

Southway Stories

P11

**NEW YEAR,
NEW CAREER!**

P5



WE'RE LISTENING...
Even more ways
to be involved

P6



**DLA AND PIP FORMS
EXPLAINED**
Follow these steps

P12



LOOKING TO RIGHTSIZE?
We can help with a
simple mutual exchange

RENT CHANGES...

FROM
APRIL

Welcome to our first Southway Stories of 2020. In this edition I want to talk to you about how Southway has come to the decision to apply a rent increase in April 2020, when new rules come into effect. You received a Rent Letter in February stating your new rent.

Why are rents changing?

Southway has reduced its rents by 1% every year for the last four years, following government legislation.

From April this year, the government has said housing associations can increase rents in line with its new rent standard. This allows for a 'cost of living' increase of 1.7%, plus an additional 1%. Rent increases will happen right across the social housing sector as landlords raise rents in line with this new government standard.

After careful consideration and consultation with our Board, Southway will be applying this 2.7% rent increase in April 2020.

How has Southway come to this decision?

Over the last four years when rents reduced, Southway had to reduce

many of its services and limit the amount of investment we carried out, which couldn't continue.

Even after applying an increase, our rents will still be competitive and they will be lower in April 2020 than they were in 2015.

The increase therefore means we can keep rents affordable for our tenants, while being able to meet the increasing costs of maintaining homes, neighbourhoods and the environment, and delivering services and new homes.

What does rent pay for?

Your rent provides the funding for us to maintain homes and neighbourhoods and deliver essential services. The increase will mean that we can invest more into these areas and into our communities.

This year we plan to spend £7m on repairs and home improvements,

and more than £40m investing in new properties. We will be able to maintain our existing service standards in all areas and invest in areas that tenants have told us are priorities, like the ASB service.

We will also spend over £1m on community projects, advice and support, as we place huge importance on being able to provide these added-value activities for tenants and communities.

What if I can't afford the increase?

If you're worried about the rent increase and would like some advice, please contact us. Our priority is always to help you to maintain your tenancy and not fall into rent arrears. We have supportive and dedicated staff in our Income and Advice Teams, who are here to help you manage your finances and maximise any benefits you are entitled to.

You can find useful information on money and the sort of support we offer in the Rent & Money section of our website.

What do I need to do?

You will need to start paying the new rent stated in your February rent letter from April.

The new charge is in place from 6th April, but this is a rent free week. So unless you are in arrears, you will pay your new rent from **13th April 2020**. If you are in arrears, you will pay your new rent plus an amount towards your arrears from **6th April**.

If you pay by Direct Debit and/or Housing Benefit: these will be

adjusted automatically to the new rent.

If you pay by standing order: you will need to adjust your payment yourself through your bank.

If you pay by Universal Credit: you need to pay the new rent and report your rent increase to the DWP through your online UC account on 6th April or as soon as possible after – no later than the end of your monthly assessment period. Even if you get your Universal Credit paid directly to Southway, you will still need to report the increase.

Remember to keep hold of your February rent letter so that you have all the details you need in April.

I understand that you might have views on this decision and I always welcome and respond to feedback sent to us through our website, by email, social media or phone.

I would also like you to know that at Southway, we pursue the best possible Value for Money for tenants from our homes and services. If you have any thoughts on how we can offer better value from a service we provide, or how we can help support you with managing your money this year, I would like to hear them from you.

Best wishes, **Karen**

FIND YOUR OWN HAPPY

Southway is working with The Big Life Group to deliver the 'Be Well' project. Its aim is to help people to live and feel well, whatever life brings:



**You can be referred to Be Well by Southway or your GP.
Contact the Hub today to find out how Be Well can help you!**

SOUTHWAY STORIES GREENER THAN YOU MAY THINK

We're committed to protecting our environment and working towards a carbon-free Manchester by 2038. This commitment seeps into everything that we do, including the newsletter you're reading right now! How can a paper newsletter covered in plastic be environmentally friendly you ask? Well...

