

An abstract painting in a cubist style. The background is a mix of warm colors: yellow, orange, and red. In the upper left, there is a large, stylized eye with a black pupil and a white sclera. Below it, a wide, toothy smile is depicted with black outlines. The central figure is a person with a face that has a mix of colors (tan, blue, white) and black outlines. The figure's body is also composed of these colors and black lines, suggesting a complex, layered identity. The overall style is expressive and somewhat chaotic, reflecting the theme of homelessness.

the Pavement

the free magazine for homeless people

Zakia

Issue 162 : Labels
June – July 2026

Missing



Piotr AKA "Pudzio/Pudzian" Platek

Piotr Platek has been missing from Croydon, London, since 15 April 2026. He was 37 at the time of his disappearance.

Piotr, use our free and confidential Helpline; we can offer support and advice without judgement, and the opportunity to send a message to loved ones. Call or text 116 000.



Mitko Angelov

Mitko Angelov has been missing from North West London since 25 February 2026. He was 34 at the time of his disappearance.

Mitko, we're here for you whenever you need us; we can talk through your options, send a message for you and help you be safe. Call or text 116 000. It's free and confidential.

If you think you may know something about Piotr or Mitko, you can contact our helpline anonymously on **116 000**, or you can send a letter to 'Freepost Missing People'.

Our Helpline is also available for anyone who is missing, away from home or thinking of leaving. We can talk through your options, give you advice and support or pass a message to someone. It's free and confidential.

**missing
people**

Registered charity in England and Wales (1020419)
and in Scotland (SC047419)

A lifeline when someone disappears

**TURN TO PAGES A – P
FOR THE LIST OF SERVICES**



Cover: The cover art for this issue of *the Pavement* is a work by Zakia Chowdhury titled *Fire Dance*. Zakia produced the art at the 240 Project, an arts and wellbeing charity supporting vulnerable adults. Learn more about the 240 Project on its Instagram @240wellbeing
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the Pavement magazine

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© John Joseph Sheehy MacSheehy

The Shining Golden Star

By Tracey Charrier

I went for a walk in the
street one night
And looked up at the dark blue sky.
It was ever so bright,
the power it had
Felt very warm and not loose or tight,
I looked up at it and it made
me feel so special
Because the way it was so
alight it looked like a
Lovely golden star inside of me.
When I went home it stayed in me
That feeling all I had to do,
Was go out and look up at the sky
See that gold star then I knew
that I started healing.
To stop me crying.

In memory

The Shining Golden Star was first published in issue 146 of *the Pavement*, in 2023. In late 2025, Tracey sadly passed away. We thank her for her words and for the light of her star: the love and warmth she has brought into so many people's lives. Rest in peace.

Welcome to *the Pavement*: a magazine for homeless readers

We're a small charity, founded in London in 2005, producing a pocket-sized mag full of news, views and cartoons that helps people in moments of crisis as well as giving info which may be needed to move on. Right in the centre is a list of places to help you.

We believe that sleeping rough is physically and mentally harmful, but reject the view that a one-size-fits-all approach to getting people off the streets works. Each issue we print 8,500 FREE bimonthly magazines written for homeless and insecurely-housed readers in London and Scotland. You can find *the Pavement* at hostels, day centres, homeless surgeries, soup-runs and libraries.

Help needed

We are always looking for volunteer journalists and photographers to create exclusive content that's written with our readers in mind. We particularly welcome those who've experienced homelessness. Or can you fundraise or donate so we can keep providing *the Pavement* for free? We also need London volunteers to help with distribution.

A big thank you to our readers and writers.

- editor@thepavement.org.uk

Labels

People are always being labelled and, sadly, labels can make a habit of sticking. Stigma is perpetuated through these labels, contributing to a spiral of negativity. They're hard to shake, but that doesn't mean they're here forever.

André (page 26), Chris (page 29), Emdad (page 18) and Sophie (page 20) delve into the meaning of labels, their effects and how we move past them. You can also read a postcard from Greece on page 14, news about a chess tournament on page 12 and all of the regular news, views and cartoons elsewhere in the magazine.

Briefly, members of *the Pavement* team were proud to walk alongside charities, organisations and people from the homeless community as part of a homelessness bloc during April's National Housing Demo. A thanks to organisers Homes4All and the London Renters Union, among others. The march, which took attendees through central London, called for rent controls and the construction of council housing.

the Pavement team

www.pavement.org.uk



Pictured is the installation of fancy planters outside a flagship store on London's Tottenham Court Road. New and permanent, they stand where people sleeping rough had set up for the night, shielding them from the elements.

SK Legal member Elodie highlighted the damaging effects of the move, saying: "Those sleeping there were respectful of the space and simply trying to survive. The local authority has again failed in its duty. It is a crime that homelessness exists; there are simple solutions to end it, criminalisation or further displacement can never be one of them."

Response ability

In March, Croydon Council, **London**, launched a rapid response service to help rough sleepers move away from the streets and into safer, more stable accommodation. The rapid response focuses on finding and engaging rough sleepers as swiftly as possible. It offers trauma-informed, compassionate support that includes access to healthcare, mental health services, substance use treatment and help with accessing accommodation. The service is a partnership project between Thames Reach, the council, police, health services and voluntary, community and faith sector groups. In a press release, Jason Perry, Executive Mayor of Croydon, said: "This new rapid response service demonstrates our unwavering commitment to supporting Croydon's most vulnerable residents with dignity and compassion."

Child deaths

In the past six years, 104 children in England have died because of living conditions linked to temporary accommodation, data compiled by the all-party parliamentary group for households in temporary accommodation has found. The research also found that there were 64 stillbirths and 27 neonatal deaths involving mothers living

in temporary accommodation in the UK in 2024. Responding to the findings, Siobhain McDonagh, the chair of the all-party parliamentary group for households in temporary accommodation, announced: "We need urgent, sustained action to bring down the number of homeless children and to ensure that no family is left in conditions that put lives at risk. Because until that happens, we cannot honestly say we are doing enough." An estimated 135,000 households live in temporary accommodation in England, including 176,000 children.

Closure

Back in March, *LBC* reported **London's** only existing hospital unit providing addiction treatment for rough sleepers in need of support would be closing. The Addiction Clinical Care Suite at St Thomas' Hospital has treated more than 1,000 patients since it opened in 2021. In May, a spokesperson for the Department of Health and Social Care suggested a replacement service will be set up in due course, telling *LBC*: "Rising costs meant the London boroughs determined the Addiction Clinical Care Suite was no longer affordable – with a £1m shortfall and times when beds were underused. They are inviting tenders

for a more sustainable service and ministers have requested further advice on future provision.”

Pub lunch

.....

A WhatsApp group’s members are buying meals and drinks for homeless people through the Wetherspoon’s app. The group was started by Chris Illman, who was inspired by the Facebook group ‘Wetherspoons: the Game!’, a group that encourages strangers on Facebook to order rounds of drinks for each other at any Wetherspoon’s pub. That group is some 800,000 members strong. Illman’s WhatsApp group currently stands at around 700 members, operating on the premise that instead of buying drinks for one another, they would buy food and non-alcoholic drinks for those who could not afford it themselves. According to *the Guardian*, to request a meal people can contact admins on the ‘Wetherspoon’s: The Game!’ Facebook page with their location and meal request, accompanied by a photo to prove they are real and in the pub. An admin will then send the anonymised request to the WhatsApp group of potential donors. Since 2018, the group has bought tens of thousands of meals and hundreds of thousands of snacks for vulnerable people across the UK.



© The People’s Recovery Project

Align here: On 4 June, the People’s Recovery Project (TPRP) has organised an afternoon of spoken word, musical performances, DJ sets, motivational talks and much more from TPRP community members. TPRP supports people experiencing homelessness and addiction to build and sustain recovery. The free event, titled Lightbulb Moments, is open to the public and runs from 2 – 5pm at Dalston Curve Garden, 13 Dalston Lane, London, E8 3DF.

- If you would like to know more about the services the People’s Recovery Project provides, visit the website: thepeoplesrecoveryproject.org



A picture from the exhibition *SEEN*. © Jack Eames

Picture perfect: A photography exhibition centering on Haircuts4Homeless (H4H) was held in London in April. Photographer and director Jack Eames spent seven years focusing his lens on the work of H4H, a charity offering people experiencing homelessness in the UK free haircuts. There are roughly 56 H4H projects in the UK, which since its foundation in 2014 has provided more than 12,000 free haircuts. Marking the opening of *SEEN*, Stewart Roberts MBE, founder of H4H, called the exhibition “a celebration of dignity, humanity and the belief that everyone deserves to be seen.”

- Learn more about Haircuts4Homeless on its website: www.haircuts4homeless.com

£150,000 grant given by Blackburn with Darwen Council to keep 100 bedsits as supported accommodation for homeless people for the year to April 2027, reports the BBC.



© the Pavement

Opening night: Members of *the Pavement* team were present for opening night of a new exhibition by the Museum of Homelessness. *Criminal* charts the causes and criminalisation of homelessness from the 1600s to today. The exhibition includes new works by artists including 10Foot, Gemma Lees, Matt Bonner, Spelling Mistakes Cost Lives and Surfing Sofas. A remarkable – and at times shocking – history of homelessness, *Criminal* is open from 21 May to 25 July and is free to attend. You can visit and see for yourself on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 12:30 – 4:30pm, at the museum's Manor House Lodge address by Manor House Station, Seven Sisters Road, London, N4 2DE. The museum is closed 3, 4, 10 and 11 July.

- For more information see the Museum of Homelessness website: museumofhomelessness.org

£3.49m

paid to estate agent Stef and Phillips by London boroughs during the month of October 2025, to house homeless families, one of a number of multi-million pound payments made to estate agents that month.

205%

rise in households staying in temporary accommodation in London between 2010 and 2025, according to *Big Issue*.

