

Peter Bedford Housing Association celebrates

Volunteers' Week 2020!

SPOTLIGHT on Tenant Trustee & Digital Champion, Tim

Volunteer since: 2019

Hours to date: 200+

What were your reasons/motivations for volunteering?

In 2012 I came to London, survived the first year quite well, and then hit rock bottom, becoming homeless and generally loosing my way. In 2016 I managed to get a new flat, but became depressed and things spiralled down again; I then spent six months fighting eviction. This was my turning point, and with the help of Hackney Borough Council I became a tenant of Peter Bedford Housing Association (PBHA).



Why did you choose to volunteer at PBHA?

I got a copy of Rising Star through my letter box and was surprised by the scope of PBHA's activities supporting and involving tenants. I saw an advert asking for help with producing the magazine and with my background in business, I thought this was something I could get involved with. From that moment the opportunities opened up and I became a volunteer.

What has been your most memorable experience?

I was on the Working Group for PBHA's 50th Anniversary celebration, at which I created a quiz for the Clissold Park party. It was a wonderful day where I met a lot of staff and other tenants. The weather was rubbish but this didn't dampen the events. I was asked if I was interested in becoming a Tenant Trustee, my first reaction was no, but I thought about it and decided, why not. It would be something my grandson (five at the time) could be proud of, and I felt I could give something back to society by becoming a Trustee.

Has volunteering had a positive impact in other areas of your life?

It is a wonderful way of giving something back, learning and gaining new skills and enjoying yourself. I enjoy my varied responsibilities and after each shift I always feel satisfied when I get home.

Kamye, Training & Assessment Coordinator commented: "Thank you for the countless hours you put in as a Tenant Trustee and for helping participants improve their digital skills. We are truly grateful for all your efforts, you are an incredible asset to the community!".