Issue one

The homeless paper (London edition)

Free

Outreach teams to be replaced

Westminster slams the door on street support

By Clare Goff

OUTREACH WORKERS IN Westminster are facing the axe as the council's latest homelessness strategy – a move to building-based services – gets set for roll out.

From July, the new initiative will see a reduction in measures that may help sustain lives on the street – including soup runs and outreach teams – in favour of building-based provision.

It is estimated that half of all outreach workers will disappear under the new scheme. Their work will be replaced in part by City Guardians, police officers and other council workers, who will add "sign-posting" of homeless provision to their list of tasks.

Councillor Angela Harvey explains: "If a City Guardian sees someone about to bed down for the night they will signpost them towards services. We want to get people into services and programmes because life on the street is no good for anyone."

Those sleeping rough within central London have become accustomed to the tough love tactics of Westminster Council, but this latest initiative is a shift too far for some charities.

"It's not a move towards building-based services, but an end to outreach," said a senior outreach worker in Westminster.

"Essentially we are concerned," says Tariq Hilal, policy manager at Crisis. "We believe the best way to deal with vulnerable homeless people is through outreach teams. You need someone with experience whose sole expertise is helping homeless people."

Outreach has proved one of the most successful methods of bringing down the numbers of rough sleepers. Around 30 CAT workers and RIT teams currently monitor the streets of Westminster.

A "signposting" pilot began in March in conjunction with Connections at St Martins and The Passage within the Victoria station and City central area.

So far the numbers coming into participating day centres have been "negligible", and charity workers predict that the scheme will be unsuccessful

"With City Guardians, homelessness is only one part of their jobs and we think this move will lead to further discrimination of homeless peo-



Walking away from the past: City Guardians will take on outreach tasks

ple who won't get the assistance they need," Hilal says.

Another source questioned the skills of a City Guardian to deal with the often complex problems of rough sleepers. "Who would want to be [a City Guardian]? It's an option for people who can't make it as a traffic warden," he says.

Harvey says City Guardians will not resort to coercion if rough sleepers do not want to be directed to services.

But the continued dispersal of soup runs, which Harvey describes as "a solution of 20 years ago when people on the street had nothing," and other well-meaning "street-based" initiatives on the part of local charities, may mean that vulnerable rough sleepers are cut off from the most basic provisions.

Inside:

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'But surely, if I took your newspapers off you, you'd have nothing to sleep under tonight?'

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Rough sleeping on the rise

AN INDEPENDENT COUNT has placed the amount of people sleeping rough in London at 300. This is up 33% on a similar survey conducted last autumn.

The Simon Community, an organisation that distributes food to rough sleepers, conducted the survey earlier this month. A team of volunteers counted the amount of people sleeping rough in Camden, Westminster, Southwark, Islington, Kensington Chelsea, Lambeth, Tower Hamlets and the City of London on April 2 between midnight and on the Office of the Deputy 3am.

On the night of the count, 82 hostels were contacted and it was found that there were only

In addition to this chronic shortfall, none of the beds on offer were available to rough sleepers without housing benefit. At present, the amount of rough sleepers who are not eligible for benefits is growing. These include UK residents who have recently returned from abroad, EU residents from countries such as Poland, which have only recently joined the EU, and those from non-EU countries whose immigration status is not

Prime Minister to instruct local authorities to make some provision available for those who have been forced to sleep rough



work and are excluded from

Mark Palframan, Services Manager for the Simon Com-The Simon Community called munity in London, said: "It is unacceptable to dismiss some of those sleeping rough as being beyond our concern because they are from places like Poland or Latvia. Regardless of xenoeight beds available in London. simply because they cannot find phobic government policies our

society still has a moral duty to care for these people and we cannot just leave them sleeping on the streets."

'Hack'

• For information about the Simon Community, visit the website www.simon community.org.uk

The West London Mission: how much more can they give?

Day centre fends off closure

By Jon Gardiner of the Marylebone **Express**

THE FUTURE OF WEST LONDON Day Centre (WLDC) is uncertain after Westminster Council refused to renew its annual grant.

