



This document is available in other languages, larger text, Braille and on audio cd or cassette.



winter 2010

issue 14



# spotlight

the newsletter of the Renaissance Consortium  
Creating a brighter future

## WHAT'S INSIDE

**2/3** Ensuring you have a very Merry Christmas this year

**4/5** Useful advice

**6/7** Anti-Social Behaviour Special

**8/9** New activities for the New Year ahead

**10/11** Sure Start activities



## Adactus Miles Platting gets connected.



**Facebook:** 'Adactus Miles Platting'

**Twitter:** 'AdactusMP'

Joining us on Facebook or Twitter will give you the inside track on what's happening at AHA Miles Platting.

### ARABIC

هذه الوثيقة متاحة باللغة العربية عند الطلب.

### BENGALI

অনুরোধ করলে এই ডকুমেন্টটি বাংলা তে ও উপলব্ধ

### CANTONESE

本文件可以應要求，製作成中文(繁體字)版本。

### FARSI

این مدرک در صورت درخواست به فارسی موجود است.

### FRENCH

Ce document est disponible en français sur simple demande.

### GUJARATI

આ દસ્તાવેજ વિનંતી કરવાથી ગુજરાતીમાં મળી રહેશે.

### HINDI

अनुरोध पर यह दस्तावेज़ हिन्दी में भी उपलब्ध है

### KURDISH

ئەم بەلگەییە بە پێی داواکاری بە زمانی کوردی ش دەس دەکەوێت

### MANDARIN

本文件可以应要求，制作成中文(简体字)版本。

### POLISH

Dokument ten jest na życzenie udostępniany w języku polskim.

### PUNJABI

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਲਿਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਮੰਗ ਕੇ

### SOMALI

Dokumentigaan waxaa lagu helaa Soomaali haddii la codsado.

### URDU

درخواست پر یہ دستاویز اردو میں بھی مل سکتی ہے۔

### VIETNAMESE

Tài liệu này có sẵn bằng tiếng Việt khi được yêu cầu.

## Useful contacts

### Varley Street Office:

0800 234 6826  
Open 9am – 5pm  
Monday – Friday  
(& until 6pm on Wednesday)

### Emergency Repairs:

0800 234 6826

### Lovells Local Office:

0161 277 6800

**Allpay:** 0870 234 6040 for Direct Debit, debit/credit card payments & ordering new rent cards

### Housing Benefit queries:

0161 219 6100

### Council Tax queries:

0161 219 6130

### MCC Adaptations Team:

0161 277 6500

### Find out your utility supplier:

**Gas:** 0870 608 1524

**Electric:** 0870 751 0093

### Miles Platting Library:

0161 254 7021

### Miles Platting Swimming Pool:

0161 205 8939

### Environment On Call:

0161 954 9000

Check out your Tenant's Handbook for more useful contacts in the Miles Platting area.



## Renaissance

# Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at Adactus Housing

The housing office on Varley Street will be open on the following days over the Christmas Period:

Date	Opening times
Friday 24th December	9am – 4pm
Saturday 25th December	Closed
Sunday 26th December	Closed
Monday 27th December	Closed
Tuesday 28th December	Closed
Wednesday 29th December	9am – 6pm
Thursday 30th December	9am – 5pm
Friday 31st December	9am – 4pm
Saturday 1st January	Closed
Sunday 2nd January	Closed
Monday 3rd January	Closed
Tuesday 4th January	Opening hours return to normal (9am – 5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday. 9am – 6pm Wednesday)

Emergency out of hours telephone number (for emergency repairs and reporting anti-social behaviour) t: **0845 345 7808**.



Adactus staff at the Miles Platting Christmas Parade this December

## Dealing with the aftermath of Christmas

So you have had your Christmas dinner, opened your gifts and finished the Quality Streets – so how do you get rid of all that rubbish?

### Advice from Manchester City Council's recycling team

During the festive holiday please remember to put all your biscuit tins, quality street tins, cans, cranberry sauce jars, glass and plastic bottles as well as your foil trays into your brown bin. All your wrapping paper, old Christmas cards, newspapers, magazines, cartons and cardboard boxes can all go into your blue bin.

