

TANT

TENANTS ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL TRUST

## TANT NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2013- CHAIRMANS CHAT.

We're having a meeting in London with the Trust's new Director General, Dame Helen Ghosh and the Chairman, Sir Simon Jenkins on February 13<sup>th</sup>. It's about introducing ourselves to Dame Helen and shaping future policy. TANT is seeking a Step- Change in its work with the Trust to help improve the financial performance of the Let Estate, minimise risk, achieve Octavia Hill's founding members' objectives, and engage with the NT membership who voted in substantial numbers for the appointment of TANT to the Council. All of this is in conjunction with representing tenants' best interests and maintaining local communities. We've found that these meetings really can make a difference. We'll update you on the website and at our AGM near Cambridge on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Things went well for us in the recent election among National Trust members. TANT is now one of the Appointing Bodies on the National Trust's Council, which I suppose, and for want of a better comparison is a sort of parliamentary equivalent, *perhaps* a bit more like The House of Lords within the Trust. The statistics show huge support for us even in comparison with some of the very high profile and regularly elected organisations. Appointing bodies are elected to select their own Council member, and it means you really have arrived. Peter Bate, our Development Officer has been elected by the TANT committee to take up the seat. It's been long and hard work, even involving changes in the law to make it possible for Tenant-Custodians to become NT Council members. We were a bit surprised that Peter, delighted with the election result and chomping at the bit to get going will be unable to serve until there's a vacant seat. Among the issues Peter will be focusing on is electoral reform for The Council. Our already elected committee member Cristina George is standing for re-election and we must support her with our votes later this year. After starting on The Council

Cristina soon discovered that dates of Council meetings are not exactly geared towards the diaries of those in full-time employment and parenthood (she's a teacher and a mum).

She has encouraged some changes which in turn make it possible to attract a whole new range of talent. This will help re-shape the way this vital governance engine functions to the Trust's benefit. We have already made our mark, but with three (David Scott was elected independently) tenants on the Council we can continue our reforming zeal to support the Trust's work and get a better deal for us on the Let Estate. At the same time, after six years service on The Trust's very influential Rural Enterprise and Access Panel, committee member Alan Yates is continuing his excellent work as a housing expert. Alan has been appointed for a further 3 year term.

The TANT AGM has now become a topical and not-to-be-missed event to put in your diary. We keep the stuffy parts as short as possible and focus on questions, views and a healthy "Rowdiness About National Trust", or RANT... with TANT!

After last year's excellent and entertaining talk by Peter Clayton on Octavia Hill, our new Patron, Big Issue founder John Bird will be addressing us on April 7<sup>th</sup> at Anglesey Abbey. John is a razor sharp and innovative observer of the modern sociological condition. Full travel and accommodation details are on our new website. There will be copies of his new book *The Necessity Of Poverty* to sign

Finally, our Helpline continues to help National Trust Tenant-Custodians with both their everyday and sometimes very serious issues. We rely on your vigilance to tell us what's going on. We particularly want to know how you find the Trust's new "Going Local" management initiative is working.

## TANT AGM - 7th April 2013

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/anglesey-abbey/>

Anglesey Abbey & Mill Cambridgeshire is where the TANT AGM will be this year and John Bird - our patron and founder of the Big Issue - will be our speaker. It will start at 11am for coffee and a buffet luncheon will be served.

The above is the link for those on the internet and here are some travel details

Cambridge and Newmarket are the nearest stations and are 6 miles away

The No 10 service between Cambridge and Newmarket passes Anglesey Abbey. The service runs hourly Monday to Saturday. Alight at the crossroads in Lode. As you can see there is no bus service on a Sunday although we would advise people to use a taxi service if they are not driving.

By car on road B1102. Signposted from A14, junction 35. In the village of Lode, 6 miles North East of Cambridge on the B1102. Cambridgeshire

### Map

**Grid Ref: 154:TL533622** There are several small B & B's – some on farms – in the area if you choose to make a weekend of it. Also remember to bring your Tenant/Custodian Membership Card if you want to visit the Abbey whilst you are there.

### 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 [LRBA-HARIER@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:LRBA-HARIER@yahoo.co.uk) to discuss.

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

*'Residential tenants in Cornwall looking to swap with tenant (s) in the Peak District for short breaks to enable us to spend more time with our family. Please ring Paul or Gill Mace on 01872 580149 or email [bohortha@waitrose.com](mailto:bohortha@waitrose.com)'*



### 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

The Holnicote Estate Tenants Association held it's own version of the great British Bake-off with a quiz and pudding competition at Luccombe Village Hall on Friday 1st February, 2013.

There was some keen competition judged by local restauraners Andrew and Max and won by local farmer Penny Webber. Delighted runners up were Val Woolley and Scilla Barney.

Gordon Harris set the quiz about the Estate and Exmoor and even some who have lived here all their lives found there was much they could learn. The Quiz was won by "The Youngsters" who by chance had a Trust worker on their team.

TANT is keen to promote and hear of Community events so please do contact us.