

# PEMBROKE HOUSE 2014



## REVIEW OF THE YEAR



**Come and visit!**

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# MESSAGE FROM THE WARDEN



Walworth is changing. The corner of the Aylesbury Estate closest to Pembroke House has been demolished, and so has the Heygate Estate. The 'luxury apartments' being built in their place are being marketed in the Far East.

When I arrived here four years ago, the Lidl supermarket on the Old Kent Road didn't provide shopping baskets; you had to find a cardboard box and tote that around. Now it sells fresh pomegranates.

In the coming years, Pembroke House will have a role in building bridges between old Southwark and new Southwark, in the same way that we already build bridges within this community and between East Walworth and the wider world.

We're changing Pembroke House, too: focussing on running or hosting excellent educational or community cohesion projects; planning strategically; and attracting great new people to live, work and volunteer here. Ever more people are using our building. We're generating energy - and we're having fun.

Mike Wilson (Pemb '04) joined us in April and has been working on a community audit to unearth the most pressing needs of our neighbour-

hood. As well as crystallising the value of what we already do here, the findings are helping us focus on what we can add and help us decide how we can have the greatest impact. Looking ahead, we are excited to be hiring a community organiser to help us do more to put local people at the heart of designing and delivering projects.

Five years after major refurbishment, the building still looks great, but because we're growing we're hoping to reconfigure some of our spaces. Ideally, we want to create a reception area, explore how best to use the balcony, and create an inspiring classroom or meeting space in the garden.

Reflecting on this shared venture, I particularly want to thank all our volunteers and those who lead projects here for the imagination, energy and dedication they bring to their roles. Particular thanks to Shem Jarrold (Pem '07) for his excellent administrative support in the office.

Our supporters have remained faithful and generous. We couldn't do what we do without them or the Diocese of Southwark or the Charities and Livery Companies who give us grants. Special thanks to Maz Krupski and Kay Francis of Ernst & Young, for the hours they spent and the favours they called in to organise a magnificent fundraising event that raised £20,000 for us.

The final words of thanks must go to my colleagues Grisel and Mike for the relish with which they work, for their patience with me, and for their flashes of brilliance.

**Rev'd. David Evans**

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

## February

We launch weekly music sessions for babies and toddlers. Under 4's sing songs and play games while parents enjoy tea and chat.

## March

Alongside local businesses, organisations and people we organise Walworth ABC, a film and exhibition celebrating everything special about our neighbourhood.

## April

Staff of Ernst and Young raise £20k for Pembroke House with a "Strictly" style ballroom dance competition. Thank you!

## May

Week long Inclusive Dance Summer School at Tate Modern: participants choreograph and perform a dance inspired by the Matisse Cutouts exhibition.

## June

17 adults from 11 countries attend our first English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) class.

## July

Tatum Street closed for a day of community fun. 280 neighbours enjoy stalls, a bouncy castle and events around the building and garden - with a concert from PAM in the evening.

Launch of IntoUniversity's Southwark centre at Pembroke House.

## August

Families learn to make musical instruments from recycled woods and metals. 6 jumbo xylophones are installed in the garden.

## September

Choir with No Name receives a standing ovation at the Royal College of Music.

Community trip to Pembroke College, Cambridge, for punting, history and bowls.

## October

The whole community sing, dance and solo alongside professional band Kairos Ensemble at our Autumn jazz night.

**Volunteers Elaine and Hazel win Southwark Star awards for their amazing work at Pembroke House.**

## November

St. Christopher's church worships in Pembroke College Chapel and explores Cambridge.

## December

Inclusive Dance start their tour of 9 schools Southwark, Lambeth and Westminster.

Local families come together for a night of jigs and reels at the Pembroke House Christmas barn dance.



# BUILDING BRIDGES

From barn dances to community choirs, Pembroke House is bubbling with projects that bring people together to reduce isolation, foster a sense of community, challenge stereotypes and recognise that the whole is greater than the sum of our parts.

At our community Jazz Night in the autumn members of our older people's Lunch Club mingled with families from the Pembroke Academy of Music. Five learning-disabled participants in Inclusive Dance performed an astonishing 25-minute piece they had devised. Church members sang with homeless and ex-homeless members of the Choir with No Name. And at the end, everybody danced together in one incredible hubbub.