Village people

Social Bite has opened a homelessness village in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council. Harriet Gardens is a £3m supported living community in **Rutherglen**, featuring 15 high-quality modular Nest Houses, an outdoor gym and a central community hub with shared spaces for cooking, group activities, therapeutic support and social connection. *Third Force News* quoted co-founder of Social Bite, Josh Littlejohn MBE, welcoming the news: "Harriet Gardens represents what is possible when we bring together housing, support and community in the right way. This is not just about providing a roof over someone's head – it's about creating a place where people feel valued, supported and able to rebuild their lives." The village will be managed by charity partner The Salvation Army, providing specialist, round-the-clock support to residents.

Open all year

An **Edinburgh** winter homeless shelter will operate year-round, following a funding boost from Edinburgh Council. The Welcome Centre, run by Bethany Christian Trust, is usually open for the winter months and was due to close at the end of April 2026, but will now operate through to March 2027.

The centre accommodates 64 households who have been sleeping rough in Edinburgh, providing meals and support to guests. Councillor Tim Pogson, housing, homelessness and fair work convener, told *Edinburgh Evening News*: "We don't want people to have to sleep rough at any time of the year, so I'm really pleased that we'll be able to keep the Welcome Centre open throughout 2026."

Health warning

A major new briefing from Public Health Scotland has warned that homelessness in the country is increasingly driven by poverty, poor health and systemic pressures across public services. The *Health and Homelessness Briefing*, published in May, identifies homelessness is both a cause and consequence of severe health inequalities, with people experiencing homelessness facing significantly higher risks of physical and mental ill-health, premature mortality and repeated contact with crisis services. *Scottish Housing News* reported Public Health Scotland has called for coordinated, rights-based action to prevent people experiencing homelessness.

TURN TO PAGES A – P
FOR THE LIST OF SERVICES



© Glasgow City Mission

Bicentenary birthday: Glasgow City Mission marked the 200th anniversary of its establishment in May, inviting people working with the homeless community from across the globe to learn about its projects and take part in a number of activities in the city. Four days of celebrations were brought to a close with a church service at Glasgow Cathedral on Sunday 17 May. The Mission was founded in 1826 and today involves volunteers and staff from more than 100 churches in and around **Glasgow**.

- Glasgow City Mission provides a range of services for people experiencing homelessness, including a drop-in centre, winter accommodation, food, outreach and much more. Visit the website to find out more: www.glasgowcitymission.com

Your move

An invitation to the first ever Street Legends Chess Cup, an open-to-all chess event in London's Museum of Homelessness in July. By organiser *Matt Turtle*

Every Tuesday at the Museum of Homelessness in Finsbury Park, we have our community day. People come for all sorts of reasons – whether it's socialising, digging, gardening, getting stuck into some art or dropping by for some food. Community Tuesday, as it's called, is at the heart of what we do (11am – 3pm each week).

Back in the early days, I remember setting up in the morning with the crew and spotting one of our regulars laying pieces out on a board. Hristo – known for his mastery of football tricks, a previous pro footie career and much more – was setting up a board on a wooden log in our garden and began a game with his pal. It was a chess set.

That day chess became a feature of museum life, as Hristo week-to-week would generally beat all comers. He could be seen with his own special corner in the museum next to our sheds and was instantly recognisable with his vape, Bulgarian beats and calls of "surrender!" to anyone he played. It turned out that quite a few people enjoy a game and since that day we've had the Park Hill prison chess champ come through,

an experienced master level player and other enthusiasts. One of our crew even made a board from scratch that people could play on.

Chess in prisons, shelters and in hostels has a long history. John Healy's searing account of being street homeless in the East End in the '70s and '80s ends with chess – and how the game helped him. The book, *The Grass Arena*, became a Penguin classic. He also became a seriously strong player publishing *Coffeehouse Chess Tactics* later in life. There are others: 10 years ago, Slide Martin became a feature of local news in Cambridge for thrashing university students on the streets and challenging passers-by to a game, with his dogs Check and Mate watching on.

One of the most heartening examples in recent times is the story of Tani Adewumi, who spent much of his childhood in a Manhattan homeless shelter with his family, having fled Nigeria to escape Boko Haram insurgents. Tani showed so much talent for the game that coach Russell Makofsky waived the fees for him to join a local chess club. At the age of nine he won the New York



State K-3 championship and today, just shy of 16, he is very close to being named as a grandmaster – the highest accolade you can achieve in the sport.

Inspiring stories aside, chess itself has adapted well to the digital age and is also enjoying a resurgence of popularity as a social pastime. Chess club meetups in London these days are more like clubs with DJs, streamers and casual players coming together to play, socialise and have fun.

So here at the museum we are getting in on the act and organising two themed chess days on 17 and 18 July. If you are interested in learning more about the game, brushing up on your chess hustling technique or

simply hanging out, we encourage you to come along. At the heart of the days will be the Street Legends Chess Cup with a team tournament on 17 July and an 'open' tournament on 18 July.

We hope that these two days celebrate and honour the great tradition of chess that happens in shelters and homeless settings, while also being a lot of fun.

- **The Street Legends Chess Cup days take place at the Museum of Homelessness, Finsbury Park (11am – 5.30pm) on 17 and 18 July. To enter or simply find out more, check out: museumofhomelessness.org/whats-on/street-legends-chess-cup** ■

Homeless in Greece

Behind the apparent success of Greece's economic recovery, rising costs and a lack of social housing are pushing many into the shadows of the street. By *Kostis Kotsonis*

Greece is finally emerging from the turmoil of the 2008 economic crisis. However, GDP growth cannot mask increasing inflation. Numbers published by the Ministry of Development show food prices, over the last five years, have increased about 39 % and housing costs have risen by 31 %. As a result, the purchasing power of Greeks remains the second lowest in the European Union, according to *Eurostat*.

These facts, combined with a lack of social housing policy in the country, have made housing costs impossible for many people. Some of them lose their homes and find themselves on the street. Yet no one can say how many homeless people there are in the country, as there is not an organised state mechanism for documenting them.

The only organised effort by the Greek state to record homeless people took place in May 2018, through a pilot study. The study was conducted in seven urban districts and recorded a total of 1,645 homeless people – widely acknowledged to be an underestimate.

To learn more about homelessness in Greece, I contacted Klimaka, a

non-profit organisation providing valuable support services to homeless people, such as soup kitchens, shelters, street outreach, psychosocial support. According to Eleftheria Koumalatsou, scientific coordinator of the Dipylon Day Center for Homeless People managed by Klimaka, service users are mainly Greek men over the age of 45, though there are also people from other countries.

Katerina (not their real name), who used to work at the homeless shelter run by the local city council in Thessaloniki, says the guests shared a common characteristic: they ended up homeless after an unfortunate “turning point”. Some were substance users, some had mental health issues, some lost family networks, or simply lost their jobs.

Maria (not their real name) became homeless due to some “very serious family problems” and has been living on the streets of Athens for about four years.

In winter, she sleeps at the airport or in indoor car parks; in summer, she stays in parks. She claims that many people who sleep outside end up in a vicious cycle of crime, including drug dealing and sex work. The city council

of Athens operates a homeless shelter, but she prefers to sleep outside because the conditions there are not good. The most unbearable thing: the bedbugs.

There were also bedbugs at the Thessaloniki shelter, Katerina claims. Furthermore, she remembers that the facilities were old and often broke down: “Some days, only two showers worked for 30 people, and people would fight over who would bathe first.”

Refugees and migrants also face an increased risk of homelessness – alongside prejudice – in Greece. Katerina reports that some Greek residents at the shelter expressed racist views about their refugee or migrant roommates. She adds that many employees had no training in managing multicultural groups and held stereotypical views about these people too.

Shedia is the only street paper in Greece. Spyros Zonakis, a journalist for the paper, has encountered several stories of hidden homelessness, many of them in the idyllic landscapes of the Greek islands.

One remarkable case he recorded was in Santorini, where teachers ended up in tents or on sunbeds because landlords evicted them to rent the houses to tourists. In Mykonos, some newly appointed teachers were put up by colleagues, as it was impossible to find a decent

home on a salary of just €770. On another Cycladic island, workers at a luxury hotel were forced to live in the pool’s machinery room.

“We come across cases of hidden homelessness more and more often in urban areas, mainly among women,” adds Koumalatsou.

All this uncertainty obviously has an impact on the psychology of homeless people.

Maria describes her mood as an emotional roller coaster. She might find a job for a short period and get back on her feet, but when her contract ends, she is back on the street. “Some friends of mine have simply accepted that they will live on the street forever,” she says. She also admits that she has become more solitary and finds it harder to forgive people. “After all, whatever bad happened to me, it was caused by people,” she comments.

Katerina observes that people staying at the Thessaloniki shelter often end up in a state of institutionalisation and don’t look for a job or a place to rent. “They are not provided with any specialised care or guidance to help them find work. The staff treat them in a purely procedural way,” she adds. “Most of the time our guests are not just deprived of these things. They are also deprived of something much more basic: hearing a kind word from someone.”



Ken Payne

"IT'S A LABEL THEY'RE STUCK WITH"



*“Since when have you been
John with a ‘h’ ... Dave?”*

Beyond the label

Why we need to start seeing the person, not the tag. Thoughts by *Emdad Rahman*

We are all given labels at some point in our lives. Some are harmless, some helpful. Others quietly shape how we see ourselves and how the world sees us. When those labels turn negative, repetitive and deeply personal, they don't just describe a person. They define them, limit them, and, for many, slowly push them to the margins of society.

Nowhere is this more visible and more damaging than in the story of homelessness.

Words like “homeless,” or “addict” are often used casually, even carelessly. But behind every label is a human being with a story, a history, and a set of circumstances that rarely begin with the street. Labels can become a self-fulfilling prophecy. When someone is told often enough that they are worthless, troublesome, or beyond help, it becomes harder for them to believe anything else.

In community outreach work this pattern appears again and again. People are not born into homelessness. Many are pushed there through a combination of hardship and trauma

Community outreach at grassroots level reflects this reality. Whether engaging with individuals



Emdad (in white shirt) volunteering in London. © *Emdad Rahman*

on the street, supporting older people, or working with young people, the approach is simple: meet people as they are, not as they've been labelled. Through initiatives like food distribution, mentoring and community engagement, the emphasis is always on dignity and connection. It's not about “fixing” people but about listening to them, restoring confidence and helping them rediscover their own value.

