

the Pavement

Issue Two

The homeless paper (London edition)

Free

New arrivals hit the streets

Immigrants left to sleep rough

By 'Cobbett'

London's streets are bearing the brunt of immigration from Eastern Europe, according to a new report. The European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless, FEANTSA, concluded that homeless services across Western Europe 'are being left to mop up after the failure of immigration policies'.

The report dispels the myth that new comers to this country are given preferential treatment by social services, and fast-tracked into housing and on to benefits. In fact, immigrants are more likely to end up sidelined by the welfare system and living on the streets.

The report found that 'a substantial and growing num-



ber of immigrants are among the users [of homeless services]' and that 'in some countries [in Western Europe], close to half of those who use these services are immigrants'.

The sudden growth of homeless immigrants was also raised in a recent edition of BBC's Panorama called

Britain's New Migrants. The programme highlighted immigration from the new nations of the European Union – the A8 countries – Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Immigration from these countries will help boost the UK's economy, but, experts

claim, many of these newcomers are ending up in day centres and at soup runs.

A view of Victoria Coach station in the early morning will reveal scores of hopeful immigrants grabbing a few hours rest in the banks of chairs. Closer inspection will show these are not only young men looking for work (cont p2)



Lord of the Rings star to make homeless film

The real-life story of a homeless drug addict is to be turned into a film by one of the stars of The Lord of the Rings. Andy Selkirk, who played Gollum in the fantasy trilogy, will direct the film. Johnny Depp and Michael Caine have been approached to star in it.

'Addict' will be based on the biography of Stephen Smith, who spent more than half a decade living on the streets addicted to alcohol and amphetamines. Smith, who is originally from London, was put into an asylum at the age of 14, where he was molested by one of his doctors. After being released he became an appren-

tice to a master thief and was involved with the theft of jewels from movie star Sophia Loren. But addiction drove him on to the streets.

Smith finally got off the streets after a stranger gave him a £5 note and a rail ticket back to London from Scotland, where he had been sleeping rough. With the money, Smith bought half a pint of Guinness for a German student he met in a pub. The two eventually fell in love and got married. With her help, Smith was able to kick the drugs and start work again. In 1997, he wrote a biography about his time on the streets, which has sold over a million copies. Staff

(cont from cover) but every age and gender moved to come here by desperate poverty back in their homelands.

In response to traditional paranoia about immigrants 'stealing' jobs, FEANTSA is keen to point out that their plight 'stands in rather stark contrast to the notion, popularly banded about, that immigrants are favoured in relation to social housing and social welfare'.

The Passage day centre in Victoria was the first to feel the rise in A8 users of their services because of its proximity to the coach station. But most day centres now have a smattering of East Europeans. One day centre worker told The Pavement: 'It's hard, because we can't offer them much, but usually send them on to their [relevant] national community centres who are already overburdened. All we can do is offer the basics to them.'

Most are left with no state support, little hope of improvement, and no means of supporting themselves. The only services that are easing the problem are soup runs in areas such as Victoria, which are to many the only source of nourishment.

Until central Government tackles this problem it is up to our readers to do what they always do – look out for your fellow man, wherever their origins, and exercise tolerance.



'Do you think my mantra, dead birdy... dead birdy... is messing with my Karma?'

House homeless in disused buildings, say LibDems

The Liberal Democrats' London housing spokeswoman, Dee Doocey, has called for London's 100,000 disused buildings to be made available to house those sleeping rough or living in temporary accommodation.

Ms Doocey made the comments in reaction to the latest housing figures for the capital, which reveal a 37% rise in homelessness in the past four years.

The London mayor's office revealed the new figures, which show that more than 18,000 additional families are living in temporary housing than in December 2000.

During this time, four London boroughs recorded a rise in homelessness of more than 100%. Havering on the eastern edge of London saw an increase of 450%, from 147 families living in temporary accommodation in 2000, to 809 last year.

Only five out of 33 London boroughs managed to bring down the numbers of residents living in temporary accommodation.

The government recently set itself a new target of halving the number of people living in tem-



porary accommodation by 2010.

Ms Doocey said: "The number of people in temporary accommodation has risen to intolerable levels and it is now time that the government addressed this trend ... Why are ministers unable to bring the 100,000 empty homes in London back into use for those who need them most?"

