

Subject: The House Issue 20

THE HOUSE



The e-newsletter from United House

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Thrive Homes 2,000th property completed

United House has been working with Thrive Homes since August 2008 to deliver their Decent Homes programme. On Friday 21 May another major milestone was achieved with the **completion of the 2,000th property**.

To celebrate, staff from Thrive Homes and United House presented Mr and Mrs Morgan with some flowers and United House will be donating a large shed to a community garden project.

Mrs Morgan, who had a new kitchen installed and minor electrical works completed, selected 'very satisfied' for every category on her satisfaction form and said "Everything has been fantastic, I am very pleased".



Queensbridge Quarter Phase 2 update



Photo taken from the roof of our phase one development

Following the successful completion of Queensbridge Quarter Phase 1, construction work on Phase 2 of the regeneration development in the Dalston area of Hackney started on site in March. Phase 2 will mirror Phase 1 and comprises 54 private residential apartments and 22 private houses. Two social homes for LB Hackney are also included as part of the development. The three to five storey apartments are of reinforced concrete frame construction and the homes are timber frame. The first homes are due to complete in June 2011.

Public transport connections to the development have been greatly improved by the recent opening of the East London Line extension which runs from Dalston Junction through to West Croydon, with further extensions due in 2011.

Construction Skills Competition

UK Skills is the largest and longest running

construction skills competition in the UK. On 11 May the Skillbuild and South East heats were held at Barking & Dagenham College in Romford, Essex and was opened by celebrity guest Tommy Walsh.



Barking & Dagenham College is recognised as one of the largest training providers for the construction industry in the South East of England, and they pride themselves on delivering high quality training in construction crafts, building services engineering and construction site management. They were delighted to be selected to host the competition heats.

The event saw around 100 trainees showcasing their skills in areas such as bricklaying, cabinet making, carpentry, electrical installation, joinery, painting and decorating, plastering and plumbing.

United House HR Advisor Sarah Linklater attended the event and said "The Head of Construction & Building Environment, the Head Teacher and Tommy Walsh all gave inspirational speeches which particularly highlighted how businesses need to maximise training and development opportunities to ensure they have the right people with the right skills to achieve competitor advantage."

Places for People Community Day



Before

On Wednesday 19 May staff from United House and Places for People spent the day regenerating a community drying area in Peacehaven, East Sussex, as part of Places for Peoples' Community Involvement Week.

Residents identified this as an area that needed to be improved and it gave them a great opportunity to get to know their neighbours and the site teams that will be working in their homes.

The area is used by the residents to dry their clothes using the communal washing lines, however the green space surrounding this was never used.



After

Part of the brick wall surrounding the drying area was taken down and replaced by fencing, flowers were planted along the footpath and benches were donated.

United House also set up an energy efficiency stand giving advice on ways to save energy and money and supplied free water savers (Hippos) and energy efficient light bulbs.

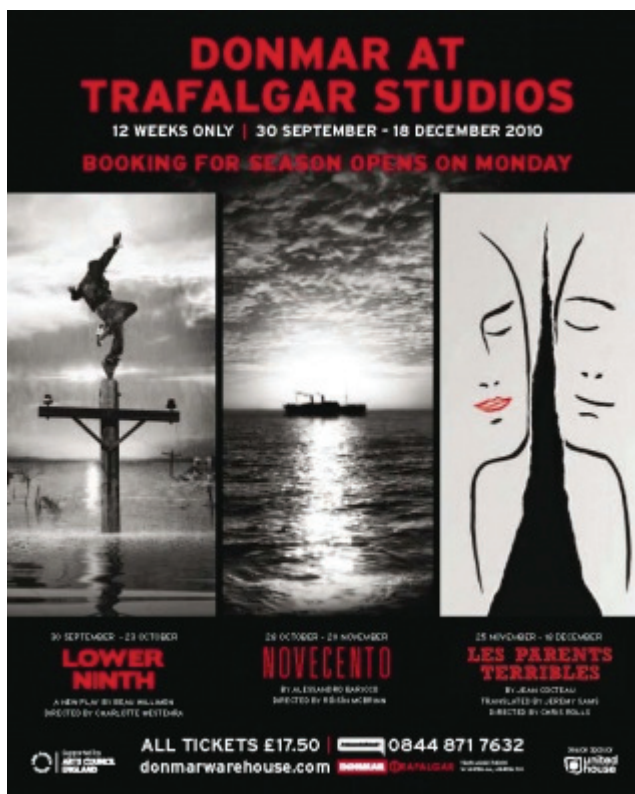
Places for People Housing Services Manager Suzy Rhodes said "Customers commented that they had thoroughly enjoyed the day and the changes to the drying area and planting really made a dramatic visual improvement to the scheme."

Corporate Social Responsibility: Theatre tickets available

United House has been supporting the Donmar Warehouse for over ten years which has included sponsorship of the West End Season at the Wyndham's Theatre, the Donmar's production of Parade, and support for the Donmar's education and outreach programme of work.

For the next three years, the Donmar Warehouse is taking up a twelve-week residency at Trafalgar Studio 2 to showcase the work of its Resident Assistant Directors and United House are proud to be sponsoring this Season. The education and community involvement programme on offer as part of this sponsorship is vital to United House and will offer 'once in a lifetime' opportunities to young people and those in the communities we are working in.

The Trafalgar Season offers audiences the opportunity to see the work of the next generation of directors who have emerged from the Donmar under the artistic leadership of Michael Grandage. The first year of the Trafalgar Season will see Charlotte Westenra, Róisín McBrinn and Chris Rolls each stage a production – Lower Ninth (30 September – 23 October), Novecento (28 October – 20 November) and Les Parents Terribles (25 November – 18 December) respectively.



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