

the Pavement

The *FREE* monthly for the West Midlands' homeless

November 2011



**TIME TO GET READY
FOR WINTER**



“Honestly, I’d love to help, but they’re going to make life really difficult for us”

the Pavement

www.thepavement.org.uk

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The Editor

Is there anybody out there?

My main objective (or personal mission, if you will) as the new editor of *The Pavement West Midlands* is to focus the content of our mag upon the issues that are directly affecting you. And I can't do that without your help, so don't go all shy on me! Please get in touch via e-mail or letter at our PO Box, and we will make sure that we address the problems or concerns that you raise – details opposite.

We're also considering starting a regular culture and events feature detailing what's on round the West Midlands – would this be something you'd be interested in? Again, let us know!

This month Fraser Tennant caught up with filmmaker Fabrizio Frederico to discuss his latest film, 'Black Biscuit' and we checked in with Choir With No Name's manager Bethan Rand to see if the new Birmingham choir is getting off on the right note.

It's the time of year to prepare for winter, and we've added our Seasonal Shelters on page 30 of *The List*. Get in touch if you know of more, at thelist@thepavement.org.uk

Amber Woodfull

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West Midlands news

All the homeless news from across the region

Coventry City homeless charity initiate £1 million fundraising appeal

Coventry Cyrenians, a charity which provides services to homeless and disadvantaged people in Coventry and Warwickshire has begun a mission to raise £1 million in just twenty four months. The charity focuses on changing and breaking negative stereotypes of homeless people and sets out to empower people to rebuild their lives. The charity is partnered with the Coventry Foodbank (run by The Trussell Trust), providing vouchers to their clients to be not only provided with emergency food, but also to be needs-assessed to address the issues that have led them to require a food donation.

The Cyrenians was saved from closure in April by Coventry Primary Care Trust, who agreed to fund the project for another year. The charity want to ensure they continue providing a range of solutions for the homeless, so that they may improve their quality of life and enable them to live as independently as possible. Their core services are to provide accommodation, training and employment support for their clients. They want to move away from a reliance on grant funding streams by increasing their fund-raising efforts as well as developing a new retail unit to generate income.

Mike Fowler, Chief Executive of the Cyrenians says "Like many charities we are finding that our government funding is reducing, which means we need to be more self-reliant. Our target by the end of 2012 is to have a 50/50

funding split of our £2 million a year turnover, which means we need to raise £1 million".

Mike is keen to adopt a more effective approach to tackle the problem of rough sleepers and other vulnerable people. He wants to de-construct the common misconception that rough sleepers are "alcoholics and drug addicts", to align with government research that shows in fact rough sleepers turn to these substances as a coping method to adjust to life on the streets.

"We want to enhance our service so that not only does it get people off the streets... but actually addresses the various issues which saw them end up there in the first place", he adds.

Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce is supporting the campaign by backing an appeal for local businesses to make a donation to the Cyrenians instead of sending Christmas cards.

Karen Squire

'Street superstars' set to shine on the silver screen

Homeless people in the Midlands are set to become stars of the silver screen thanks to filmmaker Fabrizio Federico and his debut feature film, 'Black Biscuit'.

"Black Biscuit is about a guy who wants to be an artist but gets caught up in the sex industry, says Federico. "It's about not letting your dreams slip away – something we all have to face at some point in our lives. People complain that there aren't enough opportunities but I believe that you have

to make opportunities. I don't care about money at all. I want this film to be influential and to stimulate people's creativity."

Most of the roles in the 120 minute film were performed by the local homeless community in Nottingham whom Federico calls his 'street superstars.' "A lot of them are very gifted, very charismatic and it's a waste that their talents aren't being put to good use. I know that homelessness is a big issue because I see it everywhere.

"One thing I did find during filming is that some people are afraid of homeless people. They don't know how to speak to them, but they are just ordinary people like you and me. Peoples' perceptions need to change. They're not all violent; they're not all crazy, as they are often portrayed by the media. They have had some bad luck in life and I found them to be more open than the 'regular' person I met on the street. I do recommend that other artists include them in their projects.

"I think this could be a whole new avenue for the homeless to make a living. Unlike some actors I've worked with, I found that homeless people were not restricted by boundaries, that they had no fear almost."

Dubbed 'gutter filmmaking' by the man himself, Federico describes his style as a 'blissful, bitter, poetic, adrenaline shot.' "I'm going for the film equivalent of punk and lo-fi music", says Federico by way of explanation. "I have a manifesto called Pink 8 which is basically a philosophy as to how to go about making these types of films. I love the whole artistic process. Art gives me a freedom of expression that I don't think you

EVERY YEAR THERE ARE INJURIES AND EVEN DEATHS RESULTING FROM PEOPLE BEDDING DOWN IN RUBBISH BINS, SKIPS & CLOTHING BANKS. IT ISN'T SAFE! MANY BINS ARE EMPTIED IN THE QUIET HOURS, SOMETIMES BY A VEHICLE WITH A SINGLE DRIVER, DUMPING THEIR LOAD, WITH A LONG DROP, INTO A COMPACTOR - WHO WILL HEAR YOU OVER THE MACHINERY NOISE?

STAY OUT!
STAY SAFE!

can get anywhere else in life.”

The shooting of ‘Black Biscuit’ was also unconventional, being shot mainly on mobile phones and children’s cameras, and despite it being a feature length film, it cost only £500. “Everyone was telling me you can’t make a feature film for next to no money. I didn’t want to get into debt by going to University, so I tried different avenues of raising some cash.

“Film funding cuts have forced filmmakers to go down unexplored roads to finance their films and I had to life model to raise the budget for Black Biscuit. For my next film I’m going to go from door to door, ask each person for £1 and I’ll give them a producer credit.”

Of course, Frederico understands that this approach will clearly not sit well with everyone but he remains optimistic: “It will be an uphill battle. I’m appealing to the people who are tired of manufactured ideas, and conventions. Advice never did it for me. Just follow your heart.”

Turning to future projects, Frederico is considering producing a film focusing specifically on the homelessness issue called “The Disappeared”, and in the coming months, ‘Black Biscuit’ will be shown at Raindance (Europe’s leading independent film festival), the British Film Institute, and will also be available on DVD.

Fraser Tennant

Narthex to open foodbank in December

Church Charity Narthex Sparkhill will be opening a new foodbank

in Birmingham to help to provide meals for those most in need.

Chair of Trustees at Narthex, John Self, says “We have been running a Refugee and Asylum Seeker Resource Centre for a number of years, mostly helping pregnant mothers and parents with young children in need of support, but have seen the demand for food parcels rise dramatically over the past year, with those who are destitute, experiencing short term loss of benefits, and economic migrants with no access to public funds all increasingly requiring help”.

To help cope with this demand, Narthex have joined forces with the Trussell Trust, who operate a nationwide network of foodbanks including two already in Birmingham, to help them increase the number of food parcels they give out from around 450 to 1200 a year. The parcels have three days supply of food

in each, and there are foods to cater to different religions and dietary requirements.

They have received funding from the Big Lottery Fund, which will cover premises rental, staff wages and other running costs for five years, but all food will be from donations from individuals, churches, schools and other sources.

The centre is due to open in mid-December in Sparkhill, and in early December they will be recruiting volunteers to help at the centre. Clients will need to be referred by an appropriate agency, and any agencies interested in referring should contact the foodbank directly. If you need a food parcel, contact the foodbank to ask who can refer you, on **0121 772 0909**, email **foodbank@narthex.org.uk**; or ask an agency you are in contact with to get in touch.

Chris Swann



Can you sing? No? Well come along anyway!

We caught up with choir manager Bethan Rand to find out about The Choir with No Name's first rehearsal - as advertised in our last issue.

The Choir with No Name was set up in London in 2008 and brings together people who have experienced homelessness and who feel excluded from more mainstream choirs. It has gone from strength to strength, and founder Marie Benton is keen to build on the London Choirs success and reach out and develop choirs in cities that experience homelessness.

The Birmingham Choir meets every Thursday 6pm at Carrs Lane Church Centre.

The main aims of the choir are to have fun and act as a release from day to day situations, providing a safe place for the members and volunteers to support each other through tough times and coming together to bond over the joys of rehearsal and good performances.

