



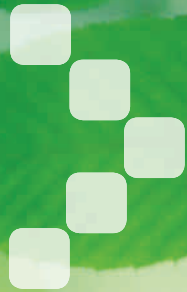
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spring 2011

issue

15



# spotlight

the newsletter of the Renaissance Consortium  
Creating a brighter future

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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.



## News

# Peter retires from Nelson at age 73

**Peter Coffey, the caretaker from Nelson Court tower block in Miles Platting has finally hung up his overalls.**

Peter first began working in Miles Platting back in January 1975, the same year Queen's 'Bohemian Rhapsody' stayed at the top of the charts for nine weeks. It was also the same year that we were introduced to 'Fawlty Towers' and great films such as 'Jaws' and 'One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest'. Many great things happened this year; the most significant of all was Peter moving to Miles Platting and he hasn't looked back since. Peter has been a great support to all the residents at the scheme. He is a figurehead of the community.

I know that the housing staff will all miss working with him. John Gilmore, Housing Officer of Nelson Court comments "Peter is fantastic at his job and he is a wonderful person, who is going to be missed by many people." Peter we hope you have a fantastic retirement.



## Stop and Swap Saturday

**Saturday 14th May between 11am-2pm**  
Adactus Housing car park on Varley Street

### Do you have unwanted...

- furniture?
- utensils?
- household objects?
- bedding?
- pictures?
- Or

### Have you just moved into a new home?

Do you need some furniture, bedding or utensils to help you set up?

Please contact us if you either want to get rid of items or you're in need of a particular item.

On the day we will be picking up your large unwanted items locally 9am-10:30am and dropping off items you have requested 2:00pm-3:00pm.

Please call us before May 14th if you want us to pick up any unwanted items or you can bring them along on the day.

**For more information, to discuss us picking up your unwanted items or to request a particular item you're after call Dave Crowe or Isobel on 0800 234 6826. Feel free to come along on the day and have a browse.**

## Keep a look out – Your opinions mean prizes

You will receive a tenant satisfaction survey from us in late April/early May so look out for it and we would appreciate you filling it in and letting us have it back. There are rewards for your opinions and there will

be a prize draw where there will be **10 winners** who will each receive shopping vouchers worth **£50**. **The deadline for returning completed questionnaires is Friday 10th June.**

## News from the Northwards wardens

**During December the wardens collected food that had been generously donated by local businesses and offices for their yearly food hamper appeal.**

The food was delivered to residents in the area who had been highlighted as being vulnerable or elderly. They were a welcome gift for the winter period when a lot of them could not leave their homes.

December was a busy month for the wardens with the cold snap which crept upon us. The wardens were hard at work clearing the snow from the foot paths of Keele Close, to make sure residents could get out and about over the festive period.



The wardens have almost completed a very successful Child Safety Scheme across the area. Families with children under the age of four years old were offered free safety gates, fire guards, cupboard locks, corner cushions, cord winders and non-slip bath mats.

So far 20 complete Child Safety kits have been fitted into properties in Miles Platting making them a risk free environment for young children.

Please be aware about burglaries in the area. The majority of these are happening because windows and doors are being left open or are not being closed correctly.

This gives offenders a great opportunity to enter a property uninvited. Please make sure windows and doors are closed and locked securely.

Thanks

**Charlotte Hall**  
Northwards wardens team leader

## Rent increase 2011

**Everyone should now have received their letter informing them of their rent increase for 2011.**

If you pay your rent by Direct Debit or Housing Benefit you do not need to do anything further.

If you pay your rent via a payment card or online please ensure that you increase your payment to ensure that you do not fall into arrears.

## Information from our Customer Services team

**The pruning of small and large trees and cutting of grass in gardens is your own responsibility.**

Perhaps you have a friend or family member that can help if you are struggling? If a particular resident does feel that they need assistance to carry out these tasks, then they can apply to go on our concessionary gardening list. Residents are added onto the list after an assessment is made by the Housing Officer and final approval is at the discretion of the Housing Officer.



