

# *the* Pavement

The **FREE** monthly for Scotland's homeless

Issue 3, December





*"Hoppit! We want to open up – this is a charity shop not a bloody hotel!"*

# the Pavement

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# The Editor

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## A credit crunch Christmas

This issue, a timely look at the credit crunch, with *The Pavement's* take on how the economic downturn will affect our readers, numbers on the streets and homeless organisations.

The government's monumental pledge to end rough sleeping by 2012 is making headlines again, alongside news of the rise of repossessions and job losses, and a host of other delights we're advised to expect given the coming recession – or should that be the recession that's already here?

On 18th November the government issued a statement which put it on track to meet the target, supported by charities who were previously predicted a rise in homelessness figures – despite all the recent coverage to the contrary. The worry is that the statistics will be achieved by fudging the figures and driving those who are homeless out of the public eye.

But it's not all doom and gloom. Our centre page picture, by Jenny Häggglöv Benjamin, illustrates one of Edinburgh's dynamic charities, The Cyrenians, whose farm outside the capital illustrates the ethos of reducing food and fuel dependency which has gained momentum partly as a result of the aforementioned credit crunch. Elsewhere, Shelter Scotland marks 40 years, and the results of its 'Hometown Scotland' poll; there's more homeless news, as well as *The Other List*, which lists contacts for those on the streets in Edinburgh and Glasgow, and which we hope to expand further over the next year.

We're back in February, and wish you all a peaceful holiday.

## Karen Chung

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*Crisis warned, only days before it backed the government's renewed pledge, that the economy is harbouring a "homelessness timebomb"*



# 2012 and all that

*With a recession on its way, does Homeless Link's target stand?*

Despite predictions of a downturn in the economy and more people becoming homeless, the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) announced on 18th November, alongside partnership charities, it was maintaining the target of ending rough sleeping by 2012.

Last month we printed a letter from a reader suggesting the possible ripple effect repossessions and increased unemployment could have on the number of people seeking support from the homeless sector. "I'd like to know what those who think they'll eradicated the homeless by 2012 are planning to do now," the reader asked. As we set out to find out, the government beat us to it, by announcing a statement claiming it is still possible.

In 2006 Homeless Link, the umbrella organisation overseeing charity and cross-party policy on housing, announced its plans to end rough sleeping in the UK by the time the 2012 Olympics come to London. "We believe it is right to aim high," the manifesto proclaims. "The UK is a prosperous country. The opportunity is ours. The moment to act is now."

Although Homeless Link was unavailable for comment this month, could it even be fair to say the moment has passed?

In our other article on the impact of the credit crunch, ominously titled 'A grim prediction' (page 8), you will read the miserable figures – unemployment figures on the up and with them, repossessions.

As it stands, despite partial nationalisation and multi-billion funding lifelines, the world's banks are still reluctant to lend to one another and then, in turn, to members of the public and smaller

businesses. This we have seen evidenced on the high street, with start-up firms such as Woolies and MFI being placed into administration.

Services already stretched are struggling to meet ever-growing demand, and Crisis warned, only days before it backed the government's renewed pledge, that the economy is harbouring a "homelessness timebomb".

So, in view of this, why do the government, and partnership agencies, still think the target is still possible?

In November, housing minister Margaret Beckett announced a new plan to solve the problem of homelessness in Britain. But although the government makes it clear it still plans to hit the 2012 target, and that "rough sleeping in 21st Century Britain is unacceptable", there is no detail as to what people plan to do with an increase in the numbers moving onto the street, and little in the way of extra funds.

According to the *New Statesman*, despite media reports that £200m is being pledged to support the plan, the solution includes virtually no new money beyond a further £2.5m for a scheme to support new social enterprise start-ups.

However, one clear change comes in the statistics. The plan, and the new policy on rough sleeping called 'No One Left Out', which we will report on in full in the February issue, states that ministers are to make it clear the headline figure for rough sleepers in the UK is "not an estimate of the number of people sleeping rough in the country".

This figure has remained static at around 500 nationally since 2002 – a number that few people, even those distanced from the streets,

find hard to believe. Given all this, can the government really hope to end rough sleeping as they distance themselves from the only, if controversial, means of measuring it?

Opposition MPs have criticised ministers for undermining their own policy, with Shadow Housing Minister Grant Shapps continuing to lobby for an improved head counts policy.

*The Pavement*, among many other publications, has regularly reported on apparent attempts to fiddle the figures in the cities, as move-ons often appear to coincide with official counts. But overall, most people working within the sector are concerned that with limited, or even diminishing resources, and a lack of new ideas, the 2012 target is looking like a pipe-dream.

Grant Everitt, Shelter's street homeless project manager, said the numbers had been fudged for a long time and raised concerns that there would be an increase in the enforcement of this to see targets reached.

"The target can only be achieved by adopting measures that rough sleepers themselves are willing to take," said Mr Everitt. "I acknowledge there are some people who are helped by enforcement, if backed by good supportive service, but for others this will not solve their homelessness, but displace them 'off the radar' and make it even harder to engage with them than it is now."

He referred to Operation Poncho, which *The Pavement* is discussing again this month as an example of the lengths some organisations may resort to in order to keep 2012 a reality in the recession.

*Rebecca Wearn*

# A grim prediction

*New figures and the recession mean there could be five million homeless by 2010*

Up to four in 10 households are on council housing waiting lists and the number is expected to rise, a new survey claims.

Home repossessions have soared in recent months – by up 70 per cent in some areas – due to the economic downturn, with around four million people now waiting for council accommodation.

But this number, according to the study by housing experts the Local Government Association (LGA), is set to increase to five million by 2010.

Although the Government has pledged money to build more social housing, the LGA insists this is insufficient, as new homes will not be built for several years. Ministers have called for 200,000 homes to be built each year, but fewer than 100,000 are being started, a figure likely to fall in the next few years as the credit crunch bites.

Paul Bettison, chairman of the LGA Environment Board, said: “Even when the economic good times were rolling, councils saw ever-increasing pressure on social housing stock.

“Now that the credit crunch is biting hard, it appears that many thousands more will be looking to councils to provide them with a permanent home as they either find it impossible to get on the housing ladder or see their home repossessed. In parts of the country, the system is creaking at the seams.”

In the 1950s, more than 200,000 council homes were built each year, dropping to 100,000 in the early 1980s and falling further to 30,000 by 1997, when Tony Blair became Prime Minister.

Now, with four million people waiting to be housed by local

authorities (and an expected rise of one million in two years), those who can’t stay with friends or family are housed in often overcrowded bed and breakfasts.

At least 45,000 homes will have been repossessed by the end of December, a 70 per cent rise from last year, while the number of mortgages in arrears has jumped by 22 per cent.

Meanwhile, first-time buyers wanting to buy a home are struggling, as no one will give them a mortgage.

But homelessness minister Iain Wright said the government was investing “record amounts” to prevent homelessness, including a £400 million fund for councils to apply to for affordable housing and social homes schemes.

He said: “We are helping people at risk of repossession remain in their homes through our £200m mortgage rescue scheme and working with lenders to ensure repossessions are only ever a last resort,” he said.

“At the same time, we are investing record amounts in preventing and reducing homelessness and are looking at what more we can do to further reduce rough sleeping, which has fallen by nearly two-thirds over the last decade.”

The LGA’s survey shows that 63 councils have more than one in 10 residents on a social housing list, and eight of them have more than one in five on their list.

Big cities have the longest waiting lists. In Brent, North London, 41 per cent of households are struggling to find a home; while in Sheffield the figure is 39.7 per cent. In Newham, East London, 25.5 per cent of households are

on the list; in Bradford, 24.3 per cent; and in Bolton, 23 per cent.

Councils have a duty to house anyone who is homeless. Priority groups include teenagers aged 16–17, pregnant women and those who are leaving care homes.

Meanwhile, similar study by housing charity Crisis found that the UK is facing a “homelessness timebomb”, as a third of people would lose their homes within three months if they lost their jobs.

This month the British Chambers of Commerce warned that unemployment could peak at 3.25 million – more than 10 per cent of the workforce – if Government bids to kick start the economy were inadequate.

However, any increase in unemployment levels could prove disastrous for those already struggling to meet rent and mortgage repayments, according to the charity.

Crisis said: “If unemployment continues to rise, the knock-on effect of a rise in homelessness could occur very soon.”

Leslie Morphy, chief executive of Crisis, said: “Recent job losses are creating a homelessness timebomb. The Government must act to help people struggling to pay their mortgage to avoid repossession and move quickly to protect private tenants.

“It must accelerate the building of new social housing and at the same time widen the safety net of support for those facing homelessness. Finally, we must not forget those who are already homeless. They are in danger, once again, of being at the bottom of the pile.”

*Rebecca Evans*

# Scottish news

*Homeless news from across Scotland*

## Shelter Scotland is 40

This year Shelter Scotland marks its 40th anniversary. At its launch in 1968, the charity was faced a situation even more complex than the one it now confronts. At that time the UK was suffering not just the aftermath of the war – when the housing problem moved to the forefront of the political spectrum – but also faced rising unemployment; a decline in the industrial sector and the baby boom. By 1970 its problems were compounded by a Conservative government which wanted to reverse the trend of interventionist policy.

Back then, over-crowding and slums had been a major problem in Scotland's central belt for generations. After the Second World War, the government began one of the most ambitious challenges of its history: a staggering 86% of all houses constructed after the war were built for the public sector. The so-called Clyde Valley Plan, devised by Sir Patrick Abercrombie and his team, proposed to move people out of dilapidated housing in the city centre into New Towns and peripheral housing schemes. Many of these housing projects, mostly tower blocks completely unsuitable for families or pensioners, were built in haste and began going into decline almost before the first tenants had moved in. Ironically, at that time they were viewed as a salvation, and were welcomed in the community simply because they had new-fangled facilities such as inside toilets.

By contrast the figures in the period 2006-7 virtually reverses that percentage: 84% of the houses in Scotland were built by

the private sector; just 28 homes were built by local authorities and 3648 by housing associations.

