

Bangla News

Bangla Housing Association Tenants' Newsletter



Improving lives, engaging communities

Issue 40

April 2011

1991 - 2011

Bangla celebrates 20 years of serving the community

On 15 July 2011 Bangla will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary.

How it all started

In July 1991 a group of Bangladeshis living in Hackney got together to do something about the poor housing conditions in which many Bangladeshi families lived in the Borough.

Hackney Bangladeshi Housing Association (HBHA) began as a campaigning group for better housing and services for those in need. It set up advice surgeries for people in need of better housing and other social, welfare benefits and services.

From December 1992, HBHA began to manage properties owned by other Housing Associations.

In March 1995 the name of HBHA was changed to Bangla Housing Association.

How we stand in 2011?

Bangla now manages 239 properties in London Boroughs of Hackney, Islington and Waltham Forest owned by 13 partner Registered Providers (RPs) Our tenants come from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

Bangla is now also a Registered Provider. In the last Tenants satisfaction Survey carried out in October 2009, 83% of our tenants said they are satisfied with Bangla's overall services.

In addition to housing management we are pleased to assist nearly 200 local residents every year in our community advice drop- in surgeries at our office.

20th Anniversary Celebrations

See page 2 for a message from the Bangla Chairman and details of how we are planning to celebrate this special occasion.



Welcome Spring!

Following a very cold winter this year, we welcome the warm spring sunshine.

Earn £10 gardening voucher and join our campaign to create a cleaner, greener and brighter neighbourhood in which you live in.

See page 3 for more details.

Residents Panel

This Panel is made up of tenants coming from different blocks, estates or schemes so that we have a wider representation of views.

The same tenants would also represent their blocks as our tenant's champions. We have so far four tenants in this panel. They are;

- 1) Ms. Runa Begum - Gliddon Drive,
- 2) Mr. Saeed Essanoor - Dalston Lane
- 3) Ms. Gloria Adjebeng- Hale End Road
- 4) Mr. Ronan Trotman – David Devine House

We are looking for more tenants to join this panel. Please contact Fatima Begum at our office if you are interested to join or for further information.

Bangla Office Closure during Easter and other Bank Holidays in April and May 2011.

Our office will be closed on the following dates:

Friday	22 nd April 2011	- Good Friday
Monday	25 th April 2011	- Easter Monday
Friday	29 th April 2011	- Royal Wedding
Monday	2 nd May 2011	- May Bank Holiday

Please see attached leaflet with details of whom to contact to report an emergency repair when our office is closed.

If the repair can wait until we are open then please **do not** contact our emergency contractors but ring our office when we are open to report the repair on Tel 0208 985 1124.

In the other pages

- A message from the Chairman
- Your rent statement / paying rent
- Residents Fun Day / Ice skating
- Tenants Focus Group
- Changes in HB / CTX benefits
- Join our campaign for a cleaner greener, brighter neighborhood
- Children's page

Bangla celebrates 20 years of serving the community

A message from the Chairman



I hope you all are looking forward to the warm spring sunshine like me especially after one of the coldest winters we have just had this year.

I became Bangla Chairman in October 2010 following the resignation of Faruk Miah. Faruk served on Bangla Board for 19 years. He was one of the founding members of the Association and served as Chairman for 9 years. We wish him all the best for the future and thank him for all the hard work he put in all these times to make Bangla a successful organisation working for the local community.

This year we will be celebrating Bangla's 20th Anniversary. We are consulting our staff and residents as to how we involve all of our stakeholders in our celebration of this important event.

I am pleased to see that our Tenants Focus Group is meeting regularly and making a lot of constructive comments and suggestions as to how your Housing Association is being run.

I hope more of you will be able to join the Tenants Focus Group meetings which are advertised thorough this newsletter and the newly created Residents Panel. I wish to thank those residents who are already involved and helping Bangla to shape and improve our services for all of our customers.

Please do contact me or Bashir Uddin, Bangla Director on Tel 020 8985 1124 if you can help.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Residents Fun day on 28th July 2011 as one of our main events for our 20th Anniversary Celebrations. Information about this and other events are given below.

With all the Best Wishes and Kindest Regards

Mohammed A. Nazim Rahman.

Residents Funday in celebration of Bangla HA's 20th Anniversary

Date: Thursday 28th July 2011

Time: 12.00 noon - 3.00pm

Venue: Nightingale Estate
Tenants Hall, Nolan Way, off
Monro Way, Downs Road, London
E5

All Bangla Residents and their families are welcome

For further details please contact Bangla HA on Tel 020 8985 1124

Ice Skating

Bring your children and enjoy a day out with other Bangla residents and their children.

