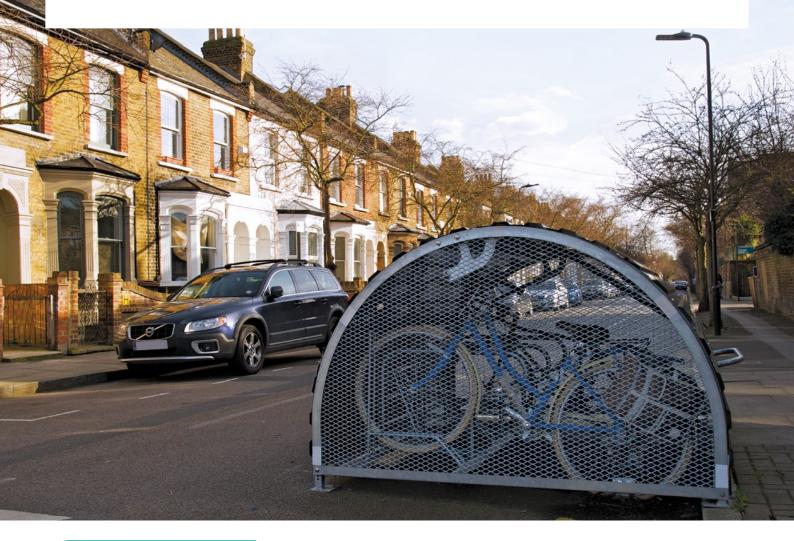
Newlon News



What's inside...

Residents' Forum

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Work placements for residents

New lift contractor



Easter closing times

Our offices close at 5pm on Thursday 13th April and reopen at 9am on Tuesday, 18th April. During this time our contractors will only provide emergency repairs. Emergencies include total electricity loss and major leaks. In these instances our contractors will 'make safe' and may be able to do a full repair provided extensive works are not needed. If additional works need to be approved we cannot do this until we reopen on 18th April.

If you have an emergency repair please phone **020 7613 8080**, where a recorded message will direct you to the contractor providing emergency cover.

Please note that we will not be able to reply to any text messages or emails over the closure period.



Residents' Forum

Martin Hughes, Chair, writes:

The Residents' Forum is a group of residents who meet every few months to look at Newlon's work and monitor performance.

At the last Forum a number of topics were discussed:

- Newlon's service standards are being reviewed and the Housing Services Director, Bill Henderson, asked members for their thoughts on how these could be improved.
 A number of suggestions were agreed such as Newlon following up to check that what has been promised is delivered and asking contractors to let Newlon know when they have to visit residents again to complete a repair.
- There was much discussion about which "key performance indicators" (KPI's) we
 would like to see at our meetings. These measure how well Newlon's services for
 residents are doing. We thought that KPI's about repairs, rent, customer contact
 and enforcement were the most important ones for us.
- We are having a special meeting in May to plan the work of the Forum for this year and also to look ahead to what we'd like to achieve over a longer period.
- We looked at the results of the recent resident involvement survey and have asked Newlon to follow up some of these
 in more detail with individual residents.
- Steve Hitchins, the Board member who comes to our meetings, told us he was pleased with the findings of the last mystery shopping exercise. These indicated that services had improved and he would be feeding this back to the next Residents' Services Committee.
- Lastly, we are recruiting for some new members for the Forum. If you are interested you can read more below.



Keep communal areas clear

Please do not leave items in communal areas such as halls, stairwells and corridors. These pose a risk in the event of a fire as they can block escape routes and make it more difficult for the emergency services to do their job.

These rules apply to any personal items, large or small, including bicycles and prams. Any items that are left out may be removed by our contractors and will require a fee to get them returned.

We have already been doing this in blocks on our estates, but this is also now being enforced in our street properties.

Could you represent all residents?

The Residents' Forum is looking for new members.

Members of the Forum are consulted about Newlon's services, standards and policies. They represent all our residents and provide a voice for them at senior management and Board levels at Newlon.