City Hall has withdrawn almost half of its yearly £78,000 contribution, which is needed to keep the centre up and running. WLDC is still to receive £44,000 of the original grant, which comes from Central Government funds, but the cut was enough for Labour councillor Paul Dimoldenberg to brand the decision "nasty and vindictive".

The WLDC - managed by the Methodist Church through the West London Mission – has been running for more than 30 years. The mission contributes around £150,000 a year to the running of the centre. Its director of social work, Paul Thompson, said its funding may not stretch to fill the financial hole left by the council, though the WLDC's director of services, John Deacon, told The Pavement: "We have breathing space."

Karen Buck, Labour MP for Regent's Park and Kensington North, joined the criticism, saying: "Westminster Council has a long and dishonourable history of seeking to minimise its commitment to services of this kind." She added that even though more than 90% of the council's total budget came straight from central government funding, City Hall was still looking for ways to shift its spending responsibilities to others.

A council spokesman said WLDC's application for the grant had failed to meet the award criteria in several areas. But Dimoldenberg blasted the decision, saying: "Westminster Council is one of the richest in the world and if they haven't got the decency to provide for people who are extremely vulnerable it demonstrates the depths to which the Conservatives have sunk."

A newspaper for London's homeless

WELCOME TO THE PAVE-MENT, a newspaper for London's homeless community. In our pages we offer information about services available, as well as the news that affects life on the streets, the life on the streets that affects the news, health and legal advice and a good deal of fun stuff for your entertainment, too.

One shouldn't normally begin anything with an apology, but we feel we need to say sorry for the Westminster bias in this issue. However, what is currently under way there affects all homeless people, wherever you choose to stay. The borough's move to Building Based Services will send ripples across London and possibly beyond. We are concerned that the squeeze is being applied to rough sleepers in Westminster, which will only result in migrations into neighbouring boroughs, and their subsequent panic adoption of similar methods by other councils.

The actions of Westminster result from the Homelessness

Act (2002), which requires local authorities to develop a strategy to deal with the homeless. Westminster has responded by trying to make life on the streets as difficult as possible: there have been rumours of street cleaners being used to spray sleeping sites so that they are too wet to use; gates giving access to sheltered spots have been locked: and many areas that offer a place for the night have been fenced off. Similarly, how can Westminster justify the pressure it puts on organisations to stop soup runs when to many this is also a

We believe it's a shame that Westminster hasn't pushed this issue back up to Central Government to pursue a more longterm, joined-up approach.

Still, there is some light: many day centres continue to operate, even without council funding, and numerous groups defy council wishes on food provision. Outreach services in Westminster will continue until June at



they will continue both in Camden and The City for another half year at least.

We'll follow this in the coming issues of The Pavement, so look out for next month's copy in mid May. We have a lot planned

please write to us or send us an email. The addresses are below.

The Editor

The Pavement, PO Box 43675, London, SE22 8YL: for the future, but none of it will **Editor@thepavement.org.uk**

Editor's letters

BECAUSE THIS IS OUR first issue, we don't have letters from readers. So we asked the main political parties to write to us with their thoughts about starting a paper for the homeless.

We got replies from the Liberal Democrat and Conservative leaders. We can only assume the leader of the Labour party's letter was lost in the post.

Each month, our star letter will receive a Pavement T-shirt. For our first issue, we're offering T-shirts to the first five letters and emails we receive - provided you give us an address to send them to (a day centre is fine).



I am delighted to send my support to "The Pavement". It's unacceptable in 21" Century Britain that homelessness in London, and throughout the country, continues to blight the lives of so many - and so often young - people.

The idea of 'The Pavement' is novel and one which will go someway to better informing the capital's homeless of their rights and choices. I wish you all luck with the project and I wish all your new renders the best in finding accommodation and beginning to rebuild their lives.

The Rt. Hon. Charles Kennedy MI



I am pleased to welcome The Pavement, a publication aimed specifically at homeless people in central London.

