

West Whitlawburn Housing Co-operative

Spring 2012 Edition

International Year of the Co-operative

2012 is the United Nations International Year of the Co-operative. West Whitlawburn Housing Co-operative is one of 25,000 housing co-operatives in Europe alone. Each tenant member of WWHC shares this model with around 1 million other tenant members in Europe. The housing co-operative model is replicated all around the world and just like in WWHC we see how tenant control really makes a difference in communities.

The International Year of the Co-operative offers up a chance to celebrate our co-operative values and reminds us we are part of a truly global movement!

Scottish Parliament Praises WWHC

West Whitlawburn Housing Co-operative was praised during a debate on Co-operatives at the Scottish Parliament on the 9th February 2012 by James Kelly who is a Labour and Co-operative MSP for Rutherglen and Cambuslang.



“In my constituency, I do not have to look very far from my home in Cambuslang to see a shining example of a successful co-op. The West Whitlawburn Housing Co-operative Ltd became a co-operative in the 1980s, and the turnaround has been remarkable, not only in the quality of the housing but in the way the community has come together to combat crime and antisocial behaviour. People have much more pride in the area as citizens, and it is a great example of the real benefits that co-operatives can bring to an area.”

Representatives from WWHC attended the reception at the Scottish Parliament which was attended by over 120 people from around the co-operative movement such as credit unions, football supporters trusts, banks, retail co-ops, energy co-operatives, agricultural co-ops and housing co-ops. Although they don't seem to have much in common, there is one thing that unites all co-operatives and that's their values and principles and the understanding that it's their members who make all the decisions.

More information on international year of co-operatives from Susan Paton 0141 641 8628, spaton@wwhc.org.uk

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Concierge Staffing

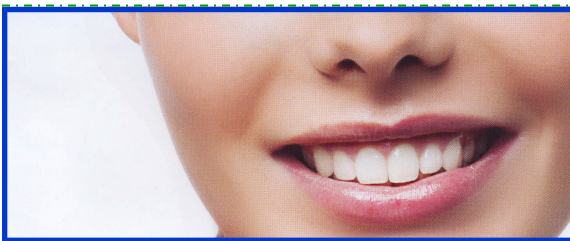
Bert Reid officially retired on the 7th March 2012. Bert joined the Concierge service in July 1996 and was one of our original team at the introduction of the service to enhance the quality of service for our tenants.

Bert has been an asset to West Whitlawburn Housing Co-operative over his 15 years and 7 months in employment

We would like to take this opportunity to wish Bert a long and happy retirement.

Davy Thomas will join us on a temporary basis and will work with Robert Porter and Terry Campbell.

Martin Cunning will change team and will now work with Alistair Morris and Kenny Wilson.



COMPLETE

DENTAL CARE

A new modern purpose built dental practise has recently opened in the Whitlawburn area, providing you with the smile you've always wanted. In addition to providing high quality NHS treatment we also offer a wide range of private treatments including teeth whitening, veneers, dental crowns and other orthodontic treatments. Providing a relaxed and comforting experience for all the family.

Visit our Facebook page for our latest special offers

 www.facebook.com/cdcglasgow

 <http://twitter.com/cdcglasgow>

www.glasgowdentalcare.co.uk

**Call in and
register now at:**

Unit 2/151 Western Rd,
Cambuslang
Glasgow, G72 8PE
0141 641 2107

Police Surgery

Elaine Ross, Community Police Officer will be holding a surgery in the Whitlawburn Resource Centre on Wednesday 4th April between 6.30pm and 8.00pm.

Is there is anything causing you concern or something you want to chat about?

If so, pop in and see her and find out if she can help you.

All discussions will be held in the strictest confidence.



Working Together - Building Safer Communities



Allpay – The Big Break

Are you struggling to pay your rent on time? Do you want your rent to come out of your account directly on a day that suits you? Well why not set up a Direct Debit!

Switching to Direct Debit is simple and straight forward. It's convenient and frees up time for you. You can set it up to come off Weekly, Fortnightly, 4-Weekly or Monthly.

