

# homing in

[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-housing](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-housing)

Autumn 2022



Residents at Rose Hill Court seniors housing scheme in Brighton have transformed their garden into a wildlife haven. Find out more on page 7.

## In this issue

Cost of living advice and support

Solar panels for more council homes

Tribute to Barry Hughes

Win wildlife photography exhibition tickets



**Brighton & Hove  
City Council**

## Welcome to the autumn issue of Homing In

**As we head into autumn and winter, the soaring cost of energy and other bills is a huge worry for everyone.**

We know many households are facing financial difficulties and on pages 4 and 5 there's information about advice and support available.

There's also an update on action to make our council homes more sustainable and help manage energy bills. This includes fitting solar panels to 1,000 council homes over the next 3 years.

And we're building energy efficient new council homes – a development nearing completion in Victoria Road, Portslade will include solar panels, a ground source heat



**Cllr Siriol Hugh-Jones**

pump system, and high levels of insulation.

We also have an update on the Estate Walkabouts introduced in the summer. Thank you to all residents who have taken part so far and fed back to help us make improvements.

There's also information on how you can get involved in the Citywide Conference for tenants and leaseholders in October.

We would like to pay tribute to Barry Hughes, Chairman of Sylvan Hall Residents' Association and a member of the Homing In Tenant Editorial



**Cllr David Gibson**

Board, who passed away in July. There's a further tribute to Barry below.

As we were putting the final touches to this issue together, the sad news of the death of The Queen came through.

Queen Elizabeth II was our country's longest reigning monarch and has given a life of dedication and service. We send our condolences to the Royal Family and all affected by this sad news.

**Councillors David Gibson and Siriol Hugh-Jones  
Co-chairs of the Housing Committee**

## Remembering Barry Hughes

**It was with much sadness we learnt of the death in July of resident representative Barry Hughes.**

Barry was well known and well liked in the city and worked tirelessly on behalf of local residents for many years, always standing up for their interests.

Barry was Chairman of Sylvan Hall Residents' Association and took great pride in the estate, both past and present, having taken time to research its development from the site of 4 Victorian villas in the 1940s by Brighton Borough Council.



**Barry Hughes**

He was the vice chair of the Central Area Panel and a member of the Homing In Tenant Editorial Board, and played a key role in many other housing working groups over the years. He was also involved with the Leaseholders Action Group.

Barry took his responsibilities as a resident rep seriously,

trying to find immediate solutions to problems, but also looking at the bigger picture, challenging us on policies and procedures where he thought these could be made simpler and fairer for residents. Barry's many suggestions and recommendations led to improvements over the years and will continue to do so.

He had a wealth of knowledge of housing matters and was generous with his knowledge and his time, carrying out his roles with enthusiasm, warmth and good humour.

He touched many people's lives for the good and will be much missed.

**Martin Reid, Assistant Director  
Housing Management**

# Groundbreaking new homes



New flats  
nearing  
completion in  
Victoria Road

## A major new development of council homes in Portslade is nearing completion.

The 42 new flats in Victoria Road, Portslade, will provide much needed housing for people on the council's housing register.

The groundbreaking development is the most sustainable scheme so far in our New Homes for Neighbourhoods building programme.

The homes are designed to be highly energy efficient, helping residents to manage their energy bills and contributing to the council's drive to cut carbon emissions.

The development will be the first new council housing project in the city with a ground source

heat pump system, which will provide heating and hot water. It also has solar panels and high levels of insulation.

Final work will be carried out on the interior of the flats this autumn, along with landscaping work on a communal garden for residents.

'Living' walls will be planted on the exterior of the 2 blocks of flats and watered with recycled rainwater.

A small new outdoor space with trees and seating is also going to be provided nearby for people using Portslade Town Hall.

The new flats are a mix of one, 2 and 3 bedroom homes and the first tenants are expected to move into them in January.

## Work to start on city centre flats

### Work will start this autumn on four new council homes in Frederick Street in the city centre.

The site was previously used for parking and will be transformed to provide 2 two-bedroom flats and 2 studio flats, due to be finished in November 2023.

To find out more about New Homes for Neighbourhoods, visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/nhfn](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/nhfn)



Photograph courtesy of the University of Sussex.

