

# Have your questions answered

A number of residents have contacted BVT with questions about key issues affecting them. To help make more people aware of these pressing issues, we have included this Question and Answer section as an occasional feature in Outlook.

**Q: Could you clarify the position in respect of illegal parking on the estate?**

A: Police and the local authority have the jurisdiction to issue fixed penalty notices to people that park on yellow lines.

Regarding parking on pavements, Police can take action if the vehicle is in a dangerous position or causing an obstruction or if parking on dropped kerbs is causing an obstruction, ie if a vehicle is denying another vehicle access to the highway. The local authority cannot take any action unless there are yellow lines in front of the dropped kerb.

If a vehicle is not displaying a

disabled badge but is parked in a designated disabled bay (with yellow markings) then the local authority can issue a fixed penalty notice. However, the local authority cannot take action if vehicles not displaying a disabled badge are parking in "courtesy disabled bays" marked in white which are usually kerbside.

**Q: What actions are being taken to address the concerns of dog fouling on the estate?**

A: Pooper-scoopers are available for free from our Community Team via their office at Shenley Green Centre.

We recognise that dog fouling

remains a concern, and not only is it inconvenient for other users of public spaces, but dog faeces remain one of the leading sources of ecoli. It should be noted that it is an offence not to clean up after your dog and offenders can be issued with a fixed penalty notice of up to £1,000 from the local authority.

We encourage residents therefore to clean up after their pets and dispose of waste appropriately.

**To find out more, or to enquire about receiving a free pooper-scooper, please call our Community Team on 0121 270 0976.**

## Co-operative is a credit to South Birmingham

**CommuniSave is the credit union for south Birmingham.**

A credit union is a financial co-operative owned and controlled by its members. There are more than 530 credit unions in the UK, serving approximately 600,000 members. CommuniSave has offices in Cotteridge and Northfield. It serves the community by running local service points across south Birmingham where members can save, apply for loans, and access all the services available to members.

**BVT residents in Birmingham are eligible to join CommuniSave.**

CommuniSave offers the following services to its members:

- Free membership
- Regular savings scheme
- Low cost loans - the interest is one per-cent per month (12.7% APR)
- A Christmas savings account
- Annual dividend on savings
- A cash ISA junior-savings club
- Free debt advice

- Family funeral plan
- Online account enquiry

**What are the benefits of joining?**

- Main office open six days a week
- Free life-insurance and membership
- Tax credits/pensions/benefits can be paid straight into your account
- Standing order facility
- Transactions can be made by post/on the phone/over the internet or by person in local branches

**What can I do to support CommuniSave?**

- Become a member
- Volunteer (contact CommuniSave for an application pack)

- Invest in its ethical cash ISA

**For more information and an application pack, call 0121 486 2035 or visit the website at [www.communisave.co.uk](http://www.communisave.co.uk)**

**Alternatively, you can call into one of CommuniSave's branches:**

- Head office: 1884 Pershore Road, Birmingham B30 2AS  
Open: 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday, Saturday 10am to 1pm
- Northfield Branch: Northfield Town Centre Partnership, 693-695 Bristol Road South, Birmingham, B31 2JT

In addition, BVT residents who live in the borough of Telford and Wrekin are able to join their local credit union, Fair Share.

The service is open between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday and on Saturday mornings.

**To find out more, telephone Fair Share on 01952 282528.**



# Be alert to water warning

**A warning has been issued about the rare but potentially serious risk of scalding from domestic hot water systems.**

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) says the risk comes from electric immersion heaters in conjunction with plastic cold water storage tanks in roof spaces. They say the risk is greater from systems which are more than ten years old. On two occasions in different parts of the UK a faulty immersion heater has caused a large volume of boiling water to pour through bedroom ceilings onto occupants below - with fatal results.

**We are writing individually to all Trust tenants with detailed advice. If you are a homeowner, you should seek advice from a qualified plumber, if you notice any of the following warning signs:**

- **Extremely hot water coming out of hot taps.**
- **Excessive noise or "bubbling" from the hot water cylinder.**
- **Hot water coming out of cold water taps.**
- **Steam or moisture in the roof space.**

**If you notice any of these signs you should immediately SWITCH OFF the immersion heater.**

# All smiles on their hols!



• (From left to right) Mr Smith, Mrs Smith and Mrs Hornblower enjoying their holiday

The senior citizens' holiday to Scarborough in May was a great success and enjoyed by all. Next year's holiday will be to Great Yarmouth. Information about this trip will be available

from the end of the year.

**To find out more about the senior citizens' holidays, telephone Marie Docker on 0121 270 0976.**

# We're working on recognising skills

Is there a tradesperson who has visited your home and displayed great customer-service skills, given you advice, or simply done an excellent job?

Tenants have told us that they would like Bournville Property Care Services workforce to be recognised for the jobs they do for all our tenants in Shropshire. Therefore, we are pleased to announce the Shropshire Tradesperson of the Year Award 2008.

Tradespeople must be nominated by tenants and all nominees will be judged by Bournville Shropshire

tenants organisation. BVT's Resident Involvement Officer will donate a prize for the winner. The closing date for nomination is September 30 2008. Nomination forms will be sent out, but they will also be found in the reception of Courtside House, Telford. Alternatively, you can download a nomination form from the Shropshire pages on the BVT website.

**For further information, telephone 01952 293777 or 01952 504390, or email [kathleenhughes@bvt.org.uk](mailto:kathleenhughes@bvt.org.uk)**