Labels often begin early in life. A child who is called “difficult,” or “trouble” may start to internalise that identity. At school, bullying reinforces it. At home, if there is instability or criticism, it deepens. Over time, these labels help shape a mindset and can erode mental health. By the time that child

becomes an adult, the label is no longer external, it's internal.

Jenny's story is one of many: "I was called everything growing up: 'useless, awkward, not good enough'. At home, at school, even by people I trusted. After a while, you just believe it. I still struggle to trust people. I move around a lot. Sometimes I end up on the streets. I want to help others, I really do, but it's hard when your mind keeps telling you're not worth it."

Her words are not dramatic, they are real. They highlight how labels don't disappear with time – they evolve, embedding themselves into behaviour and life choices. For Jenny, homelessness is also about healing.

Research supports this lived experience. Studies in the UK suggest that a significant proportion of people experiencing homelessness have faced childhood trauma, including abuse, neglect, or sustained bullying. Mental health challenges are also disproportionately high among this group, often linked to long-term exposure to negative environments and labels. In 2014, around 80 % of people sleeping rough in England reported mental health issues. Many sleeping rough still face barriers accessing consistent support. This is where the system often falls short.

Recently, in conversation with a senior politician, the issue of rough sleeping figures came up. The

response was dismissive. The figures were described as inaccurate and exaggerated. It was a moment that revealed a deeper problem: not just disagreement over data, but a lack of empathy.

Public service should be rooted in understanding, compassion and responsibility. Passing the blame or questioning lived realities does not solve homelessness, it distances decision-makers from those they are meant to serve.

Solutions must go beyond surface level interventions.

Community outreach plays a vital role, offering immediate support and building a bridge between individuals and services. A simple conversation, a moment of recognition can begin to change how someone sees themselves – it can challenge the label.

But outreach alone is not enough. Without strong partnerships with professional services, progress cannot be sustained. People need consistent, structured support alongside community care. One without the other creates gaps where individuals fall through.

The most effective approach is joined-up. Compassion with structure. Listening with action.

We also need to challenge the language we use. Labels should not define people. By changing how we speak about homelessness, we begin to change how we respond to it. ■

Period progress

Fighting to defeat the stigma attached to period poverty, by *Sophie Dianne*

Period poverty is a global issue, whereby people are unable to access menstrual products. The ability to manage periods is made difficult by financial constraints, lack of education or poor sanitation infrastructure.

An estimated 2.8 million people are affected by period poverty in the UK, forcing them to use unsafe alternatives, with the embarrassment causing many to miss school or work.

The true cost of menstruation goes beyond the price of a single pack of pads, especially if you are struggling with gynaecological disorders. The average lifetime spend on period products is £4,800, but this doesn't account for the additional cost of painkillers, hygiene care or trips to medical services. For those struggling, free period products are available at many food banks and homeless services across the UK, although demand has seen access points differ in supply.

Having your period each month can be incredibly difficult, but for people sleeping rough it is particularly hard. Some have turned to using sponges, old clothes, tissues and used menstrual products on occasion.

A 2024 study by the University

of Southampton looked at the experiences of homeless women during their periods, finding they were routinely refused entry to both public and customer bathrooms. Meanwhile, others are using cheap herbal remedies to alleviate subsequent infections, brought on by substitute items. As someone from the city, I was disgusted to learn this.

Charities and council services can provide help to vulnerable women, but stocks are often low, with some organisations rationing their free products.

There is good news, however, as the UK government has established plans and statutory schemes to provide free period products, primarily targeting schools, colleges and local communities, in order to combat period poverty and provide dignity.

Although it is slow, progress is being made to eradicate period poverty.

- **Experiencing period poverty? Support is available from Period Poverty UK, Hey Girls, Bloody Good Period, Period Angles, Freedom4Girls and Evolve Housing+Support. Search them online.**

In the Dark

Words on life, death and the dark, by a poet, artist and photographer registered blind. By *Terry Miles*

This piece of lasting sadness
 is the worst aspect about it
 So much about life is about death.
 It was the thing in the dark, motionless and cold
 Didn't David know about the risk?
 That is what your family and friends are asking.
 Being half-awake at times.
 Yes, you were involved in wanting something to take.
 Anything at times! As if you don't have to work at it.
 So many nowadays, only aspire to having takeaway pleasures,
 akin to being breastfed in a carpark.
 Is it really beautiful to feel the same around the clock?
 Oh, so you want the same again, because it makes you feel so good.
 Can't you do a little for yourself?
 Be interested in the world around you?
 No, I guess you can't!
 Otherwise, you wouldn't be under sedation as you are now.
 Of course, it's one strategy.
 Understanding how the world, or part of it, works.
 Having an insight into things, a few items that turn your head.
 Your family and friends, how they wanted you to grasp
 some straws. To bring about a change,
 of prospect. Yes it takes some time!
 This wasn't how they wanted to
 say goodbye. Not even a grandchild.
 People have to think of good times even if it's not for them.
 They didn't know how you couldn't see the signs.
 How you couldn't Google anything regarding the risks.
 Your life support system will be turned off, tomorrow,
 The doctor's say you are,
 in fact, brain dead.

Women-led pathway

Read about a new Crisis service for women experiencing homelessness. By Hazel Buontempo and Joy Chan of the Crisis team

Every December, hundreds of people facing homelessness come to Crisis at Christmas hotels and day centres in London. Volunteers offer a warm welcome, safety, food and companionship, making Christmas a time that genuinely changes lives.

While we feel incredibly proud of this work, a few years back we started to recognise a gap: too few women were accessing the offer, even though referral numbers showed this wasn't due to a lack of need. We therefore knew barriers must exist, making the provision feel inaccessible. Women in our year-round services consistently tell us how dangerous rough sleeping can be, with many experiencing violence, exploitation and abuse. Homelessness services are often male-dominated and can feel intimidating to women, meaning they avoid them altogether or leave soon after arriving.

It was clear we needed to create something different: a space where women could feel safe, comfortable and able to work at their own pace. A place grounded in dignity, where they could begin their journey out of homelessness.

In late 2024, I was asked to help

bring together a women-led group (with one honorary male – our Head of Christmas, Ian!) to design a new offer.

Crucially, the group included women with lived experience of homelessness, including someone who had used our Christmas services before. Their insights were essential in shaping what the service should look and feel like.

Over 14 months, I co-led this work with my colleague Sarah, who leads our Impact, Research and Practice team. We worked closely with the Christmas team to design a service that prioritised accessibility, inclusion and safety. We considered every detail – from referral routes to on-site support – to ensure women would feel safe, relaxed and comfortable enough to begin their journey out of homelessness.

On 23 December, we opened the doors to our new Women-Led Pathway in east London. The service offered two weeks of safe, comfortable respite accommodation for 41 women. A key priority for me had been ensuring the service was accessible to trans women and non-binary people so they could also feel safe and welcomed, and this too was

achieved.

Seeing it come to life during my visit on Christmas Eve, after more than a year of planning, felt incredible. The venue had tranquil enclosed grounds and outdoor space, welcoming communal areas where guests could connect with each other, volunteers and case managers.

Learning that by the first morning, every place had been filled brought mixed feelings. In some ways it was a relief: our efforts to make the service more accessible had worked. We had opened referral routes to more partners supporting women and removed the requirement for guests to be 'verified' rough sleepers. We also made it more personal – staff contacted guests in advance, helped plan travel and shared clear information about what to expect. Yet alongside this was a sobering reality: it being full so quickly drove home the immense level of need.

From the outset, however, it was great to see guests relaxing and chatting – something which had previously taken time. People were socialising, using the lounges and engaging with health and wellbeing support from day one. Activities and services had been shaped by what women told us they wanted, including healthcare, creative sessions, IT access and wellbeing activities, which this year included a sauna trip! Volunteers

supported with everything from clothing to games, while hotel staff provided delicious meals. On-site psychological support for both guests and our team ensured it felt safe.

The outcomes from the pathway were significant: 78% of guests did not return to rough sleeping after their stay and almost all remained for the full two weeks. For those who did return to homelessness, we have at least begun their support and will continue working with them towards long-term solutions.

Planning is already underway for Christmas 2026, when we aim to extend the offer to three weeks. While our ultimate goal is to end homelessness altogether, we know this requires broader systemic change – including a significant increase in social housing, investment in welfare and in support services.

In the meantime, we will build on the success of the women-led pathway, both at Christmas and across our wider services. We look forward to supporting more women to begin their journey out of homelessness in the years ahead.

• **Learn more about Crisis and its services online at www.crisis.org.uk** ■

**TURN TO PAGES A – P
FOR THE LIST OF SERVICES**

The Watchtower part III

The final chapter of a story of power and order. Our protagonist, Elias, has had his behaviour influenced by a mysterious tower, but is slowly getting back control. By *Joseph Hickman*

The Fissure Spreads

Elias returned to the tower, though “return” felt like a borrowed word. The walls recognised him, of course, but hesitated. Corridors paused mid-breath as if uncertain how to react. The ledger of his deviations quivered faintly in unseen spaces.

He carried no tools, no weapons, no manifesto. He carried only the knowledge that a fissure, once found, could be shared without ever being named. Small acts rippled outward: a gaze held too long, a question asked but not answered, a phrase allowed to drift into forbidden conclusion.

Others noticed. Some subtly, some as if sensing a tremor in the foundation of their own floors. Shadows shifted. Glances lingered. One child, smaller than Elias once was, dared to hum a tune the tower had never sanctioned. The bell-tone rang faintly, but no punishment followed. The corridor exhaled.

Elias discovered that the fissure was infectious. Not violently. Not loudly. But persistently. Each quiet defiance, each act of thinking without justification, bent the architecture slightly. Walls lost their

Recap

Issue 160 and 161 published the first sections of *The Watchtower*, an atmospheric, mysterious story revolving around Elias and a tower.

The tower controls much of Elias’s behaviour in part I, before its influence begins to wane in part II.

You can read parts I and II on the website:
www.thepavement.org.uk/stories/2824



rigidity. Ceilings hesitated. Floors breathed.

