

# Rising Star

September 2015 / ISSUE 06

## Farewell Legard Works, Hello Kingsland Hub!



After delays due to the flood earlier in the year, PBHA's offices have now moved to Kingsland Hub.

Liz and Leanne are in reception to give you a warm welcome, whether you're coming to see your support worker, taking a course in our new training rooms, or would like advice and guidance from our learning and employability team.

Come down, see the space and make yourselves at home! (See p13 for a map)

Legard Works, our old office in Highbury, closed its doors on 25 September.

We have many happy memories of PBHA's 33 years there—from legendary Pride parties, the magical art studio and joinery and many tasty meals in Legard Bistro.

Although we'll miss this special space, we're looking forward to providing even better support and services for everyone from Kingsland Hub.



### IN THIS ISSUE

### Page

Making the move	1
Letter from Clare	2
New faces at PBHA	3
Latest courses	4/5
Pride 2015	6
Trip to Brighton	7
Getting online	7
Summer with VCS	8
Streetart Walkabout	9
Images of Hackney	10
Geffrye St Workshop	11
Outpost : What's on	11
A Sad Loss	12
New address	13



PBHA says  
farewell to  
Andrew  
Tyers p2

## Letter from Clare

Dear all,  
I'm sure it is important to you that as a housing association PBHA is good Value for Money, or in other words, we give a good service for as low a price as possible. Over the Summer, we have been looking at how we did this last year and how we can best improve. We explain how we have done in our annual review of 2014-15, hopefully it arrived with this issue of *Rising Star*.

We've achieved some good improvements this year:

- **Reducing service charges** by deducting telephone charges and TV licencing
- **Improving our repairs response times**
- **Improving rent collection** and letting empty properties.

However there are other areas we need to improve upon:

- **Move on** to independent housing
- Investing in **upgrading your flats**
- **Reducing the cost of delivering our services** so we can reduce your charges, compare well with other housing associations and win tenders.

Therefore, you will see some significant changes to how we run PBHA this year.

One of the main changes where we work from, **Kingsland Hub**. This will mean that we make some changes to our staffing as the services we offer change. This move will save us significant amounts in the medium term, as we have one instead of two main offices to run. We are investing in your properties - firstly improving their safety features such as fire protection, followed by improving floors, boilers, kitchens and bathrooms.

Also, to balance our budget, we have had to postpone some plans to upgrade the website, make better use of low cost local authority staff training instead of running our own courses, and reduce our sessional staff in both Vocational and Community Services and the property team.

How we run courses may look slightly different as



we use our own staff as much as possible and seek to run popular courses.

We'll also continue to invest

in social enterprise so we can provide training while generating an income to fund our services. We invest heavily in our VCS services so there are vocational and training opportunities which are designed for you, please do make the most use of them.

Also, while we had hoped to start the upgrades to kitchens and bathrooms this year, we have had to change our focus to fire safety as a higher priority. Kitchen, bathroom and flooring upgrades will follow in 2016/17 with the urgent ones first.

Lastly, to bring the opportunities to help more vulnerable people reach independence, we're reorganising the senior team. We said farewell to **Andrew Tyers** at the end of September and welcomed **Vanessa Morris** as *Head of Services*. We'll also welcome a new *Head of Business* in October.

Andrew has given 30 years service to PBHA and seen many changes. He has been an enormous support to us all, a loyal and hardworking colleague who has strived for tenants to be at the centre of PBHA. We thank him wholeheartedly for his commitment.

**Clare Norton, CEO**

## New faces at PBHA

### Vanessa Morris: Head of Services

“I’m delighted to be joining Peter Bedford Housing Association, particularly when we’re just moving to the brand new Kingsland Hub! My role is Head of Services.

“It is a new role; and I’m responsible for overseeing our housing, supported housing and employability and community services.

“My background is in developing and running services for better mental health, and I’m passionate about peer support and how people can get better results by working together.

“I look forward to working with you, sharing our challenges and ideas.”