The first rehearsal on 6 October was a huge success with 20 people turning up and the singing was pretty fantastic too!

Tony, one of the new members, said he came along because of his love for a wide range of musical genres. He said the practices are a wonderful opportunity to get people together to bond and can be a huge confidence boost alone, but he is really looking forward to getting the chance

to perform later in the year.

Since the first rehearsal, numbers have stayed strong with a good core group of dedicated members – but new faces are always welcomed. The choir is starting to focus on Christmas, having great fun with some festive songs in preparation for some gigs around December time.

Marie Benton, founder of the Choir With No Name, commented: "I'm delighted that the Birmingham choir has got off to such a flying start, and am really looking forward to discovering who our regular members will be and on helping them reach their potential as singers. The singers in London can't wait to welcome the Brum contingent for our Christmas gig in London and we can see lots more opportunities to collaborate through 2012".

Amber Woodfull

- For more information about the choir contact: **bethan@choirwithnname.org** or call **07794 100938** or go to the website: **www.choirwithnname.org**



David Eggleshaw
Age at disappearance: 50

David has been missing since 15 May 2006. He was last known to be on the outskirts of Eastwood in Nottinghamshire on the road to Ilkeston, Derbyshire.

There is great concern for David and he is urged to call the confidential service **Message Home on Freefone 0800 700 740** for advice and support.

David, a joiner who has worked on building sites in the North Yorks and Birmingham areas, is 5ft 7in tall with blue eyes and light brown long hair. When last seen he was wearing a black baseball cap and a bomber jacket.

If you've seen David please call the 24-hour confidential charity **Missing People** on Freefone **0500 700 700**
Email: **seensomeone@missingpeople.org.uk**

missing people

Registered Charity No: 1020419



New squatting law

The government pushes to criminalise squatting

Squatting in empty houses will become a crime if new proposals put forward by the government are passed by Parliament, despite warnings from Crisis and other housing charities that this will make life even harder for many vulnerable homeless people.

Under the new laws, which are set to be included as amendments to the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, if passed by the House of Commons, anyone found squatting in a residential property will face up to a year in jail and/or a £5,000 fine. Squatting in commercial properties will remain a civil offence.

The proposed law change comes just three weeks after the end of a government consultation process, which attracted more than 2,200 responses.

These responses included 10 from individuals and organisations whose property had been squatted, 25 from members of the public concerned about the harm squatting can cause but 2,126 from members of the public concerned about the harm which could be caused by criminalising squatting.

The government's response to the consultation acknowledged that the overwhelming majority of responses opposed any change to the law, but argued that the views of those in favour of criminalising squatting should also be taken into account, even though they formed a minority.

The consultation attracted responses from 13 housing and homelessness charities – including Crisis, Thames Reach, Shelter, Homeless Link, Housing Justice, St Mungo's and the Advisory Service for Squatters. All opposed proposals to criminalise squatting.

Crisis released new research in response to the consultation which showing that those who squat are more likely than the average among homeless people to suffer from mental and physical ill health as well as learning disabilities and drug and alcohol dependency.

The research, carried out by academics at Sheffield Hallam University, shows that two out of every five homeless people surveyed had squatted at some point, while six out of 100 homeless people were squatting on any given night.

Almost four out of five homeless people who squatted did so for the first time only after they had approached a local authority for help with their housing situation, the research showed. Although most of those who requested help were recognised as homeless, they were not considered a priority for housing.

Most of the squatters surveyed had tried to find other places to stay, attempting to access hostels and shelters. They resorted to squatting when they found there were not enough places available, or that the accommodation was too expensive. Nine out of every ten squatters had also slept rough.

The consultation response from Thames Reach, a London-based homelessness charity, also opposed the criminalisation of squatters, on the basis that it would harm the most vulnerable people. However, they supported firmer action to close squats and to encourage squatters to work with homelessness charities and other bodies to improve their situation.

A statement from the organisation said: "Our experience of people engaged in squatting is that they are often extremely vulnerable and

have chronic drug and alcohol problems and access to these squats is prolonging their avoidance of services and addressing these issues."

Criminalisation of squatting was supported by local authorities and landlords' associations.

The Metropolitan Police and two lawyers' associations – the Law Society and the Criminal Bar Association – responded to the consultation to argue that the law needed no change. However, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Property Litigation Association supported criminalisation.

Announcing the proposed new laws, justice secretary Ken Clarke said: "Far too many people endure the misery, expense and incredible hassle of removing squatters from their property. Hard working homeowners need and deserve a justice system where their rights come first. Our commitment to this new offence will ensure the law is firmly on the side of the homeowner so that quick and decisive action can be taken."

However, Crisis chief executive Leslie Morphy said that people squat "out of necessity, not choice, in atrocious conditions where they are least likely to be disturbed. These are people that need help – not a year behind bars and a £5,000 fine."

John McDonnell, MP for Hayes and Harlington said: "By trying to sneak this amendment through the back door the government are attempting to bypass democracy."

Katharine Hibbert

**You can read the news,
keep informed & search
our directory of services
online @**



www.thepavement.org.uk



“...organic newt and free-range toad...”

News in brief

The homeless news from across the UK and the World

Bad behaviour out of control at Cambridge hostel

Aggressive behaviour, prostitution and theft are just some of the problems at a Cambridge hostel to have recently attracted police attention.

Run by Riverside ECHG, the 72-bed hostel at 222 Victoria Road has seen approximately 30 people evicted in the past year for bad behaviour.

The hostel has been branded “out of control” by local councillor Paul Sales and has been the subject of many complaints by the local community.

Repeated disturbances led to a meeting between the police, local residents and the management of the hostel to discuss how the anti-social behaviour can be tackled, and how the hostel should continue to operate.

This ECHG hostel is one of the country’s largest and its residents are referred by outreach teams, probation services and council housing services.

Service users arrive with a range of support needs. Some have been referred to the hostel directly from prison and much of the reported anti-social behaviour has been alcohol related.

The hostel houses over 70 people. Staff levels have been between 10 and 12, although the hostel has also experienced high staff turnover, as well as changes in management.

Talks have recently taken place to decide whether to reduce the number of rooms available, so that staff can better meet the needs of the residents.

Visits by the police to tackle the increased levels of anti-social behaviour have now become a daily occurrence. The increased police presence perhaps indicates that extra support is needed. It may also lead to some of residents feeling less able to integrate with the community and may cause some to re-offend.

Emma Batrick

Unemployed pushed back of housing queue

Unemployed people will be pushed down the housing register under a new proposal from London’s Westminster Council, introduced to “discourage a benefits culture.”

Under the council’s new housing allocation policy, which will come into force on 30 January 2012, applicants who have been working for more than two years will receive 50 extra ‘points’, moving them closer to gaining a council home.

To qualify, the applicant (be it an individual or the main applicant form a family) must have been working at least 16 hours per week under a written contract for at least two years. Applicants with temporary contracts, meanwhile, must have been employed continuously, with no more than one month’s gap between contracts.

Successful applicants will keep their bonus employment points until they have been re-housed or their application is closed. If they lose their job the points will not be removed, as long as there is a “realistic prospect of re-employment.”

Those who have been looking for work for more than two years

will also receive 50 extra points, as long as they have been “actively engaged” with the council’s Homeless Employment Learning Project, which aims to help those in temporary accommodation into work or further education.

According to Westminster Council’s cabinet member for housing and corporate property, Councillor Jonathan Glanz, “These changes ensure that not only do we prioritise the most vulnerable, including those living in overcrowded properties and those with medical needs, but we also reward those who are doing their best not to be dependent on the state by working or actively seeking work.”

The council is also hoping that the employed people their house will later move out of their council home into private accommodation, leaving their former property available for other people on the housing list.

The plans have met opposition and criticisms from a number of homeless groups and MPs. Alastair Murray, deputy director for Housing Justice, told the *Evening Standard* many people would find it difficult to provide the required paperwork, adding: “Quite a lot of homeless people do work but the kind of work they are able to do is quite unstable so they may not be eligible.”

