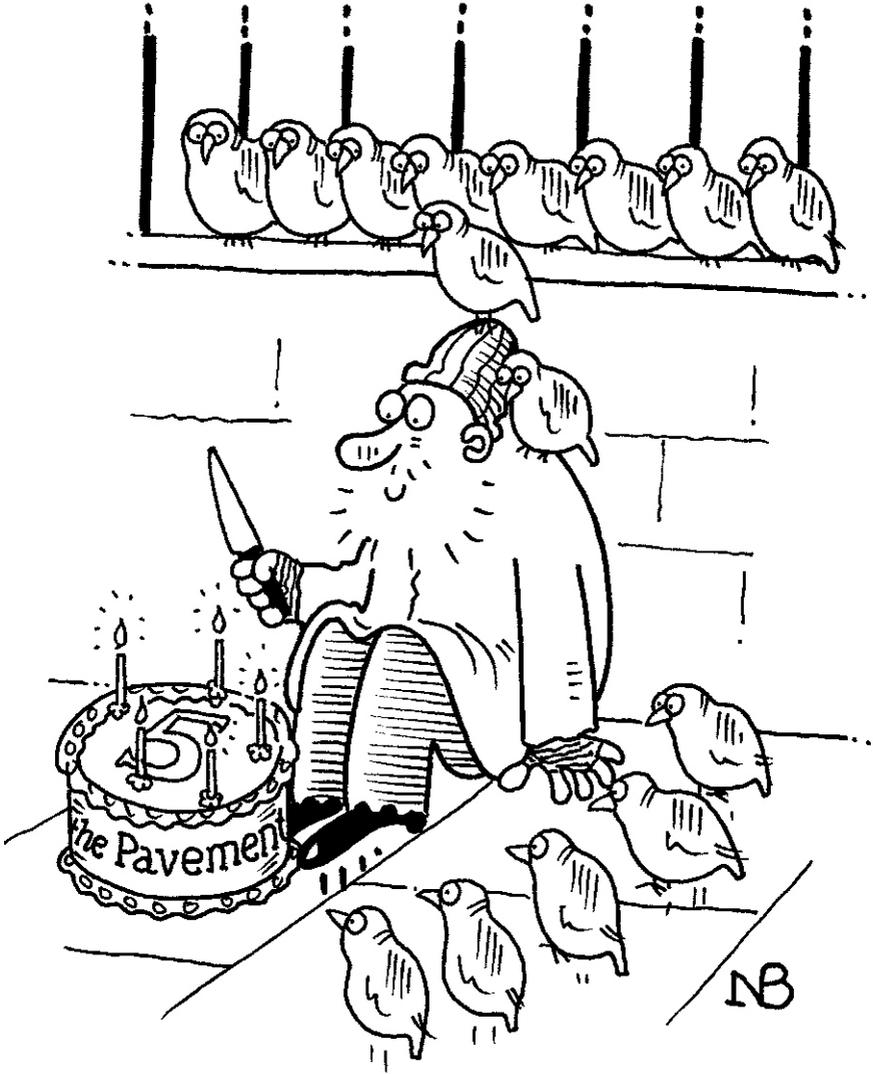


the Pavement

The *FREE* monthly for London's homeless

April 2010





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PO Box 60385

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WC1A 9BH

Telephone: **020 7833 0050**

E-mail: **office@thepavement.org.uk**

Editor

Richard Burdett

Sub Editor / Web Editor

Val Stevenson

News Editor

Catherine Neilan

Reporters

John Ashmore, Liza Edwards, Rebecca Evans, Theodore Kermeliotis, Tracey Kindle, Jim O'Reilly Carinya Sharples, Katy Taylor, Rebecca Wearn

Photographers

Rufus Exton, Jenny Hägglov Benjamin, Katie Hyams, Hugh O'Malley

Contributors

Agnes, Flo, Toe Slayer, Evelyn Weir

Cartoonists

Nick Baker, Neil Bennett, Cluff, Pete Dredge, Kathryn Lamb, Ed McLachlan, Ken Pyne, Steve Way, Mike Williams

Comic Artist

Mike Donaldson

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The Editor

We are five

Happy birthday to *The Pavement*. It's been five years since this news organ started with fewer than 1,000 copies of an A4 magazine. Its eight pages opened with Westminster City Council's move to building-based services. The magazine's format, content and distribution have changed a lot in that time; but although we no longer have a crossword or 'homeless hobbies', some of the stories about the wetting of bedding-down sites remain in the news.

The greatest change in this time is our size: we now publish 6,500 copies a month. With no statutory funding, we've grown outside London. Our sister edition is distributed in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow, and we will be launching a West Midlands edition within six months.

And celebrating our fifth birthday isn't a pat on the back for us, but more a thank you to all our backers, however you support us, whether it's by (in no particular order) donating, volunteering, or writing letters telling us to keep going. That's why we've survived.

For a touch of nostalgia go to the website and read Issue One online: www.thepavement.org.uk/downloads/pavement_01.pdf

Many happy returns – now read this birthday issue!

Richard Burdett

Editor

editor@thepavement.org.uk

twitter.com/ThePavementMag

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Pavement Pete reading his birthday card (singular).

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Letters

Your news, views and comment

Obituary

If you think London has been a bit quieter in recent weeks, it may be because it sadly lost one of its characters. David Binger, who achieved long-awaited stardom as Drax alongside Annabel Croft in *BBC's Filthy Rich and Homeless*, passed away in the first week of March.

You might have met David performing on Embankment or in Convent Garden, or having a relaxing beverage in a park. If you had the pleasure, he will have left a lasting impression.

As of yet, there is no news on a service; however, David had been living in a hostel in Victoria, so you may want to contact them.

If there is an afterlife, it just got livelier. Rest in peace, David.

Matt

full name supplied
By email

Matt,

Thank you for letting us know. We've confirm this with South-wark Coroners, who recorded his death on 3 March.

Editor

Hospital discharge revisited

I read with interest and some alarm about the discharge of Harry Dixon from Guy's and St Thomas's NHS Foundation Trust. ('Still a big problem', *The Pavement*, March issue)

When I was rough-sleeping in the Westminster area a few years

back, I had the misfortune of eating a dodgy chicken meal. The following morning, I woke up with a strong feeling of nausea and a very urgent need to get to a public convenience. Throughout that day I could not wander too far from the public toilets in Covent Garden because I had acute diarrhoea. That evening I was very faint and dizzy, so I went to the A&E department of St Thomas's hospital and was told that I was suffering from dehydration.

I was put onto a drip feed and kept in a curtained cubicle in the A&E department for four hours. I was vomiting violently and constantly going to the toilet (dragging the drip feed with me.) A ward nurse who was concerned about my high temperature summoned a doctor, who commented on how much I was sweating, but no further action was taken.

A few minutes after midnight, I was told by yet another doctor that I could go. I explained that I was street homeless and needed to be near a toilet because the diarrhoea was still raging, although the vomiting had ceased. The doctor told me that the hospital needed the cubicle for other patients and insisted that I vacate it immediately.

Walking towards the hospital exit and feeling very weak, I realised I needed to use the toilet again. Many of the corridors in the hospital were dark, as the lights had been turned off, and I found a toilet in one of those darkened corridors. After using the toilet and vomiting again, I collapsed to the floor. At about 7.30am, an abrupt cleaner found me and told me to leave, which I did. Although I was feeling very ill, I didn't feel that I had the strength to explain or argue.

No effort was made during

my time at the hospital to treat me for the diarrhoea, I felt much worse after my discharge than what I had when I went to the hospital a few hours earlier. It took two or three days before I was feeling well enough to venture away from the 24-hour toilets in the Covent Garden area.

Michael

full name supplied
By email

Michael,

Thank you for your letter, and we'll keep an eye on this ongoing story. We are sure this will occur again and again, until it's regulated by something stronger than guidelines.

Editor

Soup run-in with the law

I don't apologise for taking the issue of homelessness personally. As founder of a UK-registered charity which has engaged homeless and vulnerable people in the Victoria area for over two and a half years, I have witnessed positive and meaningful results, such as housing nine homeless people within the last six months and working in partnership with King George Hostel, a building-based service that sings from the same songsheet.