- The polywrap cover is 100% recyclable, meaning it can simply be popped in your recycling bin and re-purposed later on.
- The ink used to print every Southway Stories is made exclusively from a vegetable-base, meaning every word printed comes from natural ingredients.
- The company who print every copy of Southway Stories, **Resource**, purchase their paper supply from sustainable sources – they were even awarded a Forest Stewardship Council certificate for their environmentally conscious work!

We're constantly looking for new ways to make our work environmentally friendly. Check out our website to learn more about our green strategy and how you can get involved in our environmental work!



YOUR TICKET TO UNLIMITED TRAVEL ACROSS GREATER MANCHESTER

A new annual fee has been introduced for pension-age customers to access trams and trains in Manchester.

As of 1st February 2020 pension-age customers who travel with a concessionary pass will need to pay an annual fee of £10 to access the tram and trains. This fee can be paid at any Travelshop or online and, once paid, will allow customers to continue accessing unlimited trains and trams throughout Greater Manchester.

This charge does not apply to customers who travel with a disabled concessionary pass.

For more information, please visit tfgm.com.



BURNAGE EXTRA CARE SCHEME ON HOLD

Following the news that the main contractor for this scheme, Bardsley Construction Ltd, has gone into administration, Southway's Development team has taken back control of the site from the administrators.

24-hour security has been appointed on site and Health and Safety checks have been undertaken, with particular regard to scaffolding, overall site safety and storage of materials.

We are currently preparing for negotiations to commence with another contractor, Engie, this month. We will provide more updates on the scheme as they become available.



TELL US WHAT YOU REALLY THINK!

When it comes to our services, your feedback is vital to helping us understand what we're doing well and where we could improve. There are lots of different ways that you can give us your feedback – and at any time! Visit our website, email us or send us a message through Facebook or Twitter.



However, if you want to get more involved and help us to shape our services for the better, there are lots of opportunities where you can feed back to us more regularly. Take a look at the groups we have listed below to see how you can really get involved!

"I WANT TO MAKE SURE SOUTHWAY WORKS BEST FOR TENANTS"

Why not check out our Tenant Scrutiny Panel?

The Tenant Scrutiny Panel is a group of tenants who take a detailed look at our services to check if they are being delivered in the best way for tenants. The Panel meet every fortnight to look at performance and costs, interview staff and talk to other tenants. They then develop a report which sets out their recommendations to our Chief Executive, Directors and People and Places Committee. The Panel is then kept informed about how staff are working to implement their recommendations.

Any out of pocket expenses will be paid. Please contact Maureen Ward or Jim Hutton if you would like more information.

"I WANT TO HAVE A SAY IN HOW SOUTHWAY DOES THINGS"

The Customer Voice Panel (formerly Residents Consultative Group) may be for you!

This group meets every three months to look at policies, performance information, relevant current news and reports from the Tenant Scrutiny Panel. They then give their views to the People and Places Committee, who will consider their feedback when making decisions.

Interested? Please contact Maureen Ward or Tina Murphy to find out more.

"I WANT TO HELP TACKLE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN MY COMMUNITY"

Then come along to our Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Service Improvement Group (SIG)

This is a new group which meets every three months. The group is open to all tenants committed to helping us improve our ASB service, however we especially welcome tenants who have used our service in the past. The group will review our current ASB process and assess how improvements can be made in how we communicate about the issue.

If this sounds like a group you would be interested in, please contact Lai Chan or Maureen Ward.

WHO TO CONTACT

MAUREEN WARD

Customer Involvement Manager
m.ward@southwayhousing.co.uk 0161 448 4200

JIM HUTTON

Deputy Chair of Tenant Scrutiny Panel
jimhutton03@yahoo.co.uk

LAI CHAN

Action Team Manager
l.chan@southwayhousing.co.uk 0161 448 4200

TINA MURPHY

Community Development Officer
t.murphy@southwayhousing.co.uk 0161 448 4200

WWW.



**KEEP AN EYE ON OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR FUTURE
OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED AND GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK!**

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU HAVE A DLA OR PIP QUESTIONNAIRE OR REVIEW FORM

Completing a Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or Disability Living Allowance (DLA) form – whether it's a claim form or a renewal/review form – can be daunting. To help make the process a bit easier, we've put together our tips on what to do if you have one of these forms.

