



SPRING 2018

pioneer press



THE NEWSLETTER FOR TENANTS AND RESIDENTS OF WOMEN'S PIONEER HOUSING

CHANGE

Women's Pioneer board has just agreed a **new corporate plan** for the next five years. Chief executive Denise Fowler explains



PHOTO BY LUCY BAKER

Our vision is to make a positive difference to women's lives. We want to provide homes and services which offer a springboard to help independent women achieve their potential. But we are a small organisation, so we also want to influence other housing providers to do the same.

Making a difference

Nearly a century after Women's Pioneer was first founded, women still face huge challenges in trying to find and keep safe, secure, affordable housing.

Statistics from the ONS's *Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings* show that the gender pay gap in London is 20.5%, shockingly the largest in the whole of the UK. Female employment in London is lower than anywhere else in

the country, and lower still for mothers (63% in London vs 73% nationwide) and BME women (56% of women vs 72% of BME men).

Women's income in retirement is much lower than men's, due to the gender pay gap and the fact that women are more likely to take time out of their working lives to meet caring responsibilities.

The prevalence of domestic abuse and sexual harassment of women also significantly increases the need for women-only, safe, secure affordable housing. Women are more likely to experience domestic abuse and more likely to experience repeated abuse.

➔ **CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO**

Inside this issue

3 BEFORE WE GO

Course on planning your own farewell gets top marks

4 TENANT ENGAGEMENT

New strategy should put your views at the heart of our work

5 OPINION: TSP CHAIR

Thoughts on culture change from our tenant scrutiny panel chair

5 WPRA AGM NOTICE

Your invite to the AGM on 18 May

6 HISTORY PROJECT

Call out for volunteers to help with HLF-funded suffrage history project

7 INVENTION ROOMS

Exciting new community service at Imperial College's new campus

8, 9 HOUSING NEWS

Your fire safety questions and new improved domestic abuse response

10 JOBS & VOLUNTEERING

Free new courses and opportunities with Best Chance

10 EMERGENCIES

Urgent repairs out of hours

11 THE QUIZ

Test your suffrage expertise

11 THE RELUCTANT COOK

Asparagus and potato fritatta

Women make up 98% of police-recorded crimes of repeated domestic abuse (more than 10 incidents) involving physical injury. One in 10 homelessness acceptances relate to domestic abuse. The lack of suitable affordable housing in London is acute.

Our new plan includes clear objectives setting out what we will do and values which set out how we will work. Key to this is a new resident engagement strategy setting out how we will work in partnership with you to achieve our aims.

High quality homes and services

We want to work with you to develop new home and service standards, to make sure we meet your needs and that everyone knows what they can expect. Quarterly telephone surveys will ask residents for feedback on our homes and services. I hope that many of you will take part as your responses will help us to understand what is important to you and how we can best improve our homes and services.

Your independence and wellbeing

We will work with you to develop our homes, both old and new, and our services to support your independence and wellbeing.

We are introducing a new aids and adaptations policy to support women with disabilities, eg to provide items such grab rails for baths and toilets which will make life easier.

We continue to work to support the needs of women experiencing domestic abuse, and have received accreditation from DAHA (the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance).

We are offering IT training to all residents, as many of you have suggested that this was key to maintaining your independence and avoiding isolation.

Providing more homes

We can never hope to meet the full demand for women's housing, but we aim to grow by at least 15% in the next five years. We want to work with you to develop the type of homes you and future residents need. For example, our new development

at Wood Lane will provide twice as many flats as Browning House has now – and they will all be larger. As a result of your feedback, they are being designed to lifetime homes space standards, and will have two lifts, making the flats more accessible for older or less mobile residents.

A leading voice for women's housing

The above statistics show there is an overwhelming need for decent, affordable, secure housing for women. We want to work with others who share our vision to influence providers across the housing sector, to do more to meet women's needs.

We are working with the Chartered Institute of Housing and the National Housing Federation to take this forward. We hope to conduct more research into women's housing needs, and to establish a Women's Housing Forum. Your views and experience will inform this work.

In addition our Heritage Lottery Fund history project, Pioneering Courage will help us show how housing has always been important to helping women achieve in other areas of their lives. We need volunteers so hope as many of you as possible will become involved. See page 6 for more on the Heritage Lottery Fund-backed project.

Organisational strength

We want to make sure we remain financially robust and that our staff are engaged and empowered to provide the best homes and service possible. We have conducted a governance review, revising our structures and developing new policies to take into account resident feedback and best practice. For example, our residents' scrutiny panel is carrying out reviews of our services and putting forward their recommendations to our board.

A lot is changing at Women's Pioneer Housing and we need your help. See page 4 to see how else you can become involved.