While many other organisations in our area serve specific groups – old or young people, for example, or people living with disabilities – the diversity of groups using Pembroke House is unmatched. Now we want to work even harder to enable people from our different projects to connect.

The Choir with No Name is a great example of how singing and eating together can build community among those on the margins of society. Likewise, our older people's Lunch Club now attracts on average 23 members and volunteers to a two-course meal followed by bingo. They've made trips to the Globe to see the Merchant of Venice, to the Young Vic to see Beckett's Happy Days, and to Cambridge. Nothing demonstrates members' support for one another more than the care with which they looked after fellow Lunch Clubber and Pembroke House neighbour Graham Nicholls in the months before his death in July. Graham said, "I never knew I had so many friends."



Our wish to bring people together prompted us to pilot two new projects. Music for Babies and Toddlers teaches singing and percussion, and, crucially, offers an opportunity for dads, mums, grandparents and child minders from countries around the world to spend time with one another. Our English as a Second Language classes, run by English for Action, was designed to break down isolation, improve employability and mobilise participants using the principles of community organising. If funding is forthcoming we hope to continue both these projects in 2015 - and indeed to employ a Community Organiser.

Through these and other open-access projects we have become aware of a degree of low-level mental illness in the community. This has been fully borne out by our community audit, and with changes to benefits and to the local housing stock we expect this to increase. In the year to come we want to raise funds and find partners to create new projects offering early intervention for those suffering from mental illness.



Our garden has huge potential for bringing people together and improving wellbeing. We are looking to attract new special interest groups to the space in 2015.

# LONG TERM LEARNING

While many community services in our area operate on a drop-in basis, Pembroke House fills a void by providing opportunities for sustained learning and growth.

IntoUniversity at Pembroke House is booming. This excellent university-access project works with children from Year 5 and upwards. It partners with ten local schools during school hours, and provides after-school homework support and one-to-one mentoring to pupils.



## Anas' Story

Anas, 12, is a weekly attendee of IntoUniversity. "His progress this year has been fantastic" says his tutor Elise, "We have seen a smooth transition from primary to secondary school and he is much more confident talking to new adults and peers."

His mum agrees, "He always gets great feedback from school, and even after a long day will attend Pembroke House, there is nothing stopping him!"



## All together now!

Marie Sol and Lana, both 11, sing and play cello at Pembroke Academy of Music. As well as music theory and songs from around the world, the friends love the feeling of being in harmony with their community. "We all work together to create the music" says Marie Sol, "we need to listen to each other to be in time, see the music flow and communicate"

The Pembroke Academy of Music (PAM) now has 52 children aged 6-14 on the roll enjoying heavily subsidised music and singing lessons. This year we've improved the staff/pupil ratio, added woodwind and brass teaching, created new beginner violin and theory classes, and expanded the percussion class. A number of children have for the first time taken grade exams in singing, violin and cello, and the PAM choir performed at St Paul's Cathedral. Now they're rehearsing to perform in Brundibar, a children's opera to be performed at the South Bank Centre.

As our Inclusive Dance program for learning-disabled young people enters its third year, the behaviour and confidence of participants is transformed. Now they lead the warm-up session and are readily able to work as a group. They are taking part in the Circuit programme at Tate Modern, a four-year national programme connecting young people to the arts, starting with a week of workshops around the Paul Klee exhibition.



## Gavin's story

Gavin, 22, has been coming to Pembroke House for three years. Growing up with epilepsy and a learning disability was a struggle - and after years of being put down at school he became silent and withdrawn. "I never spoke" he says, "I didn't know what to say".

But things started to change when Gavin found Inclusive Dance. After coming to class regularly, he started finding his voice again. His instructor Ali remembers clearly when Gavin first spoke to him after six months of knowing each other.

"Since Gavin started coming here it's brought him out of himself" says his dad, Dave, "He was lacking self-confidence, now he can express himself - Ali and Nina are working miracles."

# ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH

St Christopher's remains full of surprises. The Rev'd Mae Mouk arrived as Curate following her ordination to the Diaconate at the end of June. She brings gusto and the warmth of her native Louisiana. Shortly afterwards the Rev'd Jonathan Sedgwick stepped down as non-stipendiary Associate Vicar - and into full-time stipendiary ministry. He was kind enough to credit St Christopher's with rekindling his vocation. In July Thomas Sharp completed his 10-month stint as Pastoral Assistant; his vocation too was crystallized here, and he is now training for ordination at Cranmer Hall. Rachel Briggs has taken on the same role; she brings an extraordinary ability to empathise and make God known.

