

What a Load of Onions!

Whatever way you voted, in or out on the 24th of June (which has already been labelled as our own 'Independence Day') and also with the Americans celebrating Independence Day on the 4th of July, we thought it was a good enough reason to officially christen our new kitchen facilities with hot dogs and burgers - cooked (or at least warmed up) by Shelley and Steve.

With 2 microwaves and a so far unused mini oven at the ready, the team was treated to a selection of hotdogs, burgers, veggie burgers and home cooked onions by Steve, well actually Mrs B, together with relish, ketchup, mustard and anything else we had at our disposal on Friday the 1st of July. We even had the space for us all to sit down, turn off the mobile phones and talk to each other.



Adrian in full burger flow

Whoever feels the urge to organise the next one please feel free, don't be shy!!!!!!!

Eden Futures Blackpool

As the manager, I love my role. I have a lot of pride in the service we offer to vulnerable adults. What makes me happy is seeing recovery and a smile on the service users' faces. We support vulnerable adults with mental health problems. At Blackpool we have both male and female tenants from 18-67 all with individual needs. I focus our support on individual needs as well as keeping a person centred approach. The office, staff hub and flats are all fantastic spaces to work in. I have had positive experiences with staff at BeST in supporting the tenancies and maintenance.



The Apprentice, You're Hired!

Tom

I began working for BeST in September 2014 as an apprentice, I was utilised as an admin during my probation before moving into the estates team focusing on the environmental side of our properties, after completing my apprenticeship I have become part of the compliance team ensuring the company is compliant, while continuing to focus on the environment"

During my time at BeST I have completed my apprenticeship in NVQ level 2, and I am currently undertaking NVQ level 3 in Business Administration.

BeST have supported me during my time at the company, and keep on providing me with great opportunities to grow and develop my career, it has been a privilege to work for the company and I am looking forward to the future at BeST"

Thomas Murray.
Compliance Co-Ordinator



Overall, I couldn't be happier and prouder with the finished service and look forward to it becoming a positive community.

Rosie Caunt
Team Manager,



Snippets

Edition 3

From the CEO

Dear Team

May I first begin by congratulating all involved in our very successful AGM in July, we have received positive feedback from external attendees on the day and they now all have a much better understanding in relation to what BeST are all about, "people". I hope the tenants at APS enjoyed the cake..! (I didn't have any..!??)

Now in "Quarter 3" and we are still continuing to seek sector related commercially viable schemes, certainly not at the rate we have been thus far as we need to realise our position from a strategic, operational and financial standpoint. Moving forward we will absolutely continue to support schemes in areas we already have a presence in and have set a precedent, in areas of new business we will approach relevant professional bodies and acquire their engagement and agreement first hand to relieve some of the pressures and challenges we have faced with recent portfolio takeovers.

Communication is improving which is always a challenge when a company grows at the rate we have, the important thing is we recognise those challenges and meet them head on, if we want the same results as yesterday, do what we did yesterday and we won't move forward, change is inevitable so we must all embrace it.



On a final note did you know it's only 21 weeks till Christmas (at the time of writing) !! (sorry couldn't resist it)

Regards... Kevin



May The Ground Force Be With You!

With a garden so large even Alan Titchmarsh would struggle to keep on top of it, Rookery garden was slowly inching towards becoming its own national nature reserve. One gardener only able to visit once a month did his best to keep this jungle under control yet the bushes continued to grow and the weeds grew back with vengeance.

One day during a routine visit to the property on a rare sunny day, it was highlighted how much the tenants in the property would love to help manage their own garden. The tenants had been supported to design and fill their beautiful home inside, now they would like to do the same outside. So BeST worked alongside Affinity Trust to provide our tenants with a set of tools to allow them to begin managing their own garden and fast forward a couple of weeks, everything was in place.

Pictured, Tim, Roger and Tina are pulling pesky weeds, battling bushes and taking back some control of the overgrown foliage. With our tenant's taking control and the support from their gardener, soon Rookery Roads garden will make all their neighbours green with envy.

It is fantastic to see our tenants living their independent lives, taking care and managing their property in a way that suits them and most of all; enjoying their home for life.



Matthew Fay

BeST AGM June 16th 2016

This year's AGM was all about the people we work with and how we change and enhance their lives. It was important that we had representation from our major stakeholders, and our most important stakeholders, our tenants.

The theme for the day was Changing Lives. We wanted people to understand why BeST was created and what we do in the communities we work in. The focus was on how BeST is a charity set up to give tenants with complex needs the highest quality homes in the communities they want to be a part of.

