May 2021 issue #16

PhoenixNews

#1:WILLOW
FITZGERALD HOUSE

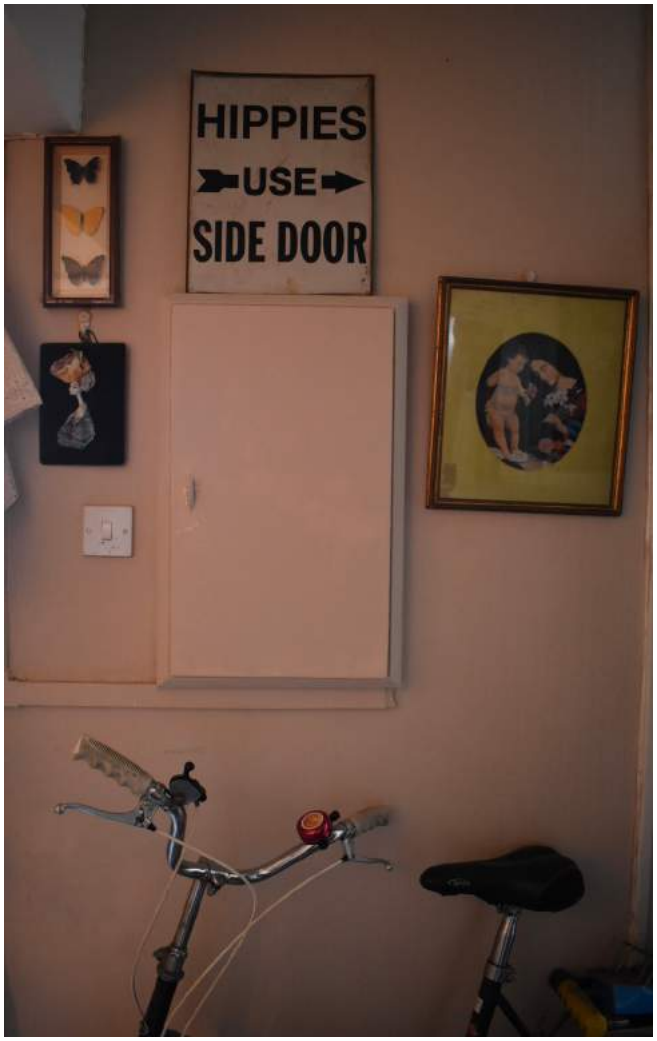
PHOTOGRAPHING PHOENIX

This project aims to document the homes of Phoenix members, celebrating the ways in which tenants imprint individualism on their homes, and we hope to have an exhibition of the resulting images in future. We would like to photograph as many members as possible, if you would like to take part please email emmajrock@hotmail.com or 1zahara@gmail.com.
As Fitzgerald House in Poplar is currently in the process of being emptied, we have started here, visiting Willow in her flat on the 17th floor...

Willow Laybourne lives in Fitzgerald House, Poplar, a tower block home to a number of Phoenix members, all of whom are being evicted this summer. Willow has lived there for about 12 years and is unsure of her next move. She currently shares the two bed flat with her dog Tuppence and is able to use the extra space to store her amazing collection of vintage clothing, that she sells at Camden Passage.

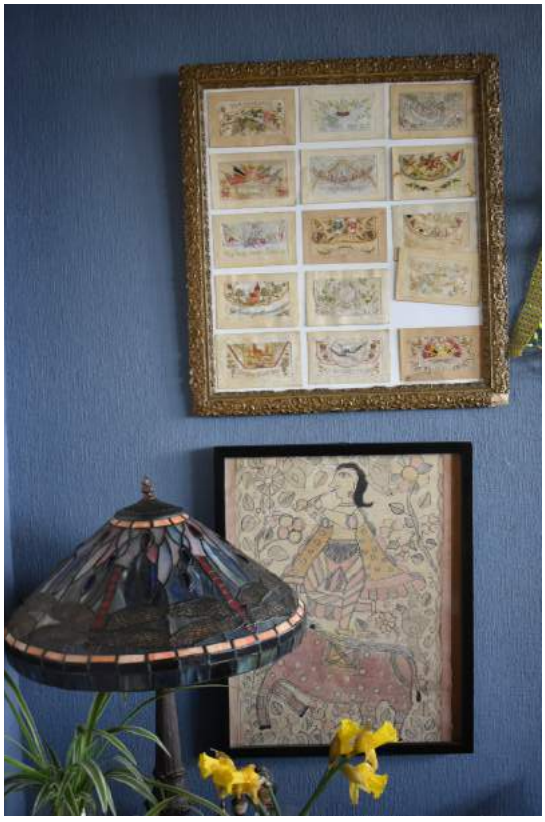
Willow, a gem amongst her treasures. Her home reveals a lover of things, hunter finder, minder of objects, their life journeys happening to coincide with hers to share a dwelling in a Rapunzel tower. Each corner is beautiful, each object honoured with room to breathe and tell its story of other places, people and times. Tales of the handmade...did she find them or did they find her? Comfortable and welcomed I easily found my place on a (possibly magic) carpet and enjoyed some hearty banter. Tuppence the amorous pup joyfully romancing her pillow all the while - Zahara