I am aggrieved by the rhetoric about the supposed 'ineffectiveness' of the soup runs that have been operating in the Victoria area for decades. It sets my teeth on edge, especially when espoused by professionals and community leaders whose only knowledge of the homeless is from an armchair.

In the minutes of the last Soup



Run Forum, I stumbled upon a sickly phrase used by a tenants association near Westminster Cathedral: compassion fatigue. Come on! What these cute words imply is: compassion for the homeless can go somewhere else as we are fatigued by the blight of their presence and by the Soup Runs that operate in our neck of the woods.

Streetlytes will adhere to what we do. There are ramifications to opposing these powerful and affluent individuals, and we clearly see the elephant in room. Our last street outreach at Howick Place will be Saturday, 20 March, even though at present we are within our legal rights to be there. Streetlytes will not put any homeless or vulnerable person in jeopardy of being given a dispersal order or an ASBO, so we will be doing outreach in another location.

Streetlytes is here for the long haul and we will continue to make a profound and meaningful difference in the lives of the. I have copied in all concerned as I believe in transparency – and in letting this issue consume its own oxygen and move toward the lyte.

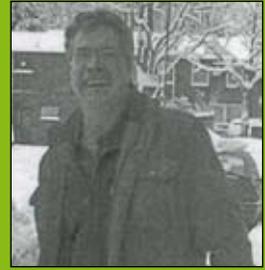
Rudi Richardson
CEO
Streetlytes-UK

Rudi,
We're looking into the legal use of 'dispersal notices', which Sergeant Richard Bunch, of Westminster Safer Neighbourhoods Team, mentioned at the latest Soup Run Forum.

In the minutes, dated 8 March, he was recorded as saying that he had recently served 12 dispersal notices. We've looked into these on page 9 (*In the zone*). We thought that the dispersal zone that was in affect around Westminster Cathedral had expired, but it appears to have remained in force.

Dispersal zones should be a worry to our readership. Although they are in place ostensibly to prevent antisocial behaviour, they can be used to move on rough sleepers. We'd like to map their use across the capital in a future issue. Because they are put in place by local authorities, we're worried that their coverage across London may be quite extensive without anyone realising it. An illustration of their individual size is a dispersal zone that was running in the City until December (pictured above).

Editor



John Hess

Age at disappearance: 49

John has been missing from Wandsworth, London since 16 August 2009.

There is great concern for John as his disappearance is out of character. John is urged to call our confidential service **Message Home on Freefone 0800 700 740** for advice and support.

John is 6ft 2in tall, with grey wavy hair and a grey moustache.

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

missing people

Reg. Charity No. 1020115

Rough count

The Pavement did its own 'street count' using a calculator and a telephone

According to government statistics, there were **464** rough sleepers in England in 2009. But how does this figure compare to the number of rough sleepers counted by cold weather shelters? *The Pavement* decided to find out.

The figure of 464 was quoted by Dudley North MP Ian Austin, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Housing, in response to a written question from Slough MP Fiona Mactaggart. It is based on local authority street counts. Official figures from the same period – June 2009 – claim that **263** of these were in London and, of these, **110** were in Westminster.

To provide a comparison, *The Pavement* contacted every cold weather shelter in London, using Homeless Link's Winter Shelters 2009-2010 list. We asked each how many people stayed there on the night of 13 January 2010.

Cold weather shelters, as readers will know, provide temporary shelter to rough sleepers during extreme winter weather. By finding out how many people stayed in every winter shelter in London on one night, we can get an idea of how many people would have otherwise been on the streets.

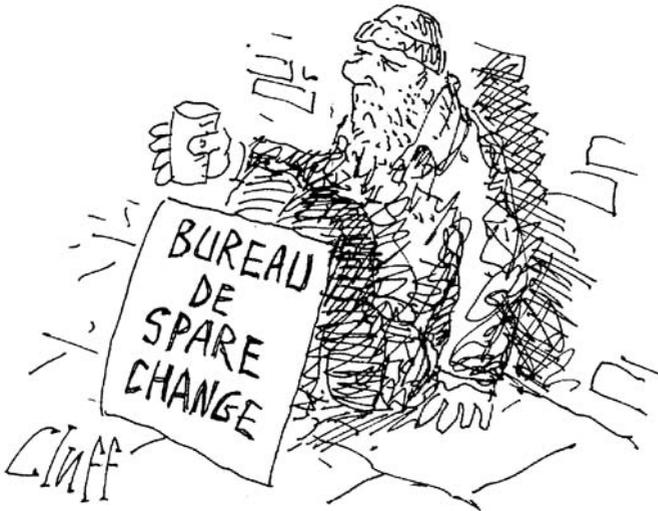
Here are the results:

- Barnet Churches Winter Shelter: **14**
- Community of Camden Churches Cold Weather Shelter: **14**
- Croydon Churches Floating Shelter: **14**
- Hackney Winter Night Shelter: **25**
- West London Churches Night Shelter: **49**
- Haringey Churches Winter Shelter: **12**
- Caris Islington Churches Cold Weather Shelter: **16**
- Kingston Winter Night Shelter: **13**
- The Robes Project: **13**
- Bromley Winter Shelter: **14**
- St Mungo's Severe Weather Emergency Provision in London: **114**
- 999 Club Winter Shelter: **17**
- Route 18 Winter Shelter: **6**
- Hillingdon Winter Shelter: **3**
- Waltham Forest Emergency Churches Night Shelter: **24**

The total is **348**; a massive **75** per cent of the government's estimate for the amount of rough sleepers in England, and nearly **100** more than the official figure for London. If we subtract our London total from the government's total for England, we are left with just **116** as an approximate figure for the number of rough sleepers in England outside of London.

Even allowing for the general fluctuating nature of rough sleeper statistics and differences in date, it suggests there are more rough sleepers than government statistics suggest.

This is a story we'll be following up, and getting an official response to, for next month. As we go to press the Simon Community, Housing Justice and the Sock Mob will be conducting a street count prior to the official count.



Carinya Sharples

ANTHRAX IS KILLING HEROIN USERS



EARLY TREATMENT CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

Anthrax is a bug that has got into batches of heroin in Scotland and England.

Anthrax is causing life-threatening infections.

You can get anthrax if you inject, smoke or inhale your heroin.

Typical signs of anthrax can include:

- lots of swelling and redness where you injected
- a fever and headache, or
- feeling ill and finding it hard to breathe.

If you think you have anthrax, immediately go to your nearest hospital emergency department and tell them.

To get advice or to get help to treat drug addiction contact:

0845 122 8608

between 10am - 5pm weekdays (except public holidays).

Adapted from information produced by Scottish Drugs Forum in association with Health Protection Scotland

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In the zone

Dispersal zones are in use across London, but should they worry you?

Rough sleepers are being issued dispersal notices or Asbos when they congregate within Westminster's Cathedral dispersal zone, despite the borough council previously claiming "aggressive" tactics would not be used.

At a recent meeting of the London Soup Run Forum, Sergeant Richard Bunch, of the Metropolitan Police, said Howick Place near Victoria station was "a problem, with people sleeping there after food is given out." The sergeant said that after coming under increasing pressure from a local residents' group, he had recently served 12 dispersal notices to rough sleepers around Westminster Cathedral Square.

The Pavement reported in last June's issue that Westminster council denied it was attempting

to drive rough sleepers away from the cathedral area, saying in a statement: "The Cathedral Piazza is a world-class square, and the Draft Action Plan is aimed at ensuring this is recognised. We have no plans to target rough sleepers in the area in an aggressive way."

Yet on the evidence of recent weeks, rough sleepers who congregate around the cathedral are regularly being given dispersal orders or Asbos.

PC Lee Robinson, an officer from one of Westminster's Safer Neighbourhood Teams, told *The Pavement* that the dispersal zone was operating around the square/piazza and had been in force since before Christmas. He stressed that the dispersal zone was only in operation against those rough sleepers

behaving anti-socially, however.

"People can still come and go around the cathedral, but if they're drinking alcohol they can be dispersed," he said. "Depending on the evidence, we can issue Asbos, but we have no intention of interfering with soup kitchens," said PC Robinson.