- As soon as you get the form, check to see if it has a deadline to return it to the DWP. If it does, ring the number on the front of the form and ask for an extension to the deadline.
- Read through all the questions on the form and consider whether you may need some help to complete it. If you're unsure on how to answer any of the questions, call us on 0161 448 4200 and ask to speak to our Advice Team.
- You will need some understanding of the qualifying conditions for the various rates of PIP and DLA, especially if your needs have changed since your original claim and you're applying for an increased award. You can find this information on the Gov.uk website.
- Enclose any medical evidence you have with your application (such as letters or reports from your doctor). The DWP won't normally ask for these, but will expect you to provide them anyway, so do include any evidence you have.
- Review/Renewal forms often ask if there has been any change in your condition since the date of the last award. If your condition has not changed, you should still give full details of any problems you have in completing day to day tasks. You should never leave a section blank.
- If you have an appointment with the Advice Team to complete a DLA or PIP form, you should fill in the form as much as possible beforehand. This will allow us to use the appointment to focus on the more challenging parts of the form.

If you're worried about these forms, or any other benefits, please don't hesitate to contact our Advice Team on our website, by messaging us on social media, or by calling 0161 448 4200.

ADAPTATIONS WORK

An "adaptation" is a change to a property intended to better meet the tenants' needs. This could be a small change, like installing handrails, but can sometimes be much larger, such as the job we completed for Mr and Mrs Dawson.

Mr and Mrs Dawson have been Southway tenants for over 10 years and are both in their 80s. Their bathroom included a standard bathtub and shower and they were starting to feel nervous about falling. They contacted us and Manchester City Council with a request for a wet room, so they could feel more confident using the bathroom.

After a few weeks' work, the bathroom was transformed; the wall was extended for an open shower, new flooring was installed and the old bath was replaced with an in-shower seat. Mr and Mrs Dawson were delighted with



Alison, a Southway resident, pictured with the Adaptations team, was also thrilled with her recent adaptation

the work, saying it made a huge difference to their lives.

"You've done an absolutely fantastic job; the team worked really hard and it's made a massive difference. Your workmen were brilliant, thank you."

If you think your home needs an adaptation to meet your or your family's needs, get in touch with us! We want to ensure every family feels safe and supported in their home, to ensure happy, healthy communities.

A HISTORY OF HOUGH END HALL AND WELLER AVENUE

BY SOUTHWAY TENANT BOB POTTS

In 1971, I moved with my wife and three children from Whitefield to Chorlton-cum-Hardy, taking up residence at Weller Avenue. At that time, there was no Nell Lane estate – only fields. Hough End Hall, a former manor house and farm then stood in open ground, facing Nell Lane and Chorlton Park. Only a hundred yards from Weller Avenue were, and still are, many acres of land called Hough End Fields. Virtually all of this space was in the public domain.

Our family played cricket on a field where Chorlton High School now stands. Our eldest son, Andrew, became a Founder of Weller Celtic Football Club, who played in the Sunday League at Hough End Fields. I remember a dog show at Chorlton Park in the 1990s, because there was a contest to determine which owner looked the most like his dog. I went over and spoke to the winner. He explained to me that he had taken the dog on a walk-about for a friend. We both enjoyed a good laugh about it.

In 1972, a retired school teacher called John Lloyd (a good friend of mine) wrote a book called 'The Township of Chorlton-cum-Hardy'. I gave my copy to our daughter, Jacqueline, who now lives in Preston. Hough End Hall was built in 1597. It was the seat of the wealthy and influential Mosley family (formerly spelt 'Moseley'). Sir Nicholas Moseley, a Manchester man, was the Lord Mayor of London in 1599. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth I for services to Queen and Country during the Spanish Armada crisis. His son, Rowland, was living at Hough End Hall in 1599. Fast forward now to 1815, the year that Napoleon Bonaparte escaped from exile in Elba. He set about raising an army of 60,000 men to attack the British and their allies in Belgium. The elite Scots Greys Cavalry Regiment was ordered South for the confrontation with Napoleon at Waterloo. On their way, they camped close to Hough End Hall, on land that is now Weller Avenue, and signed up recruits from Chorlton-cum-Hardy. Of the lads who enlisted, very few survived the battle, and some were brought home for burial. When the victor at Waterloo, the Duke of Wellington, came to Manchester in 1830 to officially open the Manchester and Liverpool railway, he was shown around a local cotton mill. He noticed that one of the operatives was wearing a Waterloo medal. The Duke spent twenty minutes conversing with the veteran and, in that private moment, they were two men talking as equals.



