

PRESS RELEASE

Immediate release

15th October 2007

Web winner at 92!



Photograph opportunity at William Ford House, Shaw Street, Mottram SK14 6LE on Friday 19th October from 1pm

A New Charter tenant is today named national runner-up in the Silver Surfers of the Year 2007.

Dora Pegge is 92 years young and a resident of William Ford House, a sheltered housing scheme in Mottram. When New Charter installed a computer in the communal lounge and wireless connectivity throughout, Dora decided to put her long-dormant keyboard skills to use. Today she is at the House of Commons to receive her award from Stephen Timms MP, Minister for Competitiveness.

The **Silver Surfer of the Year Awards** awards are managed annually by Digital Unite, the organisation that delivers digital inclusion and ICT literacy for adults over 50. This year, the awards are being delivered in partnership with Ofcom and are sponsored by BT.

New Charter didn't just install the computer. It is committed to the benefits of learning for its older residents, and complemented the hardware with time from Learning Centre Co-ordinator, Hannah Grantham. She introduced tenants in William Ford House to the technology and soon found she had some star pupils. Dora is the oldest and she found her former career skills as a bookkeeper and shorthand typist had not deserted her as she faced the keyboard.

Dora uses the Internet almost daily and confidently uses e-mail. She finds the web saves her time and money, and has become the resident Internet expert at William Ford House.

Christine Amyes, Director of Organisational Development at New Charter said "I am thrilled with Dora's success and the recognition this award gives to older learners. Dora is a role model for all those who may be reluctant to take up new skills later in life. You are never too old to learn."



business for 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 £53million a year and a workforce of 800, New Charter is one of the region's largest Registered Social Landlords, and is regulated by The Housing Corporation, a Government watchdog. By incorporating Aksa Housing Association, the Group owns 15,000 homes.
2. The STEP Learning Centre at New Charter is a joint project with Trades Unions which attracted £131,000 financial support from the Union Learning Fund. It aims to give staff, tenants and their families the opportunities and encouragement to achieve more than just vocational and business-related qualifications.
3. Dora wins £250 of Dixons vouchers.
4. **iN business for neighbourhoods** is a long-term project highlighting housing associations' performance. As social businesses, housing associations do not make profit. They offer homes for rent and sale at prices local people can afford. Housing associations provide more than homes - they help create places where people want to live. Wherever you see the **iN business for neighbourhoods** sign, something great is happening in the area. Housing Associations who display this logo are committed to their customers, the neighbourhoods they work in and strive for excellence in everything they do.

CONTACTS:

David Rigby or Paula Thomas - New Charter 0161 331 2000
Gill Adams – Digital Unite 0870 241 5091 gill.adams@digitalunite.net

www.newcharter.co.uk

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