

# Garrion People's Housing Co-operative Ltd

## Christmas 2006 Newsletter



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### Office Closure & Emergency Contact Numbers

The Co-op will close at 12.30pm on Friday 22 December 2006 and we will re-open on Thursday 4 January 2007. Please keep the following telephone numbers handy as you may need them during the holiday period.

Any gas central heating faults: Telephone **SALTIRE FACILITIES MANAGEMENT LTD** on 0845 606 1555 (24 hrs)

Any other emergency repairs: Telephone **MAINTENANCE AND PROPERTY CARE** on 01236 624100 (24 hrs)

Gas leaks: Telephone **NATIONAL GRID GAS plc** (formerly TRANSCO) on 0800 111 999 (24 hrs)

Loss of power supply: Telephone **SCOTTISH POWER** on 0845 27 27 999 - Loss of water supply **SCOTTISH WATER** 0845 601 8855

Residents in Law View sheltered housing complex should contact Hanover Careline.

If you have a pre payment gas or electricity meter and have lost supply to one of them because of low credit, you must make appropriate arrangements to ensure it is topped up.

You may be charged if you call out an engineer

Please also note that if your central heating is faulty and you have contacted Saltire, you should request temporary heating facilities if the repair to your gas central heating system cannot be rectified urgently.



### Bin Uplift

#### \*\*\*Important Information\*\*\*

The Council have advised the Co-op that bin uplift will only affect those who normally have their refuse collection carried out on Monday or Tuesday. Please ensure you have all refuse in the bins on the day uplift is due to take place.





**“Please make proper use of the skip service to avoid the charges made by North Lanarkshire Council for Special Uplifts”**

## Caretaker Cover

While the Co-op will be closed over the festive period, our caretaker (Jim Murphy) will provide a service on Wednesday 27 December 2006 and Wednesday 3 January 2007.

On these days Jim will ensure litter is uplifted as normal and will provide salt in colder weather if necessary.

## Skip Delivery

The skip is currently being delivered every 4 weeks and is usually available between 8.30am and 12.30pm. Dates and locations for the skip are as follows, and you must be careful if you use the facility.

Thursday 11 January 2007 - Car Park 1 —23 Heathfield

Thursday 8 February 2007 - Car Park 158 —188 Heathfield

Thursday 8 March 2007 - Entrance to Woodgreen Court

We also have a skip quarterly at our Sheltered Housing Complex in Law View, Overtown. The next skip is available on Monday 5 February 2007

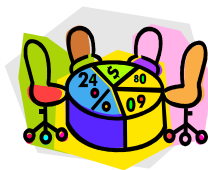
Fridges and freezers cannot be placed in the skip and should be reported separately to NORTHLINE on 01698 403110 or contact the Co-op and we will pass on the details.

## Police Information

The local Community Police now have a surgery in Allershaw Tower, Gowkthrapple. Information is enclosed with this newsletter. Please feel free to pop into the surgery and discuss any issues you have with Kirsten Mills or Stuart Murray who are the Community Officers.

**Use of pellet guns** - It has come to the Co-op's attention that pellet guns are being used and this has been discussed with the Police. The matter is being taken very seriously and any information on those responsible should be discussed with the Police on 202634 or 202600. Other numbers you can contact are Crimestoppers 0800 555111 and in an emergency 999.

## Membership of the Co-op



The Co-op always encourages active membership, and this is available to any residents aged 16 or over at a one cost of £1. If you apply to become a shareholder (member) you are entitled to elect at our annual general meetings and can even stand for election to our management committee.

Please contact the office for an application for share membership if you or a family member is interested in being involved with the Co-op.

## Rent Payments

This time of year can be expensive for a lot of us, and we would like to raise awareness on rent arrears. It is very important that rent payments are met on time, particularly over the holiday period coming.

Rent arrears can lead to legal action being taken against tenancies, and the Co-op wishes to refrain from this. If you are experiencing difficulties in paying rent, we can help! If we are unable to the financial advice we would like to, we will certainly make appointments with any of the following agencies to try and alleviate any financial difficulties: Citizens Advice Bureau, Debt Counselling, Money Advice, Income Maximiser, Welfare Rights etc. Please do not ignore correspondence you may receive regarding rent arrears. We would also like to point out that the Co-op does **not** operate a rent free fortnight

## Home Contents Insurance

All tenants of Registered Social Landlords like the Co-op are encouraged to take out a house contents insurance scheme of some sort to protect themselves in the event of fire, theft, flood etc.