You can trust Direct Debit to be totally safe and their guarantee protects you against any wrong payments.

If you set up Direct Debit between now and 30th April 2012, you will automatically be entered into a free prize draw to win £10,000. Also with every Direct Debit we set up a donation is made to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Interested? Contact your Housing Officer on 0141 641 8628 for more information.



Whitcomm – Broadband Upgrade

Whitcomm Co-operative has been operating since 2009 and provides all broadband and telephone services to the 100 new build homes in West Whitlawburn.

The formation of a committee of local customers has meant that all decisions are taken locally by customers.

Some News from the Whitcomm Co-op Committee:

Broadband Upgrade to get go-ahead

Increased demand for the broadband and telephone services meant that the Whitcomm Committee had to consider upgrading our network so that we can provide stable, more consistent services. They are pleased to announce that from April 2012 Whitcomm customers broadband services will be upgraded up to 50 Mbps, and that telephone users will have a more stable, and clearer, telephone connection.

“we’re so pleased to be able to give the members such a great deal on their broadband for a fraction of the costs they would be paying for the same service with Virgin or BT. Not only will it mean that members get a super-fast service but they’ll also get it at the cheapest possible price”.

Susan Paton– Project Officer

Annual General Meeting

The Whitcomm Co-op AGM will be held on the 16th of April 2012 at 7pm in the Community Resource Centre. All Members are invited to attend.

Kitchen and Bathroom replacement works

As tenants are aware, following the stock condition survey, it was agreed that all kitchens and bathroom fitments with a condition rating 1 (reached end of life) and 2 (nearing end of useful life) would be replaced and we have been progressing with replacement works on this basis.

We appreciate that tenants who have a scoring rating of 3 (half of useful life left) may be disappointed that works are not progressing to their homes at this point. However, we have had to prioritise works as there has been no funding provided for these works and we are funding the work from The Co-operative's own reserves. Kitchens and Bathrooms with condition rating 3 (half of useful life left) will be assessed again later in the year.



The sequence of works will be as follows: Benmore Tower, Bute Tower, Arran Tower, Ailsa Tower, Kintore Tower and thereafter Low-rise properties. Works to Benmore Tower are nearing completion. Works have also commenced in Bute Tower. On average the work takes 1 to 2 days to complete per property and for each tower, approximately one month.



All tenants within multi-storey properties who have been deemed as requiring a new kitchen have been visited and we will provide a week's notice prior to works commencing. If you have been scored to receive a new bathroom fitment, you will be notified by letter accordingly. Works have been progressing well and we are extremely pleased with the Contractor's performance and quality of workmanship to date. We hope that tenants involved are pleased with the end product. Should you have any queries meantime, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Co-operative's Property Team who will be happy to assist.

Future Communications and Tenant Member Meetings

The Management Committee has been considering the above and consulted with all tenant/members recently with a view to deciding how best to communicate with all tenant/members and also to ensure tenant/members could best express their views.

The Management Committee has decided that 2 full tenant/member meetings should be held each year. One in early spring and the other (The AGM), in autumn of each year. In addition there will be a quarterly information brief issued to all tenant/members with future newsletters on all pertinent aspects of WWHC operations and performance. In addition the WWHC web site (www.wwhc.org.uk) has been revamped and will be regularly updated with all important news items.

Should you have any views on tenant/member communications, please contact Paul J. Farrell, Director WWHC (pjfarrell@wwhc.org.uk) at the office.



South Lanarkshire Volunteers

Both the Co-operative and the Resource Centre work with South Lanarkshire Council to provide opportunities for volunteers to gain experience in a working environment. The volunteers are supported by SLC and these are some of their comments about the benefits of the scheme.



Hi. My name is Stephen Pye and I have been volunteering at WWHC for 6 years. My Community Support Worker helped me get my placement. I work in the GTea's café on a Wednesday with Big John and in the Out Of School Care project on Tuesday with the children and Liz. I like volunteering because the staff are nice and I have made new friends. I also feel more independent and happy since I have volunteering.

