

The Editor speaks...

This newsletter has been produced in very eventful times (thanks Donald), and with a number of local, regional and national elections coming up in the UK. As I write this editorial, Europe is inevitably still high on the agenda...I still think we have a good chance of beating Celta Vigo and getting through to the final but tiredness is an issue.

On a more serious note, the general election allows the political parties to set out their stall on a whole host of issues, not least of course the perennial problem of housing – increasing numbers of people sleeping on the streets, not enough housing being built, continuing issues surrounding the local housing allowance and real issues of affordability across all sectors to highlight just four issues.

Since the last issue of the newsletter we have also seen the [Housing White Paper](#) published on 7 February 2017 through to the critical report of the House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts, "[Housing State of the Nation](#)", produced on 28 April 2017.

On the home front, we saw the first [Bryan McGuire QC memorial lecture on homelessness](#) in April. This is highlighted later in the newsletter and suffice to say here that the wonderful attendance was a tremendous tribute to the respect and affection in which Bryan was held by so many people in the housing world and beyond. HHJ Luba QC must also be thanked once again for providing an impressive and engaging contribution.

Our seminar programme kicked off with [Jon Holbrook](#), [Emma Dring](#) and [Matt Lewin](#) presenting a well-received seminar on [fixed term/flexible tenancies](#) in March, and [Peggy Etiebet](#) and [Ruchi Parekh](#) presenting an excellent session on [tackling tenancy fraud](#) last month. Ruchi has got a real taste for this training lark and joins [Tara O'Leary](#) and myself in June to present a half-day session on [public law and Equality Act defences](#).

Special mention should also go to [Kelvin Rutledge QC](#), [Matt Hutchings QC](#) and [Matt Lewin](#) for organising and delivering a timely and superb session on the [Homelessness Reduction Bill](#) (now Act) on 20 April 2017. This has not been the only seminar we have delivered on the topic, and it won't be the last.

So enjoy the read as always. There are some impressive articles and I have for once also stopped watching "Big Bang Theory" and "Judge Judy" and put fingers to keyboard. But special thanks go to Peggy, Liam, Matt and John for their contributions, and most of all to the rest of the editorial board who, as you always suspected, do the real hard work and put my ramblings into some sort of coherent order. Thank you.

Andy Lane
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May 2017