It is the main group that Newlon consults to find out what residents think about proposed changes to services or policies.

We are especially keen to recruit Asian and/or female residents living in Hackney or Islington.

Does that sound like you, or another resident you know?

Would you like to find out more? Then get in touch at **getinvolved@newlon.org.uk** or call **020 7613 8084**.



Involved residents survey:

the findings

In January we invited all residents who had been involved with us in 2016 to complete a survey and tell us about their experiences and how satisfied they were. We also asked for their ideas about how we could improve involvement opportunities.

Their involvement ranged from one off activities, setting up local groups, membership and attendance at our strategic residents' groups, and more.

Almost 800 residents received an invitation and we were very pleased to hear back from one fifth of them.

We found out that residents who are more regularly involved were more satisfied. Overall satisfaction with resident involvement was 65%. For members of our key group, the Residents' Forum, it was 93%.

This raises a question for us about how could we improve satisfaction for less involved residents. We will be thinking about how we can achieve this and drawing on the ideas expressed in the survey.

We also found out that some of the residents who replied did not know about all the different ways they could get involved with us. In response, we intend to heavily promote the involvement opportunities available.

The replies to the survey will also be considered in agreeing our next resident involvement action plan.

We would like to thank all those residents who replied to the survey.

If you have any questions about the results then you can email them to **getinvolved@newlon.org.uk**

Congratulations to Wendy Jackson, the lucky winner of the survey prize draw.

Get involved,

have a say and make a difference

You can help Newlon improve services by getting involved with us. This means telling us what you think about our services and how we look after your homes. Whether you are renting or own your home, we would like to hear from you. We welcome the involvement of all our residents, regardless of background. How you get involved with us is up to you and how much time you have to spare.

Ways you could get involved include:

- One off involvement. This will not take up a lot of your time.
 If you have a talent for writing and something interesting to say you could write an article for this newsletter.
- Where you live. You could start up a residents' group to provide a strong voice when talking to Newlon about what's important to you.
- Get involved more often. Our Residents' Forum meets five times a year. We are currently recruiting for members. See page 2.

To find out more then get in touch at getinvolved@newlon.org.uk or call 020 7613 8084.

You can also read our 'Get Involved' booklet online at www.newlon.org.uk.



Meet Ben,

Resident Liaison Representative



We have a group of 30 Resident Liaison Representatives (RLR). Their main task is to do monthly joint inspections of communal areas with our Estate Inspectors to see whether any maintenance, cleaning or repairs are needed and monitor whether our contractors are performing to a high standard. We provide rewards for those that take on the role.

Ben Roe has been an RLR for Fenton Street in Tower Hamlets for over a year. Ben not only undertakes the duties expected, but goes above and beyond them, as he explains below.

I enjoy inspections and spotting things that need repairing, or checking communal areas are clear to prevent fire hazards. Seeing jobs through to completion gives me great satisfaction. I feel that I have contributed to making Fenton Street a better place to live. Other residents often show their gratitude, which pleases me.

In the evenings I do walkabouts on each floor to see which light sensor bulbs are working and place a sticker on those that are not. So when the cleaner comes along during the day they can easily identify which bulbs needs changing.

I also try other ways to improve Fenton Street and help out, outside my RLR duties. For example, I often go around and pick up litter to make the area look nicer. I organise for electricians and gas engineers to contact me if they need access to Fenton Street and show them where the communal electrical or gas supplies are.

Once an electrician visited and was working on site, but his voltage detector broke. They were unable to leave the site unattended and so I volunteered to buy a replacement.

On another occasion I persuaded the manager at Tesco's to get staff to dispose of their waste correctly, as in the past staff have dumped unsold bread and this attracted vermin.

We are very grateful for Ben's work. You can become an RLR too and help improve your area and our services, and get rewarded for doing so. Find out more by contacting getinvolved@newlon.org.uk or 020 7613 8084.