If you would like to read the full corporate plan please download a copy from www.womenspioneer.co.uk, call us on 020 8749 7112 or email info@womenspioneer.co.uk

OUR VALUES

We sat down with all our staff to agree the values we mean to uphold.

P Positivity: we're proud of our history and positive about our future. Like our founders, we have a can do attitude. We are innovative, bold and solution-focused.

I Integrity: we are open, honest and transparent. We respect each other and our residents.

O One team: we work collaboratively with each other, with our residents and our partners as one team.

N Never forgetting the customer. We always take a customer-centred approach. In everything we do we consider what is best for existing and future residents.

E Equality: we champion equality and diversity and, in particular, the role that women's housing plays in tackling gender inequality.

E Empowerment: our homes and services empower our residents to live independent lives. Staff and residents are empowered to contribute to the development of our homes and services.

R Responsibility: we are each accountable for delivering excellence. We welcome scrutiny and challenge, always seeking to improve. We are clear about our responsibilities and those of our residents.

SAVE PAPER, CUT COSTS

In 2013 one of you asked us to send all our correspondence by email. Now over 200 of you use this service and we offer it to all new tenants when they first sign up. We use email for all our correspondence, except certain legal documents which have to go by post. As well as saving on postage, we now use less paper and have cut toner and printing costs.

If you'd like your correspondence from us sent by email please email john.palmer@womenspioneer.co.uk

Before we go: top marks for new course on planning your own 'farewell'

On the right are just some of the many positive comments from women attending the Before We Go course at Mary Smith Court in January. Course creator Maggie Wootton reports

The course was aimed at Women's Pioneer residents with no next of kin, to help us prepare for our deaths.

Course focus

There were five sessions in January. Working with the Last Rights project and a funeral director from Lodges, we learnt about funeral choices, power of attorney, will writing, prepaid funeral plans, cultural differences and living wills.

We are grateful to the Westway Trust for funding this course.

The seed was sown by a resident who was distressed by the thought of dying alone and unprepared. We knew other residents must have similar fears.

We plan to keep in touch and move forward with our plans, such as producing a respectful death policy for Women's Pioneer.

Everyone rated the course at the highest level and all would recommend the course to others.



Practical measures to bring you peace of mind

Pioneer Press was intrigued by Maggie's course. It tackles a sensitive subject that most of us find difficult to discuss so we had a few questions.

None of us like the thought of dying, but nor do we like the idea of having no control over what may happen if no one is there to speak up for us.

'I was expecting a lot of tears, and there was at one stage,' Maggie said, 'but over the five weeks it was really light-hearted and amusing.'

'People had been holding onto this fear. Someone said: "A veil has been lifted off me." It was a very interesting process, writing about what you want done and what you don't.'

The course explains some simple but practical measures you can take.

One, says Maggie, is Message in a Bottle. 'You have a sticker on the inside of your front door so if you collapse the paramedics have to look for a bottle in your fridge where there's a message explaining everything people will want to know about your medical needs and contacts.'

Will the course be running again? 'We don't have a waiting list but we may run it again or team up with the Last Rights stall publicising Message in a Bottle at Westway in May.'

We were still waiting for details of the Last Rights stall as we went to press so keep an eye on your house noticeboard.

END OF LIFE PLANNING WORKSHOPS



The Last Rights project is holding end-of-life planning workshops at Mary Flux Court on 11, 18 and 25 April, from 3pm to 4.30pm.

- The workshops will cover:
- power of attorney
- advance care planning
- wills
- funerals
- organ and tissue donation.

Everyone welcome. No need to book. Just turn up on the day.

Mary Flux Court 25 Bramham Gardens, Earl's Court, SW5

Meet the Managers

Our next **Meet the Managers** event will be on **23 May**, at **Brickfields Hall, off Shinfield Street, W12 0BZ**.

The closest tube stations are White City (Central line) and Wood Lane (Hammersmith & City line). Local bus routes are: 7, 70, 72, 220, 272, 283.

As usual, the middle management team will be there from **3pm to 6pm**. We are: housing manager Matthew Wicks, finance manager Sangeeta Kakati, estate services manager Jamie Beckwith, asset manager Roger Barton, corporate services manager Susan Bernard and housing inclusion manager Aidan McCarthy.

On this occasion, we are pleased to say that **chief executive Denise Fowler** will also be joining us.

Come along to let us know what's on your mind, if there's anything we can help you with, or just to share a cup of tea and a biscuit with us.

The meetings are busy so to make sure you get to speak to the manager or managers you want to see please book in advance. **To reserve a place, contact us at info@womenspioneer.co.uk or 020 8749 7112.**

Join the **EDITORIAL PANEL**

Pioneer Press is a way for you to hear our news but also to share your news and ideas with other tenants. The content for each issue is decided by an editorial panel of staff and residents, which meets four times a year.