In 1971 Shelter opened its first housing aid centre in Scotland, based in Edinburgh, giving direct help on a one-to-one basis to people with housing needs. Shelter's housing aid network grew through the 1980s and 1990s and now incorporates a partnership with all the country's Citizens Advice Bureaux.

However, the charity's most important campaign has been its battle to give homeless people basic legal protection. Following years of relentless campaigning, in 1977, legislation was passed in England and Wales that provided a right to housing for people who were homeless. From the outset, in practice most single people or childless couples were excluded, but the Act proved to be a landmark in the fight against homelessness. The legislation took six months to become fully effective in Scotland, because some local authorities and politicians tried to block it.

In 2003, the Scottish parliament announced the revolutionary pledge that everybody in Scotland would have the right to a home by 2012 (see '2012 and all that' on page 7). But so far the figures show that, far from improving, the situation has deteriorated. In November 2007, the budget allocated less than 20 per cent of the additional money needed to meet Scotland's housing needs. The housing and homeless charity believes the target can still be met, but only with more government investment in affordable rented housing. In particular, Shelter estimates a minimum of 10,000 additional lets are needed.

Furthermore, it considers that pressing housing associations to help house more homeless people; using private landlords to fulfil a semi-social role, involving longer-term lets, higher management standards; and measures to address high rents should be high on the to-do list for Scottish Ministers if the nation is to abolish homelessness within the next three years.

*Noelia Martinez*

## The crunch that stole Christmas

It's 2pm and one of Edinburgh's charity shops is bustling. The phone rings: 'The Shelter, Nicolson Street, can I help you? Do you want to donate something? Oh, wicked!' This is an unusual day. Despite appearances, a volunteer tells The Pavement: 'People are throwing out less stuff than before so we're getting less donations, and also people are buying less'. Welcome to credit crunch Christmas, which is inevitably having implications on homeless services down the line. But not only people are tightening their belts; so are companies: 'We are getting less donations especially from businesses because they need to economise too,' confirms the shop assistant. And last month a major survey showed that 32 organisations have suffered a drop of a third in donations.

The Bethany shop is another homeless charity shop in Edinburgh. 'We have seven shops across the city. They all are still trading, but we are struggling. Homelessness never stops and in the winter it gets worse,' a volunteer says.



In addition, financial problems are endangering the jobs involved in those projects. Shelter, the UK's biggest homeless charity, as well as others such as Quarriers, which helps young adults with housing support needs, are being forced to make redundancies due to funding shortfalls. On the other hand, care shelters have been affected by the threat from the meltdown as well, with significant funding cuts making them harder to maintain.

In general, the biggest concerns are the prices of food or fuel, which are essential to keeping these kinds of services running. David Todd, manager of the Grassmarket Mission, said: 'We have been denied food from Fareshare, a national UK charity supporting communities who provide food to the needy, although most of the people who use this service have not been too seriously affected.'

Due in large part to the economic downturn, an annual report on how much people in Britain give to charity has revealed a significant drop in the numbers prepared to put their hands in their pockets, causing a 3% fall in donations to £9.5bn. The largest drops in giving came from people aged between 25 and 44.

Falling house prices and a slowing economy are major factors affecting the willingness of people to make regular donations, according to the study carried out for the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) and the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF).

*Eugenia Cabaleiro Pereira*

## Going for a song

After months of campaigning, Shelter Scotland has just revealed the top song that reminded the public of home in its 'Home-time Scotland' campaign: the number one choice was The Proclaimers' foot-stomping 'I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles).'

The campaign was launched in July, to ensure Scotland delivers on the internationally acclaimed 2012 homelessness target. Singer KT Tunstall, rock band Idlewild and DJ Calvin Harris are among those who supported the campaign. The Proclaimers said: "Having a home is an inherent right for people, and one they shouldn't have to fight for, or fork out more than they can afford. We're delighted to be the top Hometown Scotland song that reminds people of home. It's an honour." Support was also registered online at [www.hometime.scotland.org.uk](http://www.hometime.scotland.org.uk).

*Noelia Martinez*

## Capital expenditure

Figures just published show Edinburgh is paying to house more than four times as many homeless people as anywhere else in Scotland. By the latest reckoning, 900 people were placed in privately rented accommodation last year by the city council, compared to around 200 in Glasgow. Politicians and charities alike have continued to call for the construction of more council and social housing, but with building firms downing tools due to the credit crunch, the picture is likely to get worse.

Edinburgh council contributes £2 million a year to housing homeless people temporarily, either in B&Bs or in private flats, because there is simply not enough affordable housing available. While many areas in Scotland seem to be on the



**Stewart Cook**  
Age at disappearance: 39

Stewart has been missing from Arbroath, Tayside, since 2nd September 1994.

Stewart is 5ft 11in tall, of medium build with short, black hair and brown eyes. A seaman by trade, he has a tattoo of a ship on his lower right arm.

He can call the confidential service, **Message Home on Freefone 0800 700 740** and we can forward a message on his behalf. He can also go to any police station and say he has been reported as a missing person.

If you have seen Stewart, please call the 24-hour confidential charity **Missing People** on Freefone **0500 700 700** or email: [seensomeone@missingpeople.org.uk](mailto:seensomeone@missingpeople.org.uk)

**missing people**

Reg. Charity No. 1220418

way to reaching the 2012 target of zero homelessness, including East, West and Midlothian, at its current pace Edinburgh will fall far short of the target.

Leith councillor Gordon Munro, who has campaigned for more social housing, said: "It's partly down to the capital city effect as well. More people are coming from other areas into Edinburgh because they know they're more likely to get put in decent accommodation, and possibly quicker."

## Staff

### Walk this way

A drop-in podiatry service for the homeless has been opened in Stirling by the Salvation Army, in partnership with NHS Forth Valley.

The trial project, at the Salvation Army's Drip Road centre, has been such a success that it might be extended into Falkirk and Clackmannanshire.

Homelessness is a real issue in Stirling with over 900 people shelterless in Scotland's smallest city. Numerous chiropody problems are experienced by people living on the streets; the combined effects of poor footwear, rough sleeping and the effects of substance abuse and alcohol on the lower limbs. Heavy smoking can also cause vascular problems, such as arterial disease, and damage foot nerves.

James, who had a hip replacement five months ago and can't reach his feet, said of the centre: "It's really excellent. Some nights I've had to sleep outside and it's been very difficult with a sore foot, especially as I have had no access to hot water to soothe it. Before I was limping and in quite a lot of pain, but since my treatment I am walking much more comfortably."

Although many homeless people are entitled to register

with a GP without a permanent address, in practice many do not, which makes it difficult for them to get vital medical care.

The drop-in clinic has so far carried out almost 300 treatments. Salvation Army's Envoy Billy McMurray said clients were reluctant at first, probably because they were worried about the cleanliness of their feet, but the service soon became extremely popular.

"A lot of our clients wear trainers and in wet weather their feet are never dry," he said. "Those who sleep rough have their shoes and socks on 24/7, which can't be healthy for feet. Some have had to be referred to hospital or the doctor but the scheme has become so popular we now get up to ten people a session."

Senior Podiatrist Fiona Redding says helping people understand how their foot problems are caused is also extremely important. "When you can resolve a problem it's a great feeling. In general the clients have expressed a genuine appreciation for the service provided."

## Imran Ali

- The drop-in chiropody service runs every Wednesday from 2–4.30pm at The Salvation Army, 19 Drip Road, Stirling. 01786 448923 or email: [stirling.corps@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:stirling.corps@salvationarmy.org.uk)

## Result!

Lanarkshire businesses pledged £10,000 to ensure Scotland's homeless football team could travel to the World Cup in Australia. The Scottish team, who won the tournament last year, feared they might not make there this time after a sponsorship deal fell through. But online channel, Moviecom.tv, and office supply company

Xltec, stepped up to offer financial support, and the team will fly out in time for kick-off on 1st December.

The Homeless World Cup is an annual international football tournament which unites 48 teams of people from around the globe who are homeless or excluded from society. Celtic and Rangers pledged their support for the homeless team by allowing them to use their state-of-the-art training facilities for coaching sessions. Moviecom.tv, who are based in Cumbernauld, have produced an online TV channel for the tournament and will be broadcasting daily updates from Melbourne.

## Staff

### Empty buildings warning

Following a recent blaze in a derelict building in Aberdeen, police have issued a warning to those who may be sheltering in empty spaces over the winter. Firefighters were called to Victoria House, a former shelter, after a small group of people became trapped by a fire on the third floor. Inspector Ailsa Farmer of Grampian Police said: "Obviously with the cold weather just now homeless people will be looking for places to stay, and if they are going into derelict buildings and lighting fires to keep warm there is a risk of these getting out of control."

## Staff

# News-in-Brief

*A round-up of all the homeless news; national and international*

## Winter warning from Spain

At the end of November an 81 year old homeless man burnt to death in Nuevos Francos, near Salamanca. The Guardia Civil investigating believe the blaze, in the abandoned lorry cab that the man used as a shelter, was caused by a fire the man had lit to keep himself warm. Unfortunately, it's the time of year when many more readers will be harmed by the cold or efforts they take to beat it, regardless of the country.

Readers are reminded of the deaths *The Pavement* has covered in the past – crushed while sheltering in skips or burnt in squats. Be careful and watch out for each other.

*Staff*

## A dozen overdoses

A recent drug alert reported that at least a dozen residents of two London hostels overdosed on a contaminated batch of heroin on the evening of Monday, 17th November.

According to a Drug Action Team, 10 residents from King George's Hostel in Victoria and a 'similar number' in Look Ahead Victoria sought treatment after taking a dangerous version of the highly addictive drug. None of the overdoses was fatal.

A spokesperson added: "It is suspected, but not confirmed, that it is coming from a drugs market south of the river" and urged all local services to alert known users.

Carly Peterson, head of communication for the Look Ahead Group that manages the Victoria hostel, confirmed that four individuals had sought hospital treatment but had been released from medical care on the same day.

The high instance of overdose has reignited criticism of hostel security, as most hostels claim to have a zero tolerance of drug abuse.

*Rebecca Wearn*

## Credit crunch Christmas – Young most at risk of homelessness

More young people are likely to be forced to sleep in the streets as a result of the credit crunch and increased pressure on homeless services, according to Cambridge-based charity Relate.