### Andy Love: Chair of the Board



“It's great to be joining the Board of the PBHA. I recognise the responsibilities I am taking on as the new Chair and will do my utmost to live up to the confidence shown in me by the Trustees.

"My first task is to get round and see for myself what PBHA is all about and to find out from everyone involved what they see as the most important priorities and how we can work together to achieve them.

“At a time of great change for housing associations, I am looking forward to the challenge of growing and improving the services we provide. I hope that you will join me by playing a part in making PBHA the organisation of choice for tenants and participants living in this part of London.”

## Learning and Employability: New Courses

5 October to 18 December 2015

### MONDAY

#### Clothes-Making for Beginners

*(6 week course)*

10am - 4pm

Geffrye Street Workshop



#### Employability and Confidence Building

*(6 week course starts 1 November)*

10am - 1.30pm

Geffrye Street Workshop



#### Joinery Product Design & Personal Practice

10am - 4pm

Geffrye Street Workshop

### TUESDAY

#### Entry 3 ICT Qualification

*(12 week course)*

10am - 12pm

Kingsland Hub

#### Joinery Product Design & Personal Practice

10am - 4pm

Geffrye Street Workshop

#### Craft Studio for All

10am - 4pm

Clissold Community Hub

#### Outpost - Retail Training

11am - 2pm

2:30pm - 5pm

Outpost



**Gardening for All**

10am - 4pm  
Clissold Community Hub

**Functional Maths**

*(9 week course)*  
10am - 4pm  
Kingsland Hub

**Textiles for Interiors**

10am - 4pm  
Geffrye Street Workshop

**Outpost - Retail Training**

11am - 2pm, 2:30pm - 5pm  
Outpost

**Evening Furniture-Making course**

*(Starts 14 October 2015)*  
6pm - 8pm  
Geffrye Street Workshop

**Mixed Media Illustration**

5pm - 8pm  
Geffrye Street Workshop

**THURSDAY**

**Entry 3 ICT Qualification**

*(12 week course)*  
10am - 12pm  
Kingsland Hub

**Outpost - Retail Training**

11am - 2pm  
2:30pm - 5pm  
Outpost



**FRIDAY**

**Age UK**

9am - 5pm  
Kingsland Hub

**HOW TO REGISTER FOR A COURSE**

Please speak to your support worker or contact VCS: [vcs@peterbedford.org](mailto:vcs@peterbedford.org)

**VENUE ADDRESSES**

**Clissold Community Hub**

23A Clissold Road, N16 9EX

**Isledon Community Hub**

179a Isledon Road N7 7JP

**Outpost**

546 Holloway Road, N7 6JP

**Geffrye Street Workshop**

83A Geffrye Street, E2 8JA

**Kingsland Hub**

242 Kingsland Road, E84DG

# Pride 2015

The weather could not have been better and a fantastic time was had by all who attended this year's LGBT Pride celebration in August. Clare opened the party with a lovely speech, recognising the hard work and contribution of the Tenants' Committee.

Over 60 tenants and participants joined in the fun, enjoying the truly delicious



Caribbean food, which was mostly organised and prepared by tenants Carol Cameron and Patrick Caffrey. We mustn't forget to thank Kathryn, who also worked hard to make the buffet complete.

The band *Music For People*, an acoustic trio, performed retro covers that tenants danced and sang along with. After the band we had a *PBHA's Got Talent* competition, with the first prize won by Rob, for his wonderful version of Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*.

Andrew Tyers was DJ and karaoke host, and the atmosphere was fantastic with everyone singing and dancing. There was a tombola, fruit punch and a beautiful cake. Many people dressed up in wigs and costumes of rainbow colours, that added to the carnival atmosphere.



The party was rounded off with the traditional releasing of balloons, an emotional moment remembering loved ones.

As the last Pride ever at Legard Works, it was a truly special and memorable event. ★

## Visit to Reading Pride



A group of PBHA tenants visited Reading Pride the following month. Thanks to Robert Walker for forwarding this picture of tenants Michael and Carol.