For Kay Boycott, Shelter’s director of campaigns, policy and communications, the real issue is not the allocation of social housing but the amount of it: “Britain’s desperate shortage of social housing makes decisions around how to allocate it incredibly difficult. What we really need is to build more truly affordable homes for families across the country so we do not find ourselves in this difficult position

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.

MCLACHLAN



Vlad the Inhaler



*“The streets of London are paved with
articles about gold”*

of having to judge who is most worthy of this scarce resource.”

Earlier this year, Councillor Guthrie McKie, Labour’s Housing spokesperson, described the proposal as “very unfair and extremely divisive.” However Councillor McKie may find scant support higher up in her own party. At the annual Labour Party conference, Ed Miliband declared: “When we have a housing shortage, choices have to be made. Do we treat the person who contributes to their community the same as the person who doesn’t? My answer is ‘no’. Our first duty should be to help the person who shows responsibility.”

Additional priority will also be given to applicants who have lived in Westminster continuously for ten years. While priority is already given to applicants with young children, who are homeless or have special medical needs.

Westminster’s plans are just one example of a wider trend, which is seeing unemployed social housing applicants penalised across the country.

Similar policies have already been introduced or proposed in Manchester, Wandsworth and Newham. While in its recent Housing Allocations Consultation, Hammersmith & Fulham stated: “The council is proposing to provide a fixed number of new lettings each year for people who have taken part in specific council supported programmes to get back into training or employment.”

On a national scale, the minister for housing, Grant Shapps, has pledged to give local authorities the freedom to draw up their own social housing priorities list. In an article for *Inside Housing*, Shapps wrote: “I believe that many councils will use their new powers to reward and acknowledge those actively working and contributing to their local area, as Westminster and others have done. And rightly so.”

Shapps insisted that “we will retain the ‘reasonable preference’ criteria, establishing proper priority for those in greatest need”, however the vulnerable are not immune from the shifts in policy. Under the new Localism Bill, homeless applicants would be forced to accept offers of “suitable private accommodation” – or face a penalty. This shift, it is explained in the Department for Communities and Local Government’s (CLG) Localism Bill Impact Assessment will allow local authorities to “discharge the duty they owe to homeless households.”

If passed, the law would also allow local authorities to operate closed waiting lists, removing the right for anyone (without restriction) to apply for social housing. According to the CLG’s impact assessment, “Under this option, the rules determining which categories of applicants qualify to be considered for social housing would be decided at the local level,” although “the rules determining which applicants receive priority for social housing would continue to be set centrally via the statutory ‘reasonable preference’ categories.”

Shelter issued a briefing for the second reading of the bill, in which it expressed concern over the “undermining” of the legal duty to homeless people: “The proposed changes sever the link between homelessness and recognising the need for a settled home by allowing councils to discharge homeless households into the insecure PRS [Private Rented Sector] rather than find them a settled home... there is a distinct lack of good quality housing at the bottom end of the PRS market meaning that many of the most vulnerable households will be placed in unsuitable accommodation.”

Another proposal Shelter has requested to be removed from the bill is the removing of tenancy lease security, which would allow councils to reassess tenants after a minimum of two years

and evict them if they no longer met the criteria, in terms of for example income and benefits.

The Localism Bill is to have its third reading in the House of Lords on 31 October.

Carinya Sharples

Strike action still threatened at Centrepont

The dispute at homeless charity Centrepont continues, with a second ballot being called, which will be completed by 3 November.

The charity, which has HRH Prince William as its patron, is involved in an increasingly bitter dispute over cuts to staff pay, and faces allegations that the cuts don’t affect senior executives at the charity.

The first ballot in September resulted in 69 per cent of trade union Unite members at Centrepont voting for strike action, although only 36 of the 88 Unite members at Centrepont actually voted. This led to Centrepont declaring this “a flawed ballot process.”

The second ballot took place from 26 October to 3 November, with Unite saying a strike could commence from 10 November.

Matt Smith, Unite regional officer, has stated the dispute revolves around cuts, “which could see staff losing thousands of pounds a year in pay, although senior executives will have their pay ring-fenced from cuts.”

When asked whether it was true that pay for senior staff was from exempt from cuts, a spokesman for the charity told *The Pavement*: “The number of Centrepont staff earning more than £60,000 p.a. has fallen from seven in 2007 to four in 2011. During the last two years, nobody in that bracket

has either requested or received a salary increase or any form of additional performance related pay. The Board of Trustees set executive pay and review this annually based on market rates.”

Unite have further accused Centrepoint of ignoring the use of conciliation service Acas, and instead of commissioning international law firm Eversheds to intervene. In a press release Matt Smith of Unite said: “Even though pleading poverty, [Centrepoint] has managed to hire one of the largest and richest law firms to threaten us with a costly injunction.”

Although Centrepoint said in a statement, itself a response to questions about the dispute, that it “has a long tradition of using pro bono legal support to ensure that funds raised from donations are directly used to help homeless young people,” when pushed on whether they have hired Eversheds to act in the dispute, they told us: “I’m afraid it’s not our policy to comment directly on legal matters.”

Centrepoint claims that Unite has been unhelpful in resolving the dispute. A spokesman from the charity said: “During five months of negotiation with Unite, Centrepoint made two improved proposals, resulting in a maximum salary reduction of 10 per cent for any member of staff, with the majority receiving a five per cent reduction. Unite failed to produce any counter proposals and its representatives left a conciliation meeting with ACAS before its conclusion.”

Unfortunately for the charity, this dispute follows bad publicity in the summer, when it was revealed its Chief Executive Seyi Obakin had traveled to America to join the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on their official visit. This trip was taken after pay negotiations had already begun.

Staff

Homeless campers evicted from Ipswich graveyard

Homeless campers at an Ipswich graveyard are to be evicted over concerns that a recent rise in the number of rough sleepers is disrupting worshippers.

Up to eleven people have been camping out at St Margaret’s Church in Ipswich but, due to a lack of facilities and the recent escalation in activity and noise, the church can no longer accommodate the campers.

The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich are working with Ipswich Borough Council to resolve the situation and said that a solution would be reached to ensure that more suitable facilities are made available.

Although the Ipswich Borough Council maintains that homelessness has not been increasing, there are concerns over a lack of night shelters in the area.

John Howard, Press Officer for the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese told *The Pavement*; “I think a there is a need for a night centre in the town. There are no facilities in the churchyard for those sleeping rough like Oskar, who is one of those who has been staying here, and there are no toilets or washing facilities.”

At present there are 318 beds for homeless persons provided by hostels in Ipswich and the council are hoping to open a facility that provides support for independent living in 2012.

Mr Howard maintains that eviction was the last resort and that those camping there would be given time to leave.

“I feel really sad that anyone needs to sleep rough in Ipswich, particularly as the weather deteriorates, but this is not an appropriate place to house people - or the right use for a churchyard

- and the numbers of people setting up camp has grown,” he said.

“Those with loved ones buried in the churchyard need to be able to visit their family’s graves in complete peace. Having people camp within the churchyard is not conducive to that.”

Mr Howard added that the vicar of St Margaret’s, Reverend David Cutts has “visited those living in tents within the churchyard and explained to them that they will have to move on, and they have accepted this.”

A spokesperson from The Salvation Army said that despite the current problem they have not seen an influx in homeless men to their men-only 39 bed centre in Ipswich.

“Most people tend to stay for a year but we have not been oversubscribed recently. We have a night team but there is always a need for more shelters, especially coming up to winter.”

Ipswich Borough Council told *The Pavement* it provides emergency beds all year round and is working with agencies to provide appropriate accommodation for those in the event of severe weather.

Ipswich Borough Council spokesperson, Pete Whittall, told us: “The Council is mindful of the current economic climate and the changes to the Housing Benefit system and is closely monitoring the situation as regards to people becoming threatened with homelessness.

“A number of facilities are provided for homeless people in the area, such as the community resource centre, soup kitchens, health outreach surgeries and substance misuse programmes.”

Dearbhla Crosse

The Pavement, which operates without any funding from the state, has decided to try something new – asking readers to help support our operation. Not salaries or new kit, but our basic print operation.



