

the Pavement

The *FREE* monthly for the West Midland's homeless

September 2011





"I'm covered in shame!"

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The Editor

We are one!

Welcome to this birthday issue of *The Pavement West Midlands* – we are one year old this month!

Crisis Skylight Birmingham launched around the same time, and in this edition we review their first year. We also take a look at the king of Birmingham social enterprises, Jericho, which recently opened a wood recycling venture. We ask whether social enterprises can be the solution to local government cuts. Finally, we can announce that the Royal British Legion is building a centre in the West Midlands to help ex-service personnel. (If you are an ex-serviceman or woman, special help is already available.) See page five for details.

Due to a change in my circumstances, I am stepping down as editor this month, but the West Midlands edition will continue. We are recruiting a replacement and are in talks with various partners to ensure that *The Pavement* will be delivered to even more stockists. Look out for further details soon. I'd like to thank SIFA Fireside and the Christian Homeless Forum for their support over the last year, and our volunteer journalists – and all our readers for your positive feedback.
Viva The Pavement West Midlands!

Ellie Jones

Editor

westmidlands@thepavement.org.uk

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We are one!

Photography by Rob J Brooks © 2011

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West Midlands news

All the homeless news from across the region

Is social enterprise a cure for society's ills?

"This is an opportunity to stretch myself and adapt to working in a fast-growing business." "I have come a long way and gained lots of skills which help me deal confidently with the working world." These are the words of Steve Evans and Daniel Bland, two men thrown a lifeline by the Jericho Foundation, a social enterprise based in Balsall Heath, Birmingham. In June it opened a new wood recycling scheme to provide the region's homeless people with skills and training opportunities.

Jericho began in 1993 as a drop-in centre for disadvantaged people and today operates seven other social enterprises, including a printing business and construction and landscaping services. At any one time, they cater for upwards of 70 people; some are in-house placements and others work with Jericho's social enterprise partners.

The wood recycling scheme originated with a £80,000 award from the Spark Challenge, a £1.6 million pot of private sector funding available to social enterprise initiatives improving the lives of homeless people.

"Our unique selling points are the work experience we provide, the motivation we generate and the confidence we instil in people," says Carlo Ropos, the Foundation's deputy chief executive. "When I started at Jericho [in 2001], there was no such thing as social enterprise, but that's what we were."

"Back then, the purpose was to get prostitutes off the street and help them move forward. Since then, we have widened the remit to include to homeless people – not people who sleep rough, as we are not geared towards dealing with that, but those in temporary accommodation."

Evans and Bland have achieved stability following periods of great distress, Evans as a volunteer and Bland as an

administrator, both with the wood recycling scheme.

Lee Johnson was brought up in care homes and left school with no qualifications. Thrown out of his brother's flat some time ago, he lives in temporary accommodation.

Johnson – now Ropos's executive assistant – is grateful for his association with Jericho: "Jericho has helped me see what is available and what I can achieve in life. Jericho has helped me consider different paths and it's now up to me to decide."

"Lee has great potential," Ropos enthuses. "He has a great work ethic and is keen not to let his past hold him up. We are helping him look for his own flat."

Ropos operates a zero-tolerance approach to drugs and alcohol: "That's standard, especially in businesses like construction or wood recycling, where huge industrial saws could take your arm off. We can call on a client-support division based at Jericho including qualified psychologists, ex-lecturers, mentors, practitioners – a good spectrum of people provide support for the facility."

What is a social enterprise?

In the West Midlands alone, over 5,000 businesses run operations that, in many cases, fill the gaps created by cuts to public services. "Social enterprises need to have a social or environmental mission or identified beneficiaries to be so defined," says Kevin Maton, Social Enterprise West Midlands Network Director. "They are primarily businesses, and their area of activity could be anything. Some may help those in need by operating a business that has nothing to do with 'helping those in need' but, instead, generates profits that can



be used to help. With public-sector cuts, the transformation of certain services into social enterprises may increase flexibility and provide more innovation. But they will still be businesses that need to pay for staff."

Maton is impressed by the Jericho Foundation's work assisting the homeless in the region and is confident that other organisations will follow its lead: "Housing associations are looking at how their wider supporting people services, their specialist shelters and other accommodation for homeless people can be set up as social enterprises. Social enterprises across the region work with individuals who are in need and may be homeless to help them find employment and increase the stability in their lives."

"We encourage all social enterprises to grow and diversify. Jericho is a good example of an outward-facing social enterprise that is always looking for new opportunities. This allows it to offer increasing prospects for people with a range of disadvantages either in the services it provides or in the jobs it can create."

As funding cuts continue to take their toll, Maton is guarded as to whether social enterprises can really pick up from where public services may fall. "A day centre run as a social enterprise still needs to win contracts to ensure that services are provided. Social enterprises can be more flexible and innovative – they often trade on their local connections and can encourage investment from wider range of providers than local authorities. But they are not a 'catch all' solution for the ills of society."

For Ropos, Jericho's main consideration is not whether social enterprises can or should take on those responsibilities normally shouldered by local authorities but rather, how they can improve lives: "We take homelessness very seriously. We have found over the years that people like coming to

Jericho. We can't give them a job for life, though we'd love to be able to, but we provide a helping hand until they are ready to take the next step in the journey of their lives."

