

the Pavement

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

December 2009



McLACHLAN



*“Sorry, I’d love to help you out but my bonus
has been deferred”*

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The Editor

Surviving the Festive Season

We try not to smother readers with Christmas, partly because we acknowledge that it's not everyone's cup of tea, but also because the next issue comes out in February, so this one will have to last a little longer than usual.

But there's no getting away from it, so the humour of this issue is seasonal. Whether you're planning the New Year or just coping with Christmas, we hope our seasonal advice columns will help. And, obviously, we've the final update on Winter Shelters in The List.

If you're in receipt of benefits, we've an interesting piece that may be of importance to your future claim. Alan Murdie, a barrister with Zachaeus 2000 Trust, has written about changes to the benefits system (pages 8–10) and how it might affect our readership in particular. Read it and find out how to navigate the system. As a reader recently reminded us in a letter, commenting on council policy, "forewarned is forearmed." If possible, we will produce an appeal form early in the New Year.

January is one of our two annual publishing breaks. We need time to catch up, but we'll be back in February. In the meantime, the website will be updated, and you can check news and services at www.thepavement.org.uk

Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Richard Burdett

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Drive thru homeless

US homeless are growing in cars

More than 300,000 people made homeless by the credit crunch in America are living in their cars, new figures have revealed.

According to a report published last month by a coalition of housing charities across the country, more than 18 per cent of America's 1.6m homeless are not on the streets but are living in their trucks and cars after their homes were repossessed. Entitled *Foreclosures to Homelessness 2009*, the study has highlighted how the recession has created a rising number of "mobile homeless", who spend their days trying to sleep in their cars and trying to avoid getting a parking ticket.

In Ventura County in California, the government has tried to help the situation by creating "safe sleeping lots" where cars can safely and legally camp under police surveillance.

Bessie Mae Berger, a 97-year-old mother-of-eight has been living in a 1973 Chevrolet Suburban with her two sons Larry, 60, and Charlie Wilkerson, 62, in Los Angeles for more than two years.

They insist on living together, so local authorities have so far failed to re-house them since their landlord sold their home and evicted them. Their days are spent in public car parks, shopping centres and occasionally begging, which is when Bessie will sit by the side of the road with a cardboard sign that reads: "I am 97 years old. Homeless. Broke. Need help please."

Ms Berger, who was born in March, 1912 – six weeks before the Titanic sank – said: "I don't mind living at the mercy of the public because some of the public is good – they're nice to me. But there are some that are nasty. Some of them

laugh at me and my sign. They say they don't think I'm 97 years old."

Larry Berger added: "They ask why we aren't able to get her off the street. But we can't. I have no income whatsoever."

Night time is the hardest part of Bessie's day. She sleeps fitfully in the front passenger seat, cramped and hunched under blankets, with her two sons squashed in the back and driver's seat, next to a tool box, clothing, boxes, food and other possessions. Once a week they drive to Hollywood, where free showers are available at a drop-in centre. Sometimes, free hot meals are served from a food truck.

They live mostly on Ms Berger's \$375 monthly Social Security check, Mr Wilkerson's \$637 disability payments, Mr Berger's \$300 food stamp allocation and cash from bottles and cans they collect and recycle.

Rick Cole, city manager in Ventura, California, said: "We've seen a rise in people sleeping in their cars. Some are foreclosed former homeowners, and some couldn't afford their rent. People will give up their house before they give up their car."

University of California law professor Gary Blasi said: "There is a predictable path for those who lose their jobs and can't pay the rent or the mortgage. "First they live with friends and relatives, but they're poor, too. Then they live in their cars until the cars get towed or break down."

Only three years ago, foreclosure was a rare factor in people becoming homeless in America, but according to the report from the National Coalition for the Homeless, it now makes up 10 per cent.

In Cleveland, Ohio, foreclosure accounted for zero arrivals at the West Side Catholic shelter in 2007. But this year, the number has reached four.

One of these is mother-of-three Sheri West, who spends her nights either in her Hyundai sedan or at the shelter after her house was repossessed last year.

She said: "No one could have told me in a million years I'd wake up in a homeless shelter. I've always had this dream of doing better. I always wanted to own my own house."

Most people who become homeless because of foreclosure had been low-income renters whose landlords stopped making their mortgage payments, leaving them scrambling for new housing with little notice and scant savings.

But in recent months, there has been a visible increase in the number of former homeowners like Sheri, 50, showing up at shelters.

Ms West, who fell into arrears with her mortgage after her husband left her, added: "It just took the life out of me.

"I was in a very bad state, a very depressed situation. Things just kind of went downhill. I just didn't care anymore."

Larry Haynes, director of the Mercy House shelter in Santa Ana, California, said: "These families never needed help before. They haven't a clue about where to go, and they have all sorts of humiliation issues. They don't even know what to say, what to ask for."

Rebecca Evans

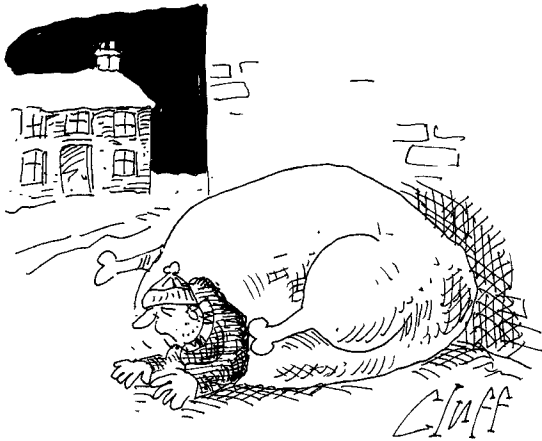
**We're taking a break our
regular break in January, but
the website is accessible 365
days a year. You can read the
news, keep informed & search
our directory of services
online @ the new website**

www.thePavement.org.uk



Supporting
London life

metro.co.uk



Howard Crawford

Age at disappearance: 45

Howard has been missing from Central London since 14th October 2009, but it is thought that he might be in Scotland.

There is great concern for as his safety and wellbeing. He is urged to call our confidential service **Message Home** on **Freefone 0800 700 740** for advice and support.

Howard is 178cm tall and of medium build.

If you have seen Howard please call the 24-hour confidential charity **Missing People** on Freefone **0500 700 700** or email: seensomeone@missingpeople.org.uk



"Spare a Christmas pudding with some spare change in it?"

**missing
people**

Reg. Charity No. 1220418

Appealing benefit cuts

If you're on benefits, this could affect you – forewarned is forearmed

Thousands of people could lose some or all of their benefit under changes being introduced in late 2009 and early 2010 in the way benefits are paid. This is part of a crackdown on work-shy claimants that the Government is calling “the biggest shake-up of the benefits system for 60 years”.

You can already have your money cut (or “sanctioned”) for a number of reasons, but the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) is gearing up for sanctions on a grander scale than ever contemplated by any Government. The danger is that many thousands of wholly honest, innocent and job-seeking claimants may find they and their families are left with no money, perhaps for weeks at a time.

If your benefit is cut, you have a right of appeal. Wherever possible, you should get help or advice with a tribunal, but people can win them by themselves.

What types of sanction are there?

You can have your benefit cut for failing to look for work, for missing meetings or checks at the job centre, or for failing to follow steps that an adviser recommends. Sanctions follow for convictions for certain offences such as benefit fraud. Benefits may also be cut off where you fail to supply information you are asked for or expected to supply. This happens when the DWP or local authority lose the information you send them.

What will be covered in the new sanctions?

Soon, a policy of workfare will be introduced whereby claimants will be compelled to work simply

to receive benefit. Sanctions may also be imposed where you have been fined for certain offences, or have suffered a penalty, including offences for which you may be cautioned. These include alleged criminal acts committed towards benefit staff and could potentially include things as minor as little as making a noise in the benefit office. The sanction may be imposed in response to a caution, so you may not even be convicted of an offence.

What about drug testing?

Included in the Welfare Reform Bill are regulation-making powers to be used where a claimant is suspected of abusing drugs or alcohol.

Ultimately, the Government wants to test claimants who are suspected of drug or alcohol abuse, and sanctions could be imposed where you refuse to be tested. Just how qualified job centre staff or hirelings will be to conduct such assessments remains to be seen.

What benefits are at risk?

Sanctions will be mainly aimed at unemployed claimants receiving Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA) or Employment and Support Allowance. (Income support is being abolished.) Under the Bill, “sanctionable benefit” can include housing and council tax benefit.

Which benefits may not be sanctioned?

Certain benefits are likely to be excluded. These may include joint-claim JSA; retirement pensions, disability living allowance, attendance allowance, child benefit and guardian benefit. Certain pay-

ments from the Social Fund and Christmas bonuses will be excluded. Sanctions may be imposed for any period from one week up to 26 weeks. Different rules will apply for couples with joint JSA claims.

What about pensioners?

Pensioners may be treated more lightly, as the Secretary of State has a wide discretion. Perhaps with a view to media reaction and calls of ‘Scrooge’, the Christmas bonus is omitted from the list of sanctionable benefits.

Are there risks?

Yes. A DWP officer may make a mistake, get your name confused with someone else's, misunderstand the facts, or lose your documents and details. You could simply fall victim to a careless or even a plain nasty individual who shouldn't be in the job and takes it out on you, the claimant. A sanction could be imposed out of incompetence, prejudice or spite. There may even be targets of how many people each centre is meant to reach, and cuts in DWP staff are likely. Sanctions may be imposed upon someone who is already subject to deductions – for example, for a Social Fund loan.

How many people will be affected?

Impossible to say, but it is likely to be thousands. Tom McNulty, DWP minister, told Parliament last year that his Department had sanctioned 280,000 claimants up to July 2008. When this happens, the person sanctioned disappears off the unemployment register, giving an impression in statistics that unemployment is falling.



“Sorry, the stables been converted into a holiday let”

Who makes the decision to sanction?

The initial decisions are made by officials at the DWP, usually based on information from the adviser who works on the claimant's case.

What if you get a sanction?

The first thing to establish is why you are being sanctioned. The DWP should issue a letter explaining the reasons for their decision.

What should I do if I am wrongly sanctioned?

You must appeal in writing against the decision. Put a letter into the DWP office stating that you wish to appeal. Keep a copy and telephone them afterwards to check they have received it. In practice, DWP rules require that any letter that mentions an appeal should be treated as such.

How long do I have to appeal?

You must appeal within one month of the DWP letter.

What happens when I appeal?

Sometimes the DWP will reverse their decision on receiving your appeal letter. If they reject your appeal, then the matter will be sent to the Tribunal Service, which arranges hearings.

What happens next?

The Tribunal Service will write to you asking if you want to go ahead. You should reply in writing and the Tribunal Service will list a date and place for the Tribunal to be heard near you.

What will the DWP do if the case goes to Tribunal?

The DWP sends a bundle of documents to you via the Tribunal Service. Don't be put off by its size. The bundle will give details only of law that is favourable to the DWP. It will not include cases or points that are favourable to you, nor any facts in your favour. It is important that you tell the Tribunal the facts and your point of view.

What is the Tribunal?

Social Security Appeal Tribunals are now known as the 'Lower Tier Tribunal'. Tribunals used to have three members but they are now, increasingly, heard by a legally-qualified judge, who sits alone.

What arguments can be used?