Nonetheless, the evidence of those running soup kitchens in the area tends to contradict statements from the police and council. Rudi Richardson, director of soup run charity Streetlytes, said some rough sleepers were being dispersed from the square whether they were drinking alcohol or not. "A couple of the people we engaged weren't doing anything, and hadn't been drinking," he said. "There are two sides to every story. Police come up simply because they're congregating. If one person is drinking and four people aren't, the whole group gets moved on anyway. It's 'birds of a feather flock together' syndrome."

Mr Richardson added: "They don't want us there, and they'll do anything to get rid of us."

The Pavement will continue to monitor the use of dispersal zones in Westminster and across London over the next few months, concerned that they can be used to target those on the street.

James O'Reilly

<< We're already talking to Tamsin Fulton, who has worked on mapping dispersal zones in the past. She also designed this DZ symbol (left), which we'll be using in our campaign to plot the spread and use of zones.





News in brief

What's happening where, when and to whom?

Services under threat from funding cuts

Homeless services are under threat as local authorities struggle with the fall-out from the recession.

A recent survey carried out by the BBC found that one in 10 council workers – out of a total workforce of three million – could lose their jobs due to cut-backs, with seven out of 10 local authorities planning to cut spending by between five and 20 per cent.

Trade unions have condemned the threatened cuts and blamed the Conservatives, who currently control most councils. The GMB said direct services, including homeless hostels, were already being cut, but the new warnings would “totally devastate” services to communities.

National officer Brian Strutton said: “Conservative-run local government has already started cutting services by closing community centres and homeless hostels, selling off care homes for the elderly and cutting bin collections. They simply do not care about providing services to the less well off and more vulnerable members of society.”

Cuts to homeless services are already being seen across the country.

In Coventry, 1,000 families were turned down for help in the past year by the City Council after being made homeless during the recession.

Yet a recent cost-cutting shake-up of homelessness services has seen the loss of two key services provided by charity Coventry Cyrenians that helped nearly 3,000 people a year. Its emergency accommodation service has lost its council

funding. So, too, has its outreach service supporting those facing eviction; it suffered a £750,000 cut in its budget of £2.2m.

Mike Fowler, Cyrenians' chief executive, said: “Without our emergency accommodation service and support and advice, rough sleeping is likely to rise.”

In Birmingham, £24m-worth of cuts are being made to services including the Citizen's Advice Bureau and Birmingham Young Homeless.

But the Local Government Association (LGA) said councils had been hit by a “perfect storm” and had little choice but to shed jobs.

Rebecca Evans

Grand alliance

National charity Crisis has formed a ‘strategic alliance’ with London's largest homeless charity, St Mungo's, the aim being to “deliver on the commitments to end rough sleeping by 2012” and coordinate their services, especially emergency shelter provision. This is not a merger.

Staff

Two arrested for arson, concealing body

Two men have been arrested on suspicion of committing arson and concealing a body after the remains of rough sleeper Stephen Lawlor, 49, were found in a garage in South Yorkshire.

The men, aged 23 and 40, are suspected of causing the fire at

Broom Road, Rotherham, on 9 February and have been released on bail pending further enquiries. It is not believed that the fire caused the death, however.

Andy Strelczenie, the station manager at Aston Park fire station, said: “It wasn't until the crews were inside the garage turning over the hot debris that they came across Stephen. I believe he had been in there for some time and it wasn't actually the fire that caused his death. It looked like he'd been using it not necessarily to live in but he had definitely been in and out of that garage.”

“I was talking to some of the police community support officers and he was a regular around the Rotherham area who some older people and police knew, though they had not seen him for some time.”

Liza Edwards

‘Preventable’ hostel evictions still taking place

Hostels across London are still making evictions “that could be prevented” despite some rise in standards, according to a new report commissioned by the charity Homeless Link.

A total of 14 hostels and two day centres in the capital were examined for the study, using data commissioned by homeless database Chain. It found that despite falling levels of abandonment from hostels, clients were twice as likely to be evicted for their behaviour as for rent arrears.

The Chain investigation suggested that “there has been an

increase in substance misuse needs and resulting chaotic behaviour over this time, which may have impacted on eviction rates”.

Lisa Reed, Homeless Link’s head of innovation and good practice, told *The Pavement* that though the report had identified rent arrears, addiction and abandonment as the main causes for evictions, “staff training is an important factor”.

She said: “It can be a case of whether staff or managers saw it as their job to help people.”

The report found that “clients wanted staff who visibly respected and cared about them and had the skills to offer the level of support they needed. At a number of hostels, clients were dissatisfied with staff.”

Ms Reed was unable to reveal which hostels were the best and worst performers, but was keen to stress that the report uncovered a great deal of good practice alongside the negative results.

“We didn’t speak to 14 hostels and find 14 terrible staff performers,” she said. “We found some excellent staff and some hostels that are brilliant performers. I want to emphasise that there is a lot of good news in our findings.”

The report made a number of recommendations to improve practice in London hostels, including making the reduction of evictions “for arrears or behaviour and abandonment a priority across their staff teams.”

The researchers also encouraged hostels to “performance-manage staff”, and “ensure expectations around [service users’] behaviour are realistic”.

Homeless Link argued it would be possible to cut hostel evictions completely through dedication and a combined effort from staff, managers and clients themselves.

James O’Reilly

The Lodge

The charity St Mungo’s and The City of London Corporation opened The Lodge at St Ursula’s in March, offering B&B-style accommodation.

The purpose of The Lodge (pictured opposite page) is to provide 40 beds for long-term rough sleepers from the streets of the City, giving its older residents more independence. Although B&B-style, you can’t just turn up; referrals are by outreach worker.

We hope a resident will contact us with a ‘review’ soon.

Staff

Do not feed the people... in Miami, Florida

In the US, Miami’s local council, the Miami City Commission, will consider a proposal next month that could prevent untrained people from giving food to rough sleepers.

The measure is intended to cut down on litter and ensure the safety of the food eaten by homeless people, *FoxNews.com* has reported.

According to David Karsh, a spokesman for the Miami Downtown Development Authority, an independent public agency supporting the proposal, local people are complaining about the mess left by rough sleepers.

He says: “The business owners and residents in the area are complaining that there’s just an incredible mess in the area once the group leaves...it really is an immense mess that’s left behind.”

The rule wouldn’t prevent those who wanted to feed local homeless people from doing so, but they would have to be trained first, meaning members of the public could not simply give up part of their lunch to help someone they met on the street.

If the rule is accepted, anybody

who breaks it would receive first a warning and then fines of up to \$300 (£200) for further offences.

Karsh said: “The ordinance is not by any means meant to discourage people from feeding homeless people... Anybody can do it.” He went on to say that homeless advocacy groups support the measure.

However, Benjamin Burton, executive director for the Miami Coalition for the Homeless, opposed the move, saying it could “lead to [the] criminalising of the poor, working poor and homeless, or those who seek to provide vital assistance during these dire economic times”.

He added: “These ordinances do nothing to address the systemic underlying causes of poverty and homelessness in Miami.”

Tracey Kiddle

Rough sleepers urged to vote

The Electoral Commission is reminding homeless people that they can vote at the next general election, even if they do not have a permanent address.

The Commission, the independent elections watchdog, has teamed up with umbrella organisation Homeless Link to publicise the voting rights of homeless people via the internet and by placing posters in shelters, hostels and B&Bs.

Peter Wardle, chief executive of the Electoral Commission, said: “People eligible to vote who are living in temporary accommodation may not realise that they can still register and vote using their temporary address.

“By displaying this poster and providing a point of contact, accommodation managers can encourage those who are often disconnected from society to have their say.”

Homeless people can register to vote in the general election



Photography by Jules Beresford © 2010



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 ★

– expected to take place on 6 May – by contacting their local Electoral Registration Office and giving their temporary address.

Those with no fixed address can complete a ‘declaration of local connection’ form, also available from their local Electoral Registration Office, which asks where they might have lived in the past or the address of a day centre they attend.

Homeless Link chief executive Jenny Edwards said: “We believe it is crucial that those who are experiencing homelessness use their political voice to influence the environment in which they live and the services they use.”

She added: “We welcome the recognition of the importance of homeless people’s votes and are working to increase awareness of voter registration procedures. Homeless Link believes that 2010 is an opportunity to raise homelessness on the political agenda and highlight the importance of the excellent work taking place in the sector.