The London Mayor's office said more affordable housing was being constructed now than at any time in the past 20 years. "The number of new homes built in the capital in 2004 was at its highest level in more than two decades," said a spokesperson.

"We anticipate the number of new affordable homes will this year rise to 10,000 for the first time for many years."

The Mayor of London has pledged that half of all new homes will be affordable.

Meanwhile, late last month the Deputy Prime Minister set out plans to construct over 70,000 new homes on land that is currently owned by the government. The move is an attempt to drive down house prices, find places for low-income families, and house those who are currently without permanent homes. *Staff*

Newcomers to the streets of London

Immigration is often the ranting issue of the middle classes, particularly in the time leading up to the last election. But it is now shown to effect the homeless directly (New arrivals hit the streets – pg 1). Many immigrants come to this country looking for work but find themselves living on the streets with little knowledge of the services available to them and, if anything, less of a support structure than most other rough sleepers.

We hope this newspaper can be of help to anyone who is homeless in the capital, no matter what their origins or citizen-

ship status. Also we were glad to give column inches to debunk the old cliché that immigrants and asylum seekers get hostel places first; wrong, they get very little.

No rest just because we have two issues under our belts. Issue One of The Pavement has raised considerable interest and some debate, and we hope to expand for Issue Three, if negotiations with the printers go well. We wish to complete a larger report on Soup Runs and their future, as well as chasing up action on the Vagrancy Act, which is covered in this issue by our two legal correspondents. We were

interested by the comments generated by our lead story in Issue One on Westminster's plans to introduce Building Based Services, and will continue to monitor how the council's plans work out.

We've so much planned – a comic strip is on the way, a Michelin-style guide to Soup Runs, as well as increased reportage on events on the street. But, as always, we need feedback with every issue, so send your letters and emails in to the address on the facing page.

The Editor

'A new mental health act is badly needed'

Andy Bell of the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health says the government must act to help sufferers

Shortly before the recent election campaign, a committee of MPs and Lords published a report on the Government's plans to change the way people with mental health problems can be detained and treated without their consent.

The report strongly criticised the Government's plans. It described the draft Mental Health bill as 'fundamentally flawed' and made more than 100 recommendations for changing it.

The report brought to many

people's attention a controversy that began seven years ago, when the then health secretary, Frank Dobson, claimed care in the community had failed, and pledged to tighten up the law on treating people with so-called 'dangerous and severe personality disorders'.

In the intervening years, we have seen one White Paper, one expert committee report and (for the first time ever) two draft Bills for the same piece of legislation. Their aims have been to broaden out the number of people who can be sectioned under the Mental Health Act, while making sure the law remains

compliant with the Human Rights Act. But in so doing, the Government has produced proposals that have united service users, carers, professionals, charities and human rights campaigners against them.

The reasons for the overwhelming opposition to the Government's plans are clear: the proposals risk bringing hundreds of people who do not pose a risk to others into compulsory treatment (often a frightening and bewildering experience) on the basis of a perceived fear that they may commit an act of violence.

Around 500,000 people in

Britain have severe mental health problems such as schizophrenia or serious personality disorder. The vast majority of those people live safely in their own communities. They are at high risk of being excluded, from work, education and decent housing, thanks to the stigma of mental distress, but are highly unlikely to pose a threat to anyone.

The Government could make a real difference to people's lives by creating a new Mental Health Act fit for the 21st century.

● Find out more about the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health at www.scmh.org.uk



Rough sleepers moved on

You may think a church would be the last place to turn away those in need, but this is just what has happened at The Parish Church of St Marylebone.

The church, in conjunction with Westminster Council, has moved on a group of rough sleepers who bedded down in the church's grounds. This action, initiated in response to complaints about a minority of drinkers, has denied a long-standing shelter for the area's street population.

Thames Reach Bondway (TRB) and West London Day Centre outreach services have both managed to offer appropriate accommodation to the Marylebone residents who wanted it.

Because of the outreaches' hard work, the move has had a positive outcome, because all those are now getting care and attention. But the action by the church raises concerns over the wider approach of authorities. More and more, they seem to be targeting areas that rough sleepers seek shelter.

How many more places will be locked up, fenced in, or hosed nightly to prevent people getting shelter? Is this about effective care or just the council's efforts to clear their streets?