Rough sleepers are already being turned away from the city's hostels as overstretched services cannot cope with the numbers made homeless because of the recession.

Cambridge centre director Sarah Maddocks said: "Parents often move in with a new partner who doesn't want the teenage children of the previous relationship staying with them, leading to homelessness." A local shelter has already had to refuse people entry, and Emmaus have asked for blankets to help protect people they can't offer a bed to.

Cambridge Council is holding out for homelessness prevention policies which, they say, the government should pass 'soon'. But meanwhile, eviction numbers rise.

*Katy Taylor*

## Obligatory shelters in France?

Homeless organisations in France are opposing a plan to oblige rough sleepers to accept shelter during cold weather.

With three recent deaths in the Bois de Vincennes, Paris, the housing minister, Christine Boutin, proposed "obligatory shelter for homeless people when the temperature drops too low." The idea had the backing of the president.

Opposition to the plan was voiced within the government, with the prime minister saying that there was "no question of obligation."

Outside of government Augustin Legrand, of homelessness organisation les Enfants de Don Quichotte [the Children of Don Quixote], claimed that the proposed plan was a way for the government to "hide misery away," saying Boutin would force the Paris's rough sleepers into gymnasiums or village halls without offering any other support.

*Staff*

## Five shot at homeless camp in LA

Five people have been found dead at a homeless encampment in Los Angeles, USA.

Police discovered the three men and two women on Sunday, 2nd November, after receiving a tip-off from an anonymous caller, made from a payphone at about 8.30am. They initially reported that the five victims were homeless, but now say that is unconfirmed. Accord-

ing to the *Los Angeles Times*, two of the victims were identified as Lorenzo Perez Villacana, 44, and Vanessa Malaepule. Relatives of Ms Malaepule say she was not homeless, just visiting her boyfriend, who lived at the camp and is also thought to be among the dead. The remaining victims, according to police, were a Middle Eastern man in his 40s, a white man in his 50s and a Latino woman in her 20s.

No motive or suspects have been identified, and the investigation was slowed by rain and dense shrubbery around the crime scene. However, neighbours reported hearing gunfire, yelling and a car pulling away at around 12.15am on Sunday. Investigators also received reports that there may have been drugs sales at the encampment.

The encampment sits between two freeways and is obscured by heavy foliage. An estimated 1,100 homeless men and women are believed to live in the jumble of highway "crawl spaces", underbrush and crude shelters in the Los Angeles River corridor.

*Carinya Sharples*

## Lidl says sorry

The budget supermarket has expressed "regret" after workers at one of its Swedish stores contaminated discarded food in a bid to deter the homeless.

Lidl employees last month poured toxic cleaning fluids over leftover produce because they had become fed up of homeless people raiding their rubbish bins. Local newspaper *Mitt i Solna* reported the staff then put up a sign near the bins stating that the food had been poisoned. As food has continued to disappear from the bins since the staff began poisoning it, it remains unknown if anyone has been affected.

Lidl's chief executive Mathias

Kivikoski said in a statement: "We deeply regret what has happened, and this is not something the company recommends or permits."

When UK charity Centrepoint, which receives food donations from supermarkets, was told about the occurrence in Sweden, it expressed concern and said it could never imagine this happening in the city. Spokeswoman Alex Bolton said: "This story is very concerning, as many people struggle on the streets each night without a safe place to call home and without the basic necessities that many people take for granted.

"We have had very positive support from the supermarkets that make donations to our services – especially in the run-up to Christmas, a particularly difficult time for homeless young people – and it is a shame that a few employees from one supermarket have done this."

*Naomi Osinnowo*

## Credit crunch Christmas – Street sleepers double over six months

The number of people sleeping rough on the streets of London has almost doubled in six months, according to the Simon Community's latest headcount. The charity found 263 rough sleepers, a 40 per cent rise since its last count in April, and blames the worsening situation, in part, on both the economic downturn and on an increase in migrants from Poland, Romania, Bulgaria and other former Eastern Bloc countries, the largest group driving the rise.

But Jo Nurse, the group's community manager, said the figures revealed only the "tip of the iceberg": its volunteers were unable to record people sleeping in parks, derelict buildings or squats. "There's no doubt there's been an increase. Eastern European migrants are still coming to London,



thinking the streets are paved with gold and they will be able to get a job easily, but they are the first to suffer when times are tough.”

The Simon Community argues that homelessness is likely to rise even further. Ms Nurse explained: “We have seen increasing numbers of men who have lost their jobs.”

More than 50 volunteers counted 263 rough sleepers across Westminster, Camden, Islington, Tower Hamlets, Lambeth, the City, Southwark and Kensington, compared with 165 in April. The 194 rough sleepers found in Westminster alone contradicts last month’s Westminster council survey, which claimed its lowest number in a year, down from 105 in September 2007 to 69. Philippa Roe, Westminster’s cabinet member for housing, said their street counts were “independently verified”.

The Simon Community carries out its headcount twice a year in eight London boroughs.

It counts only those who are visible at the time of counting, and does not include those who sleep in parks, disused buildings or other places inaccessible to those doing the count.

*Rebecca Evans*

## Squatting couple killed by teen brothers

Two teenage brothers, aged 14 and 19, from Stoke on Trent, have been found guilty of arson and manslaughter after setting a fire in which two people were killed. They started the blaze at a derelict factory in Hanley earlier this year by dousing rubbish and chairs with petrol and setting them alight.

Jessica Beech and Darren Asher, 26 years old, were squatting in the building and died of carbon monoxide poisoning. A 40-year-old man was rescued.

Initially, it was feared more people would have been caught up in the fire, as rough sleepers had regularly used the factory.

The episode has caused concern about the plight of rough sleepers in the city and surrounding areas, and homeless support agency Brighter Future has set up a local mobile advice centre.

The brothers will be sentenced at Birmingham Crown Court at a later date.

*Simone Richardson*

## Poncho is back

*The Pavement* readers have reported that Operation Poncho, the systematic cleaning of areas where rough sleepers bed down between the hours of 1am and 5am, has resumed in the City of London.

As of Monday, 3rd November, the City of London Corporation water bowser has returned to the streets on a nightly basis, and readers have reported the tactics appear to be “more aggressive” than before.

But a spokesperson for the City of London Corporation (CLC) and Broadway, the charity contracted to reduce rough sleeping in this part of London – which has acknowledged its involvement in Operation Poncho as a means to engage with rough sleepers and encourage them indoors – said that the policy had not changed since the summer.

“Street cleaning at night only takes place where there is a clear risk to public health, usually in ‘hot-spot’ areas where numbers of people sleeping rough congregate.”

The CLC added that although it was obliged to clean “alleys and pavements which are often littered with food, drink bottles and human faeces”, cleaning only occurred “where there is a clear public health risk.”

Readers have claimed Operation

Poncho exists simply to disturb their sleep, that the water in the bowser is cold and without detergent (so ineffective for cleaning), and that it is a bullying tactic to move them into the hostel system.

In response to these allegations, the spokesperson explained that “hotspot” areas were cleaned only after repeated advance warnings and sensitive, direct contact with outreach workers. “The cleansing is partnered with rough sleepers being encouraged to move indoors because no human being wants anybody else to live sleeping rough and it is up to all of us, working together, to find ways to re-connect these people to society so they can begin to live with more dignity and hope, and away from the dangerous and unhealthy streets.

“The City of London Corporation, Broadway and the City of London Police are aiming to provide positive alternative approaches to living on the street.

“Officers of all agencies have and continue to conduct themselves in an exemplary fashion and there is no evidence of anything to the contrary.”

Long-term rough sleepers maintain it is their right to live their lives as they wish to do so and told *The Pavement* they would continue to ignore the pressure to move on.

*Rebecca Wearn*

## City move-on charity wins award

After the ongoing controversy of Broadway’s involvement in working with the police and Corporation of London on a strategy to wake up and move on rough sleepers in the City, Broadway won two gongs at the Third Sector Awards on 18th November.

However, the London-based charity won the awards not for

its close work with the police in the City, but rather as an employer and for a partnership offering HR support.

*Third Sector* is a publication for the charity sector.

## Staff

## Alcohol-related death in Reading

A homeless man found dead at Reading market on September 26th has been named as Stephen Walsh.

The 39-year-old rough sleeper died from acute alcohol toxicity. He was found by market traders setting up for business in the early hours of the morning, a spokesman for Reading police said.

According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), alcohol-related fatalities among all adult age groups in Britain more than doubled over the past 15 years to 8,758 in 2006.

The steepest increase was among men aged 35–54, who are falling victims to cirrhosis of the liver and other alcohol-induced diseases at a younger age than before.

A recent study by the Broadway Healthy Living Centre for homeless people, opened in London in 2001, found that 84 per cent of the users seen by its nurse had a recorded alcohol support need.

*Clara Denina*

## Credit crunch Christmas – Recession hits homeless charity

A charity in Wales is expecting demand for its services to rocket if more people become homeless as the recession kicks in.

David Jones, director of Adref, predicts a greater need for its 10

hostel beds and outreach services in Merthyr Tydfil between February and March next year, when more people are forced onto the streets as the economy falls into recession. “We anticipate the current financial situation, an increase in mortgage repossessions and debt carried through the Christmas period to cause an increase in demand for our services in spring.”

Adref, one of two charities in the area, has been unable to meet local needs for its services since its opening because of limited resources. When the housing project with Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association was set up five years ago, no one had an idea about the extent of the problem. “We have always been between 70 and 80 per cent over subscribed,” Mr Jones explained.

The charity has made numerous applications to the Welsh Assembly Government for funding to expand and meet demand, but was told no cash was available, so Adref plans to maximise the outreach services where its employees support people in their homes in the hope of preventing future homelessness. “This is a very cost-effective way of ensuring that people can maintain their homes, and prevents them from becoming homeless,” Mr Jones said.

*Naomi Osinnowo*

## Royal visit

The homeless charity favoured by the late Princess Diana received an emotional visit from her son Prince William in early November.

The prince spoke to 10 young people aged 16–25, who had been supported by Centrepoint in London, about his childhood visits to the project.