If you have a mobile, and can spare a few pounds, please text **PAVE11** followed by **the amount in pounds*** (max £10) to **70070**

*all this money will go to *The Pavement* (registered charity no. 1110656), the charges being met by Vodafone. Find out more at www.justgiving.com/thepavement



make windows -

“Oh, and this is Dr Snodgrass, Head of Transplant Repossession”

Growing demand for food hand-outs

The demand for hand-outs from food donation charities has drastically increased, new figures suggest.

Fareshare, an organisation which redirects food surpluses to those in need, said it was now delivering food to 35,000 people a day – a substantial increase from last year's 29,000.

The charity said there has been a year-on-year increase as more low-income families struggle to meet rising food prices. It also said that one in three of the charities surveyed was now facing government cuts.

Fareshare, which has 17 locations across the UK, redistributes food to organisations including homeless hostels, women's refuges, after-school clubs and day centres.

In the past, its donations mainly went to homeless people, but now there are more "destitute families" among its recipients after an "increase in people and the types of people" seeking food.

Fareshare Chief Executive Lindsay Boswell said: "At a time of unprecedented demand we want the food industry and the general public to increase their support."

He added: "This research supports the growing anecdotal evidence we've seen in recent months - more people are getting in touch with Fareshare asking for help to access food.

"Demand for food is increasing as many of the charities we support are facing spending cuts and are slashing their food budgets in an effort to stay afloat. These charities are having their ability to provide food tested, as rising inflation, unemployment and changes to the benefits system are forcing more people to seek their help and support. It's this combination of problems that is causing a sharp increase in hunger

in communities all over the UK."

The organisation, which works with more than 100 companies in the food and drink industry, said 42 per cent of the charities it surveyed reported an increase in demand for food in the past year.

And according to 150 of the 700 organisations Fareshare supplies, 65 per cent said they were slashing food budgets in order to stay afloat.

Last year, Fareshare provided a total of 8.6million meals to 600 groups, but is now facing unprecedented demand from 700.

Rebecca Evans

Homeless man accused of murder cover-up

The trial of a homeless man accused of assisting in the cover-up of a murder continues in Swansea. Christopher Hughes, 32 years old, was charged with changing shoes with one of a pair accused of murder, in order to impede the police investigation.

Hughes is accused of assisting brothers, Darren Rigdon, 33, and Christopher Hart, 37, who were charged with the murder of another homeless man, David 'Little Dai' Williams, in January this year (see *The Pavement* February 2011). Hughes changed his shoes for a bloody pair belonging to Rigdon, after Williams had been murdered outside the Iceland in Swansea.

Hughes told the prosecution that it had been done "but not to cover up the fact that a crime had been committed," and that when he saw Williams lying on the floor near his assailants, he thought he was sleeping. The trial continues.

Staff

It beggars belief: US man mugged in astonishing circumstances

A man and a woman in the USA have been charged with robbery after pulling a gun on a homeless man – moments after giving him \$5. Meghan Fleming, 26, and Timothy Fleming, 19, both appeared in court at the beginning of October after the incident in the car park of a popular chain of pet shops.

The court in Salem, Oregon heard that Meghan Fleming was leaving the branch of PetSmart when she was approached by a homeless man who asked her for money. She gave him a five dollar note before returning to her car and apparently changing her mind. "She felt like she'd been scammed, so she went to get her money back," said police officer Steve Burr.

According to police, Fleming drove up to the man and pulled out a gun – later revealed to be a BB pellet gun – demanding that he return the money. Timothy Fleming is also accused of being involved in the altercation, with police sources saying that he was annoyed that the homeless man "had been getting a lot of money from passersby."

The homeless man, who is not named in police reports, did not want to press charges, but the local district attorney's office is pursuing the case. Both Meghan and Timothy Fleming are being held on charges of robbery, with the case due to be heard on 7 November.

Jim O'Reilly

Hollywood star reveals homeless past

Thomas Jane, the actor and current star of HBO series 'Hung', has revealed for the first time that he worked as prostitute while he was homeless in his late teens.

Jane, 42, who has also starred in films such as 'Deep Blue Sea' and 'The Punisher', lived in his car when he first moved to Hollywood at the age of 18 to pursue his acting career. In a recent interview with the *Los Angeles Times*, he said that during this period he worked as a prostitute for both male and female clients at a time when he was experimenting with his sexuality.

"Hey, you grow up as an artist in a big city, as James Dean said, you're going to have one arm tied behind your back if you don't accept people's sexual flavours" he said. "You know, when I was a kid out here in L.A., I was homeless, I didn't have any money and I was living in my car. I was 18. I wasn't averse to going down to Santa Monica Boulevard and letting a guy buy me a sandwich. Know what I mean?"

Jane said his experiences on the streets had moulded his character, and made a key development to his development as both a person and an actor.

"You're a lot more open to experimentation as a young man," he said. "And for me, being a young artist and broke in Los Angeles, I was exploring my sexual identity. It blew the doors off of my conventional upbringing and thinking and opened up possibilities for me that were akin to World War III."

Jim O'Reilly

Australian city sweeps homelessness under the carpet

Politicians in the Western Australian city of Perth have been accused of trying to hide the town's homeless population during a major international conference.

During the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting – where leaders from former British colonies were meeting – the city's government provided a number of extra beds and services for rough sleepers. However, the leader of the opposition Labour Party, Sue Ellery, said the move was just a cynical attempt to mask the extent of the city's homeless problem.

"There's absolutely no doubt this is just about getting them off the street and giving them a false sense of hope while the dignitaries are in town," Ellery said.

Under the authorities' plan, a special 24-hour mental health, drug and alcohol service was provided during the conference, which was at the end of October. Rough sleepers were also moved away from Perth's Central Business District. Ms Ellery criticised this as well, saying that the services ought to be provided all the time, not just while foreign visitors were in town.

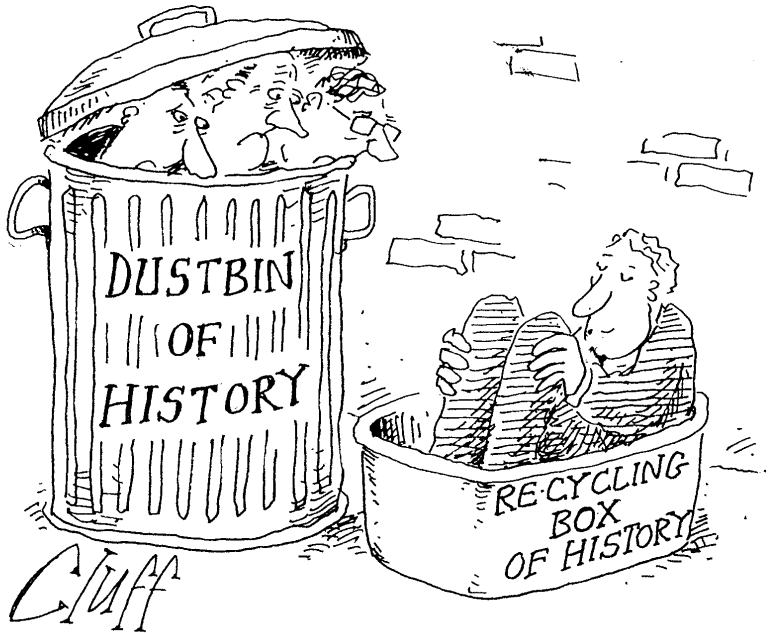
"I think it is absolutely cruel that for three days, this is where we can put you [homeless people] and show the dignitaries we're providing these services, but then after that, you're on your own," Ellery said.

Similar tactics have been used before during major international events. Before the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver *The Pavement* reported the authorities' efforts to forcibly remove rough sleepers from the 'Olympic Zones' set up for the tournament. The Olympics has been shown to have a particularly bad effect on the lives of homeless people. A 2007 study by the Centre on Housing

Rights and Evictions found that, in every city it examined, the Olympic Games had helped make the poorest people poorer and speed up the number of evictions.

Londoners will be concerned that, ahead of our own Olympics next summer, a similar pattern might emerge among the capital's rough sleepers. Police in the UK have already been accused of heavy-handed tactics – particularly in light of recent projects like Operation Poncho, which was attacked for harassing rough sleepers in the City of London.