Please don't take door closers off

In many of our blocks we put automatic closers on doors to ensure they remain closed to prevent stairwells becoming smoke clogged in the unlikely event of a fire.

Please do not remove or disable these as they can be a risk to both your and other peoples lives should a fire occur.



You said, we did

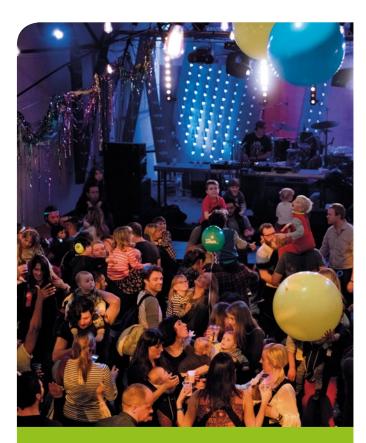
Our Readers' Panel recently helped us review our tenancy guidance leaflets.

Based on their feedback we made changes

- We gave better explanations of some of the key terms used
- A description on what a section 21 notice is was added.
- An explanation was given about the role of the Lettings team in carrying out fixed term tenancy reviews.
- We provided links to relevant information and removed unnecessary repetition.
- Some passages were rephrased to make them easier to read

You can find the tenancy guidance leaflets at www.newlon.org.uk/publications/leaflets-brochures.

Events in your area



Big Fish Little Fish: Pop Stars and Rock Stars

When? 23rd April

Where? Mangle nightclub, E8

Cost? Free

Family fun for the post-rave generation of parents. Top DJs spin old skool, house, techno and more. Legendary Fabric resident DJ Terry Francis headlines. Multi-sensory dancefloor with glitter cannons, bubbles, giant balloons and parachute dance finale. Play area with tents and tunnels and baby chillout space with soft-play ball pool. Licensed bar, free transfers and glowsticks. Optional fancy dress: Pop Stars and Rock Stars.

www.bigfishlittlefishevents.co.uk

Easter Shed

When? 3rd - 7th April

Where? Chickenshed Theatre, N14

Cost? £130 (50% discount for siblings)

This week-long event, for children aged 5-11 years, allows participants to develop a wide range of performance skills through workshops that involve drama, dance, singing and story-making. Parents and friends will be invited on the final afternoon to see a performance devised throughout the week. Everyone welcome, regardless of experience. Book soon.

www.chickenshed.org.uk/easter-shed

Dr Zoolittle at Angel Central

When? 6th - 7th April

Where? 21 Parkfield Street. N1 Cost? Free

For two days, Dr. Zoolittle will be bringing along an array of animals including reptiles, creepy crawlies, guinea pigs, rabbits and meerkat for visitors to get up and close. For all ages.

www.angelcentral.co.uk/event/dr-zoolittle-at-angel-central

Easter Antics Event

When? 8th April

Where? St Andrews Church Parish Centre, EN1

Cost? £2 adults / Children free

Hop over to St Andrews Parish Centre in Enfield Town for a day of Easter antics and fun for all the family. Join in the Easter egg hunt, get creative, meet the Easter Bunny, shop and be entertained with live music and performances. Under 14s get in for free.

www.clairewoodevents.co.uk/easter-antics-event

Bunny Run

When? 8th April

Where? Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

Cost? £5 adults / £3 children (under 12s free with paying adult)

This well-established fun run is back for another round in 2017. 1k, 3k or 5k Bunny Run and Little Bunny Fun Run, open to all ages and abilities. This family event features a course around the park, with a visit from the Easter Bunny, refreshments and a medal for all participants. With a Little Bunny Fun Run for children aged 8 and younger.

www.londonathletics.org/2017-bunny-run

Easter Adventure Quest

When? 14th - 17th April

Where? Kenwood House, NW3 Cost? Free

Be a challenge champion this Easter. You'll greeted by a character from the past - perhaps a king, a butler or a Roman centurion - who'll be able to help you crack the clues as you explore Kenwood. With chocolate reward for successful adventurers.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/kenwood

IWA Canalway Cavalcade

When? 29th April - 1st May

Where? Little Venice, W2 Cost? Free

IWA Canalway Cavalcade is a unique waterway boat gathering organised by volunteers, that has taken place at Little Venice since 1983. There will be activities for all the family with a pageant of boats, trade shows and stalls, live music, kids' activities, competitions, morris dancers, a real ale bar and more.

