

Housing news for  
tenants & leaseholders



NORTHAMPTON  
PARTNERSHIP HOMES

# voice

ISSUE 14: SUMMER 2019

CENTENARY  
HOUSE



We marked 100 years  
since the Addison  
Act with some  
exciting celebrations.

## Also...

MEET YOUR COMMUNITY HEROES

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# Welcome

## Welcome to the centenary issue of NPH voice!

In this issue, you can read all about the 100-year anniversary of council housing in the UK and how we celebrated at NPH. You can also find out more about our development plans and how we will be bringing our services out to your neighbourhood.

## At a glance...

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Opening of Thorplands playground and an incredible garden transformation.

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We marked 100 years since the Addison Act.

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Read all about some of NPH's major development works.

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We recently launched our brand new community bus out onto the roads!

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NPH's CIC has been doing lots of good work all around the town.

## Large print?

If you would like a version of this magazine in large print, or another language, please call

**0300 330 7003**

## Do you take pride in where you live?

### Would you like to get more involved in your own area?

We're looking for Community Connectors to help us take care of our neighbourhoods. It could be managing a notice board in your building, reporting fly-tipping, giving us feedback on how our grounds maintenance and cleaning contracts are performing or organising community events where you live.

**If you fancy giving it a go, please get in touch**  
[getinvolved@nph.org.uk](mailto:getinvolved@nph.org.uk)



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PARTNERSHIP HOMES

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Reader Friendly

# Notice board



We ask all our residents to remember that the team at NPH are here to help you. We understand life is difficult at times, but please treat us with respect. We want to take care of our staff and will not tolerate aggression or verbal abuse, under any circumstances.

## SCAM ALERT

We've been made aware that a number of residents have received a letter from a company called British Trading Solar Association (BTSA). This is a previously reported scam and we would advise you to contact the police if you have been sent one of these letters.

Northampton Partnership Homes uses a company called LCX to service solar panels and all contractors will present their ID when they visit.

**If you are unsure about any visitor to your home, please do not let them in. You can call 0300 3307003 to check the identity of anyone claiming to be working on behalf of NPH.**

## NPH voice needs you

We would love to hear what you think of NPH Voice. We like to include as many tenant stories as possible, so if you have anything you would like to share, please get in touch.  
[voiceditor@nph.org.uk](mailto:voiceditor@nph.org.uk)



## Love food, hate waste

Have you ever wondered what happens to your food waste after the caddy is picked up? It's taken to a special facility that turns your leftovers into green energy for heat and power and bio-fertiliser, which is spread over farmland.

If you need a caddy, head to <http://bit.ly/ContainerRequest> and get one ordered!

And if you're trying to reduce the amount of food you waste, there are some great recipes for leftovers at [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com)



**Each year, every NPH team member has the chance to vote for the charities we support. In 2018/9, our lovely staff raised over £7,000 for Cynthia Spencer Hospice and the Grey Dog Trust in their own time.**

This year, we are supporting Cynthia Spencer Hospice again and we're really excited to be raising funds for The Lowdown too.



# In your Neighbourhood



## Thorplands Play Park:

We recently officially opened a brand new play park in Thorplands. This park was part of our wider regeneration works in the area.

After working closely with residents, it was found that they wanted more play and leisure facilities.

The Mayor of Northampton officially cut the ribbon and the park has been well used ever since.

We have lots more exciting projects in Thorplands and we look forward to sharing more soon.

## Growing Together:

Fun for everyone  
at Brookside  
Community Hub!



### Looking for more to do?

There is lots going on at Brookside Community Hub down Billing Brook Road.

Speak to Danielle who is always looking for more people to join in with the hub.

Tel: **07562100945**

Email:  
[danielle@growingtogether.org.uk](mailto:danielle@growingtogether.org.uk)

## Garden Transformation:

Need some motivation to get out into the garden and pull those weeds? Take a look at this amazing transformation from Carol Randle!



# Meet your community heroes.



Back in April we revealed the winners of our Community Hero and Great Neighbour awards 2019.



As part of our tenant and leaseholder conference, we recognised everyone that was nominated and celebrated the amazing things they do in their neighbourhoods.