We can only hope outreach services are always on hand to clear up afterwards. **'Hack'**

Readers' letters

We want to hear what issues you want to see covered in our pages. Each month, our star letter will receive a Pavement T-shirt – provided you give us an address to send it to (a day centre is fine).

Send your letters to:
The Pavement,
PO Box 43675
London,
SE22 8YL
Or email:
editor@thepavement.org.uk

Dear Editor,
I was pleased to find your last edition at my local doctor's surgery. I am pleased that there is another voice for homeless people and rough sleepers as I was a rough sleeper for nearly three years.

I am now in a halfway house and if possible I would like to contribute to your magazine with some of my poetry which I have enclosed.
Yours sincerely,
Colin Bowles
London
SW12

● Dear Colin, thank you for your letter of support. I have forwarded your poetry to a more suitable journal, *The Real Picture*, as we have

insufficient space for creative writing.
But thanks for your contribution and we hope you continue to enjoy the newspaper.
The Editor

Dear Pavement,
You encourage us to sign up to vote, but what for? The general election proved that nothing ever changes.
Anon

● Dear Anon, if you think that's the case, try writing to your MP and setting out some of the changes you want to see. You may be surprised at how willing politicians are to hear from the public. Details on p5.



Dear Flo...

Ask our nurse about your health problems. 'Nurse Flo' will either give advice on self-help techniques or where to get treatment

Dear Flo,
My mate and I both use. We're injecting into our arms and while we're following the guidelines given by my drug worker I seem to be getting more abscesses than him. Any ideas?
Name withheld

Flo writes: Having a clean technique really helps to reduce infections of all kind. It's good to know that you're in touch with a drug worker who can go through your own procedure for using and give you the best one-to-one advice.

In the meantime, scrubbing your hands on a daily basis, making sure that you're not sharing

any works and ALWAYS using clean needles are the key points to preventing infection.

If you do have any missed hits and the heat, swelling and tenderness haven't gone in 48 hours, head to your doctor or nurse for a check-up. Should you be given a prescription for antibiotics then do complete the course, as this will help prevent resistance to these same antibiotics in the future.

Dear Flo,
I'm always getting lice. Why can't I get rid of them?
Name withheld, via email

OK, I'll keep this simple...

Head lice: If you find at least one living louse in your hair, not just the white empty egg sacs, then apply Derbac to your hair and leave it at least 12 hours. Only then wash it out and you will be clear. An itch on the neck may persist for a short while, but this is caused by the lice faeces irritating the skin there.

Body lice: Derbac is not appropriate or effective if you have body lice, as they live in the clothing. You will need a complete change of clothing and bedding. Take everything and bag and bin it, or the clothes may be hot-washed after a week to clear them. Have a shower, being careful to brush away any remaining lice on your body, put on clean clothes and you're good to go.

Good health, **'Flo'**

Absurd vagrancy law must go

The Pavement's legal eagles tear this ancient legislation to pieces

In England, in the 18th and 19th centuries, the Houses of Parliament passed four acts to "cope" specifically with the issue of "vagrancy" – in 1824, 1838, 1898 and 1935. All of these acts of parliament have now, sensibly, been repealed. That is, apart from the oldest one.

It is 2005 and in England, legislation that is almost 200 years old and unbearably connected to the prejudices and misconceptions of a previous age, is alive and well: the Vagrancy Act 1824.

The 1824 legislation would almost be poetic if it were not so

absurd. Its purpose is to "punish idle and disorderly persons, and rogues and vagabonds". Those people who "beg in a public place", who "refuse to maintain themselves", are deemed to be idle and disorderly. To be "idle and disorderly" is a criminal offence and could result in a fine.

Individuals who have already been castigated as "idle and disorderly" and then go on to "wander abroad", "lodge in the open air, or under a tent" or "endeavour to expose their wounds or deformities to gather alms", are incorrigible rogues and vagabonds of course. However, if a person can "give a good account of himself or herself" then all may be forgiven, but failure to do so could mean, in 2005, a



three-month prison sentence.

More important than a possible prison sentence under this law, perhaps, is that within English law, an "idle and disorderly person" can be branded a criminal. I am often idle

and frequently disorderly and I quite enjoy lodging under a tent. Only very rarely can I give a good account of myself. Under our law, I think that makes me a criminal.