He said: “It’s a charity with which both my mother and father were passionately involved. Our visits to Centrepoint with my mother stayed with me, and

that’s why it’s the first charity I wanted to be involved with.”

Centrepoint helps homeless young people find accommodation and services, and Princess Diana was its patron from 1992 until her death in 1997.

As part of a fundraising campaign, the charity has launched an album of songs from 1968–69, the year it was founded, covered by major artists. People who donate more than £100 will have their names printed on the sleeve.

*Katy Taylor*

## McKellen backs gay homeless charity

Sir Ian McKellen is to lend his support to a gay homeless charity by attending a benefit evening organised by Village Drinks, the UK’s leading network for gay professionals, on 14th December at the Century Members’ Club.

Sir Ian will talk about his life and career, as well as answering questions, before mingling with members of Village Drinks and his special guests. All the money raised will go to the Albert Kennedy Trust (AKT), of which Sir Ian has been a patron since 2007.

It was formed in 1989 after 16-year-old Albert Kennedy fell to his death from the top of a car park in Manchester while trying to escape a carload of homophobic bullies. A runaway from a children’s home in Salford, Mr Kennedy was depressed and had long battled with abuse and rejection.

Heterosexual foster carer Cath Hall set up the charity, admitting that she could not meet all the needs of young gay and lesbian people who came into her care. Today, the AKT fills this gap by supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) young people who are homeless, or living in an



"My money"

abusive or hostile environment.

Through its offices in London and Manchester, the AKT provides accommodation, including supported lodgings, fostering and specialist housing schemes. It also supports young people to live independently and works to improve public attitudes towards LGBT young people.

*Carinya Sharples*

## Russian bomb hoaxer seeks "good food"

A homeless Russian man deliberately tried to get back into prison to get regular "good food".

He had been released from jail in Yekaterinburg, in the Russian Urals, the previous month. Less than a week after his release, he raised a bomb scare in the city's train station. According to local news sources, Yekaterinburg police said they arrested the man, who had threatened to blow up the station, after evacuating passengers and staff. However, they found no explosive device.

Shortly after the incident, the man confessed he wanted to go back to jail where he would not have to worry about finding food. He is being held pending a trial.

If he is found guilty, satisfying nourishment will be the least of his worries: he could be detained for up to three years.

*Carlo Svaluto Moreolo*

## Arlington House landlords under investigation

The Housing Corporation, the government regulatory body for registered social landlords, is to investigate the accounts of the out-going landlords of Arlington House, the London hostel.

Last month, *The Pavement* reported that Novas Scarman Group was to hand over the tenancy of Camden's famous homeless hostel to the One Housing Group in the midst of a £22m refurbishment plan. The reasons for the statutory inquiry into Novas Scarman's business affairs are unclear, and at the time of going to press, Novas Scarman had made no comment.

The plans to hand over the tenancy to another housing association have raised eyebrows in the sector. The company has insisted it is not in financial difficulty, despite reporting an operating deficit of £277,000 last year. It has not released its latest figures, which were due on 30th September, 2008.

Novas Scarman Group said Arlington House would be transferred at "nil cost", with a further £11million "gifted" to the new owners on condition they finish the property's enormous overhaul, which would reduce bed space from 390 to just 130. The refurbishment is not expected to be completed until November next year, 11 months later than first outlined in the charity's 2006-07 audit report.

According to a local newspaper, the *Camden New Journal*, Novas Scarman Group has been criticised for not having sufficient experience to complete building projects on this scale, and the charity has sold off much of its property portfolio since 2005, switching its focus from providing accommodation for rough sleepers or ex-offenders to outreach services.

The change of emphasis has seen Novas Scarman invest several million pounds into an arts complex in Liverpool, two London art galleries and Rough Sleepers, a fashion boutique in Chalk Farm, London, which subsequently closed.

*The Pavement* readers have contacted us with their concerns about the future of the building, but Novas Scarman said new owners

would continue to work with the charity to provide support for those in temporary accommodation.

*Rebecca Wearn*

## Secret suicide

A member of a Sussex suicide prevention charity tried to talk a local homeless man out of committing suicide but failed to convince him.

Frontline team member Heather Luxford was on the cliff when Mr Champin prepared to jump. Clair McGinty-Gibbs, team leader at the Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team (BHCT), said the cliff was a well known location for suicide attempts, with at least 20 people trying to

end their lives there every year.

"Ms Luxford tried to speak him out of it but she couldn't," said Ms McGinty-Gibbs.

The BHCT and HM Coroner Alan Craze would not expand on the events before and after Renaud Champin, 51, plunged off Beachy Head cliff in June, fearing that publicity would spark more suicides and undermine confidentiality.

The deployment of volunteer patrols at suicide hot spots like this one aims to reduce this rate.

The coroner recorded a verdict of suicide in November.

*Naomi Osinnowo*

## Curating the homeless

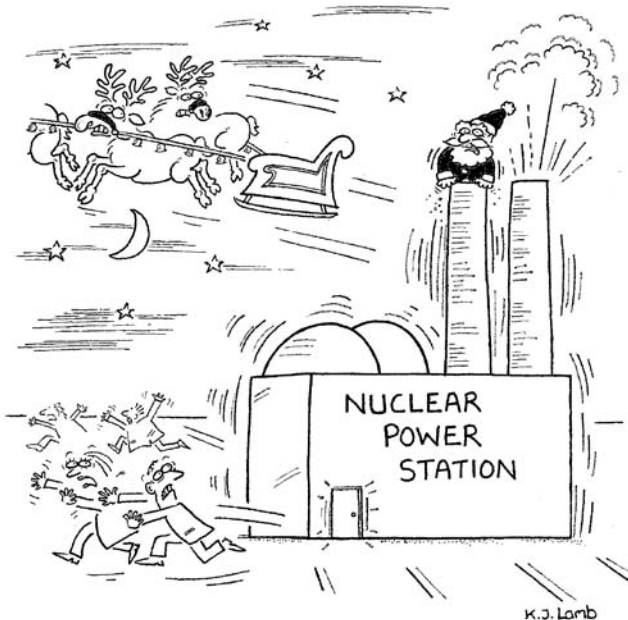
The Museum of London is kicking off a free exhibition portraying the daily life of a group of homeless people in London through their own accounts.

The 'Homeless in the Capital' exhibition brings together diaries, videos, artwork and poetry describing the life of clients of The Connection at St Martin's day centre.

Users of The Connection have recorded their experiences over an 18-month period. The display, according to the Museum, "looks beyond the stereotypes and statistics to show that homeless people are not one homogeneous group, but individuals from all walks of life."

Dawn Ogunbiyi, who coordinated the exhibition on behalf of the hostel, said: "The reasons people become homeless are extremely varied, and working on this project continually reinforced to me how easily this can happen to anyone."

Among the stories featured in the exhibition is Celeste Braithwaite's. She attended weekly singing workshops run by music charity Streetwise Opera at The Connection, then starred in a Streetwise Opera produc-



*When Santa got stuck in the chimney*

tion at the Almeida Theatre.

Other clients of The Connection who have been given the opportunity to tell their stories are Paul Boston, who sleeps rough while working in a bar at night, and Samson Mel, a former Air Force pilot. The Museum said these stories “go some way to break the stereotypical view of homelessness.”

The exhibition at the museum, situated on the London Wall, runs until 22nd February 2009. The Museum of London is focused on the history of the capital. Among the items on display is the European Parliament’s written pledge, announced this year, to end street homelessness by 2015.

*Carlo Svaluto Moreolo*

## The Terminal

A Japanese man has been living in a terminal at Mexico City for nearly three months, surviving purely on handouts from passengers and fast-food restaurants.

Hiroshi Nohara has been at Terminal One of the Benito Juarez International Airport since 2nd September, according to local news reports. He flew into Mexico with a tourist visa and a return ticket, but he never left the airport.

Airport authorities asked the Japanese embassy to investigate why he refused to leave.

Mr Nohara has become something of a star, with near-daily television news reports on his life at the food court, and tourists requesting autographs and posing with him for photos.

But Mr Nohara appears to be confused. He was reported as saying, through an interpreter, “I don’t understand why I’m here. I don’t have a reason.”

Mr Nohara’s visa expires in March.

*Catherine Neilan*

## Cold snap

As the colder nights draw in the plight of street homeless has made its annual return to the mainstream media.

Last month, a police inspector in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, called into a local radio show to voice his concerns that unless something was done to help those sleeping out in his city, many could die this winter.

Inspector Paul Deacon joined a discussion about groups of people living under duvets in the John Street area of the city. The life of one man, Eamonn Anderson, 40, had already been claimed by hypothermia in mid-October. A local businessman had donated a temporary shelter to the city’s homeless; rough sleepers called it “a godsend”.

In London, Westminster council confirmed it would utilise 200+ on-street staff to look out for rough sleepers in sub-zero temperatures. Also, a Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEPE) is in operation, with a number of organisations in the city using Met Office predictions to help them provide additional bed spaces when the temperature plummets.

Mick Clarke, of The Passage, Victoria, (one of the service providers for SWEPE), added that it would provide more beds even if the

protocol had not been activated.

“While our priority is to help those sleeping rough to find shelter and support, we strongly advocate a humane approach by all relevant authorities to those who continue to sleep on the streets, even in the worst of the winter weather,” he added, drawing particular focus towards the number of migrants who often end up on the streets without recourse to any public funds or benefits.

Those left outdoors without support were also the focus of Housing Justice. Spokesperson Sally Leigh explained that, as a faith-based organisation, it hoped churches across the city would continue to open their doors to offer respite to people unable or unwilling to use the hostel system between December and March.

“Some of our guests are not eligible to gain access to local authority hostel accommodation, as they cannot prove sufficient local connection,” she said.

“Others are not deemed vulnerable enough to warrant help, as they do not have drug or alcohol problems and their mental health is intact. Others do not wish to go into traditional hostels or cannot get into them, as there are not enough spaces.”

