

30 October 2020

NEWSPOINT EXTRA

Viewpoint Community E-Bulletin
Number 24



Happy
Halloween

From all the Staff
at Viewpoint

In this issue:

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paying your rent and
texting
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Payments



I have to confess that I am not a great fan of Halloween and never have been. Too scary! However I wondered what you thought about when Halloween was mentioned.

Is it ghosts and ghouls, witches and magic. Or is it dressing up and going guising when you were younger. Maybe it was eating all the goodies—tangerines and monkey nuts galore until you had a sore tummy.

Let me know what your thoughts on Halloween are and if you have any photos I would love to see them.



Contact Us



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Things to do online

History of Halloween

And find out more about the origins of Halloween from Historic UK. Apparently it can be traced back to the Celtic festival of Samhain (summer's end).



Read Burn's poem *Halloween* and see how many of our Halloween traditions live on today.

<https://www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/Halloween-in-Scotland/>

Halloween Traditions

Look on the National Trust for Scotland website to find six Scottish Halloween traditions, some of which you may be familiar with: apple dookin', turnip lanterns and kale pulling!!!



<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/6-scottish-halloween-traditions>

Ghost Stories on the BBC

Or maybe ghost stories are more your thing.

Listen to the book of the week 'The Haunting of Alma Fielding', the comedy-horror podcast 'The Sink' or 'A History of Ghosts'. There is also Mary Shelley's classic 'Frankenstein' and a modern ghost story 'The Haunting' by Tom Neenan.



Go to www.bbc.co.uk/sounds and then enter the title in the search box

Radio Pachuco



Local Edinburgh band Radio Pachuco performed online for Capital Theatres afternoon tea, which was part of this month's afternoon tea deliveries with Capital Theatres. This 30 minute performance is well worth a watch if you have time this week. It will get you toe tapping, or even up on you feet dancing with jive and rock'n'roll.

Radio Pachuco are a swing, rock n roll band who play classic swing and often take contemporary music and give it some vintage flare. A very talented bunch!

The performance is available to watch here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9wIhOKwE-E>

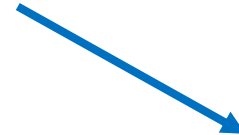


New Way To Pay Your Rent

We are always looking for ways to improve and extend the services available to you.

We are now able to offer you the opportunity to pay your rent to us, with your debit card through our website. Unfortunately we cannot take payments in this way by credit card.

Visit our website at www.viewpoint.org.uk and then click on **make a payment**



SERVICES CARE HOMES HOUSING & SUPPORT

Request a repair →

Contact us →

Make a Payment →

You will then see this page and you need to complete your details with your reference, the amount you wish to pay and the reason for payment e.g. rent payment.

[Home](#) > [Make a Payment Online](#)

Make a Payment Online

Please use this form to complete a payment online.

For Customer Reference please use your Tenancy reference number. If you do not have a Tenancy reference number yet please use your address.

Pay by Debit Card

Customer Reference *

Amount *

Payment Reason

Make Payment

If you do not have a tenancy reference number, or do not know your tenancy reference number, then use your address in the tenancy reference box (no spaces between words). You can get your tenancy reference number by contacting us. Our contact details are on the front page of this newsletter.

The minimum payment you can make using this method is £1.01. Once you have submitted your payment you will receive an email confirming your payment.



New Texting Service



If you read the *Autumn 2020* edition of Newspoint you will be aware that our Housing and ICT teams have been working behind the scenes to implement a new system that will enable us to provide updates and communicate with you via text message. The good news is that we are almost ready to launch this service and we are aware you may have some questions about it so have tried to answer a few of them here:

What Do I Need to Do to Receive Texts?

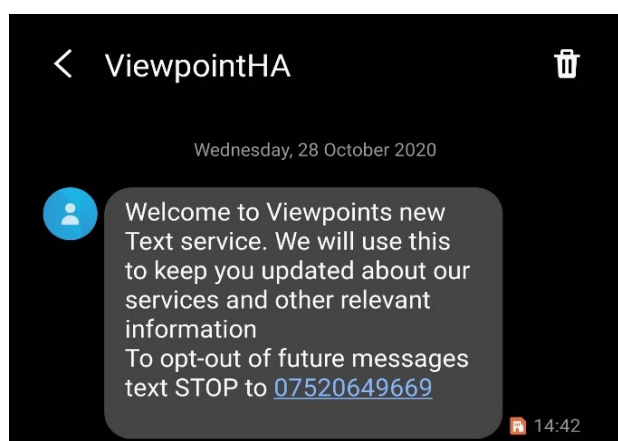
Most likely nothing at all! If we already hold a mobile number for you in our records that is all we need and you will automatically be included in the roll out of this new service.