Fraser Tennant

- The Jericho Foundation welcomes volunteers. Jericho Foundation
196–197 Edward Road
Balsall Heath
Birmingham
B12 9LX
0121 440 7919
birmingham@jericho.org.uk
www.jcp.org.uk

Help for West Midlands ex-service personnel

Someone might lose their home because of relationship breakdown, personal tragedy, becoming unemployed, running into debt or it leaving the Armed Forces.

However, under Section 189 of the Housing Act 1996, homeless persons have a priority need for re-housing if they are vulnerable as a result of "having been a member of Her Majesty's regular naval, military or air forces", and their local council will help them find permanent accommodation.

A survey last year by Homeless Link suggested that whilst homelessness among veterans is not high, it is widespread; approximately half the day centres in England reported that they support veterans. Ex-service personnel face a high risk of rough sleeping, though for relatively short periods – fewer were recorded using "second stage" accommodation. It is encouraging that homelessness amongst veterans is quickly resolved, but why does it occur in the first place?

Veterans may be more vulnerable to homelessness because of the nature of their work. Problems may

occur when trying to readjust to 'normal life' after temporary postings around the world. Being reunited with family, trying to secure stable housing or claiming relevant benefits can be particularly difficult for single individuals who haven't got a strong support network. Some may be unprepared. As one participant in a University of York survey said, "I just packed it in and that was it – I hoped for the best."

Veterans have similar characteristics to the wider homeless population; however, a greater proportion has alcohol and physical and/or mental health problems. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is much higher among those who have served in the armed forces. Individuals suffering PTSD are in a state of anxiety following a traumatic event, often one involving a risk to their own life or a colleague's. Symptoms including 'reliving' the event, avoidance behaviour, hypervigilance and emotional numbing. It affects only a minority, but it is becoming increasingly common.

PTSD can prevent someone from finding employment and supported housing, and can lead to ineffective coping mechanisms such as substance misuse. Some service users interviewed by the University of York attributed their mental health problems to their time in service, but a greater number referred to problems in childhood or to trauma after leaving the forces.

Combat Stress, the UK's leading military charity, has reported a 72 per cent increase in the number of people needing their help since 2005, and it currently receives over 1,000 new referrals each year. In response to this, Combat Stress aims to establish a nationwide community outreach programme and to develop clinical treatment at three short-stay centres, including one based in Shropshire.

The Royal British Legion (RBL) provides welfare services to serving and former personnel and

their dependents, campaigns on a range of issues affecting service people and is custodian of Remembrance Day.

Thirty-one-year-old Mark Morgan was a private in The Royal Regiment of Wales for four and a half years; he served in Bosnia and Northern Ireland and, at the age of 18, witnessed the Omagh bombing. He received a sentence for a fight he was involved in while posted in Germany. After being discharged, he returned to the UK, became homeless and slept rough.

The local authorities initially provided him with accommodation in B&Bs and the YMCA; but after an altercation with a fellow resident, he left of his own accord, meaning he no longer qualified for local authority accommodation. Alan Merry at the Legion was able to persuade the council that Morgan's case should be reconsidered as he was showing clear signs of PTSD and drinking heavily because of it. The PTSD was most certainly as a result of an accident in Bosnia that, in turn, triggered flashbacks to his time in Northern Ireland.

RBL's intervention since 2009 has helped Morgan to make positive changes to his life. The council housed him and, in early 2010, the Legion helped him with housing, re-settlement after his prison term, referral to Combat Stress for PTSD, second-hand furniture and white goods. He also received some financial advice."

RBL and the Ministry of Defence are a state-of-the-art facility in the West Midlands for wounded, injured and sick service personnel. It is expected to open this autumn and aims to be fully operational from spring 2012.

Jasveer Kaur

• Contact LegionLine on **08457 725 725** for advice on all the RBL's activities and information on issues

such as counselling, job retraining, welfare grants and career advice.

Crisis Skylight in Birmingham – a year on

To mark its first successful year, Crisis Skylight Birmingham arranged a celebration of the hard work and dedication of its staff, and members were awarded certificates in recognition of their achievements.

Crisis chief executive Leslie Morphy, OBE, told *The Pavement*: "Crisis was founded in 1967 in London by a group of volunteers scandalised by the existence of homelessness in one of the richest societies in the world, but it has gradually developed into an organisation which transforms the lives of people who are homeless. Our services are designed to engage people, giving them motivation, self-esteem and confidence, and then move them through learning and activity into formal education and employment. In Birmingham, we have gained 400 active members; 300 are engaged in activities; and we have helped 17 members gain access to employment in the last few months. Fifty people have gained recognised qualifications and a further 31 have gone on to further education. We are ambitious. We aim to get better at what we do all the time."

Crisis Skylight specialises in arts, education, training and employment skills, and popular courses include cookery, creative writing and photography, sculpture, painting and T-shirt design. William West, who took part in the catwalk show showcasing members' T-shirt designs, said: "Crisis is not like school. Staff give one-to-one support, and their approach is kind and caring – they go out of their way to support you. The education programmes are steady and you are not rushed."

