



Good homes needed for the furniture below:



For details about any of these items, please contact the office.

Decorate your picnic table with vases filled with mint and basil.

Flies don't like the smell and they'll find somewhere else to land.



OLD ME NEW ME



Orders ice cream in a disposable cup



Reduces my waste by asking for ice cream in a cone

## Mobility Aids

Currently the Birmingham Hospitals do not recycle or reuse mobility aids. If you know someone who could use any of the following, please contact the office.



**FORTEM**  
Every Home Matters

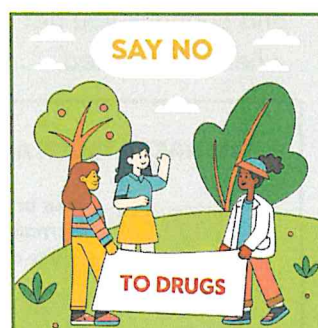
**Free Family Community Day**

Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> August  
11am - 2pm!

Join us for a fun-filled day with bouncy castle, disco, ice cream van & more

The New Irish Centre, Birmingham, 205 Wheeler's Ln, Birmingham B13 0ST

Head to the Fortem Information Desk for your child's free Ice Cream Token



# Holly Rise Newsletter

## August 2026



## Housing Manager's Message

Yet another busy month here at Holly Rise as the groundworks are now well underway to facilitate the erection of scaffolding in readiness for the new roofs and curtaining. In some ways it has been sad to see the character of the area change so dramatically in such a short period of time. However, once the works have been completed, everyone should feel the benefits of living in homes that will be easier to keep clean, cheaper to heat and damp/mould free.

In July's newsletter there were ideas of how to address the unwanted side-effect of excessive dust. This will not be the only issue faced by everyone. There will be a lot of noise at times so it may be worth exploring ideas of where you could go or what you could do to minimise the impact. For example, local libraries are free with many having interest groups based in them e.g. Lego club, Art class, Family History or Reading groups. You may also want to consider purchasing some headphones, if you don't have any, to play music or just to deaden the sound. You could speak to family or friends about spending some time with them. Don't wait until your head is thumping before trying decide what to do. Have a plan.

The office kitchen and bathroom retrofit were started as a pilot, but were placed on hold. This was because the project teams came across some technical issues and also because residents, who came to see them, raised some queries. These will hopefully be resolved soon so the work can be completed without further delay. However, I'm sure everyone will agree it was better to have learned these lessons now rather than when the contractors were in your homes.

To finish, please take care in this summer heatwave. Drink plenty of fluids, wear sunscreen, wear a head covering and stay cool.



Jane



## Retrofit Update

As many of you are aware, a gas pipe was unearthed by a digger immediately in front of Southam House last week. A preliminary investigation found the pipe had not been fitted to current regulations. It was only 250 mm below the surface. Today, gas pipes must be laid a minimum of 500mm below ground. Another key issue was that it was made of plastic so had not shown up on the scans. Now that the contractors are aware, they have put in protocols to try to prevent another similar incident around any of the other blocks on Hollybank Road.

Also this week, every tenant should have received a letter from the Council advising them of the planning application in relation to the external works to the blocks. If anyone has any comments, they should submit them before Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2026. If you can't find your letter, a copy has been posted on the communal noticeboards.

And finally, a further shout out to anyone who has not had all their surveys. Please contact

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br><b>Hefza</b><br>Customer Liaison Officer<br>07812 702 061 | <br><b>Heera</b><br>Customer Liaison Officer<br>07483 176 153 |
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to arrange a visit as soon as possible. Your property could potential hold up work to the whole block and whilst it may be inconvenient in the short term, the end results will benefit everyone for many years to come. If you can't be there in person, please ask a friend/relative to provide access. Failing that, I have attended some surveys on behalf of residents and am happy to do so, if you would like me to. Just let me know. ☺