If you would like to join the editorial panel or contribute to the next issue, please let us now. Just call corporate services administrator Kim Culhane on 020 8749 7112.

Putting your views at centre-stage

OUR NEW RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

In January our board approved our new draft strategy for involving you in our work, welcoming the new approach and agreeing our plans for its delivery. **Matthew Wicks** reports

In the last edition of *Pioneer Press*, we told you about our new approach to working with you. We explained our vision, 'that we will make a positive difference to women's lives', and said your involvement was vital to our achieving this.

We are taking expert guidance on putting the strategy action points into practice from Samantha Goodwin, a consultant from TPAS – the Tenant Participation Advisory Service.

We also commissioned a company called TLF to phone tenants to ask if you would like to have a say in how WPH's homes and services are developed, and 78% of you said yes.

It is clear that there are many more ways you would like to be involved. The growing list includes formal meetings, focus groups, letters, texting, emails and the website.

Thank you to all of you who answered our questions. If you didn't get a call but would still like to be

involved, please contact me.

We've made sure our resident engagement strategy is closely linked to the five objectives in our corporate plan, and that each objective gives you an opportunity to have your say. We will learn from your views and adapt our policies, procedures and approach. See below for just two of our initial ideas on ways we will give you more of a say in our service.

The strategy will be overseen by a resident engagement project group made up of tenants, staff, and board members to make sure it delivers these objectives. Updates in *Pioneer Press* will tell you how it is getting on. Residents will always be in the majority in this group, and we are keen to encourage more residents to join.

If you would like to join the project group, please call me on 020 3657 9258 or email Matthew.Wicks@womenspioneer.co.uk

More ways to give you a stronger voice

One of the objectives in our corporate plan is 'providing high quality homes and services'. Under this we've listed all the ways we plan to do this, including: We will consult with residents on key activities eg cyclical maintenance or improvements to kitchens. We will consult with residents on our proposed new home and service standards.

We will continue to develop ways you can individually find out more about our approach and to influence our day to day work, such as walking around with ESOs when they do their health and safety inspections.

Or, if we're planning to use contractors in your building we will first give you and your neighbours an opportunity to meet the on-site team and with our consultant overseers.

OPINION: TENANT SCRUTINY PANEL CHAIR

* culture change

Board-level support

Having attended the last board meeting in January, I observed members to be dedicated to improving our standard of living. I was pleased to hear expressed, the need for a cultural change within Women's Pioneer. Certainly poignant. The number of panel recommendations the board approves is very encouraging.

Reviewing communications

Our current review focuses on communication, between Women's Pioneer and ourselves. This is an area you have highlighted as needing great improvement.

I hope the success of this review will be experienced by everyone! We are scrutinising the effectiveness of current communication methods, such as email, verbal interactions and ways in which the website can be made more

interactive. New methods being explored could include social media and texting.

Your views and priorities

Women's Pioneer has been carrying out surveys to establish your views, priorities and complaints. I believe this will be one of many ways that genuine cultural change can initially start, for us residents.

Please take advantage of the surveys to feed back issues you'd like to see changed. This is your chance to have more control. After all, these are services you pay for!

Resident engagement

The tenant scrutiny panel and resident engagement strategy should be a bridge, improving the symbiotic relationship between residents and staff.

This new strategy is well produced and very promising. The challenge will be putting it into practice but, when it does work, it will give you greater control over services you pay for - and it is an opportunity to get more transparent and efficient communication with Women's Pioneer. This should bring about a happier and more trusting environment for both.

Sam Goodwin from TPAS has been largely instrumental in setting up this new strategy (see article on page 4, left), and it is required to be resident-led and monitored – great news! The steering group is already up and running and I wish it every success.

Feedback from the last review

The panel's scrutiny of empty homes will hopefully lead to greater consideration for new, disabled and vulnerable tenants, as well as from contractors moving forward. It is hoped following this review that a wave of culture change will prevail within Women's Pioneer.

Kasia Kwilecka
TSP CHAIR



Women's Pioneer Housing RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Welcome all residents!
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Friday 18 May



On the agenda:
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CONFIRMATION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Please tell your neighbours!
We hope to see you there

Venue: St Peter's Church, Kensington Park Road
(opposite Stanley Gardens)
Doors open at 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start

For further information, please ring Maggie on **020 7229 8471** or email womenspioneerresidents@gmail.com

SUFFRAGE HISTORY

History project gets underway

CALL OUT FOR VOLUNTEERS



As announced in the winter edition of *Pioneer Press*, we have been awarded funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to research our **suffrage history**. We would really like your help with this, so this is a call for volunteers

Our project is called **Pioneering courage: housing and the new working woman 1919-1939**. It aims to explore the link between the campaign for women's suffrage, housing and women's emerging role in the workplace between the wars.