The year is 2020. My wife Joyce died almost ten years ago. Our youngest daughter, Shirley, resides a mile away with her family. Andrew lives in a council flat in Littlehampton, West Sussex. Weller Avenue, built in 1927, is a quiet neighbourhood. I sign for parcels when people are out; one can be friendly without being intrusive. Judging by the number of Christmas cards put through my door by neighbours over the last ten years, I must have been doing something right. A family from Bulgaria has lived opposite me for the last two years, and we get on well. I informed them that the first Bulgarians who lived in Britain were auxiliary soldiers who served in the Roman army at Hadrian's Wall during the 2nd Century A.D.

Manchester's mounted police are based at Hough End. One frequently sees them patrolling our area while they are performing their duties. Sometimes they ride through Weller Avenue and their presence is very reassuring. Finally, a word of thanks to Southway Housing. They are very much to the fore when dealing with occasional problems, such as blocked drains, power failures and other matters. Thanks also to the bin men, who provide an excellent and reliable service.

Bob is currently co-authoring a book about Flixton, Urmston and Dayhulme. He was at one time a history lecturer at Urmston College. If you would like to contribute to Southway Stories, whether that be by writing, taking a photograph or submitting a design, get in touch - we'd love to work with you.

BEING PROACTIVE AGAINST CRIME AT HOME



The best way to reduce your risk of becoming a victim of crime is to start by looking at your home as if you were an offender. You can identify weaknesses and prioritise your next steps, often without breaking the bank.

MAKE YOUR PROPERTY HARDER FOR AN OFFENDER TO ACCESS

- Check the locks on your doors, windows and shed (if you have one) are in good working order.
- Fit sash jammers to windows, doors, or letterboxes.
- Use strong passwords on all online accounts and two-factor authentication wherever possible to stay secure.

KEEP VALUABLES OUT OF SIGHT

- Keep laptops, phones, keys, and bags out of view of windows.
- Remove your things from your car when you aren't driving.

AVOID GIVING OFFENDERS A LEG UP

- Clear up rubble, bricks, ladders, and tools that offenders might use to force entry into your home or car.
- Store wheelie bins within your property so they can't be used to climb on or disguise and transport stolen goods.

MAKE IT HARDER TO PROFIT FROM CRIME

- Register your property and valuables for FREE on immobilise.com to improve the chance of your items being recovered should your home be broken into.
- Mark your property to make it undesirable to potential buyers by personalising it or marking it registered with Immobilise.
- Check second hand property you are considering buying with services like CheckMend.com to make sure it isn't stolen.

USE MEASURES TO CONTROL ACCESS TO PLACES OR PEOPLE

- Keep your windows and doors locked.
- Require services like utility or repairs to arrange appointments, use a password, and show ID before allowing access to home.

IMPROVE SURVEILLANCE AND VISIBILITY OF SCHEME IN AREA

- Join or set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme or an informal agreement among neighbours to keep an eye out.

KEEP YOUR HOME AND NEIGHBOURHOOD LOOKING CARED FOR

- Report fly tipping, graffiti, and broken street lights right away to Manchester City Council.
- Make sure your home looks well maintained outside by keeping the garden clean and hedges trimmed.

MAKE IT EASIER TO CATCH THE OFFENDER

- Use security lighting that is in good working order.
- Install CCTV, house alarm, vibration window and door alarms, motion sensor lighting or alarms.