The city has been mourning Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who died on 8 September 2022.

The Queen is pictured with HRH The Duke of Edinburgh at the opening of The Keep in Moulsecomb on her most recent visit to Brighton & Hove.

# Getting advice and support with debt

**If you are struggling to make ends meet, there's help and support available.**

The government has announced that from 1 October, a new Energy Price Guarantee will mean a typical household will now pay up to an average £2,500 a year on their energy bill for the next two years. This is automatic and applies to all households.

The following payments are also being made by the government:

## **Energy Bill Discount**

- All households will get £400 off energy bills this winter through their energy companies. This non-repayable discount will be applied automatically in 6 instalments between October and March.
- People who use pre-payment meters will get energy bill discount vouchers from the first week of each month, issued by text, email or post, which they can redeem at their usual top up-point.



## **Cost of Living Payments**

- Households on means tested benefits, including Universal Credit, Pension Credit and Tax Credits, will also receive a payment of £324 this autumn (this is in addition to a payment in the summer).
- £300 will be paid to pensioners in November with their Winter Fuel Payment.
- £150 is being paid to people on disability benefits, such as Personal Independence Payment, Disability Living Allowance or Attendance Allowance, in September.

For more information about these payments visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

## **Money worries getting you down?**

**Money worries and debts can have a serious impact on mental health and wellbeing.**

The Sussex Mental Healthline is a 24/7 mental health telephone support and information service, call 0800 0309 500.

It offers listening support, advice, information and

signposting to anyone experiencing difficulties, or who may be in crisis and in urgent need of help with their mental health.

The service is free and available to anyone concerned about their own mental health or that of a relative or friend.

For more information, visit [www.sussexpartnership.nhs.uk/sussex-mental-healthline](http://www.sussexpartnership.nhs.uk/sussex-mental-healthline)

## **Here to help**

### **Community Hub**

For general help if you're struggling with the cost of living, contact our Community Hub. Visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/ldsf](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/ldsf) or phone 01273 293117 and select option 1.

The phonenumber is open from Monday to Friday, 10am to 4.30pm.

### **Welfare Rights Team**

For benefits advice call the Welfare Rights Team advice line, open Monday to Wednesday 10am to 1pm, on 01273 291116 or email [welfarights@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:welfarights@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

### **Housing Income Management Team**

If you are having problems paying your rent, please call 01273 293224 or email [housing.incomemanagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:housing.incomemanagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

For more information, visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/benefits/help-and-support](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/benefits/help-and-support)

**Advice and support is also available from a range of local organisations. These include:**

### **Money Advice Plus**

0800 988 7037  
[www.moneyadviceplus.org.uk](http://www.moneyadviceplus.org.uk)

### **Citizens Advice**

0300 330 9033  
[www.cabrightonhove.org](http://www.cabrightonhove.org)



## Cost of Living Crisis Appeal

**An appeal set up by Brighton & Hove Citizens Advice and Brighton & Hove Food Partnership, with the support of Brighton & Hove City Council, has raised more than £38,000.**

The Cost of Living Crisis Appeal is helping people in poverty in Brighton & Hove with their food and fuel costs through vouchers, food parcels and low energy items, such as slow cookers.

The funds are used to support existing schemes run by the Moneyworks Partnership, which is led by Citizens Advice, and the Food Partnership.

To donate, visit [www.justgiving.com/campaign/BHCostofLivingCrisis](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/BHCostofLivingCrisis)

Brighton & Hove  
**FOOD**  
Partnership

**citizens  
advice**

**Brighton  
& Hove**



## Tips for saving energy

**Tips and advice for quick and easy ways to save energy, lower your bills and reduce your carbon footprint from the Energy Saving Trust.**

- Remember to turn your appliances off standby mode
- Remember to turn off lights when you're not using them or when you leave a room
- Use your washing machine on a 30-degree cycle instead of higher temperatures
- Reduce your washing machine use by one run per week
- Avoid using a tumble dryer for your clothes
- Avoid overfilling the kettle
- Spend less time in the shower
- Swap your bath for a shower

For more information:

Visit [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk)





# Cutting carbon emissions from homes

**Solar panels are to be installed on hundreds more council homes across the city as part of work to cut carbon emissions and help reduce energy bills for residents.**

At present over 400 of our council homes have solar panels. The aim is to add panels to 1,000 more homes over the next 3 years, with installations due to start next year.

