

PRESS RELEASE

1st August 2006

Magnificent seven have great gardens



Pictures available

This year's wet spring and a scorching summer have been tamed by New Charter's tenant garden contest winners.

The weather may have been a challenge, but the magnificent seven 'rose' to it, and scooped the prizes on offer this year.

Pick of the crop was the 2006 supreme champion, Ms Eileen Shepherd of Springs Lane, Stalybridge. Eileen won a trip for two to the Royal Horticultural Show at Tatton Park near Knutsford as well as gift vouchers, courtesy of grounds maintenance contractors ServiceTeam. Her garden design is based on 'Parterre' principles, laid out in decorative patterns using plants and gravels. But she also tends some of the communal open space near her home, to the delight of other residents.

Our other category winners this year are:



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Thea Morgan, Paddock Road, Hyde - Best entry from a tenants' association member

Joan Powell, Chambers Court, Mottram - Best planter or container

Beryl Whittaker, Rowan Crescent, Dukinfield - Best garden nominated by our neighbourhood staff

Margaret Caveney, Kedleston Walk, Denton - Best garden by a *thancs!* cardholder

Arthur Rowbottom, Garden Walk, Ashton-under-Lyne - Best shared garden

Josie Latouche, Co-ordinator, Chambers Court, Mottram - Best sheltered housing scheme

All won £75 worth of high street gift vouchers provided by New Charter and local landscape architects, Trevor Bridge Associates of Ashton-under-Lyne.

New Charter's Director of Property Services, Steve Nettleton said: "The standard of entries this year reflects the enjoyment many tenants get from their gardening. It compliments the massive investment we continue to make in our homes, with over £170million already invested since 2000. Like so much of our business, we do best when we work alongside our customers. Together, we're making great neighbourhoods."

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. New Charter formed in 1999 as the new landlords to own and manage homes transferred from Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council in Greater Manchester. With a turnover of £48million a year and a workforce of 800, New Charter is one of the country's largest Registered Social Landlords, and is regulated by The Housing Corporation, a Government watchdog. By incorporating Aksa Housing Association recently, the Group owns over 15,000 homes.
2. New Charter has run a garden competition each year since 2003. Our spring newsletter invites tenants to enter by submitting a photo, and the judges shortlist and visit. This year, they visited 25 gardens.



3. The judges were Gordon Clayton (New Charter), Vinnie Brockbank (Tenants' representative), Matt Ling (ServiceTeam) and Dave Griffin (Trevor Bridge Associates).
4. **iN business for neighbourhoods** is a long-term project to improve housing associations' performance, and challenge negative perceptions of the sector and its customers. The project was launched at the National Housing Federation's annual conference in 2003. To date, 80 per cent of the sector's stock – over 1.5 million homes – is managed by associations who have joined the initiative and made fresh commitments to neighbourhoods, customers and excellence.

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