

Panel pages...

...where tenants and leaseholders take over Homes & People



Welcome to the April/May 2011 issue of Homes & People

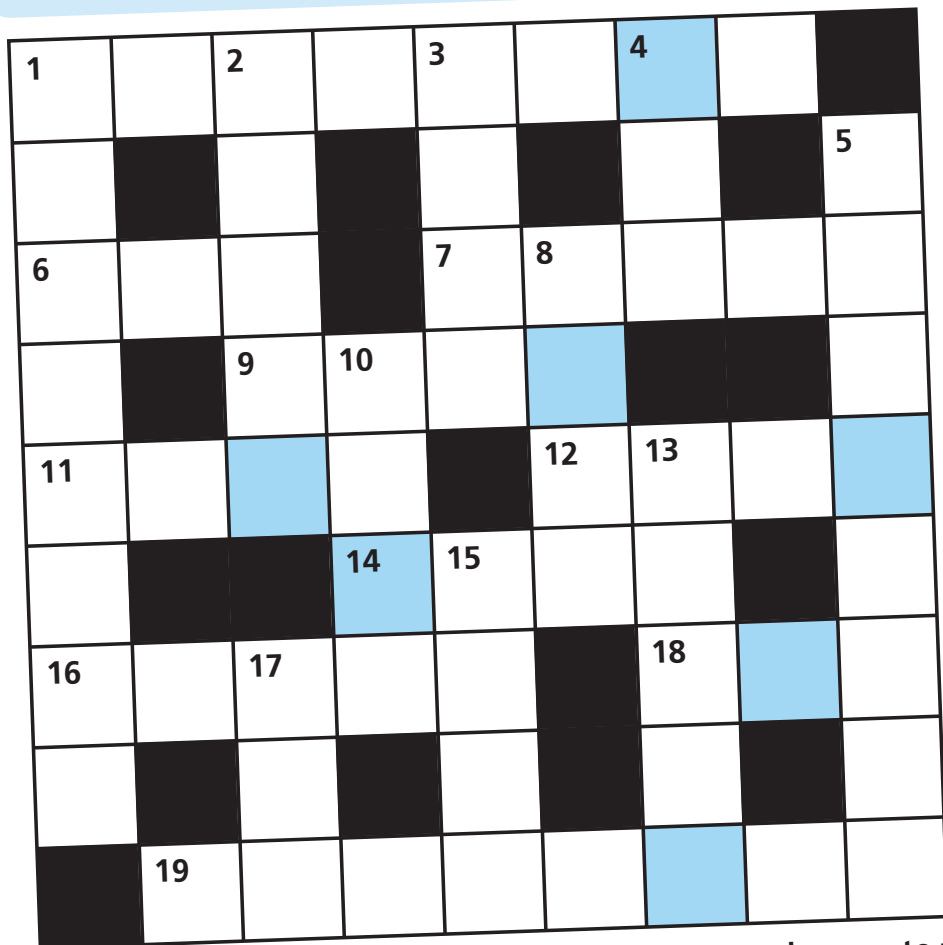
The Panel Puzzle

Have a go at the Panel Puzzle to be in with a chance of winning a £15 Eldon Square voucher.

Rearrange the letters in the blue squares to find the name of a Newcastle street.

To enter, send the name of the street on a postcard or by email to: Homes & People Panel, YHN House, Benton Park Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE7 7LX.

Email: communicationsteam@yhn.org.uk
The winner will be picked on Friday 15th July.
Good luck!



Across

- 1 Time for a hot beverage (3-5)
- 6 Atmosphere (3)
- 7 Theme – subject (5)
- 9 Milky gemstone (4)
- 11 Roman goddess of the moon (4)
- 12 Small amount (1-4)
- 14 Place that sells coffee (4)
- 16 Alfred dynamite inventor (5)
- 18 Scottish racecourse (3)
- 19 Amusing account (8)

Down

- 1 Tennis court boundary (8)
- 2 Cook's protective garment (5)
- 3 Duty list (4)
- 4 Poisonous snake (3)
- 5 Without punishment (4-4)
- 8 King of Norway 995-1000 (4)
- 10 Hale's comedy partner (4)
- 13 Celebration (5)
- 15 _____ Baldwin US actor (4)
- 17 Small round sweet cake (3)

Please note: Homes & People competitions are only open to tenants and leaseholders with up to date rent accounts.

Why now's the time to get involved

Ian Norton is 28 and lives in Daisy Hill with his partner Lesley and two children Zach, 10, and Isobel, 3.

"As well as being on the Homes & People Panel, I'm involved in a wide range of community activities, which includes going to playgroups with my daughter on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. I also go to Walkergate College on Wednesdays to learn cake decorating and I attend wrestling training on Tuesday nights. I get involved in a lot of YHN customer involvement projects, and I'm on the NEP customer panel which is made up of other tenant involvement teams. I'm also on the Management Committee for my local nursery and help out at the Ray Gray Playgroup on Wednesdays and Fridays.

I enjoy getting involved in all these activities as I believe it makes a difference to my community and I enjoy helping others. It also fills a lot of my spare time that would more than likely just be wasted watching tv. It is also a good way of meeting new people and trying new things and being able to share your experiences.

Just lately the budget cuts seem to be affecting just about everything I'm involved in. For example, the community centre we used for wrestling training had to close due to

lack of resources. Playgroups are being reviewed because of lack of funds with a possibility that some of them may be cancelled. Even Homes & People is going down to three issues a year instead of four to save money. It's a shame when you consider all the positive work that gets put in, so it's more important than ever for people to get involved and make their voices heard.

I would openly encourage anyone who wanted to join in with any volunteering, either for YHN or your local community. You will wish you had sooner – it's changed my life for the better and I've never looked back."



Ian (front left) getting involved at Millers Dene Family Centre

The Homes & People Panel needs you!

The Homes & People Panel meets with staff from YHN once every four months at the City Library in Newcastle. We talk about articles that are going to be included in the next newsletter and give YHN our opinions about what is interesting for customers to read. We also decide what we want to put in our Panel Pages and agree who is going to take responsibility for each article.

After each meeting, YHN sends us the minutes from the meeting and feedback on how our ideas are going to be used so we can see how our involvement is making a difference.

Being on the Homes & People Panel is a really interesting way of getting involved and is a unique opportunity to play a part in producing a newsletter that is sent to over 31,000 people. The Panel is always looking for new members, so please get in touch if you think this might be for you.



If you have any ideas for articles for Homes & People or want to get involved then contact:
The Customer Involvement team, YHN House, Benton Park Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE7 7LX.
Call 0191 278 8723 or e-mail getinvolved@yhn.org.uk