The awards were judged by Sarah Passam of Voluntary Impact Northampton and Happy to Help board members; Carole Barker, Rosemary Loveday and Chris Deery.

It was a difficult decision as every nominee was worthy of an award, but they eventually picked their two winners. **Drum roll please...**

## Sarah Baulkam, Community Champion



Sarah is the current Chair of the Residents Association in Thorplands and is working on a funding application to bring more old and young people together through activities in the community.

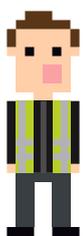
Sarah has been a part of the community in Thorplands for many years, previously at the Parents Council for the primary school where she still helps out with community events.

## Jackie Streeton, Great Neighbour



Jackie was awarded the Great Neighbour award for her generosity and support to neighbours in Camborne Close, Delapre. Earlier this year Jackie set up a Facebook campaign to help an elderly neighbour struggling with alcohol dependency, asking people to donate goods and items to them.

Within a fortnight the neighbour's bungalow had been decked out with carpets, a three-piece suite, pots and pans and cupboards full of food. During that time Jackie scrubbed the place from top to bottom.



**Congratulations to every one of our community heroes, you really do make Northampton a better place!**

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# Northampton's Best Council House Gardens

## NPH's Annual Garden Competition winners announced.

29 Council tenants across Northampton entered this year's garden competition with NPH. The winning gardens will be announced at an Awards event on Monday 9th September at the Abington Park Museum!

Our judges were esteemed gardener Nicolas Warliker and Sarah Passam from Voluntary Impact who were hugely impressed with the efforts of all entrants.

**It's always great to meet people and see how proud they are of the work they've achieved. I found it very inspiring and took lots of ideas from the entrants**

Sarah Passam

The judges spent a full day in July visiting all gardens and meeting everyone who entered. We'd like to say thank you to everyone for opening your gardens up. What a community of green-fingered gardeners we have!



*Someone was happy to see us!*



*Sandy Parnell*



*The Judges*



*Brian Burrowes - Guerilla Garden*



*Cynthia Dawes*



*Sally Harris*



*Residents from Eleonore House*

**Look out for details on how to enter again in spring 2020.**



# NPH celebrates the centenary of council housing

CENTENARY  
HOUSE



**On 31st July 1919, the Addison Act was passed into law. This legislation paved the way for large scale council house building in the UK.**

We thought this was something to celebrate, especially as we are building substantial numbers of new council homes in Northampton for the first time in decades.

On 31st July this year, we started our celebrations at Cottarville where tenants first moved into new council homes 100 years ago. Johnnie Amos from BBC Radio Northampton selected a beautiful Amelanchier tree and helped Andrew Lewer MP with the planting to

commemorate this special anniversary. Thank you to all the Cottarville residents who came out to join the fun!

Daphne, our neighbourhood bus, led the convoy to the next stop, Northfield Road, where we have just completed five brand new two-bedroom homes. We can't wait to welcome new tenants later this month.

We also decided to name a new family development in Hunsbury Centenary House to mark 100 years of council housing. You can find out more about this development in Chris' project diary to follow.



*Andrea Leadsom MP plants a time capsule at Centenary House*



*Sabrina Moussi - "I can't wait to move in!"*



*Tree planting at Cottarville*



*New homes opening at North eld Road*



# DEVELOPMENT NEWS

## BLOCK TRANSFORMATION PROVIDES 40 NEW FAMILY HOMES



Former single person's block Overslade House has been completely remodelled and renamed Centenary House in the centenary year of council housing in the UK. The block was officially opened by The Rt Honourable Andrea Leadsom MP, who was joined by local councillors and some of Centenary House's new residents.

Sabrina Moussi who will be moving into her new apartment in September said: "I'm so excited and surprised to get a home in the area I've lived in for the last 13 years, it's like a dream! My son goes to Abbeyfied Primary school, so all his friends live nearby.

"The best thing is that the apartments are brand new and we still have a little bit of outdoor space of our own for plants and flowers as well as a lovely play area and green space to share with neighbours. Claire from

NPH who helped me with my application was wonderful and really helped me. I am so happy!"