There are lots of potential arguments; and, in most case, there will be an issue which the DWP has overlooked, known as "failing to consider a relevant fact". In a number of cases, sanctions should not be imposed where there is what is called "good cause" for the claimant doing what s/he did – in other words, there are reasons or mitigating circumstances.

For example, if you are sanctioned for being late at an interview or not turning up, you may have good cause for not having done what you were told or what was expected of you. In one recent case, a person sanctioned for missing an interview was actually undertaking a DWP-approved study course at the time. The DWP may simply lose the information you have sent and cut off benefit.

"Good cause" is not defined in law, so there may be all kinds of good reasons why you should not be sanctioned which the DWP decision maker did not know about.

What happens at the Tribunal?

Appeals are heard before a single judge and can be dealt with quite quickly. The DWP often do not turn up for the hearing. Tribunals concentrate on finding the facts. They tend to be informal, being held sitting round a table at the Tribunal office, and are thus different to courts. However, they are serious proceedings, and the Judges have wide powers to correct DWP errors.

Can a friend come with me?

Yes, a friend or relative can come along to advise or represent you as what is called a "McKenzie friend". S/he can help you take notes and present your case, and give you confidence and support.

What evidence should the Tribunal look at?

The judge will look at your appeal letter and the documents from the DWP and then ask questions. Anyone who knows about your circumstances can give evidence. A lot of evidence is given by simply answering the questions from the Judge. However, the Tribunal should look at any other evidence you bring along.

What sort of evidence can be considered?

A wide range of evidence can be considered. You can bring witnesses who can confirm what you say or talk to the judge direct. If you are on medication, bring a doctor's letter, hospital letters and examples of all your medicines to show the tribunal. Potentially any document, film or photo can be used as evidence.

What happens at the end of the hearing?

Sometimes you will be given the judge's decision immedi-

ately. Sometimes it will be later and a copy is always given in writing. If your appeal succeeds, the sanction will be cancelled and any money restored.

Are there further rights of appeal?

Yes, on points of law beyond the Tribunal, and cases eventually can reach the Courts. If you are appealing, get legal advice or guidance from any advice or support agency wherever possible. Useful books on all aspects of social security law are issued by the Child Poverty Action Group.

The Government ought to be worried about the impact not just on claimants but also on how DWP centres will cope if they get lots of appeals. One DWP employee recently said that his office would struggle with more than six appeals in a month. In fact, it seemed to collapse with just one!

Alan Murdie LL.B
Barrister
Zacchaeus 2000 Trust

News-in-Brief

The national and international homeless news

London churches could shelter homeless swine flu sufferers

Rough sleepers suffering from swine flu could be forced to rely on churches for shelter and care, the Department of Health has said.

The national director of pandemic flu preparedness, Professor Lindsey Davies, said local councils were being advised to consider using churches as shelters for homeless swine flu patients when the second wave of the pandemic hits, according to an article from the British Medical Association (BMA).

However, serious concerns have been raised about the proposals. Sally Leigh, London Coordinator for Housing Justice, said: "Rough sleepers with swine flu should be treated with dignity in medically-led provision. It is inappropriate to stow them away in side rooms of church halls to be cared for by well-meaning but medically untrained volunteers."

She added, "We [Housing Justice] do not have the facilities, people, funds, training or medical expertise necessary to provide 24-hour medical care in an infection-controlled environment. The NHS must take the lead on this, not the church and its volunteers."

The proposals were outlined in a letter from Professor Davies to BMA public health medicine committee chair Richard Jarvis, in response to his letter raising BMA's concerns about where rough sleepers could stay after contracting swine flu, a key issue considering the official advice for those who contract swine flu is to stay at home, drink plenty of liquids and rest.

Professor Davies is reported to have replied: "The [Department of Communities and Local Government] is advising local authorities to consider use of B&B placements, single rooms in hostels, emergency beds in day centres or churches etc. PCTs [Primary Care Trusts] may need to provide support/advice, should larger numbers of rough sleepers become ill."

She also drew attention to a short guide for people working with rough sleepers, titled Faith Communities and Pandemic Flu.

However, Church of England spokesman Steve Jenkins said there was no mention of using churches as shelters in the guide and that the church has received no information about the proposals.

A meeting to explore the proposals was held by Ms Leigh and Alistair Murray, from Housing Justice; Maff Potts, from the Salvation Army; and Mick Clarke, from The Passage.

Although they accepted that it would mean rough sleepers with swine flu had somewhere to go, they also highlighted a long list of



C. (aff) (apologues to Munch)

weaknesses, such as the inadequate living/nursing conditions a church could provide, the difficulty of finding volunteers to provide 24-hour care, the health risk to volunteers, and lack of budget for vital equipment and basic supplies.

Carinya Sharples

South African football move on

International sporting events may be good for the economy, but the jury is still out on whether hosting big games helps all sections of society.

The FIFA World Cup is due to be hosted by South Africa in 2010 – and last month, human rights groups in Cape Town claimed that South African cities are planning to create “concentration camps” to house thousands of poor people well away from the football stadiums.

According to a report in *The Times* newspaper, charities have seen leaked documents that show plans to clear the streets of the homeless during the tournament. Councils in Johannesburg and Durban have told charities that street children and the destitute will be “compassionately relocated out of city centres” from the end of 2009.

Bill Rogers, from the Addiction Action Campaign, which helps thousands of drug abusers in Johannesburg, said the local councils had even asked charities for assistance with the scheme. He told *The Times*: “We’ve been made aware of the city’s plans to move thousands of homeless people to shelters away from the city.”

The Pavement has long been examining London’s hopes to “end rough sleeping by 2012”, the same year the nation’s capital will host the Olympic Games.

Readers have voiced concerns that the legislation is more about aesthetics than social support.

However, the plans to move on rough sleepers could be due to wider economic problems in the country – such as high immigration from struggling neighbour states Zimbabwe and Mozambique, and even people from as far afield as war-torn Somalia, who come to South Africa in search of work, often as illegal street hawkers, unofficial security guards and sex workers.

In addition, FIFA itself allegedly publishes rules on host stadiums in a bid to ensure they are smart and presentable. One rule allegedly states that no cranes or building sites should be visible around stadium skylines during the World Cup.

Critics of the plans have likened the city move-ons to apartheid era policy, when local black residents were prevented from entering white-only districts of towns and cities.

However, the Johannesburg displaced people’s unit has defended the proposals, claiming they were aimed at restoring “the dignity of the homeless”.

Rebecca Wearn

The countdown continues

More than half of London’s “entrenched homeless” have been helped into housing as the clean up before the Olympics continues, according to Homeless Link.

Working with the umbrella homeless organisation, the London Mayor, Boris Johnson, set up the London Delivery Board with a pledge to end rough sleeping before the 2012 Olympics, and they seem to be delivering on his promise.

Recently published figures suggest out of the identified core of 205 “entrenched rough sleepers”, 32 had found long-term accommo-

dation, 75 had short-term shelter and two were in detox or rehab. Whilst 15 people were unaccounted for, only 67 were still sleeping rough.

Paul Anderson, head of London at Homeless Link, said: “It’s a pretty amazing achievement. Local services and the London Delivery Board seem committed to making this happen.

“To pull the plug on funding now would be counterintuitive. It is better to spend money on services that really work than just spend money. I think there is real commitment.”

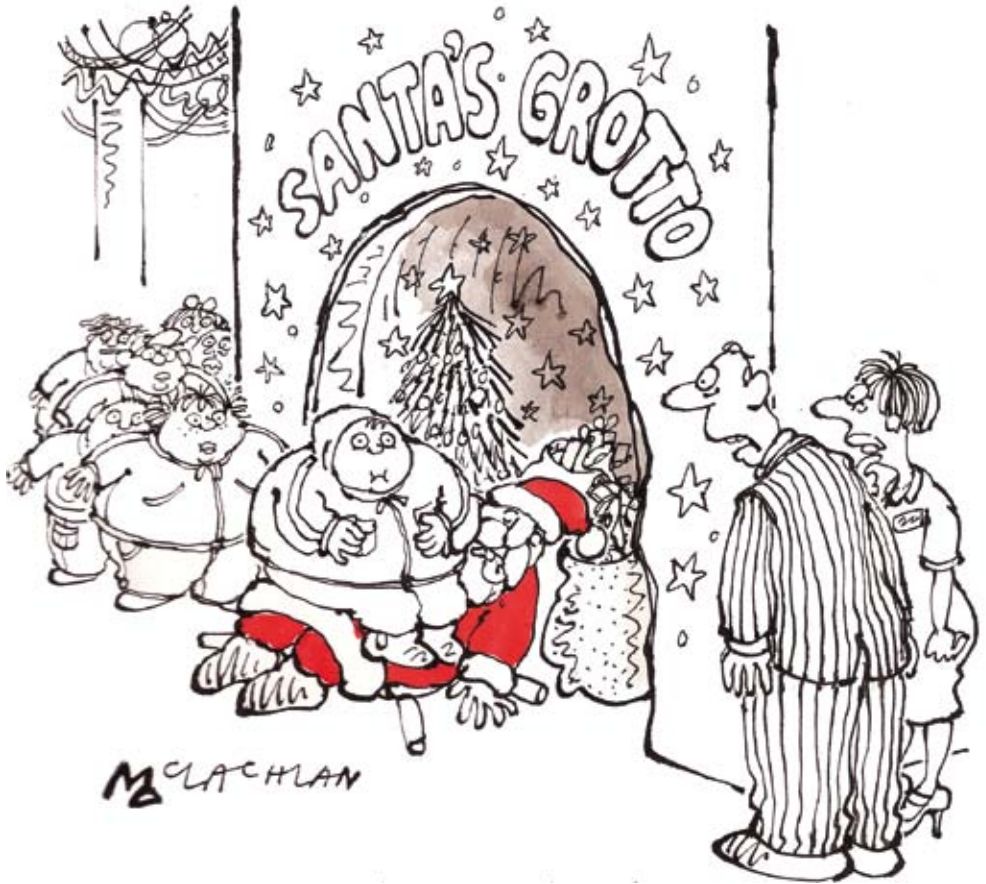
So far, only seven people have been ‘reconnected’ outside London and just two have been deported, suggesting that in contrast with clean-up of other Olympic cities (where the homeless were bought pre-games train tickets out of town), alternative solutions are being sought

Tackling homelessness was a priority for mayoral candidates from all three main parties during the election, making for broad support for plans now. It is, perhaps, this as well as the upcoming Olympics that’s providing the political momentum now where it was missing before, suggested Anderson.

Although it may not have acted widely on those terms yet, the LDB has endorsed the tough love policies of eight charities involved, sanctioning deporting and sectioning those who refuse to leave the streets.

Jeremy Swain, chief executive of homelessness charity Thames Reach, said: “Where we think someone is unwell we will try to get them to voluntarily go to a hostel but ultimately we can have them sectioned. This happened in north London recently with someone who had been rough sleeping for a number of years. If there is a foreign national with a criminal history, they will be deported.”

St Mungo’s highlighted the need for mental health services for



"Oh no – that's the third Santa we've lost this week"



*“Well, genetics mainly and they will make a nice change
from the usual Christmas turkey”*

the homeless but have, like other homeless charities, been very positive about the work being done.

Despite all this, people still wait 14 years for council housing in some boroughs and with 353,130 homeless families remaining homeless in inner London, according to the latest figures, the problem is not going away, even if the more visible side is being tackled.