'Young Bailey' (cont p8)

MPs are your voice

Everyone is represented in the Houses of Parliament, regardless of your housing status. Here's how to contact your MP

Now the election's over and MPs have taken up their seats, it's time to ask not what you can do for your country, but what your MP can do for you.

Yes, you have an MP, even if you're sleeping rough, and to find out who is an easy task:

1 Choose where you are "resident", either where you bed down most frequently, where you have registered to receive post, or where you spend most of your static time, and find out the relevant postcode.

2 Enquire at your local council offices who the Member of Parliament for that postal district is, or go online to www.locata.co.uk/commons/, and type in your postcode.

3 You can now either write to them at The House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, or call 020 7219 3000 and ask to be transferred to their office (where you will probably talk to one of

their staff or the MP themselves). Or you can circumvent this by going to www.faxyourmp.com or www.writetothem.com, both of which give you easy, free access to your parliamentary representative. Go to these sites and type in your postcode, wait for the message box to come up, type in your details and message, and then send. It should also offer you information on your MP. E-democracy at work.

It's that easy to speak to your elected representative and tell them your concerns. They are waiting for your call, so give it a go.

Remember when writing to an MP these points:

- Do not waste their time with vague rants, but ask for particular advice or action (if required).
- For the swiftest service write to an MP only if appropriate and having exhausted other avenues – if it's a council problem, write to the council offices first and



'I hear that Chris Evans is down to his last forty million'

only to your member if the appropriate response is not forthcoming. If you've tried other services first, such as your local council office, and had no luck, mention it will show you mean business. ● Shy away from using form letters, especially as part of a campaign, or you should only expect a form letter in response, as offices have to cope with large quantities of mail. Make it personal, and you're more likely to get a personal response. ● Some offices (few) are stick-

lers and may query you as you may not appear on the electoral register, but stand your ground and argue your corner – the MP is there to represent you. In future elections – council, by-elections, or European elections – register to vote. Anyone cannot vote. Your MP will almost certainly see your letter and work on your behalf. Remember that the system is not as remote as outsiders often think.

'Cobbett'

Homeless hobbies

No 2: Mudlarking

In the 19th Century, urchins used to collect anything of value from the Thames foreshore exposed at low water, and earned the nickname "Mudlarks" for their trouble. Nowadays people walk the foreshore out of interest and the chance of finding a piece of treasure. Granted, you are more likely to find a discarded condom than a gold torque, but the river holds many secrets and is easily accessible.

The South Bank has many steps, but in the summer it gets

picked clean by hordes of school children, so better to travel further up or down stream away from tourist traps. It's also best to use winter months when you'll have less competition and the river will be in spate.

Check the tides beforehand and your access to the steps (more than one mudlark has joined the archaeological record they sought to plunder), and have a friend on shore to watch out for you. If you find anything of historical or financial value, ask the Museum of London for advice.

'Anorak'



Services available to London's homeless

There were a few mistakes in last issue's list, but we've updated it and it made some changes to the services featured. We've also noticed that copies are turning up all over London, and beyond, as people take them to places that don't stock us – so, please, if you use a day centre that doesn't have *The Pavement*, take a couple of copies to them; spread the news...

Key to services:

- Alcohol workers – A**
- Art classes – AC**
- Benefits advice – B**
- Barber – BA**
- Bathroom/showers – BS**
- Counselling – C**
- Careers advice – CA**
- Clothing – CL**
- Drugs workers – D**
- Dentist – DT**
- Education/training – ET**
- Food – F**
- Free food – FF**
- Foot care – FC**

- Housing advice – H**
- Internet access/computers – IT**
- Laundry – L**
- Luggage stowage – LS**
- Music classes – MC**
- Mental health workers – MH**
- Medical services – MS**
- Outreach workers base – OB**
- Outreach workers links – OL**
- Stockist of *The Pavement* – P**
- Sexual health advice – SH**
- Safe keeping – SK**
- SSAFA – SS**
- Tenancy support – TS**

DAY CENTRES

Ace of Clubs
St Alphonsus Rd, Clapham
020 7622 3196
Opening times:
Sun, Mon, Tues 2pm-6pm;
Wed, Thur 12 noon-2pm;
Fri, Sat 12 noon-6pm
Services (16+): BS, DT, F,
FC, H, IT, L, MS, OB