The project is one of a range of measures as part of our commitment to become a carbon neutral city by 2030.

## **Low carbon heating**

We're also reviewing heating systems and starting to install other forms of low carbon heating in council homes.

We've installed over 30 air source heat pumps and plan to install up to 100 more this year, focusing on homes with inefficient electric heating and lower energy efficiency ratings.

And we're carrying out an options appraisal which will

see 265 flats in blocks in north Whitehawk move from gas to low carbon heating and hot water over the next 2 to 3 years.

The project will significantly reduce emissions and give residents greater control over their heating and hot water.

## **Improving energy efficiency**

We've made significant investment in upgrading existing gas boilers still in good working order, and 99% are now A-rated.

A new heating and hot water contract will start next year and – as and when they need replacing – boilers and other heaters will be replaced with low carbon, energy efficient options.

There have been improvements in the average Energy Performance Certificate ratings of our homes, and we're developing an energy plan to prioritise measures to improve properties with low energy efficiency ratings.

## Housing Customer Services

**In response to your feedback, our Housing Customer Services phone lines are now open again from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. You can call us on 01273 293030.**

The change follows a survey of residents, in which people said services were hard to contact. It is part of our return to 'business as usual' and away from some of the more restricted opening times during the pandemic.

Many queries and requests can be made on our website at [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-housing](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-housing). You can also email the team at [housing.customerservices@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:housing.customerservices@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

# Garden nominated for national award

**A wildlife garden created by residents at Rose Hill Court seniors housing scheme in Brighton was shortlisted for a national biodiversity award.**

During the pandemic residents transformed the scheme's communal garden, planting wildflowers, meadow plants and trees.

They also added bird baths and installed bird boxes, hedgehog shelters, rainwater butts, compost bins, vegetable plots and stopped mowing the grass.

The result has been a big increase in wildlife including bees, butterflies, craneflies, crickets and a wide variety of birds.

The garden was a finalist and highly commended in two categories of the BIG Biodiversity Challenge awards - Community Engagement and Habitat Creation Project of the Year.

The awards are run by the Construction Industry Research and Information Association, for more information visit [www.bigchallenge.info](http://www.bigchallenge.info)

During lockdown the garden was a real boost for residents and it has inspired art and photography projects by the scheme's art group, called the Rose Hill Rebels.



**Rose Hill Court residents (left to right) John, Linda and Joe in the garden with scheme manager Donna (seated)**

In May the 'Rebels' took part in the annual Artists Open Houses festival and welcomed visitors to the scheme in Rose Hill Terrace to see their work.

Rose Hill Court is one of 23 council-run seniors housing schemes across the city for people aged 55 and above. To find out more about our seniors housing, email [seniorshousing@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:seniorshousing@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or call **01273 293030** and ask for a call back from a member of the team.

## Buying back former council homes

**We're providing more rented homes for families on the housing register by buying back properties sold under Right to Buy.**

If you own a former council home, you can make an offer to sell it back to us.

- If you bought the home within the last 10 years, you must offer it back to the council if you wish to sell it. This is known as the Right of First Refusal.

- If you bought your home over 10 years ago, you don't need to offer us first refusal, but you can still make an offer to sell it to us.

Last year 90 homes sold under Right to Buy were brought back into council ownership, the highest number since our Home Purchase Policy was introduced 5 years ago.

So far this financial year (April to the end of August 2022) we have brought back 31 homes.

If you are interested in selling your home, visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/home-purchase-policy](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/home-purchase-policy) or call 07961 659 157 to find out more.

The Home Purchase Policy is one of a range of ways we are providing more council housing. These include building new homes (see page 3) and transforming empty spaces within council-owned property to create new homes.

# Citywide Conference focus on living with disability

**A reminder the annual Citywide Conference for tenants and leaseholders takes place on 8 October at Hove Town Hall in Norton Road, Hove from 10am to 2.30pm.**

The theme is 'Living with disability, challenging stigma' and there will be guest speakers, stalls and information about help and support in the city.

The conference is also a chance to meet other local tenants, leaseholders, councillors and council managers.