Crisis Skylight's partner organisation Trident Reach offers its premises as a base and meeting place for members. Earl Lawrence, a member of Crisis and a caterer by trade, became homeless after the death of his wife and son.

"Trident helped me get a flat and recommended Crisis to me. I have undertaken several courses with Crisis and I am now computer literate. Crisis is like a lighthouse. The tutors help you believe in yourself."

Crisis looks at where people are in their lives and what they want to achieve, assisted by funds such as the Changing Lives grant, which helps buy books to complement training for members.

Ricky, originally from Poland, has been in England for 10 years. He was made redundant from his full-time job, his relationship broke down and he became homeless. After he got a room at St Anne's Hostel, his main aim was to get a job. Working and learning coach Sharon Johnson helped him with his CV and applying for a job with West Midlands Travel as a bus driver. Ricky says: "I couldn't afford the training manuals for my course, and Crisis bought them for me. I completed my training with West Midlands Travel, who offered me a job as a bus driver. If there is anything Crisis can do for you, they will."

Sharon Johnson said: "Our services, places and facilities are free. There needs to be more of us so we can offer more support to more people in Birmingham. We only have resources to work in Erdington, Sparkbrook and Central Birmingham."

Crisis also works in partnership with the Anawim Centre, a charity providing services for women with poor mental health. Arts volunteer Vicki Shevlin said: "We help an all-female group who are mostly single parents, and offer courses in drama, photography and painting. We help members to build their self-esteem and confidence

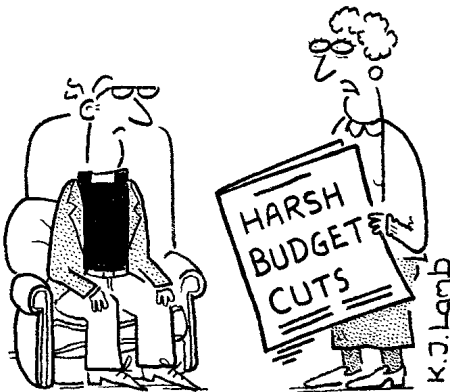
through art. They begin to engage with us and each other, which can help them talk through problems and deal with stressful situations better. Some people underestimate how important the arts and art courses are, especially for vulnerable people who need to experience these positive opportunities."

Joyce Ogbonoko, smart skills tutor at Skylight, is passionate about cooking and runs classes for members. She said: "We initially offer one-to-one support to members and aim to build trust with each individual. We hold weekly cookery classes at the YMCA's and Trident's kitchens, which are great places for members

to attend, learn and share in the passion for food and cooking. So far, we have experimented with English, Nigerian, Thai, Chinese, Indian and Jamaican cuisine. Members enjoy this time and their confidence grows, which allows them to go on to other courses."

Matthew Green, head of Skylight Crisis Birmingham, added: "We will continue to consult with our partners and members exactly on what services Crisis needs to deliver in order to meet the development needs of single homeless people in Birmingham."

Jackie Lindoe



"Less tea, Vicar?"



Alan Murray

Age at disappearance: 63

Alan has been missing from Northfield, Birmingham since 15 April 2010.

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

Alan is 5ft 5in, with long grey hair and a full beard. When he was last seen, he was wearing a khaki coloured $\frac{3}{4}$ length coat and blue jeans. He also wears glasses and has several tattoos on his arm.

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

missing people

Registered Charity No. 1089119

Scheme grows rapidly

No Second Night Out goes national

The No Second Night Out scheme has received a £20m boost to roll out across England.

Just four months into the pilot at London's 'Homeless Hub,' which operates a 24-hour assessment centre aimed at helping 'new' rough sleepers off the streets (see the poster opposite, which is up across London), the government has announced extra cash to roll out NSNO across the country.

Rough sleepers are brought into the Hub by outreach teams where they can spend up to three days while the NSNO finds them accommodation or 'reconnects' them to home areas.

But, rather than specifically replicating the London scheme, which saw over 270 people pass through the Hub in its first three months, the government said it wants local authorities to 'adopt the principles' of No Second Night Out.

These principles involve providing a safe place to assess rough sleepers' needs, access to emergency accommodation and health-care. According to Homeless Link, which is managing the £20m fund, there is also an emphasis on reconnection, when rough sleepers originate from another area or country.

Hannah Cornford from the organisation explained that the money would come from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), over three years. This cash will go into a new Homeless Transition Fund, and from there be doled out to qualifying charities and projects.

'With homelessness rising and services facing funding cuts, it is crucial that we don't just maintain essential front-line help,' Cornford said.

'While the Homelessness Transi-

tion Fund cannot be a substitute for local authority money, it will provide key frontline agencies with breathing space to secure their futures and to innovate - especially in communities that face an increase in rough sleeping.'

Another of the NSNO principles involves getting the public involved. In the London pilot, this has included the launch of a phone number encouraging people to report rough sleepers.

But Petra Salva, Director of the NSNO in London, stressed that the phone line and the Hub were two completely separate entities.