And yet the tower endured, as all bureaucracies do. It catalogued. It rearranged. It hummed. It waited for missteps. But now it waited in dialogue, not dominance. Its corridors were still watchful, but less certain of what was permitted.

Elias did not seek to destroy it. He had learned that destruction is easy, but perilous. He sought only to remind the tower – and himself – that it could be questioned, challenged and reshaped.

He walked among others now,



© Chris Bird

silently encouraging fissures without announcing them. Some smiled faintly, sensing a possibility they had never named. Others pretended not to notice. Still, the air itself seemed to pulse with the tension of thought unmonitored.

There was no declaration. No revolution. No sudden collapse. Only a quiet, accumulating insistence: that freedom could exist even within walls, that choice could persist even under surveillance, that the weight of obedience could be lifted, however slightly.

Elias stood at a balcony once more. The sun dipped toward an indifferent horizon. The wind carried voices he could almost hear – whispers of courage, murmurs of defiance, the quiet laughter of minds beginning to reclaim themselves.

He realised that hope was not a promise. It was a fissure, small and fragile, that widened with care, attention and persistence.

It required no leaders, no permission, no architects. Only those willing to claim it.

And in that space, the tower – and the world beyond it – waited, imperfectly, for what might come next.

Elias smiled. Not because the path was clear, not because the walls had surrendered, but because for the first time, he could see the possibility of movement. The possibility of change. The possibility that, however small, resistance could endure.

The tower still hummed, still catalogued, still rearranged itself. But the hum no longer dictated the rhythm of his spine. The ledger no longer bound his choices. He was aware now of the weight of freedom and the responsibility it demanded. And he would bear it, step by step, corridor by corridor.

The fissure would spread. And in that slow, careful light, the tower was no longer invincible. ■

What is art?

Art as hope, art as expression and art as a catalyst for change.
Thoughts by *André Rostant*

During May, I had the good fortune to take part in various art workshops open to, one expressly for, homeless people in London. Our editor, Jake, invited me along to a session at The Museum of Homelessness in Finsbury Park. We painted t-shirts and would have made cyanotype prints, but for the overcast day.

On the back of several projects the two of us had attended, Jake and I wrote a piece in *Big Issue* about the general collapse of arts funding, and the disproportionate knock-on effects for the socially disadvantaged, especially homeless people. I co-wrote the article, but should like to expand on it here with a particular emphasis on the visual arts, like painting and sculpting.

I noted that for many people experiencing homelessness, worklessness or social isolation, art sessions provided by councils and charities are a lifeline: one participant told me outright that art like this had saved his life. These are precious opportunities for self-expression.

In the *Big Issue* article, we listed the various styles of workshop – some supervised, some do-as-you-will, some even offering film-making. One I visited at St Mellitus Church, Islington, was part of a broader

event, with mobile chest-screening, health advice, council services advisors, a barber, a hand-cleaning and manicure specialist and a singing workshop.

This way of fostering, of cultivating artists, challenges perceptions – we don't stop being creative just because circumstance piles up on us; art is a primordial urge. Even before the so-called dawn of civilisation, people painted cave walls, carved ivory, danced, sang, made instruments. Nor can we escape the fact that much ancient primitive art arises from attempts to understand the nature of our world. The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel is far from humanity's first attempt to express our cosmic interconnectedness.

Art has often been a vehicle of resistance: Picasso's work, for example, threw a daring mirror up to Francisco Franco's Spain. Zuloaga, on the other hand, painted flattering portraits of the dictator for propaganda, which was no less art. Dali's work and relationship with el Caudillo (Franco) was more ambiguous... Was there an irony, a mocking element to his apparent enthusiasm for Franco's vicious fascism?

In 1962, American artist Andy

Warhol exhibited faithfully painted reproductions of Campbell's Soup labels, bringing into question the whole accepted societal understanding of what constitutes art. Over 60 years later, nobody has yet fully explored what those labels tell us.

Which brings me to ask, what does all the art made by poor people in all these carefully curated spaces say? Themes emerge: seeking, fostering self-expression, challenging perceptions of social exclusion, of homelessness. One organisation works "to bring positive change to people, projects and policy in the homelessness community through arts and creativity." One charity, to "educate on homelessness." Another claims it is "empowering people through arts and recovery." It being implicit that the therapeutic value of art is a given. The broad motif is a petition for inclusion, rather than an assertion of equality.

Amid these slogans about empowerment and delight at revealing the vision and cleverness of the poor to some imagined, unaware mainstream society, there are shades of "Am I Not a Man and a Brother?", a patronised, subdued embodiment of impotence. What right-thinking person in this world does not fully understand that art can come from anybody anywhere? Nor is this solely a theatre of do-gooders – we ourselves are trained to plead for

what we should claim as a right. Art in this context seems to me to be a sublimation, a taming of Banksy proportions. Perceptions are merely massaged.

Art can loom from gable ends in Northern Ireland, blur by on graffiti-smattered trains, fester on toilet walls. Art is rows of empty shoes on cobbled streets, and it stops there. The arbitrary boundaries of art are to be found everywhere expression spills over into overt challenge. Nothing too challenging is art until it can be framed as non-threatening representation. Serrano's *Piss Christ* would have had him burned at the stake 300 years ago. Now, since it no longer appeals to disorder, it wins prizes. Ditto, Hurst's *dismembered cow*.

"Pigs" scrawled on a wall, depictions of people as rats or as rapists, beheading videos, snuff movies are painful, horrific, damaging and emphatically disqualified as art. Yet, albeit grotesque, they are clearly expressions of self. Fear it as we may, nasty people make art too.

Given that half the world's population lives in poverty, and a huge number of the remainder in comparative poverty, our art is, anyway, the real mainstream. The projects I visited are invaluable, but only in the context of broader, more kinetic resistance can they hope to truly bring about change. ■

Use your head

Advice from the Groundswell team on head injuries
and alcohol/substance use

Emergency

If you sustain a head injury while using alcohol or drugs, go to A&E.

When you are speaking to the ambulance crew or 999, always mention any head injury you have, even if the injury took place weeks ago.

Ask about a CT scan if you have suffered a head injury and are intoxicated. This scan can rule out a bleed on the brain.

Do I have a head injury?

You may have a head injury if you experience or have one of the following:

- A scalp wound
- Swelling, bruising or a fracture
- Loss of consciousness
- Nasal discharge
- A stiff neck.

If you are experiencing any of these, please call 999.

Groundswell exists to enable people who have experience of homelessness to create solutions and move themselves out of homelessness – to the benefit of our whole society. Our vision is of an equal and inclusive society, where the solutions to homelessness come from the people with experience of homelessness.

The no future

Celebrating 50 years of punk music: the songs, the lifestyle and the struggle. By *Chris Sampson*

Filthy, disgusting, obscene. A disgrace. Nasty, outrageous, offensive. And, in the words of the Greater London Council's Conservative Party Councillor, Bernard Brooke Partridge, the Sex Pistols and their ilk would have been "vastly improved by sudden death."

You see, the Pistols couldn't play, they couldn't sing; they were scruffy, obnoxious and frightfully dim-witted. They were, supposedly, the invention of their manager, Malcolm McLaren; a figment of his middle-class art student imagination brought to life. Their sickening antics were contemptible, shameful and dismal compared to the upstanding citizens of the day: Jimmy Saville, Jonathan King, Rolf Harris, Gary Glitter, etc.

Worse than murderous Ugandan dictator Idi Amin, murderous Cambodian dictator Pol Pot, the West German Baader-Meinhof terrorists or the racist National Front, just about the only thing the Sex Pistols had going for them was that they were a bloody good rock band. So why all the negging? Because this was 1970s Britain, a failed state after the apparent glories of swinging London and the 1960s. By 1976, The Beatles had done a bunk, full employment had waved cheerio forever, and the

Punk Rock mixtape

Some punk essentials in no particular order, compiled by Chris:

- The Violators – *Summer of '81*
- Dead Kennedys – *Moon Over Marin*
- X-Ray Spex – *The Day The World Turned Dayglo*
- Taylor Swift – *Smash the System!* [Ho, ho! only joking]
- The Clash – *Straight To Hell*
- The Partisans – *No U Turns*
- The Ruts – *Babylon's Burning*
- Buzzcocks – *Boredom*
- The Slits – *Typical Girls*
- Crass – *You're Already Dead*
- The Adicts – *Straight Jacket*

memory of England's 1966 World Cup victory now seemed as though it were a fable, some comforting myth about a Golden Age, now lost forever.

Now, there was no future in England's dreaming; no future, no future for yooooouuu!

Punk group the Adverts were attacked and, on being taken to A&E, were told by NHS staff: "What do you

expect if you go around dressed like that?”

‘That’ consisted of short hair and un-flared trousers, basically. A good enough reason to attack someone? Some thought so in 1976, ’77 and well into the ’80s. Pistols drummer Paul Cook was set about by Teddy boys with iron bars. Not, he divined, because they knew he was a Sex Pistol, but simply because he was dressed as a punk and, as such, to their minds fair game.

J. Rotten Esquire was also attacked, by knife-wielding “patriots”, apparently unhappy about the lyrics to the Pistols’ alternative national anthem, *God Save The Queen*. Decades before his bizarre – apparent – support for Donald Trump, the young Rotten asked reporters: “How does free speech offend people? Are we living in democratic England or Communist Russia?”

Years later, in 1986, the democratically elected Greater London Council was done away with by Thatcher’s Conservative government; possibly due to its habit of reminding them of the unemployment figures – a common punk trope – on huge banners outside County Hall, just across the river from the Houses of Parliament.

I served my time as a loveable spikey-top during the grim, bleak Thatcherite early 1980s. At that time, it felt like you were doing

something to oppose Mrs T and her cronies’ dismantling of British society, simply by being a scruffy anarcho type. We supported and wore the badges of (but never joined) CND, went to benefit gigs, wore ripped-up T-shirts, had our hair spiked up by drunken girls with peanut butter, stood up to various neo-fascist groups, the police, the government and Uncle Tom Cobley and all.

