

whitefriars talk

Riley Square



Kelly Lewis with BATRA team members

BATRA in Bell Green

BATRA is the Bell Green Area tenants and residents association.

We have members who are tenants, residents and local businesses. We welcome anyone from the local community to join us either as a group member or committee member.

We hold our meetings in the Bell Green working men's club in Roseberry Avenue on the third Thursday of each month, our meetings usually run from 7.00 to 9.00 pm

We work with the your neighbourhood matters project to improve our area as well as the local police and the council to sort out any problems we are having. We also like to do fun things and we hold three events each year, the annual

summer fun day, the Christmas light switch on and a Christmas party for the residents.

This year we hope to erect a memorial in Riley Square, to honour the brave soldiers from the surrounding area, who have lost their lives in past and present conflicts.

Come along to one of our meetings and let's make the Bell Green area a great place to live.

If you want more information please contact Joanna Payne at the Moat House Leisure and neighbourhood centre on 024 7678 5910 or e-mail joanna.payne@coventry.gov.uk

How are We Doing?

Just to give you some idea of the volume of activity of your housing office, here are some figures for the period December 2009 to February 2010:

- We had 2789 visitors to reception
- We received 6479 phone calls
- We currently have 34 properties that are vacant and in the process of being let



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Trees and green

If you are around the Purcell Road area, you may have spotted the new additions to the green space there.

In March, Whitefriars Housing Group linked up with 2438 Cadet Squadron and the Woodland Trust to plant 60 native trees and traditional mixed hedgerows. The plants were donated by the Woodland Trust and the hard work was done by the Cadet Squadron. This great initiative will

provide an excellent habitat for wildlife in the future and help to improve the overall look of the community. The event was part of the celebrations to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the cadet movement. We wish to thank both groups for their generosity and efforts.



Working Together

Back in January Whitefriars joined forces with West Midlands Fire Service and other partner agencies to focus on the issues in and around Riley Square.

Part of the day was spent carrying out Fire Safety Checks in residents homes.

Over one hundred homes were visited, existing fire alarms were tested and some new ones installed by the Fire Service. Residents also had an opportunity to talk about any housing issues with their Estate Officer.

The day was a resounding success and similar events will be planned for other areas of Bell Green in the near future. Keep an eye out for details.

100 young!



Mr Smith and Rachel Hobbs

Congratulations to local resident Mr Smith, who recently celebrated his 100th Birthday. Whitefriars staff dropped in with a birthday cake to wish him well and mark this very special occasion. As you can see from the picture, Mr Smith is certainly looking good on reaching his century. Many happy returns from us all.

Your finances

Rent Reminder

We want to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of paying your rent. If you are experiencing difficulties paying your rent please contact Whitefriars staff who can give you advice. Please do not ignore the problem as this can lead to you losing your home. Whitefriars also have the use of an independent debt adviser to help with all types of debts. If you do need help, please contact the local office for details.

Employment advice worker

Emma is an Employment Advice Worker, who is currently working with Whitefriars to help our customers get back into work. This scheme was piloted at the Torrington office, and due to its success will now be available in all local housing offices.

Emma's role includes helping residents with CV's, interviews, applying for jobs, searching for jobs, transport issues, benefit advice for those returning to work, to name but a few!

If you are interested in arranging an appointment with Emma please contact us on 024 7670 8400, or pop into the local housing office for more information.



Our MOT staff:
Mandy Marnoch, Mark Collins, John Atkins, Mathew Ansell



What's been happening

Updates on events going on in your area.

Christmas Light Event

Bell Green housing office would like to thank those people who attended the office during the Christmas Light Event in December last year. Customers and staff enjoyed mince pies and refreshments with a chance to enter a free raffle. There was also a children's colouring competition with some great prizes to be won.

The day was very useful for both staff and customers and highlighted the services available at the local housing office. We would also like to express our thanks to BATRA for their help and support during the event.

Future Events

We are currently planning an open surgery at the Coventry Refugee Centre. This event will be aimed at

providing help and advice on anything to do with a Whitefriars tenancy. It will cover all areas including Anti-Social Behaviour, Rent Arrears, and Estate Management issues.

We will confirm the date soon. We would like volunteers to help us on the day, especially those who feel that their services might benefit our customers. If you are interested in helping us, please contact Suki Sandhu at the Riley Square office on **024 7670 8400**.

Did you get an MOT?

Thanks to everyone who came along to our recent MOT event. The idea behind the event was to give customers the opportunity to have a look at all aspects of their tenancy to see if there were any areas that they needed help with.

As the name suggested, to take an MOT on your tenancy.

The day was great success with lots of people taking the time to complete the 'MOT' and taking the opportunity to talk at length with staff about any issues they had. We are sure that it had nothing at all to do with us giving away free pancakes!

We hope to run events like this again in the future, but in the mean time if you have any issues about your tenancy, that you would like some advice on, call us on **024 7670 8400** and we will be happy to help you.



Breathe Easy Coventry

1 in 7 people in the UK are affected by a lung condition and the British Lung Foundation is here for every one of them.

Breathe Easy Coventry provides support and information for people with lung conditions and also to their family members, partners and friends. **Breathe Easy** is part of the British Lung Foundation – the only UK charity working for everyone affected by lung disease.

On Friday 12 February 2010, Breathe Easy Coventry held their official launch. The launch was attended by Dame Helena Shovelton, Chief Executive of the British Lung Foundation, the Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of Coventry Councillor Jack Harrison, and Becky Gowers and Claire Battye from the British Lung Foundation Midlands office. Breathe Easy Coventry's committee had worked hard to publicise the launch and as a result the room was full, with over 30 people attending in total. The event was a great success and the new group is an important development for all those affected by lung conditions in Coventry. The group will meet monthly and already has an interesting and varied programme of speakers planned for the year.

New members are always welcome.

The group meets from 2pm to 4pm on the 2nd Friday of every month at Central Hall, Warwick Lane, Coventry, CV1 2HA.

Please contact the Midlands office before going to your first meeting by telephoning **0116 249 5780** or emailing midlands@blf-uk.org.



www.lunguk.org

For more information please contact the British Lung Foundation on **0116 249 5780** or by emailing midlands@blf-uk.org

Need help in your own language?

If you would like this leaflet in large print or audio format, please contact the Communications Team on 024 7676 7029.

French

Pour vous assister en votre propre langue

Portuguese

Assistencia na sura propria lingua

Somali

Luqadaadoo lugugu caawinaayo

Farsi

برای کمک به زبانتان

Arabic

لمساعدتكم في لغتكم

Kurdish

بۆیارمه تیدان به زمانی خۆت

t: 024 7676 7000

Contact corner

Our office is based at 29-31 Riley Square, Bell Green.

We are open from 9am - 4.30pm every day except Thursday, when we open later, at 11am.

Call: **024 7670 8400** Email: info@whitefriarshousing.co.uk www.whitefriarshousing.co.uk