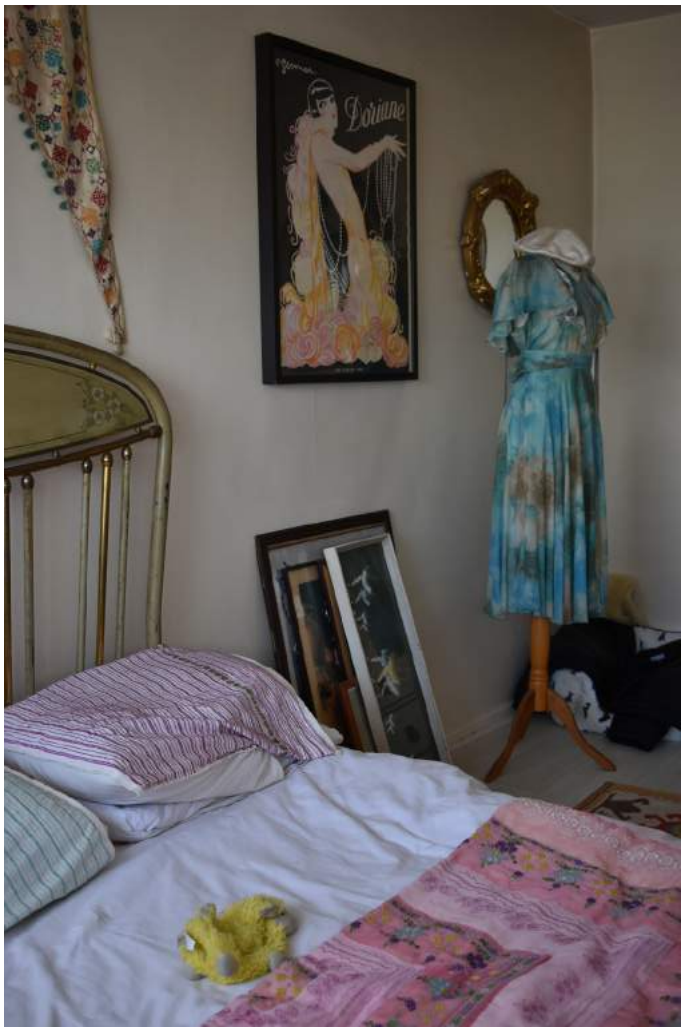
Tuppence in the kitchen and a cup of pink tea + tulips



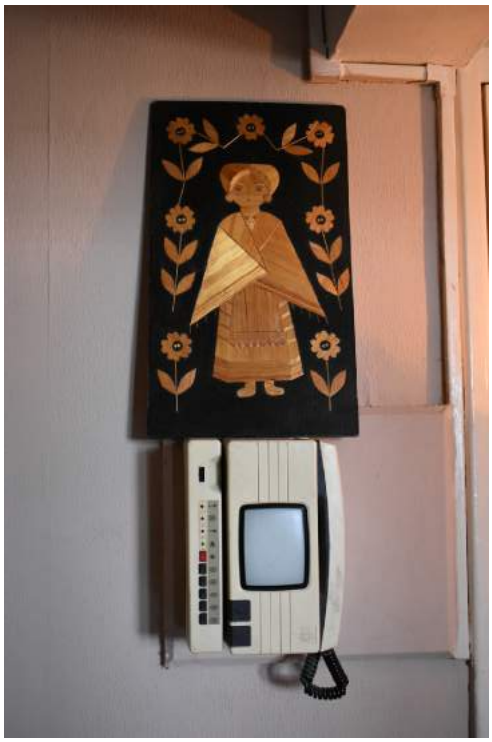
The kitchen, hallway + Tuppence's bed

Plants, textiles and colour in the living room. The view from the bedroom window through lace curtains





The bedroom and hallway + storage for vintage clothes



The bathroom mirror, some of Willow's clothes and fabrics

Thanks to Willow for showing us round her home and being the first member to take part in Photographing Phoenix xx

HOUSING UPDATES

We have acquired a new 2 bed flat in Hedgers Grove in Hackney.
Fitzgerald House has had the first stage of legal action completed, we are now awaiting a Court Hearing date

THE CONFEDERATION OF CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING : HOUSING AWARDS

Deadline for nominations has been extended to June 30th, if you want to nominate your organisation or an individual within it follow this link.
"As well as being presented with a trophy at our AGM, the winning co-ops and individuals will benefit from promotion of their co-operative and the kudos of winning this prestigious award. The awards also include £500 worth of training, or £500 to invest in your community. The Housing Co-operator of the Year Gold award will benefit from a professional video featuring the winner."

CONTRIBUTE TO TOWER HAMLETS ARCHIVES

We collect, preserve and promote the diverse heritage of the East End of London.
We welcome offers of records, images and books relating to the Tower Hamlets area. We also provide advice and sign posting to help you look after your records.
We want to ensure the collections are representative of the diverse lives, communities and built landscapes of the borough. By working together we can help document our society to benefit current and future generations.
Follow this link for information on how you can contribute

SOUNDTRACK TO YOUR WEEK: ANDREW CORAM 'S TOP TRACKS

CALL OUT FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

If you would be happy for your flat to be featured as part of a photographic project about Phoenix homes, we would love to hear from you - (thanks to all who have already agreed to take part). We are inititally looking for those members in Fitzgerald House but would like to photograph as many people as possible in the long run, so please be in touch wherever you live! email emmajrock@hotmail.com or 1zahara@gmail.com

All other contibutions to the newsletter welcome as always x