Date: 21st April 2011

Time: 10.30am

Venue: Lee Valley Ice Centre,
Lea Bridge Road, London E10
7QL

To book your place and for further details please contact Fatima Begum at Bangla office or on Tel. 020 8985 1124.

Reporting Repairs

If you need to report any repairs please contact Bangla office on 020 8985 1124. Please **do not** contact your main Landlords to report any repairs.

You may be recharged for any repairs carried out by your main Landlords because you reported it to them directly instead of reporting it to us in the first instance.

Your Rent Statements for period 6th December 2010 to 3rd April 2011

Your rent statements for the above period are sent with this newsletter. Please check them and if you have any query then contact our office. If you are behind with your rent payments and if you do not make an agreement with us to clear the debt or if you do not keep to any agreements made to pay off your arrears then you could risk losing your home

If you have any problem with paying your rent then please contact Fatima Begum at our office

If you are claiming Housing Benefit then it is your responsibility to ensure that the Housing Benefit Office has your up to date information and to chase them if there is a delay in assessing your Benefits

Paying your rent

You can pay your rent in the following ways;

- 1) Using a **rent card** – you can pay your rent at any post office or any shops displaying PayPoint signs. If you need a rent card please ring our office on Tel 020 8985 1124
- 2) By bank **Standing Order** – contact our office for a form
- 3) By **Cheques** or **postal orders** made payable to 'Bangla Housing Association' and send to our office
- 4) Paid Directly into **our Barclays Bank Account:** -
A/C No. 60899089
Sort Code: 20.46.57

Don't forget to mention your address with the payment.

Who are the mystery Rent Payers?

Someone paid £20 on 12/10/2010 at Barclays Crouch End

Another person paid £100 on 04/03/2011 at Barclays Holloway

They did not give their name or address. If it's you then please ring our office on Tel 0208 985 1124 so that we can credit the correct rent accounts.

Tenants' Focus group

The women tenants' focus group met on 3rd February. They discussed activities for the Residents Fun Day to be held on 28th July and about going to Ice Skating in April. They also discussed about the importance of returning completed Census Forms which has been sent to every household by the Government in March 2011.

The next meeting will be held on 26th May 2011 at 11.00am at Bangla Office. We are looking for more tenants to join this Group. For more information contact Fatima at our office.

We are also organising men focus group meetings. If you are interested to join and wish to attend these meetings please contact Bashir Uddin at our Office or email: bashir@banqlaha.org.uk

BBC 2012 – Work Experience



Are you 18 or over? Do you love the media?

Then the 'BBC 2012 – Work Experience Scheme' might be just the place for you. Apply now to see what it's really like to work at the BBC.

To find out more please contact your local London borough as below:

Hackney - call On Site, Hackney's Recruitment Centre, on 020 7275 7843

Waltham Forest - contact Waltham Forest's Worknet Partnership Programme at 2-4 Cathall Road, Leytonstone E11 4LF or call on 020 8558 1558

Number Puzzles / Riddles

(See children's page)

Number Puzzle answer: 4

Riddles: 1. Darkness

2. A penny

3. Bookkeeper

Changes in Housing and Council Tax Benefits

From 1st April 2011, non-dependant deduction will increase. This means if you are claiming Housing or Council Tax Benefits and have non dependants (adult son, daughter relative or friend) living with you then you will get less benefits. The amount of deductions will depend on the circumstances of the non-dependants.

To find out more about this please contact your Housing Benefit office or Fatima Begum at Bangla office Tel 0208 985 1124.

Free £10 gardening vouchers!

Join our campaign to create a cleaner, greener and brighter neighbourhood.

This will help you to save money, keep active, healthy and enjoy life with your family, and neighbours.

Here is what you have can do and many of you probably do this anyway;

1. If you have front / rear garden, or a courtyard then;

- Keep them clean and tidy
- Grow flowers around the borders or have pots of flowers
- Dedicate some parts especially in the rear garden to growing fruit or vegetables, herbs and salads
- If your garden is big enough create some space for sitting on or for children to play on.

2. If you have a patio or small courtyard;

- you can grow different types of flowers or fruit and vegetables e.g. strawberry or tomatoes in pots or growbags.

A £10 gardening voucher will be given away free to the first 10 residents joining our campaign.

For more details and to find out how you can claim your free £10 gardening voucher contact Bangla office on Tel 020 8985 1124.