“We are providing support and advice to our members in the run up to the election and are working with local and national government to ensure that the issue of homelessness is visible and recognised at this important time.”

To find out more, visit www.homeless.org.uk or find the address of your nearest Electoral Registration Office at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk.

Rebecca Evans

Empty homes, but not empty promises

The scramble to win the hearts of housing campaigners ahead of the election has begun.

There have been no fewer than 18 major announcements on housing policy from the main

political parties in the last year. This compares with none at all in the two years previously, meaning that housing is firmly on the agenda.

“The current housing policy is bust,” said David Ireland, chief executive of Empty Homes Agency, a charity working to bring empty properties back into use. “It’s obvious that it no longer works and the target of three million new homes is pie in the sky.”

With the current system of grant allocation, it is cheaper to build new houses than it is to renovate empty ones, a situation which is increasingly problematic, since the recession has caused a rapid increase in repossessions

“Approaches to housing have been based upon a thriving market and making a section of new-build affordable. Although the market has crashed, the system is still in place,” explained Mr Ireland.

The rush to announce solutions began with the Conservatives Empty Homes Rescue Scheme last February, which would see a relaxation of the grant system so that housing associations might more readily favour renovation over new-build. This year, the Liberal Democrats committed to invest £1.4bn to bring 250,000 empty homes back into use should they win power.

“Whoever gets in, they’re facing the same problems,” Mr Ireland added. “For quite a long while, politicians have not seen housing as something they needed to comment on, but I get the sense now they feel it’s something they will have to deliver on.”

Spurred into late action, Labour last month responded to opposition pledges with the promise of £1m to help councils in 17 local authority areas bring empty homes back into use. This is coupled with a training program to equip 10,000 front-line workers with skills to tackle the anti-social behaviour that often is associated with empty properties.

Although not quite the sums

promised by other parties, Labour’s aim is different, and along action lines the Empty Homes Agency have been advocating.

“It takes quite specialist skill to bring housing back into use,” Mr Ireland explained. “You can have all the resources in the world to do it, but if people don’t really understand the process, then they can’t really tackle the problem.”

He is clear that whichever party approaches this task, they will have little choice but to shift the focus to bring empty properties back into family life.

Of the three main parties, Mr Ireland judges the Liberal Democrat approach as the most far-reaching, arguing that it is more tempered, and the party may have a real stab at some parliamentary power in the case of a hung parliament.

A combination of all three political approaches would see the best results, but given the determination of each to blame the other for the current mess, collaboration seems unlikely.

“We may end up with nothing,” Mr Ireland concluded.

Katy Taylor

Oxford move-ons

Rough sleepers have been moved on in east Oxford, the local authority announced on 10 March. As has been common in recent years across much of the UK, it was a joint outreach/police operation.

The site of a Victorian rubbish tip on the banks of the River Cherwell and River Thames has been used by a group of homeless for several months. City council spokesman Louisa Dean said: “We are aware that a number of rough sleepers at Aston’s Eyot have moved from the site.”

She added: “The Street Services Team and Thames Valley Police continue to work closely with all

these people and to date a further two have been accommodated."

Staff

Chinese blogger saves 14 from streets

A blogger in China has used the power of the internet to save 14 disabled people from sleeping rough on the streets of Beijing.

Newswire service *AFP* reported how Zhang Shihe, 57, wrote about the appalling conditions of those living on the capital's streets on his Chinese-language blog, 24 Hours Online. Generous donations from all over China came flooding in, and they have now been housed.

Mr Zhang took to the streets to blog about ordinary people in 2007 after retiring from his job as an advertising executive. He soon uncovered grim stories of the people forgotten by China's economic boom who flock to the capital in search of work, but find themselves without anywhere to sleep.

Many sleep on the pavement in sub-zero temperatures, unwilling to go to homeless shelters for fear they will be forcibly returned home, while others have described the shelters as 'prisons' and have reported being beaten by the 'guards'.

Mr Zhang previously led campaigns to raise money for the victims of the major earthquake in Sichuan province two years ago, among others.

Liza Edwards

NLAH funding cut

Cuts by Hackney Council, in North London, have forced the redundancy of the advice worker at North London Action for the Homeless (NLAH).

An 80-signature petition

from those using the day centre was given to local councillor Nargis Khan (Labour), protesting the cuts to services.

"There are many vulnerable people in this small part of the world who will find it hard to access the same professional level of service that our advice worker offers," Mike Tomes, manager of NLAH, told *The Pavement*. "The advantage of our service is that there are no long queues, everyone is seen on the same session, and people found the service personal and safe."

Staff

East End strategy

A new homeless strategy has been launched in East London involving an alliance of eight local boroughs.

No-One Left Out, an initiative by the East London Housing Partnership (ELHP), has been given the responsibility for tackling and preventing homelessness across the region.

ELHP – which comprises the local authorities Barking and Dagenham, the Corporation of London, Hackney, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest – has been developed on the principle that a "greater impact on improving the outcomes for homeless people" can be achieved by the boroughs working together, "sharing good practice, supporting each other and developing innovative solutions to joint problems."

ELHP chair Cllr Marie Pye said: "This multi-agency collaboration was inspired by the recognition that behind the statistics are real people, who at this moment in their lives need support to move off the streets, to rebuild their lives and move on from their experience of homelessness."

The strategy aims to reduce rough sleeping, prevent home-

lessness, minimise homelessness through domestic violence and understand the "potential impact of the 2012 Olympics on homelessness".

Tactics they will use include consultations with other agencies such as Homeless Link and awareness-raising events.

ELHP's research says that East London has the highest need for housing in the capital, with some of the largest housing registers in the country, and that the most common causes of homelessness are "loss of last settled home due to parents or friends no longer willing to accommodate, end of a short-hold tenancy, domestic violence, mortgage arrears, violence or harassment, non-violent breakdown of relationship, loss of rented accommodation or leaving an institution."

It also says that some of the most successful homelessness prevention measures in the area are home visits to those at risk of homelessness, supported housing projects and sanctuary for domestic violence victims.

Rebecca Evans

London Refuge threatened with closure

March has seen the threatened closure of one of the only hostels offering shelter to very young runaways.

The six-bed London Refuge, one of the few places in the UK that offers beds to under 16s, is threatened with closure after funding from the NSPCC and local authorities was cut.

However, coverage of the imminent closure has been strong in the mainstream media, including Radio Four's Today Programme, so we'll watch to see if can be saved.

Staff

Bay Watch

In the home of film stars and stuntmen, authorities have been taking more dramatic measures to combat homelessness.

Almost 50 people were arrested by police on horseback or on sports vehicles in Venice Beach, Los Angeles, California. Many of those picked up in the operation were homeless, according to local media and were arrested on warrant or for felony violations, which in US law refers to a crime which is punishable by more than one year in prison.

The sweep was part of an effort to address a recent spike in crime and a rise in the number of rough sleepers on the beach after it closes at midnight, Los Angeles Police Department officials said.

The events were alleged to have taken place on 12 February, according to reports in the LA Times.

The police asked teams of social workers, counsellors and religious representatives, including priests, to meet the people who had been arrested and inform them about available social services, including drug recovery schemes, in the city.

The measures are similar to those adopted closer to home, where *Pavement* readers in London have reported police wake-ups and checks, followed up by homeless centre workers.

Though without horses and beach buggies, Operation Poncho in London has continued to cause controversy both within the rough sleeping community and with human rights groups. But in California, the authorities reported that those who were arrested under the Venice Beach sweep were cooperative.

Sergeant Jeff Merlo, of the LAPD, told the LA Times: "They could go back to the beach, but we're hoping they'll take our offers for services."

As with many official schemes, this seemed to be more an exercise in 'being seen' to be

doing something, rather than an affective solution to a problem.

Police colleague Sergeant Kevin Lowe added: "They handed out pamphlets of information on where to try and get shelter, gave them medical attention, gave them information to try and help them with being homeless. A lot of them don't take our advice, but at least we offer it."

Rebecca Wearn

£900,000 for Homeless to Work Programme

The Mayor of London's office is to spend £900,000 on a new programme aimed at getting rough sleepers back to work.

The scheme is part of a wider Department of Work and Pension's (DWP) 'Back to Work' scheme, the overall budget of which is £15m.