*Rebecca Wearn*



*K.J. Lamb*





*Illustrating the recession-proof measures some organisations can employ to weather the credit crunch: Eleri Varney, a volunteer at the Cyrenians Farm near Edinburgh, knows better than to put all her eggs in one basket! She supports residents at the farm community and helps care for the chickens, whose eggs are delivered once a week to local shops.*



# Dear Flo

## Nurse Florence on... the use of Accident and Emergency?

This is a tale told to demonstrate the resourcefulness of the individual and the bravery, skill and level-headedness of Accident and Emergency staff.

A certain elderly gentleman, from a poorer district of a UK city, regularly attended an outpatient clinic for a bad case of hemorrhoids; unfortunately, the hospital was unable to provide a long-term solution. He was in the habit of pushing one particularly troublesome pile back up into his rectum with a handy anti-aircraft gun artillery shell, a memento of the World War II. Unfortunately, one day the shell got stuck. He hobbled down to the Accident and Emergency department to get it removed. As the doctor was putting his gloves on to further inspect this rectal foreign body he asked: "Of course, this shell is spent, isn't it?" "Oh, no," said the patient. "There is enough ammo in that shell to blast a Messerschmitt out of the sky."

The bomb squad was duly summoned and the shell was defused, in situ, before further manual removal could proceed. History does not relate what, if any, medals were given to the staff involved (though an order of the Artillery Retrieval Specialised Engineers would seem appropriate in this particular case).

This is a clear-cut case of when the Accident and Emergency service should be used. The ambulance might have proved more problematic if the driver had been aware of the facts!

However, too often the service is called upon for conditions that are not life-threatening, leading to delay for more urgent cases. Colds, stubbed toes, minor cuts, sprains and bruises are not emergencies, no matter how uncomfortable they

may be, and should be treated by your general practitioner. If your GP surgery is closed, the telephone answer machine will provide details of the out-of-hours service. These services will also be posted outside the building, or you can look them up on the internet. If you are not registered with a GP, contact **NHS Direct** on **0845 4647**. This is a national advice helpline and will put you through to a nurse who will be able to advise on a host of conditions including diabetes, asthma, STIs and allergies. Their website is on [www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk).

Qualified pharmacists can offer advice and recommend non-prescription medication for minor ailments such as coughs, colds, stomach upsets, athlete's foot and smoking cessation. Most pharma-

cies are open over the weekend and many have late opening hours.

Rather worrying rumours have long circulated of unusual accidents involving small rodents and requiring immediate A&E attention. I am happy to say that medical records of a gerbilectomy from the upper reaches of a patient's colon have so far, thankfully, proved elusive, but who knows? Maybe on your next visit to A&E...

Just be certain that your visit is for the correct reason. Good health & Merry Christmas,

*Flo*

To contact our nurse email: [flo@thepavement.org.uk](mailto:flo@thepavement.org.uk) or readers throughout the UK can write to her at the address on page 3



*"It's his gap year, so he's learning to read"*

# Ask Agnes

*Our agony aunt answers your questions on life*

Dear Agnes,

*In recent years, Christmas Day has gone very wrong in my family. I know a lot of people make jokes about having a stressful time at Christmas, but take my word for it: this is more serious.*

*Although my younger brother and I were in foster care when we were kids and are now both living rough, we have always been invited home for Christmas dinner. Last year followed the typical pattern of forced joviality until around midday, by which time my brother was totally pissed, and I had to leave before the big lunch because my withdrawals were so bad, I had to go and score.*

*Needless to say, there was a fight. I pushed my Dad, my brother punched me in the face, and my Mum cried. I'd like things to be a little different this year. Any pointers?*

Tom  
24, Glasgow

Hello Tom,  
I'm taking you seriously, and – seriously – I have to say: rather you than me.

It sounds like the worst Christmas day imaginable. I'm tempted to ask if you wouldn't be better off avoiding the whole thing and doing something different, but that would be glib.

Whatever the family situation, most people appreciate that there's something about spending Christmas alone that makes them feel truly rotten. However frequently people explain to Agnes that Christmas is just another day, it will never ring entirely true, though for the life of me I can't explain why it has become so significant that we

must all kid ourselves that the only way to have a happy Christmas is to have 24 hours of full-on peace, love and over-priced presents. That level of harmony would be particularly difficult for people with complicated family backgrounds to achieve.

Not having lived at home for a long time (or, perhaps, for much of your life), you have had less practice at the "ignoring it and keeping your mouth shut" part of family dynamics that is fundamental to the happiness of most families the world over. Avoiding confrontation is an art not to be taken lightly, and one that is hardest to master under pressure and in the presence of alcohol.

In addition, very strong feelings may come to the surface in your family at this time of year and make everyone more sensitive. I am guessing that you all have your own views on what has been and gone. I also imagine that you haven't sat down to talk out these emotions recently. That type of discussion can help: it's only when you ask someone how they feel that you find out the truth – anything else is just speculation. Mutual understanding can be the quickest route to a mutual tolerance.

But – sadly – a big family therapy session is hardly in the spirit of Christmas, nor is it everyone's cup of tea. So, let's start small: what can you do this year to make it through the day without physical violence?

First, you are responsible only for yourself. You may be big brother in the family, but your brother is big enough to look after himself. If he chooses to drink himself silly by noon, so be it. I doubt you will be able to stop him even if you try. Secondly, you have your own habit to take into account, and life would be

much easier if you weren't rattling around your cage by midday. Only you know how you can deal with this, but dealing with it is going to be more effective than pretending it isn't going to happen. If you choose to self-medicate, do it safely and responsibly and with the permission of the homeowner – having fully explained your predicament, of course. If this is met with hostility, then I have to say again: so be it. Everyone has the right to say about what goes on under their own roof.

With the right groundwork in place and the right attitude, making it through lunch is a distinct possibility. And perhaps the goal of making it through is a good place to start this year. Give yourself a 10/10 for just managing to stick the day out.

And don't sweat the minor quarrels – believe it or not, most of us encounter them at some point during the festive season.

Agnes

To contact your agony aunt, email: [agnes@thepavement.org.uk](mailto:agnes@thepavement.org.uk) or readers throughout the UK can write to her at the address on page 3

# Foot care

## Taking your feet into 2009 – DIY footcare

Feet are so important to us, yet we often only think about them when they go wrong. With just 26 little bones in each foot to carry us the 100,000 miles we will each walk in our lifetime, our feet are our most important asset. So how can we keep them in good condition? There is no need to spend a lot of money on expensive foot treatments; they may feel good at the time, but the best lifelong foot maintenance comes from regular DIY inspection and attention – and that's free!

Feet are sensitive to temperature, humidity, trauma, circulation problems and infection, so keeping them safe isn't always easy on the street. With regard to temperature and humidity, always try to avoid the extremes of heat and cold. It is even more important to avoid going quickly from one extreme to another: however tempting it is to put your ice-cold feet next to a source of heat this winter, don't – your circulation won't like it. Keep your feet as warm as you can inside your shoes, with clean, dry socks if you can. Try to let your shoes air dry from time to time, and if you can, use shoes that are made of natural materials.

Keep your toenails short and cut them straight across. Check your feet regularly, especially between your toes. If you drink alcohol, smoke, take certain medications or have conditions such as diabetes, your ability to feel things on your feet may be compromised, so you will have to look at your feet from time to time. Does the skin look dry and cracked at the heels? Try to get hold of a cheap moisturising hand cream – any basic brand is fine – and put plenty on. Do they look wet and shiny? Try to leave your socks off from time to time when



*“Bugger – writer’s block”*

it is safe to do so. If you can keep the skin on your feet intact, you are less likely to get an infection.

Viral infections (like verrucae), fungal infections (like athlete's foot) and bacterial infections (too many to mention!) are common. (None of them are life-threatening, but they can be a real nuisance and make it more likely that you'll get other types of infection.) Try to keep the skin on your feet intact so that infections have no way of getting in. It helps if you wear shoes/boots that are a good fit,

have good soles and don't rub your feet. Try to avoid going barefoot on rough or jagged floor surfaces. If you are going to shower where other people do, or washing your feet in a basin that is used by others, give the shower tray/basin and floor a good rinse and a wipe if you can before you get in.

Look after your feet – they've got a lot of steps left to take.

*Evelyn Weir*  
Lecturer in Podiatry, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh

# Cold Turkey

*What does the word 'recovery' mean?*

The debate between the 12-step treatment providers and the 12-step membership and mainstream drug/alcohol services goes on, so I will put in my two-pennies' worth as well.

We need to know what are we talking about. Is it the 12-step recovery, with 'recovery' meaning "being in a process of maintaining abstinence" or 'recovery' while using drugs and/or alcohol?

The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines the noun recovery as "a return to a normal state of health, mind or strength," but the phrase "in recovery" can mean the process of recovering from mental illness or drug addiction.

The 12-step fellowships of Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) differ in one fundamental way from charitable or statutory "drug programmes": they are fully self-supporting and, to all intents and purposes, they are free. Their message is clear and unequivocal: it's about "trying to carry the message to the addict who suffers" and stating "the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using". You can be using, but your focus needs to be on stopping. There is nothing in NA or AA for someone who does not want to stop using/drinking.

The rest of us in the drug business – including 12-step treatment providers – are driven by politics, funding agendas, flavour-of-the-month policies, outcomes, back-to-work agendas, smart targets, crime reduction, international law, prohibition etc, with the government, the NTA and the medical establishment trying to drive the agenda. It's more like an oriental bazaar, a free-for-all, with everyone vying for his or her piece of the pie.

Even Peter McDermott from

the Alliance (a drug user's forum), the voice of the people, is getting in on the act, and sounding quite pompous in his *Drink and Drug News* article, 'Another game of jargon bingo'. He states that knowledge of drug use/treatment have "tended to draw our concepts from science rather than from quasi-religious ideology. And so we [who is this 'we'?] talk about dependence rather than addiction. About multi-factorial causes, rather than a 'spiritual malady'."

I have never found the "substance use field" to be anything more than a soft science, a common sense approach: use clean works, don't share needles, have protected sex, don't share smoking equipment and rotate injecting sites. There is nothing scientific in what we do nor in the information we give out – it's low-level grocership at best.