## Trip to Brighton: 'A breath of fresh air'

The trip to Brighton was a great success, with the coach loaded with 50 tenants and participants and staff.

We could not have hoped for better weather, with the sun shining and clear blue skies.

Once we arrived and distributed the packed lunches, everyone went about doing their own thing.



Some wandered around the vintage antiques shops at The Lanes, some walked on the beach, while others ventured to the funfair on the famous Brighton Pier.

“It was a very powerful and emotional time for me, because I used to live in Brighton,” said Alex. “Brighton is a really lovely place and it was like a breath of fresh air to visit again.” ★

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## Internet and IT for Beginners

### *New Drop-in at Isledon Canteen*

For the next six weeks, we will be running a pilot drop-in every Wednesday and Thursday afternoon at Isledon Canteen.

Tenants Phil and Kevin will be there to offer friendly support to help you go on-line, set up an email address, or help with making a poster, for example.

You might also want to learn how to buy

something off e-bay or Amazon, learn how to download music, or need help contacting someone through facebook.

You do not need to book, just turn up on the day.

**Drop-ins run from 2pm-5pm,  
Wednesdays and Thursdays from 23  
September. ★**

## Summer Sports Day at Clissold Park

A fun and energetic time was had by all that went to the Sports Day at Clissold Park in August.

The Apple and Spoon Race was won by Velma, the Fast Walking Race was won by Elaine, and the Apple Throwing Competition was won by Nigel.

*“We were playing music and all the girls started dancing to r&b. It was really great fun”*

- Leanne

All taking part were presented with certificates.



After the competitions there was a picnic in the park and the sun came out. ★

## Poetry on Hampstead Heath



Everyone had a lovely time combining poetry with a relaxing walk on Hampstead Heath in August.

Each participant wrote a piece of poetry before visiting the swans and taking a gentle stroll to the mixed bathing pond.

Watch this space for another trip, which is planned for the near future.

*Would you like to join us on similar activities at PBHA? Contact VCS for more information: [vcs@peterbedford.org.uk](mailto:vcs@peterbedford.org.uk)*

## Street Art Walkabout

### Part 2

Following the popular *Street Art Walkabout* (that was featured in the last *Rising Star*), **Bablu** led another tour of East London's thriving street art scene at the beginning of September.

Bablu really knows his stuff when it comes to various artists. He also explains how art is the type of subject that gets people talking and can lead to people making new friends.

Even as we were discussing one particular piece of work, a passer-by stopped and began talking to us about the piece (featured).

The lady was a book illustrator, and as we began discussing the work with a complete stranger – Bablu's point was proven on the spot!

Everyone really enjoyed the experience, one saying she now looks at street art in a completely different light. *Creative Industries* plan to run the walks regularly, so do get in touch with **Orla** if you are thinking of doing something new. I personally can highly recommend it! *Mandy*



*The Tiger was done by French artist Olivier Roubieu and the Father Ted was part of the Art Under the Hood 'Sowing Seeds Project'.*

## Guardian Witness does social housing

*The Guardian* newspaper is looking for stories, photos and memories from people who've lived in or are living in social housing.

This could be a story about what social housing has given you - what you like about it, or how it's helped you. People can submit photos, short videos, or just write text, and then it will be featured as a gallery on the website.

*The Guardian* is looking to get a good mix - people young and old, from all around the country. If you have something you'd like to share, you can upload contributions directly to their website, or you can email [dawn.foster@theguardian.com](mailto:dawn.foster@theguardian.com) for more information.

If you have a story or photo that you'd like to contribute and would like help putting it on the website, please contact **Mandy**.

## Street photographers showcase work at Outpost

A series of striking images of urban life in Hackney was on display at Outpost in September, showcasing the achievements of seven budding photographers on PBHA's *'Introduction to Street Photography'*.

The course, led by artist Roman Manfredi and funded by the Hackney Learning Trust, is one of many art and design courses offered by PBHA's Creative Industries.