The event is organised by tenants and leaseholders and all residents are welcome - you

can stay for it all, or just drop by for a while.

Chris El-Shabba, a tenant representative from Whitehawk will chair the conference. She said: "We're really looking forward to meeting up in person again after holding the conference online for the last 2 years."

If you can't get to Hove Town Hall, don't worry - you can still



**Chris El-Shabba will chair the conference**

take part in the conference online or by phone if you prefer. To sign up or find out more, visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/citywide-conference](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/citywide-conference) or call the Community Engagement Team on 01273 291518 or 07717 303 183. You can also get in touch to ask about help with transport, or childcare or carer costs.

## Estate Walkabouts

**As part of our pilot Estate Walkabout project, we've completed 12 walkabouts across the city. All were well attended by councillors, council staff and local residents.**

The new walkabouts concentrate on improving our estates, rather than the former repairs focused inspections, and have proved largely successful so far.

As a result of the walkabouts, our Estates Team have completed a large number of jobs such as clearing bulk waste and fly tipping, and removing graffiti. We have accepted 24 proposals to action under the Environmental Improvement Budget including improving bin storage areas, clearing overgrown areas, replacing signage and planting fruit trees.

The Wellington Road walkabout brought people together who asked for support in restarting their tenant and resident association, and the Community Engagement Team will be setting up a meeting to get this going.



**An Estate walkabout at Tyson Place earlier this year**

We'd like to thank everyone for giving their time to take part in the walkabouts and their feedback on ways to help us make improvements.

We're reviewing the pilot with the aim of drawing up a further 12 week schedule of walkabouts for the autumn, and a further full schedule after that.

For more information, please contact our Housing Customer Services Team on 01273 293030 or email [customerservices@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@brighton-hove.gov.uk)



# Thank you to Marilyn

**A seniors housing scheme in Hove is a mass of flowers every summer, thanks to resident Marilyn Parker.**

Marilyn spends hours every day tending an array of window boxes, hanging baskets, pots and flower beds outside Woods House in Sackville Road,

The result is a glorious display of flowers, including hollyhocks, hydrangeas, roses and geraniums, which are popular with residents, neighbours and passers-by.

Marilyn started looking after the garden when she moved to Woods House 17 years ago and her interest has grown since then.

Marilyn said: "I love gardening and lots of people stop to look at the flowers and chat when I'm in the garden. It's lovely to hear their comments and nice that the garden is appreciated."

Michael Logue, scheme manager at Woods House, organised a residents' lunch in July to thank Marilyn for her continued dedication and she was presented with a certificate by Councillor Siriol Hugh-Jones, co-chair of the Housing Committee.



**Marilyn (right) with Councillor Siriol Hugh-Jones**



Michael said: "Every year Marilyn does the most wonderful displays of flowers and she is well known in the local area for them. The flowers really brighten up everyone's day and this summer's were best yet!"

## Blooming lovely in Moulsecoomb

**Hanging baskets and planters are adding a splash of floral colour in Moulsecoomb Parade.**

The baskets and planters were provided with money from the Environmental Improvement Budget (EIB).

And local traders in the shopping parade in Moulsecoomb Way are helping to keep the flowers looking their best.

The blooms prompted lots of positive comments from shoppers and passers-by during the summer.

Haylea and James Wheeler, who run a café in the parade, water the baskets regularly. Haylea said: "The flowers really brighten the area up and customers like them!"

**The EIB funds a variety of different projects, so if you have an idea for improving your area, let us know. Contact the Community Engagement Team, email [communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or call 01273 291211 or 291518.**



**Housing officer Iain Orr with summer flowers in Moulsecoomb Parade**

# Help us improve our council homes

**We're looking for more people to join our team of resident inspectors.**

The inspectors are residents who carry out sample checks on empty homes before new tenants move in.

They look at things from a tenant's point of view, checking the quality of any repairs and making any suggestions for improvements.

The resident inspectors also review new council housing developments, looking at the standard of homes when completed.

And they follow some developments from start to finish, giving feedback on the design which could help influence future work.

They will also be looking at some properties where planned and major work has been carried out.

Eddie Cope, chair of the resident inspectors, said: "You don't have to be a builder or have any special experience. We have a really good look at homes from a resident's perspective, inside and out, and make sure any problems are rectified."