'The phone line is simply a tool to get some intelligence and to deploy a response,' she said. 'People can use it for self referral or members of the public can call in if they're concerned about someone.'

Once someone has contacted the phone line, details will be taken and an outreach team sent out. 'It may result in someone coming to the Hub,' she said. 'However, it may not, if for instance the rough sleeper is not 'new'.'

A 'new' rough sleeper has not yet been recorded by outreach teams - though Salva admits this is an inexact science and these people are not necessarily all new to rough sleeping.

'Last year just under 4,000 people were contacted on the streets of London rough sleeping. Of those 60% were recorded for the first time,' she said. And these are the people the NSNO is targeting.

According to the DCLG, by 6 July the NSNO scheme had already 'helped prevent 135 people from spending a second night on the streets.'

But the Hub has struggled to follow up on how successful

its placements actually are.

Salva explained: 'Of the 270 or so who have come through the assessment Hub, 68% have moved directly from this facility away from the streets. Either they've gone into supported housing, they've gone into a bed and breakfast, they've gone back to their family home, they've gone back to their own home or they've been reconnected abroad.'

'But I'll be completely open and honest about this: we have not been as good at recording or following up on how sustainable the outcomes are.'

When the Hub opened, the NSNO intended to track people 24 and 48 hours after they left, she said, then at one month and three months - but in most cases that hasn't happened. This, she said, is one area the NSNO is working on.

Announcing the extension of the scheme in July, Housing Minister Grant Shapps said the national roll out of the NSNO scheme showed that 'the government would not let tough challenges get in the way of taking action to protect the most vulnerable in society.'

However, Shapps, who declined to comment, is also supporting plans to make it easier for social housing landlords to evict anti-social tenants. And since the riots that hit London and other big cities last month, he has also pledged his support to the eviction of those involved.

For some, it will be hard to reconcile his NSNO roll-out with plans to facilitate the eviction of those already on the bottom rungs of the housing ladder.

Garnet Roach



TONIGHT SOMEONE WILL SLEEP ROUGH FOR THE FIRST TIME

HELP US
MAKE SURE
THEY DON'T SPEND
A SECOND NIGHT OUT

WHEN YOU SEE SOMEONE
SLEEPING ROUGH YOU CAN CALL:

0870 383 3333

OR VISIT:

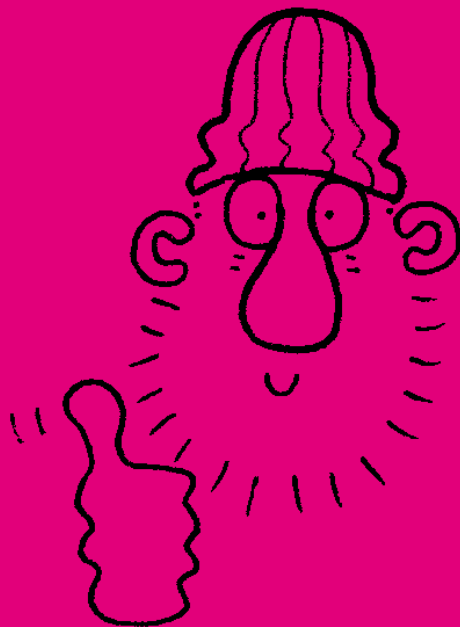
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MAYOR OF LONDON



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



www.thepavement.org.uk

Squatting changes

The government has called for criminalisation of squatting

The government last month issued a consultation paper proposing the criminalization of squatting in order to end what they described as the 'distress and misery' the practice can cause.

The paper, entitled 'Options For Dealing With Squatters,' outlined different actions that the government is considering taking including stricter enforcement of current laws and a new offence that would make squatting a criminal act.

In the introduction to the paper, the parliamentary under-secretary of state, Crispin Blunt, writes: 'The government has become increasingly concerned about the distress and misery that squatters can cause.'

'Law-abiding property owners or occupiers who work hard for a living can spend thousands of pounds evicting squatters from their properties, repairing damage and clearing up the debris they have left behind.'

Squatters Action For Secure Homes (SQUASH), a squatter's advocacy group, said that criminalising squatting would lead to tens of thousands more people facing homelessness and the erosion of civil liberties. They added that it would place a significant extra burden on the police.

The government's action can be seen as a response to recent reports of squatters occupying residential properties. Last September, for example, the Sun newspaper reported how squatters had occupied the home of George Pope, a 72 year old pensioner from East London, whilst he was walking his dog.

The Advisory Service For Squatters (ASS) said that both the government and media were misrepresenting squatters. They explained

that coverage, through using the blanket term 'homeowner,' tended to imply that properties being occupied were those of individuals when this was rarely the case.

'The vast majority of squatting takes place in property owned by institutions and left empty for a significant amount of time,' they wrote in response to the consultation paper.

They added that presentations of squatters incorrectly suggested that they would attempt to live in homes that were occupied. This normally did not occur, they said, as squatters generally recognised that this was illegal.

'Squatters occupy empty property,' ASS said. 'If the property had an existing or planned occupier the squatters have made a mistake and have to leave. Apart from the legal aspect, squatters are looking for a home where they will be able to live for as long as possible. This obviously excludes places that are occupied.'