I hope that the news it contains will prove informative, that its advice columns - whether on housing issues or on daily living - will prove helpful to everyone who reads it, and of course that it will entertain along

Silved House

MICHAEL HOWARD

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Dear Flo... your health questions answered

'Dear Flo' is your opportunity to write in and ask our nurse about your health problems. 'Nurse Flo' will either give advice on self-help techniques or where to get treatment

Dear Flo,
I have wet, white skin on the
bottom of my feet. When I walk
it is really sore. They smell bad
and it seems to be getting worse.
What do you think it is?
Mr Charles
St James' Park



Dear Mr Charles There is little worse than sore feet, particularly when one spends hours daily walking the streets of London. It sounds as if you may have trench foot. Soldiers in the First World War got this condition because their feet were constantly wet from being in the trenches. When sleeping rough, it is often difficult to take your shoes and socks off, either through fear of having them stolen or because it is too cold. But your feet need air and a dry environment to stay healthy.

Change your socks regularly, especially when they have got wet. Wash your feet and dry them well, especially between your toes. Try to remove your shoes and socks daily so air can circulate around them. If you use a day-centre where there is a medical service, go and see the nurse. The nurse will offer a foot soak in a special solution to help

dry your feet out. This is a really common condition for homeless people so don't be embarrassed about the smell. Without healthy feet life on the street can be even more of a struggle, so see a nurse as soon as possible.

Dear Flo, I'm sleeping rough, can I get a GP? Name withheld

Dear Anon,

The NHS is trying to ensure equal access to health services for all UK residents, regardless of their housing status. Fortunately, throughout London there are teams of doctors and nurses helping those who find it difficult to access healthcare. Most large day-centres have a nurse or doctor who visits regularly. There are also medical centres that care for the needs of homeless people. Details of these services will be available at your nearest day-centre, and some are listed on page 7.

For more information you can free-phone NHS Direct on 0845 46 47 48 or go to www.nhsdirect .nhs.uk/localisation

● We were sorry to see that Oasis Health Centre is closing on April 26. It's a sad

● Got a health query? Write to Flo at The Pavement



Little Red Riding Hood

Why vote?

Even those without an address can vote in general, council and European elections. So, if you haven't already, here's how to register to have your say

The closing date for registering to vote in the general election was March 11, so if you're not on the electoral register already you cannot vote in May. But you can still register to vote in future general elections, by-elections, European, and council elections. So why not register?

If you are in temporary accommodation (a B&B or hostel) you may register by picking up the relevant forms from your local council offices. If you are street homeless, it's a little different.

We asked Gemma Crosland at the Electoral Commission if it were possible to register if you were street homeless. The answer, which too few know, was yes. Crosland explained: "Legislation introduced in 2001 means a homeless person may register with a 'declaration of local connection' at the address of a place where they commonly spend a substantial

part of their time – day or night." She gave examples of this as "a park bench, a bus shelter or the doorway to a high street shop. It could also be a night shelter or 'drop-in' centre."

A "declaration of local connection can be made at any time throughout the year by requesting a form from the electoral services office at the local council".

With last election's voter turnout at an all-time low since universal suffrage was introduced, you could be forgiven for doing what so many others do and not voting – but it's better to buck the trend. Voting stops you being an outsider and allows you to steer the system.

'Cobbett'

● Pick up the leaflet "Register To Vote" by The Electoral Commission, or visit www.electoralcom mission.org.uk

Homeless hobbies

No 1: Collecting Chick books

It's hard to pin down when Jack Chick's comic books first appeared in the UK, but ever since he "was overcome with the realisation that these teens were on their way to hell" his particular brand of hellfire, militia paranoia and conspiracy fuelled politics have spread around the world. Chick produces his comics in a dozen languages, and most end up being given out with sandwiches in church halls or on evangelical soup runs. They are fun to collect in their variety, and small enough to fit a dozen in you pocket. With religion mixed in with warnings against the political dominance of the UN and Mormon agents undermining our morals, their content is a little off-beat, but they come in so many colours.