With an expanded team we've been able to extend our ministry to include Townsend Primary School, and St Mary Newington Close, which provides sheltered accommodation.



# INSPIRING VOLUNTEERS

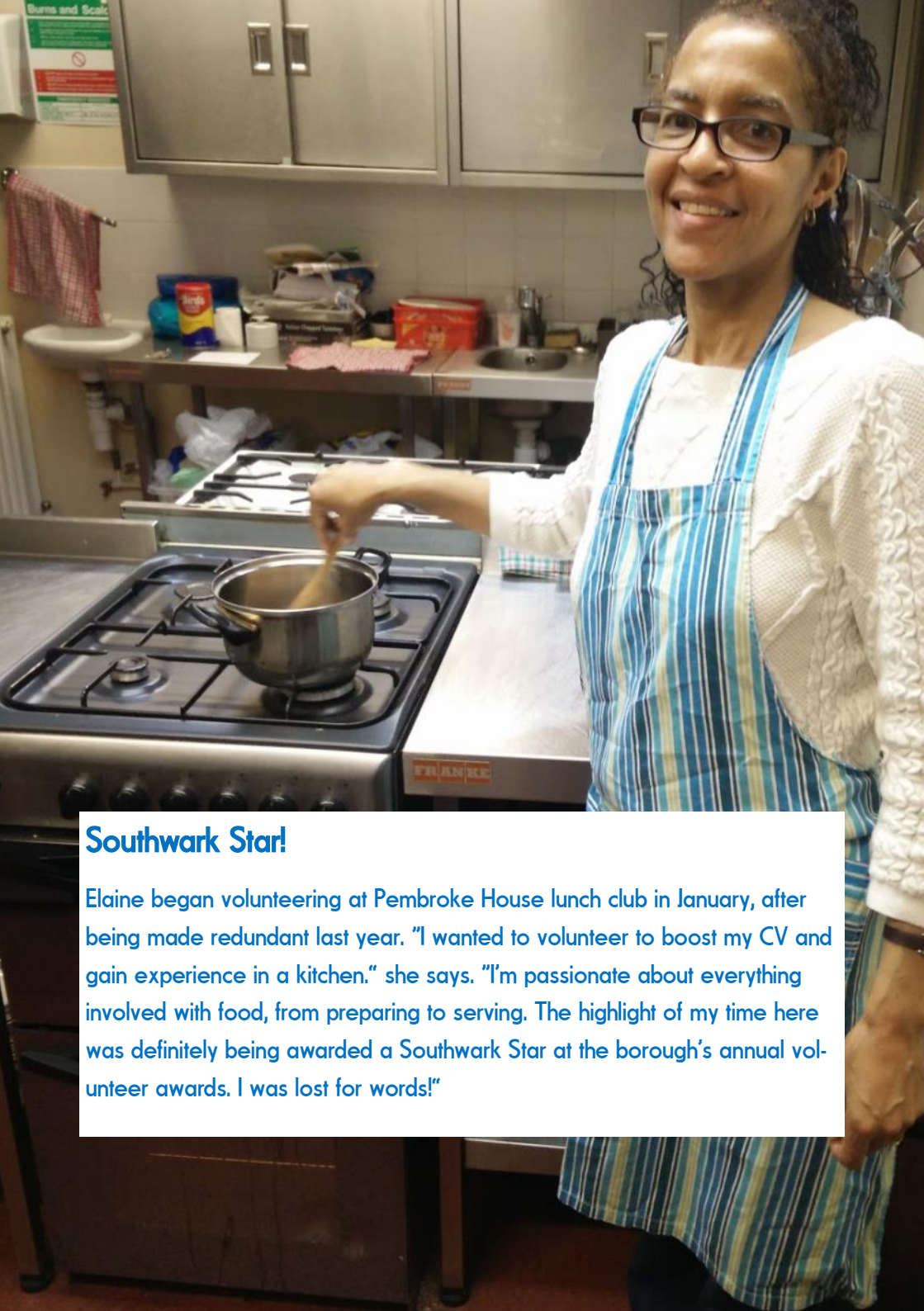
None of our work this year would have been possible without our committed team of 30+ volunteers, recruited from London School of Economics, Southbank University and Volunteer Centre Southwark.