If you feel that you need assistance with gardening please contact your Housing Officer on: **0800 234 6826.**

## Green Advice

### Greening up Miles Platting

**Three different areas of the Miles Platting neighbourhood will each receive £1000 worth of Green Grant funding from Adactus Housing.**

Butler Court, Nelson Court and Alburn Court each submitted a funding bid expressing the desire for a community garden at the schemes. With the help of Vicki Greer, Neighbourhood Development Officer and Isobel Richards, Resident Involvement Officer, residents applied for the three amounts of funding and were successful with all three. Many Congratulations to all.

This is great news for the neighbourhood and moves us one step closer to making Miles Platting a green friendly place to live. Any residents who are living in either Butler Court, Nelson Court or Alburn Court but who are not already involved in the Green Grant projects within these schemes please get involved. Being involved will make your neighbourhood look nicer, give you chance to get to know your neighbours and you could learn some new skills.

If you would like to apply for the next round of the Green Grant funding for your particular area of the neighbourhood please register your interest with us by contacting Vicki or Isobel on **0800 234 6826**.

Below is a photo of the Butler Court garden now. Please look out for a photo of the newly improved garden that will have been created with the Green Grant funding in our next Spotlight issue . . . **watch this space.**



### Recycling advice from Miles Platting

As you start to recycle more frequently, you should be using your grey wheelie bins even less. If you feel you don't require both of your grey wheelie bins, please contact **Environment on Call on 0161 234 5004** (please be aware that this is a new number for the service and replaces the 954 9000 number).

### Your bin, your responsibility

**Help us to improve your area and keep it as safe as possible.**

Please return all wheelie bins inside your yards/garden areas.

Do not leave them out to be used by others.

Wheelie bins left out after collection are being burnt, stolen, cause obstructions and are being used to climb over walls and encourage burglaries.

### Tower Block recycling

We want to make recycling as easy as possible, so if you live in Alburn, Nelson, Gunson, Landos or Butler Court, then Adactus staff - with some help from Manchester's Waste & Recycling team - will have tried to visit you over the last few weeks to talk about your new recycling facilities.

We are offering residents a FREE recycling bag to keep inside your flats - which will make storing and sorting your recycling easier. If you haven't yet had a bag and would like one, please see your caretaker.

#### Remember

**Think blue** for paper, cardboard, liquid food & drink cartons, newspapers and magazines, junk mail and old catalogues.

**Think brown** for plastic bottles, drink and food/food cans and aerosols, foil trays, tins and all glass bottles and jars.

Watch this space if you live in Queensbury Court or Naylor Court as recycling facilities will be coming to your tower block soon.

## Information

### The 2011 Census is here

It's really important that every household fills out the census questionnaire as the data that is gathered is vital to creating a picture of today's society.



If households don't comply with answering their questionnaires and returning them, then this could lead to a criminal prosecution and a potential fine of up to £1,000.

If you have not returned your questionnaire by 6 April, a census collector will call after that date to offer any help you need.

If you would like more information about the 2011 census in Manchester please log on to:

<http://www.manchester.gov.uk/census2011>



**Remember you are required by law to complete the census, don't forget.**

### Butler Court

On 8th February 2011 the scheme managers from Butler Court, the sheltered/extra care scheme spent the day at the Asda Eastlands store promoting the sheltered/extra care services provided by Adactus.

The Butler Court scheme is a great example of future housing, providing new superb communal facilities to the residents who live there, with a library, hairdressingsalon, faith room, games room, assisted bathrooms, guest rooms and 24hour on site care staff.



**If you would like further details please contact either Angela or Christine on 0161 205 8578.**

### Free funding page on our website

Log on to:  
[www.milesplattng.co.uk/Community-funding](http://www.milesplattng.co.uk/Community-funding)

**Here you can search for external funding sources for a range of different activities, events and projects.**

From getting money for a youth football pitch to getting funding for a range of art workshops. If you have an idea please let us know and we'll try our best to support you in whatever way possible.