এই নিউজ লেটারে যেসব খবর রয়েছে।

বাংলার ২০ বছর পুর্তি উৎসব

ইস্টার ও অন্যান্য ছুটির দিন

আমাদের অফিস নিম্নে উল্লেখিত দিন
ওলিত্তে বন্ধ থাকবে;

শুক্রবার ২২ এপ্রিল ২০১১

সোমবার ২৫ এপ্রিল ২০১১

শুক্রবার ২৯ এপ্রিল ২০১১

সোমবার ২ মে ২০১১

আমাদের অফিস বন্ধ থাকাকালিন সময়ে কোন জরুরী মেরামত কাজের জন্য যোগাযোগ করতে হলে এই নিউজ লেটারের সঙ্গে পাঠানো পৃথক কাগজে এর বিবরণ দেখুন। জরুরী অবস্থা ছাড়া এবং শুধুমাত্র ঐ ছুটির বন্ধ সময় ছাড়া আমাদের এমার্জেন্সী ঠিকাদারদের কাছে ফোন করবেন না। সাধারণ মেরামতের কাজের জন্য আমাদের অফিস খোলা হলে আমাদের অফিসে যোগাযোগ করুন।

বসন্তকে স্বাগতম

রেসিডেন্টস পেনেল

বাংলা চেয়ারমেনের বার্তা

আপনার গত তিন মাসের রেন্ট স্টেটমেন্ট ও আপনার রেন্ট কি ভাবে পরিশোধ করতে পারেন

রেসিডেন্টস ফান ডে

আইস স্কেটিং

হাউজিং / কাউন্সিল টেক্স বেনিফিট পরিবর্তন

মেরামতের কাজের জন্য রিপোর্ট করা

টেনেন্টস ফকাস গ্রুপ

১০ পাউন্ডের ভাউচার নিন আর সুন্দর প্রতিবেশিত্ব গড়ে তুলুন

বিবিসি তে কাজ করার সুযোগ

শিশু কিশোরদের পাজ

Can we help?

If you need a copy of this document in your language or if you have difficulty in seeing this text then please tick the appropriate reply below and send completed form to our office. We will do our best to assist you

I need a copy in _____ (name of language) or in tape in English or in Large Print

Name _____

Address _____ Tel _____

childrens page

Five A Side Football



Above: The winning team with the Cup and winner's medals. From left – Michael, James, Corey, Shola, Gokhan (captain) and Kaiser (Bangla Housing Officer)

This year's five a side football competition was first held on 26th October in which 4 teams took part. But due to roof leak at the sports hall we had to stop the games on grounds of health and safety. This competition was re-run on 23rd December 2010 at the King's Hall Leisure Centre in Hackney. It was a tight competition. In the final game Gokhan's team beat Suleiman's team 7 -5. Thanks to all the teams that took part. It was a very enjoyable event.

Bangla's 20th Anniversary

Enter your poems, short stories, drawings or paintings and win prizes!

This year Bangla Housing Association is celebrating its 20th Anniversary. As part of this celebration, we are inviting all children aged up to 16 year old to take part in this special competition

Prizes will be given in two categories; Category A – 5 to 10 year old. Category B – 11 to 16 year old. There will be three prizes, 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each category. Best two works will be printed in our 20th Anniversary special Annual Report, later this year.

To enter, you can send to our office any one or more of the following;

A painting, a drawing, a short story or a poem on any one of the following theme; Friendship, Respect or Caring,

Please give your name, address and age with your entry. Closing date: Friday 22nd July 2011. Winners will be announced on Residents Fun Day, 28th July 2011. Decision of the Bangla Judging Panel will be final. For further details contact our office.

Saqib done it again

For the third time running, Mohammad Saqib Ullah is the winner of the word puzzle competition published in our December 2010 newsletter. Saqib lives in Vine Close, Hackney and he has won £10 book vouchers.

See below for another word puzzle in this issue.

Number Puzzle:

What is the missing number in the grid below?

1	6	7
9	0	5
?	8	2

Answer on page 3

Riddles

1. The more you have of it, the less you see. What is it?
2. What has a head, a tail, is brown, and has no legs?
3. What English word has three consecutive double letters?

Answer on page 3

Word puzzle – Win £10 book voucher!

B	H	U	S
	A	E	T
	M	O	R

How many different words can you make using the letters given in the grid above? Each word must contain the letter "B". You cannot use the same letter twice in one word.

Send your answers to our office at the address given on this page.

The entry with the most correct words will win £10 book vouchers.

Contact us

Bangla Housing Association Ltd. 243 Green Clapton Road, London E5 8EG.
 Tel: 020 8985 1124. Fax: 020 8533 5973
 Web: www.banglaha.org.uk Email: info@banglaha.org.uk

Office opening hours:

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm. You are welcome to visit our office anytime during office hours, ring us on the telephone number given above or log on our website to report a repair, make an appointment or for any further information.

Out of office hours:

For an emergency repair out of office hours ring our office number given above and follow instructions given in the answer machine.