Working women

We are studying an era of huge drama. Eight million women had finally been given the right to vote two years earlier. But millions of women, including many who had nursed wounded or dying soldiers or served in the new women's military units, had not. The fight for full women's suffrage continued. Suffrage groups were setting new goals. There was a dire housing shortage, with couples and men snapping up any half decent empty flats. More women wanted to work and live independently than ever before and many more women had no choice as so many men had died in the Great War. So women's work and housing were on their agenda and our founders were at the heart of this.

They were a diverse group, including

both suffragists (non-confrontational) and suffragettes (with a 'deeds not words' approach). It had been thought the two seldom worked together. Our founding history dismantles that myth.

Lots of our history is documented in old archive material found in our safe so part of what we'll do will be studying that, focusing on the years up to World War Two. We would like your help with this research and to find out more generally about the lives of women in that era. We often read about the rich and famous – but what of women who were neither? What do you remember about the lives of your older women friends, relatives and neighbours?

We will also research the women who lived in our homes. Who were they? How was each house divided, what services did tenants have? Importantly, what difference did having an affordable home make to their lives?

To find out more speak to your ESO or scheme manager, call 020 8749 7112 or email Symone.Clark-McGuire@womenspioneer.co.uk

Museum of London suffrage exhibition

VOTES FOR WOMEN

Exhibition open daily 10am to 6pm until **6 January 2019**

Entrance free

**Museum of London,
150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN**

The exhibition features iconic objects from the museum's vast suffrage collection, including Emmeline Pankhurst's hunger strike medal.

At the heart of the display is a newly commissioned film that reflects on the contemporary relevance of the militant campaign that continues to inspire, shock and divide opinion.

Pioneering suffragist artist Amy Swynnerton

Review by Jamie Beckwith

Manchester Art Gallery is until 6 January hosting a free exhibition of the paintings of pioneering artist Annie Swynnerton.

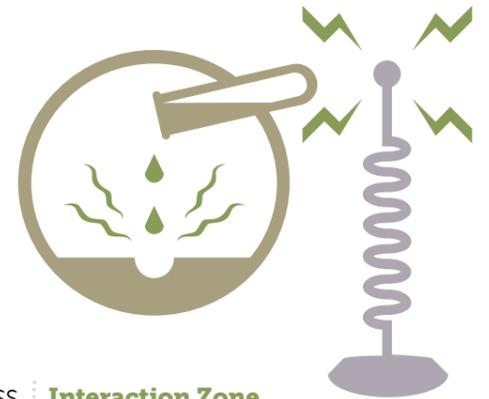
I was recently in Manchester and took the opportunity to visit. In 1879 she co-founded with Susan Isabel Dacre the Manchester Society of Women Painters, which gave women access to art education.

Her work was exhibited around the country and in 1922 she became the first woman to be elected a member of the Royal Academy of Arts.

Swynnerton was an active feminist and in 1889 was one of the signatories to the NUWSS's Declaration in Favour of Women's Suffrage.

Swynnerton painted portraits of many prominent late Victorian and Edwardian people including those active in the long-running campaign for women's suffrage, among them Millicent Fawcett Garrett (on display at Manchester), Louisa Garrett Anderson and Ethel Smyth.

Bring out your inner scientist... and much more



Imperial College London is building a new campus just across the road from Women's Pioneer's offices, that will be a centre of discovery and innovation. Pioneer Way tenants have invited Imperial's **Tom Pearson** and **Priya Pallan** to tell us more



Local school pupils getting creative in the Reach Out Makerspace

Last autumn Imperial opened its Invention Rooms, a pioneering innovation and community space on Wood Lane, just a short walk from Women's Pioneer's own offices. The Invention Rooms are already a place where people of all ages and backgrounds are putting their mind to new ways to solve the sort of problems they face, then turning their ideas into prototypes with the help of cutting-edge technology.

Cutting edge technology

Under this one roof, you'll find workshops and design studios where local people are enjoying interactive events and activities, and sharing the wonder of science, making and discovery.

The three main invention spaces here are already thriving and humming with activities.

Reach Out Makerspace

At this workshop and design studio, 14-18 year olds from local schools are getting hands-on experience of making prototypes for their own inventions.

At their weekly sessions they learn to use tools like 3D printers and laser cutters, supported by Imperial College staff and students.

Ideas pupils have so far come up with include a drone that delivers emergency supplies, trainers that play music and generate energy, and hearing aids adapted to make them more appealing to young children.

Interaction Zone

At the heart of the rooms is the Interaction Zone where local people and college staff and students come together to share their ideas and inspire each other.

Later on this year the space will include a café, events space, meeting rooms and an outdoor terrace where you and other members of the public can pop in to enjoy a coffee with us.

This zone will also host diverse activities, including workshops, drop-in sessions, collaborative projects, dialogues and debates, evening classes, and social events. Helping us to co-create this space is a panel of people from the local community.