It is not yet clear how the Homeless to Work scheme will function in London, as it is being contracted out to an outside organisation. According to the Mayor's office, the organisation taking on the project will be selected in September.

Leona Janson-Smith, of the



The perils of a 'human statue'

Mayor's housing department, suggests the scheme will differ from others in that it will actively seek out people and offer them services.

She said: "A lot of the other work is about people coming forward to services. We want to target them specifically. It's more proactive – we are trying to reach them. Back to Work [the DWP scheme] is much bigger: people will be assessed, then directed towards services."

However, the Mayor's office will have no control over how the Homeless to Work scheme is run once it begins, as the DWP will make the decision regarding where the contract will go.

John Ashmore

Street Heat: Bon Jovi

Jon Bon Jovi is taking time out of his latest tour to visit shelters and day centre programmes, as part of a "fact-finding mission" for his Soul Foundation, according to the Associated Press.

The charity attempts to fight homelessness by building affordable housing and establishing community kitchens.

The rock star said: "I've spent the last quarter of a century touring, going from arena-stadium to hotel back to arena-stadium-hotel. This time, because of my foundation's work over the last six years building affordable housing, on my days off and when the opportunity arises [...] I will go do shelters and try to learn more about the issue and how to combat it."

Tracey Kiddle

Salvation Army's 'LifeHouses'

The Salvation Army has decided to change the names of all its hostels in the UK to LifeHouses.

The move is designed to rid the services of the stigma associated with the word 'hostel', and to show the charity provides more than just a shelter. All 83 of the charity's hostels will be known as LifeHouses from now on.

Maff Potts, the Salvation Army's Director of Homelessness Services, said it was "a defining moment for the Salvation Army".

He explained: "The word 'hostel' was linked with old-style warehousing of people and didn't convey that there's more to our support services than simply housing."

The rebrand was organised entirely in-house, through consultation with Salvation Army staff and clients. According to the Salvation Army, the service also offers "programmes to improve service users' self-esteem, mental health and employment prospects", and the charity has joined forces with social enterprise organisation Goals UK to provide self-esteem training for clients in all LifeHouses.

Potts added: "LifeHouse clearly demonstrates that we are about providing purpose and relationships. We know that putting a roof over someone's head is useful, but not the solution."

John Ashmore

Tent cities across US

A new report by US charity the National Coalition for the Homeless has revealed the growing number of tent cities across the country.

Tent Cities in America: A Pacific Coast Report examines how the camps have emerged, and the need for affordable

and accessible housing.

As the US continues to react to its biggest financial crisis since the Great Depression, home foreclosures and unemployment continues to rise, with newly homeless families doubling in the past year. Almost half America's 3.5m homeless are unsheltered, with a large number congregating in tent cities for safety. The charity's director Neil Donovan said: "Tent Cities are America's de facto waiting room for affordable and accessible housing."

The report examines the 11 tent cities across the US's west coast, and the charity plans to produce further reports to examine other encampments across the rest of the country.

Across the country, homeless groups and government agencies say they are witnessing the biggest increase in homeless encampments for a generation.

"What you're seeing is encampments that I haven't seen since the '80s," said Paul Boden, executive director of the Western Regional Advocacy Project, an umbrella group of homeless groups in west coast cities.

Amenities in the camps – reminiscent of the 'Hoovervilles' of the Great Depression – are basic, with no mains electricity, no plumbing or no drainage. In Reno, Nevada, the state with the nation's highest repossessions rate, a tent city recently sprung up on the city's outskirts and quickly filled up with about 150 people.

Most tent cities are in California, where you will find more than 200 people living in Tent City in Sacramento, which became infamous after appearing on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*. The site was currently under threat of closure, but others will no doubt spring up.

A map of the tent cities is pictured overleaf on pages 18 & 19.

Rebecca Evans

Thurston County,
Washington

Seattle, Washington (3)

Portland, Oregon

Sacramento,
California

Reno, Nevada

Fresno, California (3)

River Haven,
California

Ontario, California

TENT C
IN THI

TENT CITIES IN THE USA

A map of the United States is drawn on a piece of brown cardboard. The outline of the country is formed by a thick, dark, wavy line. Four blue pushpins are placed on the map to mark specific locations. Each pushpin is connected to a text label by a thin black line. The locations marked are New York, New York; Nashville, Tennessee; East Athens, Georgia; and Pinellas County, Florida.

New York,
New York

Nashville, Tennessee

East Athens,
Georgia

Pinellas County, Florida

The tent cities within the United States of America at the end of 2009 and start of 2010. It includes those: under a city or 'local ordinance'; 'zoned for camping'; with 'temporary approval' or a 'conditional permit'; and those not yet sanctioned.

STREET SHIELD

EPISODE 12

CLOSING TIME

'ERE, DOC, YOU HEAR ABOUT STREET SHIELD?

THE HOMELESS HERO,
THE ECHO CALL HIM.

HONESTLY, YOU
GULLIBLE PAIR OF...





...YOU OUGHTN'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ IN THE PAPERS.



LOOK ALIVE. WE'VE GOT COMPANY.



GOOD WILL HELP THEM!



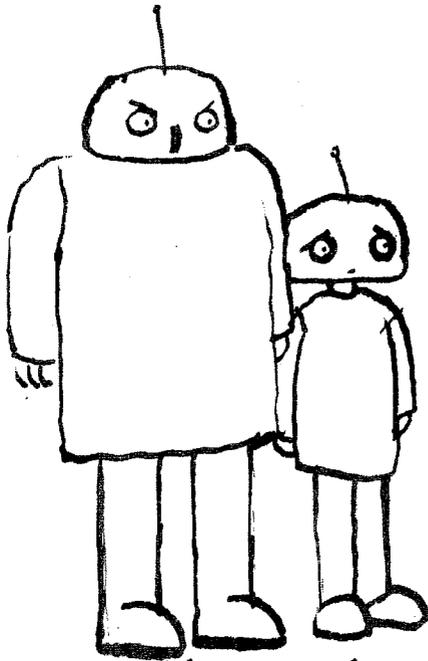
I WANT YOU TO CONSIDER YOUR NEXT MOVE VERY CAREFULLY.



WELL, I BEST START READING THE ECHO AGAIN!

NEXT MONTH

ON THE PROWL!



mike williams



"He's got a Z2-G77/B into trouble"

Health and wellbeing

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

Goodbye Agnes, for a few months

We're sorry to say that Agnes, our agony aunt, is leaving us for a few months. This is due to other commitments, however, we hope she'll be back to answer queries in July. In the meanwhile, we'll be looking for an agony aunt to take her place.

Editor

Dear Nurse Flo on...

Safe sex

Nurse Flo's not messing around this month. I've got some very important points to get across, so I'm not going to mince my words: I'm going to talk about safe sex. Sex is a very nice activity and I don't want to put you off, but there's a downside and I want you to think about making your sex life safer.

Using a condom every time you have sex will protect you from most sexually-transmitted infections (STIs). Some people think abstinence is the answer and they're right – you won't catch an infection if you don't have sex! However, this is not a strategy that's possible or desirable for most of us.

What is a sexually transmitted infection?

A sexually-transmitted infection is passed from one person to another during sex. Sex means vaginal sex between a man and a woman; anal sex between a man

and a woman or two men; oral sex (or blow job); or sexual contact between two women. There are variations on the theme, but you should have the general idea by now! The most common STIs in the UK are chlamydia, genital warts and gonorrhoea. HIV or AIDS have not had the publicity it once had, but they are still with us.

What are the symptoms?

You can't tell by looking at someone if they have an STI, and you can have an infection and no symptoms. Chlamydia can have no symptoms, but can cause infertility if left untreated. In women and men, the most common symptoms of an STI are pain when you pee, and itching, burning or tingling around your genitals (private parts) or anus (bottom). Women should look out for a vaginal discharge that smells, bleeding between periods or after sex, pain during sex and abdominal pain. Men should look out for pain and discharge from the end of the penis.

If you notice any changes to your genital or anal area and you are worried, see a doctor. If you have had sex without using a condom, get tested, even if you have no symptoms.

Condoms

Condoms will protect you from STIs, but you must use one every single time you have vaginal, anal or oral sex. You can get condoms from supermarkets, chemists, garages; you can even get them free from family planning clinics, so there are no excuses for not using them.