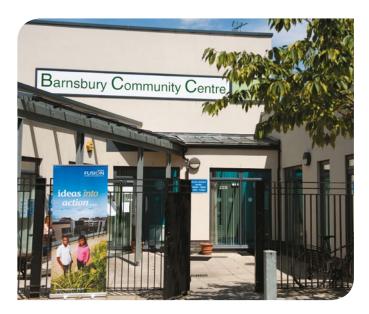
www.waterways.org.uk/events_festivals/canalway_cavalcade

Barnsbury news

Barnsbury Community Centre

Jays Street, Islington, N1 OFE

Activities are free and open to everyone in and around Barnsbury. Contact **020 7833 2525** to find out more.



What?	When?
Tiddley Tots Nursery*	Weekdays, 8am-7pm
Female Only Exercise Session with Juliet Vibert	Mondays & Tuesdays, 10am-11am
	Thursdays, 5pm-6pm
Barnsbury Youth Club with Peel Institute	Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6pm-8pm
Skyway Youth Club	Wednesdays, 5pm-7pm
Community Garden Project (Men)	Mondays, 12pm-2pm
Community Garden Project (Women)	Thursdays, 12.30pm-2.30pm
Salsa in the Cally	Tuesdays, 7pm-8.30pm
Free computer use (Newlon residents only)	Daily
Tutors United tutoring programmes	Coming soon

^{*}For more information on Tiddley Tots Nursery, call **020 7837 2737**.

Fun and learning for young people

Any Newlon residents between 6 and 16 can make friends, do homework or just relax at one of our youth clubs.

SkyWay works with young people aged 6-12 to provide practical and emotional support through creative activities, health and well-being sessions and leadership projects. The SkyWay team are positive and supportive and bring fun and energy to the activities.

The Barnsbury Youth Club allows young people aged 12-16 to choose activities to take part in, including cooking, art projects, table tennis, basketball, football and self-defence. There is also a PS4, music and table top games. During the holidays the group goes to the cinema, bowling, ice-skating and go-karting.

Salsa in the Cally

Salsa in the Cally is a new and exciting weekly social event at Barnsbury, aimed at all levels. Classes take place in a fun atmosphere and are an easy way to meet people, learn new steps and keep fit, as you grow and connect through Salsa dancing.

When: Every Tuesday

- **Beginners:** 7pm-7.30pm (Learn the basics for Salsa. Free to attend.).
- Improvers: 7.30-8.30pm (Learn more intricate steps, and build your confidence and reach social dancing standard. Costs £7.).
- Intermediate/Advanced: 7.30pm-8.30pm (For dancers who have at least 6 months Salsa experience. Master complex turn patterns, shines and dips. Costs £7.).
- From 8.30-10pm is social dancing, with some great Salsa music and a little R'n'B.

Classes include refreshments and mini snacks. Everyone is welcome, regardless of age or size, and no partner is needed.

For more information call the Community Services team on **020 7033 4605** or email **community.services@newlon.org.uk**.



Growing season is coming!



The Barnsbury Community Garden is nestled in the heart of Barnsbury Estate in Islington. The garden is available for residents and local community organisations to enjoy.