John Ashmore



STREET SHIELD

EPISODE 25

MORNING ON THE STEPS OF ST. ANON...





Health and wellbeing

The Pavement's health team aim to help keep you healthier, if not happier



Fake medicines

Recent reports of millions of pounds' worth of fake medicines being sold over the Internet indicate that people in the UK are buying medications online as an alternative to having them prescribed by their GP. Seizures of unlicensed medications have increased six-fold in the last year, according to the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency.

Alarmingly, an Interpol-led investigation following the hospitalisation of two schoolgirls has discovered supplies of dodgy drugs all over Britain. During a

recent crackdown on websites selling drugs to cure everything from epilepsy to cancer, about 1.2 million suspect doses were found.

What is so wrong with buying drugs over the Internet? We do just about everything else online these days, so why not source our medications this way?

There is a lot wrong with buying medications over the Internet.

The first thing you need to know about self-medicating via the Internet is that it's easy to manufacture a few pills that look like the real thing, but there's no way you – the buyer – can be sure you're getting what you've paid for. People who

sell drugs over the Internet are in it to make money and have no interest in your health or wellbeing; if they did, they wouldn't sell medications over the Internet. It is dangerous on every level.

It's also largely unnecessary in the UK, as we have modest prescription charges and none at all if you live in Scotland. The small financial gain from buying drugs over the Internet is outweighed by the risks of buying possibly fake or inappropriate medication.

Drugs are complex, getting the right medication to cure or alleviate symptoms isn't as easy as most people think. What works

for one person won't work for everyone, so even if you know someone with the same symptoms, you can't always take the same medication. We are all different.

If you want, you can think of drugs as a doctor's toolbox. When you go to the doctor, s/he will listen to what you have to say, examine you, maybe run some tests and then choose the best tool to cure or alleviate your symptoms. Maybe the right tool isn't even a drug at all – it could be physiotherapy or counselling. Then there are potential allergies, adverse reactions, your medical history and the side-effects of the medication. You wouldn't use a pneumatic drill to put up a picture, but that's what you could be doing if you get your medication without seeing a doctor and getting a prescription.

Medications go through years of stringent research before they are deemed safe to be used on people, and most drugs are licensed only to do specific things to ensure they are used safely. Buying medications from the Internet means you bypass all these levels of safety monitoring and are taking a risk with putting an unknown substance into your body. Don't risk it; see your GP or pharmacist instead.

Susie Rathie

The Pavement's nurse

Nail it!

You might have wondered why we have nails on our toes. Anatomy and evolutionary experts have many different theories, but the one common view is that toenails are there to protect the vulnerable 'end' bits on the upper side of our toes. Left to their own devices, though, they can present more problems than solutions.

Unlike their fingernail cousins, toenails don't, at first, seem to have an obvious purpose. Fingernails help us peel an orange or pick up coins from a flat surface, and are useful for personal grooming - scratching, squeezing, picking (ugh...). Long fingernails can be considered beautiful: long toenails are generally viewed as hideous and claw-like.

They are generally painful, as pressure builds up on the tender skin of the nail bed below the nail. Long toenails serve no purpose, so the ideal place to cut them is just beyond the point where the pink bit (where the nail bed is still attached to the nail) becomes the white bit (the free edge of the nail that would grow on forever if we let it). Cut them short and straight across, not with a 'v' in the middle (that just weakens the nail plate). Don't cut off the corners – it just encourages the nail to dig in to the soft skin of the sulcus (the skin around the nail). Poking down the sides of the nails can introduce infection and irritate the skin around the nails, possibly leading to ingrown toenails. Also, be sure to use scissors for the job – picking, pulling, tearing or biting toenails (more common than you might think, especially in young people who still have the flexibility to reach that far!) also run the risk of ripping into the nail bed and introducing infection, and may allow the toenails to become ingrown.

Leaving nails long also may result in them splitting lengthways, exposing the vulnerable nail bed and allowing in bacterial or

fungal infection. As we get older, our nails get thicker. If you have trouble cutting your nails because of this, soak them in warm water first. Really thickened nails, or thick nails with a yellow tinge or crumbly appearance, may have a fungal infection. Fungal infections of nail are notoriously difficult to treat – there are paints and medicines available, but treatment takes time and perseverance. If you are concerned by the look or thickness of your toenails, see a doctor or a podiatrist – your nearest drop-in centre should have details.

Toenails are there for protection, so if you get some trauma to your toes (a heavy object falls on your toes, or they get squashed and bashed by a pair of shoes or boots that are too short or shallow for your foot), you may find that the nail takes the strain and eventually falls off. If this happens, you can rest assured that a new nail will grow, but it could take a while, depending on a number of factors including our health, the quality of circulation to our feet, and our age. Toenails take about nine to 18 months to grow from the matrix of the nail to the end of your toes.

So even though they may appear to have no clear purpose (well, other than scratching the shin of your other leg when in bed), toenails need to be looked after, kept short and clean in a pair of shoes and boots that leave enough room for the toes to wiggle free... And if in doubt, get them checked out.

Evelyn Weir

Lecturer in podiatry
Queen Margaret University
Edinburgh



Alice in Poundland

www.thepavement.org.uk

**You can read the news,
keep informed & search our
directory of services online @**

WEBSITES

Birmingham City Council
Click through 'housing', finding a home / 'help for homeless people'
www.birmingham.gov.uk

National Homelessness Advice

Readers can click on the
Service

section 'need advice'
www.nhas.org.uk

The Pavement online

Regularly updated online
version of The List.
[www.thepavement.org.uk/
services.htm](http://www.thepavement.org.uk/services.htm)

Sock Book
sockbook.refdata.com

Stonewall Housing
Housing advice for LGBT
people of all ages
www.stonewallhousing.org

Shelter

0808 800 4444
Housing info and advice
8am-8pm daily
Stonewall Housing advice line
Housing advice for LGBT people
020 7359 5767
(Mon, Thu, Fri 10am-1pm;
Tue & Wed 2-5pm)

UK Human Trafficking Centre
0114 252 3891

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

Message Home Helpline

0800 700 740, 24 hrs daily

0845 60 60 265

For the Pensions Service

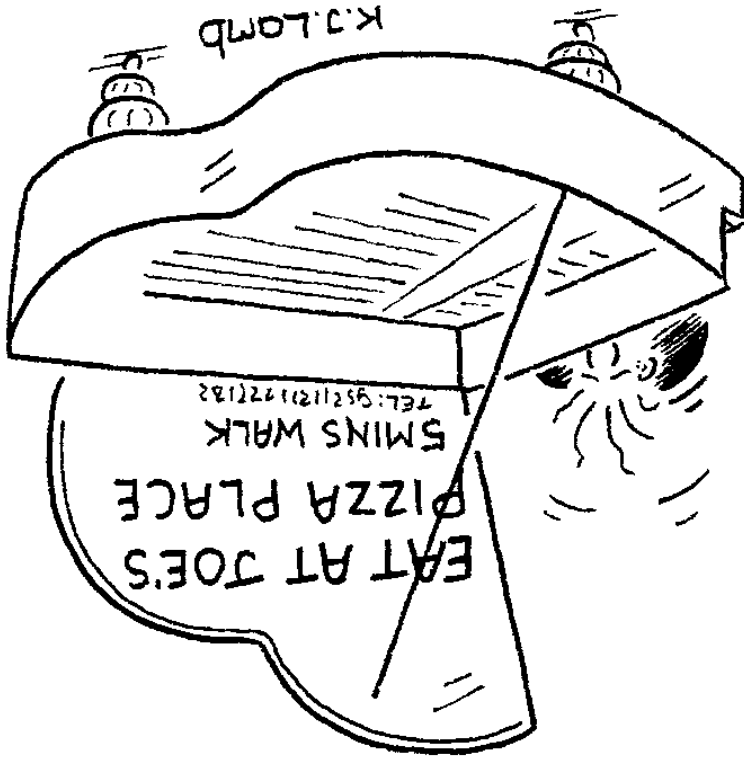
0845 608 8661

For Social Fund enquiries

0845 377 6001

For Income Support, Jobseekers
Allowance or Incapacity Benefit

For queries about existing claims



The Castle & Crystal Credit Union
25 New St, Dudley DY1 1LT
01384 815771

All credit union members (18+) can apply for a Handillon (£100 to £500) and anyone living or working in Dudley can join.