Acton Homeless Concern
Emmaus House,
1 Berrymead Gardens,
Acton. Call for opening
times: 020 8992 5768
Services: A, B, BA, CL, D,
DT, ET, F, FC

Aldgate Advice Centre
Aldgate High Street
020 7283 1950
Opening times:
Mon-Fri 9.15am-11.30am
for rough sleepers; 1.30pm-
3.30pm for appointments
and activities; Fri 3pm-4pm
for rough sleepers
Services: A, B, BS, CL, D, ET,
F, H, L, MH, MS, P

The St Botolph's day centre
is now revived by the
Dellow Centre

Broadway Day Centre
Market Lane, Shepherds
Bush; 020 8735 5810
Mon-Fri 9.30am-2.30pm
8.30am-4.30pm
Breakfast for rough sleepers
Services: CL, ET, F, FC, H,
MS, P

Choral Hall Lifeskills Centre
310 Barking Road, Plaistow
020 7511 8377
Opening times:
Mon-Fri 10am-2pm
Services: A, B, BS, C, CL, D,
F, FC, L, MS

Cricklewood Homeless
Concern; 60 Ashford Road
020 8208 1608
Housing drop-in: Mon, Wed,
Fri 10am-11am (for housing
advice please be at front
door at 9am for a ticket
Day Services: Mon, Wed,
Fri 10am-3.30pm (10am-

12.30pm for advice; 1pm-
3.30pm basic services)
AC, B, BS, H, IT, L, MS, OL

Crisis Skylight
66 Commercial Street
020 7426 5661
Mon-Thu 2pm-9.30pm
AC, ET, IT

Dellow Day Centre – see
Aldgate Advice

Deptford Churches Centre
Speedwell St; 020 8692 6548
Opening times: Mon, Tues,
Thurs, Fri 9am-3.30pm
BS, ET, F, H, L

Finsbury Park Street
Drinkers Initiative
91 Tollington way
020 7263 4140
Opening times:
Mon-Thurs 8.30am-3pm
A, BS, D, F, H, L, OL

Hanbury Community Project
Christchurch Hall,
22 Hanbury Street



'Oh sorry, I mistook you for someone else'

020 7377 2497
Opening times:
Mon-Fri 10.30am-3.30pm
A, C, D, ET, H, MH, MS

Holy Cross Centre
The Crypt, Holy Cross
Church, Cromer Street,
020 7278 8687
Open access on Mon 2pm-
5pm and Tues 6.30pm-9pm.
FF, H, MH

London City Mission
Waterloo Christian Centre
628 Webber Street
020 7928 1677
Opening times:
Mon-Fri 9am-12noon
B, BA, BS, CL, FF, H

Manna Day Centre
6 Melior Street
020 7403 1931
Mon-Sun 9.30am-1.30pm
B, BS, CL, DT, FF, FC, H, MH,
MS, P

North Lambeth Day Centre
(St Mungo's), St John's
Crypt, 73 Waterloo Road
020 7261 9622
Opening times: Mon-Fri
9.30am-12pm open access;
12 noon-2.30pm
F, BS, ET, CL, B, H, AC, A, D,
MH, MS, FC, P
● It will be closing,
temporarily, later in the
year for building work.
We'll keep you posted.

North London Action for

the Homeless, Church Hall,
24-30 Bouverie Road
020 8802 1600
Opening times:
Tue 12pm-1.30pm
B, BS, CL, FC, FF

Spectrum Centre
6 Greenland Street
020 7267 4937
Opening times:
Mon 10am-12pm advice;
2pm-4pm drop-in; Tues
10am-12pm advice;
2pm-4pm women; Wed
2pm-4pm advice; Thurs
10am-2pm advice;
Fri 10am-2pm advice,
2pm-4pm advice
A, BS, C, CL, D, FC, H, L, LS,
MH, MS, TS

Spires Centre
8 Tooting Bec Gardens
020 8696 0943
Opening times:
Mon, Tues, Thurs 10.30am-
2pm; Wed 10am-1pm; Fri
11am-2pm women only;
Sun 11.30am-3.30pm
A, B, CL, D, ET, F, FC, H, MS

St Christopher's Fellowship
Lime Grove Resource
Centre, 47 Lime Grove
Please call for opening
times: 020 8740 9182
AC, BS, CA, ET, FC, IT, L, MS

