

TANT

TENANTS ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL TRUST

## TANT Newsletter— Chat from the Chairman

### TANT NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2012

I'll come straight to the point... **VOTE FOR TANT**, Please. Every vote counts towards making TANT an Appointing Body. It might sound a bit of a lacklustre title but it carries enhanced status and believe me, it gives us a very real opportunity to get us Tenant-Custodians more say where it matters. And we can choose who we send to the council for a term of six years. We're busy behind the scenes networking and, the National Trust has recommended us to its membership.

We also want to get more Tenant-Custodian issues onto the NT Council's agenda more regularly. When we met the chairman, Simon Jenkins last year we asked for your input and got answers from him. Now let's

have some lively subjects straight from the grass roots and see how they deal with it. Contact us on the helpline or by email: [info@tantuk.org](mailto:info@tantuk.org)

We have a Patron. Welcome, John Bird OBE. John is the creator of The Big Issue, and his genius contribution to housing issues through publishing gets our admiration of course. But it's more than that. Our treasurer, Linda and I met John for lunch near his office in Cambridge. We were sort of expecting a straight-laced and intensely business like leading social entrepreneur. None of it; an intended half hour snack turned into most of the afternoon of extremely funny and erudite conversation. He understands us, and has a genuine interest in the National Trust. He was really pleased to be our patron. He wants us to benefit from his advice, resources and insight and we look

forward to that.

We are piloting a new and independent housing industry survey of tenant satisfaction. This will start on my home estate at Slindon with a view to going national. I'll let you know how we got on.

The Tenants Handbook was a good bit of work we reckoned, and as we started to encourage a periodic review the news came in that there were quite a few places hadn't yet even got it (after four years). Some of those that did still lack the vital local insert of emergency numbers.

We want to hear from everywhere about if you got it; have only just got it (did it have the insert?) or most importantly, not got it at all still. Please use the email or helpline number.

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## COULD THIS BE YOU? By Leo Stevens

### Elitism? No Recessions for Landlords of Elderly Registered Protected Tenants?

The rents of Registered Protected Tenants are assessed by the Rent Officer of the Valuation Office Agency using a formula in the Maximum Fair Rent Order and figures from the Office of National Statistics to calculate the MAXIMUM fair rent which the landlord can charge.

Current assessments result in rent increase demands of around 13.5 %, i.e. an extra £14 a week for a tenant previously paying £100 a week. This is affecting elderly lifelong tenants in their 70's and 80's who are on fixed incomes of frozen pensions and no interest on their savings. This significant extra payment has to be drawn from their diminishing savings.

At a time of austerity and economic cutbacks, landlords continue to insist on charging the maximum permitted rent although they have the choice to reduce it. It is a legal extortion which results in impoverishment and mental stress for those affected. How can elderly lifelong rent payers be expected to save for their care in old age while this state of affairs continues.

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## Donations/Subscriptions

Anyone who is under a NT roof is a member but to help us run the association we ask people to make a donation. If you already have this year, thank you. If not and you can, we suggest £10 per property or £5 for concessions. Please send your cheques made out to TANT to our treasurer at 1 Castlehill Cottages, Outwood Lane, Betchingley, Surrey RH1 4LR. Please include your name and address; any questions, please call 08452242986.

## Advertise on TANT website.

If you run your own business how about advertising on TANT's website?

£25 to start up and £10 a month there after. If you are interested contact our Treasurer 08452242986 or [LRBAHARIER@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:LRBAHARIER@yahoo.co.uk) to discuss.

Or would you like to make a personal announcement? A birth, wedding whatever this would be just £25.

## Area Pages on the website.

We would really like to show the areas were we all live in a very personal way. So what did your area do for the Jubilee, Torch, Village Fete, Bonfire night whatever. Could you send us some pictures with a caption? As an example the Torch came to Betchingley on the 20/07 and I will take some pictures for the web. Slindon claims to be the home of cricket and we will be uploading pictures on that . So come on do you have anything we can show? If so the Treasurer Linda on [LRBAHARIER@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:LRBAHARIER@yahoo.co.uk) or 08452242986 is waiting to hear from you.



## TANT Contact Details

You may contact TANT Committee members as follows:

- Andrew Turner-Cross, Chairman (07741) 053 764
- Peter Bate, Development Officer (01643) 704 063
- Linda Baharier, Treasurer (07815) 842 133
- Alan Limb, Secretary (07717) 823 101
- Leo Stevens, (0845 224 2986)

## TANT Insurance Cover

TANT has organised insurance with Hiscox that covers Local National Trust Tenant Associations as well as TANT overall. The insurance consists of cover for Public Liability and other claims that could be made against individuals by virtue of their role for TANT or a Local Association.

The cover has been organised with the help of Gordon Harris, an insurance professional and TANT member, who lives at Holnicote. Gordon's input is much appreciated.

You can find full details of the cover on the TANT website. If you have any queries in connection with the cover, please email them to [alimb@briuk.co.uk](mailto:alimb@briuk.co.uk)