Residents living in a house in Manchester should now be set up with a food and garden waste service or their new food only service, please remember to recycle all your vegetable peelings, turkey bones and any food waste. For some handy hints and tips on what to do with your leftover turkey and ham visit The Love Food Hate Waste website at: [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com)

Our final Christmas message is that there will be no changes to your rubbish and recycling collection days during Christmas and New Year.

### Christmas Tree Recycling

Between Monday 3rd – Sunday 9th January there will be collection points in the following parks between 9.30am – 3.30pm:

- Alexandra Park
- Boggart Hole Clough
- Debdale Park
- Fog Lane Park
- Heaton Park
- Platt Fields Park
- Wythenshawe Park

Throughout January you can also put your Christmas tree next to your green bin or food caddy on a normal collection day and we will collect and recycle it. Please make sure your tree doesn't block the pavement or cause any problems for passers by.

### Want to know more?

For more information on how you can recycle this Christmas please call us on: **0161 234 5004** or visit our website at: [www.manchester.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/recycling)

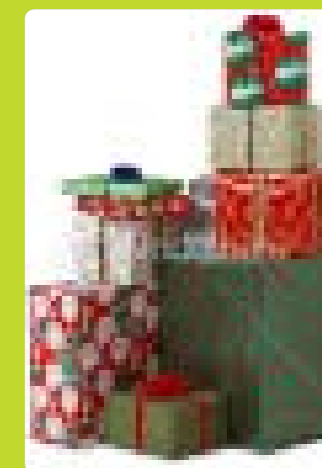
## Don't advertise your gifts to thieves

Never leave empty boxes outside your house advertising what expensive items you've had for Christmas.

Leaving empty gift boxes advertising that you have been given the latest Playstation 3 console or a brand new plasma television could cause you a nightmare after Christmas.

Always rip up empty cardboard boxes or leave the boxes in the house until the recycling is picked up.

Also, if you go out make sure your home looks occupied by leaving some lights on and locking all doors and windows. This will deter burglars from trying to get into your home.



## Money Advice

Tina Chadwick is here to help you deal with all your benefit problems, debt problems and provide advice on other matters concerning finances.

### What sort of help is provided?

- To find out what benefits you are entitled to claim
- To advise and assist with claiming state benefits, including help completing forms and online applications, if required.
- To write letters seeking review and appeal.

- To give budgeting and money advice, including finding the best deal on your fuel supplies and utilities.
- Debt advice including negotiating repayments with creditors on your behalf.
- Advice on the availability of suitable financial services.

To arrange an appointment, or for further information about the service, you can contact Tina in a number of ways:

- Through the Miles Platting Housing office, book an appointment with reception
- Through a referral from your Housing Officer

Call Tina directly on **0161 203 2917**  
Or email **Christina.chadwick@adactushousing.co.uk**



## Tina is here to save you money

As some of you may be aware there are changes currently underway in the benefits system. One of the main areas of concern at the moment is people who are currently in the process of being moved from Incapacity Benefit to Employment and Support Allowance (ESA).

If you have any concerns about the new ESA benefit or would like more information on how this works, please make an appointment to see me and I will be happy to explain it to you.

For those tenants who find that they are moved to ESA and then the benefit is stopped after a medical

review, it is very important that you receive advice ASAP as you may not be able to claim any other benefits, and there is a time limit on challenging the decision to withdraw your ESA benefit.

## Young Tenant Support Service

- Adactus Housing Association Support Services provide support to existing or new young tenants of any landlord in East Manchester and to young tenants throughout Manchester.
- The service is for people up to the age of 25 (with or without children) who need support to get a tenancy or keep a tenancy going.
- The service can provide support to young people who may be experiencing difficulties in their tenancy (for example rent arrears, neighbour nuisance or repairs issues).

### Support may cover the following areas:

- Debt and money management
- Benefits
- Rent
- Maintaining the home
- Security and safety in the home
- Education, training and employment
- Life and social skills
- Accessing services
- Finding cheap furniture
- Giving up the home correctly
- The young person will decide

what issues they want support with and what they want to achieve.