**Resident inspectors visiting a site for new homes**

Inspection visits take place monthly during working hours and meetings are held bi-monthly to give feedback on the issues raised by resident inspectors.

There's no obligation to attend all inspections and help is available with travel costs if needed.

For more information, email [Marcus.Richardson@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:Marcus.Richardson@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or call 07500 982 823.

## News from the Leaseholders Action Group

**We are the voice of all leaseholders with flats in council blocks, however you acquired your flat, and whether you live in it or not.**

We are organising our next meeting, which will look at future decisions about repair and maintenance as compared to bulk replacement, for components of our buildings. There are clearly financial implications for us here - also environmental issues in avoiding throwing out things

that are still usable, and in saving emissions and of course heating costs for the residents by solving problems with damp or draughts as soon as they arise.

We are also hoping to arrange another big gathering for leaseholders to get together and meet with council staff - in person again at last! Works and maintenance plans will be a big feature.

These, and all our meetings are open to all leaseholders - we

hope to see you there! We aim to have a link for people to phone up or log in if you can't get to us in person. Details will be circulated as soon as we have them.

To contact us, or join our email discussion group, phone 01273 605225, email [lag@clarend.com](mailto:lag@clarend.com) or search for B&H Leaseholders Action Group on Facebook.

**Rosemary Johnson LAG  
Chairperson**

## BME Young People's Project



The Black and Minority Ethnic Young People's Project (BMEYPP) is a local youth-led community project.

The friendly project runs a range of activities, events and groups in Brighton & Hove for BME young people aged from 11 to 25.

Regular sessions provide opportunities for young people to discuss issues that affect their lives, meet new people, and have fun!

The programme of activities includes:

- Weekly social drop-in sessions
- Holiday Activities and Food sessions
- The Crown Project - which is a young women's group
- A Young Migrants Project

The BMEYPP also runs a Mentoring and Tutoring Programme which matches mentors with young people who would like extra help with their schoolwork or someone else to talk to.

They also run the Transitions Project which provides for support for pupils moving to secondary school by linking them up with an older 'buddy' already at the school.

To find out more, email [info@bmeyp.org.uk](mailto:info@bmeyp.org.uk) or follow the project on Instagram and Facebook @ BMEYPP

## Making a difference on the Bates estate

**A resident group on the Bates estate in Brighton is enjoying a new lease of life.**

The Bates Estate Community Association (BECA) was relaunched this spring. It was previously called the Bates Estate Tenant and Resident Association.

BECA is planning social activities for people living on the estate and is also bidding for funds for improvements for the area.

A rundown block of storage units has been repaired and brought back into use with funds from the Estate Development Budget.

And a new picnic bench is going to be provided with money from the same budget.



Ian Knowles, chair of the community association, said: "Our first social event was a tea party at Moulsecoomb Hall for the Queen's Jubilee, we had a good time and it was nice to get celebrate together.

"We're taking things one step at a time and we've got lots of others ideas for events and improvements."

To get involved or find out more, email [batesestatecommunity@gmail.com](mailto:batesestatecommunity@gmail.com) or call 07810 174068.

For information about how to apply for funds from the Estate Development Budget, visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/EDB](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/EDB) or call the Community Engagement Team on call 01273 291211 or 291518.

## Get your COVID booster

**The NHS is offering people aged 50 years and older, residents in care homes, health and social care staff, and those who are vulnerable to COVID-19 another booster this autumn.**

People who are eligible are being invited to book their vaccination through the National Booking Service.

Care home residents, staff, people aged 75 and over, and those with weakened immune systems were the first to be offered the opportunity to book an appointment.

Others who are eligible will be invited in the coming weeks, with appointments and walk-in sessions available at Brighton Racecourse, some pharmacies and other community venues across the city.



For more information go to [www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination](http://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination) or call 119.

# How we've been doing

Here are the highlights of our performance over the last quarter...

## April to June 2022



### Rent collection and current arrears

We've collected 95.32% of rent and over a quarter of households (28%) have someone on Universal Credit.



### Repairs and improvements

The proportion of 'Decent Homes' has slightly increased, from 95.6% to 95.9%, and the Repairs Helpdesk answered an average of 270 phone calls per working day.