The group explored street photography in a psychological and physical context, working with four main themes: shadows and reflections; people; shapes, patterns and texture; signs and symbols. Each person interpreted the brief in different ways.

*"This course has built my confidence in talking and speaking to people"*

The group created images using a variety of compact digital cameras. They also learned how to make and use pinhole cameras to take photos on the street, and developed their own images in a darkroom.

Learners experienced the journey of the photographic process: Project brief, observation on location, photography, creative expression, printing, image selection, and finally curating their exhibition for a public audience in Outpost, building pride and aspiration.



Photo by Nathaniel Holland

The group observed and responded to their surroundings, developing an eye for capturing real moments as they happen in different environments and situations.

They learnt ways to approach strangers to ask if they could take their photograph. Engaging with people for this purpose required courage and confidence, bringing unexpected challenges, new connections and fun.

*"It has broadened my horizons of what I can do with photographs"*

The course has been a great inspiration to learners, as well as meeting PBHA's core values - **PRIDE** - Participation, Respect, Inclusion, Diversity, Empowerment .

The exhibition launch was held on 2 September. The evening was well attended with mocktails, music and mingling. ★

## Creative Industries: Geffrye Street Workshop

3 solo exhibitions, designer tote bags, a collection of hand-printed greeting cards and notebooks, evening courses for the general public and PBHA client, beautifully made wood product and furniture commissions and a community quilt exploring identity and family. These are some of the striking and inspiring projects completed by participants with PBHA's *Creative Industries* over the past year.

Geffrye Street Workshop is the brand new centre for this pioneering programme, which provides welcoming spaces for people with a wide range of support needs to build confidence, skills and social bonds, through art, craft and design. We offer workshops and courses in fine art, textiles, joinery and printmaking.



Encouraging respect, solidarity and paying it forward among participants to promote a challenging and energetic environment enabling growth and aspiration.

We run courses throughout the year—come and join us!



83A Geffrye Street, Hackney, E2 8JA  
Tel: 020 3815 4100  
Email: [orla.oflanagan@peterbedford.org.uk](mailto:orla.oflanagan@peterbedford.org.uk)

### Outpost: New exhibition 7 October — 7 November



Emma Pugmire is a local artist who is passionate about ecology. She uses her art to observe and express the process of “man encroaching on the natural environment”.

“Being an artist is a basic need to communicate. It allows me to explore and respond to studies of nature and the world around me,” says Emma.

Volunteering with Rowan Arts has given Emma skills and confidence to be an artist and the ambition to reach a wider audience.

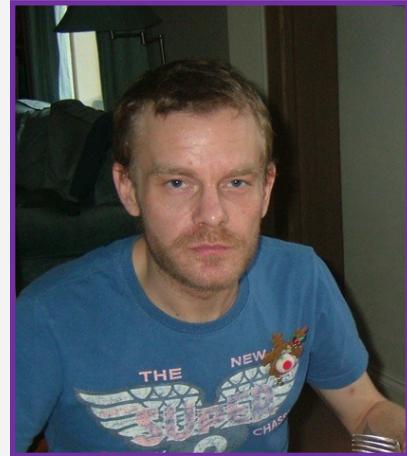
Outpost provides a platform for local artists and community projects, and Emma approached us about exhibiting with the *Supporting Makers* programme of Peter Bedford Housing Association (PBHA) - Creative Industries.

## A Sad Loss

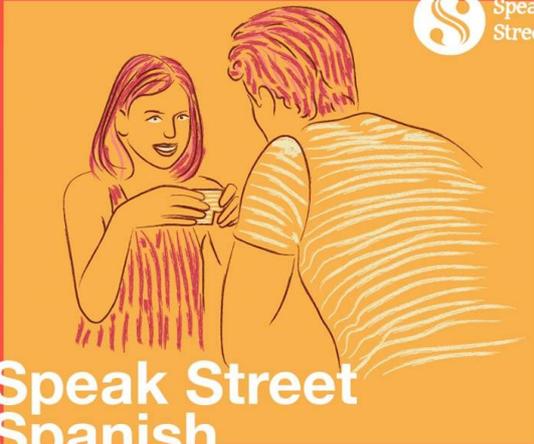
It is to our deepest and heartfelt regret to inform you that Lee Beedell sadly passed away in August 2015, aged 38.