Katy Taylor

Dustcart dangers resurface after death

A homeless man in the Ardwick area of Manchester has died after being tipped into a dustcart.

He climbed into the bin to escape the cold and was unable to shout a warning before being tipped into the lorry on 25th November. Greater Manchester Police say the 31-year-old died of asphyxiation, crushed in the lorry.

This happens every year to readers who seek shelter in bins and skips, although it usual only results in injury.

Staff

- Last year we talked to a major waste management company about a campaign to explain the dangers to our readership, and we'll reopen the dialogue with this death. In the meantime, warn any you know who've used bins for shelter.

Container City

Representatives from a number of homeless organisations have visited Container City (pictured on our website – www.thepavement.org.uk), in the south of England, to discuss a pilot project to use containers as move-on accommodation.

Housing Justice is forming a

consortium that will include the skills necessary for any successful building project; the group will have expertise in land, finance, planning, construction, housing management and tenant support. The charity has already been offered 10 containers and now has feelers out for building sites. Alison Gelder, chief executive, said: "Our Container City concept offers a solution to homelessness.

Housing Justice is planning a showcase small development that will demonstrate that re-housing homeless people can be done swiftly and cheaply."

The cost of producing well-insulated, spacious, double-glazed accommodation using decommissioned containers is dramatically lower than with conventional building methods. The units are also mobile and easy to dismantle, so if the lease on a site expires, they can be installed on a different site within a day.

Val Stevenson

New Branches shelter

North London charity Branches, which provided 24-hour drop-in support services to homeless men and women in Walthamstow, is undergoing a significant revamp to provide overnight accommodation for 30 individuals.

The charity is providing an already improved service from a new Leytonstone building, while the old one undergoes drastic alteration

There is general excitement about the new building, which will hopefully be completed by the end of next year. Peter Baldwin, Branches chief executive, said: "Users will have their own rooms and there will be no more dormitory sharing. We are all really pleased about this. The residents have been getting involved by doing painting and decorating, and are getting excited about

having their own space."

Of the 30 new hostel rooms, 25 will have their own bathrooms and self-catering facilities, which Baldwin hopes will encourage residents to stay longer than they sometimes do in dormitory accommodation where they may not feel as safe. He is optimistic that this will provide more stability for people sorting out drug, housing or employment problems.

As with all change, though, the improvements are not without loss, and funding and staffing shortfalls meant the day centre closed on 3rd July as the improved temporary hostel opened.

John Carey, 44, one of the homeless residents already benefiting from new facilities, told his local paper, the Waltham Forest Guardian, about the reactions of the service users. "A lot of people are upset," he explained. "There is a soup kitchen at 8pm, but it is a long wait in the day for that. And having a drop-in centre keeps down crime on the streets."

The Forest Road drop-in centre previously provided daily support and shelter for up to 45 people who have struggled to find the same level of help elsewhere. The Fountain of Peace Church, Staffa Road, has provided a welcome alternative. Since the closure of Branches, it has set up a shelter, and offers cooked meals and English lessons to its users.

Katy Taylor

A homeless man's castle

Police searching a room within a hostel have been labelled "trespassers" by a High Court Judge.

At the hearing last month, the Court heard how police searched a room within a hostel without the occupier's permission. This was ruled unlawful, with Lord Justice Elias saying that each

homeless individual has “the right to say ‘my home is my castle’ as much as anyone else.”

Omar Prince Thomas was living in the local authority hostel in Lewisham, south London, when Metropolitan Police officers raided it, to arrest burglary suspect Matthew Hamilton. Mr Thomas objected to his room being searched, but officers said they were entitled to search the whole building.

Blackfriars Crown Court found that the premises were, in fact, one communal dwelling, and therefore the police had the right to search the whole of it. However, this was overturned by the High Court, which ruled that there was a “sufficient degree of exclusive occupation”, as the rooms were numbered, and each had its own lock.

Fellow high court judge Mr Justice Openshaw, said: “Officers should be treated as though they were trespassers and were not, all the time they remained in his room, acting in the court of their duty.”

He added: “It seems to me that homeless people living in rooms in local authority hostels are as much entitled to the protection of the law as those living a more settled, conventional life. Indeed, they may be particularly vulnerable and may need more protection.”

A spokesperson for the Home Office said: “Section 17 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 gives the police a power to enter and search premises without a search warrant in order to arrest a person for an indictable offence. This includes burglary. However, the power is subject to limitations.

“It may only be exercised if police have reasonable grounds to believe the person they wish to arrest is on the premises. If the premises that police wish to enter and search consists of two or more separate dwellings, then the power to enter and search is limited to any communal parts of the premises and any such dwelling in which

police have reasonable grounds to believe the person sought may be. The premises may only be searched to the extent that is reasonably required to find the person sought, ie, only those parts where a person could conceal themselves.”

Put simply, the police are allowed to search your room without permission only if they have reasonable grounds to think someone is hiding in there.

The Home Office said it would study the judgment in terms of police policy going forward.

Liza Edwards

Birmingham funding cuts hit alcohol service

An alcohol abuse centre in Birmingham is set to close after its funding was withdrawn by the city’s council.

SIFA Fireside, a 27-bed voluntary programme to help people - many of whom are homeless - become free of alcohol faces imminent closure after losing out in a bidding process.

Supporting People, the council’s fund-allocation body, aims to help “vulnerable people... by providing a stable environment”. It determines which charities receive money through a bidding process.

But SIFA claimed the bidding system was unfair, as it did not reflect the unique nature of the service offered at their centre, which is the only residential “dry house” in Birmingham. This meant that they were put in the drug and alcohol category, and only allowed to bid for that contract.

Also, as they offer accommodation, their costs were higher than the successful bidder who did not plan to offer residential support.

Carole Powell, a counsellor at the centre, said: “This project works. I’ve been here nearly four years and we’ve had quite a

few success stories in that time. That’s what makes it all worthwhile, when you can see how much someone’s changed, that they’ve got their confidence again and their lives back on track.”

Birmingham Council used to provide funding for more than 20 smaller agencies across the city, but has now consolidated this to just two agencies providing accommodation and one for drug and alcohol support.

SIFA, which has a residential six-bed alcohol reduction facility and a residential 21 bed “dry” facility, provides 24-hour care support for those battling against alcohol addiction.

Yusuf, a resident of the dry house, said: “I know loads of blokes who would love the chance to come here – they’re not going to get it. It makes no sense to close this place, the wealth of experience they’re going to be losing, they’re going to have to start all over again. It’s just a short-term financial fix, but they’re not going to save in the long run when we’re all back in hospital with liver failure.”

Residents and staff at the centre do not yet know when they will close, which is causing stress and uncertainty.

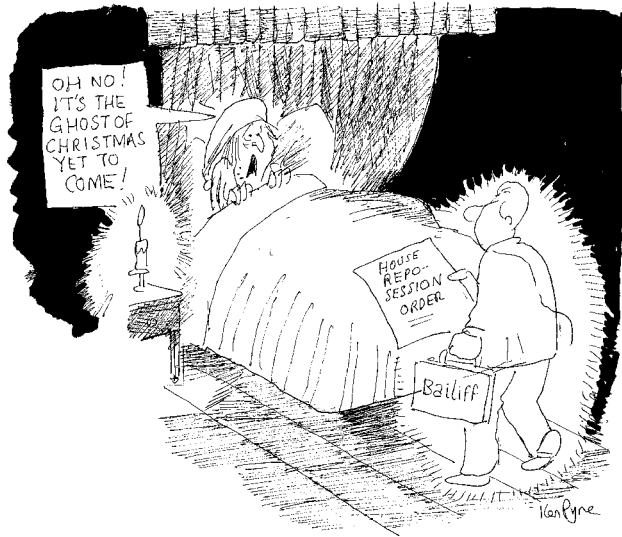
Manager Kim Butler said: “Since the news was announced two months ago, Supporting People still hasn’t let us know when the project is actually going to close. They keep changing the date.”

Supporting People has defended the decision, citing the need to “get value for money”.

Rebecca Evans

Tower Hamlets hostel

Estate agents in East London are seeking new tenants for a 110-bed hostel. Local Liberal Democrat councillor Dr Stephanie Eaton contacted *The Pavement*, hoping that the property lease might



attract the attention of an organisation to support the homeless.

But Cllr Eaton warned that the site will need a lot of work: "It appears to be a generally sound building, though in need of maintenance. The rooms are a reasonable size, kitchens are OK, and communal areas are a good size," she said. "The roof needs repairing and the lifts do not work."

The council believes the building could be put to good use to house homeless people in Tower Hamlets, although the council themselves have no plans to take over the building. "The Council's official numbers of rough sleeping people are ridiculously low," said Cllr Eaton. "But I know there are a number of homeless people who need hostel accommodation, so it would be great if this could be repaired and put into use to house homeless people."

The property, on Commercial Road, in Limehouse, was last held by DMG Management Ltd, who most recently let rooms to their Romanian and Polish contract workers, employed for renovations

on the famous luxury hotel, The Savoy. The contract has now ended, and the estate agency understands the workers have been re-housed or have returned home. It is believed that DMG Management Ltd had used the property for various contract construction projects.

Previously, the building has been a nursery and a convent, but it is hoped it can remain a hostel.

It has been empty for several weeks, but the estate agents are struggling to find the right tenants.

Stephen Hurford, of Hurford Salvi Carr, said that he had received more than 100 enquiries from possible tenants, and has shown more than 45 groups around the property. But none, so far, have sufficient hostel experience to manage the building well enough.

The site is to be let on a new 10-year lease, with a rent of £300,000 per annum, which equates to just £7.50 per bed per night.

Rebecca Wearn

Manchester hides soup kitchens

Accessing help has become more difficult for rough sleepers in Manchester after council bosses changed the location of soup kitchens for the second time in six months.

Local charities have accused authorities of trying to disguise the city's homeless problem.

Peter Green, from Christian street group Barnabus, told the Manchester Evening News: "We are going to bring the soup kitchen into our building on Bloom Street. I still feel it is the agenda of the council to be rid of soup kitchens. In the years we have been operating, we have been moved eight or nine times."

Outreach workers were asked to shift their mobile kitchens from the Mancunian Way skate park to Hoyle Street. The move follows an earlier relocation from Store Street, near Piccadilly Station, which was being used in the past four years.



What a waste

We don't keep our fresh, natural food overnight to sell the following day. We never have and we never will.

For years we've worked with registered charities helping the homeless by offering our unsold sandwiches to them at the end of each day. Unfortunately, some still get chucked away. (And that really upsets us.)

If you know of a charity in need of good food, please tell them to call Edward Metcalfe on 020 7932 3339.

★ PRET A MANGER ★

"We have found it unhelpful. Our clients have been confused about where to go and it has not helped with planning," Paul Wenham, manager of the Mustard Tree charity, told the paper.

The city's authorities said the relocation reflected the concerns of neighbours and local business.

Susan Triggs, from the council's adult services, said: "We work hard to balance the needs of this type of provision against a constantly changing and developing city centre."

Teo Kermeliotis

Crisis, what crisis?

Crisis is defying the recession and its impact on charity donations as plans for its new Skylight centre in Oxford are set in motion.