### Customer services

Housing Customer Services dealt with an average of 80 phone calls and 84 emails per working day. The most common queries were about tenancy issues such as anti-social behaviour, residents' parking and property maintenance.



### Moving home

We let 198 homes, up from 148 during the previous quarter, and reduced the number of empty homes from 251 to 204.



### Estates service

The team completed 712 jobs to move bulky items.



### Anti-social behaviour

Our officers supported residents with 200 new reports of anti-social behaviour.



### Tenancy management

We've worked on 72 cases to support vulnerable tenants, including 21 who required specialist tenancy sustainment support because they were at risk of abandoning their tenancies. This work includes helping vulnerable tenants with arranging benefit claims, repairs, and care packages.

## Feedback about housing services

**We want to know what you think about the service you receive so we can build on our successes and make improvements where they are most needed.**

Please send your feedback to [CustomerFeedback@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:CustomerFeedback@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or call 01273 291229.

Whether you make a compliment or a complaint, your right to receive a good quality service will not be affected.

The Housing Ombudsman service can give independent advice to tenants and options available if you have used the council's complaints procedure and are unsatisfied with the outcome. For details, visit [www.housing-ombudsman.org.uk](http://www.housing-ombudsman.org.uk) email [info@housing-ombudsman.org.uk](mailto:info@housing-ombudsman.org.uk) or call 0300 1113000.

## Thanks for taking part in survey

**Thank you to everyone who took part in a survey over the summer and gave feedback as part of a review of how we involve tenants and leaseholders in the management of our council homes and estates.**

The survey was launched to understand how you would best like to work with us, and we will have an update on your views in a forthcoming issue of *Homing In*.

For more information, contact the Community Engagement Team on 01273 291211 or 291518.

# Fantastic new facilities open in Carden Park

A new play and fitness area is now open in Carden Park in Carden Hill, Brighton, following one of the city's most extensive playground and park makeover projects.

People of all ages and abilities can enjoy exploring the park's new inclusive playground, multi-use games area with mini exercise track, and state-of-the-art outdoor fitness space.

The new look park includes a new teen zone with play equipment for older children, and a quiet zone for friends to relax, plus many sensory play opportunities.

There's a free fitness app, which lets people using the fitness equipment track their activity and progress, visit [www.kompan.co.uk/new-fitness-app](http://www.kompan.co.uk/new-fitness-app)

Feedback from the local community helped to shape plans for the new facilities, which were officially opened in August in a ceremony lead by the Mayor of Brighton & Hove, Councillor Lizzie Deane.

The refurbishment has been funded by Section 106 developer contributions and is the latest completed as part of a £3 million package of playground improvements across the city.



The opening ceremony at Carden Park



For more information about Carden Park, visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/carden-park](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/carden-park)

Find out more about play areas and open spaces in the city at [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/playgrounds](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/playgrounds)

## Enjoy nature this autumn

**After the long days of summer, plants and trees are now erupting into the golden browns, yellows, oranges and reds of autumn.**

Autumn is an important time of year for wildlife as they feed up this year's youngsters to survive the winter shortages. Ivy is an important late food source and on a sunny autumn day it can be a buzz of activity with hoverflies, butterflies and other insects making the most of the last available nectar sources.

Migratory birds, such as swifts and swallows, will have already set off on their long journeys back to Africa.

Other wildlife, such as queen bumblebees, frogs, toads, and bats will be frantically feeding up so that they can last out the winter asleep, hibernating underground or in suitable safe houses.

This is a good time to take an autumnal stroll to see the magical colours, the busy wildlife feasting, and to wish a

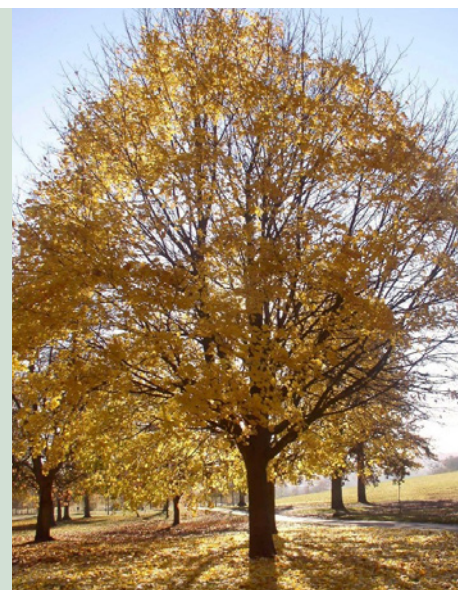


Photo: D.Larkin

fond farewell to those who are off on their long flights across the globe.