If you think you're going to have sex, get condoms beforehand. Bring up contraception before you start to have sex with someone. Using a condom is a sign of respect for yourself and your partner.

If you are a woman who has sex with other women, use a dental dam for oral sex. In the past, it was thought lesbians were not at risk of catching STIs. This is not so. Using latex gloves, hand washing and keeping sex toys clean can all reduce your risk of catching an STI from your partner.

If you think you have an STI you must get tested

Most STIs are easily treated with a course of antibiotics. HIV is still incurable, but modern antiviral treatments can control it. But whatever your treatment option, you have to take the tests to move forward.

You can get tested by your doctor or at your local GUM (genitourinary medicine) clinic. Most people find it embarrassing, but remember: clinic staff have seen it all before – it's just another day at work for them! The relief you will feel after getting cleared or getting treatment will make any embarrassment worthwhile. The tests are quick and painless: you may be asked to give a urine sample, have a swab taken or provide a blood sample. Nurse Flo applauds anyone who goes to get tested, as it shows they take their health seriously.



If you work in the sex industry

If you are a sex worker, then everything I've written above still applies. Get tested regularly and insist your clients use condoms. There are services for sex workers in most areas and Nurse Flo urges you to make contact with them, as they can give you much more detailed advice about keeping safe.

Good Health,

Nurse Flo

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

Footcare on... Athlete's foot

He was always complaining of itching and burning feet – it became a joke amongst his friends and he got little sympathy. It was only when he went to the podiatry clinic that he realised something was wrong. The footmen pointed out his discoloured nails (yellow and brown) were infected with a fungus, and the itchiness and stinging between the toes, accompanied by peeling and frequent bleeding, were symptoms of athlete's foot (tinea). As a diabetic, he was prone to this type of skin irritation; and because of his compromised immune system, he needed help to solve the problem.

Tinea is a highly contagious infection spread by colonies of fungus called *Trichophyton* that thrive on the upper layer of the skin in warm, moist and sweat-prone parts of the body such as the feet, groin, scalp and

beneath the breasts. It spreads by skin-to-skin contact or indirectly through towels, clothes or even floor surfaces, typically in communal showers and locker rooms.

The names of tinea infections are usually determined by the part that is affected: athlete's foot is tinea of the foot (tinea pedis); onychomycosis (tinea unguium) describes tinea of the nails; and Jock itch is tinea of the groin (tinea cruris). There are many other forms.

The good news is most respond well to treatment with antifungal/yeast preparations. Some, however, are more resistant, particularly if there is a poor immune response, in which case people need direct medical care. A simple and painless skin-scraping test at the doctor's surgery will identify the different types of micro-organisms (such as fungus and yeast) responsible for skin infections.

Some people are more prone to fungal skin infections than others. Though the condition is normally

low-key, treatment requires medical monitoring and prescription medications. Antiseptics are not recommended because they work only on bacterial infections: fungal and yeast infections need specific treatments, and you must treat all visible fungus at the same time. Tinea can be very contagious, so if you have a known fungal infection, seek advice and treatment. Antifungal preparations come as powders, paints and creams, and effective treatment depends on using the right one. Nails may need specific care. With all fungal and yeast infections, you must continue application for a least a week after the condition clears up or you may get re-infected.

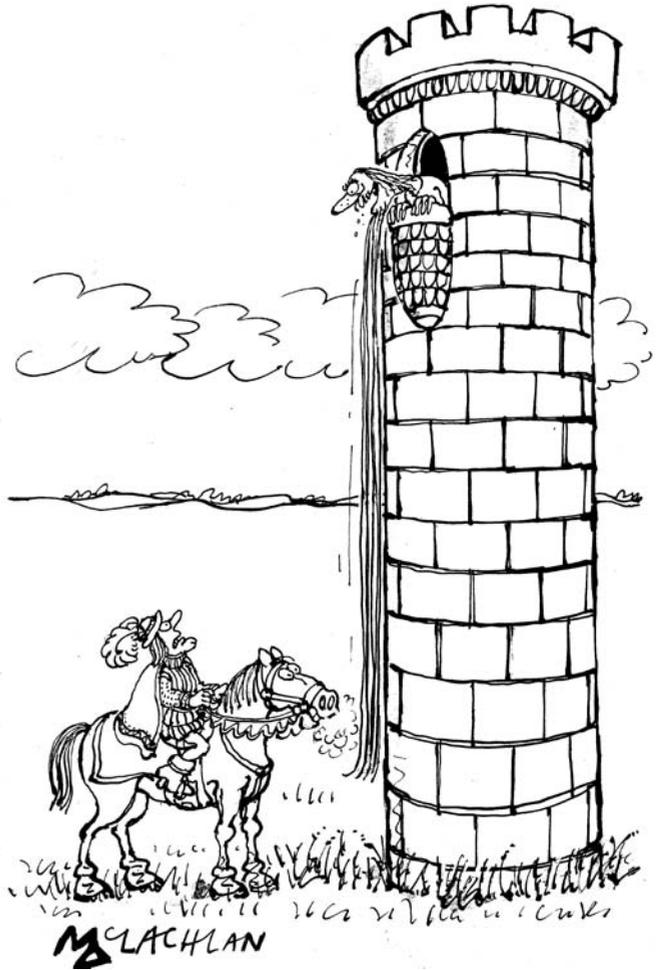
It is important not to spread tinea. Wash your hands after touching infected areas; never share towels, socks or shoes; and protect your feet in communal wash areas.

Disinfecting old shoes and periodically sprinkling antifungal foot powder into shoes can also be helpful. Try to avoid picking up fungal infections with simple precautions. Dry your skin thoroughly, particularly between the toes and within skin folds after washing; expose your bare feet to the air as much as possible; wear socks with a cotton/nylon mix rather than synthetic materials alone; reduce excess sweat with antiperspirant preparations (eg, baby talc); and protect your skin in communal washing areas by wearing flip-flops.

Keep healthy and keep safe.

ToeSlayer

Registered podiatrist
& Shoe Historian



*“The princess has moved out – I’m
the new tenant, but you’re very welcome”*

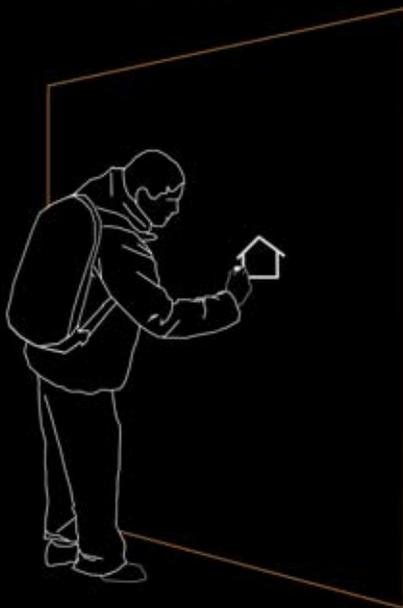
HOMELESS CITY GUIDE

-  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.

TELEPHONE SERVICES

Quaker Mobile Library
 Every second Mon at either:
 10.45am Webber Street or 10.45am
 Deptford Churches Centre. This
 means that each Webber Street
 and Deptford each receive one
 visit per month; every second
 Mon, 1.30am at Manna Centre,
 Brompton (every fortnight); Every
 other Tue: 7pm, Lincoln's Inn Fields;
 Sat: 9.45am, The Connection at
 St Martins; 1.1am, The Passage

Domestic Violence Helpline
 0808 2000 247

Eaves
 020 7735 2062

Frank
 0800 776 600

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
 Allowance or Incapacity Benefit

London Street Rescue
 0870 383 3333
 Rough sleeper's hot-line

Message Home Helpline
 0800 700 740, 24 hrs daily

National Debtline
 0808 808 4000
 Open Door Gay Men's Housing
 0208 743 2165

Poppy
 020 7840 7141
 Helps women who have been
 trafficked for sexual exploitation

Runway Helpline

0808 800 7070
 For under-18s who have left home

The Samaritans
 08457 90 9090

SANeline

6 - 11 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
 020 7359 5767

(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

WEBSITES

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/gabriele-
 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

Socket Book

Previously Everyone's Home
 An 'e-shelter', with a large
 directory of services.
 socketbook.referrata.com