Squash agreed that there was a 'massive and widespread' misrepresentation of squatters. They added that the media frequently sought to present squatters as people existing outside of normal society.

They said that squatters' activities were typically discussed as though they were already illegal, when under current laws this was not the case.

Rather than the social nuisances and house stealers they were presented as, Squash said that many squatters came from vulnerable backgrounds.

'The thing that unifies those who squat is that state services are unable to provide them with adequate accommodation for their needs,' they said. 'Whether that

be because they do not wish to bring up their children in a hostel, because they are immigrants who cannot access housing provision, because they suffer mental health issues that state-provision may only exacerbate, or simply because the job they do could never afford them rent where they need to live.'

SQUASH anticipate that the number of people needing to squat will rise rapidly as a result of the recent benefit cuts.

Nicholas Olczak

News in brief

The homeless news from around the bazaars – here and abroad

Support and guidance for new night shelters this winter

Christian homelessness charity Housing Justice has appointed a new shelter liaison coordinator to assist with its winter programme development.

The organisation launched a resource called Shelter in a Pack last year, to give practical advice to anyone setting up a night shelter for homeless people. 'Our job is to support existing shelters, help develop new shelters and develop the community of night shelters,' new liaison coordinator Paul Reilly told *The Pavement*. 'We don't know yet how many shelters will be opening this winter, but we do know that an increasing number of churches are keen to help.'

In terms of launching a successful night shelter, Reilly states that the main issue is confidence. 'People wonder whether they can do this and it puts doubts in their minds. The fact is they can, with a bit of help and advice.' So far, Shelter in a Pack has received positive feedback, with many users claiming it had been a very valuable and informative tool.

New to the role of shelter liaison coordinator, Reilly anticipates that the position, and his responsibilities, will grow and develop over time. 'When you take on a new role you need to listen to everything that needs doing and that's what I'm doing now,' he said, adding that he was also keen to help on the ground. 'I believe in both social action and social justice. Social action is about pulling someone out of the river; social justice is

about asking how they fell in. We need both to successfully address the problem of homelessness and solve the underlying issues.'

According to Mike Nicholas, Communications Manager at London-based charity Thames Reach, 3,975 people were recorded sleeping rough in London at some point last year. He added that, while progress was being made, more will be done this year to pull rough sleepers out of the homelessness trap. 'People need more than just tea and sympathy,' he told *The Pavement*. 'We need to put our energy into outreach programmes to get more people off the street.' Nicholas added that one soup run had managed to get twenty people into accommodation by moving into an indoor hostel environment with greater outreach resources.

For people new to the streets this year, the introduction of 'No Second Night Out' (NSNO) is already proving successful. The programme, which aims to ensure that anyone found sleeping rough is immediately transferred to accommodation, has helped some 200 homeless people to move off the streets. Nicholas states that while more than 3000 rough sleepers were recorded last year, many of these are brought into accommodation quickly due to the numerous hostels and programmes such as NSNO. 'We found 349 'entrenched' rough sleepers last year,' he said. 'Many of these people suffer from mental health and addiction problems and need much more help and support.'

In addition to more winter shelters, Nicholas said that severe weather emergency shelters will be set up during the colder months. 'When we have cold snowy weather

this winter there will be extra beds across the capital available to anyone who needs them.' He added that, while many people struggle to get hostel accommodation at other times of year due to immigration and addiction issues, bed spaces will be available to all regardless of circumstances during harsh weather.

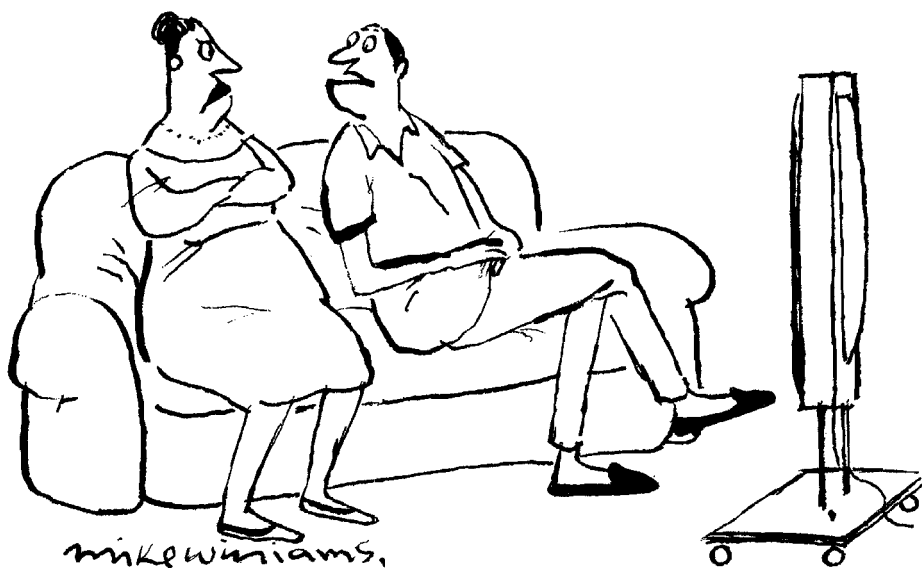
Lizzie Cernik

Homeless World Cup kicks off

The last week of August saw the beginning of the ninth annual Homeless World Cup, which kicked off in Paris with a game between France and Portugal held near the Eiffel Tower. The competition involves over 500 homeless men and women from 48 countries, and, organisers say, gives players their best chance of rehabilitation. Over 70 per cent of participants in previous tournaments have succeeded in beating their addictions, or finding themselves jobs or homes.