Hi. My name is Linda Lennox. I am 48 years old and I have volunteered within West Whitlawburn Housing Co-operative's office for five years. I enjoy it very much as I meet a lot of new people and have made new friends. I feel more independent since I have been volunteering, and I have learned a lot more computer skills. My support worker Gillian Taylor helped to get me this job.



My name is Angela Welsh and I work voluntary in G-Tea's on a Tuesday from 9.30 until 12pm.

I have worked there for many years and I enjoy my placement as it gives me the chance to meet and chat to a lot of people.

I would like to thank John and the staff for all the help they have given

My name is Leanne Grant and I have a voluntary work placement in the After School Care. I work there on a Thursday and Friday.

I really enjoy working with the children and staff and I would love to do this as a job. I would like to thank the staff for all the support they have given me.



My name is John Stirling and I have worked in the cafe at the Bonus Ball for a number of years on a Monday from 09:00 to 15:30. My duties include washing dishes, preparing rolls, teas, coffees and completing odd jobs within the kitchen. I enjoy working in the café and the staff and customers are really nice. I am a very sociable person and like meeting lots of people which my job lets me do.

No Pharmacy for Whitlawburn – Who are these people?

On Tuesday 24th January 2012, The NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde Pharmacy Practice Committee decided you should not have the services of a pharmacy in this area. They decided Whitlawburn was not really a neighbourhood and people could easily travel to other pharmacies.

In a sinister development the Committee was also misled by factually inaccurate statements. Someone either deliberately lied to this Committee, or (we will give the benefit of the doubt) was mistaken.

This is not the first time The Committee has been presented with inaccurate information.

We know this area better than anyone, we live here for goodness sake. How anyone can have the gall to decide we are not a neighbourhood, to decide, in a patronising fashion, that we should not have a pharmacy, to swallow misleading information without checking the facts.

WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

WWHC will not let this lie, we have already met with James Kelly MSP and we are forming an action plan to deal with this ridiculous injustice and will take legal action if necessary.



West Whitlawburn Saves with Blantyre & South Lanarkshire

Credit Union

Over the past year the community of West Whitlawburn have managed to amass savings of over £15,000 with Blantyre and South Lanarkshire Credit Union which shows that the people using the credit union are thinking ahead to the future!



*Blantyre &
South
Lanarkshire Credit Union Ltd*

The logo for Blantyre & South Lanarkshire Credit Union Ltd features a circular arrangement of colorful dots in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, and blue, forming a sunburst or gear-like pattern.

Saving with BSL Credit Union is very simple to do. When you join up, you are issued with a Paypoint card, which can be used to pay in to your account at any retailer that accepts Paypoint. This means you don't even need to travel to the credit union to save. Just save when you do your normal day to day tasks.

As well as saving, people have also benefitted by the other products and services offered, such as the Freedom Loans, Unsecured and Secured Loans and the Pre-Paid Debit cards.

The Pre-Paid Visa debit Card has several attractive features. Members can load their card with money available on their Credit Union Account, either at the office or by phone. However, instead of being linked to a bank account (like a Visa debit card) or providing a line of credit (like a Visa credit card), the amount you can spend is limited by the value that's been pre-loaded onto the card, thus giving you total control of what you spend. There are lots of other benefits to the scheme too including free cash back, purchase protection, online shopping and free balance alerts

If you would like to know more about BSL Credit Union and the services they offer, you can contact them on 01698 711112 or call into the office at 252 Glasgow Road, Blantyre, G72 0YH. They can also provide appointments locally in the Whitlawburn Resource Centre.

New Rent Charge 2012/13

As you will be aware The Co-operative sets rents annually, taking into account a variety of factors including all running costs, inflation, affordability, building cost indicators, future maintenance requirements, loan repayments, and in line with the rent policy.

We are currently operating in a very difficult economic environment both nationally and globally, and are faced with increasing costs and funding cuts. This has resulted in our rent charges having to increase for the next financial year.