'Multi-factorial' causes suggest a greater understanding of the drug user's psyche; but the opposite is true. We don't know why some people use drugs/alcohol in self destructive ways and others don't. S/he used drugs/alcohol because of X Y & Z. So what? Multi-factorial implies 'victim'. If Hitler had not of been rejected as an artist when he was young, World War II would not have taken place, perhaps.

Rightly or wrongly, when you use drugs in chaotic and harmful way, you abrogate many of your rights as a citizen, and society turns against you. So, in turn, in NA- and AA-speak, you suffer from a "spiritual malady". You are shunned, judged, despairing, isolated, without hope, lost, self-centred, scapegoated, looked down upon, pitied and demonised. The language is, to some extent, quasi-religious, but nonetheless

true. And it is pertinent to the millions of addicts recovering in the 12-step fellowships worldwide.

So how can we use the word 'recovery' in terms of measuring success or failure in the light of treatment outcomes?

Within the 12-step fellowships, measuring 'recovery' is relatively simple: the increase in meetings worldwide; its cost-effectiveness (it's free); or the increase in membership. Clean time (total abstinence from all drugs) goes beyond the 13 weeks seen by mainstream drug services as a success – the average is about three to five years, maybe more. Literature sales can be as a measure.

However, for mainstream drug/alcohol services, this is not such a simple matter. 'Recovery' is measured in terms of a political agenda and success/targets: we measure job creation; statistical data; the amount of paper we produce; filing systems; whether clients are stealing less; working more; though-put, etc.

Mainstream services have taken their eye off the ball. As I have said before, this is more about service delivery than delivering a service to people who that need it. Paper's not cheap...

I think that there is more (recovery) of a return to a normal state of health, mind or strength going on in the fellowships than in mainstream drug/alcohol services

As you can see, it's business as usual in the world of drugs!

So, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

*Andy Zapletal*

## The Cardboard Shield

Alex Prowse is from the Black Country, and been on the streets for years. Seldom seen by others on the street, he keeps himself to himself. He has no costume, but is mainly seen in dark clothes and a black leather jacket. When needed he appears, and protects anyone being threatened or assaulted. Grabbing cardboard it becomes stronger than steel, stopping knives, bullets and anything else thrown at it. When he drops it, it becomes normal cardboard again. No reason for his power has ever been found, but he says he's "always 'ad it – born with it."

## Rough Diamond

Welshman *Dominic Jones* is the *Rough Diamond*, found on the streets as a rough sleeper, but sometimes in a Cardiff hostel. His red and green costume appears on him when he activates the 'diamond' he found in a stream on the Brecon Beacons. The diamond motif appears on his chest where it hangs on a string, and makes the wearer as hard as diamond. Stays on the streets, mostly in Cardiff and London, as he says "It's where I'm needed, and if you want to see crime, the street's the place."



## Missing Man

A figure seen in the shadows, who's never fully seen and is a shade. He is or has been homeless. He travels in the shadows, is partly made of them, and talks to all the heroes, sometimes coordinating their joint efforts.

## The Golden Blanket

*Malcolm Fraser* was sleeping rough in Inverness, Glasgow, and Edinburgh. When in a Scottish city the Sally Army gave him a blanket one winter, except this particular blanket was a rare Persian rug (which, with a faded pattern, looked like a beige blanket) with magical powers – when wrapped around his shoulders he can disappear, teleport or read minds.

## Street Shield

He fell from the stars, and landed on the streets – Shield Street, London. No-one, not even the man himself, knows how '*Martin Smith*,' the name taken from the label of a coat he was loaned, came to earth, or how he got his powers or what he's doing there. But if there's trouble, someone's attacked, or is being abused, he'll be there. At the blink of an eye he'll be in his blue and black uniform, bearing the motif of a comet. He can fly, shoot beams from his hands, and has hyper-senses, but only when his costume is 'on'.



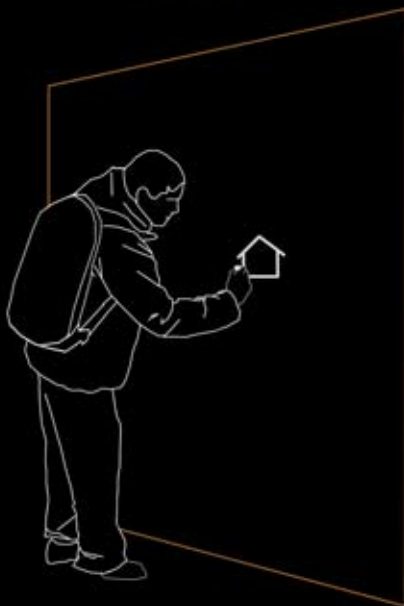
# HOMELESS CITY GUIDE

-  squat
-  empty building
-  dangerous neighbourhood
-  danger
-  guard dogs
-  an attack happened here
-  good place to drink / smoke
-  unfriendly place
-  friendly place
-  soup run (with rating)
-  strong police presence
-  potential for work
-  good food thrown away here
-  safe for sleeping
-  message board x mins that way
-  security guard
-  you'll get moved on here

step 1



step 2



**MAKE YOUR MARK AND HELP OTHERS TO READ THE CITY**

Make non permanent marks to keep the system up to date and stay within the law.



**SOUP KITCHENS & SOUP RUNS**

**Balvicar Street**  
Thurs: 7 - 9pm

**Cadogan Street**  
Glasgow G2  
Sun: 9 - 10pm; Mon: 7.30 - 9pm; Tues: 8.45pm - 12.30am; Wed: 9 - 10pm; Fri: 8 - 9pm

**St. Columba's Church**  
St. Vincent Street  
Sun: 7.30 - 9pm  
Thurs & Sun: 8pm - 9pm

**St. Patrick's Church**  
North Street

**St. Simon's Church**  
Dunsgin Street  
Sun: 1.30 - 2.30pm

**Waterloo Street**  
Thurs: 10pm - 12am

**SPECIALIST SERVICES GLASGOW**

**Glasgow Women's Support Project**

31 Stockwell St, G1 4RZ  
0141 552 2221  
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 10am - 4.30pm; Wed: 2 - 4.30pm  
support for women who have experienced sexual abuse

**TELEPHONE SERVICES**

**Benefits Agency (JCP)**

To make a claim  
0800 055 6688

For queries about existing claims for Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance or Incapacity Benefit  
0845 377 6001

For Social Fund enquiries  
0845 608 8661

For the Pensions Service  
0845 60 60 265

**Domestic Violence Helpline**

**Frank**  
0800 776 600  
Free 24-hr drug helpline

**Get Connected**  
0808 808 4994  
Free advice for young people (1pm - 7pm daily)

**Message Home Helpline**  
0800 700 740  
24 hrs daily

**National Debtline**  
0808 808 4000

**Runaway Helpline**  
0808 800 7070  
Free line for under-18s who have left home

**The Samaritans**  
08457 90 9090

**SANeline**  
6 - 11pm  
0845 767 8000

Out-of-hours helpline for those affected by mental health

**Shelter**  
0808 800 4444  
Housing info and advice  
8am-12am daily

**UK Human Trafficking Centre**  
0114 252 3891

**TELEPHONE SERVICES EDINBURGH**

**Edinburgh City Mission**

Counselling and crossline helpline  
0845 658 0045  
Providing a listening service for anyone in emotional crisis. Also offers face-to-face counselling by appointment

**WEBSITES**

**Mental Fight Club**  
A creative/arts site for those with mental illness.  
uk.geocities.com/gabriele-jenkinson@btinternet.com/

**The Pavement Online**

Soon to have an online version of *The Other List*, which will soon be in several translations to download.  
www.thepavement.org.uk/services.htm

**Proud to be mad**  
A campaigning site for those with mental illness  
www.proudtobemad.co.uk

**Stonewall Housing**

Addresses the housing needs of lesbians and gay men. Provides temporary, supported housing for 16 - 25 years old lesbians and gay men.  
www.stonewallhousing.org

**Streetmate**

An independent site with substantial information on housing, working and learning, built for those homeless who use the internet and want to do it-them-selves as much as possible.  
www.streetmate.org

**WEBSITES EDINBURGH**

**Homeless Edinburgh**

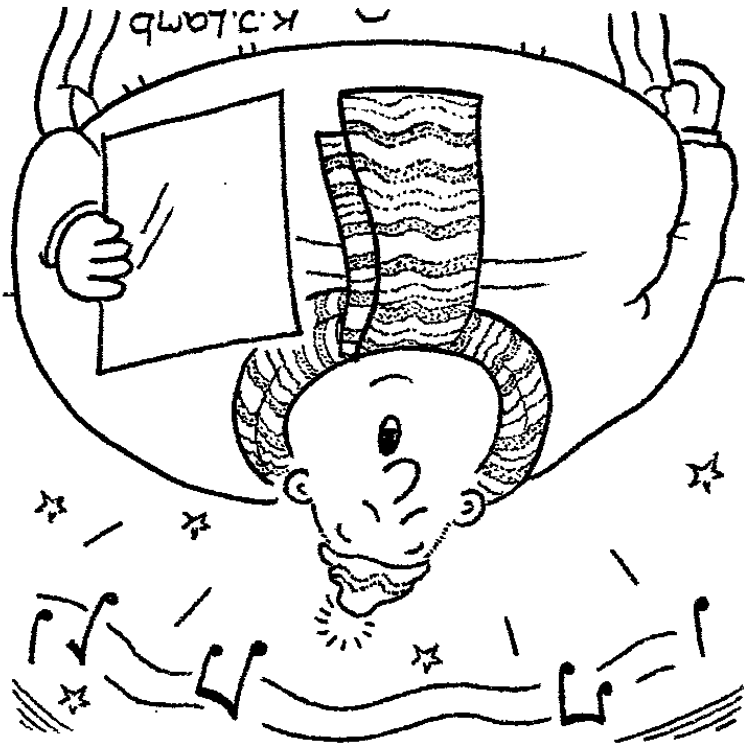
A comprehensive website containing information about services in Edinburgh including hostels, advice and support centres. Also has information on over 8,000 services outside Edinburgh  
www.homelessedinburgh.org