Crisis Skylight Oxford will offer up to 50 workshops per week, as

well as training and work opportunities for everyone, particularly the homeless or vulnerably housed. Like the existing Skylight centres in London and Newcastle, there will be both practical and creative workshops, such as carpentry, IT or song-writing.

The new centre will be located in the Old Fire Station at Gloucester Green, and forms part of a wider redevelopment of the historic building. There will also be facilities for the local community, including a cafe/bar and dedicated spaces for performances, rehearsals, social enterprise and exhibitions.

The project is being carried out in partnership with Oxford City Council, with almost £2.9m in funding from the Communities and Local Government's Places of Change Programme.

Ciara Devlin, Project Manager of Crisis New Developments Team, said Oxford City Council will be putting around £300,000-

400,000 into the project, while Crisis is to contribute in the region of £200,000 – although both figures are yet to be confirmed.

Like many other charities, Crisis has been hit hard by the economic crisis. In its Annual Report 2008/2009, chief executive Leslie Morphy noted: "The collapse of parts of the financial and banking sector has not helped our fundraising effort. Our corporate donations have been significantly lower this year than last, and sponsorship was pulled with little notice". Despite this, Ms Devlin told *The Pavement*: "We don't want to hold back. We're determined to continue with this project, despite the economic situation".

In order to help weather the financial storm, Crisis increased its reserves by 10 per cent (or £850,000) between February 2008 and June 2009 in recognition, noted the annual report, "of the fact that significant funds will be required in

the 2009/10 financial year to fund major capita projects including Oxford". These reserves will also help Crisis achieve its other aims, such as expanding aspects of its Skylight services into Birmingham.

The money to run all the Skylight centres comes from voluntary donations and, in part, contracts awarded to Crisis by further education colleges, local authorities and the Learning and Skills Council. However, Ms Devlin said it was hoped the new Oxford centre would prove profitable too, such as through the renting out of rehearsal space. "We're always looking at ways of becoming more self-funded," she added.

Carinya Sharples

Camden Closures - The Council's Response

Last issue we printed a letter from Frank Dobson, MP, voicing his concerns about hostel closures in Camden. Mr Dobson described Camden's housing consultation as "very faulty", and criticised their closure of several hostels, including those at Holmes Road, Mount Pleasant and Gray's Inn Road. "At a time of rising unemployment and repossession, would a Council that cares be closing and selling off accommodation for the homeless?" he asked.

For this issue we approached Camden council to get a response to Mr Dobson's concerns. The housing department released a statement to *The Pavement* saying: "The Council currently has a substantial number of unfilled hostel places. A number of hostels are being considered for closure including some for single people that would require a large amount of money to bring them up to proper standards.

"Anyone in these hostels seeking hostel accommodation will be able to go to a hostel in better condition.

They would also be supported to move on to other types of housing if they wish. Camden Council is committed to working with all residents in the hostels being considered for closure and will discuss with them individually their re-housing preferences. Demand from homeless people has fallen in recent years.

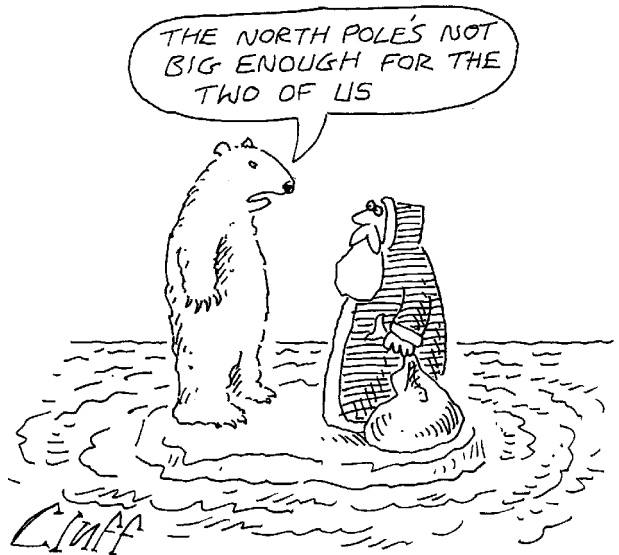
"However, we can procure temporary accommodation quickly should there be an unexpected surge in demand in the future."

Jim O'Reilly

- We will continue to monitor developments in Camden's hostel closure programme. If you have had any experiences with closures in Camden, get in touch. Address on page 3.

US homeless case

A Pennsylvanian pastor has taken his town council to court after they forced him to shut down



a homeless shelter because it breached new "loitering laws".

The court found in favour of Rev Jack Wisor and ordered Brookville district council to pay him \$100,000 (£60,648) and let him re-open the Just for Jesus shelter.

The shelter was shut down after inspectors broke into it, in order to prove it had violated new zoning laws.

Rev Wisor sued the city last November after officials designated the facility as a "group home", which contravenes new zoning laws.

In addition to the money, the council will not place a limit on the number of people who can stay at the shelter.

According to a survey of 200 cities by the American National Coalition for the Homeless, loitering laws have increased by 11 per cent, as have clamp-downs on public camping, which are up seven per cent.

Rebecca Evans

STREET SHIELD

10: YULETIDE PARTINGS

A WINTER FOG SETTLES ON EDINBURGH AS OUR HEROES, STREET SHIELD AND THE GOLDEN BLANKET, MEET WITH THE MYSTERIOUS MISSING MAN...





RISTMAS!



NEXT: SHELTER FROM THE STORM!

Health and wellbeing

The Pavement's health team – a nurse, podiatrist and counsellor – answer your questions

Dear Nurse Flo

I have one aunt who writes her Christmas cards in July and another who does her Christmas shopping in the January sales. This type of forward planning is a bit over the top, but there's nothing wrong with being prepared.

Looking after your health over the festive season can be a challenge, but the good news is that a whole heap of hassle can be avoided if you plan ahead.

Do you have any nagging health worries? Anything you've been putting off going to the doctor about? Go and get it seen to now. Sod's law dictates it will get worse when everything is shut and you can't do anything about it.

Think about your prescriptions. Are they up to date? Do you have enough of any prescription medicines you use to see you through the Christmas holidays? Remember, Christmas falls on a Thursday this year, so pharmacists will probably be closed or on limited opening hours until the following Monday. Think about any over-the-counter remedies you might use – things like paracetamol, cold remedies, laxatives, indigestion remedies, nicotine replacement therapy or sticking plasters. If you use any of these, stock up beforehand if you can.

How are your teeth? Last year NHS Direct reported lots of phone calls about toothache. Toothache is no joke, so visit the dentist if you can. Dental services for homeless people vary from area to area, so ask your doctor or a nurse for a list of local dentists who treat homeless people. You don't need an address to register with a dentist – you can use a friend's or relative's.

If you can't get to the dentist and you suffer from toothache, make sure you've got plenty painkillers to see you through.

If you become ill over Christmas and you have access to a telephone, then call NHS Direct on 0845 4647. They can call you back and will assess your symptoms over the phone, give advice and, if necessary, refer you on to the best place to get treated. In Scotland you can phone NHS 24 on 08454 24 24 24. If you don't have access to a phone, find out now where the closest out-of-hours clinic is and make sure you have a plan if you need medical help over Christmas.

Accident and Emergency is going to be busy over Christmas and the New Year, so if you are not very unwell, you may have a long wait – NHS Direct will generally sort you out more quickly. However, if you are in intolerable pain, are bleeding heavily, had an accident or are taken seriously unwell and feel you need immediate medical attention, don't hesitate to call 999 or go to Accident and Emergency.

Although Christmas is a happy time for most people, it has its own unique stresses and problems. Often it can bring memories to the surface of people no longer with us or force us into the company of family we have nothing in common with. Try not to be alone on Christmas Day, find out what's on in your local area and make a plan so you'll be with other people. Remember to take care of your emotional health. People with mental health issues often find Christmas difficult, so be kind to yourself and get help if you are feeling low. NHS Direct and NHS 24 can help you out with mental health problems as well as physical ones.

Lastly, if you overindulge over the Christmas period, remember there's no cure for a hangover except plenty water, paracetamol and rest. Have a good Christmas and stay healthy.

Nurse Flo

- To put a question to our nurse, email: flo@thepavement.org.uk or write to the address on page 3

Footcare – practical podiatry advice

We all need feet! They keep us walking the many thousands of miles we cover in a lifetime, and when they are working well, we give them little thought. When a problem occurs, though, we soon notice what they do for us every day. Lots of things 'out there' can be a danger to our feet, so let's look at how to avoid a few of them.

Injury

I have seen a significant number of foot accidents as a podiatrist. Machinery, lawnmowers, buses cutting corners and mounting pavements – all can crush or damage your toes.

Nature also has risks. Dog bites to the ankles; adders waiting for unwary travellers in the Scottish hills, wasps and bees that are not keen to be stood on – all can and do cause serious foot trauma.

Dropping things on the feet is common and not a major worry if it is a light, blunt item. But knife and sharps injuries to the top of the foot can and do happen, and if you drop something heavy and/or sharp, your



"You've got Jingle Bell's Palsy"

feet will bear the brunt. Standing on things in bare feet is also common, as are splashing or burning the top of bare feet while cooking.

So: how do you avoid these types of problem? Wear thick shoes and socks outdoors. Put something on your feet if you are in a kitchen, which is where most foot accidents take place. No footwear is bus- or car-proof, so stay well back on pavements.

Footwear

High heels (even if they're only an inch or so high) can cause a lot of foot-related trauma, not

to mention broken wrists. Only wear heels you can walk in, or take a flatter pair with you for getting home. Wear flattish shoes most of the time if you can.

Keep your everyday footwear in good condition: flapping, detached soles leak and can trip you; and if your footwear is really worn, it might not offer your foot the best support. Tie your laces – lots of people fall because of the fashion for wearing trainers with loose laces or none at all.

Check out your local centres to see if they offer good quality second hand shoes or boots if you think yours are past their best.

Infection and infestation

It's not only big creatures like dogs that are out to get us! Feet and hands can pass on scabies mite infestation, which is common and easily treated by a doctor.

Signs that you have the mite include itching between the toes, some redness around the itchy area and little white trails that show the burrows where they live in your skin.

Allergies or – more commonly – fungal skin infection can also cause itching in the feet and make the skin white and soggy, and maybe peel. Verrucae are caused by a viral infection, and are notoriously



“Well, so much for the internet”

difficult to treat. Prevent all these things by keeping your feet covered in communal wet areas if you can, and avoid skin-to-skin foot contact.

Too hot, too cold, just right

Try not to let your feet get into extremes of temperature. They cool quickly, so if you're sleeping outdoors, keep your shoes on and pay particular attention to wrapping the feet with whatever extra materials you have. Cold wet feet are even more of a risk, so try to keep them dry.

Don't be tempted to stick your bare, cold feet in front of a heat source – warming them too quickly can make your circulation protest and lead to chilblains.

Dangers from you

Smoking, drinking and street drugs can do harm to your feet, so try to cut down or cut out where you can.

Have a good festive season, and take your feet safely and smoothly into 2010. Take care of your pair: keep them covered and protected as much as you can. (And don't worry about the adders – they cancel Christmas and sleep until about April... alright for some, eh?)

Evelyn Weir

Lecturer in Podiatry
Queen Margaret University
Edinburgh

Ask Agnes – The Pavement's agony aunt

"Dear Agnes,

"Christmas was always a time of great conflict in my family. Dad was an alcoholic, and things always got out of control on Christmas Day. There were lots of tears, mostly from Mum, and as the only child, I couldn't get out of the house enough... or fast enough.