DIVERT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

- Set timers during hours of darkness while you are away to make your home look occupied.
- Consider asking a friend or neighbour to park on your drive if you have one, open and close curtains, and remove post when you are away for more than a couple days.



HOW TO REPORT YOUR RENT INCREASE

You must report your rent increase online in your Universal Credit account on 6th April 2020, or as soon as possible after – no later than the end of your Monthly Assessment Period (MAP). If you don't, you could lose out. If you have any questions, please contact Southway for help.

- 1 Sign in to your Universal Credit Account:
www.universalcredit.service.gov.uk/signin

- 2 Click on 'Home'
Choose 'Report a change of circumstances'

- 3 Choose 'Where you live and what it costs'

- 4 Click 'Change'

- 5 Choose 'Something Else' and click 'Continue'

- 6 Set the date of the change to: **6th April 2020**
Change your rent to your new rent figure from your **February rent letter**. Click 'Next' and 'Continue' on all other sections

- 7 At the end, check your details, and choose, 'Yes I confirm these details are correct'

DON'T BE BLINDSIDED BY SOLAR PANEL FRAUDS

If your home has solar panels installed, you may be approached by companies offering to carry out a "free health check" to your solar panels, or asking you to make a payment to extend their warranty. These companies are often rogue traders, who charge inflated prices for poor and unnecessary work to your home.

The only contractor we work with to install, inspect or repair the solar panels on our properties is **Solar Maintenance Services** and they will never visit your property to ask for money.

If someone comes to your home and asks about the solar panels, take the following precautions to protect your property and yourself:

■ Ask them for identification: if they refuse, or show an ID that

is not from Solar Maintenance Services, do not allow them access to the property.

■ Do not pay them: we will never send a contractor to your home to ask for payment. If someone on your doorstep does this, refuse them access.

■ Report them: if a rogue trader comes to your home, please report them to us on 0161 448 4200 so we can alert other

residents to be on the lookout. You should also report them to the police by calling 101.

Rogue traders can target any of us, so it's important we all know how to recognise a potential fraud. If think you may have been targeted by a rogue trader and are worried or anxious, contact Victim Support for free on 0808 1689 111.

WORKING TOGETHER TO FIGHT ASB

In October 2019, we received a number of reports about youth nuisance in our neighbourhoods. With the help of local residents and their video footage, Southway worked with GMP and conducted joint interviews with 5 youths whose parents have a Southway Tenancy.

The parents were appalled by their children's behaviour and the five youths signed Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC). ABCs are personalised agreements between young people and local authority, in which the young people agree to no longer commit acts of anti-social behaviour. The parents were also reminded of their responsibility over their children's behaviour.

Southway hopes the action we have taken will encourage more residents to come forward and report instances of ASB. In this particular case, four residents reported that they had either been affected by the youths' behaviour personally or had witnessed them in action. This is the largest number of residents that have been brave enough to come forward and we're very grateful for their help; without them, we would be still trying to identify the youths and they would continue to offend.

Have you been affected by anti-social behaviour? You can report any instances of ASB to us by calling, through social media, on our website or through email.

COMMUNITY ACTION DAYS
In Merseybank, Chorlton
THURSDAY 20TH & FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY
Throughout the afternoon

The Community Safety Partnership
(Southway Housing, Manchester City Council & Greater Manchester Police Service) will be door-knocking across the Merseybank area: Mayhurst Avenue, Rylstone Avenue, Riverside Avenue, Newbrook Avenue and Woodlake Avenue.

We want to talk to residents about your priorities for the area, what concerns you have and how we can work together to address them to make Merseybank a better place to live.

PLUS...

- Information and Advice stall run by MCC
- Home security goodies for vulnerable residents from GMPs
- Plus a community litter pick which you are welcome to join

LITTER & FLY TIPPING

BURGLARIES

ASB & HATE CRIME

NOISE NUISANCE
(including off-road bikes)

LOOK OUT FOR OUR COMMUNITY ACTION DAYS AND HATE CRIME AWARENESS EVENTS TAKING PLACE ACROSS OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS.