The NPH Voice team will be going back to Centenary House once all residents have moved in to see how they are getting on!

**" I'm so excited and surprised to get a home in the area I've lived in for the last 13 years, it's like a dream! "**





# MORE NEW HOMES NEXT SPRING

Work is well underway at Toms Close in Collingtree to build 21 new family homes. Previously, 10 Airey homes were located on this site. The homes were poorly constructed with low energy efficiency, so a decision was made by NPH to demolish and replace them. This gave us an opportunity to build an additional 11 homes on the site.

Foundations have been laid, scaffolding is up and the brick work is underway! We can't wait to see this development progress and welcome new tenants to this lovely location.

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## FARM FIELD COURT LOOKING GOOD



This development, on the former Tanners pub site, will provide 17 new homes with a community café, shop and takeaway.

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### 3 NEW WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE BUNGALOWS IN KINGS HEATH

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Homes for residents with disabilities are in short supply, so we are really excited about this development.



The bungalows are complete and final checks are being made before tenants move in.

### PLANNING CONSENT GRANTED FOR SPRING BOROUGHS DEVELOPMENT



For some time, residents of Berkeley House and St Mary's Court have raised issues about the condition of their blocks as well as the lack of security, green space and parking. NPH has been working with residents to find alternative homes so that good quality homes can be built on the site.

Helen Town, Assistant Director: Asset Management and Development said of the scheme: "This is of course unsettling for everyone involved and we are working with individuals and families to make sure that they get the support and assistance they need."

The plans for the new development now have planning approval and will increase the number of homes on the site whilst creating green space, parking and better security for residents. Look out for an update in the next issue.

# THE BIG INTERVIEW

Meet Beth, our neighbourhood bus driver!



## Tell us a little bit about yourself

I've been teaching in schools for many years – music and drama are my specialities! I love performing and getting involved with projects that take the arts out to local communities.

I lived in Gambia for two years, which was an amazing experience. I loved the sense of community there. People really work together to share resources and look after each other.



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I have six children. My daughter Maddy is about to take up a scholarship at the Guildhall in London, which is a testament to the wonderful music services provided by Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust where Maddy made the most of the fantastic opportunities they offer.

## And what does your role at NPH involve?

Well, first and foremost I'll be driving Daphne the bus to neighbourhoods across Northampton, so look out for us coming to a street near you soon! I'm looking forward to meeting residents so if the bus is quiet, I might knock on your door to say hello.

Daphne gets on the road properly from 27th August, so I've been spending time getting to know NPH services and shadowing all the different teams. I'm really impressed with the range of specialist support available for residents. Having survived domestic abuse myself, I know how important it is to access

non-judgemental, impartial advice and support.

## You sound like a very busy person, what do you do to relax?

I love to dance to good music, these days it's mainly in my kitchen while I prepare delicious vegan food for my family. If I do get the chance to go out, I head to Karmana restaurant or the Lab for some live music.

I do spend most of my time at home with the children so I write children's stories, which I hope to get published one day.



*I'm looking forward to meeting residents so if the bus is quiet, I might knock on your door to say hello.*



# Daphne hits the road



On Saturday 20th July, visitors to Northampton's Market Square had the chance to meet Daphne, NPH's neighbourhood bus. There was a party atmosphere to celebrate Daphne's first day out with music, magic, balloon animals and a visit from the Mayor of Northampton. We met lots of residents and local councillors who loved the idea of NPH taking housing services to where they are needed most.

From 27th August, Team NPH will be on tour to make sure that residents have the chance to access support, give feedback, get online and talk about what's going on in their local area.

Check out the timetable to find out when Daphne will be visiting a street near you!