Advanced Hackspace

In this unique workshop, college staff, past and current students and commercial partners get to use highly specialist equipment like robotics, microfluidics, digital fabrication, and a bio lab.

How to get involved

Campus Tours On the last Friday of every month, the community engagement team holds a walking tour for local people, charities and businesses. It's a great way to explore the campus and find out about our community plans and activities www.imperial.ac.uk/white-city-campus/community/opportunities-to-get-involved/campus-tour/

If you have any questions about our community engagement activities email us on whitecity.community@imperial.ac.uk

TEA & CAKE MEETINGS

We're bursting with ideas for ways you could be involved and suspect you have even better ones. We'll be hosting local tea and cake meetings to talk to you about the project and seek volunteers. Keep an eye out for dates and times of a meeting near you.



FIRE SAFETY FAQs



Since the dreadful tragedy at Grenfell Tower last summer we have undertaken extensive measures to further minimise the risk of fire in your homes. Some of our measures have triggered a lot of questions. Roger Barton and Jamie Beckwith answer those you've put to us most often

How is the fire risk assessed in the building I live in?

A fire risk assessment (FRA) is carried out for us by our consultants Menzies Associates. Before 2017 FRAs were done alongside planned maintenance works, so every eight years. The law doesn't say how often they should be done but after Grenfell we made sure every single property had its FRA reviewed in 2017. We will repeat them every three years, or sooner if there are significant changes in a property.

What fire equipment is there in my building?

Every property with shared areas has a fire panel in the main entrance hall and detectors all through the common parts. Any fire breaking out in these areas will trigger the alarm. There are emergency lights in all the shared areas.

All buildings that since 2016 have had planned repairs now have enhanced systems that link the fire panel to detectors in each flat. If a fire starts in any flat the alarm will ring, alerting everyone in the building.

Our original plan had been to fit the enhanced systems in line with our programme of planned works. Instead we've put it on fast forward so every single building will be upgraded by the end of this year.

How often is the fire equipment tested?

Every three months our contractors service the fire panel and test the emergency lights in each building. On those visits they also try to check detectors in your flats, if they are able to get in.

Can't I test the smoke detector in my flat myself?

We recommend you test it every week. But it's still our responsibility, by law, to make sure they work so we do have to test them annually.



A fire can very quickly create thick blinding smoke. Anyone trying to get out of the building may be feeling their way out along the walls [so] a pushchair or bike becomes a deadly obstacle.

Why can't I keep my pushchair / bike in the corridor? It's not in the way and people will see it.

You will see a pram or bike in daylight and normal conditions. A fire is not 'normal conditions'. It can very quickly create thick blinding smoke. Anyone trying to get out of the building may be feeling their way out along the walls. It's then that a pushchair or bike becomes a deadly obstacle. Anything that slows you down in an emergency can potentially be fatal.

Why can't I store things in the cupboards in the common parts?

The chances of a fire starting in a cupboard are very small but if one did the consequences could be huge. The cupboards in our buildings tend to be along the safest, sometimes only, route out so a fire could trap people in the building. That's why we're so strict about not letting you leave anything in the common parts, including the cupboards.

Why did you replace the cork noticeboards?

A bare cork noticeboard covered by loose paper could catch fire so we have replaced them with covered, lockable fire-resistant noticeboards. This cuts fire risk and makes sure important notices, including some we have to display, are easily seen.

Why did you take away the table we used for uncollected post?

We've moved all furniture on escape routes, where possible. We've done this for the same reason we don't let you leave bikes and buggies in shared areas - to remove all possible obstacles for anyone trying to feel their way out in thick smoke.

Why did you replace the table with a small shelf when there's so much uncollected post?

Firstly, uncollected post shouldn't have built up. We know people go away sometimes so their post may pile up for a while. If a fire started it would be just one more fire hazard. We expect you to collect your post daily when you're there. If you are going away please ask a neighbour or your ESO to put post under your door or hold it until you're back. Please remember that if you go away for more than four weeks at a time, your tenancy agreement says you have to tell your housing officer.

I am worried that I won't hear the alarm if it goes off

Please tell your housing officer if you have any concerns. There are things we can do to help, like give you a vibrating pillow or installing panels that light up if the alarm goes off.

I don't think I can get out of my flat fast enough if there's a fire.

Please tell your housing officer. We will call to do an assessment of your needs and arrange special support for you in an emergency situation.

Domestic abuse: recognition for our best practice



Two years ago we first mentioned in *Pioneer Press* the work we were doing with the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA). Aidan McCarthy offers a progress report

We are genuinely delighted to tell you that, after a long and intensive process of review and change, DAHA have awarded us their accreditation.

What is DAHA?