MORE Smart Moves GETTING TENANTS INTO WORK



Arriva staff with Kara Grant, Southway's Business Network Officer (centre) and Elaine Wilkinson (left) Employment and Money Coordinator.

Our next **Spring into Work Jobs Fair** will take place on **April 15th at Burnage Academy 10am – 1.30pm**. It's free to come and you don't need to book – just drop in anytime to meet the employers. We've placed a big emphasis on attracting local employers, both large and small, who are offering live vacancies and we intend to provide a welcoming environment where job seekers can talk 1-2-1 with exhibitors. Our last Jobs Fair featured reps from over 40 organisations, including **Vodafone, the NHS, Servicemaster, Marriott hotels, the British Army and Manchester College**, all of whom were extremely positive about the event, offering feedback such as:

"I ATTEND MANY EVENTS & JOBS FAIRS THROUGHOUT MANCHESTER, TRAFFORD AND SALFORD AND, I HAVE TO SAY THAT YOURS WAS ONE OF THE BEST"

Jennifer O'Brien
Trafford College Group.



The Arriva Trains presentation at Westcroft Community Centre

Visitors looking for work were also impressed, with many securing a job on the day. They also loved the workshops that ran across the day; one focused on preparing people for work and the other provided guidance on self-employment and business development. Due to their popularity, the workshops will return to all our future job fairs.

Throughout 2020 we will be running several events focused on

employment, enterprise or training. We started off the year with a confidence building and next steps workshop in collaboration with the **Proper Job Theatre** and on 29th January we organised a **'Meet the Employer'** presentation by Arriva trains at Westcroft Community Centre attended by over 40 people. Staff from the company talked about the range of conducting, driving and station roles on offer, what skills were required and how to apply.

More Employer presentation events are in the works, including one from **Manchester Airport** on **March 27th at our office in Didsbury**. **Contact us if you'd like to book a place.**

To keep up to date with all of our employments events, keep an eye on the employment section of our website, our events calendar and our Facebook page! You can also sign up for job alerts and register your interest for a Southway apprenticeship on our website.

If you want some 1 to 1 support to help you get into employment then ask for an appointment with **Elaine Wilkinson**, Southway's Employment and Money Coordinator.

0161 448 4200 | connect@southwayhousing.co.uk

GECKO HOMES

SHORTLISTED THREE TIMES FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS READERS' AWARDS!

We are thrilled to have been shortlisted for the First Time Buyers Reader's Awards for a second year running! Following our Park View Development's win for Best New Development in the North last year, we are very excited to have been shortlisted not once, not twice, but three times for this year's awards.



Our age friendly Minehead Development has been shortlisted for two awards; Best New Development in the North and Best Age-Exclusive Development. Based in Withington, Minehead offers six one-bed and 27 two-bed apartments exclusively available to residents over 55, in addition to a range of benefits and services to create an inclusive and supportive community.

A third chance to win comes in the form of our Deepdale Avenue Development, which has been shortlisted for Best Small Development. Also based in Withington, Deepdale Avenue has

been transformed from two vacant semi-detached properties into nine attractive new homes. This development proved to be very popular and is already fully reserved.

Voting is now open and we would be very grateful for your support! Visit www.ftbawards.com to cast your vote today.

If you'd like to see our fantastic Minehead Development, or to reserve a property, be sure to come along to our newly opened show home! Call the Gecko Team on 0161 448 4200 to arrange your visit.

FIND YOUR FIT THROUGH A MUTUAL EXCHANGE

If your family is outgrowing your home, you need to rightsize, or you want to relocate around a new job or lifestyle, have you considered mutual exchange?

A mutual exchange or "home swap" is when tenants from two or more different properties agree to swap homes with one another. It's a very quick and simple process: once you register for free, Southway has 42 days to process your application and approve you as a swapper. Once you've found a party you want to swap with, we'll carry out a few routine checks – along with the other party's landlord if it isn't us – before giving you the go-ahead to swap homes.

We've assisted lots of households to move via mutual exchange over the last 12 months, with many finding the process is a better alternative to being rehoused.

So if you need to move home, why not give a mutual exchange a go?