**If you would like help in applying for funding or you would like to discuss any funding ideas please contact Vicki or Isobel.**

## Keep in the know

Be the first to hear about events and activities in Miles Platting by logging onto our new social networking sites:



Facebook and search for **'Adactus Miles Platting'**



Twitter and search for **'AdactusMP'**

## Money Advice

### Tina is here to provide money advice to you

#### What sort of help can I offer you?

- Find out what benefits you are entitled to claim
- Advise and assist with claiming state benefits, including help completing forms and online applications, if required.
- Write letters seeking review and appeal.
- 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 me in a number of ways:

- Through the Miles Platting Housing office, book an appointment with reception
- Through a referral from your Housing Officer
- You can call me directly on **0161 203 2917**
- Or email:  
**Christina.chadwick@adactushousing.co.uk**

**I work Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday**

## Miles Better

**There are quite a few benefit changes that are happening and it's important for you to know what these changes will mean to you and your family.**

We are carrying out a series of roadshows to give you advice about the changes and how they will affect you.

Also, the sessions will involve giving you advice about getting into work and knowing what your options are.

Keep a look out for the roadshows in May and June around the Miles Platting neighbourhood.



## Need something doing that you can't do yourself but can't afford to pay for the service?

**Then perhaps joining the new Miles Platting Time Bank could be the answer!**

A time bank is a new and exciting way for people to come together to help others and help themselves at the same time. Participants 'deposit' their time in the bank by giving practical help and support to others and are able to 'withdraw' their time

when they need something done themselves.

Time banks measure and value all the different kinds of help and skills we can offer each other. In a time bank, everyone becomes both a giver and a receiver.

Everyone's time is valued equally:  
**One hour = 1 time credit**

Participants can spend their time credits on the skills and support of other participants when they need a helping hand.

People help each other out with everything from making phone calls to sharing meals and giving lifts to the shops - anything that brings them together:

**We're currently getting ready to launch the Miles Platting Time Bank. If you want to know more then please contact Vicki or Issie on 0800 234 6826.**

## Some important information on the benefit changes taking place

### Non dependant deductions 2011/2012

**In April 2011 there will be some changes to Housing Benefit for people who have non-dependants living with them.**

**A non-dependant could be:**

- an adult child who lives at home, who either works or claims benefit themselves.
- another relative.
- a lodger, or any adult sharing your property.

If they affect your Housing Benefit currently then from April the deductions for these non-dependants is set to increase. Please find a list of the deductions and the amount that could be deducted from your Housing Benefit.

* If tenant or partner aged 65 or over, any increase in charge is deferred for 26 weeks unless due to non-dependant turning 18/25	52 weeks
If the person claiming Housing Benefit or their partner is in receipt of Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance (care component at any rate) or registered blind	Nil
If non-dependant is only staying with tenant temporarily, or is on remand/in prison	Nil
Non-dependant on Pension Credit Regardless of circumstances	Nil
Non-dependant aged 16-17 (regardless of circumstances), or aged 18-24 on Income Support/ Income Based Job Seekers Allowance, or aged 18-24 on Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance during assessment stage only i.e. no component payable, or Full time student, any age (unless working 16hrs+ during the summer vacation)	Nil
Non-dependant aged 18 or over and not in remunerative work. For example in receipt of: Incapacity Benefit Contribution Based Job Seekers Allowance Contributory Employment and Support Allowance Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance—unless under 25 & during assessment phase i.e. no component payable Statutory Sick Pay (even where earnings are paid to top this up) Statutory Maternity Pay (even where earnings are paid to top this up) Work Based Training Allowance	9.40
Non-dependant aged 18 or over and working less than 16 hours a week	9.40
Non-dependant aged 18 or over and in remunerative work (16 hours per week or more) <b>Gross Income</b> £387.00 or more £310.00 - £386.99 £234.00 - £309.99 £180.00 - £233.99 £122.00 - £179.99 Less than £122.00	60.60 55.20 48.45 29.60 21.55 9.40
Other non-dependants aged 18 or over	9.40

## Community News

### FC United Good Neighbours Project



**FC United of Manchester part of the wellbeing project aimed at supporting older people and people coping with long term illness who live alone in Miles Platting and Newton Heath.**

The idea behind the project is to recruit a group of volunteers who are willing to give up a certain amount of time each week to:

- Visit a person who lives on their own, go round for a chat, a cup of tea and maybe help with shopping and other chores
- Help to organise a regular luncheon club on Saturday mornings in Newton Heath and accompany people from the luncheon club to FC United matches.