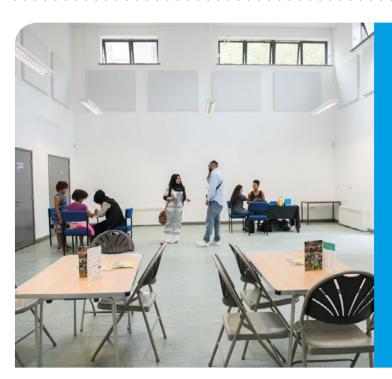
This new communal space is open for everyone to enjoy and is also home to an allotment area, where food growing and horticultural activities are encouraged, including access to gardening spaces and tools. There is also a lovely garden in place at Samford House, on the Barnsbury Estate.

A guided gardening project, known as the IBA Gardening Project, run with support from gardening experts from Aspire,

a social enterprise, takes place twice a week and has various workshops to teach gardening skills.

The aim of this project is to grow, cook and eat organic. All produce will be cooked at a local Lunch Club which takes place at the Hugh Cubitt Centre. Attendees can bring their own pots to grow and can access garden plots that are available at the Barnsbury Community Centre or Samford House.

For more information, please call the Community Services team on **020 7033 4605** or email **community.services@newlon.org.uk**.



Need space to host an event?

The recently refurbished halls at the Barnsbury Centre are available to hire for events at competitive prices. We have a large hall for £40 per hour and a seminar room for £25 per hour (plus £25 caretaking fee and £150 refundable deposit).

Discounts of up to 50% are available **to Newlon residents.**

We hope to host your next party or activity at Barnsbury.

Find out more by emailing community.services@newlon.org.uk or calling 020 7033 4605.

Introducing: Angel Greens

A new vegbag scheme will be launching soon in Islington, called Angel Greens.

It is run by Islington residents as a social enterprise, bringing locally produced, seasonal and organically grown vegetables at the lowest possible cost. It is healthy, ethical and affordable.

One of the founding members is also a Newlon resident.

Produce is sourced from farmers as close to Islington as possible, and every Wednesday a vegbag is prepared with what is in season. That way vegetables are freshly picked, high in nutritional value and flavour.

Vegbags are delivered on the day to local pick-up points in Highbury and Islington, King's Cross, Gray's Inn and Finsbury Park. Members can collect their vegbag the same day or on Thursdays.



Angel Greens is part of a community-led network of vegbag schemes that follow the model of Growing Communities in Hackney. All Islington residents are welcome to be part of it, whether as members, as co-ordinators or as volunteers.

Find out more about Angel Greens and get in touch via their website,

www.angelgreens.co.uk.





Looking for work?

Interested in finding a job, increasing your hours, or making a career change?

Our Jobs Fair is open to everyone aged 16+ who is currently unemployed, or in part-time work and looking to go full-time.

We have roles in health and social care, business and office work, warehouse services, hospitality, cleaning services, construction and education.

Attendees will be entered into a draw to win an Android tablet.

Date: Thursday, 27 April, 2017 - 10:30am to 3pm

Location: The Engine Room, Vickers Court, Hale Village, N17 9FE

To register call 020 7033 4605 or email community.services@newlon.org.uk.

Need a place to park your bike?



Existing on-street cycle parking

Many local councils provide secure cycle parking, mainly through the use of Sheffield stands. Please check your local council's website to find cycle parking in your borough. Some council websites show their cycle parking using an interactive map or provide an A-Z road list.

Hire costs normally range from £25 - £35 annually and some councils ask for a deposit. In some boroughs there is high demand and a long waiting list to use a space.

New on-street cycle parking

If there is no cycle parking provision near where you live then you can contact your local council and make a request for cycle parking. You will need to propose the location. Most councils will consider your request if there's enough funding, space and demand.

For more information visit your local council's website.

- Camden Council www.camden.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/transport-andstreets/cycling-in-camden
- Enfield Council www.cycleenfield.co.uk
- Hackney Council www.hackney.gov.uk/cycle-safety-and-security
- Haringey Council
 www.haringey.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/
 travel/cycling
- Islington Council www.islington.gov.uk/roads/cycling/cycleparking
- Tower Hamlets Council
 www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/transport_and_
 streets/cycling

Asking Newlon for cycle storage

If you would like cycle parking on your estate, then contact us by emailing estates@newlon.org.uk.