DAHA was founded in 2014 by domestic abuse specialists working for housing associations Peabody and Gentoo, and by some senior members of domestic abuse charity Standing Together Against Domestic Violence.

It recognised that finding a safe new home is one of the biggest obstacles for women wanting to flee an abusive situation, and that housing providers can and should do a great deal more to support, advise and aid women.

DAHA's accreditation is designed to make sure housing providers follow best practice when alerted to abuse, and that the entire organisation is committed to giving victims the best possible chance of a safe life.

It is being adopted nationwide, and is backed by the Home Office, London Councils, Comic Relief, and others.

DAHA: www.dahalliance.org.uk/
National Domestic Violence Helpline
Freephone, open 24-hours-a-day
☎ 0808 2000 247

Some of our new measures

Pan-London Housing Reciprocal Agreement: we were early signers of this London-wide agreement, backed by the Mayor, to give social housing tenants fleeing abuse a much better chance of a new life in the capital without losing their social tenancy.

New procedure: we have reviewed and rewritten our domestic abuse policy, adopted a clearer procedure to quickly give help and advice, set clear timescales and use a questionnaire to accurately assess danger. If you prefer, you can talk to a female employee.

Training for all: all new staff are briefed after joining so know how to respond if domestic abuse is disclosed to them, or they have concerns. Staff who do home visits get in-depth training to give them a deep awareness of the issues, our procedures, and the help we can either offer or help affected residents to get.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

Historically, we have had few reports of domestic abuse. This will be because we only give tenancies to women, and most of our flats are for one person. But domestic abuse is under-reported so we think it highly likely some of you are suffering domestic abuse and we don't know.

If you are, our hope is to give you the best possible chance to leave or for us to help you find a way to live more safely in your home.

We will continue to promote our help and to work on our services to keep our standards high.

If you want to speak to someone about domestic abuse, please call us on ☎ 020 8749 7112 and ask to speak to your housing officer.

We will meet you in any space safe for you, will take the time to listen to you and will find the best way forward for you.

Do you think you might have trouble in an emergency? Make sure we know

As part of our work on fire safety we are finding out which of you would find it difficult to leave the building if there was a fire. This is important information to help us help you.

Double-check

To make sure our information is totally accurate we have designed a short questionnaire. Your housing officer or scheme manager may call to complete the form with you.

It means we can organise extra help if needed and can agree the safest course of action in an emergency.

We are focusing first on those of you we have reason to believe may struggle to leave the building, and on new tenants we have not met before.

If you think you will have difficulty evacuating in an emergency, or are worried about a neighbour or friend, please call your housing officer on ☎ 020 8749 7112. If you live in sheltered housing, please speak to your scheme manager.

WHAT TO DO IF THE ALARM RINGS

In all of our properties, the rule is that if the fire alarm goes off then all of you should leave the building at once. We have old buildings so 'staying put' in your flat is not safe.

- Leave your flat by the closest safe exit, normally your front door.
- Close all doors behind you.
- Leave the building by the shortest, safest route - usually the main entrance.
- Go to your building's assembly point.
- Call the fire brigade on 999.

Best chance: practical help, work skills & volunteering

FREE NEW SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITIES, NOW ON OFFER TO WOMEN'S PIONEER HOUSING TENANTS

We have just begun working with **Best Chance**, a social enterprise run by Shepherd's Bush Housing Group, and over the next few months will be able to offer you a chance to use some of these Best Chance services.

Befriending

Would you like to volunteer to become a befriender, or do you know of someone who feels isolated so might benefit from being befriended?

Computer skills

Would you be interested in attending local training classes designed to improve your skills using computers? Absolute beginners are extremely welcome!

Employment skills

Are you finding it difficult to return to the workplace, and would you be interested in getting some advice and support to help?

Home improvement

Do you have a room that you would like to have decorated, or a garden space that needs to be tidied up?

There will be more information on these services, and others, in the summer issue of *Pioneer Press*.

If any of these sound as though they might interest you, please get in touch. Contact Aidan McCarthy on ☎ 020 8749 7112 or info@womenspioneer.co.uk

Surprise party for Dain Court's retiring cleaner Evelyn Anyanwu

One of our cleaners, Evelyn Anyanwu, retired in March after nearly 35 years with us.

Quiet farewell

Evelyn didn't want us to make a fuss about her retirement but the residents of Dain Court had views on that.

They didn't feel they could let Evelyn go without a show of their appreciation for all Evelyn's hard work over the years.

So before Evelyn went the residents organised a surprise gathering in the communal lounge to say their goodbyes.

Evelyn tells us she has nothing but fond memories of her time with Women's Pioneer and says she will miss us all.