**WEBSITES GLASGOW**

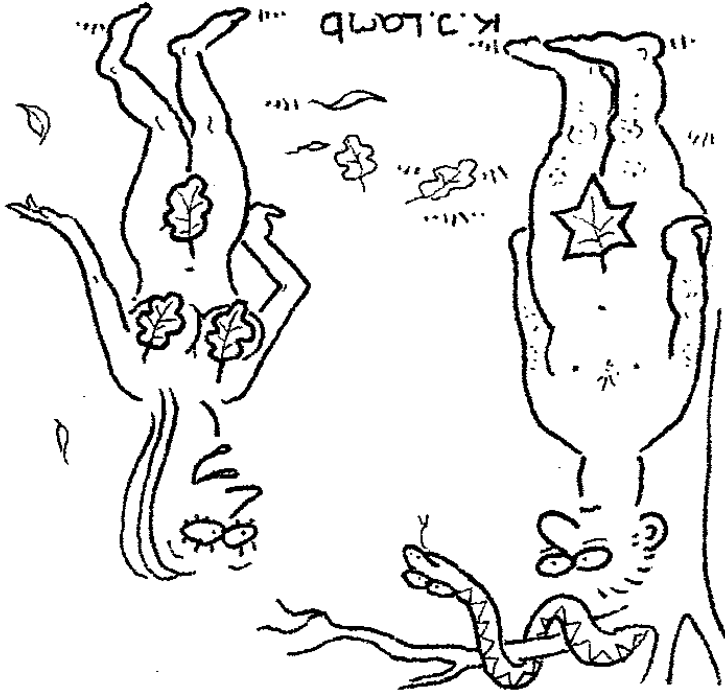
**Homeless Information Pages**

**Glasgow**  
Lots of useful information and advice on homeless services in and around Glasgow  
www.hipinglasgow.com

*"I'm dreaming of a wide Christmas"*



"It's from the Autumn collection"



tion and advice for those who abuse drugs. Also needle exchange and residential drug rehab program. Family support unit operates on site

**EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING  
EDINBURGH**

**Bethany Christian Centre (Men only)**

6 Casselbank St, EH6 5HA  
0131 554 4071

For homeless or vulnerable men

wish to take part in a work training program [www.bethanyct.com](http://www.bethanyct.com)

**CA, ET**

**EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING  
GLASGOW**

**Glasgow Simon Community**

472 Ballater Street, G5 0QW  
0141 478 6980

Runs short courses that help people

look at their choices, rights and opportunities in settling down. Open

to anyone over 16. Courses are

organised on a rolling programme

and run between 10am and 4pm

[www.glasgowsimon.org.uk](http://www.glasgowsimon.org.uk)

**C, ET**

**Emmaus Glasgow**

101 Ellesmere Street, G22 5QT  
0141 353 3912

[www.emmausglasgow.org.uk](http://www.emmausglasgow.org.uk)

Provides accommodation and work for homeless people.

**AS, CL, ET, TS**

**EX-FORGES**

**AWOL?**

01380 738137

Call the 'Reclaim Your Life' scheme

from SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors,

Airmen and Families Associa-

tion): Mon - Fri: 9am - 10am

**Royal British Legion**

08457 725 725

Ring the Legionline to see how they

can help ex-servicemen and women

**Veterans UK**  
0800 169 2277

Free help and advice for veterans and access to dedicated

one-to-one welfare service [www.veterans-uk.info](http://www.veterans-uk.info)

**EX-FORGES EDINBURGH**

**Whiteford House**

53 Canongate, EH8 8BS

0131 556 6827

Ring first

Mon - Fri: 7am - 5pm

Accommodation for homeless

ex-service men and women,

including ex-merchant mariners.

Can accept married couples

**MEDICALSERVICES EDINBURGH**

**Edinburgh Homeless Practice**

(Cowgate Clinic)

20 Cowgate, EH1 1JX

0131 240 2810

Mon, Wed - Fri: 9am - 12.45pm,

1.45 - 5pm; Tues 9am - 12.45pm,

Health service for homeless people,

including a general nursing and

treatment room, mental health

care, 10 GP sessions a week, as well

as dental services two mornings

a week. Also provides a chiropody

service, occupational therapist,

clinical psychologist and psy-

chiatrist. A bathing service and

clothes exchange is available too

**A, DT, D, FC, MS, MH, SH**

**MEDICALSERVICES GLASGOW**

**The Physical Health Care Team**

55 Hunter St, G4 0UP

0141 553 2826

Mon - Fri: 1 - 5pm

Has two GPs and a team of nurses

and office staff who also run

clinics at some hostels. Appoint-

ments not necessary. They also

provide support for people who

have hospital appointments

and want someone to go along

with them. There is also an

addiction and mental health

team based at this address

**A, D, FC, MH, MS, SH**

**SOUP KITCHENS & SOUP RUNS  
EDINBURGH**

**Barony Contact Point**

101 High Riggs, EH3 9RP

0871 700 7777 / 0131 622 1867

Tue: 10.30am - 4pm;

Thur: 10am - 1pm, FF

121 Montgomey Street, EH7 5EP  
0131 661 5252

Tues: 6 - 8.30pm

**FF**

**Carrubber's Christian Centre**

65 High Street, EH1 1SR

0131 556 2626

Sun: 8.30 - 9am

**FF**

**Grassmarket Mission**

79/3 Grassmarket, EH1 2HJ

0131 225 3626

Mon: 7 - 9pm; Tues: 6 - 7pm;

Wed: 1 - 4pm; Fri: 1 - 4pm and

6 - 7pm, Sat 9 - 10.30pm

**FF**

**Jericho house**

53 Lothian Street, EH1 1HB

0131 225 8230

Sun: 10am - 2pm; Weds

and Thurs: 6 - 7.30pm

**FF**

**Little Sisters of the Poor**

43 Gilmore Place, EH3 9NG

0131 229 5672

Every day 1 - 2pm and 6 - 7pm

**FF**

**Missionaries of Charity**

18 Hopetoun Crescent, EH7 4AY

0131 557 8219

Every day except Thur:

3.45 - 4.30pm

**FF**

**Salvation Army**

1 East Adam Street, EH8 9TF

0131 662 4455

Mon: 9am - 12 noon; Tue and Thur:

3 - 9pm; Fri: 1 - 4pm; Sat: 6 - 9pm

**FF**

**St George's West**

58 Shandwick Place, EH2 4RT

0131 226 2428

Mon - Sat: 9am - 3pm

**FF**

**Soup Van**

Every night: 9 - 9.45pm

Runs from Waverley Bridge to

Grassmarket and North Bridge

**FF**

**Women**

**Cranton Street Hostel**  
2 Cranton St, EH8 8BE  
0131 556 8939

Ring first. Will not accept women who are over six months pregnant.

**Number Twenty**  
20 Broughton Place, EH1 3RX  
0131 557 1739

Young single homeless women aged 16-21 with support needs. Ring first (8am - 11:30pm every day)

**Young people (16-21)**

**Bedrock**  
55 Albany St, EH1 3QY  
0131 557 4059

For young women who have a baby under 12 months or are pregnant as well as residents up to the age of 25.

**Open Door Accommodation**

**Project**  
7-12 Adelaide Street, Liv-  
ington, EH54 5HG  
01506 430221

Young single homeless people aged 16-21 with a local connection to West Lothian

Ring first (8am - 8pm daily)

**Stopover (Edinburgh)**

40 Grove Street, EH3 8AT  
0131 229 6907

Young single homeless people aged 16-21 with a range of support needs  
Ring first

**DIRECT AGENCY HOSTELS/  
NIGHTSHELTERS GLASGOW**

**All with low support needs**

**Salvation Army - Hope House**  
14 Clyde Street, G1 5JW  
0141 552 037

24hr Direct access

**Laurieston Centre**  
39 South Portland Street, G5 9JL  
0141 429 6533

24hr Direct access

A, AS, BS, F

**Talbot Association - Kingston**

Halls Direct Access Hostel  
344 Paisley Road, G5 8RE

0141 418 0955

Ring first  
BS, C, DT, ET, F, H, L, MS, MH, SH

**Turning Point Scotland - Link Up**  
112 Commerce Street, G5 9NT  
0141 420 1929

A direct access service for homeless people in crisis as a result of mental health, drug, or alcohol problems

A, AS, AD, C, D, FC, MS

**Women**

**Govanhill Women's Project**  
14 Polmadie Street, G42 0PQ  
0141 423 5599

Works with single homeless women aged over 25 from the

Glasgow area. The project is not suitable for women under 25

or those wanting to be accommodated with a partner or with children in their care. Ring first

**The Mungo Foundation - Rachel House**

503 Baltic Street, G40 4SG  
0141 556 5465

Provides supported accommodation for single/pregnant mothers aged 16 to 25 and children up to ten years old

**Young people**

**Council for Homeless Young People**

171 Wilton Street, G20 6DF  
0141 945 3871

Residential support for youngsters and young, single, homeless people

**Quarriers' Stopover Project**  
200 Pollockshaws Road, G41 1QB  
0141 420 3121

www.quarriers.org.uk

Emergency Accommodation for young people 16-25, who can stay in the centre for up to ten weeks

while they work with staff to plan their future. Accommodation is on the upper levels of a four-storey building so not suitable for people with physical disabilities

A, C, D, ET, H

**The Mungo Foundation - London Road Project**  
1920 London Road, G32 8XG

0141 778 1184  
Works with 16-25 year olds who cannot access mainstream accommodation. (Open 24 hrs)

**DRUG/ALCOHOL SERVICES**

**Alcohol Focus Scotland**  
166 Buchanan St, G1 1LW  
0141 572 6700

Call-in, phone or email: Mon - Thurs: 9am - 5pm; Fri: 9am - 4:30pm

A, C, ET

**Breakthrough**  
James Duncan House, 331 Bell Street, G4 0TJ  
0141 552 9287

A joint health and social work project offering services to people with drug and alcohol problems. It also incorporates methadone prescribing.

