



November 1999

"A Community with Commitment"

# News

## CENTRE FORWARD

The Resource Centre at 16 Calway Road was officially opened on Friday 22 October with a large turnout of Barlanark residents and visitors. The Centre is for the use of all the residents in Barlanark and the surrounding area and the new upgraded rooms are really impressive with a large Function Hall, side rooms, and a good spacious modern kitchen.

The main hall has been sound proofed to eliminate the echo, which was such a problem in the past, and in addition to the speeches, there was a short performance of Scottish folk music from the Easterhouse Arts Project, all of which demonstrated the excellent acoustics which we now have.

Barlanark folks have been waiting for a number of years for the Centre to be upgraded and it was a time of real celebration for all concerned.

(The opening was also attended by some Elvis type buskers who swept the Hall and polished peoples' shoes during the proceedings. They also assisted visitors in eating their sandwiches and have not been seen since.)

Ms Margaret Curran MSP conducted the formal opening ceremony and Jimmy Wray MP made a surprise visit to pass on some words of encouragement and congratulation to the assembled throng.

The cost of the upgrade was around £250,000 and the funding has come primarily from the Greater Easterhouse Social Inclusion Partnership and from the Scottish Arts Council. It is

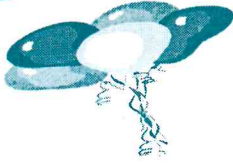


intended that there will be an Arts focus for the main activities, catering for both young and old.

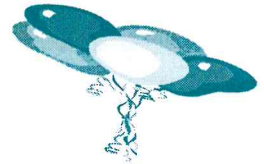
Other funding support was arranged by the Co-operative who also contributed from the Co-op's own funds to the cost of the upgrade.

It is hoped that the Centre will become a focus of community life in the Calway/Barlanark area allowing local residents full access to arts and other activities and, above all, to develop the potential of local people.

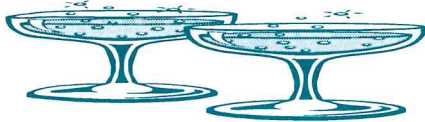
Calway Social Action Group (SAG), who will manage the Centre and the social activities programme had an AGM that same evening. Some new Committee members were appointed and a celebration party followed, which was a memorable occasion for all those who remember it.



## NEW BUILD PHASE THREE OPENING



Linda Fabiani, MSP, will officially open New Build Phase Three on **Friday, 26 November 1999**. A lunch time reception, including a free raffle, will be held in the Activity Centre. There will also be a presentation to the Tenant of Calvay's 400th rented property.



This will continue on to an evening of entertainment. Iceberg will provide the music, and we are extremely pleased to announce that Karen Dunbar, of T.V.'s "Chewin' the Fat" has confirmed her appearance, in her role as stand-up comedienne. An evening meal will be provided and bar facilities will be available. A raffle to raise funds for the Youth Group and The Social Action Group will be held in the evening. Great prizes are available. Tickets

for this are available from the office at the moment. (£1 for 5 tickets)

Unfortunately no crèche facilities will be available and no unaccompanied children will be allowed in the hall.



Invitations are restricted. Any Tenant who is interested in attending the afternoon or evening function, or both should leave their name with Geraldine at reception. These will be distributed on a first come first served basis.

It's sure to be another great Calvay night, so get your name down early to avoid the rush for tickets.

## ALLOCATION POLICY

The Co-operatives Allocation Policy was reviewed recently. Throughout the year Staff have been monitoring trends in allocations, applications received and housing need. From this monitoring the Staff have made recommendations for change, which should hopefully lead, to a fairer and more appropriate system being in place.

### THE MAIN CHANGES THIS YEAR ARE:

- \* Minimum age for applications reduced from 18 to 16 years
- \* External applicants do not have to have held their tenancy for three years before they can be accepted onto the waiting list.
- \* Points are now awarded to people wishing to move to this area for employment or full time education.
- \* Points awarded to certain categories were increased. These categories are homeless

applicants; people fleeing harassment; applicants living in insecure accommodation and support points for medical cases.

- \* Introduction of sensitive allocations i.e. the right to flexibility in allocations to avoid over concentrations of household types in one close, or to avoid clashes of lifestyle.
- \* Number of offers given to applicants with urgent medical conditions increased from 1 to 2.

Anyone whose points or position on the waiting list has been changed as a result of this review will be notified.

A letting plan, which highlights the Co-operatives, aims for the year in relation to allocations has also been developed.

Copies of the Allocation Policy and the Letting Plan are available from the office on request.