'Anorak'



The law – expert advice on legal issues that confront the homeless



ASBO nation: are you a possible target of an anti-social behaviour order?

David Hoffman Photo Library

The rise of the ASBO

Homelessness, however it arises automatically categorises you as vulnerable in the eyes of the law. Homeless people are more likely to be victims of crime and anti-social behaviour. But, unfortunately, the homeless are often categorised as the perpetrators of anti-social crimes. Here The Pavement examines Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, and how they could affect or protect you. First, what is an ASBO?

Anti-Social Behaviour Orders are court orders obtained by local authorities and are intended to prohibit "anti-social" acts. They are unlimited in their power to prohibit any sort of behaviour deemed "anti-social". This could include disturbing the peace, harassment, being drunk and disorderly, and an almost unlimited amount of things in between. ASBOs last for a minimum of two years but can be extended indefinitely.

A total of 364 ASBOs were issued in Greater London between April 1999 and September 2004, but over 200 of these were issued in the first nine months of 2004. In other words, their use is rising

fast. Any individual older than 10 can receive a court summons and then be slapped with an ASBO, and it does not matter if they do not have a fixed address. In fact, an ASBO can be granted even if the individual is unable to attend the court hearing.

British legal process operates on two fundamental concepts: presumed innocence and the right to a fair trial. But an ASBOs can be given even if someone's anti-social behaviour is not actually illegal in itself. But it's a crime to break the terms of an ASBO, and it carries a possible five-year jail sentence. Moreover, Figures released by the Home Office reveal that by December 2003 42% of ASBOs had been breached.

In ASBO proceedings (unlike criminal proceedings) previous convictions and "hearsay" evidence (when a witness does not actually have to attend court) are examined by the court. This is intended to protect the victims of anti-social behaviour but means safeguards preventing the defendant from abuse of legal process are relaxed. 'Young Bailey'

The trouble with an ASBO

Whereas many may agree with the use of ASBOs to stamp out violent and noisy behaviour, the perils of an ASBO once enforced are manifestly unfair.

Because breaching an ASBO is punishable by up to five years in prison, a lengthy custodial sentence could be awarded for activities such as urinating in the streets, begging, sitting by a cash point, drunken behaviour, or even entering a proscribed borough. None of these offences alone warrant a custodial sentence, but under the terms of an ASBO they may lead to one. Some readers may applaud this hardline (continues back page)

Services available to London's homeless

We've listed the majority of day and night centres in London and the services available there. Some services may only operate occasionally, so don't wave this paper at a day centre worker and make demands — call ahead if you're looking for a particular service. We have not listed some specialist day centres for want of space, but if there's anything you think should be included here, email or write to us and let us know

Key to services:

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

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

DAY CENTRES

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

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

Aldgate Advice Centre Aldgate High Street 020 7283 1950 Opening times: Mon-Fri 9am-Ipm Services: B, ET, H, MH

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

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

Cricklewood Homeless
Concern; 60 Ashford Road
020 8208 1608
Housing drop-in: Mon Wed
Fri 10am-1 Iam (for housing advice please be at front
door at 9am for ticket
Day Services: Mon, Wed, Fri
10am-3.30pm (10am-12.30pm
for advice Ipm-3.30pm
basic services)
AC, B, BS, H, IT, L, MS, OL

Crisis Skylight 66 Commercial Street 020 7426 566 I Mon-Thu 2pm-9.30pm AC, ET, IT

Dellow Day Centre 82 Wentworth Street 020 7375 3915 Opening times: Mon-Fri Ipm-4pm A, BS, CL, D, FF, L, MH, P

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

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

Hanbury Community Project Christchurch Hall, 22 Hanbury Street 020 7377 2497 Opening times: Mon-Fri 10.30am-3.30pm A, C, D, ET, H, MH, MS Holy Cross Centre The Crypt, Holy Cross Church, Cromer Street, 020 7278 8687 Open access on Mon 2pm-5pm and Tues 6.30pm-9pm. FF. H. MH

