



Where to find us

Beacon House, Stoke Road, Slough, SL2 5AW
Opening Hours: 9am – 5pm

HOUSING MANAGEMENT:
01753 606707
 csbeacon@lqgroup.org.uk

REPAIRS HELPDESK:
0800 015 6536 –
 Please avoid phoning on Monday for non emergency repairs as our phone lines are extremely busy at this time.

OUT OF HOURS REPAIRS AND EMERGENCIES AND TO REPORT HARASSMENT.
0800 015 6536

FOR RENT ENQUIRES PLEASE E-MAIL:
 swrevenue@lqgroup.org.uk

South Bucks Citizens Advice Service

Your local Citizens Advice Service offers advice on a wide range of topics including debt, employment issues, divorce and separation, state benefits, consumer queries and housing benefit.

The service is free, impartial, independent and confidential and open to everyone regardless of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, age or nationality.



To discuss your query over the telephone or to make an appointment to be seen by an advisor, please contact your local office on:

South Bucks Council Offices, Denham, Bucks	01895 837551
Basingstoke, the Library	01256 322814
Bracknell, the Broadway	0845 1202969
Wokingham, Wellington House	0845 1203774
Slough, Church Street	08451203712



Beacon Homes

News for L&Q Beacon Homes residents

NEWS

CHAMPAGNE PERRY

Perry House took the top award at L&Q Beacon's Blooming Borders competition 2007.

Jan Harding, warden of the sheltered scheme in Burnham, said: "Everyone here loves their garden and they were delighted to get the top award."

Judging proved to be more difficult than ever this year and there were extra prizes because of the high quality of the entries.

Rupert Moyne, Assistant Director of Housing Management at L&Q, said: "I'm really impressed by the way residents worked together on their gardens and balconies. This improves the environment for us all to enjoy and encourages others to have a go."

All those who took part were invited to



a lunch where Stan Swann, Chair of the Beacon Board, presented the winners with their gardening vouchers and certificates.

Mary Boynton of Tower House in Iver said: "Although we didn't win we really enjoyed working on our garden and the get together with other green-fingered

residents afterwards. The cakes we took back from the lunch were appreciated by all. We're looking forward to doing it all again next year."

We hope that even more residents will take part in the future – even if it means making our job of judging even harder!



Picnic in the Park

Back in August, this year's Picnic in the Park events took place in Burnham. The fun days were arranged by the Burnham Oasis Project with support from L&Q and the South Bucks Community Safety Teams.

Turn inside for full story and pics. ▶

Welcome

Hello and welcome to the special L&Q Beacon edition of Homelife. This will be sent to you twice a year instead of *Places*.



Gina Rayner, who normally puts together the Beacon newsletters, is on maternity

leave (she had a little boy called Evan) so I will be taking over the reins until she gets back.

I've worked for L&Q for seven years in many roles, most recently with the allocations and lettings team in Beacon House. I'm really looking forward to the challenges of my new job, which will include keeping you informed about some of the things that are going on at L&Q Beacon.

In this edition you will find details of our Blooming Borders competition and some wonderful photos from our Picnic in the Park events. There is also an article asking for your suggestions for improving your estates and a piece introducing what life is like in Bracknell.

If you have any interesting stories you would like to share, please get in touch and tell me about them. We may be able to include them in a future edition.

Janet Feakes
Neighbourhood Investment Officer
01753 606756

Picnic in the Park in Burnham

Residents partied in the park at this year's picnic fun days

The picnics were very well attended and everyone had a good time, with the children especially enjoyed the face painting, bouncy castles and clowns. The petting farm, as always, was a firm favourite, with the ponies and goats being the star performers. The cakes and teas provided by the Burnham Oasis Project were really appreciated, especially by the helpers.

Project manager Margaret Ringer said: "It is always great to see everyone enjoying themselves and it is wonderful that everything is free."

We were very pleased to see from the questionnaires we gave out just how much you felt an event like this gave to the community and how it encouraged everyone to meet new people.

One resident said on their questionnaire: "We always enjoy our day here. The children love the animals and it's great to meet people we don't often see."

Next year we are looking to take the event further afield so more residents can join in and have some fun.



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By Royal command

L&Q Beacon residents Margaret and John Ringer were delighted to be invited to the Queens Garden Party during the summer.

Margaret, who also runs the Burnham Oasis Project, said: "The whole day was wonderful, especially as it was also our wedding anniversary. The highlight was seeing Maggie Thatcher and of course the grounds were magnificent."

Margaret was nominated by the Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire for her services to agoraphobia sufferers. Agoraphobia is, primarily, a fear of open spaces.



Improving estates using your ideas

We have set up a special environmental improvement fund of £45,000 to invest in L&Q Beacon estates and we want to hear your ideas on how to spend it.

Previous examples have been new benches, improved lighting, fencing and landscaping.

If you have an idea, big or small, about how your estate could be improved give your tenancy services officer a ring on **01753 606707** or email csbeacon@lqgroup.org.uk.



All the suggestions will be considered by staff and our new Neighbourhood Committee of residents, who will also prioritise how the money is spent. Before going ahead with any improvement we will check with local residents to see if it has their support.

Down your way

In the next few special L&Q Beacon editions of Homelife we are going to be looking at some of the towns and villages where you live. This time we focus on Bracknell.

Bracknell is 30 miles west of central London, surrounded by forests in the county of Berkshire. It is close to Ascot and has Reading as its county town. Bracknell is a new town with an old name. In 943 AD it was known as Braccan Heal meaning a meadow where 'Bracca' lived. Bracknell became a new town in 1948 for people made homeless by the War and was famous for manufacturing bricks.

The town has some interesting old coaching inns – and some that are infamous. The 15th century Hinds Head became notorious when the landlord was found guilty of murdering wealthy travellers.

L&Q has homes in several areas of Bracknell Town and others nearby in Crowthorne and Binfield, where L&Q Beacon has built prize winning homes on the old Swedish House site.

L&Q Beacon resident Ruby Fenton of Waylands Close, who has lived in Bracknell for nearly 45 years said: "Things have changed over the years with people becoming more insular but this is how things are everywhere. I remember the town when it was a sleepy little place with lush gardens. Each area within the town had its own local facilities and we all knew the shopkeepers."

In the next edition we will be focusing on Basingstoke. If you have any facts or memories to share please contact Gavin Muncy on

01753 606707.