Lee has been with Peter Bedford since 2011, and worked with Mariama Missamri and Yasmin Simpson. Lee is originally from Oxford and will be missed dearly by family, friends and all who knew him.

His funeral was held in Oxford on the morning of 21 October.★



## ¡Hola! Learn Spanish in Archway



**Speak Street Spanish**

September 15th & 29th  
October 13th & 27th  
November 10th

6.30-8pm  
Oak and Pastor 86 Junction Rd,  
London, N19 5QZ

To sign up or volunteer your Spanish skills contact  
joanna@speak-street.com or call 07754204582

www.speak-street.com @Speak\_Street

### Upcoming Sessions

Email to book your place or volunteer your language skills!

### Speak Street French

Thursday 8th October 6.30-8pm at The Oak and Pastor (upstairs) with Toni  
86 Junction Road, Archway N19 5QZ £5 a session

### Speak Street Spanish

Tuesdays 6.30-8pm  
September 29, October 13 & 27,  
November 10  
The Oak and Pastor (upstairs) with Uli  
86 Junction Road, Archway N19 5QZ  
£5 a session

## We have moved to Kingsland Hub

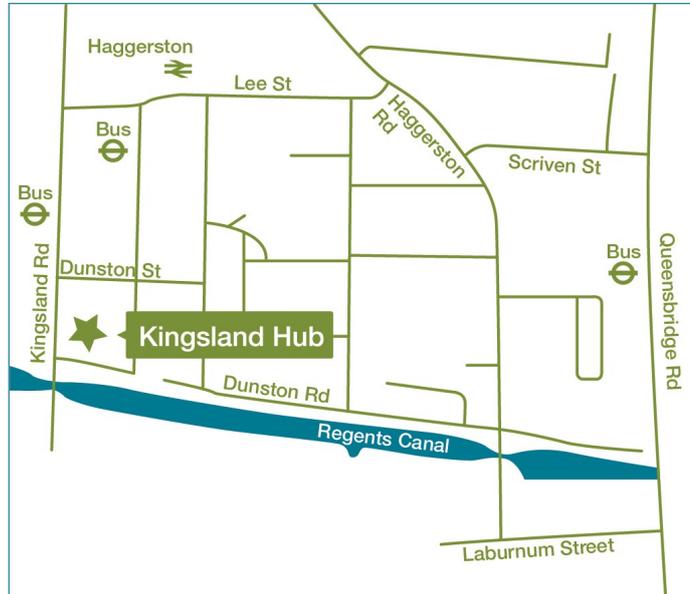
Peter Bedford Housing Association's new address is:

**Kingsland Hub**  
242 Kingsland Road  
London  
E8 4DG

**Phone:** 020 3815 4100  
**Email:** [admin@peterbedford.org.uk](mailto:admin@peterbedford.org.uk)

**Opening times**  
Mon-Fri: 9:30-5:30

**Buses:** 236, 243, 67, 149, 242  
**Overground:** Haggerston



*Please note that Legard Works is now closed.*

### New Phone Numbers

Our phone numbers have changed:

- **Main office:** 020 3815 4100
- **Property Repairs:** 020 3815 4123
- **Out of Hours Helpline:** 020 3815 4099

### Clissold Hub Support Drop-in

#### Opening Times:

Monday	11am—12 pm & 2pm—3pm
Wednesday	11am—12 pm & 2pm—3pm
Friday	11am—12 pm & 2pm—3pm

### Isledon Hub Support Drop-in

#### Opening Times:

Tuesday	9.30am—1.30
Thursday	1.30pm—5.30pm

*If you'd like to send in an article or picture for Rising Star, please contact Mandy:  
[Mandy.Mansfield@peterbedford.org.uk](mailto:Mandy.Mansfield@peterbedford.org.uk).*