All volunteers will be given the opportunity to access accredited training which will help them to obtain employment in the future if they wish.

Service users will benefit by getting that extra bit of support in their homes which will help them with their overall well-being and ability to maintain independent living in their own homes.

Football brings people together and improves community cohesion. FC United are very excited by the prospect of using football in this way to empower volunteers to reach out to isolated members of our community.

To find out more, and especially to find out about volunteering as part of this project, please contact Sarah Carter on 0161 273 8950 or via email on [sarahcarter@fc-utd.co.uk](mailto:sarahcarter@fc-utd.co.uk)

## Be Proud awards

**Many congratulations to Margaret Wilshaw and Melanie Ngangan for being nominated for the Be Proud awards. Both Margaret and Melanie make a huge difference to the community of Miles Platting.**

Margaret is an individual who does a huge amount for the older community of Miles Platting. She is a wonderful neighbour to many, helps run the local charity shop at Trinity Methodist Church, helps organise the coffee mornings at Apostles Church on Ridgway Street and she is a keen activist and founding member of the Miles Plodders. Laura from Zest comments "it wouldn't surprise me if Margaret was running around doing more that we don't even know about!"



Melanie is a local resident who works part time at the Sure Start centre. She is one of the founding members of Ensemble, who are a local parent led community education organisation. Ensemble's objectives are to unlock the potential of francophone families and children at risk of exclusion in the local area. Melanie is also an Adactus Housing Group board member and gives up her time voluntarily to carry out this role.



## What's On?

### Upcoming events – plodders' walks

#### April

6th Local walk  
13th Dunham Massey  
20th Local walk  
27th Vernon Park

#### May

4th Local walk  
11th Rivington Pike  
18th Local walk  
25th Salford Quays

#### June

1st Local walk  
8th Bramhall Park  
15th Local walk  
22nd Hyde Park (Hyde)  
29th Local walk



From left to right: Sheila, Pat and Elsie from the Plodders enjoying a well earned tea break at Vernon Park café in Stockport.

For more information about the walks contact Diane Aronwich at Age Concern on: **0161 205 3851** or **07950 427292**.

### Date for your diary **Tower Block forum Tuesday 17th May**

**The next Tower Block Forum meeting will take place at 6pm on Tuesday 17th May at Unit 73 at the Cariocca Centre on Sawley Road.**

This meeting is open to everyone who lives in a tower block and its purpose is:

- to ensure that a consistent service is being delivered across all the blocks

- to share good practice and good ideas between the residents groups that operate in the different blocks
- to look at areas where services can be improved.

**Invites will be sent out nearer the time but please come and join us at the next meeting.**

### Put this date in your diary

#### Miles Platting Fun Day

**Sunday 14th August 2011**

The Fun Day will coincide with the Rochdale Canal Festival which will run for two weeks, from 13th-28th August. The Miles Platting Fun Day itself promises to be full of entertainment and activities.

Last year people enjoyed free angling taster sessions and kayaking on the canal.

**If you would like to be involved in helping to arrange the Fun Day then please contact us.**



Residents enjoying the kayaking on the canal last year

## What's On?

### What's on at YPAC?

#### Mondays

5:30-7:00pm Sole Youth Form meetings

#### Tuesdays

6:00-8:00pm Drop in session (ages 13+) at Apostles Church

#### Thursdays

5:00-7:00pm Football (ages 12+) meet at Apostles Church

5:30-7:30pm Girls group (ages 10-13)

#### Fridays

4:30-6:00pm Projects for under 13s

Activities and session times vary so please contact Emma or Vicky at YPAC on **0161 205 0880**  
Email: [www.ypacmanchester.org.uk](http://www.ypacmanchester.org.uk) or drop in at Apostles Church, Ridgway Street, Miles Platting.

## MY GENERATION

The MY GENERATION Over 50s Club nights at Band on the Wall are proving to be a huge success.



The last event attracted over 230 older residents from across Manchester who enjoyed a spectacular evening of dancing and entertainment.

The nights are aimed at people who used to go out on a Friday and Saturday night to dance in Manchester's clubs and dancehalls and who now miss the great social buzz of meeting new people and having fun.