All tenants have had the opportunity to comment on the charges which have now been approved by our Management Committee. The new charges are outlined in the table below. Please note our lock up charges will not increase this year.

As part of our rent increase process we advise South Lanarkshire Council Housing Benefit Offices of the changes to our charges and they will then update all our tenant's claims. We also amend the direct debit instructions for all our tenants using this method of payment. If you pay by direct debit you will receive confirmation of the new amount and date from Allpay.net. When you receive your confirmation of your new payment please check it carefully to ensure the details are correct.

If you are experiencing any difficulties paying your rent or if you want to discuss your rent account please contact your Housing Officer.

Property Type	Weekly charge	4-weekly charge	Monthly charge
2 apt MSF	£67.86	£271.44	£294.06
3 apt MSF	£80.16	£320.64	£347.36
4 apt MSF	£92.22	£368.88	£399.62
2 apt low rise	£56.49	£225.96	£244.79
3 apt low rise	£68.43	£273.72	£296.53
4 apt low rise	£80.34	£321.36	£348.14
4 apt low rise (conversion)	£74.40	£297.60	£322.40
2 apt cottage flat	£68.43	£273.72	£296.53
3 apt mid terrace	£79.80	£319.20	£345.80
3 apt end terrace	£84.72	£338.88	£367.12
3 apt semi detached	£87.96	£351.84	£381.16
4 apt bungalow	£100.98	£403.92	£437.58
4 apt semi detached	£99.33	£397.32	£430.43
5 apt end terrace	£107.49	£429.96	£465.79
5 apt detached	£112.35	£449.40	£486.85

Confident kids– healthy choices



Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Health Initiative (CHI) has been awarded 3 years funding from Lloyds TSB Partnership Drugs Initiative for the “**Confident Kids – Healthy Choices**” project.

Healthy n Happy CHI will work with families in the local area to help improve confidence, health and family relationships. The aim is to encourage and enable children and young people to aspire to be healthy and to be confident to make healthy choices, and in doing so discourage them from substance misuse and other unhealthy behaviours. Parents and caregivers will also be able to access support so they can feel able to discuss difficult issues with their children, as well as address their own personal issues that might be affecting family life.

There's something for everyone:



- Choices Group for Parents
- Saturday Soothers Family Fun
- Camglen Radio Youth Groups
- Peer education and Den health workshops
- Issue-based arts and drama activities
- Stress Management Service
- Scotland's Mental Health First Aid training
- Parenting Skills and Mentoring for Parents
- Drug Proof Your Kids course
- Signposting to support services where appropriate
- Volunteering opportunities with Healthy n Happy ... and much more!

Families involved will also be supported to take part in home-based activities and work towards family outings.

For further information about what's available through this project, and what's on when, call Joy on **0141 641 5236** or email joy@healthynhappy.org.uk. Enquiries from partner organisations are also welcome.

Scottish Mental Health First Aid will teach you to:

- Give initial help to someone experiencing a mental health problem
- Deal with a crisis situation or the first signs of someone developing mental ill health
- Guide people towards appropriate professional help.

Course coming soon,
please telephone Lesley at HealthynHappy CHI on 0141 641 5236 to find out more information or register your interest.

The Parent Café

Is a drop in centre open each Wednesday 11:30am and 1:30pm.

For £2 per week we provide a relaxed and friendly environment where you can meet other parents of new babies and enjoy light refreshments while getting practical help, support and ideas on enjoying your new baby.

For further information contact Lesley at HealthynHappy CHI on 0141 641 5236 or email lesley@healthynhappy.org.uk

Please note that the times or venues are subject to change or cancellation.

Thanks for Helping us

Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Health Initiative are planning to develop new activities for children and families in Whitlawburn.

Many thanks for everyone who completed a consultation and results will be published shortly for your information. If you would like further information please do not hesitate to contact us. Phone Jan at Healthy n Happy CHI on 0141-646-0123 or email jan@healthynhappy.org.uk

If you would like to become involved in the consultation process and have your ideas or thoughts included then please let us know.