"Waking up by myself in a hostel on Christmas Day feels like the loneliest place in the world.

"Coping with my drug addiction on Christmas Day really made things rough on my family, especially my younger sister. It's been a long time now since I've been home on Christmas Day. I really miss them on that day, but I'm not sure how to go back.

"I always enjoyed home-less Christmas gatherings like Crisis, because it gives you something to do. But it also reminds you that you don't have your own family to be with.

John"

Dear John,
Walking around the streets of London at Christmas is a journey through a living, breathing Advent calendar. Peering into windows on back streets, you see picture-perfect Christmas trees; families seated around kitchen tables smiling, with steaming mugs of tea; children drawing, lights glinting off the big piles of presents in the background; and the other domestic comforts that can send the heart of the passer-by into agonies of loneliness or nostalgia.

Perhaps you have had family Christmases yourself. Perhaps they were far from being so harmonious. Perhaps you never want to have another as long as you live!

However your Christmas issues manifest, the thorny issue of how to deal with the Big Day can cause a lot of anxiety for the anti-Christmas brigade. We could search desperately for positive associations from childhood Christmases, or we could try to convince ourselves and others that we don't care. The old "Christmas is just another day" line is over-familiar, sadly, and often gives away more than it conceals. On the other hand, festive conversation is unlikely to flow if you confess casually to your thoroughly conventional sister-in-

law that you find Christmas Day the most howlingly sad day of the year and that you spend it alone, crying into a bottle of brandy...

One survivor of the ghosts of Christmas Past gave Agnes some good and straightforward advice: remove some or all of the pressure by accepting that it's OK not to celebrate the day. It's also OK to not feel good about it. Furthermore, those picture-perfect families only exist in the minds of people who don't have real families – an enormous number of real families feel frazzled by Boxing Day and don't speak to each other for days, weeks or months after the 25th!

Agnes is not advising her readers to shut down and assume a mask of indifference towards Christmas Day. No one will be fooled; it takes a rare soul to rise above the universal Christmas glitz and goodwill. Perhaps you could find a way to mark rather than celebrate the passing of another Christmas. It would not have to be a celebration, but it could help to keep it positive: a pre-Christmas dinner with family or friends on Christmas Eve; a contemplative walk in a place with some personal meaning; a charitable act. Whatever you choose to do, doing it only once a year will bring a personal significance to Christmas Day.

Agnes

- To pose a query to our agony aunt, email: agnes@thepavement.org.uk or write to the address on page 3

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.

WEBSITES

Everyone's home
An 'e-shelter', with a large directory of services, particularly for London.
www.everyoneshome.org.uk

Homeless London Directory (RLS)
Updated at least annually
www.homelesslondon.org

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

The Pavement online
Regularly updated online version of The List, which will soon be in several translations to download.
www.thepavement.org.uk/services.htm

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

Soup Run Forum
For those using or running soup runs, or just concerned with their work. Comments and details on future meetings.
www.souprunforum.org.uk

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

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

London Street Rescue
0870 383 3333
Rough sleeper's hostel
0800 700 740, 24 hrs daily
National Debtline
0808 808 4000

Message Home Helpline
0800 700 740, 24 hrs daily
Open Door Gay Men's Housing
0208 743 2165

Poppy
020 7840 7141
Helps women who have been trafficked for sexual exploitation
Runaway Helpline
0808 800 7070
For under-18s who have left home
The Samaritans
08457 90 9090

SANeline

6 – 1 pm
0845 767 8000
Out-of-hours helpline for those affected by mental health

Shelter

0808 800 4444
Housing info and advice
8am–8pm daily

Stonewall Housing advice line
Advice for Lesbian and Gay men
(Mon, Thu, Fri 10am–1pm;
Tue & Wed 2–5pm)

Survivors UK

Mon, Tue & Thur: 7–10pm
020 7404 6234
Helpline for men who have been sexually assaulted at any time in their lives

UK Human Trafficking Centre
0114 252 3891

Hackney Town Hall (car park) E8;
Thur: Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, N1; Fri: Walthamstow Town Square, High Street, E17
On a first-come-first-served basis.
Some cases December need to be referred to the Victoria hospital.
Hospitals
Blue Cross Victoria, 1 – 5 Hugh Street, SW1V 1QQ
020 7932 2370
Blue Cross Hammersmith, Argyle Place, King Street, W6 0RQ
020 8748 1400
Blue Cross Merton, 88 – 92 Merton High Street, SW19 1BD
020 8254 1400

Maytree Respite Centre

72 Moray Road, N4 3LG
020 7263 7070

One-off four night stay for those in suicidal crisis

MH

Quaker Mobile Library

Every second Mon at either: Deptford Churches Centre. This means that each Webber Street and Deptford each receive one visit per month; every second Mon, 1130am at Manana Centre, Bermondsey (every fortnight); Every other Tue: 7pm, Lincoln's Inn Fields; Sat: 9.45am, The Connection at St Martins; 11am, The Passage

TELEPHONE SERVICES

Domestic Violence Helpline
0808 2000 247

Eaves

020 7735 2062
Helps victims of traffick-
ing for prostitution

Frank

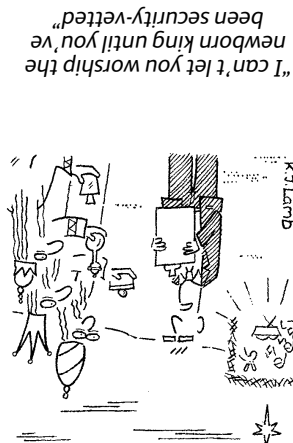
0800 776 600
Free 24-hr drug helpline

Get Connected

0808 808 4994
Free advice for young people
(1pm–7pm daily)

Jobcentre Plus

To make a claim
0800 055 6688
For queries about existing claims
For Income Support, Jobseekers



SE1 3QP
Further info 07806878851
or 020 7407 2014
www.robex.org.uk

West London Churches Winter Shelter

Various Venues
09 Nov–28 Mar 10 8pm–7am:
last admission 8pm
18+ mixed; Beds for 35 (separate
area for women); self-referral
basis, must phone first; dry

SPECIALIST SERVICES

ASHA Project
13 Shrubbery Road, SW16 2AS
020 8696 0023
Mon–Fri: 9am–5pm
For asian women fleeing
domestic violence
AD

Blue Cross Veterinary Services

Offered to pet owners on a low
income. This is usually a means
tested benefit or state pension
with no other means of income:
All run 10am–12pm & 1.30pm
–3.30pm, at these locations – Mon:
Bethnal Green Road E2; Wed:

St John's Ealing
Mattlock Lane, West Ealing
W13 9LA
020 8566 3507

Sat & Sun: 3.30–5pm
Also: Advice service Thur
& Fri 10am–4pm – Ealing
Churches workers

St John the Evangelist

39 Duncan Terrace, N1 8AL
020 7226 3277
Tues–Sat: 12.30pm–1.30pm

Streetytes

A new service, operating on every
other Saturday, 7.30pm behind
the House of Frazier, Victoria
Hot tea/coffee, sandwiches, fruit,
yogurt, pasta, blankets and clothing
to the vulnerable and homeless.
www.streetytes.org

SW London Vineyard – The King's

Table
Sun 2.30pm–4.30pm beneath
Waterloo Bridge (Embankment).
Superb hot stews and potatoes.

SEASONAL SHELTERS

999 Club (Lambeth & Lewisham)
21 Deptford Broadway, SE8 4PA
Jan–Mar 10: Beds for 15
people; Referral only, from
999 Club (during day); Dry

Caris Islington Churches Cold

Various Churches
07960 491151
01 Jan–31 Mar 10: 7.30pm–
8.30am. Arrive before 8.30pm
Age 18+ mixed; Beds for 15
(separate area for women); Self- or
agency referrals; phone ahead

Community of Camden Churches Cold Weather Shelter (C4WS)

Various Churches
01–23 Dec: 31 Dec–31 Mar 10
Referral only; go to www.
coldweather shelter.org
07715507970
advice@coldweather shelter.org

Crisis Christmas

23–30 Dec
Priority is given for rough
sleepers; those with proven
dependencies and

vulnerable women, Resi-
dential centres will be by
referral only for those
registered on CHAIN

The day centres are:

Islington Arts and Media
School, Turle Road, N4 3LS
Stratford Day Centre, Newham
College, Stratford Campus,
Wellfare Road, E15 4HT
Bernardsey Day Centre,
City of London Academy,
Lynton Road, SE1 5LA
Hammersmith Day Centre, Ham-
mersmith and West London College
Hammersmith Campus,
Gildon Road, W14 9BL
Deptford Reach Day Centre,
Speedwell Street, SE8 4AT
See posters nearer date for details

Croydon Churches Flooding

Shelter

Various Churches
07860 270 278
Mobile switched off if no vacancies
01 Nov–31 Mar 10: 7.30pm–8am.
Last admission 9pm
Age 18+ mixed; Beds for 14
Local referral only, dry
www.croydonchurch.org.uk

Hackney Winter Night Shelter

Various Churches
Booking essential – 07549 043 728
– you will not be charged for this call
01 Jan–31 Mar 10: 8pm–8am
(7pm on Sundays)
Age 18+ mixed; beds for 25
(screened area for women)
Last admission 8.30pm
Agency or self-referrals: dry
www.hwns.org.uk

Quaker Christmas Shelter

Union Chapel, Compton
Avenue, N1 2XD
23–30 Dec (not 24 hours): 7–10am
(breakfast for up to 75); opening
again at 4pm (supper for up to 75
at 6pm). Closes at 1pm except for
those referred to one of the 24 beds
(self-referrals are possible); Dry

Robes Project (Southwark &

Lambeth)
Various Venues
08 Nov–31 Mar 10
Age 18+ mixed; Beds for 13
By referral only from Manna
Centre, 6 Mellor Street,

Faith House (Salvation Army)

11 Argyle Street, King's Cross
(near Burger King), WC1H 8EJ
020 7837 5149

Mon: 6–8pm (men's group);
Tues: 5–6pm (women's drop-in);
Wed: 1–3pm (women's drop-in);
Fri: 1am–1pm (women's

banch & discussion group)
FF, CL

Hare Krishna Food for Life

The Hare Krishna food run provides
wholesome and tasty vegetarian
meals from Soho and King's Cross
Temples. The former can be found
at Lincoln's Inn Fields, Mon–Thurs;
7:15pm, finishing at Temple if
there's food left. The latter from
Monday to Friday, all year round:
Kentish Town (Islip Road); 12pm;
Camden (Arlington Road); 1pm;
King's Cross (York Way) 2:15pm.

Harlow Chocolate Run

Renamed London City Aid.

House of Bread – The Vision

Second and fourth Sunday in the
month (6:45am onwards) – Hot
food; note that an excellent full
cooked breakfast is served on the
fourth Sunday. On the Strand
(Charing Cross end, outside Court's).

Imperial College

Serving sandwiches and hot
beverages on Sunday evenings
(8–9:30pm) at Lincoln's Inn Fields.

