

Tenant Social Activities

One of our main aims as an organisation is to assist in the resettlement needs of vulnerable refugees. But what is 'resettlement' and how do we know when people have successfully reached it? We recognise resettlement is an ongoing, complex process that is likely to be subjective to each individual, but broadly speaking it can be defined as an outcome of integration; a wide range of processes that help to facilitate life in a new place. There is plenty of research to show the importance of social interaction in aiding with people's resettlement needs and in contributing positively towards their general wellbeing. This social aspect of integration is a growing part of what Ashley Community Housing does and something we are keen to continue developing.

We have quite a few examples from the last month of social activities we have done or have been planning with tenants and we are constantly developing new ideas. Firstly, our Beans, Peas & Plums project finally came to an end. We finished the project by having a chutney making session with our tenants to show them ways they can use their home grown produce. We are now preparing gardens for the next phase of our gardening project: Bugs, Trugs, Slugs and Bulbs. Along the same lines we have been in conversation with **Incredible Edible Bristol** about how we can work together to spread the concept of reclaiming public spaces for growing food to a larger and more diverse range of people. This is one of the discussions that came out of a meeting between ourselves, **91 Ways** to Build a Global City, **Easton Energy Group** and **Incredible Edible Bristol**. The key outcome from this was to create a plan to develop ways in which we can use food and cooking to bring people from across the city together and to assist with cultural integration.

91 Ways are going to be running a pop-up café throughout November at The Kitchen in central Bristol and have kindly invited ACH tenants to be a part of this. Likewise, Easton Energy group have invited us to be a part of their upcoming "Beat the Cold" event on 28th November, a day involving food and music and open to all ages. This will give our tenants not only a place to socialise, but for those interested a chance to experience working in a catering environment and a chance to share their traditional food recipes with people local to Bristol and from other parts of the world. We are excited to begin preparation for these events over the coming month.

In between busy planning with these organisations was our Foraging Bike Ride day out with our tenants. This fun day out aimed to teach tenants about bike maintenance, learn about foraging and also show them what is available on their doorstep. We aim to continue organising these social activities in collaboration with our tenants in order to offer more than just the essential support and training services already available through ACH. Built into this plan is for tenants to be at the forefront of social activity planning in order to ensure this aspect of support is of

relevance to our tenants and to prevent us from imposing our views of what will be most beneficial for them.

We also have an article about tenant social activities on our blog [here](#).

Watch the video from the recent tenant bike ride [here](#).

To keep updated on the social activities we do at ACH follow us on **Twitter**, like us on **Facebook** and read our **Blog**.

If you would like to get involved with social activities please contact us on info@ashleyhousing.com or volunteer with us at <http://ashleyhousing.com/careers/volunteer-opportunities/activity-coordinator-bristol/>