We can arrange to have someone visit you to complete the form, have someone call you or post it to your address.

Get involved and help make positive changes in your community.



The DEN

Youth Health Drop In

Every Thursday 5-7pm

Rutherglen Health Centre

13-25year olds

FREE relationship, smoking, alcohol advice and counselling. Or you want to just come in for a chat, come and see us

Contact Caroline on 0141 641 5236 or Dom on 0141 641 6530

Claims

We have been astonished lately at some claims, from Tenant/members of The Co-operative against The Co-operative. We have had people claiming recompense and compensation where it is their own fault for any incident that has (or has not) occurred. Any Insurance claim which is settled will have an adverse effect on future insurance premiums. The higher cost of insurance premiums, the higher the charge to your rent, the less able we are to deliver services and has happened unfortunately of late, staff redundancy.

So if this claim culture continues it is YOU who pays the price.



Community payback

If you have been in the Centre over the past few weeks you will have noticed that the Centre has had a fresh lick of paint. The team from Community Payback have been in painting the main hall, cafe and some of the other rooms in the centre.

The work doesn't stop there though, as well as getting new artwork for our walls, curtains and fabric on seats, the floor in the main hall will get a complete overhaul which will look great when complete.

G-Teas Café



G-Teas Café
at Whitlawburn Community Resource Centre
YOUR Community Café

New opening hours
Open Monday to Friday
10am to 2pm
then
5pm to 8pm



find out what's on and what's happening
at your community resource centre

www.whitlawburncrc.org.uk

You can also find Whitlawburn Community Resource Centre on the following sites...

 [fb.me/WhitlawburnCommunityResourceCentre](https://www.facebook.com/WhitlawburnCommunityResourceCentre)  twitter.com/whitlawburncrc  [youtube.com/user/whitlawburncrc](https://www.youtube.com/user/whitlawburncrc)

Resource Centre receives

£6,972 in funding from Awards for All Scotland

Whitlawburn Community Resource Centre is pleased to announce a successful grant application to Awards for All Scotland for £6,972 which was received in January.

The funding will be used to market and promote the Resource Centre, its services and activities which we hope will benefit the local community.

For further information about Awards for All Scotland you can visit their website at www.awardsforall.org.uk/scotland

- **Awards for All** is a joint awards programme set up to help small groups. It involves three Lottery distributors: the Big Lottery Fund, Creative Scotland and sportscotland.
- **Awards for All** makes grants to help people take part in arts, sport, social, environmental, health related, educational and other community activities. The Heritage Lottery Fund left Awards for All on 31st March 2009. Details of its small grant schemes are available at www.hlf.org.uk



One year on, West Whitlawburn 5-a-side pitch proves to be valuable community asset

West Whitlawburn five a side pitch 'The Centre Circle' has proved to be a valuable community asset since its' opening a year ago. The pitch is extremely popular with the local community and amateur teams taking advantage of the pitch's low cost bookings.

Whitlawburn Community Resource Centre, who manage the pitch also have youth diversionary projects which take place on the pitch such as the Sunday night youth football league and includes teams from Whitlawburn, Cathkin and Springhall coming together for a friendly game of football.

The pitch has also been widely used by local sports organisations that bring different activities into the community for local kids, UTD Sports who are based in Cathkin currently run soccer academies on the pitch on Mondays.

The Centre Circle has recently started selling value for money football parties which are proving popular especially in the current economic climate.

If you are looking to book the pitch for a game of five a sides or want a low cost football party for your child you can call Whitlawburn Community Resource Centre on 0141 641 5005 or visit www.thecentrecircle.org.uk.