Kings Cross Baptist Church

Vernon Sq, W1
020 7837 7182

Mon: 1am–2pm
FF, LF

Lincoln's Inn Fields

Mon–Fri: 7:15pm; Many vans with
food and occasionally clothing.
Sat – Sun: 6:15pm onwards.

London City Aid

This run is from Harlow, and
serves hot chocolate! Coming
out on the second Tuesday of
the month. Behind the Army and
Navy in Victoria: 8:30–10:30pm.

The London Run

Mondays (including bank holidays).
Van with tea/coffee, sandwiches,
eggs, biscuits, soft drinks, clothes,
and toiletries: 8:45–9:30am. The
Strand, opposite Charing Cross
police station: 9:30pm–10:15pm;
Temple: 10:15pm–11:00pm;
Waterloo (St John's Church).

Memorial Baptist Church Plaistow

389–395 Barking Road, E13 8AL
020 7476 4133

Sat: 8am–12pm

Full English breakfast

Muswell Hill Churches Soup

2 Dukes Ave, N10 2PT
020 8444 7027

Sun–Thurs: 7:45–8:45pm

New Life Assembly

A run in Hendon, that comes into
the West End once a month.

Nightwatch

At the fountain in the Queens
Gardens, central Croydon

Every night from 9:30pm

Sandwiches and hot drinks

Open Door Meal

St James the Less parish centre,
Vauxhall Bridge Road, behind the
Lord High Admiral public house.
An established service, providing a
two-course hot meal served at table.
Afternoon Thursdays during
term-time: 7–9:30 pm.

B, CL, FF

Our Lady of Hal

165 Arlington Rd, NW1
020 7485 2727

Tues, Weds, Fri & Sat:
12:45pm–2pm

Peter's Community Cafe

The Crypt, St. Peter's Church,
De Beauvoir Road, N1
020 7249 0041

Mon–Wed: 12noon–6:30pm

Rhythms of Life International

23 Crossway, N16 8LA
020 7254 9534

Daily, 5–6:30pm, all year 'round
Tea/coffee, soup and a warm meal

Rice Run

The Strand, Westminster
Fri: 9–10pm

Rice and Chicken, or savoury rice

The Sacred Heart

This run from Wimbledon has
several teams coming up once a
month to the Piazza of Westminster
Cathedral. Sandwiches and
hot beverages around 9:30pm

every Tuesday and Friday.

Sai Baba

Third Sunday of the Month: 93

Guilford Street, WC1 (Coram's

Fields): 1am–1pm. Vegetarian
meal and tea. Another branch
of this sect also have a service at
Lincoln's Inn Fields, Wednesday,
around 8pm – a great curry!

Samaritan Network

Every Sunday, 6–8pm, at the
corner of Temple Station.

www.smouk.org

Silver Lady Fund (The Pie Man)

Piping hot pasties, pies and
sausages rolls from the van down
behind the Festival Hall or on
Southwark Bridge Road – from
5am (it's white with 'Silver Lady
Fund' written on the side).

Simon Community

Tea Run: Sun & Mon (6–9:30am):
St Pancras Church 6:30am; Milford
Lane 6:45am; Strand 7am; South-
ampton Road 7:30am; Army and
Navy 8am; Grosvenor Gardens
8:30am; Marble Arch (Sunday) 9am;
Waterloo Bridge (Sunday) 9:30am

Soup Run: Wed & Thurs (8pm–
10:30pm): St Pancras Church
8:15pm; Hinde Street 8:45pm;
Matraviers Street 9:15pm; Waterloo
9:45pm; Army and Navy 10:15pm

Street Cafe: St Mary-Le-Strand
(Strand) – Mon (5pm–7pm) & Wed
(10am–12:00pm), and St Giles-
in-the-Fields, St Giles High Street,
WC2 (next to Denmark Street) – Sat
(2–4pm) & Sun (1:15–3:15pm)

St Andrew's Church

10 St Andrew's Road
Fulham, W14 9SX

Sat: 11:30am–1:30pm

Hot food and sandwiches

SOUP KITCHENS & SOUP RUNS

All Saints Church
Carnegie St, N1
020 7837 0720
Tues & Thurs: 10am–12noon
Cooked breakfast
FF

American Church
(Entrance in Whitefield St)
79a Tottenham Court Rd, W1T
020 7580 2791
Mon–Sat (except Wed):
10am–12noon
AC, CL, FF, P

ASIAN
Hot food and sandwiches for
early risers. Sat 5.30am–8.30am
– Covent Garden, Milford Lane,
Surrey Street, Strand and Waterloo.

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church
235 Shaftesbury Ave, WC2 8EP
020 7240 0544
Sunday: Roast lunch 1pm
10.30am for ticket (very limited)

The Cabin
Near top of Holloway Road,
right at The shoe shop
Sandwich van every day:
10.30–11.45am

Camden Road Baptist Church
Hilldrop Road, Holloway, N7 0JE
020 7607 7355
Thu: 10.30am–12noon
FF

The Carpenters
TMO Community Hall, 17 Doran
Walk, Stratford, E15 2JL
020 8221 3860
Every Tuesday: 10am–12pm

Ealing Soup Kitchen
St Johns Church Hall, Mattock Lane
Friday: 1am–4pm; Sat and Sun:
3.30–5pm
They also give practical help/
housing advice

Emmanuel Church
Forest Gate, E7 8BD (corner of
Romford Rd & Upton Lane)
Thurs: 7.30am (cooked breakfast)

The Choir With No Name

Every Monday, 7pm,
at various venues
A choir for homeless and ex-
homeless, with or without
singing experience.
www.choirwithnoname.org

Crisis Skylight
66 Commercial St, E1
020 7426 5661
Mon–Thurs: 2pm–3.30pm
AC, ET, IT, MC, P, PA
Workshop programme from
www.crisis.org.uk

Smart
Art workshops and lec-
tures at various venues
020 7209 0029
Email: smartnetwork@lineone.net
020 7495 3133
MC, PA
Workshop programme from
www.streetwiseopera.org

Vision Impossible
An arts project (Thames Reach),
based at Crisis Skylight, Mon–Wed
9.30am – 1.00pm, by referral only
www.thamesreach.org.uk

Cardboard Citizens
020 7247 7747
Variety of performing arts work-
shops held at Crisis Skylight as
well as hostels around London.
ET, LA, MC, PA
www.cardboardcitizens.org.uk

PERFORMING ARTS

Vision Care Opticians
07792 960416
Mon & Thurs: 2 – 7.30pm
at Crisis Skylight, Wed: 9am
– 5pm at The Passage
Free sight tests and spectacles

ISIS North drug service,
99 Seven Sisters Road, N7 7QP
Sun 13 Dec: 1–3pm; Union
Chapel, Compton Terrace,
Upper Street, N1 2XD
Tue 15 Dec: 10am–4pm; Enfield
Substance Misuse Services, 2nd
Floor, Forest Primary Care Centre,
308A Hertford Road, N9 7HD
Fri 17 Dec: 10am–4pm; DASH
[Prescribing Service], St Anne's
Hospital, St Ann's Road, N15 3TH
Fri 18 Dec: 10am–4pm;
Harringeys Drug Services, 9
Bruce Grove, N17 6RA
Mon 21 Dec: 9.30am–2pm;
Homeless Action in Barnet, 36B
Woodhouse Road, N12 0RG



"V\'kiddin' me - batteries included?"

art, IT, guitar, Spanish, cooking
C, ET, MC

OSW (London Bridge)
4th Floor, The Pavilion
1 Newnham Row, SE1 3UZ
020 7089 2722
CA, ET, IT

Turnaround Resource E1
Montefiore Centre, Hanbury
Street, London, E1 5HZ
020 7247 9005
www.turnaround1.org.uk
CA, ET, IT

ENTERTAINMENT & SOCIAL EVENTS

ASLAN

All Souls Church – Clubhouse
Cleveland St
020 7580 3522
Sat eve: by invitation

Open Film Club
www.openhousefilmclub.org

EX-FORCES

AWOL? Call the 'reclaim your life'
scheme from SSAFA
01380 738137 (9am–10am)

Royal British Legion

08457 725 725
Ring the Legionline to see how they
can help ex-servicemen and women

Veterans Aid

40 Buckingham Palace Rd, Victoria
020 7828 2468
A, AS, BA, D, CL, SS

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

JOBCENTRE PLUS

To get benefit advice use local job
Centres or visit a day centre that
hosts JCP outreach staff. These are
listed below by day, but contact
individual centres for times:
Mondays – The Passage; The
Connections at St Martin's; Holy-
cross Centre; Rushworth Rolling

Shelter; Guy's Hospital Oncol-
ogy Ward; Spectrum; Webber
Street/Waterloo Christian Centre;

Tuesday – St Thomas' Hospi-
tal, In Patients; Westminster
Rolling Shelter; The Connection
at St Martin's; Conway House
(hostel); Anchor House (hostel);
The Passage; Downview Prison;

Wednesday – The Passage; Great
Chapel Street Medical Centre; St
Thomas' Hospital; Lloyd St Hill ward;
Cricklewood Homeless Concern;
Parker Street (hostel); Crisis Skylight;
Endsleigh Gardens (hostel); Dellow
Centre (hostel); Brixton Prison;
Thursday – Broadway Day Centre;
Manana Centre; Great Chapel St
Medical Centre; West London
Day Centre; The Connection at
St Martin's; Rochester Row Day
Centre; Whitechapel Mission;
Deprford Churches Centre;

Friday – The Passage;
Cricklewood Homeless Concern;

MEDICAL SERVICES

for helpline

See Telephone Services

Wandsworth prison.
All week – Brixton Prison;
Romford YMCA (hostel);
(drop in); Waterloo Jobshop;
Centre; Cardinal Hume Centre
Cedars Road (hostel); St Giles Day
The Connection at St Martin's;
Endsleigh Gardens (hostel);

Great Chapel Street Medical

Centre, 13 Great Chapel St, W1
020 7437 9360
Mon, Tues & Thurs: 1 am–
12.30pm; Mon–Fri: 2pm–4pm
A, BA, C, D, DT, FC, H, MH, MS, P, SH

Dr Hickey's – Cardinal Hume

Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri:
10am–12.30pm & 2pm–4pm
Wed: 10am–12.30pm
A, BA, C, D, DT, H, MH, MS, P, SH
Friday: 10.30am–12.30pm;
Mon–Thurs: 9.15am–11.30am
020 7247 0090
9–11 Brick Lane, E1
Health E1

Mon, Wed & Fri afternoons
– appointments only

King's Cross Primary Care Centre
264 Pentonville Rd, N1
020 7530 3444
Mon: 6.30–9.30pm; Tue: 2
– 4pm; Fri: 1.30–3.30pm
BA, BS, CL, DT, FC, H,
MH, MS, NE, P, SH

Primary Care for Homeless People
Spectrum Centre, 6 Green-
land Street, NW1
0207 267 2100
Mon, Tue, Thur & Fri: 9.30am
– 12 noon; Wed: 1.30–3.30pm
BA, BS, CL, DT, FC, H, MS, NE, P, SH

Project London (Médecins du

Monde)
Pott St, Bethnal Green, E2 0EF
Mon, Wed & Fri 1pm–5pm
07974 616 852 & 020 8123 6614
MS, SH
Operating at 999 Club, Deptford,
Wed: 2–4pm; & Providence Row,
Victoria, Fri: 9.30–11.30am
MS, SH