St Cuthbert's Centre
The Philbeach Hall, 51
Philbeach Gardens, Earl's
Court. 020 7835 1389

Opening times: Mon-Fri
11.30pm-3.45pm
AC, BS, C, CL, F, H, IT, L, OL, P

St Giles Trust, 64-68
Camberwell Church St
020 7703 7000
Mon-Fri 9.30am-12.30pm
A, B, BS, D, ET, H, L, MH, MS,
PTS
● No longer the drop-in
day centre, it has undergone
'radical changes' according
to Sarah Totterdell at St
Giles. Turn up for an initial
assessment with a worker
if you are 'homeless or
vulnerably housed, includ-
ing sofa surfers and people
with tenancies but at risk
of eviction.'

St John's at Hackney
Community Space Centre,
Lower Clapton Road
020 8985 6707
Mon-Thurs 10am-12.30pm;
2pm-4.30pm; Wed 10am-
12.30pm
B, BS, CL, ET, F, H, IT, MS

St Mary's Church
St Mary's Community
Centre, Ashley House
020 7272 1783
Opening times:
Tues 11am-2pm; Wed
10.30am-2pm; Thurs 6pm-
9pm; Sat 1.30pm-4pm
(must be drug and alcohol
free). Closed last Sat of
every month
A, B, BS, C, CA, D, ET, FF, H,
IT, L, MS

St Stephen's Church Manna
St Stephen's Church,
River Place, 17 Canonbury
Road, 020 7226 5369
Opening times: Tue
7pm-9pm; Wed 1pm-3pm
BS, CL, FC, FF, L

The Connection at St
Martin's (Social Care Unit)
12 Adelaide Street
020 7766 5544
Opening times:
Daily 9am-12.30pm with
some afternoon sessions.
On the weekends the service
is mixed (16+) from 9am-
1pm (there is no entry
after 10.30am). There are
sessions on Tuesday and
Thursday from 4.30pm-
7.30pm (26+)
Social Care Unit to the left
of the church's step (age 26+)
A, AC, BS, CA, CL, D, ET, F,
H, IT, MC, MH, MS, OB, P,
SK, SS

The Connection at St
Martins at No 12 (age 16-
25) A, AC, BS, CA, CL, D, ET,
F, H, IT, L, MC, MH, MS, OB,
SK, SS, TS
● The drilling has com-
menced next to the SCU
entrance, but it does not
affect services.

The Passage, St Vincent's
Centre, Carlisle Place
020 7828 4183
Mon-Fri 7am-11am for
rough sleepers. Appointments
only beyond this time
Services (25+): A, B, CA,
CL, D, ET, F, FC, H, IT, L, MH,
MS, OB, TS

Upper Room
St Saviour's Church,
Cobbold Road
020 8740 5688
Opening times: Mon-Thur
5.30pm-6.45pm; Tue
9.30am-11.45am; Sat-Sun
12.30pm-1.30pm
A, BA, C, CA, D, ET, FC, FF, H

West London Day Centre
134-136 Seymour Place,
020 7569 5900
Opening times:
Roughsleepers Mon-Fri
8.45am-10am; open access
Mon-Fri 10am-12.30pm
AC, B, C, F, IT, L, LS, MS, OL,
P, SK

West London Mission
New Lambeth Walk-in,
3-5 Lambeth Road
020 7735 9012
Mon-Fri 1.30pm-4.30pm
B, ET, IT, TS

Whitechapel Mission
212 Whitechapel Road
020 7247 8280
Opening times:
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat,
Sun 6am-11am (full cooked
breakfast served)
BS, CL, MS, OL

MEDICAL SERVICES
Great Chapel St Medical
Centre, 13 Great Chapel
Street, 020 7437 9360
Opening times:
Mon-Fri 2pm-4pm.
Also Mon, Tues, Thurs
11am-12.30pm
A, B, C, D, DT, FC, MH, H,
MS, SH
● Oasis Health Centre
has unfortunately been
closed after long service
to Londoners due to loss
of funding.

Soup runs and where to find them

Bondway Soup Run – ancient history

Hare Krishna Food for Life

The Hare Krishna food run provides vegetarian meals from Monday to Saturday all year round at the following times and places: Islip Road (Kentish Town) 12.30pm; Arlington Road (Camden) 1.30pm; York Way (King's Cross) 2.30pm; Lincoln's Inn fields 7.15pm (Mon, Wed, Thurs); then Temple (if there's any food left over).