We will consider if it is viable and consult with other residents to determine interest, including willingness to pay any costs which may be incurred for the installation and maintenance of such facilities.

Amalgamated Lifts- our new lifts contactor



At the end of January Amalgamated Lifts won the contract to take over as our new lifts repairs and maintenance contractor.

In the last two years, through a number of channels such as residents meetings, forums, complaints received and general day to day conversations, it became clear residents were unhappy with the lift service, in particular the length of time it can take for a broken lift to be brought back into service. Many of these problems were down to the contractual agreements and procedures in place.

To resolve these issues Newlon decided when the lift contract was retendered to find ways to better manage repairs. As a result the new contract includes performance monitoring on the length of time taken to repair lifts, with penalties where targets are not met. We also streamlined the authorisation procedure and asked all contractors bidding for the contract to price in vandalism repairs, as previously Newlon needed to give separate approval for these works to be done, sometimes leading to delays in repair times. Residents can also call the lift contractor directly to report any breakdowns.

We are confident that following the appointment of Amalgamated Lifts you will notice an improvement in service.

Work placement supporting Newlon's Facilities Team

Over the past few months Yolanda, a Newlon resident from Islington, has been greeting residents and supporting our Facilities Team as part of a three month work placement. Her daily tasks include reception duties and providing support with running the facilities within our Head Office, including stock and storage administration.



Yolanda was very keen to gain work experience in an office environment as every job application she applied for required this. Moving forward Yolanda will now have a current reference which will support her with her job hunting.

Helen, Newlon's Office Facilities Manager, praised Yolanda's work saying that, "She has approached her placement with a keen thirst for knowledge and enthusiasm."

Yolanda has picked up new skills quickly and become a valued member of the team.

Working at Newlon has been a positive and rewarding experience and helped me gain invaluable skills, and I was fully supported by the management team. Overall I believe this will help aid me to find future employment in administration. I now feel motivated, confident and keen to reach my full potential and achieve future success.

Yolanda benefited from support from Paula, the Information, Advice and Guidance Officer from our Community Services team. Paula has helped to place nearly 20 residents in work placements over this past year. If you are interested in finding a placement, please contact Paula by emailing **community.services@newlon.org.uk** or calling **020 7033 4605**.

Save or borrow sustainably with Credit Unions

Credit Unions are not-forprofit financial co-operatives, owned and managed by their members. They promote social and financial wellbeing by offering fair and affordable access to credit.

Their primary objective is to encourage people to save, but they also provide low cost loans when people need them.

Anyone who saves with a Credit Union becomes a member of the co-operative and can use one of several savings accounts open to them. Savings form a pool of money held in trust, from which any member can apply to borrow. Because it is largely volunteer run and has no outside shareholders it can offer affordable and flexible loans to members.

Credit Unions near you:

London Capital Credit Union.

Open to anyone who lives, works or studies in Barnet, Camden, City of London, Hackney, Haringey or Islington. Go to www.credit-union.coop.

East London Credit Union.

Open to anyone who lives, works, studies in Waltham Forest, Haringey, Redbridge, Enfield, Newham, Hackney or Epping Forest.

Go to www.elcu.co.uk.

London Community Credit Union.

Open to anyone who lives, works or studies in Tower Hamlets, Hackney, City of London, Newham, Waltham Forest, Islington or Haringey. Go to www.londoncu.com.

Dispose of bulk refuse properly

Bulky rubbish, such as unwanted furniture, will not be collected as part of regular refuse collections. Bulky items cost Newlon a lot of money to remove, which is rechargeable to residents.

Contact your local council to find out how to dispose of bulk refuse properly.



Need help or advice about your benefits?

