



## Prepayment meters

4 February 2010

**FEDERATION**News

**NEWSFLASH**

**The latest news from the National Housing Federation**

### Prepay meter Campaign victory saves £150m for poorest energy customers



The Federation, and its members, have won the high-profile campaign for an end to prepayment meter rip-off - with the announcement today by British Gas that it will no longer charge a premium to its gas prepay meter users.

The announcement means that following the long-running campaign by the Federation, supported by its members, each of the big energy firms has equalised the charges they make to prepay meter users with customers on quarterly bills.

The Federation estimates that the campaign has saved prepayment meter customers at least £150m since it began in 2007.

Over the last few years, all of the big energy firms, except for Scottish Power, have charged prepayment meter customers more for their gas and electricity than anyone else - even though they are from low income backgrounds. According to research for the Federation, the average income for a household with a prepayment meter is £16,000.

Federation chief executive David Orr said: 'The efforts of the Federation, housing associations and residents for a fairer deal for prepayment meter customers have paid off. 'Today's news is an incredible testament to what can be achieved when we all pull together.' He added: 'This is a great day for social justice and means that almost one million people, many of whom are on lower incomes, will now find it easier to pay their energy bills and heat their homes.'

Although we now have full equalisation across all of the big six energy suppliers - British Gas, EDF, eon, npower, SSE and Scottish Power - the Federation will lobby MPs to make the change permanent in the Energy Bill, currently progressing through Parliament.



# Personal Best – are you eligible?



The 'Personal Best' Programme is an employability project that capitalises on the exciting volunteering opportunities available for the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympics Games. The Programme will encourage unemployed residents in the borough of Sutton to gain new skills, engage in their communities, take up volunteering opportunities, raise their aspirations and help them get a job. Wandsworth Council is also delivering the programme on behalf of the Borough of Sutton.

I will be based throughout various community settings in the borough of Sutton where I will be able to help residents with their CV, Interview techniques, application forms and jobsearch. I will also be able to provide free advice and guidance on employment, training and volunteering opportunities. While on the programme participants will receive assistance with travel expenses, lunch and childcare for parents. If the participant successfully completes the programme, they will gain a Level 1 qualification in Public Event Volunteering.

Personal Best is:

- Ø Level 1 Qualification (in Public Event Volunteering – 'Personal Best')
- Ø Short, 8 week programme
- Ø 15 hours a week (3 days a week, 9:30-3:30pm)
- Ø Includes a voluntary placement of 1 – 2 weeks (which can be extended for longer)
- Ø Learn new skills, gain valuable workplace experience, team building, meet new people, help build up a CV
- Ø Participants who successfully complete the programme and apply to volunteer at the 2012 Games will be guaranteed an interview
- Ø One-to-one jobsearch support upon completion of 8 week course
- Ø Assistance with travel, lunch and childcare expenses

You can also look at the website for more information: [www.personalbestprogramme.co.uk](http://www.personalbestprogramme.co.uk)

Eligibility criteria:

- Ø Resident of Borough of Sutton
- Ø Unemployed, or economically inactive
- Ø Eligible to claim benefits
- Ø Not on New Deal (or about to go on to it)
- Ø 16+
- Ø Not currently in education, employment or training programme
- Ø Holds below a Level 2 Qualification
- Ø Entry Level 2 or above
- Ø Legally a resident in the UK
- Ø Looking for work, or willing to begin the process of looking for work

If you are interested in the programme then please do not hesitate to contact me on 07786856771. I would be more than happy to discuss this further with you or see if there is anyway that we can help you to get back into work I look forward to hearing from you,

Caryl Davies

Personal Best Advisor

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# Seasonal Page



## Eggciting Easter at St Nicholas Centre

Good Friday 2nd April - Eggciting Egg Hunt with the White Rabbit.

Pick up your clue cards from the White Rabbit on level 2 at St Nicholas Centre.

Easter Monday 5th April - Superheroes Day meet Batman, the Brave, and the Bold on level 2 at 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm. Dress up as your favourite superhero for a change to win some great prizes and join in the mask making workshops.