A, C, D, MS, NE

**Drinkline Scotland**  
Freepost, PO Box 4000, G3 8XX  
0800 7314 314

Advice and info for people with alcohol problems or anyone concerned about alcohol misuse

A, C

**DRUG/ALCOHOL SERVICES**

**EDINBURGH**

**Castle Project**

14 Niddrie House Drive, EH16 4TT  
0131 669 0068

Mon - Thurs: 9am - 4:30pm; Fri: 9am - 4pm

D, NE, OL, OB, SH

**DRUG/ALCOHOL SERVICES**

**GLASGOW**

**Cocaine Anonymous Scotland**  
0141 959 6363  
www.casotland.org.uk

Helpline offering help and support to those with or recovering from an addiction. Also offer meetings and literature on addictions

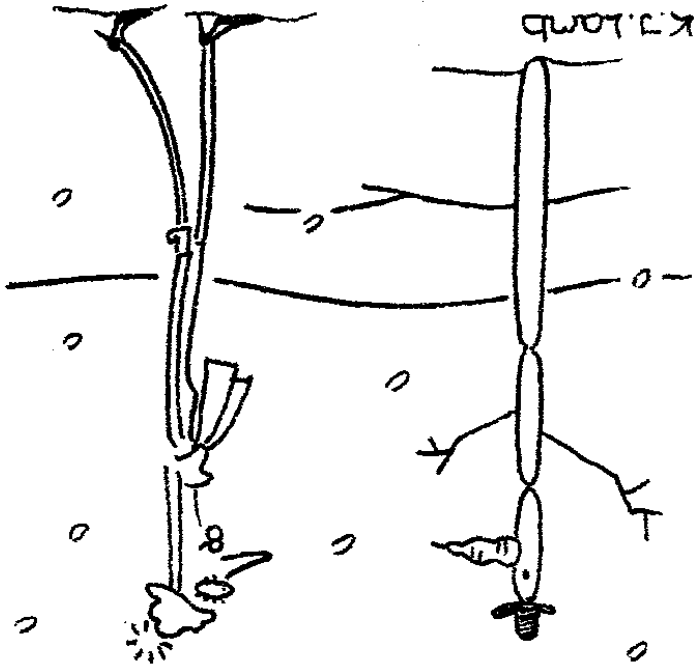
A, AD, C, D

**Drug Crisis Centre**  
The West Street Centre, 123 West Street, G5 8BA  
0141 420 6969  
www.turningpointscotland.com

24-hour service offering information

Bling Crosby





**ADVISE SERVICES GLASGOW**

**Glasgow Shelter Housing Aid**

274 Sauchiehall Street, G2 3EH  
 0808 8900 4444  
 Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm  
 Outside these times, there is a 24-hour helpline for advice and support - Shelterline: 0808 800 4444  
 AD, C, H

**GAMH Homeless Support Project**

123 West Street, G40 1DN  
 0141 554 6200  
 Mon - Fri: 9am - 5pm  
 (4.30pm on Friday)  
 Provides flexible emotional and practical support, information and advice for homeless people in Glasgow with mental health problems. Phone, write or just drop in  
 C, MH

**Hamish Allan Centre**

180 Centre Street, G5 8EE  
 0141 287 1800 or freephone emergency out of hours 0800 838 502  
 Assessment of entitlement to housing. Temporary accommodation may be available while eligibility enquiries are made  
 H, TS

**Glasgow City Council**

For anyone who is homeless, in need of advice about homelessness issues. Staff will be pleased to discuss your circumstances with you in a private interview room and provide advice on what can be done next to help you  
 www.glasgow.gov.uk  
 AS, BA, C, DA, H, TS

**SAY Women Accommodation Project**

3rd Floor, 30 Bell Street, G1 1LG  
 0141 552 5803  
 Provides support and counselling to young women aged 16 - 25 who are homeless or threatened with homelessness and are survivors of rape or sexual abuse  
 AS, C, SH

**BENEFITS AGENCY**

See Telephone Services for helplines

**DAY CENTRES AND DROP-INS EDINBURGH**

**Barony Contact Point**

67a York Place, EH1 3JD  
 0131 622 1865 / 1867  
 Mon 6.30 - 9pm drop-in; Tues 10.30am - 4pm, 7 - 9pm (art group); Thurs 10am - 1.30pm (drop-in); Fri 11am - 2pm (women-only); Sunday 11am - 4pm (drop-in)  
 C, MH

**Cowgate Day Centre**

22 Holyrood Road, EH8 8AF  
 0131 557 6055  
 Every day: 10.30 - 11.45am; 12.45 - 4.15pm. Appointments every day: 7.30 - 11.45am  
 AD, BA, BS, F, L, S, MH, SK  
 Service users can also use the centre as a mailing address  
 28 North Bridge, EH1 1QG  
 0131 225 4143  
 Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm (drop in) or phone for an appointment  
 AS, BA, BE, CL, ET, H

**DAY CENTRES AND DROP-INS GLASGOW**

**Glasgow City Mission - The Shieling**

24 McAlpine Street, G2 8PT  
 0141 221 2630  
 Mon - Fri: 10am - 5pm (drop in); Mon, Tues, Wed: 8 - 10.30pm (advice and information)  
 BS, C, CL, DA, ET, FF, H, MS, SH  
 Lodging House Mission  
 35 East Campbell St, G1 5DT  
 0141 552 0285  
 BS, CL, E, F, IT

**Salvation Army - The Laurieston Centre**

39 South Portland Street, G1 5DT  
 0141 429 6533  
 AS, A, BA, C, DA, ET, F, H, IT, LF, MS, SH, TS  
 The Wayside Club Centre  
 32 Midland Street, G1 4PR  
 0141 221 0169  
 Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri: 9.30am - 5pm (drop in 12noon - 4pm); Thurs 9.30am - 3pm (drop in 12noon - 3pm). There are specific services

**DIRECT ACCESS HOSTELS NIGHTSHELTERS EDINBURGH**

**All with low support needs**

Bethany House  
 12 Couper St, Leith, EH6 6HH  
 0131 467 1010  
 Bethany Supported Housing  
 65 Bonnington Road, EH6 5JQ  
 0131 553 1119  
 Ring First  
 Castlecliff Hostel  
 25 Johnston Terrace, EH1 2NH  
 0131 225 1643  
 Cunningham House  
 205 Cowgate, EH1 1JH  
 0131 225 4795  
 Ring or drop in

**Dunedin Harbour**

4 Parliament St, Leith, EH6 6EB  
 0131 624 5800  
 Ring or drop in  
 1 St John's Hill, EH8 9TS  
 0131 557 5502  
 Ring or drop in: Mon - Fri 9am - 2pm  
 Randolph Crescent Hostel  
 2 Randolph Crescent, EH3 7TH  
 0131 220 1607  
 Referral from LEAP on:  
 0131 332 3228

**Salvation Army - Ashbrook**

492 Ferry Road, EH5 2DL  
 0131 552 5705  
 90% residents are over 40. Ring or drop in 24 hours a day  
**Men**  
 41 Lothian Rd, EH1 2DJ  
 0131 229 1747  
 Ring first (Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm). Over 25 only

**Gorvie Care - Caledonia House**

for women and rough sleepers as well as health, addiction and other specialist services at specified times  
 A, BS, C, D, F, MS, SH

# the OTHER LIST

The directory of Scotland's homeless services Updated 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008

Debt advice – DA	Key to this list:
Drugs workers – D	Accom assistance – A5
Dentist – DT	Advocacy – AD
Education/training – ET	Alcohol workers – A
Free food – FF	Art classes – AC
Food – F	Barber – B
Foot care – FC	Benefits advice – BA
Housing/accom advice – H	Bathroom/showers – BS
Internet access – IT	Bedding available – BE
Laundry – L	Careers advice – CA
Leisure activities – LA	Clothing – CL
Leisure facilities – LF	Counselling – C
Luggage storage – LS	
Medical services – MS	
Mental health – MH	
Music classes – MC	
Needle exchange – NE	
Outreach worker links – OL	
Outreach workers – OB	
Pavement stockist – P	
Safe keeping – SK	
Sexual health advice – SH	
SSAFA – SS	
Tenancy support – TS	

The Other List has details of

homeless services in Edinburgh and Glasgow. It's only in its third

month, so will have some errors and omissions. If you've any changes

or suggestions write to us at the address on page 3, or email:

scotland@thepavement.org.uk

New Stockists: 4

Updated entries: 22

Services added: 12

## ADVICE SERVICES, EDINBURGH

**Advocard**  
332 Leith Walk, EH6 5BR  
0131 554 5307  
www.advocard.org.uk  
Mon - Fri: 10am - 4pm  
MH

**City of Edinburgh Council**  
- Housing Options Team 1  
Cockburn St, EH1 1BJ  
0131 529 7584 / 7368

**Homeless Outreach Project**  
1a Grindlay Street Court, EH3 9AR  
0131 221 9099  
Mon - Fri: 9.30am - 5pm  
Outreach service for homeless

**Edinburgh Cyrenians – Smartmove project**  
57 Albion Rd, EH7 5QY  
0131 475 2356  
Mon - Fri 10am - 4pm  
Advice, information and support for people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness  
AS, H, TS

**Streetwork UK**  
14 Albany Street, EH1 3QB  
0131 476 3666  
Mon - Fri, 1 - 4.30pm  
Immediate practical help and advice for vulnerable people on the streets of Edinburgh  
AS, A, BA, C, D, H, MS, SH

**Streetwork UK**  
and drug-related problems  
AS, AD, A, BA, CA, C, D,  
ET, H, MH, OB, SH, TS  
14 Albany Street, EH1 3QB  
0131 476 3666  
Mon - Fri, 1 - 4.30pm  
Immediate practical help and advice for vulnerable people on the streets of Edinburgh  
AS, A, BA, C, D, H, MS, SH

**Streetwork UK**  
people with mental health, alcohol  
and drug-related problems  
AS, AD, A, BA, CA, C, D,  
ET, H, MH, OB, SH, TS  
14 Albany Street, EH1 3QB  
0131 476 3666  
Mon - Fri, 1 - 4.30pm  
Immediate practical help and advice for vulnerable people on the streets of Edinburgh  
AS, A, BA, C, D, H, MS, SH

**The Access Point**  
17-23 Leith Street, EH1 3AT  
0131 529 7438  
Mon, Wed - Fri 9am - 5pm;  
Tues 10am - 5pm  
Advice and information for single homeless people  
AS, BA, FC, H, MS, SH