

NewmanFrancis Newsletter



Celebrating 10 Years of NewmanFrancis

The NewmanFrancis team celebrated their 10th birthday at the Slug & Lettuce, County Hall (pictured above) on Thursday 1st December.

"We established NewmanFrancis in 2006 to bring together our extensive experience in housing and regeneration. We wanted to help more communities make their voices heard to ensure that services and regeneration proposals are not only successful, but result in thriving, prosperous communities where people are proud to live and work."

Community engagement is in our blood and we devote our time both in and out of the office to helping and supporting community groups. We have worked hard to build NewmanFrancis to become not just a market leader, but an organisation that genuinely cares for the people we represent.

The team we have recruited share our vision and values, and our ideals of community engagement remain as strong today as the day we were founded."

Mekor Newman and Alicia Francis

As part of the 10th birthday celebrations, NewmanFrancis have taken part in various activities throughout the year. See overleaf for our involvement in the **Haringey - Whaler Project**

Neighbourhood Workers

The Neighbourhood Workers programme provides an integrated programme of practical experience, peer learning and formal accredited training for residents or staff wanting to work effectively within their neighbourhoods, and for organisations wanting to capacity build staff to empower communities, support social action and engage local people in decision-making and the delivery of local services.

Neighbourhood Workers attend a programme of day and residential training sessions over a 9-month period. The training provides them with key skills and knowledge to be effective workers in their community, together with valuable peer support. This accredited Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) training leads to a CIH Level 2 qualification in Involvement in Housing and Communities.

"The programme has improved my life a great deal. It has built my confidence and I have gained so much knowledge and skills. I feel my life has developed for the better in every way"

Marcia Taylor-Josephs, Neighbourhood Worker

For more information, please contact us by calling us on **0208 536 1436**, or email administrator@newmanfrancis.org





Haringey – Whaler Project

In the summer of 2016, Beyond Boundaries (an initiative developed by NewmanFrancis and HTA Design LLP) supported young people in Tottenham to construct a new play space in Somerford Grove Adventure Playground.

Facilitated by the Risk Agency and Haringey Play Association, the project developed confidence and skills and introduced 31 young people to the world of construction.

The team, aged 8 to 19, began by unpacking the building from storage and deciding how it could be best reused on the playground. Then, equipped with ladders, saws, drills, hammers and the help of 26 volunteers, they got to work rebuilding the Ark.

Twelve sessions later, new skills learnt, friendships forged and new experiences earned, the building was complete.

“I’ve learnt how to build. This playground is important to me; I’ve learnt to do something that you want to do, you have to set your mind to it.” Rhiann Grant, 8

You can watch a short film about The Whaler project on Youtube (see link below)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppQPcWM9Xfl>

Building Strong Communities

At the end of last year Mekor and Alicia presented our tried and tested engagement approach to regeneration practitioners at a Future of London Housing Zones networking event.

Our approach is rooted in our experience and starts with developing a comprehensive understanding of the community: the structures, behaviours, potential and desired outcomes, often through surveys and stakeholder workshops. Self generated criteria for success provide a framework for identifying the interventions necessary to bring about a strong and sustainable community. These can then be incorporated into the engagement strategy and monitored to chart progress and map change. The discussions that followed showed that there are very good intentions to get the engagement right to increase the possibility of delivering real sustainable community focused regeneration. Our best practice suggestions, and advice on pitfalls to avoid was considered helpful to achieving this.

Please contact us if you want to know more about our approach.

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