London City Mission
Waterloo Christian Centre,
628 Webber Street
020 7928 1677
Opening times:
Mon-Fri 9am-12noon
B, BA, BS, CL, FF, H
Manna Day Centre
6 Melior Street
020 7403 1931
Mon-Sat 9.30am-1.30pm
B, BS, CL, DT, F, FC, H, MH,
MS, P

North Lambeth Day Centre (St Mungo's) St John's Crypt, 73 Waterloo Road 020 7261 9622 Opening times: Mon-Fri 9.30am-12pm open access; 12 noon-2.30pm F, BS, ET, CL, B, H, AC, A, D, MH, MS, FC, P

• Rumours of its closure are premature. It will be closing, temporarily, later in the year for building work.

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

Spectrum Centre

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

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

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

St Cuthbert's Centre The Philbeach Hall, 5 I Philbeach Gardens, Earls Court. 020 7835 1389 Opening times: Mon-Fri I I.30pm-3.45pm AC, BS, C, CL, F, H, IT, L, OL



'Good morning, Sir. We'd like to talk to you about the Bible'

St Giles Trust, 64-68 Camberwell Church St 020 7703 7000 Mon-Fri 9.30am-Ipm A,B,BS,D,ET,F,FC,H,IT,L,MS

St John's at Hackney Community Space Centre, Lower Clapton Road 020 8985 6707 Mon-Thurs I 0am-12.30pm; 2pm-4.30pm; Wed I 0am-12.30pm B, BS, CL, ET, F, H, IT, MS

St Mary's Church
St Mary's Community
Centre, Ashley House
020 7272 1783
Opening times:
Tues I Iam-2pm, Wed
10.30am-2pm, Thurs 6pm9pm, Sat I.30pm-4pm
(must be drug and alcohol
free). Closed last Sat of
every month
A, B, BS, C, CA, D, ET, FF, H,
IT, L, MS

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

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

The Connection at St Martins at No 12 (age 16-25) A,AC, BS, CA, CL, D, ET, F, H, IT, L,MC, MH, MS, OB, SK, SS,TS

● The drilling work outside will not effect services. Social Care Unit to the left of the church's step (age 26+)

The Passage, St Vincent's Centre, Carlisle Place 020 7828 4183 Mon-Fri 7am-1 I am for Rough Sleepers. Appointments only beyond this time Services (25+):A, B, CA, CL, D, ET, F, FC, H, IT, L, MH, MS, OB, P,TS

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

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

• The Service Director, John Deacon, told The Pavement that they've "no plans to close" despite a recent cut in funding (see news, p2)

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

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

MEDICAL SERVICES

Great Chapel St Medical Centre, 13 Great Chapel Street, 020 7437 9360 Opening times: Mon-Fri 2pm-4pm. Also Mon, Tues, Thurs I Iam-12.30pm A,B,C,D,DT,FC,MH,H,MS,SH

King's Cross Primary Care Centre, 264 Pentonville Rd For opening times, call 020 7530 3444 BS, CL, DT, FC, MH, MS, SH

Oasis Health Centre 52 Lambeth Road, Waterloo 020 7401 9684 Opening times: Mon, Wed 9am-Ipm; Tues closed; Thurs I Iam-Ipm; Fri 8am-10.30am rough sleepers only; 10.30am-Ipm everybody BS, CL, DT, FC, MS

Closing after long
 service on April 26 due to
 loss of funding

Soup runs

Bondway Soup Run

Bondway takes soup, bread and tea around the streets every day of the year, visiting the following sites at approximately these times: Waterloo 10.20pm; Lincoln's Inn Fields 10.50pm; Kingsway 11.10pm; Bank opposite Courthouse 11.20pm; The Strand 11.35pm; Victoria 12.15am. They may still distribute blankets.

Hare Krishna Food for Life

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

Simon Community Tea Runs

Sunday and Monday (6.00am-9.30am) Quaker Gardens (Euston), Marlebone Church, Hinde Street, Grosvenor Gardens, Sainsbury (Victoria), Army and Navy (Victoria), Chaplin Walk (Waterloo), Milford Lane, Strand, Exeter Street, Tavistock Street, Convent Gardens, Lincolns Inn Fields.