FIVE A SIDE FOOTBALL
the CENTRE CIRCLE
fully floodlit 3G five a side pitch
Games From ONLY £15 per hour

Football Parties
the CENTRE CIRCLE
Give your child a day to remember with a fantastic value for money football party
Packages from only £56

**To book a game or a football party
call us on 0141 641 5005 or visit us at
thecentrecircle.org.uk**

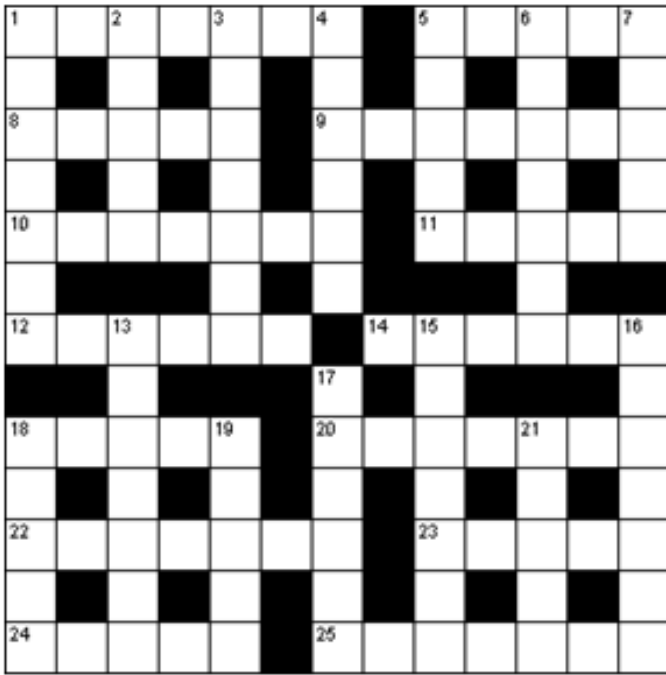
Whitlawburn Community Resource Centre & the Centre Circle
57 Belmont Road, Cambuslang, G72 8PG tel: 0141 641 5005
www.whitlawburncrc.org.uk, www.thecentrecircle.org.uk
find us on Facebook, search for 'Whitlawburn Community Resource Centre'



Crossword answers: **Across**- 1.Mansion, 5.Facts, 8.Gains, 9.Macabre, 10.Avenged, 11.Train, 12.Enmity, 14.Adhere, 18.Allow, 20.Earnest, 22.Animals, 23.dogma, 24.Shelf, 25. Dessert

Down- 1.Magnate, 2.Noise, 3.Insight, 4.Nomads, 5.Facet, 6.Cabbage, 7.Stern, 13.Malaise, 15.Derides, 16.Extract, 17.Ceased, 18.Amass, 19.Wharf, 21.Eagle

Crossword



Across

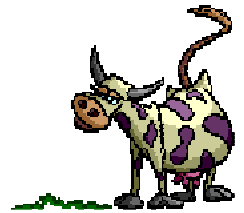
1. Large house (7)
5. Pieces of Information (5)
8. Profits (5)
9. Gruesome (7)
10. Related (7)
11. Form of transport (5)
12. Hostility (6)
14. Stick (6)
18. Permit (5)
20. Sincere (7)
22. Creatures (7)
23. Doctrine (5)
24. Ledge (5)
25. Sweet (7)

Down

1. Tycoon (7)
2. Dissonance (5)
3. Perceptiveness (7)
4. Wanderers (6)
5. Aspect (5)
6. Vegetable (7)
7. Austere (5)
13. Discomfort (7)
15. Mocks (7)
16. Pull out (7)
17. Stopped (6)
18. Accumulate (5)
19. Docks (5)
21. Bird of prey (5)

See bottom of Page 11 for answers.

Kids joke corner



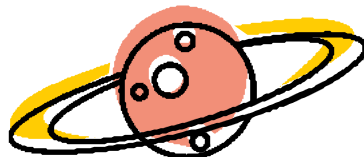
Q: Two cows in a field, which one is on holiday?
 A: The one with the wee calf

Q: What did the left eye say to the right eye?
 A: Between you and me, something smells.



Q: What's smarter than a talking dog?
 A: A spelling bee!

Q: What are planets favourite kind of books to read?
 A: Comet books



Q: What do you call a one-eyed dinosaur?
 A: I-don't-think-he-saur-us!