Support workers will ensure that they have the necessary information to make informed choices and help them develop the skills needed to achieve their goals and live as independent a life as possible.

To get in touch please contact:  
**Adactus Young Tenant Support Service**

1 Clement Court, 91a Toxteth Street  
Higher Openshaw M11 1EQ  
telephone: 0161 220 8418  
fax: 0161 220 8419

## Alley gating comes to Miles Platting

Certain areas in Miles Platting have had alley gates installed to provide better security and give you, as residents an opportunity to have a private space of your own to manage. The areas that have had alley gates installed are:

- Winstanley Road
- Nuneaton Drive
- Farnborough Road
- Shenfield Close
- Kingsland Close
- Anscombe Close



Dave Crowe, Andy Edwards and Isobel Richards have been round to see residents that have been affected by these changes and they have provided them with an alley gate key and information pack.

As a neighbour, please be mindful to close the alley gate once you have put your rubbish bin out and picked it up.

## Advice from our Customer Services team

### Fluorescent tubes

As you will be aware it is a tenants' own responsibility to change light bulbs in their home. This would normally include fluorescent tubes. However, due to the fact that it may not always be clear whether it is the tube or the starter that has failed Adactus will change your fluorescent tube should it stop working.

Please contact our Customer Service team on **0800 234 6826** if your fluorescent tube stops working.

It is your own responsibility to replace all other light bulbs.



## Looking for a room to hold a residents' meeting or community event?

Room available at Cariocca building, Sawley Road. Sessions available mornings, afternoons, or all day.

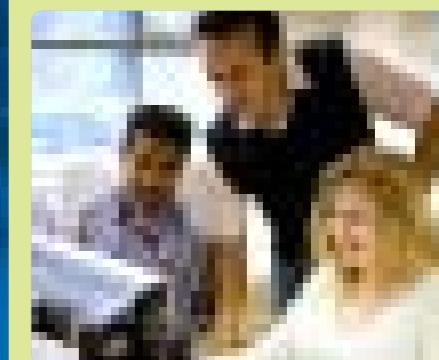
**9am – 4.30pm**

Facilities include computers with broadband Internet access.

Easy access with secure car parking.

Tea & coffee making facilities

**Please call Vicki or Isobel on 0800 234 6826**



## The Northwards wardens are keeping your area safe

With the dark nights now here Northwards wardens are committed to tackling anti social behaviour and patrolling the streets up until 10pm,

### What can the wardens do to help you?

Wardens will assist with the following areas:

### CRIME & DISORDER ISSUES

- Vandalism

- Anti social behaviour
- Bogus callers
- Youth nuisance
- Home safety and security

### PROBLEMS IN YOUR AREA

- Graffiti
- Dog fouling
- Litter
- Dumped rubbish
- Faulty street lights
- Broken pavements

If you would like us to assist with any of the above, contact Northwards Wardens on **0161 720 4000**.



Remember though – wardens are not the Police. You should still dial 999 for emergencies or **0161 872 5050** for non-emergencies.

## Focus on... ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

### ... don't suffer in silence

#### Our Team

Adactus Housing Association now has a dedicated team dealing solely with Anti Social Behaviour. The Anti Social Behaviour Officer for your area is Emma Bradshaw, who is based at Varley Street Local Housing Office on Mondays and Wednesdays every week.

#### How can we help?

Anti social behaviour comes in many different forms. It ranges from serious acts of violence and harassment, to more 'everyday' incidents, such as noise nuisance, litter and graffiti. Anti social behaviour causes misery for people who simply want to get on with their lives.

Whatever the type of nuisance or anti social behaviour we will treat all complaints seriously, investigate them and act as quickly as possible to stop the behaviour by using a range of solutions and legal powers.

We will contact other potential witnesses in order to gather evidence. We may bring in expert help or make sure your case goes to the best people to sort it out. Throughout the development of the case we will continue to support you and keep you up to date with developments.