The next MY GENERATION events are planned for 10th April and 19th June offering an evening of Funk and Soul.

## Ticket Giveaway!

Adactus Housing is proudly sponsoring the June event and to celebrate we have 2 pairs of VIP ticket to give away to Spotlight Readers:

#### The VIP Tickets for a memorable night include:

- Refreshments on arrival at Band on the Wall (Late Afternoon Tea)
- A guided tour of the refurbished venue with an insight into the clubs Archive History
- The opportunity to participate in the evenings pre club night workshop - An opportunity to learn a new music / dance skill
- Free entrance into the main venue with reserved seating (Club Night Experience with Live Entertainment)
- A complimentary drink
- Complimentary tickets for the evenings Special Prize Draw.

To be in with a chance of winning a pair of tickets simply send us a postcard, or an email with MY GENERATION in the subject line to [milesplattling@adactushousing.co.uk](mailto:milesplattling@adactushousing.co.uk), giving your name and address and contact details by **Thursday 28th April**. Winners will be drawn at random after the closing date.

If you are not one of our lucky winners, tickets can be purchased for £4.00 from the Band on the Wall box office (telephone **08452 500 500**) or by contacting Tracey Annette at the Valuing Older People team on **0161 234 4299** or email: [t.annette@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:t.annette@manchester.gov.uk)

Band on the Wall is based at 25 Swan Street, The Northern Quarter, Manchester M4 5JZ

## Gardening Corner



### Ask Pat

Thanks to all the residents who contacted me with their gardening questions following our previous edition of Spotlight. Here are a couple of queries that were posted:-

**Q** "I live in a flat and over the winter have lost a number of my potted plants which I had on my balcony, can you suggest any plants I could buy that will withstand the cold winter months?"

**A** This has been such a common problem this winter, even the hardiest of plants have perished with the record breaking lows we had. I would advise you firstly to protect your pots with either bubble wrap or another garden material. For colour you could try planting violas, winter pansies, winter heathers, camellias, evergreen azaleas. Don't forget to use an ericaceous soil to plant your camellias and azaleas in; they will not grow in normal compost.

**Q** "The soil in my garden has a lot of clay in it which makes it difficult for planting in the summer months, can you let me know how I can improve it?"

**A** Try to avoid walking on the soil and this just compacts it, take advantage of the frosts that we have been having by forking up clumps of soil in your garden beds, the frost will help break down the clay in the soil. Most garden centres sell Clay Breaker; this can be used in addition to adding bulky organic matter such as leaf mould or garden compost. You can create your own organic matter which will save a lot of time and money as well as being 'green'. Make a compost heap or bin, turning autumn leaves into leaf mould, a wonderful soil condition that will improve texture.

**Q** "Last year we had a lot of woodlice in the garden and some even got into the house. What can I do to stop it happening again this year?"

**A** The first thing to remember is that these creatures pose no threat whatsoever to humans, although I quite understand that you don't want them in your house! They may have come in through airbricks around the base of the house or perhaps even popped in through open windows or doors left ajar. Check there is no build up of leaves/debris around the airbricks where they tend to hide.

Don't forget to email me your gardening questions at [patrice.campbell@adactushousing.co.uk](mailto:patrice.campbell@adactushousing.co.uk) or contact me at Varley Street on 0800 234 6826.

### Join our summer sunflower competition – great fun for the kids!

We are offering a high street voucher worth £20 to whoever can grow the highest sunflower this summer!

Simply register your name and address with us and we will supply sunflower seeds for you to plant. This is going to be popular one so we have a deadline of 28th April 2011 for registering with us.

**Good Luck!**

To register either call 0800 234 6826 or speak to a member of staff at reception.



The world record for the tallest sunflower ever grown stood at 7.76 m (25ft 5in)!

### Community 'Allotments'

We are currently putting a bid together to the Lottery's Local Food Fund as we hope to create two community gardens with space for growing vegetables – one on Holland Street and the other on Chippenham Road.

We are currently consulting with residents about the plans and would love to know what you think.

If you would like to know more, be involved with the project or have a comment please contact Vicki on 0800 234 6826 or email [victoria.greer@adactushousing.co.uk](mailto:victoria.greer@adactushousing.co.uk).

**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.