Centrepoint Streets Project
PO Box 2156, West Bromwich,
Birmingham B70 6HA
0871 717 7284

Outreach to asylum seekers, refugees, and the homeless. Education and training for children and young people.

AD, CA, ET, H

Coventry Refugee Centre
15 Bishop St, Coventry CV1 1HU
024 7622 7254

Mon–Thu: 9am–5pm; Wed & Fri: 1pm–5pm; Fri: 9am–4pm

Helps asylum seekers and EU citizens. Helps refugees given leave to remain to set up home.

Women's and youth groups.

AS, AS, C, ET, H, LA, TS

Dudley Refugee Support Team
17 St James's Rd, Dudley,
Birmingham DY1 1JG
01384 812626 or 815108

Mon–Fri: 9am–5pm

Culturally sensitive support service. Advice on benefits, harassment, domestic violence,

housing. Floating support.

BA, H, OW

Gilgal
PO Box 3918, Birmingham B9 5AQ
0121 773 1431

Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours

Emergency accommodation for women and children

escaping domestic violence.

Birmingham Domestic Abuse Refugeline: 0800 111 4223

AS, AD, H, LA, SH

The Haven Wolverhampton
PO Box 105, Wolverhampton WV1 4LP
01902 572140

Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours

For women affected by domestic violence and their children.

Emergency accommodation, advocacy, emotional support,

benefits and immigration

support, resettlement, and help for children and young people. 24-hour helpline: 01902 713001
AS, AD, BA, C, H, MH

IWIC (Older Irish Adults Project)
St Anne's, 45 Alcester Street, Dertend, Birmingham, B12 0PH
0121 604 6111

Mon, Tue & Thu: 11.30am–4.30pm; Wed: 2.30–5pm;

Activities centre for older (50+) Irish people, inc. people who are homeless, isolated, living in poor accommodation, ex-offenders, those

needing support around life skills.

AS, AW, BS, CL, F, H, MS, MH, OB, TS

Panahgar

Coventry – phone for details
0800 055 6519

Support for Asian women and their children facing domestic violence.

Safe home, advice, info, advocacy, counselling, and children's services.

AS, C, OL

SAFE Project

Phone for details
0121 440 6655

Mon: 12:45am–1:45pm (clinic); 1:15pm–3:30pm (walk-in clinic);

Wed: 12am–4pm (drop-in clinic); Thu: 11am–1:30pm (Metha-

done clinic – 0121 446 5381)

Promotes the health and wellbeing of female sex workers (18+) in

Birmingham, Sandwell and Walsall.

AD, BA, CA, C, D, MS, OB, OL, SH

Stonewall Housing

Housing advice for LGBT people of all ages

020 7359 5767 (advice line)

www.stonewallhousing.org

time2talk Mediation Service
DACHS, Dudley MBC, 5 St James's Rd, Dudley DY1 1HP
01384 812 422

Mon–Fri: 9am–5pm (message service outside these hours.

Free for Dudley residents.

AD, C

Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council (Refugee Support Team)
2nd Fl, Civic Center, Darwall St, Walsall WS1 1TP

To make a claim
0800 055 6688

01922 653827, 653840, 653476
Mon–Fri: 9am–5pm
AS, BA, H, OL

The What? Centre
23 Coventry St, Stourbridge DY8 1EP
01384 37992

Advice, information and therapeutic counselling for people 13-25 in Dudley.

AS, AD, BA, C, DA, ET, H, LA, MS, MH, SH

Valley House

Navigation Centre, 55-57 Bell Green Rd, Courthouse Green, Coventry CV6 7GQ
024 7626 6270 or 6290

Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours

Single people and parents, inc. women escaping domestic violence,

young homeless people, and young women who are pregnant

or single parents. Referrals to other agencies for specialist help.

C, ET, LA, OL

Birmingham Drug & Alcohol Team
0800 073 0817 (Helpline)
Daily 9am - 5pm
A, D, ET

Community Legal Advice
0845 345 4345

Nationwide

www.communitylegaladvice.org.uk
Mon–Fri: 9am–8pm;
Sat: 9am–12:30pm

Free, confidential service, offering specialist advice on housing, benefits, tax credits, debt etc.

Domestic Violence Helpline
0808 2000 247

Frank
0800 776 600

Free 24-hr drug helpline

Get Connected
0808 808 4994

Free advice for young people (1pm – 7pm daily)

Job Centre Plus (benefits agency)
To make a claim
0800 055 6688

For people with alcohol, drugs and gambling addictions. 01 21 685 6340 (North B'ham); 01 21 414 0888 (South B'ham). AW, C, D

Birmingham Drug & Alcohol Team
1st Floor, Technology Block,
Gee Business Centre, Bir-

mingham, B7 5PA

0121 465 4930

0800 073 0817 (helpline)

A, D, ET
Daily 9am - 5pm

Norman Imlah Day Centre

2nd Fl, The Matthews Centre,
Duddeston Manor Rd, Dud-

deston, Birmingham B7 4LZ

0121 685 6346

Mon-Thu: 9am-5pm; Fri: 9am-4pm

For people wanting help and

support in addressing their

alcohol problem/dependence.

AS, AD, AW, AS, C, ET, LA, MH, SH

EASTERN EUROPEAN

Polish Club Birmingham

Polish Millennium House, Bord-

esley St, Birmingham B5 5PH

0121 643 3577

Fri: 1pm-3pm

Advice on employment law,
social benefits, housing

and accommodation.
AS, BA, DA, H, LE

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

ENTA

Mill Wharf

10 Mill Street

Birmingham

B6 4BS

0121 380 4801

Mon-Thu: 8.30-4.30; Fri: 8.30-1.30

CA, ET

www.entapeople.com

Jericho Foundation

196 197 Edward Rd

Balsall Heath

Birmingham

B12 9LX

0121 440 7919

www.jp.org.uk/
birmingham@jericho.org.uk

CA, ET

The Big Issue (West Midlands)

Face House, 23-25 Summer

Lane, Birmingham B19 3TN

0121 236 1936

Employment and training.

CA, ET

EX-FORCES

AWOL?

01380 738137

Call the 'Reclaim Your Life' scheme

from SSAA (Soldiers, Sailors,
Airmen and Families Associa-

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

Birmingham City Council (Housing

Pathways)

PO Box 13254B1, Bir-

mingham B15 1DL

If you are leaving, or have

left, the armed forces, you

can apply directly. Phone or

email (HOUVulnerablerper-

sions@birmingham.gov.uk).

AS, H

Royal British Legion

08457 725 725

Ring the Legionline to see

how they can help ex-service-

men and ex-servicewomen

Stonham (Ellismere)

Fullwood House, Ellismere,
Shropshire SY12 0AA

01691 623756

Mon-Fri: 8:30am-5pm

Supported accommodation

for ex-services personnel.
AS, BA, H, TS

Veterans UK

0800 169 2277

Free help and advice for vet-

erans and access to dedicated

one-to-one welfare service

www.veterans-uk.info

MEDICAL SERVICES

Community Mental Health

Homeless Team

3rd Fl, Morcome House, Ledsam St,
Ladywood, Birmingham B16 8DN

0121 685 6970

Mon-Fri: 9am-7pm; Sat

& Sun: 9am-5pm

Help with accommodation,
benefits, employment and

resettlement. Help with access

to mental health services.
AS, AD, BA, CA, C, H, MH, OB, OL

The Health Exchange

William Booth Lane, Bir-

mingham B4 6HA

0121 465 3965

Mon & Fri: 2:30pm-4:30pm;

Tues, Wed, Thu: 1pm-4pm;

Wed & Thu: 9am-11am

Medical practice for home-

less people in Birmingham.
MS

Vision Care for Homeless People

William Booth Centre, Shad-

well St, Birmingham B4 6HA

Mon: 10am-5pm (except

bank holidays)

Comprehensive eyecare serv-

ices, totally free of charge. MS

PERFORMING ARTS

Crisis Skilght Birmingham

0121 348 7950

PO Box 15850, Birmingham, B9 9HL

Running at various locations

AC, ET, IT, MC, PA

SEASONAL SHELTERS

Birmingham Christmas Shelter

St George's Hub, Great Hampton

Row (off Great Hampton Street),
Newtown, Birmingham, B19 3JG

07846 29936

23 - 28 Dec: 24 hours (opening

10am on 23 Dec, and closing

10am on 28 Dec)

Age 18+ mixed; Dogs on a lead

welcome; Beds for up to 150

Bus service 46/46a from Bull

Street stops outside St George's;

Buses 16, 74 and 79 stop in

Great Hampton Street

www.birminghamchristmasshelter.org

Anawim

PO Box 8902, Birmingham B12 9JZ

0121 440 5296

Mon-Fri: 10am-4pm (out of

hours: 07976 188 220)

Reaches out in friendship to

women trapped in prostitution

Courses and activities, creche.