#### How can you report Anti social behaviour?

The simplest way to let us know if you are experiencing nuisance or anti social behaviour is to contact our office either by calling in or telephoning us. You can report a problem to us yourself, alternatively a friend, neighbour or other representative such as a local councillor can do this on your behalf.

#### What if I want to remain anonymous?

We will treat all reports in confidence. If you wish to remain anonymous we will act upon your wishes. We will not use information you provide us with without your consent. We will work with you to find solutions.

#### What if I'm not an Adactus Tenant?

If you're not an Adactus tenant then we still may be able to help. If you are suffering from anti social behaviour and the perpetrator is one of our tenants then we want to know about it. As part of our tenancy agreements, all tenants agree not to cause anti social behaviour in or around their property.

#### Mediation – what is it and does it work?

Everyone wants to live in peace with their neighbours. But what if your life is a misery because of a

dispute with people around you? Mediation could be the answer. Our independent experts do not take sides; they help find a long-term solution that suits everyone. Mediators listen to both points-of-view and they do not judge people as 'right' or 'wrong'. Mediation does not have to take place with everyone in the same room; mediators discuss with you what you are comfortable with and support you throughout the process. And the service is FREE for the people in dispute.

#### Getting in touch

You can either call into the office on Mondays and Wednesdays and speak to Emma Bradshaw, or any other day of the week and speak to your Housing Officer.

Or, telephone

Main Number: **0800 234 6826**

Mobile: **07764 977868**

If I am unavailable please leave a message with your name, address and contact details and I will return your call within 24 hours. Alternatively, if your enquiry is urgent, please ask to speak to Delroy Kerr, Neighbourhood Services Manager.

Email: [emma.bradshaw1@adactushousing.co.uk](mailto:emma.bradshaw1@adactushousing.co.uk)

## Successful Cases

**Thomas Costello** of Ashbury Place was taken to Court and given a 2 year ASBO after acting in an anti-social manner by swearing, being abusive, threatening behaviour and causing damage to another Miles Platting property.

The order clearly states that Costello must not act in this manner, must not enter New Allen Street and must not associate with Aiden O'Kane in a public place. If Costello breaches his ASBO he can be arrested and could be sent to prison for a maximum of 2 years.

*Two residents from Shardlow Close were taken to Court and Undertakings agreed. The residents had an argument with their neighbour who had approached them about the level of noise coming from inside their property.*

*The residents were racially abusive and used threatening violence against their neighbour.*

Two residents in Landos Court were having problems with each other and agreed to take part in Mediation. Mediation enabled an impartial person to speak to both residents, get their side of the story and then arranged a joint meeting where the issues can be discussed.

Mediation helped guide them to a resolution to their problems.

A resident living on Barbeck Close was taken to Court and an Undertaking agreed after persistently playing loud music. The resident is alleged to have played loud music at all times of day and night, causing a disturbance to other local residents.

Injunction obtained against a male in Queensbury Court after threats of violence, abusive behaviour and language to Lovell staff. The male refused to allow Lovell access to his property in order for them to carry out essential work. The male was very abusive to staff, making threats and swearing. This behaviour will not be tolerated and we obtained an Injunction against the male within a day of receiving the information.

The Injunction prevents the male from using this sort of behaviour and should he continue to do so he will be arrested and risks being sent to prison.

Injunction obtained against a man from the Miles Platting area. The man, who appeared to be under the influence of alcohol, swore at and threatened Lovell's staff who were working nearby and had been threatening towards Adactus staff during telephone calls to our offices. We acted quickly to obtain protection for staff and colleagues so that they were able to continue their work without fear.

Within a couple of days we obtained an injunction which bans the man from using or threatening violence towards staff or contractors and stops him entering the office at Miles Platting or Lovell's compound, without a written appointment. If he does he will be arrested and could be sent to prison.

## St George's Community Centre

St George's Community Centre – the building on the corner of Oldham Road and Livesey Street with all the murals – is getting ready for an exciting facelift.

Recently St George's Community Association has secured funding to fully redevelop and extend the building and works are due to start in January 2011.