TB screening van – MXU

Information given as date,
time, location and post code.
Turn up at these locations:
Mon 07 Dec: 9–11am; St
Mungos (Margery Street
Shelter), William Martin Court,
65 Margery Street, WC1X 0JH
nb. MXU to park around corner on
Williamton Street: 12noon–3pm;
Whitaker Centre (Equinox),
91 Tollington Way, N7 6RE
Tue 08 Dec: 2–6pm; IDA55
[formerly NIDS] (tbc), 592
Holloway Rd, N7 6LB
nb. MXU to park round corner
on Tollington Way: 7–8.30pm;
The Manna Project, St Stephen's
Church, River Place, 17 Can-
nonbury Rd, N1 2DF
Wed 09 Dec: 1am–3pm;
Milton Dovehill [Milton Com-
munity Programmes] (tbc), 28B
King Henry's Walk, N1 4PB
Thu 10 Dec: 8.30am–12.30pm;
Bethany House Hostel (ICM),
13 Lloyd Square, WC1X 9AB;
1.30–3pm; City Roads, 352-
358 City Road, EC1V 12PY
Fri 11 Dec: 9.30–12.30pm;
Spectrum Centre, 6-8 Greenland
Street, NW1 ONO: 1.30–4pm;

184 Camden
184 Royal College Road, NW1 9NN
020 7485 2722
Mon: 9.30am-3pm; Tue-
Wed: 9.30am-5.30pm;
Thu-Fri: 9.30am-9pm
AS, AD, BA, C, D, H, OB

EASTERN EUROPEANS

Ania's Recruitment Agency
31 Fallsbrook Rd, SW16 6DU
020 82769 0509
East European Advice Centre
Pallingswick House, 241
King Street, W6 9LP
020 8741 1288
Open weekdays 10am-12pm & 2-3pm, for appointments: closed Wed
Ring for appointment
Eastern European Drug and Alcohol Support

Alcohol Support

Emmanuel's Church,
Forest Gate, E7 8BD
020 8257 3068
Support for drug and alcohol
treatment, advice, contact with
other agencies; Thur: 5-7pm
Part of DASL in **Drug & Alcohol Services**

UR4JOBS

Upper Room, St Saviour Church,
Cobbold Road, W12 9LN
020 8740 5688
Mon & Fri: 1-6pm; Tue, Wed
& Thurs: 5.30-6.45pm (hot
supper); Sat & Sun: 12.30
-1.45pm (hot lunch)
Help in finding work and education
Now available online @
www.ur4jobs.co.uk
ET, FF

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Dress for Success (Women)
Unit 2, Shepperton Hse
89-93 Shepperton Rd, N1 3DF
020 7288 1770
www.dressforsuccess.org
Smart clothing for job interviews, CL
New Hanbury Project (SCT)
3 Calvert Avenue, E2 7JP
020 7613 5636
Mon-Thur: 9.30am-4.15pm
Courses in: personal develop-
ment, life skills, woodwork, DIY,

020 8749 6799
Mon-Fri: 10am-5pm (needle
exchange and telephone
service); Mon & Fri: 2pm-5pm
& Wed: 3pm-6pm (drop-in)
C, D, OL, NE

East London Drug and Alcohol Support Services

Capital House, 134-138 Romford
Road, Stratford, E15 4LD
020 8257 3068
Drug and Alcohol Service for
London (DASL) provides free and
confidential services to anyone who
has concerns about their own or
another person's drug or alcohol
use, working with people from
Newham, Tower Hamlets, Red-
bridge and Bexley and Greenwich.
A special Eastern European service
is listed in **Eastern European** section
A, C, D

The Hungerford Drug Project
(Turning Point)
32a Wardour St, W1D 6QR
020 7437 3523
Mon-Fri: 12noon-5pm, except Wed
2-5pm (drop-in); Sat & Sun: 1-5pm;
Anti-dote (lesbian, gay, bisexual and
transgender drug/alcohol service)
drop-in Thursday: 6-8.30pm
C, D, FF, IT, LA, MH

Needle Exchange Van

White van under Centrepoint
Tower, Tottenham Court Road
Mon-Fri: 4-7pm

Soho Rapid Access Clinic

Soho Centre for Health and Care
1 Frith Street
London
W1D 3HZ
020 7534 6687

D

Wandsworth Drug Project
86 Garratt Lane, SW18 4DB
020 8875 4400
Mon-Fri: 1-5pm; Sat: 1-4pm
AS, A, AD, AC, CA, C, D, H, NE, OB, SH

Westminster Drug Project

470-474 Harrow road, W9 3RU
020 7266 6200
Mon-Fri: 10am-12.30pm
(appointments and needle-
exchange); 1-5pm (open access)
AD, C, D, H, NE, OB, SH

St. Mungo's (Ennersdale House)
1a Arlington Close, Lewi-
sham SE13 6JQ
020 8318 5521 (ring first)
Medium-support needs

Women

Church Army
1-5 Cosway St, West-
minster NW1 5NR
020 7262 3818
Ring first. Daily vacancies

Home of Peace

179 Bravington Rd, W9 3AR
020 8969 2631
Women only. Open access (dry)
St Mungo's
2-5 Bickenhead St, WC1H
020 7278 6466

Young people (16-21)

Centrepoint
25 Bewick St, West-
minster W1F 8RF
020 7287 9134/5
Ring first. Daily vacancies

MASH

8 Wilton Rd, Merton, SW19 2HB
020 8543 3677
Ring first

DRUG/ALCOHOL SERVICES

Addiction (Harm Reduction Team)
228 Cambridge Heath Rd, E2
020 8880 7780
Drop-in: Mon, Fri 10am-4pm;
Tues, Wed & Thurs 12noon-6pm;
Closed each day 1.30pm-2.15pm
D, OL, MS, NE, SH

Blackfriars Road CDAT Team

151 Blackfriars Rd, SE1 8EL
020 7620 1888/6500
Mon: 2pm-4pm (drop-in)
MH, MS, NE

Central and NW London Substance Misuse Service

282 North End Rd, SW6 1NH
020 7381 7700
Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm. C, MS

Drumlink

103a Devonport Rd, Shep-
herds Bush, W12 8PB

Wed 1–3pm (drop-in with lunch); Thurs 10am–3pm; Fri 1–2.30pm (lunch and bible study)

Spectrum Centre

6 Greenland St, Camden

Town, NW1

020 7267 4937

Mon–Fri: 9.30am–3pm

A, BS, C, CL, D, FC, H, L,

LS, MH, MS, P, TS

Spires Centre

8 Tooting Bec Gardens, SW16 1RB

020 8696 0943

Mon: 8am–12noon (women

sleepers only); Tues: 9–10.30am (rough

(drop-in); Wed: 10am–12noon

(rough sleepers only); Thu:

9–11am (rough sleepers only);

Fri: 9–10.30am (rough sleepers

only); 10am–1pm (women only)

Education sessions throughout

the week by appointment

A, BA, CL, D, ET, FF, FC,

H, MC, MH, MS, P

St Christopher's Centre

Lime Grove Resource Centre,

47 Lime Grove, W12

Please call for opening

times: 020 8740 9182

AC, BS, CA, ET, FC, IT, L, MS

St Cuthbert's Centre

The Philbeach Hall

51 Philbeach Gdns, Earls Court

020 7835 1389

Mon–Fri: 11.45am–3.45pm

AC, BS, C, CL, F, H, IT, L, OL

St Stephen's Church

17 Canonbury Rd, N1 2DF

020 7226 5369

Tues: 7–9pm (drop-in); Weds:

1–3pm (drop-in – B and FC); Fri:

10am–12noon (key work session)

B, BS, CL, FC, FF, L

The Tab Centre

20 Hackney Rd, Shoreditch, E2

020 7739 3076

Friday: 9am–12noon, F

Thomas Reach

See Hackney 180 First

Contact & Advice

Triumphant Church International
136 West Green Rd
South Tottenham, N15 5AD
020 8800 6001
Sun: 10–11am (open drop-in)
AD, C, FF

Union Chapel (Margins)

Compton Terrace, Upper Street, N1

020 7359 4019

Sun: 3pm–5pm

BS, CL, FF, HA, L, LA, LF

Upper Holloway Baptist Church

11 Tollington Way, N7

020 7272 2104

Mon: 10am–1pm

CL, FF, LF

Upper Room, St Saviour's

Cobbold Rd, W12

020 8740 5688

Mon: 1–6pm (UR4jobs); Tue–Thur:

5.30–6.45pm; Fri: 1–6pm (UR4jobs);

Sat–Sun: 12.30–1.30pm

A, AC, BA, C, CA, CL, D,

ET, IT, FF, H, OL

Webber Street (formerly Waterloo

Christian Centre)

6–8 Webber St, SE1 8QA

020 7928 1677

Mon–Sat: 9am–12noon

AS, B, BA, BS, BE, CL, FF,

LA, MH, MS, OL

The Welcome Project

11 Green Lane, Essex, IG1 1XG

020 8220 4111

Tue & Thur: 12.30–3pm;

Wed & Fri: 10.30am–3pm

AS, BA, BS, CL, FF, H, L

West London Day Centre

134–136 Seymour Place, W1H

020 7569 5900

Mon–Fri: 8.45–10am (rough sleep-

er's drop-in); 10am–1.30am (drop-

in, hosted residents join); 1.45am–

12.45pm (advice, appointments

only); Mon & Thur: 1.30–3.30pm

(drop-in for those with tenancies)

AC, BA, BS, C, CL, F, FC, IT,

L, LS, MS, OL, P, SK, TS

The Whitaker Centre

91–93 Tollington Way, N7 6RE

020 7263 4140

Mon–Fri: 11am–5pm

Alcohol allowed

BS, FF, L

Whitechapel Mission
212 Whitechapel Rd, E1
020 7247 8280
Daily: 6–11am (cooked break-
fast 8am–10am); Sat: 12noon–
2.30pm (women only)
A5, AD, B, BA, BS, BE, CL, C,

DA, D, F, H, IT, OL, SK, P, TS

The 999 Club

21 Deptford Broadway, SE8 4PA

020 8691 7734

Mon–Fri: 10am–5pm

A5, AD, A, B, BE, CL, C, DA, D, FF,

F, H, L, LA, MS, MH, OB, SH, TS

DIRECT ACCESS (NEAR ROUND)

HOSTELS/NIGHTSHELTERS

All–low-support needs

Branches

740 Forest Road, Waltham-

stow, E17 3HR

020 8521 7773

Their address from mid-

December will be Stoneled,

Langthorne Road, E11 2HJ

Livingstone House

105 Melville Rd, Brent NW10 8BU

020 8963 0545

Ring first. Local connection only

Maytree Respite Centre

See Specialist Services

Redbridge Night Shelter

16 York Rd, Ilford

IG1 3AD

020 8514 8958

Ring first

Turnaround (Newham)

Choral Hall

020 7511 8377

7.30pm–7.30am

Waltham Forest Churches Night Shelter

See Branches

Men

Missionaries of Charity

112–116 St Georges Rd,

Southwark, SE1

020 7401 8378

Ring first, 9am–11am except Thurs

Age 30+ (low support)