The French footballer Emmanuel Petit - part of France's famous 1998 World Cup-winning side - was on the pitch for the first match with Mel Young, who founded the tournament in 2003. Young, who also co-founded the Big Issue Scotland, said in a statement that 'the impact of this competition is profound.'

'The tournament has engaged over 100,000 homeless people since it started and over 70 percent of participants have changed their lives for the better,' he said. 'The Paris 2011 Homeless World Cup is an opportunity for homeless people to move from being invisible to standing proud on a global



"It's not a load of old rubbish, it's a load of old 'High Definition' rubbish"

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.



stage, and become the true ambassadors of their country that they are.'

To qualify, players have to have been homeless for the past year, or asylum seekers in the country they wish to represent. Competition for a spot in each national team has been fierce - in Mexico alone, over 17,000 people tried out for a place.

The England team for the tournament is made up of eight young men from cities across the country, who have been supported by the Manchester United Foundation. Reds manager Alex Ferguson said: 'I've heard they've been training hard. The players have done well to make the team, being selected from hundreds of people and it's a fantastic opportunity for them. I wish them the best of luck. If Scotland don't win then I hope the England team will bring the trophy home.'

For many players, their time in

the tournament gives them a unique opportunity to escape from other problems in their lives. 'When I play football, I feel good,' said Sylla Faouly, of the France team. 'I don't have to get worked up any more. I am at ease.'

STOP PRESS:

As we go to press it has been announced that Scotland raised the cup (pictured left) on 30 August. They beat Mexico 4-3.

Jim O'Reilly

Peter Pickles on film

Homeless man Peter Pickles walked 70 miles from Islington to Kent in a bid raise money for charity (as covered by this paper) - and now a documentary is being made about his three-day trek.

The hour-long film details Pickles' walk from St Luke's Gardens in Old Street to his birthplace of Dymchurch last August.

His friend Lionel also went along for the 70-mile stroll. 'I decided to go for a little walk and he just followed me,' joked Pickles.

Pickles raised over £1,000 for the Kings Corner Project, an Old Street-based charity offering advice and support for young people.

'Workers and volunteers at Kings Corner have really looked after me' said Pickles. 'They treat me as a normal person - and this is my thank-you to them.'

Filmmaker Patrick Steel followed Pickles on his inspirational walk, and his documentary is now in production.

The film examines how the government's plans to end rough sleeping by 2012 are actually affecting people on the streets, said Steel.

But it also focuses on the positives. 'Just because you're homeless doesn't mean you're not an active member of society and don't have a lot to give' said Steel. 'Peter is a perfect example of that and a great role model.'

Garnet Roach

Homeless fear violence as riots erupt on Britain's streets

In the minds of many, the riots that began on 6 August in Tottenham and spread across Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester have strengthened the perception of British society as 'broken'. Three men were killed in Birmingham, when they were hit by a car while defending their property, and many business owners have feared for their premises.

The anxiety caused by violence on the streets has also reached our readers. Mike Nicholas of homelessness charity Thames Reach commented that 'there was an air of nervousness and people were moving away from the areas of riots.' Although Nicholas had heard of one case of a phone being stolen from a homeless man he hadn't heard of anyone being hurt or assaulted in any way, despite working with thousands of homeless people every year.

While there were reports in Liverpool of assaults to outreach workers, some of whom apparently suffered bruising, it is unclear whether this was as a result of rioting. Matty Roberts, at the Liverpool YMCA, was relieved and said that 'none of our members have really been affected by the riots. Luckily we're out of the area where it happened.'

Elsewhere, Manchester City Council has been praised for its swift efforts to ensure housing was available to some of the city's rough sleepers. Councillor Paul Andrews, the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, stressed his commitment to tackle rough sleeping. He said: 'I will ensure that the City Council and its partners continue to do as much as we can to prevent people from rough sleeping. Where people do end up on the streets I will ensure that they continue to be given the appropriate support they need to move away from them as quickly as possible.'

Meanwhile confusion and debate over the possible causes of the riots is widespread. Many involved in the Tottenham riots have cited reported police misinformation regarding the death of Mark Duggan as an initial trigger for the violence. However, Duggan's family has sought to distance their son from the actions some appear to have carried out in his name.

Since the trials of looters began, words like 'stupid', 'prank' and 'opportunistic' have appeared frequently in the press. To many commentators, it seems the rioters were driven entirely by greed and not by political motivation.

While not everyone has been directly affected by the riots the rippling financial effects will be felt by most. David Cameron has promised that aid will be made available to help stricken areas recover following the riots. £10 million has been allocated to ensure that the worst hit areas recover to a pre riot standard and more money

is promised to help businesses re-establish themselves and to compensate home and business owners.