As a result, the after school and the Junior Club will temporarily move to St Cuthbert's Church

from the start of the January term. The play area and five-a-side pitch will remain open throughout the building works. But a section of the kick about area will be used as a site compound

The new building will re open July 2011 with a full summer programme. Watch this space for more information about the new building as works progress.

## Old Church Street Medical Practice has now relocated to Victoria Mill Healthcare Centre

The new address is Victoria Mill, Lower Vickers Street, off Varley Street, Miles Platting, M40 7LJ.

Anyone who would like to register as a new patient can call into the surgery or ring **0161 861 2511**.

Opening hours are: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8.30am – 6.00pm (closed 12.30 pm– 1.30pm)

Wednesday: 8.30am – 1.00pm



## YPAC get dancing

YPAC will be delivering dance sessions at Apostles Church on Ridgway Street in the New Year.

The sessions will run on a Thursday with provisional dates booked for:

Street Dance on 6th January, 13th January and 20th January – all from 5.30pm until 7.00pm with Vicki Brown.

Contemporary Dance on 27th January, 3rd February and 10th February – all from 6.00pm until 7.30pm with Lindsey Brocklebank.

These sessions will lead to a one-off performance event where all the groups will come together. This will provisionally take place at the YPAC talent show on Friday 11th February 6.00pm – 8.00pm.

For more information please contact:

Emma Ellis, youth worker  
YPAC – **0161 205 0880** main office number

**email to: emma@ypacmanchester.org.uk**



## World Food Day

Miles Platting residents celebrated the East Manchester Food and Drink Fringe Festival at the end of October with a World Food Event held at Miles Platting Library. The event was an opportunity to try dishes from around the world, cooked by Adactus residents and staff and guests were treated to dishes from Iraq, Cameroon, Mexico, Morocco, Poland, The democratic republic of Congo, India and of course, Manchester!

Residents then had their knowledge tested and their taste-buds tantalised at the 'World Fruit Quiz', where they were invited to try and identify 11 different unusual fruits from around the world.

Entertainment was supplied in the form of a participatory drumming group and an African story teller, who told a food related children's story. Thank you to Family Action, Ensemble and New East Manchester for their support of the event which was enjoyed by all who attended.

Stories were told by  
Deanne Heron



## Miles Platting Plodders Walk Timetable 2011

Meet at Trinity Church, Butler Street, Ancoats 10.15am Wednesdays

January	February
12th Local	2nd Portland Basin (Ashton)
19th Heaton Park	9th Local
26th Local	16th Wythenshawe Park
	23rd Local

For more information contact:

Diane Aronwich, Ageing Well Worker,  
Age Concern, Varley Street, Miles Platting M40 8EE  
**0161 205 3851** or (mobile) **07950 427292**.  
Or call Vicky at Adactus **0800 234 6826**.



## New Year – New Opportunities

### DIY Courses – January 2011

Manchester Care and Repair, Adactus and Family Action are working together to offer two further DIY courses. The courses, which always prove to be a fun and interesting day, are a great way to improve your skills and learn a few new tricks for improving your property.

After the last course in August, participant Amy (aged 25) emailed to say "I had an amazing day today. It was a really enjoyable experience and Jim (the tutor) was fantastic! And I now know how to fix a burst water pipe!"

The courses will be held at the Sure Start centre on Holland Street on:

Monday 17th January – Tiling Skills.  
Open to anyone aged 16-25 and over 50.

Monday 24th January – DIY skills (hanging shelves and pictures etc) – open to all.

Courses run from 9.15am – 2.45pm and lunch will be provided. To book your place speak to Jane or Melanie at Sure Start (Tel: **0161 205 7402**) or Vicki (or your Housing Officer) at Adactus (Tel: **0800 234 6826**).

## Sure Start activities

The building that sits behind the New Park View School on Holland Street is the Miles Platting and Ancoats Children's Centre.

A Children's Centre is a one stop shop for families with children under five. Miles Platting and Ancoats Children's Centre is run by national charity, Family Action who have activities and services running from the building every day.