Simon Community

Tea Runs Sunday and Monday (6.00am-9.30am) New schedule: Hinde Street, Milford Lane, Strand, Exeter Street, Covent Garden, Army and Navy, Waterloo, Lincoln's Inn. The tea run no longer calls at Marylebone Church as everyone there has been moved on – see page 3. Wednesday and Thursday (8.00pm-10.30pm) Milford Lane, Chaplin Walk (Waterloo), Army and Navy (Victoria), Marylebone Church, Hinde Street. Street Cafe Mondays (4.30pm-7.30pm) and Wednesday (9.30am-1.30pm) St Mary-le-Strand Church on the Strand.

General

There's no co-ordination for soup runs anymore so it is hard to provide a definitive list, particularly with 60 odd soup runs operating in London. There are many Soup Runs such as the Silver Lady Trust, which we cannot get in touch with – If the pie-man is still operating near the Royal Festival Hall, please ask him to contact us or give us his details.

We're still looking to run a piece on favourite Soup Runs so please send us your nominations for Soup Run of the Month – we'll try to feature the best in the next issue of *The Pavement*.

Email us at editor@thepavement.org.uk or write to *The Pavement*, PO Box 43675, London, SE22 8YL

EX-FORCES

Those who have served in the armed forces have a few specialist services open to them. Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen Families Association (SSAFA) has a homeless division operating in London, listed above as SS. Also, the Ex-Service Fellowship Centre in Victoria offers an excellent service (run by 'The Colonel' and 'The Major' – both charming men). They are at 8 Lower Grosvenor Place, London, SW1 0EP (between Victoria

Station and Buckingham Palace). Call 020 7828 2468

AWOL? Then call the 'reclaim your life' (SSAFA) scheme on 01380 738137 (9am-10am Mon-Fri)

TELEPHONE SERVICES
Shelter housing information and advice line: 0808 800 44 44 (the line is in operation 7 days a week, 24 hours a day)

Saneline: 0845 767 8000 (12noon-11pm Monday to

Missing



Barry Walsh
Age at disappearance: 31

Barry was last seen on April 11 2004 in the Homerton area of London. Concern is growing for Barry's welfare as he had been depressed at the time of his disappearance. Barry used to spend time in Stoke Newington, Shepherds Bush, Hackney and Kings Cross. Sometimes he sleeps rough. His family, especially Barry's sister and daughter, are very concerned about him and want Barry to know they miss him and care about him. Barry is thin, with short brown hair and brown eyes. He may be wearing a cream T-shirt with blue jeans and white trainers. If you have seen Barry or know of his whereabouts, please contact the National Missing Persons Helpline on 0500 700 700.

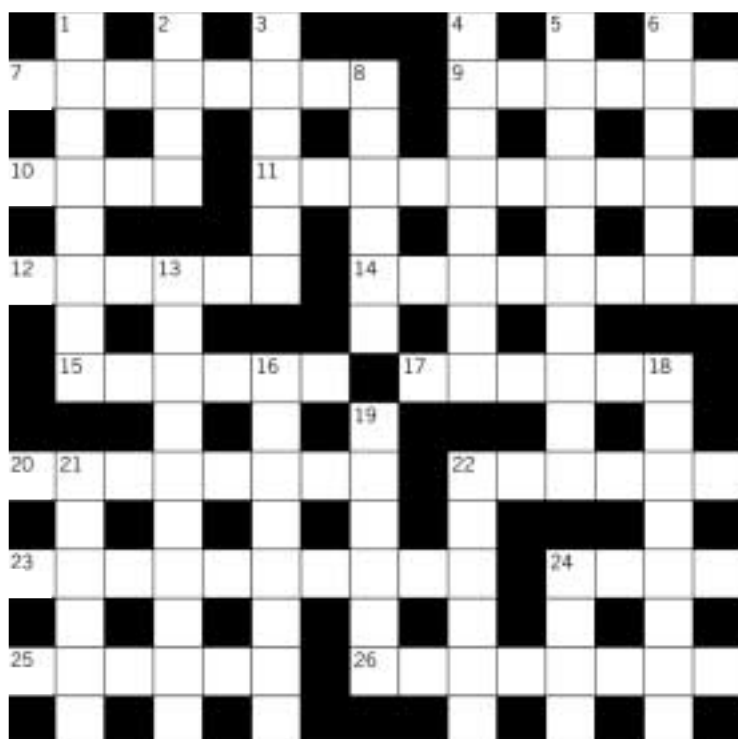
Friday; 12noon-6pm week-ends)

