

## Fuel Poverty

Every quarter we have residents who struggle with fuel costs but during the winter period this number increases. Expiring deals are the main reason for hikes in fuel prices and why some of our residents end up struggling.

Back in May 2019, 13 different suppliers, including four of the "big six" – British Gas, EDF, Npower and Scottish Power – ended 61 fixed deals. The Guardian reported that if customers did nothing there would be an estimated £42m increase to the energy bills of almost 193,000 households.

**All the big energy firms have increased their default tariffs to the maximum the new cap allows. Thousands of households face energy bill increases of up to £362 a year. This would leave London's most vulnerable unable to pay their bills.**

**Our Partnership Officers work by creating partnerships with agencies who offer support to our residents. One of the many partnerships created is with Shine, which exists to help households at risk of fuel poverty.**

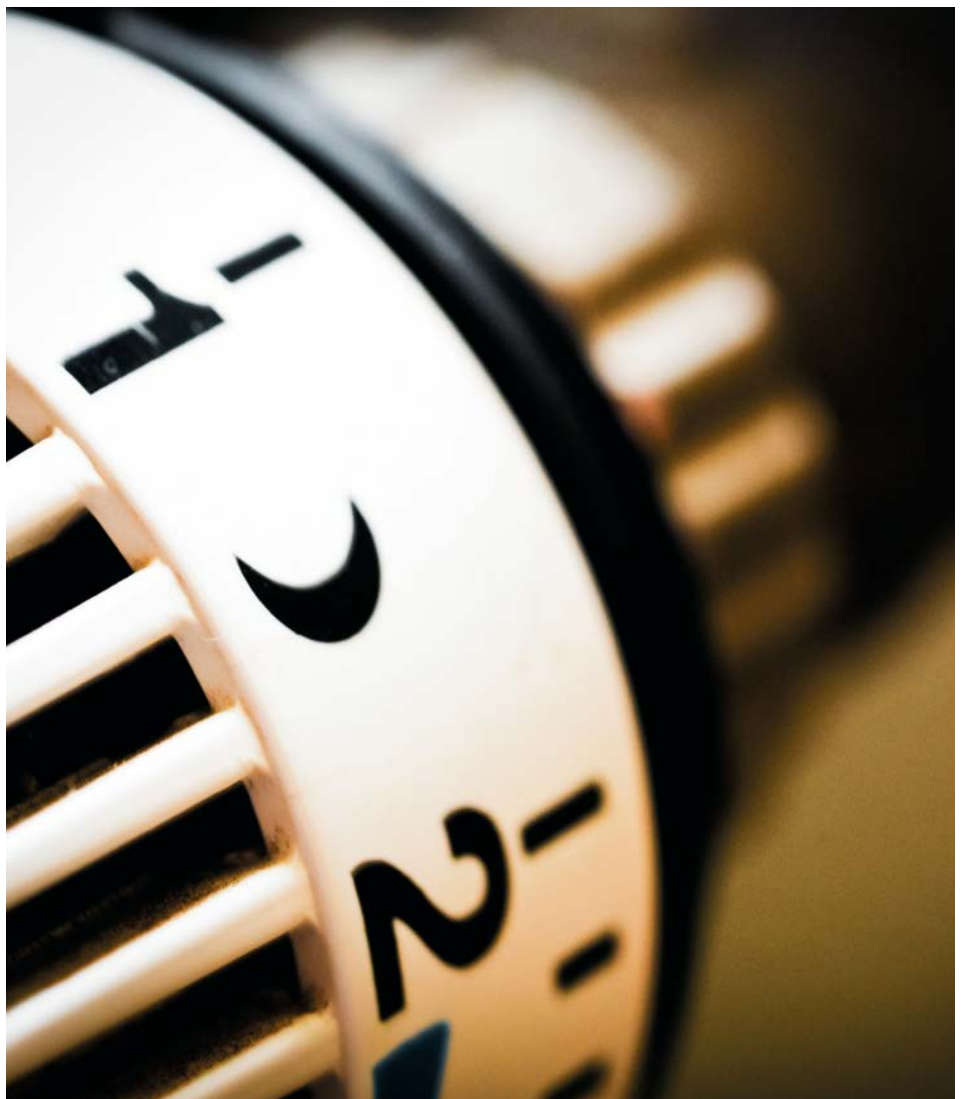
Recently one of our residents, Alison, had to cancel her gas and electricity direct debit in order to purchase new uniforms for her two children. Alison had moved into a new property due to overcrowding and as a result had to change schools for her children so they needed new uniforms. The school had made an exception to allow them to wear their old uniforms until the October half term to give Alison time to purchase the uniforms. But regardless of the extra time