Activities available at the centre include;

- baby clinics with the local Health Visitors,
- a midwifery clinic
- adult and toddlers groups
- Let's Have Lunch parents group
- courses for parents/carers
- A Credit Union every Morning (except Friday) 9.30 am –12.00pm.
- Citizens Advice Bureau on Monday appointment only.
- Out of school childcare schemes for parents who need childcare at the end of school day or during school holidays.

In addition a crèche is run at Miles Platting Library and full day care is provide at the newly refurbished Winstanley Road site.

### Free safety equipment for local families with young children

Miles Platting and Ancoats Children Centre is currently offering parents in Miles Platting free safety equipment through the Safe at home Scheme – an initiative to help families keep their children safe from home accidents

If you have a child aged 0-5 and are in receipt of a qualifying benefit then you may be entitled to claim free safety gates, window restrictors, bath or shower mat, fire guard, kitchen cupboards locks or corner cushions.

For more information about this, or activities at the Children's Centre please contact Outreach

Workers Melanie Ngangen and Jane Graystone on **0161 205 7402.**



The group making samosas together.

### Let's Have Lunch Together

The Miles Plodders, our local over 50s walking group and the Let's Have Lunch young parents group, who meet every Friday were brought together to share experiences and recipes with one another. The event took place on Friday 1st October at the Sure Start Centre on Holland Street.

A small amount of funding was received as part of the Full of Life Festival and Manchester Food and Drink Festival. The young parents group decided to make vegetable jalfrezi and samosas, as they felt that the Plodders might not have tried these recipes before. In return, the Plodders cooked the well known Manchester tart. Both courses went down very well with the whole group, and everyone had a fabulous time. We are now planning our next event together!

### Gardening Corner – ask Pat

Now that most of the refurbishment works are complete, you may now be looking to make improvements in your gardens or greening up your new alley ways. You could be thinking of redesigning the garden layout or maybe just moving some shrubs. Whichever it may be, I can offer you advice on this, along with any gardening problems you may have from controlling greenfly on your roses, to finding what type of plants are suitable for your garden.

Simply email me at: **patrice.campbell@adactushousing.co.uk** with your questions or garden problems and I will respond to all your enquiries, alternatively you can contact me at Varley Street housing office on **0800 234 6826.**

I have 50 bags of bulbs to give away to the first people to redeem the voucher below at our reception. So, what are you waiting for, get thinking green!

Cut-out this coupon and hand-in at reception for your **FREE** bag of bulbs.



### “Ho Ho Ho... your HO (Housing Officer) gets a say!”

#### The outlook of the estate

I would like to use this newsletter to say a big thank-you to you the residents, Lovells for their hard work on boundary treatments and Adactus grounds maintenance team, who I believe are doing an excellent job in making Miles Platting look like a nice place to live.

Over the years I have carried out many inspections of the estate asking people to tidy the garden or remove rubbish etc but this is becoming less and less. Please do your bit to ensure this continues, if you have bulk rubbish you can still get this removed by contacting Manchester Environment on: **0161 954 9000** who will arrange a collection date for you.



The next stage, I suppose, is how we could make the Miles Platting neighbourhood look even better?

Any ideas that you think will help Miles Platting neighbourhood look even better please contact myself or your Housing Officer on: **0161 203 2900/0800 234 6826** to discuss your ideas.

Thanks again – **John Gilmore**, Housing Officer

### Great Green Neighbourhoods

Miles Platting's gardeners were rewarded at the town hall on 23rd November, with a magnificent two course meal, certificate and £30 cheque presented to them by the Lord Mayor of Manchester and Ray Studdart, local resident.

The gardeners entered the prestigious competition back in the summer. Isobel Richards, Resident Involvement Officer and Ray Studdart judged the gardens from across Bradford, Ancoats and Clayton and Miles Platting wards.



If you have any other ideas for gardening competitions, get in touch.

Pictured here are some of the winners, from left: Lynn Thornton (Old Mill Street), Ray Studdart (judge), Dawn Thornton and Stuart McGowen (Downley Drive), Demi Leigh Thorton (Old Mill Street).