Zara Cameron

Body found in tent

The body of a rough sleeper found in Staffordshire parkland has been identified as Clare Bromley, 40, from Leek. Ms Bromley's body was found by a member of the public in a tent in Festival Park, Stoke-on-Trent, at the beginning of July. The circumstances of her discovery lead to a police investigation into her identity and cause of death, which has now been declared 'not suspicious.' It is believed that Ms Bromley died of a liver disorder, caused by alcoholism.

Ms Bromley's partner, Stephen Armstrong, told local reporters of his distress. 'I am very upset she's died because I loved her. Yes, she had a temper, but she had a heart of gold. I'm going to miss her terribly. I don't think I will start courting again.'

'I thought it would be me who went first. We'd both been heavy drinkers since being teenagers - and it had been me who had first started to go yellow.'

Stephen said that he met Clare in the A&E department at the University Hospital of North Staffordshire. He added: 'She was having her leg stitched because she used to be a self-harmer, and I was there because I had been having chest pains from too much alcohol.'

Ms Bromley was well-known to locals in Leek, where she often slept rough in the porch of a church. Local historian Bill Cawley said he had frequently seen Clare near the town's war memorial. 'Her life seemed to be a cheerless one with a broken childhood, addiction to alcohol and the depressing carousel of regular court appearances, eviction, homelessness and begging,' he said.

'I am sure that the authorities, the police, Salvation Army and others did their best, but it is likely she was unable to change her situation.'

James O'Reilly

Homeless man arrested for unlawfully charging phone

A homeless man was arrested after being caught charging two mobile phones in a plug socket outside of a US shop.

Shaun Fawster, 23, was charged with theft of services and remanded in custody in Bangor, Maine after a police officer found him charging the phones in an electric outlet hidden behind some flowers.

Bangor Police Lieutenant Jeff Millard said he was charged with theft of services and carrying a concealed weapon, which was a folding knife discovered tucked under his shirt after his arrest in June. He was taken to Penobscot County Jail but released shortly afterwards on bail.

The District Attorney's Office has since dropped the charges against Mr Fawster, who was described by police as a 'transient.' Susan J. Pope, assistant district attorney, said: 'Prosecutors have declined to pursue the case.' She added that the District Attorney's Office had discretion over whether charges brought by police are carried forward or not.

The case of Mr Fawster is not the first instance of someone being arrested for charging their phone with electricity they have not paid for. In May, US lawyer William Webb Greenfelder, 38, was charged with breaking into an empty mobile home and stealing electricity after his phone was found plugged into a socket via an orange extension cord.

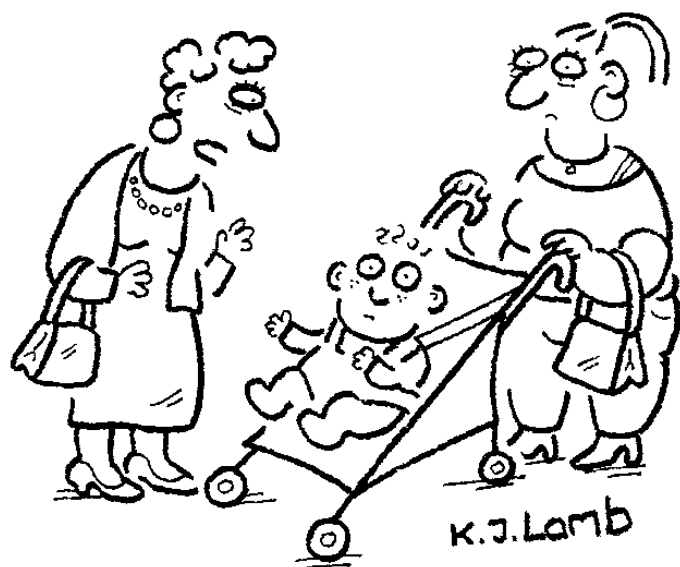
Rebecca Evans

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

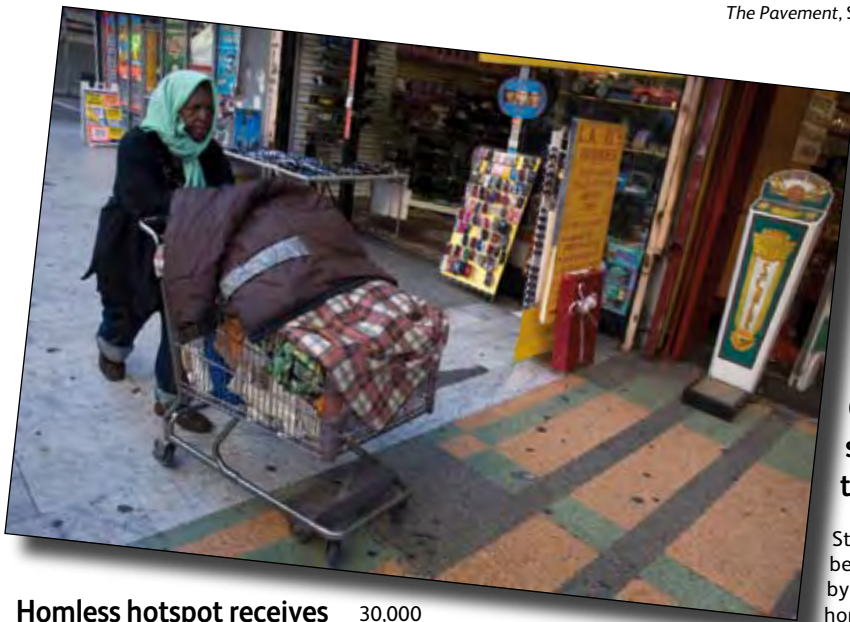


If you have a mobile, and can spare a few pounds, please text **PAVE11** followed by **the amount in pounds*** (max £10) to **70070**