## Family Funday - Easter Eggstravaganza

The National Trust invites you to join our annual Easter Trail around the park and earn a chocolate Cadbury egghead. The event runs from 11am - 3pm on Monday 5th April 2010 at Morden Hall Park Morden Hall Road Morden London SM4 5JD

## Bunnies & Chicks Recipe



You will need:

250g(9oz) packet of marzipan

Yellow food colouring

Red food colouring

### What you do to make the chicks:

1 Cut the marzipan in half and put one half to one side in a plastic bag. Put 12 drops of food colouring in a bowl and add one half of the marzipan.

2 Mix the colouring in with the marzipan with your hands until it is completely yellow. If the marzipan begins to stick to your hands rub a tiny dab of butter on them and continue. Cut this yellow marzipan in half.

3 Put one half to one side.

4 Place the other half into a bowl and add a drop of red colouring. Mix well until the marzipan is bright orange. If it is too pale add another drop of red colouring.

5 Take the half of yellow marzipan that you put to one side and cut into five pieces. Roll four of these into balls. Squeeze each ball at one end to make the tail shape.

6 With the remaining piece of yellow marzipan make eight tiny yellow wings and press these onto each side of the chicks. Make the eye holes with a cocktail stick.

7 Take the orange marzipan and make each chick a pointed beak.

8 To make the feet bases make some small orange balls, flatten them, cut to the centre and then open them out. Place a chick onto each base

9 Either serve on a plate or store in an airtight container until ready to be eaten. Eat the chicks within three weeks.

### What you do to make the bunnies

1 Take the plain marzipan from the plastic bag. Put one drop of red food colouring into a bowl and add the marzipan. Mix with your hands until it is completely pink. Add a further drop if it is not pink enough. Cut the marzipan in half and put one half back in the plastic bag.

2 Cut the remaining piece into half again. With one half make three balls which will be the rabbits' bodies.

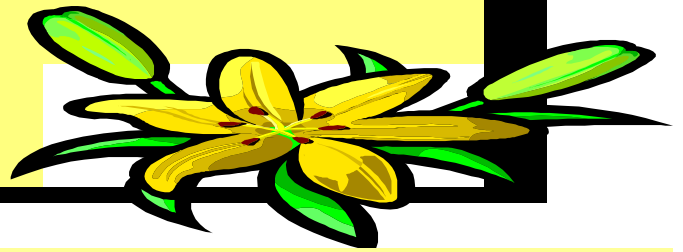
3 Cut the other piece into half.

4 Roll three smaller balls from one half to make the heads. From the other half make six ears, three noses and three tails. Nip each ear to make a fold.

5 Press the ears and nose onto each head. Then put a head onto each body. Press a tail onto each body and finally make two eye holes with a cocktail stick.

6 Either serve on a plate or store in an airtight container until ready to be eaten. Eat the bunnies within 3wks.

# Important notices



## New Contractors

As from April 2010 the Grounds Maintenance will be looked after by George from Acorn Environmental who are based in Croydon, and were recommended to us by London and Quadrant who partner us on our Wandle Valley general needs housing estate in Mitcham.

George and his team are keen to get started on our grounds.

Please make George welcome.



## Competition Winner

The Resident Satisfaction repair slip winner this issue, and winning the £25 Marks and Spencer's voucher is:-  
John Chapman, Beech Tree Place

## Aids and Adaptations Policy

This policy was updated in February 2010 and approved by the Housing Operations Committee. If anyone would like to see a copy, please ask your Housing Officer.

Zoe Macgregor Housing Services Manager

## Pat Shaw Community Award

Do you have a neighbour who goes out of their way to help you or others? Does someone or a group make your life a little easier or happier?

There are lots of ways people help one another, doing a bit of shopping, popping in to see you're ok, listening when you're down, taking your rubbish out, giving you or your family a lift, looking after your children or cooking you a meal.

It may be making the scheme or garden look beautiful, but whatever it is, please think about nominating these special people, and recognise them by recommending them for the Community Award. (Forms will be in summer issue)

## Polite Reminder

As of now we are no longer able to accept cash or cheque payments at the office.  
Thank you for your cooperation.



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