DON'T LOOK NOW: ANSWERS TO OUR SUFFRAGE QUIZ

- 1 The Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU).
- 2 The Daily Mail.
- 3 The Palace of Westminster (her presence there is officially listed in the census records).
- 4 The Cat and Mouse Act.
- 5 30.
- 9 Nancy Astor in November 1919.
- 7 1928.
- 8 Mary Poppins.
- 6 Meryl Streep.
- 10 489.

TEST YOUR SUFFRAGE WITS: SPRING QUIZ

Women's Pioneer Housing wouldn't exist if it weren't for **women suffragists** from both the law abiding and more militant societies. Aidan McCarthy tests your suffrage knowledge



- 1 What organisation advocating direct action to secure suffrage for women, aka the right to vote, was co-founded in Manchester by Emmeline Pankhurst on 10 October 1903?
- 2 Which British newspaper first coined the term "suffragette", intending it as a term of derision?
- 3 Where did WSPU activist Emily Wilding Davison famously hide overnight on 2 April 1911, the night of a national census suffragists had been urged to boycott?
- 4 In 1913, a controversial Act of Parliament was passed allowing the temporary release from prison of suffragettes taking part in hunger strikes. By what name was it popularly known?
- 5 The Representation of the People Act of 1918 gave the vote to UK women who met a property qualification who were also over what age?
- 6 Who was the first woman to take her seat as a member of parliament in the UK?
- 7 In what year were women in the UK finally given the right to vote on the same terms as men?
- 8 In which 1964 film does the character of Mrs Winifred Banks sing *Sister Suffragette*?
- 9 Which Oscar-winning actor played Emmeline Pankhurst in the 2015 film *Suffragette*?
- 10 In total, since 1918, how many women have been elected as an MP in the UK?

EMERGENCY REPAIRS OUT OF HOURS

If you have a genuine emergency when our office is closed please call the number below for the type of repair you need. Please let us know when our office reopens if you needed help in an emergency.

Plumbing, electrics, or other problems that need to be dealt with by a builder: Just 24/7 ☎ 020 8979 2220

Broken windows, locked out or lost keys (you will have to pay for this): Just 24/7 ☎ 020 8979 2220

Power cut to the whole house: UK Power Network ☎ 0800 056 6341 or ☐ 0333 32 32 105

Gas leak – if you smell gas or suspect a gas leak: National Grid ☎ 0800 111 999

Lift breakdown: KONE ☎ 0845 199 9999

Heating and hot water system for all flats in your property: S&S Burners ☎ 020 8330 7992

Gas fires and boilers that we have installed in your flat: Daynight ☎ 07860 234 899

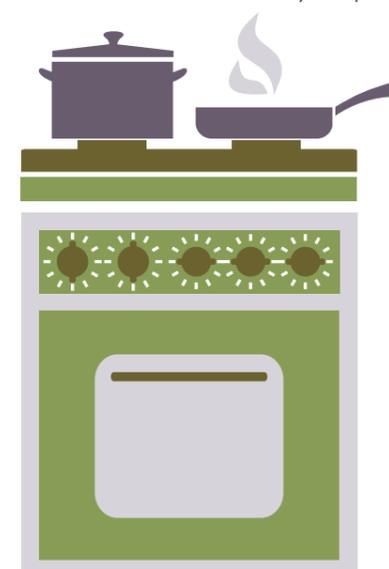
Faulty fire alarm in a shared part of your building: Chameleon ☎ 01757 244 511. Leave your name, address and phone number, and a brief description of the problem. The duty engineer will call you back at once.

TV aerials and entry phones: this is not an emergency situation and can wait until we reopen.

INTO THE KITCHEN AT FORK-POINT

asparagus and new potato frittata

A lovely way to use fresh British asparagus, tested by corporate services administrator Kim



INGREDIENTS

- 200g new potatoes
- 100g fresh (British) asparagus
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion finely chopped
- 6 eggs beaten
- 40g cheddar grated
- Rocket or mixed leaves to serve

COOKING METHOD

- 1 Chop the potatoes into chunks roughly about the size of a walnut. Snap the tougher ends off your asparagus.
- 2 Put the potatoes in a pan of cold water and bring to the boil.

- 3 Once boiling, cook for 4-5 mins until very slightly soft. Add the asparagus for a final minute. Drain.
- 4 Meanwhile, heat the oil in an ovenproof frying pan and add the onion. Cook at a fairly low heat for about eight mins until soft then turn up the heat and add the potatoes.
- 5 Mix the eggs with half the cheese in a jug and season well. Pour over the onion and potatoes in the pan, then top with the asparagus.
- 6 Heat the grill to high. Top with the remaining cheese and put the pan under the grill until puffy and golden.
- 7 Cut into wedges and serve from the pan with salad.



free events April to June



Until Sunday 8 April FRANKENSTEIN FESTIVAL

Science Museum, Exhibition Road, SW7. From 10am to 5pm. Examine the ethics and science of creating artificial life through theatre, story-telling and hands-on activities. Some events will need tickets from sciencemuseum.org.uk/Frankenstein

Saturday 7 April TCF'S HANDMADE GIFT FAIR

St Mary's Church Hall, Church Street, Twickenham, TW1. From 1.30pm to 5pm. Handmade goodies, refreshments and cakes homemade by a local baker.