Socket Mob

A group of people who aim
 to befriend readers on the
 streets... and hand out socks.
 www.sockmob.org

Soup Run Forum

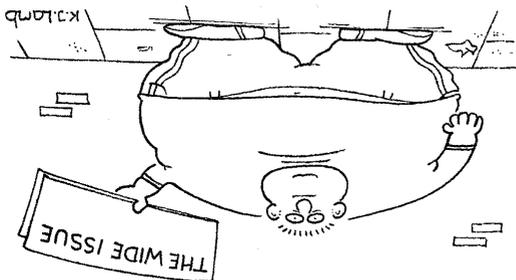
For those using or running
 soup runs, or just concerned
 with their work. Comments and
 details on future meetings.
 www.souprunforum.org.uk

Stonewall Housing

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

Streetmate

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



The Sacred Heart
This run from Wimbleton 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 Guildford Street, WC1 (Coram's Fields); 11am-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
Has changed its name, see Good Samarita Network

Silver Lady Fund (The Pie Man)
Piping hot pasties, pies and sausage 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; Millford Lane 6.45am; Strand 7am; Southampton 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; Maitravers 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

St John's Ealing
Mattock Lane, West Ealing W13 9LA
Sat & Sun: 3.30-5pm
020 8566 3507
Also: Advice service Thurs

& Fri 10am-4pm – Ealing Churches workers

St John the Evangelist
39 Duncan Terrace, N1 8AL
Tues-Sat: 12.30pm-1.30pm

Streetytes
Tue: 6-9pm, King George's hostel, Victoria; 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

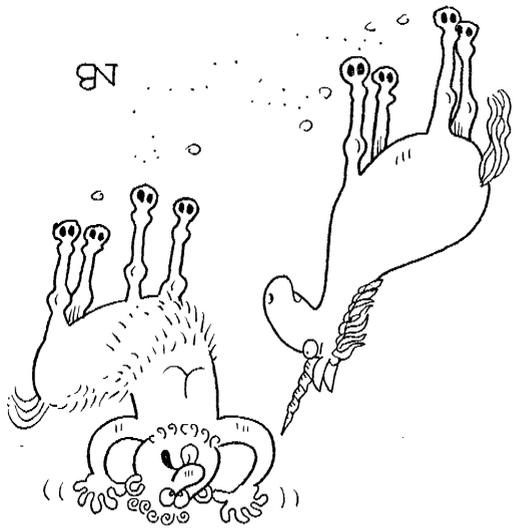
SW London Vineyard/King's Table
Sun 2.30pm-4.30pm beneath Waterloo Bridge (Embankment).
Superb hot stews and potatoes.

SPECIALIST SERVICES

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

Maytree Respite Centre
72 Moray Road, N4 3LG
020 7263 7070
One-off four night stay for those in suicidal crisis
Telephone first - not a drop in service. MH

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: Blue Cross Mobile Veterinary Clinic All run 10am - 12pm & 1.30pm - 3.30pm, at these locations – Mon: Bethnal Green Road E2; Wed: Hackney Town Hall (car park) E8; Thur: 15lington Town Hall, Upper Street, N1; Fri: Walthamstow Town Square, High Street, E17 On a first-come-first-served basis. Some cases April 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



"Pointy Head!"

- American Church**
(Entrance in Whitfield 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
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: 11am-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)
- Faith House (Salvation Army)**
11 Argyie Street, King's Cross
(near Burger King), WC1H 8EJ
020 7837 5149
Mon: 6-8pm (men's group);
Tue: 5-6pm (women's drop-in);
Wed: 1-3pm (women's drop-
in); 7.30-9pm (open drop-in);
Fri: 11am-1pm (women's
- Good Samaria Network**
Every Sunday, 6-8pm, at the
corner of Temple Station.
www.sn-works.com
- 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: 11am-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
- Memorial Baptist Church Plaistow**
389-395 Barking Road, E13 8AL
020 7476 4133
Sat: 8am-12pm
Full English breakfast
- Muswell Hill Churches Soup Kitchen**
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.
Alternate Thursdays during
term-time: 7-9.30 pm.
B, CL, FF
- Our Lady of Hal**
165 Arlington Rd, NW1
020 7485 2727
Tue, Wed, Fri & Sat:
12.45pm-2pm
- Peter's Community Cafe**
The Cypri, 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
Mon-Sat: 4.30-6pm;
Sun: 3.30-5pm.
Free tea and warm food
served 365 days a year
- Rice Run**
The Strand, Westminster
Fri: 9-10pm
Rice and Chicken, or savoury rice
- Harlow Chocolate Run**
Renamed London City Aid;
- House of Bread - The Vision**
Second and fourth Sunday in the
month (6.45am onwards) - Hot
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two-course hot meal served at table.
Alternate Thursdays during
term-time: 7-9.30 pm.
B, CL, FF
- Our Lady of Hal**
165 Arlington Rd, NW1
020 7485 2727
Tue, Wed, Fri & Sat:
12.45pm-2pm
- Peter's Community Cafe**
The Cypri, 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
Mon-Sat: 4.30-6pm;
Sun: 3.30-5pm.
Free tea and warm food
served 365 days a year
- Rice Run**
The Strand, Westminster
Fri: 9-10pm
Rice and Chicken, or savoury rice

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, D, FC, H, MS, NE, P, SH
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, D, FC, H, MS, NE, P, SH
Parker Street (hostel); Crisis Skylight;
Endsleigh Gardens (hostel); Dellow
Centre (hostel); Brixton Prison.
Thursday – Broadway Day Centre;
Medical Centre; West London
Day Centre; The Connection at
St Martin's; Rochester Row Day
Centre; Whitechapel Mission;
Deptford Churches Centre;
Probation Service; Wandsworth
Prison; Focus Day Centre.
Friday – The Passage;
Cricklewood Homeless Concern;
Endsleigh Gardens (hostel);
The Connection at St Martin's;
Cedars Road (hostel); St Giles Day
Centre; Cardinal Hume Centre
(drop in); Waterloo Jobshop;
Romford YMCA (hostel).
All week – Brixton Prison;
Wandsworth prison.
for helpline

MEDICAL SERVICES

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

Dr Hickey's – Cardinal Hume

Arneway St, SW1
020 7222 8593
Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri:
10am – 12.30pm & 2pm – 4pm
Wed: 10am – 12.30pm
A, BA, C, D, DT, H, MH, MS, P, SH

Health E1, 9–11 Brick Lane, E1

020 7247 0090
Mon–Thurs: 9.15am–1.30am
Friday: 10.30am–12.30pm;
Mon, Wed & Fri afternoons –
appointments only

Vision Care Opticians

07792 960416
Mon & Thurs: 2 – 7.30pm
at Crisis Skylight; Wed: 9am
– 5pm at The Passage

PERFORMING ARTS

Free sight tests and spectacles

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

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–9.30pm
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@lincione.net

Streetwise Opera

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

SOUP KITCHENS & SOUP RUNS

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

Mon 26 Apr: 9am–12.30pm; St

Mungos, 173 Cromwell Road, SWS
0SE

Wed 27 Apr: 10am–4pm;

Gatehouse Drug Treatment Centre,
St Bernard Hospital Site, Uxbridge
Road, Southall, UB1 3EU

Tue 20 Apr: 10.30am–3.30pm;

Hillingdon Drug & Alcohol Services,
Old Bank House, 64 High Street,
Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 1JP

Fri 16 Apr: 11.30am–2.30pm;

House, 1 Berrymead Gardens,
Acton, W3 8AA

Thu 15 Apr: 10am–4pm; Pharmacia

House, Leeland Road, W13 9HH
Wed 14 Apr: 1–4pm; Lancaster
Road, NW10 8BU
(Livingstone House), 105 Melville
Road, NW10 9SU: 2–4pm; Junction
Service, 27 Station Rd, NW10 4UB
Tue 13 Apr: 9am–2pm; ECHG
(Livingstone House), 105 Melville
Road, NW10 8BU

Mon 12 Apr: 10am–1pm;

Addaction (Brent), 97 Cobbold
Road, NW10 9SU: 2–4pm; Junction
Service, 27 Station Rd, NW10 4UB

