disclose other information if we receive a request from any member of the public to do so.

WHAT ARE BERWICKSHIRE HOUSING ASSOCIATION'S RESPONSIBILITIES?

We are responsible for many internal and some external aspects of your home.

If you are unsure then please refer to Section 6 of your Tenant Handbook where there is a comprehensive list of our responsibilities.

If you are still unsure then please contact our Head Office on **01361 884000** and a member of the team will be able to assist you.

WHAT ARE SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES?

- Roads and footpaths
- Pot holes
- Dog fouling
- Communal area including parks and verges

If you have an issue with any of these it is easy to report by calling **0300 100 1800** or log onto **www.scotborders.gov.uk** click on 'Report' then follow the instructions.

Housing Officers - Do you know who your Housing Officer is?



COLDSTREAM AREA - CAROLYN VEITCH
Area covered - Allanton, Birgham, Coldstream, Eccles, Foulden, Gordon, Greenlaw, Hume, Hutton, Leitholm, Paxton, Reston, Swinton, Westruther, Whitsome.



DUNS AREA - KATIE COCKBURN
Ayton, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Cockburnspath, Duns, Eyemouth's Acredale Road (numbers 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45-72), Gavinton, Grantshouse, Spittal, Tweedmouth.



EYEMOUTH AREA - TIM RENNIE
Burnmouth (all areas), Eyemouth Deanhead (excluding Acredale Road numbers 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45-72), Eyemouth Gunsgreen, Eyemouth Old Town.



CHIRNSIDE AREA - NIKKI ROBERTSON
Chirnside, Coldingham, Cranshaws, Longformacus, Preston, St Abbs.

Housing Update

During our Tenant Information Events we cooked a good few bacon and egg rolls, had some in-depth chats, sorted a few issues and gained some valuable feedback.



Skip and Scrap

Over the autumn and winter we continued to deliver this valued service in our communities. We remain committed to these given the impact they have within a community and the effect it can have on the neighbourhood

you live in. We also enjoy meeting people and having informal chats so we can get to know one another a bit more.

Downsizing

We are still running our downsizing scheme. Do you have a spare bedroom or two?

Are you finding it harder to manage or is heating your home becoming too much? Talk to us about downsizing. We will pay you £500 per spare room and help move white goods. Conditions do apply. For further information please call us on **01361 884000**.

Allocation Policy

Over the coming months we will be reviewing the allocation policy and consulting our tenants in various ways.

This includes advice on budgets and welfare benefits etc. With Universal Credit increasing in this area these are challenging times but please do let us know if you are struggling with making payments or applying for help - we are here to help you.

Pension Credit Changes

There are some changes to pension credit entitlement for couples where one reaches state retirement age on or after 15th May 2019 i.e. their 65th birthday falls after 5th February 2019 and their partner is younger.

Up until 15th May as long as one of you had reached state retirement age you could make a claim for pension credit if you were on a low income. Pension Credit has always been much more generous than working age benefits giving a couple a minimum income of £255.25 per week as opposed to £114.85 for working age benefits.

From 15th May if only one of you has reached retirement age you will have to either stay on your current benefits or make a claim for Universal Credit, all of which are paid at the lower amount, until your partner reaches retirement age. Example: If you are aged 67 and your partner is only 55, unless you claim Pension Credit now you will have to wait another 12 years before you can claim it.

You only have until 14th August to get your claim in as long as you would have been entitled to PENSION CREDIT before 15th May.

We are in the process of contacting all our customers that we think may be affected by this change but we can only do this if we know your dates of birth. If your birthday falls before 6th February, you are not already claiming Pension Credit and you think you may be entitled, please contact the Financial Inclusion Team on **01361 884000** or email

Financial.Inclusion@berwickshirehousing.org.uk for free impartial advice and assistance.

Best Start Grant – Go Live dates for the early Learning Payment and School Age Payment

Best Start Grant is a package of three payments intended to give extra money to lower income families during the early years of a child's life.

The Pregnancy and Baby Payment (a one off payment of £600 for the first child or £300 for any later children) was launched in December 2018, followed by the Early Learning Payment (a one off payment of £250 for children aged between two and three and a half) in April 2019 and finally the School Age Payment (a one off payment of £250 available around the time a child would normally start Primary 1) on 3rd June 2019.

Applications can be made online at www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant or through the Freephone helpline - **0800 182 2222** open Monday to Friday between 8am to 6pm.

Nothing Brings People Together Like Good Food

As more and more Borderers are turning to Food Banks to put food on the table Financial Inclusion Project Borders (FIPB) joined forces with social enterprise organisation You Can Cook to help people feed their families by 'Cooking on a Budget'.

FIPB organised a series of You Can Cook 'Cooking on a Budget' workshops throughout the Borders from Cockburnspath and Reston in the east to Hawick and Jedburgh in the west.

These were open to everyone, not just the housing associations' tenants, and proved extremely popular.

At each workshop the You Can Cook team demonstrated budget recipes and there was tasting, advice, conversation and awareness of how supermarkets encourage us to buy what we don't need and advise us on the changes we can make to enable us to be more savvy with our food shopping.

The Cooking on a Budget workshops were very popular - with all ages!





Teapot on Tour is Back!

Following the success of previous years, our Teapot on Tour events for 2019 are underway.

The first event of the year was at Chirside Civic Week when, despite the wet and windy weather, our volunteers were kept busy serving refreshments.

Teapot on Tour is the perfect opportunity to take part in community events throughout Berwickshire and provide the opportunity for tenants and residents to simply come along and have a chat, enjoy a cup of tea and find out what the association is up to in their local area.






Our biggest Teapot on Tour event will take place in Mainsgate Park, Duns, on Saturday, 3rd August, at the Berwickshire County Show. Come along and see what the team will be creating for this year's event!



For more information on Teapot on Tour follow our Facebook page (Facebook/BHATHrivingCommunities).

Berwickshire Housing Keep in Touch

There are many ways to contact us. Pop into one of local offices at:
55 Newtown Street, Duns, TD11 3AU (T: 01361 884000) or
38 Church Street, Eyemouth, TD14 5DH (T: 018907 50888)

-  Find us on Facebook/BHATHrivingCommunities
-  Follow us on Twitter @BHACommunities
-  Write to us at BHA, 55 Newtown Street, Duns, TD11 3AU
-  Email us at info@berwickshirehousing.org.uk
-  Visit our website at www.berwickshirehousing.org.uk

OUT OF HOURS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAY EMERGENCY REPAIRS

If you have an emergency please contact the following numbers:

- If you need to report an emergency repair call our repairs hotline on **0800 652 8104**
- If you have problems with your gas or solid fuel heating system call Dalex on **0800 038 5599**
- To report a power cut call Scottish Power on **105**
- If you smell gas in your home call Transco for help and advice on **0800 111 999**

If you have any feedback specifically on the BHA Update, please email our info email address below.