## BUS ROUTE TIMETABLE



Week 1	Area 1	Time	Dates
Week 1	<b>Acton Brook</b> Bipin Brook Pub, Acton Brook Rd, NN3 5EN	10:30-12:30	Tuesday 27th August Tuesday 22nd October Tuesday 17th December
	<b>Bellinge</b> Bellinge Community Hub, Billingmead Square, NN3 9AQ	13:30-15:30	
	<b>Town Centre</b> Market Street Community Hub, 133 Exeter Place, NN1 4BG	10:30-12:30	Wednesday 28th August Wednesday 23rd October Wednesday 18th December
	<b>Standens Barn</b> Standens Inn, Standens Barn, NN3 9TJ	13:30-15:30	
	<b>Rectory Farm</b> Fellmead Road, Northampton, NN3 5HX	10:00-11:50	Tuesday 3rd September Tuesday 29th October Tuesday 24th December
Week 2	<b>Blackthorn</b> Outside block 153 Greatmeadow, Northampton, NN3 8DJ	12:10-14:00	
	<b>Goldings</b> By the Nisa Convenience Store, Prentice Court, Northampton, NN3 6XS	14:15-16:00	
	<b>South eids</b> Outside block 18-22 Great Gull Crescent, Northampton, NN3 6AZ	10:30-12:30	Wednesday 4th September Wednesday 30th October
	<b>Thorplands</b> By Costcutler Convenience Store, Farm Field Court, Thorplands, Northampton, NN3 8AG	13:30-15:30	
	<b>Lings / Lumberhubs</b> Behind Costcutler Convenience Store, Billing Brook Road, Lumberhubs, Northampton, NN3 8NQ	10:30-12:30	Thursday 5th September Thursday 31st October
Week 3	<b>Weston Favell</b> Edrins Close, Weston Favell, Northampton, NN3 3EG	10:30-12:30	Tuesday 10th September Tuesday 5th November Tuesday 31st December
	<b>Weston Favell</b> Cherry Close, Northampton, NN3 2TQ	13:30-15:30	
	<b>East eild</b> Broughton Place, Northampton, NN3 2RS	10:30-12:30	Wednesday 11th September Wednesday 6th November
	<b>Lakeview</b> Outside Lakeview House, Churchill Avenue, Northampton, NN3 6PG	13:30-15:30	
	<b>Abington</b> By Abington Library, Lindsay Avenue, Northampton, NN3 2SJ	10:30-12:30	Thursday 12th September Thursday 7th November Thursday 2nd January
Week 4	<b>Area 4</b>		
	<b>Obelisk</b> Car Park at Hunters Close, Obelisk Rise, Northampton, NN2 8SU	10:30-12:30	Tuesday 17th September Tuesday 12th November Tuesday 7th January
	<b>Sunnyside</b> Cosgrove Way, Kingsthorpe, Northampton, NN2 8JP	13:30-15:30	
	<b>Kingsthorpe</b> Outside the former King David Pub, Newnham Road, Northampton, NN2 7RE	10:30-12:30	Wednesday 18th September Wednesday 13th November Wednesday 8th January
	<b>Kingsley</b> Outside Sital Convenience Store, Kenmuir Avenue, Northampton, NN2 7EJ	13:30-15:30	