They help us enormously and are changed in the process, as has been the case since 1885 when it all started. When Rudolph Smetana this year stepped down as PAM's strings tutor he said what many of us feel, "When I came here four years ago I thought I was going to broaden people's horizons. Now I know it's my horizons that have been broadened."

We are fortunate to maintain our links with Pembroke College, Cambridge. We receive no funding from the college, but it underwrites our relationship, funding three annual day trips from Walworth to Cambridge for the Pembroke House community. We're very grateful to Jess Farmery for undertaking the role of Pembroke House Rep, and for her weeks of vigorous volunteering.

After a couple of years of stability, the Residency has seen a 100% turnover this year. The five people now living there are energetic, delightful, and share a wish to use Pembroke House to create a more inclusive, stronger community.





## Southwark Star!

Elaine began volunteering at Pembroke House lunch club in January, after being made redundant last year. "I wanted to volunteer to boost my CV and gain experience in a kitchen," she says. "I'm passionate about everything involved with food, from preparing to serving. The highlight of my time here was definitely being awarded a Southwark Star at the borough's annual volunteer awards. I was lost for words!"

A photograph of a community garden. In the foreground, there are several blue raised garden beds filled with green plants. A wooden trellis structure with yellow and red slats runs across the middle ground. In the background, there are trees and a building. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

## 2014 IN NUMBERS

**4 – 70** Age range of gardeners at our Community Garden

**1** Greenhouse, **2** raised beds and **4** wooden xylophones built by garden volunteers.

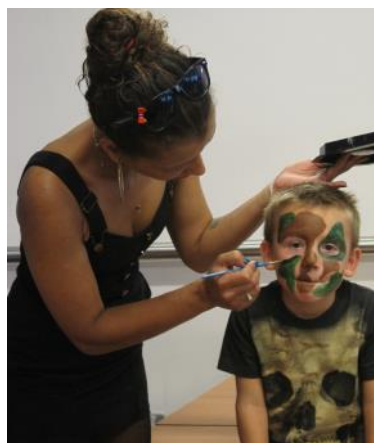
**52** PAM students received an average subsidy of **£570** per year

**100%** success rate in PAM music exams

**4250** volunteer hours in the last year

**500** learning-disabled young people will see Inclusive Dance's first touring performance.





# CURRENT PROJECTS

**The Pembroke Academy of Music (PAM):** Open-access music programme for 52 local children aged 6-14, with a community choir that parents and carers can join.

**Older People's Lunch Club:** Humorous and supportive two-course lunch for older people and volunteers, followed by bingo.

**St Christopher's Church:** Joyful Church of England parish with a West African lilt.

**Inclusive Dance:** Dance, drama and drumming for young people with learning disabilities.

**Community Garden:** Sessions for locals to grow food and community.

**Music for Babies and Toddlers:** An hour of singing games, nursery rhymes and lullabies from around the world for the under-fours, and tea and a chat for their parents and carers.

**Pembroke Food Academy:** Cooking lessons for children who live on the Aylesbury Estate.

**The Choir with No Name:** Singing, performances and shared meals for people with experiences of homelessness.

**The Royal Drawing School's Drawing Club South:** Tuition for children aged 10 and over who have a passion or aptitude for drawing.

**IntoUniversity:** Supporting young people in Year 5 and above to attain a university place or another chosen aspiration. Five full-time staff members based at Pembroke House.

**Narcotics Anonymous:** Recovery from the effects of addiction.

**Victory Children's Centre's Exercise Class and crèche:** For women with children under the age of 5.

### **Free hours**

During the year we donated 343 hours of free room hire to emerging or established local groups including XLP (local outreach), English for Action (classes in English as a second language), Eco Club (environmental learning for children), the Walworth Society (local action group), Carnaval del Pueblo (Latin American cultural group), the Friends of Surrey Square Park, Patrick Wood's ballet classes, local and international musicians and the Bo District Union (Ebola support). We also offered subsidised rates to Aniaman (Ivory Coast support group) and Izu Ibusa (Nigerian men's group).

**"Before I came to PAM I knew only two children from my local area. Now I know everyone's names"**

**- Lana, 11, PAM student**



# OUR FUNDERS

On behalf of everyone here at Pembroke House, a huge thank you to our generous donors and supporters, without whom none of our work would be possible.



## SLAUGHTER AND MAY