Since 1st April 2016 Newlon's in-house welfare benefits advisor has helped over 120 residents claim more than £195,000 in benefits they were due.

If you are concerned about your benefit entitlement or find the system difficult to understand, we can work with you to review your benefits and determine your entitlements, identify backdated benefits, support you in making claims, and follow up on existing claims.



Welfare Benefits update

Two child limit

Please note that from April 2017 support provided through Child Tax Credit will be limited to two children, so that any subsequent children born on or after 6 April 2017 will not be eligible for further support. You can still receive a child element for more than two children if the children were born before 6 April 2017.

Benefit cap reduction

The Benefit Cap is a limit on the amount of benefit a household can claim. In November 2016 it was reduced to £442.31 per week per family in London, and £296.35 per week for a single person.

Universal Credit rollout

Universal Credit is a single monthly payment for people in or out of work. It replaces many of the benefits you might be getting now, including income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Child Tax Credit and Housing Benefit. It is currently being rolled out in Tower Hamlets and Hackney and may affect your household. You will be informed if this is the case.

Bedroom Tax changes

From 1st April 2017 you will be entitled to an extra bedroom and will not be subjected to any bedroom tax deduction from your housing benefit or universal credit if the following apply:

- You have a disabled child
- You are a disabled non-dependent adult requiring overnight care from a non-resident carer
- You are a couple where one of you is unable to share a bedroom because of a disability

To qualify the relevant individual should be in receipt of the middle or higher rate care component of Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance, the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment or (in the case of a couple who cannot share) the Armed Forces Independence payment.

If you are worried about how you are going to be able to cope with these changes and reductions, please contact your Income Officer on **020 7613 8080** or Community Services on **020 7033 4605**. Alternatively email **community.services@newlon.org.uk**.

Apprenticeships for Newlon Residents

Are you a Newlon resident aged 18 to 24 and looking to earn while you learn? We are currently recruiting for apprenticeships in business administration or maintenance (plumbing, electrical and carpentry). Apprenticeships are based with Wates Living Space, our repairs contractor.

As well as work experience you can gain a relevant qualification.

If you are interested call Paula on 020 7033 4605

Right: A young Newlon resident apprentice with Wates Living Space.



Kids' Quiz!

Below are 6 words which are all to do with Easter. See if you can unscramble them.

1) tubrelfyt

4) loctacoeh

2) babrit

5) kichc

3) skebat

6) rtesae gesg

Please email your answers to kieran.hurley@newlon.org.uk, with the words Kids' Quiz in the title, along with your name, age and full address. Or post them to Newlon Kids' Quiz, Newlon House, 4 Daneland Walk, Hale Village, N17 9FE.

You can only enter the quiz if you are aged 11 or under. Answers must be received by 31st May 2017.

All correct entries will go into a draw, and one lucky winner will get a £20 voucher for a high street or online store of their choice.



Go digital for a chance to win £50

We can send our newsletters digitally. This is faster and more environmentally friendly. If you want to receive them by email rather than in hard copy please get in touch at newsletters@newlon.org.uk.

If you sign up to receive your newsletter digitally between now and the end of May you will be put into a draw for a chance to win £50 in youchers.

Write for your newsletter

Do you have an idea for an article for this newsletter? We welcome articles from residents of all ages. If we publish it we will send you £20 in vouchers of your choice! Send your article idea to kieran.hurley@newlon.org.uk, or post it to Kieran Hurley, Newlon Housing Trust, 4 Daneland Walk, Hale Village, London, N17 9FE.

Newlon House, 4 Daneland Walk, Hale Village, London, N17 9FE Telephone: 020 7613 8080

Email (general enquiries): customerservice@newlon.org.uk Email (repairs): repairs@newlon.org.uk www.newlon.org.uk

Newlon Housing Trust is a charitable Housing Association

If you have difficulty reading this newsletter, require a different format or need help with translation, please contact us on 020 7613 8091 or email newsletters@newlon.org.uk.