# MAINTENANCE UPDATE

## ELECTRICAL TESTS/CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

This contract is now under way. The contractor, Bernie Connolly will contact tenants directly for access. If you have any problems with access arrangements, please contact the office.

## CYCLICAL PAINTERWORK

Over the past few weeks we have invited tenders to carry out cyclical painterwork in most of the Co-operative's stock. A number of factors, including change in Health and Safety legislation, and planned improvements in the quality of finish, have increased the cost of this work compared to our estimate. We are working with the Co-operative's consultants to put the contract on site as soon as possible.

## GARDEN MAINTENANCE

At the A.G.M. in September the Members were advised that tree pruning would take place in October. However the trees are not yet ready to be pruned so this has had to be delayed. The Maintenance contractor is checking the trees regularly and pruning will commence as soon as is possible.

## WHEELIE BIN COLLECTION - NEW BUILD PHASE THREE

All Tenants in New Build Phase Three should note that the bin collection day is a Friday. You should leave your bin on the edge of the pavement for emptying. You will then have to return the bin to your own garden. Any Tenant who is unable to manage this due to a medical problem should contact the office to arrange assistance.

## RECHARGEABLE REPAIR POLICY

The Co-operative reviewed this policy recently. Not many changes were made, but we would like to remind Tenants of the Policy.

### Basically the Policy states:

1. The Co-operative will not undertake repairs that are the Tenants responsibility, as per the Tenancy agreement, unless it is an emergency.
2. Where a Tenant repair is done due to it being an emergency, you will have to repay the cost, in full.
3. Costs for contractor call outs due to no access, after a specific arrangement has been made, will be passed onto the Tenant.
4. The Co-operative will be happy to make arrangements for Tenants own repairs, provided that the Tenant pays for the repair, in full, in advance.
5. Sharing Owners and Owner Occupiers are responsible for all of their own repairs, except common repairs covered by their Building Insurance.
6. Any insurance excesses for repairs to common areas, due to neglect or vandalism, will be recharged to the Tenant responsible for damage.

Other circumstances may also arise which will be deemed to be covered by this policy. Tenants will always be advised in advance if a repair is deemed to be rechargeable.

Internal Transfer requests may be put on hold if rechargeable repair bills are outstanding. Non payment of bills may also result in court action for recovery of the debt.

Copies of this policy are available free of charge, from the Co-operative office.

## ATTENTION ALL LONE PARENTS IN BARLANARK!

The Greater Easterhouse Lone Parent Forum (G.E.L.P.F.), based at 6 Brunstane Road in Easterhouse, are hoping to set up a group in the Barlanark area.

G.E.L.P.F. is a Training and Development organisation dedicated to the needs of Lone Parents.

**Would you like to put your leisure time to better use?  
Perhaps you would like to return to work in the future?**

G.E.L.P.F. provide a range of Training courses, an Information / Advice Service and a Quality Childcare service.



**All G.E.L.P.F. services are Free of Charge.**



A leaflet listing a sample of courses is enclosed with this newsletter.

Please contact Helen Moir (Training Officer) or Betty McGowan (Information Officer) on 781-1666 for further details.

### GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meeting will take place on **Monday 6th December 1999**. The Agenda will be as follows:

1. Minutes of last meeting
2. Presentation by Community Police - including the CCTV system.
3. Question and answers session to Community Police.
4. Update on Co-operative Business
5. Update on Calvay Youth Group
6. Update on Social Action Group
7. A.O.C.B.

We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

### COMMITTEE SURGERIES

The next Committee Surgeries will be held in the Co-operatives offices on **Tuesday 7th December 1999 from 6.30pm**.

Please do not approach Committee Members in the street to discuss any grievances. If you have any issues you wish to discuss directly with the Committee please come along for a meeting with them. No appointment is necessary.

### YOUR OPINION COUNTS!

Many of you will have received a postcard asking for your comments on repairs that have been carried out to your home. This information is invaluable to the Co-operative. It helps us ensure that you are getting value for money, and that the Contractor is performing as well as the Co-operative expects.

As a thank you for this and to encourage a greater response to these cards, all returns will be entered into a quarterly raffle. Winners will be announced in the Newsletter.

### DRIVERS REQUIRED



Are you interested in ad-hoc driving work?

The Co-operative may be taking ownership of a mini-bus to be available for use by the community. We are currently looking for qualified drivers who can be called upon when bookings are made.

For further information please contact the office.



It is with regret that the Co-operative has to advise you that it is no longer able to hire commercial minibuses for Tenants' private events.