The Scottish Federation of Housing Associations operates a scheme designed specifically for Co-op and Housing Association tenants, and a leaflet is enclosed with rates. Anyone interested should contact the SFHA Diamond Insurance Scheme on the number provided.

## Registered Tenant Organisation

Our RTO in Law View sheltered housing complex has been established for some years now, and have contributed a lot to Co-op activity. They have also received funding to carry out projects within the complex. Anyone interested in joining the RTO or setting up a tenant group should contact the office.

## Housing Lists



The Co-op is continuing to promote access to its housing lists. If you know of anyone who may be interested in applying for

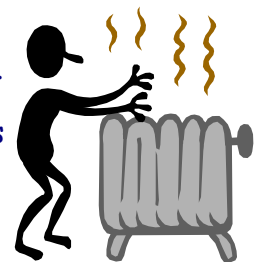
housing with the Co-op please contact the office for assistance.

Application forms can also be downloaded from our website at [www.gphc.org.uk](http://www.gphc.org.uk)

## Keeping Warm in Winter

Every year around this time, the Co-op provides all of our residents with useful information on protecting themselves during cold periods.

We have enclosed a leaflet this year and hope it may be of use to some of our customers.



## Garden Competition

In our Autumn newsletter, we published the winners of the Co-op's 2006 garden competition. Mr & Mrs Crothers from 8 Law View won the best kept garden in the sheltered housing complex at Law View, Overtown. We are pleased to announce that they were also the winners of the best kept small garden in Overtown, and Mr Crothers is pictured here with an award for the achievement.



# Seasons Greetings

## Gowkthrapple Regeneration

The Gowkthrapple regeneration group meet regularly and are looking at the future of the whole Gowkthrapple area. Rosalyn Griffith (North Lanarkshire Council Development Officer tel no 01236 616281) is interested in hearing from anyone wishing to come along to any meetings. The first meeting in the New Year is scheduled for Wednesday 17 January 2007 at 7pm in the Gowkthrapple Community Centre

### Our Management Committee

Edith Gilmour, Chairperson  
David Cooper, Vice Chairperson  
William Caldwell, Secretary  
Elizabeth Cooper, Treasurer  
Marion Cathcart  
James Deas  
William Gilmour  
Frank Johnston  
George Main  
Susan Reed  
Lynn McLean  
Fay Main  
Joan Johnston  
Elizabeth Baillie

### Staff Information

As you may be aware, the Co-op shares staff with Forge-wood Housing Co-op in Motherwell and cover is provided by all staff to both offices. The current staff set up is:

John Mulholland, Director  
Cathy Brien, Depute Director  
Paul Lennon, Housing Manager  
Susan Kane and  
Sharon O'Rourke Housing Officers  
Kevin Plunkett, Clerical Assistant  
Rod Hall, Maintenance Consultant  
Billy Gibb, Caretaker  
Jim Murphy, Maintenance Assistant  
Garry King, Warden, Law View Sheltered Housing Complex, Overtown  
Ann Wilson, Relief Warden

### Useful Telephone Numbers

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Community Police | 01698 202636  |
| Benefits Agency  | 01698 483500  |
| Crimestoppers    | 0800 555 111  |
| Job Centre       | 01698 483500  |
| Scottish Water   | 0845 601 8855   |
| Council Tax      | 01698 403170  |
| Housing Benefit  | 01236 758040  |
| Northline :      | Bulk Uplifts, Pest Control,<br>Abandoned Vehicles,<br>Roads and Lighting<br>Graffiti Removal, Dog Warden<br>Contact: 01698 403110 |



The management committee and staff of the Co-op would like to wish all of our residents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Garrion People's Housing Co-op,  
3 Heathfield Drive  
Wishaw  
ML2 0LY  
Tel 01698 360740  
Fax 01698 375321  
Email [enquiries@gphc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@gphc.org.uk)  
[www.gphc.org.uk](http://www.gphc.org.uk)