Week 5	Area 5	Time	Dates
Week 5	<b>Kings Heath</b> By the Kings Heath Community Centre, North Oval, Northampton, NN5 7LN	10:30-12:30	Tuesday 24th September Tuesday 19th November Tuesday 14th January
	<b>Dallington</b> Car Park by Dallington Haven, Dallington, Northampton, NN5 7BP	13:30-15:30	
	<b>Ryehill</b> Montague Crescent within the communal car park opposite the Convenience Store, Duston, Northampton, NN5 7RQ	10:30-12:30	Wednesday 25th September Wednesday 20th November Wednesday 15th January
	<b>Hopping Hill</b> Car park off Pendle Road that serves the Police Box, Library, and Duston Community Centre, Pendle Road, Northampton, NN5 6DT	13:30-15:30	
	<b>Duston</b> Communal Car Park, Bants Lane, Northampton NN5 6AH	10:30-12:30	Thursday 26th September Thursday 21st November Thursday 16th January
Week 6	<b>Area 6</b>		
	<b>Kingsthorpe Hollow</b> Bunting Road, Kingsthorpe, Northampton, NN2 6EE	10:00-11:50	Tuesday 1st October Tuesday 26th November Tuesday 21st January
	<b>Spencer</b> By Dallington Post Office, 75-77 Gladstone Road, Northampton, NN5 7EG	12:10-14:00	
	<b>Semilong</b> Outside Deal Court, Barrack Road, Northampton, NN1 3HE	14:15-16:00	
	<b>Spring Boroughs</b> Car Park of St Stephen's House, Gratton Street, Spring Boroughs, Northampton, NN1 2JR	10:30-12:30	Wednesday 2nd October Wednesday 27th November Wednesday 22nd January
Week 7	<b>St James</b> By the Police Box outside Melbourne House, Abbey Street, Northampton, NN5 5LW	13:30-15:30	
	<b>St James</b> Caledonian House, Argyle Street, Northampton, NN5 5UG	10:30-12:30	Thursday 3rd October Thursday 28th November Thursday 23rd January
	<b>Area 7</b>		
	<b>Briar Hill</b> Behind the Briar Hill Fish Bar, Ashbrow Road, Briar Hill, Northampton, NN4 8SZ	10:30-12:30	Tuesday 8th October Tuesday 3rd December Tuesday 28th January
	<b>Camp Hill</b> By Parsons Meade, Northampton, NN4 9PS	13:30-15:30	
Week 8	<b>Far Cotton</b> By the Far Cotton Library, the REC centre, Towcester Road, Far Cotton, Northampton, NN4 8LG	10:30-12:30	Wednesday 9th October Wednesday 4th December Wednesday 29th January
	<b>Delapre</b> By Camborne Close, Delapre, Northampton, NN4 8PH	13:30-15:30	
	<b>Area 8</b>		
	<b>Hardingstone</b> Car Park Outside Bouverie House, Bouverie Road, Hardingstone, Northampton, NN4 6DA	10:30-12:30	Tuesday 15th October Tuesday 10th December Tuesday 4th February
	<b>Wootton</b> On the High Street outside the Yeoman of England, 31 High Street, Northampton, NN4 6LP	13:30-15:30	
<b>Collingtree</b> Outside Lodge Avenue, Collingtree, Northampton, NN4 0NG	10:30-12:30	Wednesday 16th October Wednesday 11th December Wednesday 5th February	



# NPH Tenant Survey 2019

## Coming soon!

This is your chance to tell us what you think of NPH services and really help us to improve on the things that matter to you.

We held our first tenant survey in 2017, which showed us that we were moving in the right direction but there is still work to do. We've been focussing on the areas you told us needed improvement and your feedback really has made a difference.



£100 million committed (2018-23) to build new homes and improve your homes and neighbourhoods



Neighbourhood improvements completed in Spring Boroughs, Kings Heath, East field, Delapre and Far Cotton



New specialist Anti-Social Behaviour service



147 new homes completed with 124 more to be completed in 2020



New play provision installed in 4 locations



Achieved accreditation with the Centre for Housing Support for our specialist housing support team

### Checking your details

This survey is also a great opportunity to make sure we have the right information about your household to help us plan for the future and how you would like to be contacted. With so many communication channels to choose from these days, you can tell us how you prefer to hear from us, whether it's by phone, online, by email, on social media or the more traditional letter – it really is up to you.

As a thank you for your time, every completed survey and household data update will be entered into a prize draw with the following Love2Shop Voucher prizes up for grabs.

Survey & Household Data Update	Household Data Update Only
1st prize <b>£200</b>	1st prize <b>£100</b>
2 prizes of <b>£100</b>	2 prizes of <b>£50</b>
3 prizes of <b>£50</b>	3 prizes of <b>£25</b>

Look out for your survey in September. We are working with The Leadership Factor, who will send the surveys by post, email or telephone, depending on the communications preference we have on record for you. Remember, your answers will be anonymous, unless you tell us it's OK to contact you for more information.

**We're looking forward to hearing your feedback. And good luck in the prize draw!**



# Happy to Help update



NPH's Community Interest Company is now in full swing and we're loving what this tenant-led organisation has been doing in the local community.

You may remember in the Christmas edition of NPH Voice, we told you about the launch of Happy to Help's community ideas fund. This is a pot of money funded by contractor contributions and donations. Community groups can apply for grants of up to £250 so they can carry on helping others in the community. It could be used to buy essential items, put on an event or something that hasn't been thought about yet. The team at Happy to Help can't wait to hear from groups that are doing great things and working out what help they need to do more.