Now using House Exchange

The free HomeSwapper service ends on 31st March, 2020.

A new, free website called House Exchange replaces it: www.houseexchange.org.uk.

There is also an App for your mobile helping you swap on the go, available to download from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

Register for House Exchange today – you might find exactly what you've been looking for!



DON'T SUFFER IN SILENCE: HOARDING SUPPORT IS HERE

Does clutter make you feel trapped in your own home? Do you feel overwhelmed and isolated by the amount of "stuff" in your house?

If you or a family member is struggling, Tidy Homes Tidy Minds hoarding peer support group can help. Meeting every fortnight, the group is open to anyone – not just Southway tenants – who is struggling to cope with the amount of possessions in their home.

Since launching in January, this friendly group has welcomed lots of new members – so many so that they have had to move a bigger venue! – and they are always happy to see new faces. If you feel like you or your family could use some help, please do not hesitate to drop in and get some friendly, empathetic support.

Sessions take place at **Grove Lane Community Centre, Didsbury, M20 6UF from 2pm – 4pm** on every other Thursday. The next session is on 5th of March and you can keep up to date with all future sessions through our events calendar.



A WALK IN THE PARK?



Free EVENTS FOR THE OVER 50s

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

Thursday 12 March

in OLD MOAT

— Manchester —

A NATURALLY OCCURRING RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

includes lunch

at St. Christopher's Church, Old Moat

To book your place contact *Jamie Dean*
Call 0161 448 4227 • Email J.DEAN@SOUTHWAYHOUSING.CO.UK

GOING BACK TO OUR IRISH ROOTS...

Let's sing along to Irish songs in our St. Patrick's Day hats and a dance with DJ Ged.

Includes buffet lunch!

Contact Jamie Dean to book your place.

Looking for new friends, some exercise or just to spend some time outside?

A Walk in the Park may be all you need!

Age Friendly Burnage is planning to form a local walking group to meet regularly and cover some local routes.

Whatever your age or fitness level, you are more than welcome to come along and enjoy a sociable walk.

Email agefriendlyburnage2018@gmail.com for more information and keep an eye on our events calendar for the dates and locations of upcoming walks.



WHAT'S ON...

24-26 Westcroft Road, Burnage, Manchester M20 6EF | T: 0161 448 8232

E: westcroftcommunitycentre@gmail.com

| | 9am | 10am | 11am | 12pm | 1pm | 2pm | 3pm | 4pm | 5pm | 6pm | 7pm |
|-----------|--|---|------|------|--|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|-----|
| Monday | | Eat, Meet and Greet 9.30am-1pm (Cook and chat over a brew) | | | Drop in anytime, we keep Mondays quiet and relaxed for those who may be visiting for the first time. 9am-4pm | | | | | | |
| Tuesday | Internet Café 9am-3.30pm | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Age Friendly Drop in 10am-1pm | | | | | | | | | |
| Wednesday | | Quids in Food Club 10.30am-3pm | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Sew What, Sewing & Craft Session 9.30am-12.30pm | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Advice & Guidance Drop in Session 10am-1pm | | | | | | | | | |
| Thursday | Internet Café 9am-3.30pm | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Digital drop in IT support 10am-12pm | | | Job Club 12-3pm | | | | | | |
| | | Slimming World 10am, 5pm and 7pm (Call Amanda on 07482 334 777) | | | | | | | | | |
| Friday | | Patch What Sewing Group 9.30am-2.30pm | | | | | | | | | |
| | Self Help Services (referral/appointment required) | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | Card Making 2-4pm | | | | | |
| Saturday | Slimming World 8am and 10pm | | | | | | | | | Slimming World 5.30pm (Call Amanda on 07482 334 777) | |

We're looking for Trustees and Volunteers!
Contact us for more info or to apply.

We're
looking for
Trustees and
Volunteers!
Contact us for
more info or to
apply.

FIND MORE THAN YOU'D EXPECT AT YOUR LOCAL LEARNING HUB!

WHAT IS A LEARNING HUB?