Everywhere you went you were given dirty looks, assumed to be up to no good, untrustworthy, foul-mouthed and, well, just not British. Ah, but punk rock was peculiarly British; where else in the world would being impolite or not tugging your forelock to the Powers That Be lead to such castigation? Giving a V-sign to authority, or having frightful manners could get you in trouble in the UK in a way that seemed impossible elsewhere in the world. And God forbid you should turn up to a job interview with spiked or dyed-green hair or wearing a Peter and the Test Tube Babies t-shirt! With high unemployment “a price well worth paying for low inflation”, as Thatcher claimed, employers could pick and choose who would be their wage-slaves in the pre-Minimum Wage era.

But what of the other youth tribes of the era? Surely we were all united against the old farts who had enjoyed the good times and “beautiful vibes” of the 1960s, but

flushed away The Age of Aquarius in '79 by voting Thatcher into power?

Nope. You could get your head kicked in for having the wrong haircut and, naturally, I always managed to have that wrong barnet. You'd get on a bus or train on your own, and there might be three mods, or skinheads, or casuals or heavy metallers on there, any of whom might have a go at you. In the pre-CCTV-is-everywhere world, there was no one to hear you scream, and if you got "done over" as it was known, who could you turn to? The police?!

We lived in the moment back then because – quite possibly – the wrong 'uns in charge of the hydrogen bombs that could destroy the entire world might easily do so at any instant. The fear of nuclear annihilation ticked away in the background of our lives the whole time, like tinnitus or the now-ubiquitous shite-verts on everyone's phone.

So, what drove punks on; what kept us going? There was a sort of naïf romanticism, I guess; we saw ourselves akin to the French Resistance, disrupting our fascist rulers as and when we could, trying to evade capture – but in our case wearing distinctive, identifying clothes, making us obvious targets, of course. Duh!

There was a lot of lip service about aN@rChY in the punk world, but very few actual anarchists. The

heavy politics required just didn't look much fun, but we wallowed in the authorities' dread and horror of the supposed insurrection that punk represented to them.

M15 even had files on the Pistols, apparently. Just in case punks graduated from graffitiing circled A's on bus stops to actually seizing control of the state.

'Smash the system!' was a much quoted slogan back then. But as time passed, I realised that the system – which vouchsafed us the NHS, dole money, housing benefit, legal aid, disabled benefits and so on – was being smashed. Not by unkempt youths with sledge hammers and utopian dreams of equality, but by creeping privatisation, cuts to vital services and lightly regulated corporate greed.

Those people have got most of society wrapped up now. The arch-capitalist expansionist Donald Trumps in the White House, the Elon Musks giving Nazi salutes, the once-for-the-poor Labour party now pandering to similar powerful elites as the Tories. And, it seems, even that isn't right-wing enough for some: hence Brexit, UKIP and now Farage and Reform UK. This is the No Future prophesied by John-Rot Lydon on *God Save the Queen*. And even he now backs Trump... apparently. ■

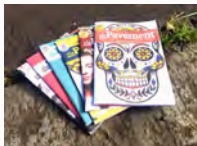
**TURN TO PAGES A – P
FOR THE LIST OF SERVICES**

My notepad...

Make sure you read...

the **Pavement**

online at
www.thepavement.org.uk



London List

KEY TO ALL SERVICES

- A** Alcohol workers
- AD** Advocacy
- AH** Accommodation/housing
- B** Barber
- BS** Bathroom/showers
- C** Counselling
- CA** Careers advice
- CR** Creative activities
- D** Drugs workers
- DT** Dentist
- ET** Education and training
- FA** Financial advice
- FC** Free clothing
- FF** Free food
- IT** Internet access
- L** Laundry
- LA** Legal advice
- LF** Leisure facilities
- MH** Mental health
- MS** Medical/health services
- NE** Needle exchange
- OW** Outreach workers
- S** Signpost to other services
- SF** Step-free access
- SH** Sexual health advice
- TS** Tenancy support

Updates: web@thepavement.org.uk
Compiled: June 2026

This is a partial list, tailored for this issue of *the Pavement*. Full list at thepavement.org.uk/services.php

Are your details incorrect?

Please send changes to:
web@thepavement.org.uk

DAY CENTRES

ACE OF CLUBS

St Alphonsus Rd, London, SW4 7AS
020 7720 2811: aceofclubs.org.uk
Mon – Fri: 12noon – 2:15pm (Lunch – £1 contribution encouraged)
Mon – Thur: 12noon – 2:30pm
(Caseworkers: first come first served)
Mon, Wed, Fri: 9:20 – 11:40am
(Showers: appointment only)
Mon – Fri: 12noon – 2:30pm (IT suite)
Mon & Thurs: 11:30am – 2:30pm
(NHS Nurse: first come first served)
Weds: 11am – 2:30pm
(NHS Dentist: appointment only)
Mon – Fri: Laundry service available throughout the week at £2 per load.
We provide safety, food, warmth, clothing, laundry, showers, housing support and someone to talk to.

B, BS, ET, F, FC, FA, MS, S, TS

ALL PEOPLE ALL PLACES

Pymmes Park Visitors Centre, Edmonton, N18 2UF
www.allpeopleallplaces.org
07907 827 133 (Call or text)
07840 345 872 (Call or text)
07542 592 340 (Call or text)
Tue – Thu: 8am – 2pm
Best park entrance is just off Victoria St.
Closest overground station is Silver St.
Breakfast and lunch available alongside

hot drinks. Access to our service is on a drop-in basis, with casework offered by appointment. Change of clothes available, and 'care packages' for rough sleepers with toiletries & sleeping bag. We have an immigration solicitor visit our day centre once a month.

Enable Drug and Alcohol Service drop in to have a chat about substance misuse, and sometimes run men's groups, discuss mental health and tools to manage emotions. Washing machine/dryer available to use.

A, D, FC, FF, L, LA, OW

C4WS LUNCH CLUB

Holborn House Community Centre, 35 Emerald Street, London, WC1N 3QW
c4wshomelessproject.org

Wednesdays, 10:45am – 1:00pm
Services include soup, hot drinks & snacks, barber, hot showers, drop-in medical and casework support.

B, BS, FF, MS, SF

CONNECTION AT ST MARTIN'S

12 Adelaide Street, London, WC2N 4HW
020 7766 5544, services@cstm.org.uk

www.connection-at-stmartins.org.uk
Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri: 9am – 1:30pm (drop-in); 1:30 – 4:30pm (appointment only)
Wed: 9am – 12:15pm (women only)
Provides short- and long-term support to people affected by homelessness, substance abuse, mental health, etc.

BS

GREENWICH HOMELESS PROJECT

360 Middle Park Ave, Eltham, SE9 5QH
0203 355 6880

greenwichhomelessproject.org.uk

Mon & Fri: 9am – 1pm

Wed: 9am – 3pm

Day centre open year-round excluding public holidays. For those experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Service includes: hot breakfast, lunch, access to showers, laundry, casework, health support and wellbeing activities.

From the end of October until end of March each year Greenwich Homeless Project (GHP) runs a night shelter, 7pm – 8.30am. See the website:

greenwichhomelessproject.org.uk

Referral by agreed partner agencies must be confirmed by GHP Caseworker. 18+, mixed, 13 places.

AD, BS, CA, CR, FF, L, MS

THE MANNA

St Stephens Church Hall, 17 Canonbury Road, London, N1 2DF

020 7226 5369; themanna.org.uk

Tue: 2 – 7pm; Thu & Fri: 10am – 4pm

Wed: (Activity day: call or check website)

A day centre for marginalised, vulnerable and homeless people with a wide range of services available to guests, including: Food; Laundry; Showers; Key work advice.

BS, FF, L

KEY

A Alcohol workers

AD Advocacy

AH Accommodation/housing

B Barber

BS Bathroom/showers

C Counselling

CA Careers advice

CL Clothing storage

CR Creative activities

DT Drugs workers

D Dentist

ET Education/training

FA Financial advice

FF Free food

IT Internet access

L Laundry

THE MANNA CENTRE

12 Melior Street, London, SE1 3QP

020 7403 1931 – option 1www.mannasociety.org.uk

Mon – Sun: 8:30am – 1:30pm

Mon – Fri: 10:30am – 11.30am &

12noon – 1pm (Access to the internet)

Mon – Thu: 9:30am – 1:30pm (Housing & Welfare Advice)

Mon & Wed: 10am – 10:45am (Clothing Store – by ticket only)

Mon & Thurs: 9am – 12noon (Nurse)

Tues: 10am – 11:30am (Mental Health)

Wed: 9:30am – 12pm (Welfare Advice for Migrants & Asylum Seekers)

A day centre for homeless people near London Bridge. Appointments for accommodation must be booked on a Friday morning at 10am. Breakfast, lunch & showers available all week.

*BS, FA, FF, IT, L, MH, MS, SF, TS***THE MARGINS PROJECT**

At the back of Union Chapel, on

Compton Avenue, N1 2UN

unionchapel.org.uk/projects/marginssallie@unionchapel.org.uk

Mon – Wed: 11am – 1pm (drop-in)

The Margins Project works with and for those facing homelessness, aiming to improve the lives of those in hardship, breaking cycles of unemployability, and by empowering them to take agency over their situation and tackle the social injustice they face.

Services include: Hot meals; Tea and coffee; Limited access to shower facilities, with priority to rough sleepers; Limited access to laundry.

Advice and Engagement Services:

During drop-in days, face-to-face advice is available for urgent matters on a first-come, first-served basis or by pre-booked appointments.

Advice and engagement service is also available by telephone and/or by email. *BS, FF, L*

NEW HORIZON YOUTH CENTRE

68 Chalton Street, Camden, NW1 1JR

020 7388 5560

Mon: 10:30am – 4pm

Tue: 10:30am – 4pm (appointment only)

Wed: 10:30am – 1:30pm

Wed: 2pm – 4pm (Women and Non-Binary Only Space)

Thu: 10:30am – 4pm

Fri: 10:30am – 4pm

Fri: 4pm – 6pm (Men and Non-Binary Only Space)

Day centre for young people aged 18–24 needing help with homelessness.

Please bring your ID to your first visit, you will need to register at reception.