Photo: Victoria Fox

Enjoying Our City Dances

# Get dancing!

**There was dancing in the streets as local people took part in Our City Dances, a 2 day celebration of dance in and around the Turner area in July.**

The free dance festival was organised by South East Dance and marked the opening of its new premises in Market Street, called The Dance Space.

From September, The Dance Space will be hosting a variety of dance classes for all ages and abilities, including tango, salsa, Indian and contemporary styles.

A new Welcome Card scheme for people living nearby in the Turner area will offer discounts on some classes and performances.

**For more information, call 01273 696844 or visit [www.southeastdance.org.uk](http://www.southeastdance.org.uk)**

## Dates for your diary

### Area Panels

Area Panel meetings are a chance for residents to meet council officers and councillors to ask questions, share their views, and work with the council to improve housing services. The next rounds of Area Panels will be held as follows:

**Central** 2pm Tuesday 11 October, Barnard Centre, St John's Mount, Mount Pleasant, Brighton, BN2 0JP

**East** 7pm Tuesday 11 October, Whitehawk Inn, Whitehawk Road, Brighton, BN2 5NS

**West** 1.30pm Wednesday 12 October, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove, BN3 3BQ

**North** 7pm Wednesday 12 October, St George's Hall, Newick Road, Moulsecoomb, BN1 9JG

These will be held in person, with the opportunity to also take part online on Zoom or join in by phone.

For more information contact the Community Engagement Team, email [communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or call 01273 291211 or 291518.

Agendas and minutes of meetings are available at [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/area-panel-meetings](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/area-panel-meetings)

### City events

#### Half term activities at local museums

Week beginning **24 October** – find out about events at [www.brightonmuseums.org.uk](http://www.brightonmuseums.org.uk) or call 03000 290902.

#### Wildfest

**29 October** – One Garden in Stanmer Park.

Free community festival celebrating the South Downs with family activities including theatre workshops and live music.

#### London to Brighton Veteran Car Run

**6 November** – Ends on Madeira Drive

#### Family Day Take Part

**13 November** – Brighton Dome

A day of festivities celebrating multi-cultural arts and heritage.

Find out about forthcoming events in the city at [www.visitbrighton.com/whats-on](http://www.visitbrighton.com/whats-on)

**If you have an event you'd like us to promote, please email [homingin@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:homingin@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or call Housing Customer Services on 01273 293030.**

# Win tickets to Wildlife Photographer of the Year

Enter our free draw for a chance to win tickets to the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition at Brighton Museum & Art Gallery.

The winner will receive a family ticket (for two adults and up to three children) to this prestigious exhibition from the Natural History Museum in London, which features beautiful and unique wildlife photographs.

Simply answer the following questions, based on information in this issue:

- How many new council flats are being built in Victoria Road, Portslade?
- How many Estate walkabouts have been completed so far?
- What is the opening date of the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition?

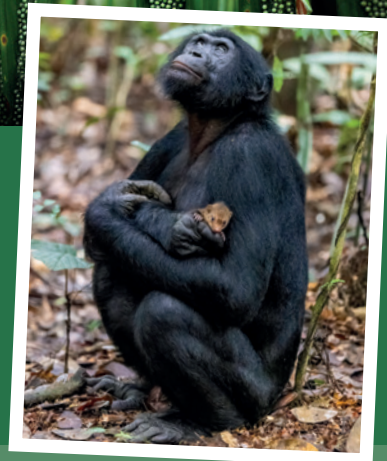
Send your answers by email to [homingin@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:homingin@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or by post to Homing In competition, Performance & Improvement, Housing Centre, Unit 1, Fairway Trading Estate, Eastergate Road, Brighton BN2 4QL. **Please include your name, address, postcode and phone number.**

The closing date for entries is **31 October 2022**. The winner will be notified and their name published in the next issue of Homing In.

© Brandon Güell, Wildlife Photographer of the Year



The competition is open to all households who receive Homing In by email or post.