Soup Runs

Wednesday and Thursday (8.00pm-10.30pm) Milford Lane, Chaplin Walk (Waterloo), Army and Navy (Victoria), Marylebone Church, Hinde Street. Street Café

Mondays (4.30pm-7.30pm) and Wednesday (9.30am-1.30pm) St Mary-le-Strand Church on the Strand.

General

There's no co-ordination for soup runs anymore so it is hard to provide a definitive list. The co-ordination was funded under the Rough Sleepers Unit, but the funding stopped three years ago.

There are ad hoc Soup Runs, manned by Churches and the likes of the Silver Lady Trust, whose details we do not have, but please let us know if you know of any not listed here – particularly if you find a good one. For example: Under Waterloo Bridge at 2pm on Sundays.

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

CLOTHING

The Salvation Army at Princes Street no longer issues sleeping bags. There is no set way of obtaining a free sleeping bag – though sometimes day centres and soup runs give some out.

TELEPHONE SERVICESShelter housing informa-

Shelter housing information and advice line: 0808 800 44 44 (24 hours)

SSAFA, Reclaim your life AWOL scheme: 01380 738137 (9am-10am Mon-Fri) (12noon-11pm monday to Friday; 12noon-6pm weekends)

Saneline: 0845 767 8000

Message home helpline: 0800 700 740 (24-hours, seven days)

Alcoholics Anonymous: 020 7833 0022 (open I 0am-7pm, seven days a week)

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

Missing



Steven Graham Age at disappearance: 22 (now 24)

Steven Graham has been missing since September 16 2002 when he left home without warning. It is thought Graham is in the central London area.

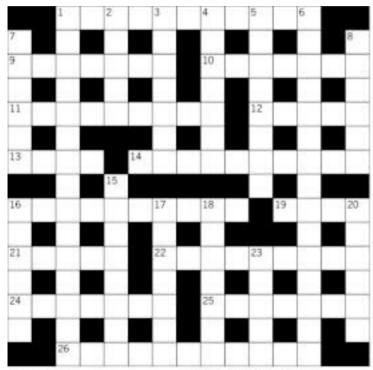
Steven from Birchwood, Warrington, Cheshire, had been working for an agency and he may have felt unsettled when this job finished. Shortly after he disappeared Steven briefly made contact with his family on the phone but there has been no word from him since. Steven's family wants Steven to know that they miss him very much and would love to have a chance to talk to him. Just to know he is safe would be a huge relief.

We don't need to know where you are, just how you are. Please ring your mum, Steven, or if you prefer, call us in confidence and we can pass a message on to your worried family.

Call the confidential National Missing Persons Helpline on 0500 700 700.

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

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Across

- 1 Plato's exemplary way to settle accounts? (6,5)
- 9 Jiffy note at foot of member's stretcher (7)
- 10 Cool to take an unconscious jerk's anorak (7)
- 11 Radical left the enemy bewildered (9)
- 12 Motivated by crowd (5)
- 13 Nymph with one choice that's not on ice (4)

- 14 Mel Gibson's lead becomes paltry part in "The Crucible" (7.3)
- 16 Solve 3 by 10 without editor getting to play a mean trick (2,3,5)
- 19 Overcoats with fleecing (4)
- 21 17 girdled calendar girls to put a top on (5)
- 22 Any plight isn't right one to be trifled with (9)
- 24 Code protecting interior switches in explosive device (7)

25 Fuss about a league with ill-matched sides (7)

26 An increase in risk (6,5)

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- Celebrate when new penny's gone without time to have old penny (5,3,4,3)
- 2 Run-down sound of recorded device (5)
- 3 Use rate in knots from stern (7)
- 4 When Bobby can have rest of rum? (7)
- 5 Fight at sound of bell (4-4)
- 6 "Tainted love" is pretty clever with hindsight (15)
- 7 It's about setter's rising drug problem of old, of course (6)
- 8 Take mushroom restricted by legislation (6)
- 15 Swan boxes match in colour (3.5)
- 16 I lit out to weaken argument (6)
- 17 Avidly ask for naughty fairy tales that educate? (7)
- 18 Member that's horizontal managed to split the best part up (7)
- 20 Charlemagne then embraces one that's attractive (6)
- 23 Discipline of toddler when two? (5)