Daily day centre services, activities and stay for a hot lunch. New Horizon can help with: Housing advice and

advocacy; Support with accessing benefits and Universal Credit;

Education, employment and training support; Counselling and mental health

support; Physical and sexual health advice; Breakfast and hot lunches;

Showers; Wifi; Laundry; Clothes and health essentials; Youth work and life

skills programme including art, music, sports and drama.

AD, AH, BS, C, ET, FA, FF, IT, L, MH, MS, SH, TS

LA Legal advice
LF Leisure facilities
MH Mental health
MS Medical services

NE Needle exchange
OW Outreach workers
S Signposting to other services

SF Step-free
SH Sexual health
TS Tenancy support & housing advice

↓ FIND OUR
 ↓ FULL LIST
 ↓ ON OUR
 ↓ WEBSITE

THE PASSAGE

St Vincent's Centre, Carlisle Place, London, SW1P 1NL
020 7592 1850; info@passage.org.uk
Mon – Fri: 9am – 12noon & 1 – 3:30pm
The Passage runs a modern Resource Centre, four accommodation projects, outreach services, health services, homelessness prevention schemes and a modern slavery support programme. Services include: Initial assessment and advice; Showers, toilets and laundry; Breakfast and lunch service; Benefits advice; Housing advice; Mental health support; Access to Nurses and GPs; Education and employment training; Welfare rights advice; Support groups.
AH, BS, FA, FF, IT, L, MH, MS

REFETTORIO FELIX ST CUTHBERT'S

The Philbeach Hall, 51 Philbeach Gardens, Earl's Court, SW5 9EB
020 7835 1389; refettorionofelix.com
Mon – Fri: 12noon – 2pm (lunch service)
Tue – Fri: 12noon – 3pm (Glass Door caseworker – first-come, first-served)
Mon: 11am – 2pm (Age UK adviser)
Tue: 12noon – 2pm (Age UK Lunch Club – reserved seats at regular lunch service)
Wed: 12noon – 2pm (NHS nurse)
Every other Tue: 12noon – 3pm (RBKC Council drop-in)
Dental health adviser once a month.
Community Counselling Psychotherapy Service (CCPS): CCPS provides free face-to-face individual counselling and psychotherapy (internal referral only).
C, FF, IT, MH, MS, TS

RESTART LIVES

St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London, SW1X 0BD
www.restartlives.org
email@restartlives.org
Mon – Thu (individual casework by appointment – sometimes involves jobcentres & health appointments)
Fri: 6:30 – 8:30pm (drop-in centre – hot meal service, case work and digital inclusion support, e.g. charging phones, using Wi-Fi and resource handouts)
RESTART Lives, a London-based charity, supports homeless individuals through tailored casework, group programmes and meal services, helping people secure housing, find employment and improve mental and physical wellbeing.
AD, AH, B, FA, FF, IT

SPIRES

Elmfield Hs, 5 Stockwell Mews, SW9 9GX
020 8696 0943; www.spires.org.uk
info@spires.org.uk
Housing & homelessness drop-in sessions at:
– St Nicholas Church, Tooting. Church Lane, SW17 9PP on:
Mon: 9 – 11:30am
– St Luke's Church, 13 Norwood High St, SE27 0DT on:
Tue: 9 – 11:30am; Thu: 9 – 11:30am;
Fri: 9 – 11:30am
Refugee support service:
Tue: 1 – 3pm (West Croydon Baptist Church, Whitehorse Road, CR0 2JH)
Spires' homeless drop-in service runs four days a week and is open to

KEY

<i>A</i> Alcohol workers	<i>BS</i> Bathroom/showers	<i>CR</i> Creative activities	<i>FA</i> Financial advice
<i>AD</i> Advocacy	<i>C</i> Counselling	<i>D</i> Drugs workers	<i>FF</i> Free food
<i>AH</i> Accommodation/housing	<i>CA</i> Careers advice	<i>DT</i> Dentist	<i>IT</i> Internet access
<i>B</i> Barber	<i>CL</i> Clothing storage	<i>ET</i> Education/training	<i>L</i> Laundry

anyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness. Warm food & drinks will be provided while our key workers will be on hand to offer advice + support and assess individual's needs and housing requirements.

AD, C, FF

WHITECHAPEL MISSION

212 Whitechapel Road, London, E1 1BJ

0300 011 1400

whitechapel.org.uk/help/timetable

Mon – Fri: 6 – 11am (Drop-in)

Mon – Fri: 8 – 10am (free breakfast)

Mon – Fri: 6 – 10am (women's showers); 7 – 10am (men's showers & clothing); 8am – 3pm (Advice Centre & Computing)

Day centre with various services.

AH, FA, FF

HEALTHY MIND & BODY

B3

97 Cobbold Road, London NW10 9SU

0300 303 4611 (option 3)

info@b-3.org.uk

Mon – Fri: 9am – 5pm

A community of people with lived experience of addiction offering peer support, advocacy, training and education, buddying and more.

A, AD, D, ET

BSAFE

97 Cobbold Road NW10 9SU

Sat: 12noon – 5pm; Sun: 1 – 4pm

Peer run weekend drop-in. Open

to anyone who uses or used to use alcohol and drugs. Offering food, computer access, art group (Sunday's only), games and a warm friendly atmosphere.

CR, FF, IT, S

CHANGE, GROW, LIVE RESET (TOWER HAMLETS)

183 Whitechapel Road, E1 1DN

020 388 99510

Mon, Thu, Fri: 10am – 4pm

Tue: 10am – 7pm; Wed: 12:30 – 7pm

Treatment and Recovery Service for people affected by substance misuse.

A, D, MS

CLASH (CENTRAL LONDON ACTION ON SEXUAL HEALTH)

Archway Centre, 681-689 Holloway

Road, Archway, N19 5SE;

& Mortimer Market Centre, Capper St,

off Tottenham Court Rd, WC1E 6JB

020 3317 2855

cnwl.clashandshoc@nhs.net

www.sexualhealth.cnwl.nhs.uk

Mon: 9am – 12pm (CLASH clinic for sex workers of all genders at Mortimer Ctr)

Thu: 12noon – 3pm (SHOC clinic for sex workers of all genders at Archway)

Fri: 9am – 12noon (CLASH clinic for

female identifying genders at Mortimer)

CLASH provides free and confidential sexual health outreach services for sex workers, homeless people, substance

LA Legal advice
LF Leisure facilities
MH Mental health
MS Medical services

NE Needle exchange
OW Outreach workers
S Signposting
to other services

SF Step-free
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TS Tenancy support &
housing advice



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users, Black Asian and Minority Ethnic people and men who have sex with men living or working in Camden and Islington. The outreach service includes one-to-one advice, health promotion & sexual health screening.

MS, SH

THE DOCTOR HICKEY SURGERY

3–7 Arneway Street, Westminster,
London, SW1P 2BG

0207 222 8593

drhickey.surgery@nhs.net

Mon – Fri: 8am – 6:30pm

Mon – Fri: 9:30am – 12:30pm & 1:45pm
– 4pm (Surgery Access)

Wed: 1:45 – 4pm (appointment only)

Wide range of medical and mental health services for people who are homeless, in hotels and hostels, squats and refuges, as well as shelters.

A, D, FA, LA, NE, S, SF, TS

GREENHOUSE

19 Tudor Road, Hackney, E9 7SN

020 8510 4490

www.greenhousegppractice.nhs.uk

Mon – Fri:

8am – 6:30pm (appointment only)

9am – 4:30pm (housing advice)

Medical care for men & women who are sleeping rough. Provides consultation rooms for partner organisations to provide housing and legal advice, social justice, education and debt counselling.

A, D, FA, LA, NE, S, SF, TS

GROUNDSWELL

www.groundswell.org.uk

Groundswell is a homeless health charity specialising in peer support, advocacy and working with clients to create positive change in their lives. Groundswell offers peer led learning and development training and support, as well as a homeless health peer advocacy programme (HHPA). Peer advocates can help you navigate healthcare settings and access the support you need. For more information visit the website or email: HHPA@groundswell.org.uk

ET, MS, S

THE PEOPLE'S RECOVERY PROJECT

Pelican House, 144 Cambridge Heath Road, Bethnal Green, E1 5QJ

www.thepeoplesrecoveryproject.org

Every last Thur of the month: 2 – 5pm

A monthly drop-in for people who have experience of homelessness and addiction and want to consider recovery. The People's Recovery Project is a community that understands the experience of homelessness and addiction and wants to help you if you feel stuck.

MS

REGIONAL HOMELESS ENGAGEMENT WITH SUBSTANCE TREATMENT (RHEST)

020 3745 0363; phoenix-futures.org.uk

This service is aimed at improving access to drug and alcohol treatment for people who sleep rough.

The RhEST team at Phoenix Futures

KEY

A Alcohol workers

AD Advocacy

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B Barber

BS Bathroom/showers

C Counselling

CA Careers advice

CL Clothing storage

CR Creative activities

DT Drugs workers

DT Dentist

ET Education/training

FA Financial advice

FF Free food

IT Internet access

L Laundry

assertively engages with referrals through outreach and in-reach. It operates across all London boroughs. It delivers time-limited interventions that improve access to services. It will assess barriers to drug and alcohol treatment for each individual and collaborates with a range of agencies to improve outcomes.

You can make a self-referral if you are experiencing homelessness, are over 18 and you are willing to engage with the service. Referral form:

<https://tinyurl.com/4kf52zrz>

A, S, MS, OW

RESET TREATMENT SERVICE (RTS)

71A Johnson Street, London, E1 0AQ
020 388 99510

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri: 10am – 4pm

Wed: 12:30 – 4pm

Medical & complex risks appointments for people affected by substance misuse.

A, D, MS

RESET RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICE (RRSS)

41 Spelman St, London, E1 5LQ
020 388 99510

Mon & Thu: 10am – 4pm

Tue: 10am – 7:30pm; Wed: 12 – 7pm

Fri: 10am – 8pm; Sat, Sun: 11am – 4pm

Group therapy service for people affected by substance misuse.