The ideal way to highlight this is to hear stories direct from the tenants themselves. We were incredibly fortunate to have 2 of our tenants attend the AGM. Darryl and Matthew from Old Road Ashton (pictured cutting cake) wanted to attend and meet some of the BeST housing team, they also agreed for their support staff to present for them detailing their transition into supported housing with BeST.

Nadine Currie addressing the attendees



Presenters at the AGM Hannah and Andy...



...Cameron and Holly

Happy Birthday BeST



David Poppitt - Chair opening address

Along with our Chairman and Trustees there was a great staff presence at the AGM detailing how a charity like BeST is operated on a day to day basis and hopefully highlighting how we are more than a housing association and have much more of a supporting role for our tenants.

It was great to hear from our tenants on how they are now part of a vibrant community in Ashton where tenants (some of whom have had very chaotic previous accommodation) feel safe and happy in their homes. Hearing how the tenants, support staff and BeST work with each other to create this wonderful environment was very inspiring and led to more fundraising projects being discussed. (Future Snippets story!)

All feedback from the AGM was extremely positive, we attracted twice the number of delegates than last year and we are already planning a bigger, better AGM for next time. The great stories we heard from Ashton are being replicated across the country in all our schemes and we will endeavour to celebrate this and keep promoting the positive changes supported living delivers.

An AGM is a necessity but does not need to be a chore. We decided our AGM would be a celebration of our progress, a celebration of how we positively change the lives of our tenants and a celebration of our 5th birthday!

A BeST birthday cake was provided for the day kindly cut by Daryl and Matt (assisted by Kevin and Shelley from BeST) who gladly took the cake back to Old Road for the rest of the tenants to enjoy.

Many thanks to all who attended especially those who presented with extra special thanks to Matt, Daryl and North West Community Care.

Andy Bowler

Summer Barbeque (well almost) Old Road Ashton

Old Road, Ashton in Makerfield Wigan is supported living provided by BeST housing for 18 people comprising of shared and single accommodation.



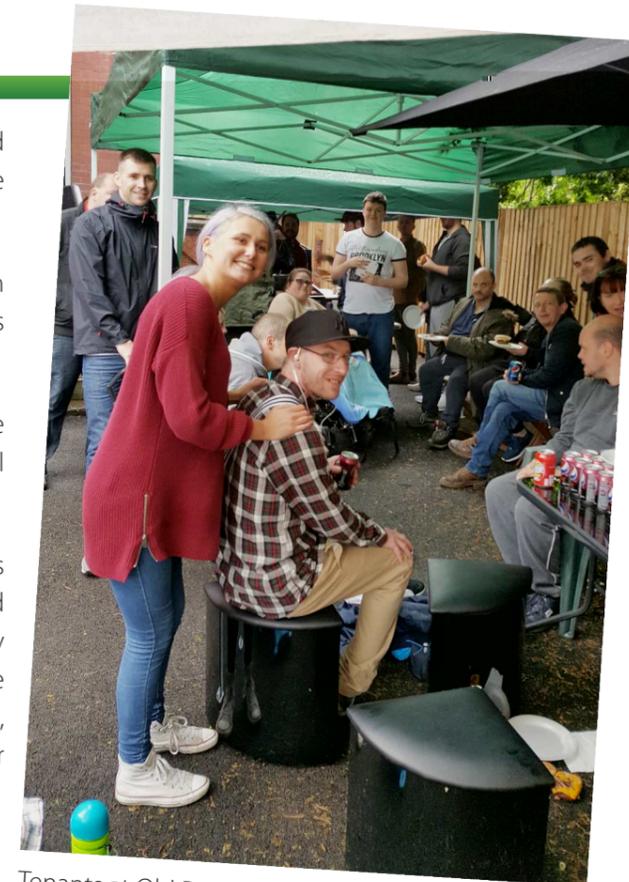
Emma Davis
Service Manager,
North West Community Services

Set in a quiet residential area of Ashton but close to all amenities such as shops and leisure centres.

North West Community Services provide the support to promote personal development and independence.

Service manager Emma Davies organised a BBQ for new tenants and other service users who are supported by North West Community Services. The BBQ not only welcomed new tenants, but provided the opportunity for everyone to share experiences.

Liz McClure



Tenants at Old Road Ashton

All Aboard!!



New starters (L-R): Lewis and Ellen; and Laura-Jane (right)



Congratulations!

Cath Richardson, a member of the Finance Team recently got married to her long-time partner Oz. Following the wedding they jetted off to Ibiza for their honeymoon.

Cath was presented with a Hamper full of goodies from the staff at BeST.