Thanks to the Guardian for allowing The Pavement to reproduce this crossword

(cont from p5) on "trouble makers", and take comfort in the fact they are usually only given to relatively hardcore and persistent offenders. But their use is on the increase, particularly among the homeless.

Those homeless who street drink, use drugs or beg are most likely to come into contact with ASBOs. But there is a danger that the use of ASBOs, without a determined complementary programme of support, may just serve to further marginalise those most in need of help.

A street drinker is an obvious target for an ASBO, particularly if he or she frequents specific areas and is abusive. If the ASBO is breached – as is likely if the street drinker is addicted to alcohol and has nowhere private to drink it – it is very possible they will be impris-

oned. Prison services are not currently geared to treat addiction. The Prison Reform Trust Factfile states: "There is currently no specific ring-fenced accredited alcohol treatment programmes with ring-fenced funding in prisons in England and Wales."

In his white paper, Respect and Responsibility—Taking a Stand Against Anti-Social Behaviour (March 2003), the (then) Home Secretary wrote passionately about no longer tolerating the intimidation and harassment from which so many communities suffer. He discussed the "need for a cultural shift from a society where too many people are living with the consequences of anti-social behaviour, to a society where we respect each other, our property and our shared public spaces." Few would disagree with this vision. But a review

of ASBOs by the Home Office in 2002 found that in over 60% of cases the people they targeted suffered from mental illnesses, addiction or learning difficulties. That does not excuse anti-social behaviour, but does suggest more complex methods are needed to handle it.

'Humanitarian'

- If you need advice about ASBOs and your rights, contact Citizens' Advice; www.citizens advice.org.uk
- The Pavement is examining the use of the Vagrancy Act.
 Have you been charged with this ancient law?
 What are your experiences of

this legislation? Please email

editor@thepavement.org.uk

Horoscopes

by Old Marzipan the Mystic

Aries: March 21-April 19

You're tired of people trying to cheer you up. This has nothing to do with the stars, but rather is a reflection on the human condition

Taurus: April 20-May 20

You meet a fellow at a soup run in May who claims to have been a stunt driver for The Professionals. It turns out he was a tax collector from Ruislip.

Gemini: May 21-June 20

The Moon's ascendance to the cusp in the bight of Arcturus may mean something. Then again...

Cancer: June 21-July 22

If you sit tight in the second week of May you'll be signposted by a City Guardian – but be aware they may send you to the wrong day-centre.

Leo: July 23-Aug 22

Avoid larger bottles of White Lightning on the full moon, as it has been linked to increased cases of lycanthropic transformation. Beware.

Virgo: Aug 23-Sept 22

More of the same old thing. The usual grind and routine. But take heart, at least it's dependable.

Libra: Sept 23-Oct 22

Look out for a tall dark stranger around the first of the month, and if it isn't the police quoting the Vagrancy Act, it could be good news.

Scorpio: Oct 23-Nov 21

The Sun in Pisces will lead to a rush on Big Issue sales; so if you're not a vendor, register now.

Sagittarius: Nov 22–Dec 21

Things are looking up for you, but then an ASBO issued to you in April will restrict your plans, and indeed your right to enter some boroughs.

Capricorn: Dec 22-Jan 19

The Sun entering Uranus in May sounds painful.

Aquarius: Jan 20-Feb 18

Your ruling planets are in turmoil, but you feel fine, which either means you're registered under the wrong star sign, or the whole horoscope thing is outdated superstition.

Pisces: February 19-March 20

The Moon in Saturn at the beginning May will give you...

A.The confidence to make changes B.The idea of moving to Cardiff C. Interesting dreams D.All of the above