It's really easy to apply, head to [www.nph.org.uk/happy-help-cic](http://www.nph.org.uk/happy-help-cic) and fill in the form online. If this doesn't suit you, just give us a call on 01604 837026 and we'll pop a copy in the post.

Take a look at a couple of the projects we've already funded.

## It's a Strike!



*Rye Hill Youth Group*

Rye Hill Youth Group took a trip to Tenpin funded by Happy to Help and had a brilliant time. Anne Lindsay, who runs the club on a voluntary basis told us: "It's lovely to see how happy the kids were on their bowling trip, they had such a great time. They loved the goodie bags, it was like Christmas! Without the funding from Happy to Help, we just wouldn't have been able to put this on."

## Cutting edge gardening services

Sixth form students from Billing Brook School set up a gardening project to help tenants who are

unable to maintain their garden themselves. The school applied to Happy to Help for funding to buy a lawn mower to support the project.

## Move in service

Happy to Help also provides small grants to help individuals or families in crisis. These applications are made by support workers on behalf of the resident and can make a real difference in tough times.



*Billing Brook School Students*

It's early days for Happy to Help, but there is lots more to come. The Paint Shop in Kings Heath will open its doors this Autumn, where recycled paint will be available to buy at low cost. Watch this space for more to come.



**11** community projects funded

**Between December 2018 and July 2019**





**217** individuals helped



**£1,250** spent on food and household items



**42** beds or mattresses provided



**£22,829** spent on furniture, carpets and white goods



**39** white goods provided



**35** homes fitted with carpet



**25** cookers/microwaves provided

# 100 YEARS OF COUNCIL HOUSING



C	O	N	S	Y	O	H	E	R	O	V	I	D	D	A
O	D	R	E	H	P	O	T	S	I	R	H	C	T	N
T	P	O	C	L	I	S	O	U	H	Y	E	M	N	E
T	C	A	O	E	L	E	O	O	M	L	U	O	E	I
A	E	O	R	H	L	I	U	C	E	O	I	N	M	G
R	Y	N	M	L	R	S	V	B	I	T	C	T	A	H
V	N	R	A	M	I	U	R	R	C	E	Y	S	I	B
I	O	D	A	N	U	A	O	U	A	C	T	H	L	O
L	S	S	G	N	T	N	R	B	N	T	E	Y	R	U
G	I	V	E	I	E	T	I	A	H	R	T	N	A	R
N	D	S	O	M	S	T	N	T	O	G	Y	O	P	H
S	D	N	D	N	O	E	N	E	I	S	I	U	C	O
U	A	O	O	P	T	H	S	E	C	E	N	E	Y	D
O	S	C	L	I	C	N	U	O	C	H	S	I	N	S
H	E	R	B	O	U	R	E	P	O	T	I	R	H	C

For your chance to win £20 in Love2Shop Vouchers, can you find all the words relating to the 100 year anniversary of Council Housing.

- ADDISON
- CELEBRATION
- CENTENARY
- CHRISTOPHER
- COMMUNITIES
- CONSTRUCTION
- COTTARVILLE
- COUNCIL
- HEROES
- HOMES
- HOUSING
- NEIGHBOURHOOD
- PARLIAMENT
- SOCIETY
- TENANCY

Best of luck with this summer wordsearch put together by NPH Tenant Oscar Woodcock. And congratulations to the spring wordsearch winner, **Nancy Asamoah**

\*To be in with a chance of winning, send your completed wordsearch to NPH by **Friday 27th September 2019**. You can post your wordsearch to our address, email a photo of your wordsearch to the Voice Editors, or drop the wordsearch off when you next visit the Guildhall One Stop Shop.



## Direct Debit Prize Draw

This month we also revealed the winner of our Direct Debit prize draw. Every month, one lucky tenant will win £100 in Love2Shop Vouchers. All you have to do is pay your rent by Direct Debit for at least 4 months to be automatically entered.

**Congratulations to Karen Scrivener** who was the winner for July!