A, D, MS

SWERVE

CVS, The Adiaha Antigha Centre,
24 – 30 Dalston Lane, E8 3AZ

Mon – Fri: 12noon – 4pm

SWERVE welcomes anyone struggling with substance use to drop in – no appointment needed. Come for a coffee, a chat and any brief support or intervention you may need. NSP services on offer, as well as other harm reduction equipment and practical advice. Many of the SWERVE team has faced similar challenges themselves. This is a friendly, caring and non-judgmental space where you will always be met with warmth and understanding.

A, D, MS

NEED TO TALK

ALONE IN LONDON (DEPAUL)

Endeavour Centre, Sherborne House, 34
Decima Street, London, SE1 4QQ

www.depaul.org.uk

0800 160 1650 (Call to book an appointment before visiting)

This service is for young people aged 16 – 25. Services provided by Alone in London include, Assessment and Advice, Mind Connect, Family Mediation, Training and Employment, Future Connect and in some cases Emergency Night Stop. Visitors are offered an initial assessment/advice session with a member of the advice team and offered a confidential space to discuss your needs.

C, CA, ET, MH, TS

LA Legal advice
LF Leisure facilities
MH Mental health
MS Medical services

NE Needle exchange
OW Outreach workers
S Signposting to other services

SF Step-free
SH Sexual health
TS Tenancy support & housing advice

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FRANK

0300 123 6600

82111 (text line)

Free phone lines open 24/7

Live online chat available daily 2 – 6pm

Honest drug advice for young people.

Find local drug treatment centres.

D, S

SAMARITANS

116 123 (open 24/7)

Provides support to anyone in emotional distress or at risk of suicide.

C

FOOD

AMURT UK

0208 806 4250

amurt.org.uk/projects/feeding-program

Thursday: 12:30 – 1:30pm and 5:30pm onwards (3A Cazenove Road, Stoke Newington: Pre-packed Hot Meals and free fresh vegetables for the taking)

Thursday: 1:30pm onwards (The Greenhouse GP surgery, London Fields: Pre-packed Hot Meals and Healthy Energy Snacks)

Thursday: 1:30pm onwards (Health E1 Homeless Medical Centre, Brick Lane: Pre-packed Hot Meals and Healthy Energy Snacks)

Thursday: 6:30 – 7:30pm (Lincoln's Inn Fields: Hot Meals, Tea & Coffee and Healthy Energy Snacks)

FF, SF

CLCC FARM STREET CHURCH

114 Mount Street, Mayfair W1K 3AH

07864 642 543; contact@clcc.uk

Wed & Sat: 11:30am – 2pm

This service aims to create a safe environment that is clean, welcoming, social and a space where guests can be. There is no ticket system. Guests are welcomed for hot/cold drinks, fruit and biscuits. A hot meal is then served between 12noon and 2pm. Activities which guests enjoy on site include chess and taking part in creative writing. There is also a priest who hosts the Lectio Divina Bible study for the group.

FF

CONTACT CLUB

Heath Street Baptist Church, 84 Heath Street, NW3 1DN

heathstreet.org/activities/the-contact-club
minister@heathstreet.org

Sundays: 7 – 9pm

The Contact Club takes place in the downstairs hall at Heath Street Baptist Church. Everyone welcome (especially lonely, vulnerable or homeless people) to enjoy a cup of tea, food and a good chat. No cost and no referral required.

FF

THE LUNCH CLUB

07919 894 642; thelunchclub.org.uk

Mon & Thu: 12noon – 2pm (St. Leonards Community Hall, Tooting Bec Rd, SW16 1HS)

Tue & Fri: 12noon – 2pm (Woodlawns Ctr, 16 Leigham Court Rd, SW16 2PJ)

KEY

A Alcohol workers

AD Advocacy

AH Accommodation/housing

B Barber

BS Bathroom/showers

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FA Financial advice

FF Free food

IT Internet access

L Laundry

Guests at the Lunch Club in Streatham can expect cooked lunches and a community pantry in a warm, friendly space. You can either take away or eat in and socialise with others.

FF

MI & MORE

177 Torrington Road, Catford, SE6 1RG
020 4619 1021

Mon: 12noon – 3pm

Free hot food and drinks for anyone in need — including people who are homeless, low-income families, single-parent families, or anyone facing hardship.

FF

ORDER OF MALTA SOUP KITCHEN

St James's Spanish Place Church, 22 George St, London, W1U 3QY
www.orderofmalta.org.uk/companions/whatwedo/london

Mon – Thu : 6:30 – 8:15pm

Free food, care and conversation (closed on public holidays).

FF

OUR FORGOTTEN NEIGHBOURS

07496 530 878

www.ourforgottenneighbours.co.uk
info@ourforgottenneighbours.net

Thu: 5pm @ Toynbee Hall, Commercial Street, E1

Fri: 2 – 4pm @ Lidl entrance at Seven Sisters Road, Finsbury Park, N4

Soup kitchen – COME EARLY to avoid disappointment.

FF

STREETS KITCHEN

streetskitchen.org/locations/london
Daily food in various London locations.

Monday:

Tooting

6:45 – 7:15pm outside Tooting Market.

25-27 Tooting High St, Tooting, London SW17 0SN

Tuesday:

Camden

7 – 9am mobile outreach across Camden, Kings Cross, Euston

Clapham Common

7:30pm on the grass next to Joe's Pizza/ opposite Waitrose. 8-1, The Pavement, London, SW4 0HY

Wednesday:

Stockwell

7:30 – 8:30pm located on the pavement adjacent to Sainsbury's – opposite the tube entrance. SW4 6TA

Camden

7:30pm near Camden Town tube station, NW1 8QL

Thursday:

Hackney

8pm outside Hackney Central Library, 25-27 Hackney Grove, London. E8 3NR

Friday:

Camden

7:30pm nr Camden Town tube, NW1 8QL

Kilburn

7:30pm near Kilburn High Road tube station, NW6 6JE

Archway

7:30pm outside Archway tube station

Hackney & Dalston

8pm Ridley Road Market, opposite Dalston Kingsland train station, E8 2NP

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Saturday:

Camden

7 – 9am mobile outreach across Camden, Kings Cross, Euston

Hackney

8pm first Saturday of the month evening outreach. St Johns Churchway opposite M&S

Sunday:

Haringey

5 – 6pm outside Seven Sisters Station (High Road exit), by the WE STAND TOGETHER bandstand

Camden

7:30pm nr Camden Town tube, NW1 8QL

Archway

7:30pm outside Archway tube station
FF

THE WEDNESDAY CLUB

Hinde Street Methodist Church, 19 Thayer Street, W1U 2QJ

hindestreet.org.uk/wednesday-club

Wed: 4 – 7pm; Thu: 3 – 6pm

The Wednesday Club runs every Wednesday and Thursday. Hot food such as soup, pizzas and pies is provided, and there are also sandwiches, fruit, tea and coffee. Find the club in the Basement Hall of the church.
FF

THE SOUP KITCHEN @ AIC

79a Tottenham Ct Rd, London W1T 4TD
amchurch.co.uk/serve/the-soup-kitchen

Mon – Sat: 10am – 12noon

Mon, Tue & Fri: 6 – 7pm: dinner takeaway
Mon: 10am – 12noon (solicitor)

Tue & Thu: 10am – 12noon (mental health drop-in clinic)

Providing 120+ meals a day, six days

a week at the American International Church. A consultation room allows for regular visits by mental health professionals, dentists, doctors and more.

D, DT, FF, MS

LGBTIQA+

AKT

020 7831 6562

contact@akt.org.uk

akt exists to give 16–25-year-olds who are LGBTIQA+ and at risk of, or experiencing homelessness or a hostile living environment, the support they need to thrive. akt can support your housing, mental health, finance and health needs. Visit the website to make a referral.

AH, MH, MS, SH

GALOP

www.galop.org.uk

0800 999 5428 is the National Helpline for LGBT+ Victims and Survivors of Abuse and Violence. Helpline is open Mon – Thu: 10am – 8pm

Fri: 10am – 4pm

Support with domestic abuse; hate crime; sexual abuse, rape and violence; conversion therapy. Online chat too.

AD, C, LA, MS, S, TS

KEY

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L Laundry

OUTSIDE PROJECT & STAR REFUGE

0207359 5767 (Stonewall helpline)

Open Mon – Fri: 10am – 1pm

lgbtiqoutside.orgReferral form: www.stonewallhousing.org/services/referral-form

The Outside Project runs the LGBTIQ+ Centre, an inclusive and supportive space operating seven days a week. See LGBTIQ+ centre timetable here: lgbtiqoutside.org/centre

AH

QUEER HOMELESSNESS RECOVERY GROUP

The LGBTIQ+ Centre, 52 Lant Street, London, SE1 1RB

lgbtiqoutside.org/centre

Wed: 1:30 – 4pm

Get help and advice with practical and peer support following a period of homelessness. Support with bills, house search and settling into a new environment.

AH, FA

SWITCHBOARD LGBT+0800 0119 100; switchboard.lgbthello@switchboard.lgbt

Mon – Sun: 10am – 10pm (helpline)

Online chat available from 6pm daily For LGBT+ people who have experienced hate crime, sexual violence or domestic abuse. Supports people who have had problems with the police or have questions about the criminal justice system. Chat option available on website for advice and support.

AD, LA, MH

PETS**HOPE PROJECT**

020 7833 7611

www.dogstrusthopeproject.org.uk/help-with-vet-care/register-your-dog

Mon – Fri: 9:30am – 4pm

Call ahead or visit website to register your dog and find a vet practice near you. Email: tth@dogstrust.org.uk

STREETVETwww.streetvet.co.uk/a-pet-needs-help

StreetVet is a free veterinary care outreach service for pets of people experiencing homelessness.

STREETVET @ THE SOLIDARITY HUB

48 Seven Sisters Road, N7 6AA

www.streetvet.co.uk

Every second Saturday: 11am – 1pm

StreetVet will be running a clinic at the StreetsKitchen Solidarity Hub.

WOMEN**CLEAN BREAK**

2 Patshull Road, NW5 2LB

020 7482 8600, cleanbreak.org.uk

Inspirational theatre company working with women whose lives have been affected by the criminal justice system. Free courses in acting, writing, singing and recording. The Women's Space will be for women offenders and women at risk of offending due to drug or alcohol use or mental health needs.