Message home helpline: 0800 700 740 (24/7)

Alcoholics Anonymous: 0845 769 7555 (24/7)

Get Connected: 0808 808 4994. Free advice for young people, whatever the problem (1pm-7pm, 7 days a week)

National Debtline: 0808 808 4000 (24/7)

**Across**

- 7** Were they ruffled after she dressed? (8)
9 Interference ruined its act (6)
10 Where 7 fall softly? (4)
11 Braves once performed this ceremony (10)
12 Agile climber out of college (6)
14 A German mug? No, a genius (8)
15 Oliver F. Winchester was a killer (6)

- 17** Sea god produces fruit (6)
20 Authentication of entry grade (8)
22 Part of small British station (6)
23 Conductor decorated stand with amber (10)
24 Some ladies drink (4)
25 My firm stays ... (6)
26 ... with old currency, supplier of ladies' underwear! (8)

Down

- 1** Pretty common in nature (8)
2 College set on having Sunday off (4)
3 Re-routed diversion ... (6)
4 ... gets near awkward part (8)
5 Sailor, soldier and girl join in dance (10)
6 Some sunlit Chinese fruit (6)
8 Nurse someone like Ophelia (6)
13 Country where blades hang out (10)
16 Love lies bleeding, but it never fades (8)
18 What a crashed car will get in rally (8)
19 Did Dean get them on in a hurry? (6)
21 A newspaper operating in Spain (6)
22 Place noted for its fair hair (6)
24 Blood money! (4)

Please note, The Pavement is written for your entertainment and information. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the publication, The Pavement cannot be responsible for the use that you make of the information it publishes and so the information should not be relied upon as a substitute for medical, legal or professional advice. The Pavement is a forum for discussion and the opinions expressed in the paper are therefore not necessarily those of The Pavement.

(Cont from p4)

Misuse of the Vagrancy Act

If you believe we live in a society that has moved away from a Napoleonic mode of thinking, then think again. The Vagrancy Act is alive and well, almost 200 years after it was enshrined in our law, and it's being used today to penalise some of the most socially excluded groups in our society.

You'd think issues as complex as homelessness and street crime would need one of the most up-to-date pieces of legislation in our legal system, but, it turns out, thousands of people are being charged and convicted with the 200-year-old law every year. More frightening still, the number of times the vagrancy act has been used has tripled in recent times.

In 1990, 1,478 people in England and Wales were found guilty under the act, and 90% of those were charged. That figure fell off towards the mid-1990s, and stood at just over 1,000 in 1995. But, since then, the number of times the act has been used against people in England and Wales has shot up.

In 1996, the figure was above 1,500. In 1999, more than 2,000 people were found guilty under the 200-year-old law. By 2000 that had reached 2,776.

By 2003, more than 3,200 people were found guilty under the vagrancy act – almost three times as many as a decade before. This government has clearly grown fond of the legislation since it came to power.

Its heart, perhaps, is in the right

place. Some argue that the law is used to target those in need of help and get them into rehabilitation programmes. For example, the link between begging and specified class-A drug misuse is very strong. One study estimated that between 75% and 90% of beggars use class A drugs – primarily heroin. The government is desperate to untangle the relationship between drugs and street crime, and those charged under the Vagrancy Act can sometimes find themselves fast-tracked into rehabilitation centres and drug counselling. In Brighton, two years ago, the deaths of 49 beggars from overdoses led to a huge anti-begging campaign.

If those who beg because of their drug misuse are helped to access

effective treatment, it will help them and the communities affected by their antisocial behaviour.

But rather than criminalising these vulnerable groups with a piece of ancient legislation – one designed for another society than ours – the government must pass new legislation and set its stall out clearly on the subject of homelessness, and the sub-categories of street crime and drug use. Support must be immediate and directly accessible based on an individual need, rather than criminal status.

There is already existing legislation to deal with aggressive or threatening behaviour in public spaces, under the Public Order Act 1995, so why use this Dickensian law?

'The Humanitarian'