© Christian Ziegler, Wildlife Photographer of the Year

## About the exhibition

Wildlife Photographer of the Year opens on 22 October 2022 at Brighton Museum & Art Gallery in Pavilion Gardens and runs until 22 January 2023.

For more information, visit [www.brightonmuseums.org.uk](http://www.brightonmuseums.org.uk) or call 03000 290 900.

## Try something new for free

A variety of free activities and classes are being held at Whitehawk Inn this autumn. The free weekly drop-in sessions are a chance to socialise and learn a new skill at the same time.

### They include:

#### Knitting club

Tuesdays 10am to 12 noon

#### Mindfulness and meditation

Tuesdays 10am to 12 noon

#### Bereavement Support Group

Wednesdays 10am to 11am

#### Creative writing

Wednesdays 2pm to 4pm

#### Computers

Thursdays (term time) 10am to 12 noon

#### Drama

Fridays 11am to 1pm

The Whitehawk Inn is a friendly community centre in Whitehawk Road run by BHT Sussex. Sessions are open to all (subject to availability) and everyone is welcome.

As well as the free activities, a

## Congratulations

Thanks to everyone who entered our summer competition to win tickets to The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel at Theatre Royal Brighton. The lucky winner was Thomas Stenning from Brighton.

choice of low-cost courses is also available.

To find out more call 01273 682222 or email [whitehawk.inn@bht.org.uk](mailto:whitehawk.inn@bht.org.uk)

## Useful contacts

### Housing Customer Services

housing.customerservices@brighton-hove.gov.uk  
01273 293030

### Repairs Helpdesk

Report online at [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/repairs](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/repairs)  
0800 052 6140 (local line 01273 294409)

### Housing Income Management Team

housing.incomemanagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk  
01273 293224

### Housing Benefit

housing.benefits@brighton-hove.gov.uk  
01273 292000 or 01273 290333 for people  
with speech or hearing difficulties

### Community Engagement Team

For information about tenant and leaseholder groups  
communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk  
01273 291518 or 291211

### Access Point for adult social care

AccessPoint@brighton-hove.gov.uk  
01273 295555

### Noise Nuisance

[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/noise](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/noise)  
01273 294266 or 01273 293541 for out of hours

## Other useful contacts

### Moneyworks Brighton & Hove

[www.moneyadviceplus.org.uk/advice-and-support/  
telephone-advice-line-moneyworks/](http://www.moneyadviceplus.org.uk/advice-and-support/telephone-advice-line-moneyworks/)  
0800 9887037 or 01273 809288

### Citizens Advice Bureau

[www.cabrightonhove.org](http://www.cabrightonhove.org)  
0300 330 9033

### Help with domestic violence and abuse

[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/domestic-abuse-help](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/domestic-abuse-help)  
Freephone 0300 323 9985

### Brighton & Hove Independent Mediation Service

[www.bhims.org.uk](http://www.bhims.org.uk)  
01273 700812

### Leaseholders Action Group

[lag@clarend.com](mailto:lag@clarend.com)  
01273 605225  
[www.facebook.com/groups/bhlag](http://www.facebook.com/groups/bhlag)

## Online services

Visit the council housing website to check out  
all housing services at  
[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-housing](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-housing)

Pay online at [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/pay](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/pay)

Go to the Housing Online system at  
[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/housingonline](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/housingonline)

Information about money matters, tax, benefits  
and more [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)



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## Housing Committee Meeting

Wednesday 16 November 2022 at 4pm

The meeting will be held in the Council  
Chamber, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove,  
BN3 3BQ.

All council meetings are open to the public,  
and you can submit public questions. People  
attending are encouraged to wear face masks as  
a COVID precaution.

Agendas, minutes and webcasts of council  
meetings are available at [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-meetings](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-meetings)

If you have any comments or suggestions  
for future articles, email  
[homingin@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:homingin@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or  
write to **Homing In**, Performance &  
Improvement, Housing Centre, Unit 1,  
Fairway Trading Estate, Eastergate Road,  
Brighton BN2 4QL or call 01273 293030

**Homing In** is produced by Brighton & Hove  
City Council's communications team and the  
Tenant Editorial Board.

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available on our website.