she still found herself struggling with these two large bills. Alison is currently on benefits after being made redundant from her retail job.

When our Housing Officer Tracey went to visit Alison to see how she's settling in, she explained that she was getting calls from her supplier about her cancelled direct debit. Alison said she had spent £71 on the children's new school uniforms and if anything else unexpected was to arise she would struggle to cope. Tracey was able to apply to the Hardship Fund to pay for

Alison's fuel for that month and also refer Alison to Shine to help ensure better rates. Alison is now able to make a saving by moving to a better deal with the help of Shine.

**With your help we can support by paying one month's bill for individuals just like Alison who fall on hard times. We could also support those individuals on pre-payment meters and need to forsake gas and electricity to pay for other necessities.**



# Genesis Community Foundation

When Notting Hill Housing Trust and Genesis Housing Association merged in April 2018 we were able to widen our scope and the support offer to residents. Notting Hill Housing Trust had a Fundraising Department which last year provided support totalling £330,000 through the Hardship Fund, Volunteer Network, Partnership Officers and Activity Officer. Whereas Genesis Housing Association had the Genesis Community Foundation (GCF). The GCF was formed following two large donations. Every year they have supported Resident Associations, Community groups and agencies who deliver services to our residents and the wider community.

This year the Genesis Community Foundation gave grants totalling £266,000. The GCF also match funded £70,000 to the Hardship Fund to support the additional residents facing Hardship.

This year's recipients are:

- **4Front & Youth Realities** - specialist music provision to young people aged 13–25 on the Grahame Park estate.
- **Active Within** - free weekly outdoor group exercise classes by professionals who live locally.
- **Colindale Communities Trust** - training local NHG residents as community researchers and community research assistants to collect ongoing data on the needs of the local community.
- **Cubitt Community Studios** - a series of workshops over 12-month period by local artists, who engage with residents in creative activities to improve their mental, physical and emotional wellbeing.



- **Hackney Play Bus** - aimed at supporting parents, particularly lone parents, to improve their wellbeing, and future prospects for their children under five; by sharing health messages, signposting to relevant local services, and providing a safe space to chat with health professionals.
- **London Art Therapy** - art group therapy sessions for adults who may be struggling with hoarding issues.
- **Settle** - enabling residents to learn and practice the financial behaviours and life skills they need to manage their money and tenancy successfully including setting up bank accounts, payment of bills and managing existing debts.
- **Shapeshifters Productions Limited** - working with NHG residents aged 65 plus who are socially isolated due to physical or mental health issues, and encouraging residents to become more integrated, lead healthier and active lives and becoming more confident through participation in the programme.
- **Made in Hackney** - providing residents with practical cookery and nutrition knowledge, so that they eat healthy and affordable food that will improve their overall wellbeing, through training and volunteer opportunities.

# Construction Training Initiative (CTI)

## success story

Adriano, on our Construction Training Initiative (CTI), received a commendation in the Young Builder of the Year awards. The awards celebrate the success of young people who have had to overcome a range of barriers to gain training and employment in the construction industry.

Held at the House of Commons, twenty-year old Adriano attended with his mother and sister. Adriano has learning difficulties and when he was younger he was diagnosed with dyspraxia, which is a developmental disorder of the brain in childhood causing difficulty in activities requiring coordination and movement.

