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**Before he leaves, we asked Brian to remind us how Lighthouse evolved . . . . .**  
*having started on 17th July 2005, we celebrated our 13th birthday last year*

Kim and I believe it is time to step back and pass the baton of Lighthouse onto somebody with fresh ideas to drive it forward. We are retiring formally on Thursday 18th April, Easter time, and hope to move to Worcester soon after, a location we feel God has led us to. The new CEO appointed by the board of trustees, Peter Everett, will be starting on 25th March but will be working from home on Mondays and Tuesdays for the first two months, allowing a handover period.

Peter currently lives with his wife Nicky and two 6 year old girls in Eastbourne, although he was formerly from Rayleigh where he attended the local Baptist Church. The family moved to Eastbourne 20 months ago to take up an appointment with 'Quicken Trust' a Christian charity working in Uganda to support children. Prior to that he worked for Family Solutions at Essex County Council. His wife is a former Headteacher of a school and then a specialist teacher.

Many know the Lighthouse story, but for those that don't, it started with the then Kings Church Brentwood, which was already working with other local churches to help homeless people and managing a couple of houses in Brentwood, asking the council how else it could serve the community. It was invited to take over an aspect of the Waste Department's scheme of collecting re-usable furniture and passing it on to those in need locally. The church had a collection and bought a box trailer, like a horse box and the council gave us some lock up garages to use rent free. Church members volunteered on a Saturday morning to collect and delivery suitable items, whilst Jenny Barfoot, a church leaders wife manned the answerphone and did much of the running about trying to match donations with needs.

It has taken us on a path that has been exciting, hard work, but one for which God has always provided our needs – for instance, we now have 3 units in Tallon

Road covering 10,000 sq ft; 5 vans, a staff of 24 and 40+ volunteers.

All staff and volunteers are fully trained in safety procedures and use PAT testers to ensure all electrical items sold are 100% safe and carry a Lighthouse guarantee.



On our journey we have launched and supported 3 separate ventures in Rayleigh, Epping, and Ilford, - all of which are now running under their own steam. We have also provided training for young persons to learn their craft, and so be able to obtain employment.

Contracts with John Lewis, IKEA, Dunelm, Currys/Dixon are complimented by support from Whirlpool, Protocol, Countrywide Properties, Stellisons and others to ensure we have a range of goods to sell, many as new ex-display items from appliances to textiles and other items customers returns

I have served as a director of the Furniture Re-use Network for 6 years helping ensure the network of over 200 organisations was supported and developed ensuring best practise and quality standards were rolled out across the UK. The annual conference, this year in early May, has seen speakers from across the spectrum from Waste organisations like Sita to government departments like WRAP & DEFRA, to manufactures, grant making bodies, policy units, CAP, and the Secretary of State for Communities Rt. Hon Eric Pickles MP.

Kim will be supporting Adoption / Fostering in a voluntary capacity with "Home for Good" see [www.homeforgood.org.uk](http://www.homeforgood.org.uk) and Brian will be getting involved with "The Good Soil Trust"

**good news stories**

Recently Ann spoke with a needy man who we were able to help furnish his accommodation. This man had been in prison and prior to that was in a hostel. He was reliant on his benefits and struggled with medical issues. He was given temporary accommodation, but it was completely empty and he could not afford to buy furniture. We were able to deliver a number of items to him free of charge including a bed, bedding, a fridge, a microwave, a sofa and armchair and a chest of drawers. He said, "It was a Godsend and it really helped a lot." Without the help of Lighthouse this man would be struggling badly.

Christmas toy Collect was described as "a rip-roaring success" with over 4000 toys collected and distributed



**operational issues** *new & resolved*

**trading trends**

**BASILDON / BARLEYLANDS** The small WEEE scheme in Basildon / Barleylands has now finished the initial 12 month trial period. In total, we reused 4,720 electrical items which totals 23.333 tonnes! "An amazing achievement by you and your team Brian", Alan Underdown, Waste Management Officer at Basildon Council. "We are going to be entering the campaign in for a number of awards this year to get some added kudos".

**WATER WATER EVERYWHERE** The rainwater drains have been repaired down the side and involved significant works including lining to prevent tree root ingress. While they were there, we had a survey of the back where we have been experiencing problems. The total cost was £3,900 which included lining two sections and installing a new manhole. Work is now completed.

**MORE STORAGE** Additional space in Brentwood has been secured in Western Road on a 15 month 'tenancy at will'. The site is secure and is predominantly office accommodation that the landlord is seeking rebuild to McCarthy & Stone complex. We have started using it to store Christmas items from Poundland Billericay and IKEA items.

**WEBSITE** Kush is transferring the website onto a new IT package as support is being withdrawn from the existing platform.

**SHOP IN BAYTREE CENTRE** Savills, the managing agents of the Baytree Centre, have kindly allowed us to promote Lighthouse in one of the empty shops for 2 – 4 weeks at no cost. Many thanks to Dan and his team at the Centre. Here are some photos of the shop showing goods displayed in room settings.



I am pleased to be able to report an excellent set of trading figures for January and February after a disappointing December. Large appliances up nearly £2k on January 2018 and the third highest month in the year. Again, small appliances sales were up by £2k as was Bric-a-brac boosted by IKEA textiles.

Countryside showhouse donations and furniture sales up £6k on December and up on last year. Overall an increase in sales with a healthier profit compared to last year, up by over £4k.

**IKEA** The relationship with IKEA at Tottenham branch is growing and we have been visiting at least on a weekly basis collecting sofas and mattresses under contract but also 20 pallets of ex-display textiles. This has added £1k+ to the misc. sales in December/January.



Posters here show IKEA's commitment to re-use.

**Thank you IKEA**

15 bags of IKEA bedding were passed onto the three hostels in Havering following an influx of residents due to the recent cold weather. "

I would like to use this opportunity to extend our heartfelt gratitude to IKEA and your other partners who has made this scheme possible"

*Silicia McLeod-Johnson (Hostel Support Officer)*

**How to get involved with Lighthouse**

Want to become a volunteer and be part of the action? Whether you help man the Sales desk, assemble furniture (making sure all the drawers work) or be trained to ensure all the small electrical appliances work and are safe using our simple to use PAT testing equipment. There's something you can do to be part of LFP.

The photo (below) shows an item that had been donated but had been modified by a previous owner who had lengthened the mains wire using a piece of telephone cable and some sticky tape to hold it all together. We replaced this with a new flex rendering it safe to use.

This type of work shows how very important the work of volunteers is as the item could easily have caused a fire or electrical hazard. There is great satisfaction from converting damaged items and making them useable again.