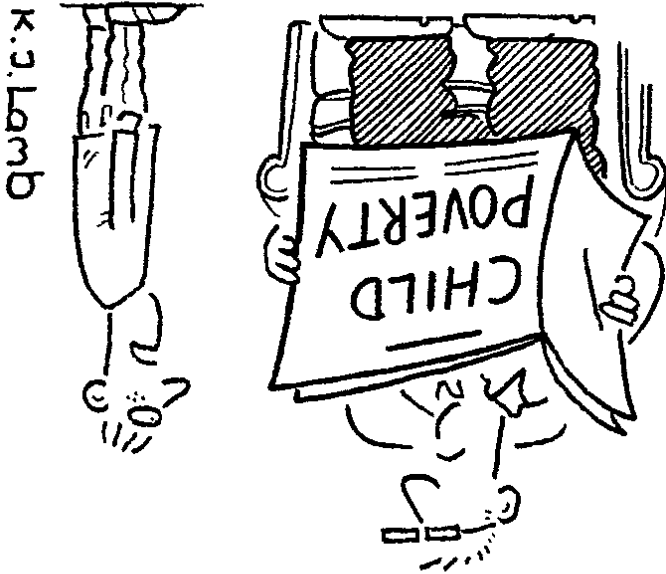
Methodone programme. 24-

hour helpline: 0800 970 8232.

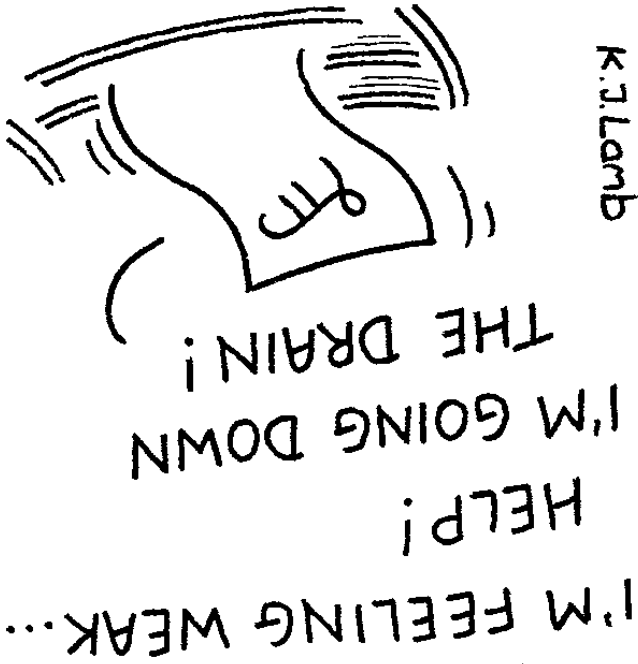
AS, AD, AS, BA, CL, C, D,

ET, FF, H, LA, SH

*"I'm experiencing the grinding poverty
of not owning an iPad"*



Money talks



K.J. Lamb

Men

Middle Heart – Gibbs Road

SIFA Fireside
18–28 Lower Essex St, Birmingham B5 6SN
0121 666 7023
Mon–Fri: 9–10.30am (breakfast); 12–1pm (lunch); Sat & Sun: 10.30am–11.30am (nurses Tue & Fri: chiropodist Thu)
One-to-one help, accommodation and support for people dealing with alcohol issues; counselling; resettlement and tenancy support; training opportunities; help for people on probation. Help accessing emergency accommodation.
AS, AW, AS, BS, BA, C, DA, ET, FF, H, LA, MS, OB, SK, TS
St George's House
St George's Hub, St Marks Rd, Chapel Ash, Wolver-hampton WV3 0TZ
01902 421904
Mon–Fri: 9:15am–4:30pm
Helps people 18+ to avoid becoming homeless and to live independently after resettlement.
Leisure and sporting activities.
AS, AD, BE, CL, F, H, LA, TS
St George's House Drop-in
1 Clarence St, Wolver-hampton WV1 1WZ
01902 714746
Fri: 2:15pm–3pm; Mon–Thu: 2:15pm–4:30pm; Mon–Fri: 9:30am–1:30pm
For homeless people, ex-offenders, substance misusers and others who are often barred from other services and facilities. Practical advice, support and guidance, and signposting to other services. Big Issue distributor.
AS, AD, AW, BA, D, ET, F, H, LA, LF, OL
DIRECT ACCESS HOSTELS/NIGHTSHELTERS
All with low-support needs
Coventry and Warwickshire YMCA – Daimler Green
Endeavour Court, 20 Chelmarsh, Daimler Green, Coventry West Midlands CV6 3LB
024 7659 7009
Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless people and care leavers with low support needs.
AS, AD, CA, ET, H, IT, TS

House
61 Stratford St, Coventry CV2 4NJ
024 7663 5105
Mon–Fri: 9am–5pm (phone for application form)
Move-on accommodation for local single homeless men 18+, priority to Irish people. Dogs allowed.
AS, H, TS
Midland Heart – Handwood House
Leopold St, Highgate, Birmingham B12 0QB
0121 753 1386
Mon–Fri: 8am–7pm (phone for appointment)
For single homeless men 25+.
AS, F, H
Midland Heart – Zambesi Project
185 Stratford Rd, Sparkhill, Birmingham B11 1AG
0121 766 7645
Mon–Fri: 8am–7pm
For single homeless men aged 45+.
AS, AW, D, H
P3 – Bilston Hostel
53 Wellington Rd, Wolver-hampton WV4 6AQ
01902 490050
Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless men, inc. ex-offenders and rough sleepers. D
P3 – Thornley Street
27 Thornley St, Wolver-hampton WV1 1JS
01902 773721
Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless men. Must be substance-free at time of admission.
ET, H, LA, LF, MH, OL
Princp Street Hostel
Waterloo House, 33–35 Princip St, Birmingham B4 6LE
0121 359 5953
Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
For single homeless men aged 25+ with support needs, inc. mental health and/or alcohol problems.
AS, AD, AW, MH

House
Gibbs Rd, (off Balds Lane), Lye, Stourbridge DY9 8SG
01384 423 771
Mon–Fri: 8am–7pm (phone for appointment)
For single people aged 17+ (83 men, 9 women).
AS, H, TS
Salvation Army (Eden Villa)
13 Charlotte St, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 3EB
01926 450708
Mon–Fri: 9am–5pm (call for appointment)
Single homeless people with support needs, and 1 room for married couples. Residents who have moved on can use the drop-in advice centre.
AS, AD, BA, H, TS
SHARP Hostel
57 Edgbaston Rd, Smeth-wick B66 4LG
0121 558 2104
Mon–Sun: 8:45am–11pm (phone calls); Mon–Sun: 9am–8pm (referrals)
For single people or couples aged 18+. Considers people who are overcoming dependency, but active drug use is not acceptable.
AS, BA, H
Salvation Army (Lincoln St Centre)
1 Lincoln St, Coventry CV1 4JN
024 7625 1437
Mon–Sun: 7am–9pm
Staff provide help and advice as required. Job seeking sessions, computer literacy courses and basic skills sessions are also available.
AD, AW, CA, ET, IT, LA, LF, MS
Salvation Army (William Booth Centre)
c/o Homeless Single Point of Access, Midland Heart – Homeless Services Centre, 44 Broad-ford St, Birmingham B5 6HX
0345 60 20 540 (24/7)
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri: 10am–6pm; Thu: 10am–2pm
For single homeless men aged 18+ with low- to medium-support needs, inc. refugees. Call in at Midland Heart's Homeless Services Centre.
AS, H