But that has not stopped Adriano. His positive attitude has enabled him to progress and follow a career path he enjoys. It is down to his own commitment that he achieved his level 2 diploma in painting.

In Adriano's own words "I found going through primary school/secondary school a real struggle. I was diagnosed with dyslexia/dyspraxia and moderate learning difficulties from a young age. I remember always being on my own a lot, never really fitting

in. I was very quiet and found socialising with people my own age difficult. At the age of 16 I was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis and that had a huge impact on my lifestyle. I now have this under control with medication and have had to completely change my diet, but I am coping well with the changes."

Although working on a site was daunting for him at first due to his shy nature, he soon progressed. His supervisor took

him under his wing and took time to show him what to do so he could follow instructions at his own pace. He would get quite anxious and needed a lot of reassurance that he was doing fine on site. Having colitis knocked Adriano's confidence as he never knew when he would get an attack, which is very painful and uncomfortable. But even when he was sick he still went to work and waited to be sent home. He remained on site for seven months until the painting was complete.



## I would like to support Notting Hill Genesis' projects regularly

**Please fill in the banker's order and return it to Notting Hill Genesis at Freepost RSUR-TAYG-LRCE, Bruce Kenrick House, 2 Killick Street, London N1 9FL**

To: The Manager (Bank name and address)

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Please pay to the account NOTTING HILL GENESIS at Barclays Bank plc,

PO Box 629, 53 The Broadway, London W5 5JS

Sort Code 20-27-55, Account No 10836087

£7 each month or my chosen amount of £   
each month/quarter/year (delete as appropriate)

starting on

(day) (month) (year)

until further notice

Account No.

Bank Sort Code

Signature(s)

Date

PAYING BANK PLEASE QUOTE REF:

# Aylesbury Estate

Notting Hill Genesis, Creation Trust, InSpire and other local providers work together every year to provide a varied programme of activities for residents at the Aylesbury Estate.

The programme primarily features local artists, community groups and nearby organisations such as the London College of Communication and Southwark Libraries. It gives residents the opportunity to try out new activities and learn new skills. A group attendee Azzy said, "I have learnt that if I put my mind to it I can do anything and I should never underestimate myself when learning a skill!"

It's also a great way to meet neighbours with one young resident saying, "I am meeting new people and becoming their friend." Meanwhile, four year old Denice summed up her feelings by saying "It makes me happy".

A parent commented, "This group is so important to all the kids around here. They do so many different things and all the staff are so good with the children."

The programme also provides a great opportunity for residents and their families to speak to us about the regeneration in a relaxed atmosphere.

**"This group is so important to all the kids around here"**

**"It makes me happy"**

**"I am meeting new people and becoming their friend"**



## My donation to help the Hardship Fund



I enclose a cheque/postal order/CAF voucher payable to

Notting Hill Genesis for £

Or please debit my:  Mastercard  Visa  CAF card  Maestro / Switch

Card No.

Start Date (if applicable)     Expiry Date     Issue No (Switch Only)

Security Code

The security code is the last 3 digits above the signature.

### Gift Aid Donations

Make your gift worth a quarter more at no extra cost to you!

Use Gift Aid and you can make your donation worth more. For every pound you give us, we get an extra 25p from the Inland Revenue. Just tick here - it's that simple. It doesn't matter what rate of tax you pay so as long as the amount is at least equal to the amount we will claim in the tax year.

I want all donations I've made since 6th April 2010 and all donations in the future to be Gift Aided until I notify you otherwise.

Once complete, please return this form to us in the FREEPOST envelope provided to Notting Hill Genesis, Freepost RSUR-TAYG-LRCE, Bruce Kenrick House, 2 Killick Street, London N1 9FL

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

We would be pleased to send you an acknowledgement, but if you would prefer not to be thanked for your gift, please tick here.

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