See Performing Arts

Crisis Skylight
Depford Churches Centre
 Speedwell St, Deptford
 020 8692 6548
 Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri:
 9am–3.30pm
 A, AC, AD, AS, B, BA, BE, BS, C, CA, CL, D, DA, DT, ET, FF, H, LA, LF, MC, MH, MS, OL, SS, TS
The Dunloe Centre
 St Saviour's Priory, Dunloe Street, E2
 020 7739 9976/020 7613 3232
 Tues: 10.30am–12.30pm
 CL, FF
Earls Court Community Project
 (ECCP)
 St. Jude's Church, 24 Colling-ham Road, London, SW5 0LX
 020 7370 4424
 Mon & Wed: 2 – 4pm
 CL, FF
Finsbury Park
Street Drinkers Initiative
 See Whitaker Centre
Hackney 180 First Contact & Advice (Thames Reach)
 Hackney Methodist Church
 219 Mare St, E5
 0208 985 6707
 Mon–Thurs: 8am–9.30am
 (breakfast club)
Hanbury Community Project (SCT)
 Details of their changes have been confirmed, and they're now called the New Hanbury Project, and listed under **Employment & Training**
The Haven Club
 At the Holy Cross Centre
 (See below)
 Mon: 6pm–10pm
 For self-treating drug & alcohol users: no using on day or no entry
Holy Cross Centre
 The Crypt, Holy Cross Church
 020 7278 8687
 Mon: 2pm–5pm; Tues: 6–9pm; (ticket required) Thurs: 5–8pm (Italian speakers session); Fri: 12 noon–3pm (refugees and asylum seekers session).
 AC, FF, H, IT, LA, LF, MH, P

Homeless Action in Barnet (HAB)

36B Woodhouse Road, N12 0RG
 020 8446 8400
 Mon – Fri: 12noon – 3pm (drop in); Mon, Tues & Thurs: 9am – 12noon (rough sleepers only); Wed: 9am – 12noon (women's group)
 AD, BA, BS, CL, F, H, L, TS
London Jesus Centre
 83 Margaret St, W1W 8TB
 0845 8333005
 Mon – Fri: 10am – 12.30pm
 BS, CL, F, IT, L, SK
Manna Day Centre
 6 Mellor St, SE1
 020 7403 1931
 Every day: 8.30am–1.30pm
 AS, BA, BS, BE, CL, DT, FF, FC, H, MH, MS, OL, TS
New Cross 999 Club
 All Saints, Monson Rd, SE14
 020 7732 0209
 Mon–Fri: 10am–5pm
 AD, ET, FF, L, LA
New Horizon Youth Centre (16 – 21 year olds)
 68 Chilton Street, NW1 1JR
 • Due to reopen in January 2010
North London Action for the Homeless (NLAH)
 St Paul's Church Hall, Stoke Newington Rd, N16 7UE
 (Entrance on Evering Road)
 020 8802 1600
 Mon: 12noon–1.30pm; and Wed: 7–8.30pm
 BA, BS, CL, FF
Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church
 see Sanktus
The Passage (25+)
 St Vincent's Centre, Carlisle Place, SW1P
 020 7592 1850
 Mon–Fri: 8am–12pm (for rough sleepers); 12–2pm (Lunch); 2–6pm (appointments); 4.30–6pm (verified rough sleepers – by invitation); Sat–Sun: 9am–12noon.
 A, BA, CA, CL, D, ET, F, FC, H, IT, L, MH, MS, P, TS

The Dellow Centre

82 Wentworth St, Aldgate, E1 7SA
 020 7375 0020
 Mon–Fri: 9.30am–12noon (8.30am for verified rough sleepers) & 1.30–3.30pm (appointments & activities)
 A, AC, BA, BS, C, D, ET, FF, H, IT, L, LA, LS, MH, NE, OL, SK, SH, P
Rochester Row Day Centre
 97 Rochester Row, SW1
 020 7233 9862
 Mon–Fri: 3–3.30pm & 7.30–8pm (post and enquiries); Mon, chap-lain's group (all welcome): 4–5pm; English language class: 6.30–8pm; 7.30–7.45pm (food and drink); Tue, 1–1.15pm & 7.30–7.45pm (food and drink); English language class: 6–8pm; Wed: 1–1.15pm (food and drink); 5.30–8pm (drop in, but collect ticket at 4pm – food, in, but collect ticket at 4pm – food, showers and clothing); Fri: 1 – 1.15pm (food and drink); chaplain's group (all welcome): 3–4pm; film night (register early in the week): 5–8pm; 7.30–7.45pm (food and drink).
 AC, BA, BS, CL, ET, FF, P
Sanktus
 4 Lady Margaret Road, NWS 2XT
 Entrance in Falkland Road
 020 7485 9160
 Mon – Sat: 2 – 3pm; Sun: 3 – 4pm
 BS, CL, FF, H
Shoreditch Community Project (SCT)
 St Leonard's Church
 Shoreditch High St, E1
 020 7613 3232
 Mon & Wed: 9.30am–12.30pm; Tues: 2–4pm
 FF, BA, OL, P
Simon Community
 129 Malden Rd, Kentish Town, NWS 4HS
 020 7485 6639
 Mon: 11am–3.30pm; Wed: 11am–5pm; Thursday: 11am–6pm
 AS, B, BA, BS, BE, CL, C, FF, H, IT, L, LS, OB, P
Southwark Salvation Army
 1 Princess Street, SE1 6HH
 020 7928 7136

London Irish Centre
50-52 Camden Sq, NW1 9XB
020 7916 2222
Ring for service times
A, BA, C, CL, D, ET, H, MC

No 10 - Care Advice Service
10 Princess St
Oxford Circus, W1C 2DJ
020 7629 5424
Wed: 6.30pm-8pm (drop in - 18+)
BA, C, CA, ET, H

Notre Dame Refugee Centre
5 Leicester Pl, WC2H 7BX
020 7434 1619
Mon and Thurs: 11am-4pm
(drop-in) Service for French-spea-
ing refugees and asylum seekers
BA, C, CA, FF, H

ScottsCare & Borderline (for Scots

in London)
37 King St, Covent
Garden, WC2E 8JS
Call the helpline on 0800 6522 989
BA, CA, H, B, P, TS
Borderline (for Scots):
Mon-Fri: 09.30am-12.30pm
Thurs: 2-4pm (walk in)
(appointments): Mon, Tue,
0800 174 047 (Freephone)
dutyworker@scotscare.com
A, BA, C, CL, D, H, MH, P

St Giles Trust
64 Camberwell Church St, SE5 8JB
020 7703 7000
Mon-Fri: 9.30am-12.30pm
A, BA, BS, D, ET, H, L, MH, MS, P, TS
Women's Link
26 Hanbury St, E1 6QR
0800 652 3167 (ring first)
AS, H

BENEFITS AGENCY See Jobcentre Plus

DAY CENTRES AND DROP-INS

Age of Clubs (16+)
St Alphonsus Rd, Clapham, SW4 7AS
020 7622 3196
Mon-Fri: 12noon-5pm;
Sat & Sun: 12noon-2pm
BS, DT, F, FC, H, IT, L, MS, OB, P

Church Army (women)
1-5 Cosway St, NW1
020 7262 3818
Mon-Thurs: 9.30am-12pm

Chelsea Methodist Church
155a Kings Road, SW3 5TX
020 7352 9305
Mon: 9am-3.30pm; Tues & Thurs:
8.30am-3.30pm (last laundry
at 1pm); Fri: 9.30am-2pm
F, L, P

Bromley 999 Club
424 Downham Way,
Downham, BR1 5HR
020 8698 9403
Mon-Fri: 10am-5pm
AD, L, FF

Broadway Day Centre
Market Lane, Shepherds Bush, W12
020 8735 5810
Mon-Fri: 10am - 1pm (drop-
in); 2 - 4pm (Appointments)
AD, A, BA, BS, CL, DA, D, ET, F, FC, H,
IT, L, LA, MS, MH, ML, P, SK, SH, TS

Chislewood Homeless Concern
60 Ashford Road, NW2 6TU
020 8208 8590
info@chc-mail.org
Homeless drop-in: 28a Fortunegate
Rd, Craven Park, NW10 9RE
Tues & Fri: 10am-2.30pm;
Wed & Thurs: 12.30-2.30pm
Mental health drop-in: in flat
above St Gabriel's Hall
77 Chichele Rd, Crickle-
wood, NW2 3AQ
Tues-Fri: 10am-12 noon.
AC, BA, BS, H, IT, L, MS, OL

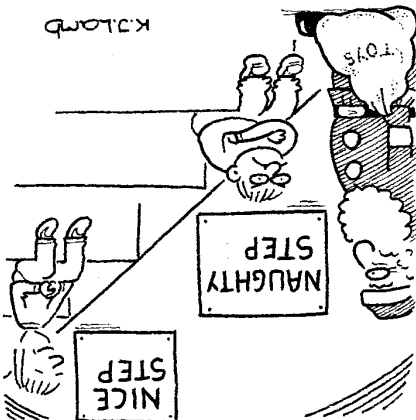
Croydon Resource Centre
70a Wellesley Rd, Croydon, CR0 2AR
020 8686 1222
Mon-Fri: 10am-3pm
AS, BA, CA, CL, ET, F, IT, LA

The Connection at St Martin's
12 Adelaide St, WC2
020 7766 5544
Mon-Fri: 9am-12.30pm (12pm
Wed). Various afternoon sessions
from 1pm (except Wed). Weekends:
9am-1pm (no entry after 10.30am).
There are also drop-in sessions on
Tues & Thurs 4.30pm-7.30pm.
A, AC, BA, BS, CA, CL, D, ET, F, FC,
H, IT, MC, MH, MS, OB, P, SK, SS

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

Women only

(advice): 12pm-3.30pm (drop-in);
12 noon-1pm (sandwiches).
H, IT, L, LA, LF, MC, P
AC, BA, BS, CA, CL, C, ET, FF,



the List

The directory of London's homeless services Updated 1st December 2009

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

Email changes and suggestions to:
thelist@thepavement.org.uk
Or write to our address on page 3
Updated entries: 12
Services added: 3

ADVICE SERVICES

Advisory Service for Squatters
Angel Alley, 84b Whitechapel High Street, E1 7QX
0203 216 0099 (cheaper to call 0845 644 5814 from land lines)
outside London)
www.squatter.org.uk

Alone in London (16–25 years)
Unit 6, 48 Provost Street,
London, N1 7SU
020 7278 4224

Mon–Fri: 9am – 1pm and 2pm
– 4pm; Note – advice by appointment only on Tuesday.

Borderline (for Scots)
See **ScotsCare**
Bridge Resource Centre
Bridge Close, Kingsdown Close, W10 6TW
0208 960 6798
CA, ET, IT,
The Caravan Drop-In
St James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, W1
Open daily: Sat – Mon, 10am – 7pm; Tues – Fri: 11am – 7pm
A friendly ear to listen, with some access to counselling

CHAS (Central London)
19–20 Shroton St, NW1 6UG
020 7723 5928
By appointment only
BA, DA, H
Depaul UK (young people)
291–299 Borough High Street, SE1 1JG
020 7939 1220 (central office)
www.depauluk.org
HOPE worldwide / Two Step
360 City Road, EC1V 2PY
020 7713 7655
Mon–Fri 10am–4pm
(appointments only)
AS, H, TS, P
KCAH
36a Fife Rd, KT1 1SU
020 8255 2439
BA, FF, H