A, C, CR, D, ET, MH, MS

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REFUGE

0808 2000 247

www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk
The freephone, 24-hour National Domestic Abuse helpline for women and children in England.

C, S

SOLACE

0808 802 5565

solacewomensaid.org/solace-accommodation

Mon – Fri: 10am – 4pm; Tue: 6 – 8pm
Solace provides safe refuge and move-on accommodation to hundreds of women and children made homeless through domestic or sexual abuse. Support is provided to ensure women and children are safe and their core needs are met in relation to finances and welfare benefits, housing, legal matters, immigration issues, health, education, training and employment.

AH, C, CA, FA, LA, MS, TS

WOMEN @ THE WELL

54-55 Birkenhead St, WC1H 8BB
020 7520 1710; www.watw.org.uk
info@watw.org.uk

We offer nutritious lunch options alongside other basic needs such as shower and laundry facilities, weather-appropriate clothes and toiletries. Women can also book private one-to-one appointments with our In-House Support Team for casework.

AD, BS, C, FF, L, SH

OTHER

THE BIG ISSUE

020 7526 3445

www.bigissue.com/become-a-vendor

As a Big Issue vendor, you can buy the magazine for £2 and sell it for £4, earning £2 per magazine sold. Working as a vendor is fully flexible, vendors can sell on their pitches any time of day, working their own hours, as their own boss to earn as much as they can. New vendors receive 30 free magazines allocated over a six-week period. You will have access to 1:1 support and the opportunity to join programmes, training and work placements.

CA, ET

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY

59a Portobello Rd, Notting Hill, W11 2PN

capuk.org; 0800 328 0006

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) is a free and professional service that seeks to help those who are in debt by providing free financial advice. CAP will help you develop a practical solution to your debts. The service is free and available to everybody.

FA

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L Laundry

CRISIS SKYLIGHT BRENT

1-2 Bank Buildings, High Street,
Harlesden, NW10 4LT
0208 965 2561; brent@crisis.org.uk

Mon – Fri: 10am – 1pm (drop-in service);
10am – 4pm (phone line open)

The skylight service works with single adults experiencing rough sleeping in Brent and the adjoining boroughs to help them rebuild their lives and leave homelessness behind for good.

We can help with: finding a home and settling in; finding work and applying for jobs; looking after your health and wellbeing. How we can help depends on your situation and needs.

Crisis is not an emergency service and we do not have direct access to accommodation.

[BS](#), [CA](#), [FF](#), [MS](#), [S](#), [TS](#)

HOTEL SCHOOL

www.hotelschool.org.uk/contact

Teaches hospitality skills to people who are vulnerable and experiencing homelessness, matches them to sustainable employment, and supports them in their first steps into work. Hotel School is a joint venture between The Passage and The Goring Hotel.

Referral Criteria/Eligibility: Applicants must be 18+; No borough restrictions; No previous experience required, but an interest in hospitality is essential; Willingness to make a commitment to 10 weeks of training. Use contact form or email: zoem@hotelschool.org.uk

[CA](#), [ET](#)

LEGAL AID AGENCY

0345 345 4345 (Civil Legal Advice)

0345 609 6677 (Minicom)

www.gov.uk/check-legal-aid

Provides civil and criminal legal aid and advice in England and Wales to help people deal with their legal problems.

[FA](#), [LA](#)

MARGINS PROJECT SEP

At the back of Union Chapel, on Compton Avenue, N1 2UN
marginsadmin@unionchapel.org.uk
The Margins Project Supported Employment Programme (SEP) is open Monday to Friday and is an opportunity for people who have had experience of homelessness and crisis to get back into work. With paid positions in our catering service, we focus on improving well-being, building self-esteem and developing employability skills. Trainees gain a Level 2 Food Safety Award, and we tailor the programme to each individual's specific needs. We seek to find the trainees further paid work and training at the end of their placement. Email to register interest:

marginsadmin@unionchapel.org.uk

[CA](#), [ET](#)

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MUSEUM OF HOMELESSNESS

Manor House Lodge (inside Finsbury Park), Seven Sisters Rd, London, N4 2DE
museumofhomelessness.org

There are a range of activities held at the Museum of Homelessness Manor House Lodge base. These include gardening, yoga, food and assorted community-focused events and programmes. Visit website to check the weekly schedule of activities and events.

F, LF

SHOWER BOX

showerbox.org

Friday: 11am – 2pm (Behind the Barking Learning Centre Access via Axe Road, Barking, IG11 7FS, next to Axe Street Service Road Car Park)

Saturday: 9am – 2pm (St Giles-in-the-Fields Church, 60 St Giles High St, London, WC2H 8LG)

Free shower, food and other supplies.

BS, FF

SK LEGAL

legalteam@streetskitchen.org

Providing support in collaboration with solicitors and other organisations to ensure that people can receive adequate legal representation. If you have been given a Public Spaces Protection Order, a Community Protection Notice, or a Dispersal Order, hold on to the paperwork and email legalteam@streetskitchen.org

LA

STREET STORAGE

close to Kings Cross

07932 830 440; streetstorage.org
info@streetstorage.org

Mon, Tue & Fri: 10am – 4pm

Wed & Thu: 1 – 4pm

Thu: 10am – 12:30pm (women only)

Free storage for your belongings.

CL

REFUGEE SUPPORT

NOTRE DAME REFUGEE CENTRE

16 Leicester Square, London, WC2H 7BZ

0207 440 2669; notredamerc.org.uk

Mon & Thu: 10am – 2pm (drop-in)

Wed & Fri: 10:30am – 1:30pm

(Immigration Advice Line)

Immigration and housing advice for refugees & asylum seekers.

FA, LA, TS

PRAXIS

Praxis Community Projects, Pott Street, London, E2 0EF

www.praxis.org.uk; 020 7729 7985

2nd Wed of month: 9am (drop-in)

Immigration advice available on

Wed: 2 – 5pm & Thu: 10am – 1pm

by calling 020 7749 7605.

Praxis provides expert support to migrants and refugees in the UK. Its mission is to deliver direct services, i.e. legal advice and holistic welfare support; work together with other services in the UK to support service users; campaign for systemic change. You can visit the

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L Laundry

drop-in clinic at the above address for free immigration advice. To visit you must be experiencing homelessness or on a very low income living in Tower Hamlets or Hackney (or you have no fixed address). Drop-in clinics run on the second Wednesday of the month.

FA, LA

REFUGEE ACTION

www.refugee-action.org.uk
0207 952 1599 or 0759 518 9995

info@refugee-action.org.uk
Refugee Action provides information and advice on the asylum process, claiming asylum, getting support while claiming asylum and homelessness support. Its Asylum Crisis service supports asylum seekers in London needing accommodation or support.

FA, LA, TS

HOBBIES

240 PROJECT

Methodist Church, 240 Lancaster Road, London, W11 4AH

07741790169; 240project.org.uk
info@240project.org.uk

Mon: 11am – 3:30pm (Art, nutrition, cranio-sacral therapy, yoga, reading)
Wed: 11am – 3:30pm (Art, acupuncture, music group)

Thu: 11am – 3:30pm (Art, writing)
Arts and wellbeing-focused community project, creating a friendly and safe space for vulnerable adults, many with a history of homelessness.

CR

BE THE CHANGE THEATRE

19b Compton Terrace, Union Chapel, Islington, N1 2UN

info@islingtonpeoplestheatre.co.uk
07984 626 024

Thu: 6:30 – 8:30pm

Theatre and creative arts project for adults who are experiencing homelessness, vulnerably housed, looking to support their mental health, or adults in recovery. FREE applied theatre and creative arts workshops run by professional facilitators every week. The project runs in blocks of ten weeks, with a different focus for each block. All ages. No previous experience needed.

CR

STREETWISE OPERA

Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London, SE1 8XX

streetwiseopera.org; 020 3987 7535
Wednesdays: 4 – 6pm

If you are homeless, vulnerably housed or affected by homelessness, Streetwise invites you to discover, or re-connect with, the joy of singing.

CR

THE CHOIR WITH NO NAME

St Pauls West Hackney, 184 Stoke Newington Road, N16 7UY

0746 492 8122; choirwithnoname.org

Thursdays: 6:30pm (singing starts 7pm)
Choir sings for an hour and half, then sit down together for a hot meal cooked by volunteers. No singing experience required, no audition, just pop down!

CR

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TURN A CORNER LIBRARY

07824 038 807

turnacorner@qsa.org.uk

- The American Church, near Goodge St

on Tues: 8:30am – 12:30pm

- Lincoln's Inn Fields, near Holborn

on Wed: 5 – 8pm

- St Giles in the Fields, near Tottenham

Court Road on Sat: 9am – 12:30pm

Turn a Corner is a mobile community library for people affected by homelessness in London.

The free library lending service requires no fixed address and no membership is required to borrow a book.

Turn a Corner can provide guidance on connecting with other local services that offer support to people affected by homelessness, while there are also takeaway resources on offer and donated items for people experiencing homelessness such as sleeping bags, clothing and hygiene products.

CR

EX-OFFENDERS

FORWARD TRUST

020 3981 5525; forwardtrust.org.uk

Empowers people to break the cycle of crime and addiction, tailored to individuals' needs. Harm reduction, care and assessment, motivation, inspiration and support to transform your life.

A, C, D

WORKING CHANCE

www.workingchance.org

Mon – Fri: 9am – 6pm

Supports women with criminal convictions and those leaving the care system into sustainable, quality employment. Help with CV writing, interviews and disclosing convictions.

AD, C, ET, FA, TS

EX-FORCES

COMBAT STRESS

combatstress.org.uk

0800 138 1619 (24/7 helpline)

01372 587 000 (urgent enquiries)

Mon – Sun: Open 24 hours

Residential clinical treatment and community outreach. Helping former servicemen and women with mental health issues like post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety and depression.

AD, C, MH, S

SSAFA FORCESLINE

0800 260 6767; www.ssafa.org.uk

Monday – Friday: 9am – 5pm

SSAFA helps combat homelessness among ex-Service personnel. Their London Homeless Division works with rough sleepers. If you have gone AWOL, contact their Reclaim Your Life scheme and get your life back on track.

AH, EF, TS