Thu 15 Apr: 10am–4pm; Pharmacia

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UR4JOBS
 Upper Room, St Saviour Church,
 Cobbold Road, W12 9LN
 020 8740 5688
 07967 312207 (English)
 07772 473554 (Polish)
 Mon – Fri: 5.30–6.45pm

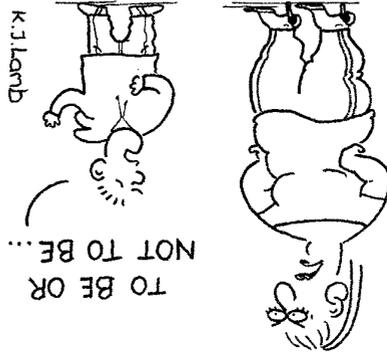
Alcohol Support
 Emmanuel's Church,
 Forest Gate, E7 8BD
 020 8257 3068
 Support for drug and alcohol
 treatment, advice, contact with
 other agencies: Thur: 5–7pm
 Part of DASL in Drug &
Alcohol Services

**Eastern European Drug and
 Alcohol Support**
 Ring for appointment
 3pm, for appointments; closed Wed
 Open weekdays 10am–12pm & 2–
 020 8741 1288
 King Street, W6 9LP
 Palingwick House, 241
East European Advice Centre

Ania's Recruitment Agency
 31 Fallsbrook Rd, SW16 6DU
 020 8769 0509

EASTERN EUROPEANS

"Enough of your Bard language"



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 Martins; Holy-
 cross Centre; Rushworth Rolling
 Shelter; Guy's Hospital Oncol-
 CA, ET, IT

JOB CENTRE PLUS

Veterans UK
 www.veterans-uk.info
 Free help and advice for vet-
 erans and access to dedicated
 one-to-one welfare service.

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

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

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

EX-FORCES

Sock Mob
 see **Websites**

Open Film Club
 Tue: 6pm, St Patrick's, Soho Square;
 Wed: 5.30pm, Providence Row; Thu:
 5pm, Connection at St Martins;
 6pm, St Mungos, Mare Street
 www.openhousefilmclub.org
 FF, LA

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

**ENTERTAINMENT & SOCIAL
 EVENTS**

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

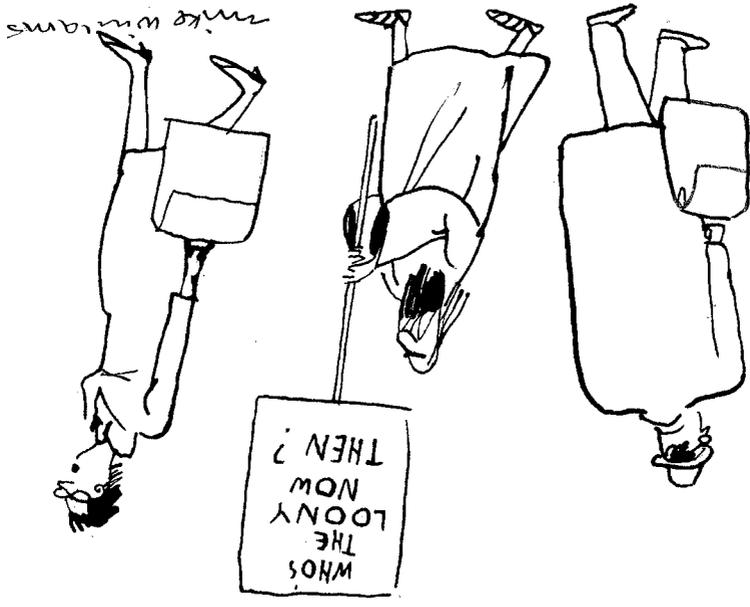
OSW (London Bridge)
 4th Floor, The Pavilion
 1 Newthams Row, SE1 3UZ
 020 7089 2722
 CA, ET, IT

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

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

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Hot supper: Mon & Tue:
 12noon – 5pm (UR4JOBS);
 Wed 10am – 5pm (Polish lan-
 guage counselling service)
 Help in finding work and education
 Now available online @
 www.ur4jobs.co.uk
 C, ET, FF



Central and NW London
Substance Misuse Service
 282 North End Rd, SW6 1NH
 020 7381 7700
 Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm, C, MS

Druggink
 103a Devonport Rd, Shep-
 herds Bush, W12 8PB
 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
 020 8875 4400

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;
 Antidote (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
 W1D 3HZ
 020 7534 6687
 D

Wandsworth Drug Project
 86 Garratt Lane, SW18 4DB
 020 8875 4400

**Westminster Community Alcohol
 Service**
 4th Floor, 1 Frith Street, W1D 3HZ
 020 7534 6699
 Mon, Tues, Thu & Fri: 9am-
 5pm; Wed: 9am-8pm
 A, C

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

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

**Westminster Community Alcohol
 Service**
 4th Floor, 1 Frith Street, W1D 3HZ
 020 7534 6699
 Mon, Tues, Thu & Fri: 9am-
 5pm; Wed: 9am-8pm
 A, C

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

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

The Tab Centre

20 Hackney Rd, Shoreditch, E2

020 7739 3076

Friday: 9am-12noon, F

Thames 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-11.30am (drop-

in, hostel residents join): 11.45am-

12.45pm (advice, appointments

only); Mon & Thur: 1.30-3.30pm

(drop-in for those with tenancies)

BS, FF, L

Alcohol allowed

Mon-Fri: 11am-5pm

020 7263 4140

91-93 Tollington Way, N7 6RE

The Whitaker Centre

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

020 7247 8280

Daily: 6-11am (cooked break-

fast 8am-10am); Sat: 12noon-

2.30pm (women only)

AS, 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

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

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

DIRECT ACCESS (YEAR ROUND HOSTELS/ NIGHTSHELTERS)

All - low-support needs

Branches

740 Forest Road, Waltham-

stow, E17 3HR

020 8521 7773

Their address from mid-April

will be Stonelea, Langth-

orne 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, 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)

St. Mungo's (Ennersdale House)

1a Arlington Close, Lewi-

sham SE13 6JG

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 Birkenhead St, WC1H

020 7278 6466

Young people (16-21)

Centrepoint

25 Berwick 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

- (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
 Cromer St, WC1
 020 7278 8687
 Mon: 2pm–5pm; Tues: 6–9pm;
 sleepers); 1.2–2pm (Lunch);
 2–6pm (appointments); 4.30–6pm
 (verified rough sleepers – by invita-
 tion); Sat–Sun: 9am–12noon.
 A, BA, CA, CL, D, ET, F, FC,
 H, IT, L, MH, MS, P, TS
- Homeless Action in Barnet (HAB)**
 36B Woodhouse Road, N12 0RG
 020 8446 8400
 Mon – Fri: 12noon – 3pm (drop in);
 Mon, Tues & Thur: 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, P, 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
 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, NW5 4HS
- Our Lady Help of Christians**
 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
 Wed 1–3pm (drop-in with
 lunch); Thurs 10am–3pm; Fri
 1–2.30pm (lunch and bible study)
 AC
- 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
- Spire Centre**
 8 Tooting Bec Gardens, SW16 1RB
 020 8696 0943
 Mon: 8am–12noon (women
 sleepers only); Tues: 9–10.30am (rough
 sleepers only); 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**
 47 Lime Grove, W12
 Lime Grove Resource Centre,
 please call for opening
 times: 020 8740 9182
 AC, BS, CA, ET, FC, IT, L, MS
- St Cuthbert's Centre**
 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
- Sanctus**
 4 Lady Margaret Road, NW5 2XT
 Entry 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, NW5 4HS
- Catholic Church**
 see Sanctus

the List

The directory of London's homeless services Updated 29 March 2010

Debt advice – DA	Luggage storage – LS
Drugs workers – D	Mental health – MH
Dentist – DT	Medical services – MS
Education/training – ET	Music classes – MC
Free food – FF	Needle exchange – NE
Food – F	Outreach worker links – OL
Food care – FC	Outreach workers – OB
Housing/accom advice – H	Pavement stockist – P
Internet access – IT	Safe keeping – SK
Laundry – L	Sexual health advice – SH
Leisure activities – LA	SSAFA – SS
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: 6
 Services added: 0

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.

For those aged 16 – 25 years, who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
 AS, AD, BA, CA, ET, H, IT, TS

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
 C

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