

Leicestershire  
**Rural**  
*Life*

The residents' newsletter for  
**Leicestershire Rural Housing  
Association**

**AUTUMN 2019**

[www.leicestershirerha.org.uk](http://www.leicestershirerha.org.uk)

  
**Leicestershire Rural**  
Housing Association Ltd



# A home forever

**John Cotterill and his wife, Linda, are looking forward to a long and happy future in the village they know and love. They say their bungalow in Swannington, near Coalville, is just perfect for them.**

"We had to move from our previous property but we really wanted to stay in Swannington because we've lived here several years and know a lot of people," says John.

"We're both in our early seventies and a bungalow will make our lives much easier and safer.

"We're very happy here and feel secure for the rest of our lives."

Read the full story at  
[www.leicestershirerha.org.uk](http://www.leicestershirerha.org.uk)

Win an  
**Amazon Echo  
Dot!**  
See page 3

  
**facebook**  
Remember to like  
us on Facebook  
and see all our  
latest news.

**For Your Benefit - Page 2   How to reuse and recycle - Page 3   In your own words - Page 4**

# FOR YOUR BENEFIT

## HELP TO CLAIM

A new service dedicated to supporting you through a Universal Credit claim has been launched by Citizens Advice.

Trained advisers are offering free, independent advice from your initial application right through to receiving your first full payment. Call free on 0800 144 8444 or visit [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/helptoclaim](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/helptoclaim) to find your nearest service.



## FREE MEALS

If you're on means-tested benefits or an annual income of less than £16,190 you could get help with free school meals, school uniform grants and transport. Visit [www.gov.uk/browse/education/school-life](http://www.gov.uk/browse/education/school-life)



## GRANDPARENTS BENEFITS

If you care for grandchildren aged under 12 you can qualify for class 3 national insurance credits (called specified adult childcare credits) and these count towards your qualifying years for a full state pension. Working parents need to give up the NI credits they receive when they claim child benefit and transfer them to you.

## SMALL GRANTS

Many charities offer one-off payments that don't have to be paid back. They can help with things like new furniture, decorating or clothing. Visit <https://grants-search.turn2us.org.uk/> to see what's available in your area.

## CHEAP ENERGY CLUB

Sign up to the free Cheap Energy Club run by [MoneySavingExpert.com](http://MoneySavingExpert.com) and state what your current energy tariff is. They'll tell you if you're overpaying and will monitor the market and email you if you can save. Visit [www.moneysavingexpert.com/cheapenergyclub](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/cheapenergyclub)

## FREE WILLS

Free Wills Month takes place every October and March and lets people aged over 55 get a will drafted by a solicitor for free. You'll be asked to leave money to charity in your will, but that's up to you. Visit [freewillsmoonth.org.uk/](http://freewillsmoonth.org.uk/)

## PENSION EXTRA

If you don't need your state pension immediately, especially if you're still employed, consider deferring it and earning more later. For every nine weeks you defer, your future weekly allowance increases by 1%. If you defer claiming for a year, you'll get the full pension plus 5.8% extra.

# WIN AN ECHO DOT!

Don't miss our great competition to win an amazing Amazon Echo Dot smart speaker. With an Echo Dot you can use voice commands to play music, answer questions and loads of other tasks!

All you need to do is email us a photo of the view from your home or garden to be in with a chance of winning. Send your entry to [sue.haywood@midlandsrural.org.uk](mailto:sue.haywood@midlandsrural.org.uk) by 30th November 2019.



## HOW TO ... RE-USE AND RECYCLE

Here's the latest guide in our 'How to...' feature to help you recycle your unwanted items. Rather than throwing away things you don't need anymore, there's sure to be someone in your community who would like them!

- List your items on Freegle and find someone who wants to come and collect them. Visit [www.ilovefreegle.org](http://www.ilovefreegle.org)
- Sign up to your local Freecycle.org group and give your things away.
- Donate any good quality clothes, books, bric-a-brac etc to your local charity shop.
- Check your council website for any local community furniture reuse schemes in your area.



## Ask us ...

Have you got a question about your home or the services we provide? If so, ask away! We'll be answering one of your questions in every newsletter. Simply email them to [sue.haywood@midlandsrural.org.uk](mailto:sue.haywood@midlandsrural.org.uk)



**Jim asked: Should I call you if my electricity trips?**

**David Krause, Development and Maintenance Manager says:**

The circuit breaker trips when too much electricity flows through it. This means the flow of electricity is cut off to stop your circuits overheating.

1. Turn off the light switches and unplug appliances in the room which has lost power.
2. Find your circuit breaker box and open the plastic lid.
3. Look for the breaker in the 'off' position – the switch which is pointing in an opposite direction to the others. Push the switch into the 'on' position.
4. You only need to call us if the breaker keeps tripping when you turn on the lights and appliances so we can find out the cause.



## Noticeboard

### HERE FOR YOU

Our new Tenancy Services Officer, Claire Baggaley, is offering a host of help and support to residents. She joined the team in the Summer and is busy visiting our rural developments as she gets to know the area and everyone living in it! If you have any questions about your home or tenancy, give Claire a call on **0300 1234 009**.



### ANNUAL REPORT

Our Annual Report, which shows how we're delivering the best service possible for you, will be published on our website in October. If you would like a copy, please call **0300 123 4009**.

### PETS & PROPERTY

Don't forget that if you want to keep a pet or make any alterations to your home, you need to gain our permission first.

Use **myhomeonline** to email us specific information or fill in the form on our website. For pets, give us details of the animal you'd like to get and let us know if there are any other pets in your property. For changes to your home, send us as much information as you can about what you're planning.



### FIRE KILLS

We're supporting the national campaign, Fire Kills, which aims to raise awareness of fire risks around the home and encourage everyone to test their smoke alarms regularly.

- Make sure you have smoke alarms both upstairs and downstairs.
- Test your smoke alarms every month.
- Don't overload plug sockets.
- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Put out candles before leaving a room or going to sleep.

For more fire safety tips, visit [www.firekills.campaign.gov.uk](http://www.firekills.campaign.gov.uk)

### IN YOUR OWN WORDS ...

We asked you what you think about our colleagues?

*"You're always lovely, friendly and very polite when I ring up."*



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Tel: 0300 1234 009  
E-mail: [enquiries@midlandsrural.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@midlandsrural.org.uk)  
Website: [www.leicestershirerha.org.uk](http://www.leicestershirerha.org.uk)



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