These facilities are committed to supporting people in overcoming life's challenges, developing themselves, giving back to the community, and gaining employment. Learning hubs cater to a wide range of needs and interests, offering services such as:

- One to one help with debt or benefits
- Careers advice
- Skill building courses
- Volunteering opportunities

It doesn't cost anything to access the learning hubs and they are situated right in your neighbourhood! Each learning hub runs a little differently to one another, but if you pop into one of them they can talk to you about what best suits your needs, including

opportunities at the other hubs. If this interests you, go ahead and make your way to your nearest learning hub and start a new journey today!

**Westcroft
Community Centre**
24-26 Westcroft Road
Burnage M20 6EF
0161 448 8232

Old Moat Learning Hub
Old Moat Children's Centre
Old Moat Lane, Withington
M20 1DE
0161 434 1555

**Barlow Moor
Community Association**
23 Mersey Bank Avenue
Chorlton M21 7NT
0161 446 4805



Community - Minded Ltd



MEN IN SHEDS



TACKLING LONELINESS THROUGH MEN IN SHEDS

'Men in Sheds' is a national project aimed at tackling isolation and loneliness in men over the age of 50. Southway and Chorlton Good Neighbours support a Chorlton branch of Men in Sheds, which provides hands-on activities in a space where people meet, socialise, learn and share skills.

Attendees can choose to do their own projects or work to benefit the community. Their work typically involves making, mending or renovating items, but can also include tool renovation, upholstery, metal-working, bike repair and gardening. The group are also always open to new suggestions!

Despite their name, Men in Sheds is open to both men and women – and they meet in a space much larger than a shed! So if you're looking to find a new hobby, make some friends, or just get your bike fixed, why not stop by?

Contact Devon Poyser by calling 0161 448 4200, to find out more.



NEW AGE FRIENDLY BURNAGE GROUP LAUNCH



A new Age Friendly Burnage group will be launching at Burnage Community Centre on Friday 20th March 2020.

Anyone who lives, works or volunteers in Burnage – regardless of age – is invited to get involved and help the group continue to make Burnage a friendlier place for residents aged 50 and above.

If you would like to find out more, drop into Burnage Community Centre on **Friday 20th March**, anytime between 2pm – 4pm.

CAN'T MAKE THAT DATE?

No problem! You can email agefriendlyburnage2018@gmail.com or contact Devon Poyser via the Customer Hub.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A **TENANT REP** TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE TO SOUTHWAY

Tenants can get involved and influence decision making in many different ways at Southway. Our commitment to tenant involvement extends to running the organisation; there are two places reserved for tenants on our Board, as well as a Committee made up of local residents and councillors who report to the Board on customer policies and performance.



DID YOU KNOW THAT THE CURRENT CHAIR OF THE BOARD IS A SOUTHWAY TENANT?

Samantha Macwilliam has held the position since September 2016 and has overseen;

- **Delivery of our Development Strategy, providing new homes for people in South Manchester and beyond**
- **An increase in Community Investment, including advice and support for tenants to access benefits, training and employment**
- **The purchase of, and move to, our new office at Southern Gate**

BOARD VACANCY

Samantha is stepping down in September 2020, creating a vacancy for a new Tenant Committee member.

We want everybody who applies to know as much as possible about Southway, so if you are interested, we can arrange meeting observations, the chance to talk to staff

who deliver our services and spend time with the Chair of the Board to get an insight into what being a tenant Board member involves.

Whether you decide to apply or not you will have new experience, knowledge and skills that could benefit you in obtaining other jobs or voluntary positions.

Samantha said;

"I've been a Southway Board Member for eight years. I gained new skills, represented Southway at meetings across the country and have been involved in making some really big decisions to try and improve the homes and communities we live in.

I passionately believe that the tenants have a huge part to play in deciding how Southway is run. Being a Board or Committee member is one of the best ways to do this. This is a really great opportunity and I would recommend it to anyone."

INTERESTED?

Contact Matthew Maouati **m.maouati@southwayhousing.co.uk**, or Tom Mackrory **t.mackrory@southwayhousing.co.uk** for more details. This position is open to Southway tenants, their children (over 18s) and leaseholders.