Sunday 8 April POEMS: KEATS IN 1818

Keats House, 10 Keats Grove, Hampstead, NW3. From 2-3pm, booking recommended. Hear some of Keats' poems and letters from this significant year of his life.

Until Sunday 15 April JUNGLE SURVIVAL SKILLS

National Army Museum. Royal Hospital Road, SW3. From 10.30am to 12.30pm, 1.30-4.30pm. Learn how to survive in the jungle at our friendly workshop.

Sunday 15 April WONDROUS WORDS

For anyone over 5, at Keats House, 10 Keats Grove, Hampstead NW3. From 2-4pm. Use words from Keats' poetry for word-play and poetry.

Until Saturday 21 April SUPER SHARP

Fashion Space, 20 John Prince's St, W1. From Mon-Friday: 10am to 6pm, Sat until 4pm. How Jungle and UK garage appropriated Italian designer brands.

Sunday 22 April LONDON MARATHON

Blackheath Park/Greenwich Common to the Mall. Runners start from 9am.

Thursday 26 April BIG BEN: TICK THROUGH TIME

Houses of Parliament, SW1A. Opens 10.30am, free but a ticket is required. Learn the history, workings and facts about Big Ben and the Elizabeth Tower www.parliament.uk/visit

Sat 28 April to Tuesday 8 May ANGELOS: LET THERE BE LIGHT,

The Hellenic Centre, 16-18 Paddington St, W1U. Mon to Fri, from 10am to 8pm, weekends 11am to 4pm. Retrospective of Greek artist Angelos.

Sunday 29 April, THE BIG LONDON FLEA

Epic Dalston, 13 - 15 Stoke Newington Road, N16. From 11am to 6pm.

Saturday 5 to Monday 7 May, CANALWAY CAVALCADE,

Little Venice, W9. Starts 10am, ends 6pm weekends with nightglow at 9:30pm Sunday. Monday, ends 5pm. Boats, trade show stalls and boaters.

Weds 9 to Saturday 12 May HEAD, HAND AND HEART

A-Z Studios, 3-5 Hardwidge Street. From 11am to 5pm. Inspiring work to a Ruskin-inspired theme.

Wednesday 16 to Sat 19 May LUNCHTIME MARKET,

Corner of Wood Lane and Depot Rd, W12. From 12-2.30pm.

Fri 25 May to Sun 28 October ROMAN DEAD

Museum of London Docklands, E14. From 10am to 6pm. First time on display, a rare Roman sarcophagus excavated in Harper Road, Southwark.

Until Friday 1 June YAYOI KUSAMA: SMALL PUMPKIN PAINTINGS

At Omer Tiroche, 21 Conduit St, W1S. From 10am to 6pm.

Saturday 2 to Sunday 3 June NATIONAL TRUST BIOBLITZ

Morden Hall Park, Morden Hall Rd, SM4. From 10am to 4pm. Look for many species in one place and time.

Weds 27 June to Sun 7 October VOICE AND VOTE: EXHIBITION WOMEN'S PLACE IN PARLIAMENT

Houses of Parliament, SW1A 0AA, From Mon to Sat 9am to 5pm. Marks one century since the first women were able to vote in the UK. Free, but ticket needed. www.parliament.uk/visit

ENGLISH SPEAKING

Do you have great English writing, reading and listening skills, but find conversations hard, especially by phone? If this sounds like you, then our lessons are ideal. Age UK Kensington & Chelsea runs English conversation lessons at **Mary Smith Court** on **Wednesdays** from **2.30-4.30pm**. The lessons will help you speak English confidently and we give lots of help with pronunciation.

For details, please contact Ximena Chiesa from Age UK on ☎ 020 8969 9105 or xchiesa@aukc.org.uk

Ordering repairs

Call the team direct on Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 5.30pm: ☎ 020 8743 4422
Email: repairsresponseteam@womenspioneer.co.uk

For a serious risk to health and safety or to our property out of hours, see page 10 for numbers to call in an emergency.

These numbers are only to be used for a situation that cannot wait until our office reopens.

Contact us

Our Wood Lane offices are open from Monday to Friday, from 9.30am to 5.30pm.

Call in or write to: **227 Wood Lane, London W12 0EX**
Phone us: ☎ 020 8749 7112

Contact us by email or internet: info@womenspioneer.co.uk

www.womenspioneer.co.uk
Repairs: ☎ 020 8743 4422