House
52 Allison Street, Birmingham B5 5TH
0121 643 5094 For men over 50
Central and Cecil – Tullamore House
61 Stratford St, Coventry CV2 4NJ
024 7663 5105
Mon–Fri: 9am–5pm (phone for application form)
Move-on accommodation for local single homeless men 18+, priority to Irish people. Dogs allowed.
AS, H, TS
Midland Heart – Handwood House
Leopold St, Highgate, Birmingham B12 0QB
0121 753 1386
Mon–Fri: 8am–7pm (phone for appointment)
For single homeless men 25+.
AS, F, H
Midland Heart – Zambesi Project
185 Stratford Rd, Sparkhill, Birmingham B11 1AG
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ET, H, LA, LF, MH, OL
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Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
For single homeless men aged 25+ with support needs, inc. mental health and/or alcohol problems.
AS, AD, AW, MH

DAY CENTRES AND DROP-INS

St Martin in the Bullring Helpdesk
The Bullring, Birmingham B5 5BB
0121 600 6536
Mon & Fri: 10:30am-12:30pm;
Tue & Thu: 10:30am-12:30pm &
1.30-3.30pm; Sat: 10:30am-1pm

Chace Centre
Chace Ave, Coventry CV3 3AB
024 7630 2694
Mon-Fri: 9am-12am; Mon-Thu:
2pm-5pm; Fri: 1pm-4:30pm
For single men 18+.
CA, ET, LA, LF, OL

Coventry Cyrenians
1 Bird Street, Coventry, CV1 1FX
02476 228099
Mon-Fri: 9:30am-4pm
AS, BS, BA, CL, DA, F, H, L, OB, TS

Housing Options (Sandwell)
Court House, 335-337 High St, West
Bromwich, Birmingham B70 8LU
0121 569 6000
Mon-Fri: 8am-5:30pm
If you are at risk of becoming
homeless, contact the Housing
Options Team for advice. Outside
office hours: 0121 525 4688 or
housing@sandwell.gov.uk.
AS, AD, H

**Midland Heart - Homeless
Services Centre**
44 Bradford St, Digbeth,
Birmingham B5 6HX
0345 6020 540; 0121 233 6370
Mon, Wed, Fri: 10am-6pm; Tues:

Drop-in and telephone housing
advice. Welfare benefits advice.
Outreach and tenancy support for
rough sleepers. Tenancy support for
refugees and asylum seekers, young
people with multiple needs, people
with current or past drug problems.
Alcohol and mental health referrals.
AS, BA, H, OB, TS

Solihull Community Housing
Solihull Community Housing
6/8 Coppice Way, Chelsley Wood,
Solihull, Birmingham B37 5TX
0121 704 1515

Mon, Tues, Thu: 9am-5pm;
Wed: 10am-5pm; Fri: 9am-
4:30pm; Sat: 9am-1pm
AS, H

**Coventry Jesus Centre - The
Bridge Drop-In**
7 Lamb St, Coventry CV1 4AE
02476 550033
Mon: 10am-1pm; Tues-Fri:
9am-4pm; Sun: 9am-10:30am;

Support groups, skills classes,
café, and drop-in.
AS, AW, BS, BE, BA, CL, DA, ET, F, FC
FF, H, IT, L, LA, LF, LS, MS, MC, OB, TS

The Globe Centre
Wednesbury Rd, Walsall, WS1 3RU
01922 625687
Mon - Fri: 9am - 4pm
For people (18+) who are vulner-

**Walsall Metropolitan Borough
Council (Homelessness and
Housing Advice Service)**
2nd Fl, Civic Centre, Darwall
St, Walsall WS1 1TP
01922 653405
Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm
Call for an appointment or if it's
urgent, call in 2pm-3pm. Out-of-

hours emergencies, call 01922
650000 and speak to the duty
social worker. General advice
will be available on the out-of-
hours service (0845 1112836).
AS, H, TS

Walsall Rent Guarantee Scheme
PO Box 1427, Walsall WS4 2YT
01922 746798
Mon & Wed: 10am-12am
Helps people registered as homeless
in Walsall to access private rentals.

**Salvation Army - Homeless Action
Project (Leamington)**
1A Chapel St, Leamington Spa,
Warwickshire CV31 1EJ
01926 883613
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri: 9:30am-
12am; Thu: 9:30am-12:30am;
Sat: 9:30am-11:30am
Advice, support, signposting
and referrals to emergency
and longer term housing.
AS, BS, BA, ET, F, H, IT, L, LA, OL

Mags Day Centre
St Albans, Deansway,
Worcester, WR1 2JD
01905 25027
www.magsdaycentre.co.uk
AS, AD, BS, C, CL, D, FF, L, MS, OL, TS

St Basil's Link
The Tollhouse, 180-182 Fazeley
Street, Birmingham, B5 5SE
0300 3030099
Mon-Thu: 9am-5pm; Fri: 9am-1pm
For people aged 16-25 who are
homeless or are facing homeless-

**Salvation Army - Homeless Action
Project (Leamington)**
1A Chapel St, Leamington Spa,
Warwickshire CV31 1EJ
01926 883613
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri: 9:30am-
12am; Thu: 9:30am-12:30am;
Sat: 9:30am-11:30am
Advice, support, signposting
and referrals to emergency
and longer term housing.
AS, BS, BA, ET, F, H, IT, L, LA, OL

Homeless Accommodation Project
1st Fl, Koco Building, The Arches,
Spon End, Coventry CV1 3JQ
024 7671 5113
Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm (call
for appointment)
Advice on homelessness and
finding accommodation. Tem-

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AS, H, TS

the List

Directory of the West Midlands' homeless services

Updated 31 October 2011

Key to this list:	Accom. assistance – AS	Advocacy – AD	Alcohol workers – A	Art classes – AC	Barber – B	Benefits advice – BA	Bathroom/showers – BS	Bedding available – BE	Careers advice – CA	Clothing – CL	Counselling – C	
	Debt advice – DA	Dentist – DT	Drugs workers – D	Education/training – ET	Free food – FF	Food – F	Foot care – FC	Housing/accom advice – H	Internet access – IT	Laundry – L	Leisure activities – LA	Leisure facilities – LF
	Luggage stowage – 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

If you've any changes or suggestions visit our website - www.thepavement.org.uk - or email: thelist@thepavement.org.uk

Updated entries: 1
Services added: 1

ADVICE SERVICES

Base 25

Castle House, Wheelers Fold, Wolverhampton WV1 1ST
01902 572040

Mon-Thurs: 12am-6pm; Fri: 12am-5pm; Sat: 1pm-3pm

Advice for people aged 11-25 on housing, sex, drugs and alcohol, emotional wellbeing and job search.

Groups for young women, fathers, asylum seekers and refugees.

Free phone: 0800 073023

AS, AD, AW, BA, C, D, ET, H, LA, OL, SH

Derbyshire Housing Aid

Milestone House, 93 Green Lane, Derby DE1 1RX

01332 642150

Mon-Sun: open 24 hours

(emergency); Mon-Fri: 1pm-4pm (assessment)

Assessment service for all single homeless people in Derby.

Emergency accommodation.

AS, AS, BS, BE BA, DA, H, LF

BA, DA, ET, OL, TS

Info about local services.

etc. Tenancy-related problems.

GF, schools, work and college

erts, debt, registering with a

Advice and assistance on ben-

Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm

01384 237555

Dudley DY2 7DJ

98-99 Dixons Green Rd,

CHADD Outreach Support Service

5 St James Rd, Dudley, Bir-

mingham DY1 1HP

01384 815035

Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm

If you find yourself homeless over the weekend or outside office hours, call 0300 555 8283 for help.

AS, H

Dudley Tenancy Guarantee

Dudley Housing Office,

15-17 St James's Rd, Dudley,

Birmingham DY1 1JG

0300 555 2345

Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm

Helps people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness

to access private rented property. Phone 01384 815035 for details.

TS