If you have not provided us with a mobile number before and would like to be included, please contact our Housing Team on 0131 668 4247, option 2 and we will be happy to update your contact information. Once we have your mobile number on record you will automatically be enrolled in this service and begin receiving any future messages that are relevant to you.

There is no cost to you for receiving this service.

How Will These Messages Look and How Will I Know They Are From Viewpoint?

A screenshot of an example text message has been included here. Text Messages from Viewpoint will always show as *From ViewpointHA* rather than show a telephone number.



This is how a text from Viewpoint will look

Our text messages will always end with our standard *opt-out* disclaimer message.

If you ever receive a text message purporting to be from Viewpoint and you are suspicious about its legitimacy please do not hesitate to contact our Housing Team on 0131 668 4247, option 2 to discuss the matter.

We will never ask you to divulge personal or financial information, or to make a payment, via text message.



Can I Reply to Messages?

In short, no. This is a one-way communication system designed to enable us to share updates with you.

We may develop it further in future to enable you to request information (such as your rent account balance) and automatically receive a reply but it is not possible for the phone number to be monitored for any general incoming messages.

I Do Not Want to Receive Texts, What Can I Do?

If you are not interested in receiving text messages from us then do not worry, you can *opt-out* of the service at any time.

All you have to do is text the word **STOP** to **07520649669** and we will update your contact preferences to reflect this decision.

You can do this now if you would like to opt-out, but if you would like to give the service a try to see if you find it beneficial then don't worry this opt-out information will be included on every text message you receive from us should you wish to opt-out in future.

Please note: you may still receive messages for a few days after updating your preferences as some messages may already be processing through the system.

Money Matters

Winter Fuel Payment



If you were born on or before 5 October 1954 you could get between **£100 and £300** to help you pay your heating bills. This is known as a 'Winter Fuel Payment'.

You usually get a Winter Fuel Payment automatically if you are eligible and you get the State Pension or another social security benefit (not Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction, Child Benefit or Universal Credit).

Most payments are made automatically between November and December. You should get your money by 13 January 2021. If you are eligible but do not get paid automatically, you will need to make a claim.

If you do not get your payment by 13 January 2021 contact the Fuel payment centre:

To email use the online contact form at: <https://secure.dwp.gov.uk/contact-winter-fuel-payments-centre/contact-form>

Telephone: 0800 731 0160

Textphone: 0800 731 0176



Cold Weather Payment

The Cold Weather Payment scheme is available from 1 November until 31 March. It provides people on certain benefits £25 for each 7 day period of very cold weather and is paid automatically. This is not the same as the winter fuel payment.

Claimants receiving a qualifying benefit can check if their postcode has been triggered for a payment. Find out more at:

<https://www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment>

Universal Credit regulation change for customers who are paid monthly



DWP has amended Universal Credit for those who are paid monthly by their employer, and occasionally receive two payments from their employer in one month.

DWP staff now have the ability to reallocate a second monthly payment from a customer's employer into a different assessment period.

This means that if, for example, people are paid early by their employer due to their regular monthly pay date falling on a weekend or bank holiday they won't have two wages allocated to one assessment period. This change will come into effect on 16 November.

And remember if you need any help with any welfare benefit issue contact our Welfare Benefit Officer, Elaine Rosie on 0131 662 5144 or by email at elaine.rosie@viewpoint.org.uk

Store Cupboard Recipe

Roasted Pepper & Tomato Pasta (serves 1)

Ingredients

2 peppers (any colour) deseeded and chopped into large chunks
2 medium tomatoes quartered or 5 cherry tomatoes
1/2 onion peeled and cut into thick slices
1 clove garlic peeled and then crushed or finely chopped (optional)
1 tbsp. olive oil
2 tsp pesto
75g dried pasta
Grated Parmesan cheese to serve (optional)

Method

1. Preheat oven to 200°C
2. Put peppers, tomatoes, garlic and onion in the dish
3. Add the olive oil and mix through to coat the vegetables
4. Place dish in the oven for 30—40 minutes until the vegetables are slightly charred at the edges
5. When vegetables almost ready cook the pasta in a pan of boiling water according to instructions (usually between 9 and 11 minutes). Drain pasta when ready
6. Add pesto to the pan with the pasta and mix through
7. Serve on a warm plate and top with the roasted vegetables and parmesan cheese if using



And Finally....



The Witchcraft Act of 1735 contained a clause preventing the consumption of pork and pastry comestibles on Halloween. The act was however repealed in the 1950s so it is now legal to also offer pork pies or sausage rolls to children as treats at Halloween.

The question is what will kids today think if they are offered a pork pie when out guising!