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



"Oh, he has his father's debts"



vulnerable youngsters walk through its doors to be taught performance and visual art since it was founded in 1989.

Rebecca Evans

Centrepont staff threaten to strike

Strike action is being threatened by staff at leading homelessness charity Centrepont over

proposed cutbacks, following government funding losses.

Centrepont staff and member of union Unite have voted 82 per cent in favour of industrial action in a dispute over unevenly distributed pay cuts and job loss at the charity. Unite claims that this has resulted in front-line staff bearing the brunt of restructuring proposals.

Centrepont is under the patronage of the Duke of Cambridge and has been hit by a 27 per cent decrease in overall local authority funding. The latest cuts not only affect staff members but also the 1,200 young people helped by Centrepont each year.

Matt Smith, Unite Regional Officer, told *The Pavement* that out of 121 posts there will be at least 116 affected either through pay cuts or redundancies with up to 28 job losses expected.

'Our members are very concerned about the service that will be left if draconian cuts go through,' he said. 'The irony is that with these cuts some of our members will have to look at alternative employment and there is a major concern about what will this do

Homeless hotspot receives royal visit

A spotlight was thrown onto the homeless capital of the world after a visit by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge during their recent tour of North America.

Prince William and his new bride Kate spent the day at a children's arts centre in Skid Row – an impoverished five square mile area of downtown Los Angeles where around half of the population of 17,000 live below the poverty line.

The notoriously deprived area has around 7,000 homeless people, the largest stable population in the United States, and the streets are lined with tents and cardboard boxes.

William and Kate, who are more familiar with the glamorous trappings of their royal lifestyle, saw men and women pulling shopping trolleys containing their scant belongings and tents erected on pavements as they were driven through the streets.

The couple were visiting Inner-City Arts – a project delivering dance, drama, music, ceramics and visual and media arts to around 10,000 children each year. Some

30,000 'at risk' children live within a 2.5 mile radius of the centre, 90 per cent of whom live below the poverty line. Its interests overlap with those of British homelessness charity Centrepont, of which the prince is patron (see following story).

The aim of the royal visit, during a three day trip to California in July, was to learn about the extent of homelessness and the issues affecting children in Los Angeles. Whilst at the centre, William and Kate heard about the challenges faced by children in the area, before sitting at easels to paint.

Cynthia Harnisch, the academy's president and chief executive, spoke to the couple about Skid Row and the challenges of poverty and homelessness faced by many students at the school. She said: 'Everyone has felt so uplifted that the most famous couple in the world came to their campus, visiting their neighbourhood.'

But some Skid Row residents were less than impressed. Sitting on a piece of cardboard, Victor Green, 53, said: 'It's a dog-and-pony show. It's not going to change anything.'

Inner-City Arts, a not-for-profit organisation, has seen 150,000

to Centrepont. They're restricting the frontline workers so we want to make sure the cuts are distributed as fairly as possible.'

'The senior leadership team aren't taking any cuts in pay but other members are. You can't just simply dismiss the lowest paid; we should be in it together to mitigate the cuts.'

Centrepont claims that Unite have not provided any 'constructive counter proposals' to the restructuring and that they were currently engaged in 'full and meaningful consultation' with staff having explored all other options.

A spokeswoman for Centrepont said: 'Like many other charities, we are responding to cuts in government funding, which is necessary to continue our commitment to delivering high quality support to vulnerable young people.'

Smith revealed that communications between the two parties had broken down but was optimistic about reaching a solution.

Dearbhla Crosse

Increasing numbers of youngsters turn to the streets

An estimated 100,000 children became homeless last year due to issues including substance abuse, sexual harassment and problems within care homes.

A recent report from The Children's Society suggested that one in nine youngsters would run away from home at least once before the age of 16, with just under a third of these leaving three or more times.

The organisation, which assists homeless youths across the country, said that runaways are getting younger, with many children aged just 11 or 12 taking to the streets. Officials added

that the charity was doing its best to improve its handling of these situations and offer more support to young runaways.

'Every child who runs away should run to safety,' the charity's Chief Executive, Bob Reitemeier said. 'Society is failing young runaways, condemning tens of thousands of children to misery and danger by failing to provide an adequate safety net to break their fall.'

Reitemeier said that children are often made to feel 'fearful' of authority due to their unsettled backgrounds and that the organisation aimed to build trust with young homeless people. To address the issues at hand, the charity is implementing an action plan to work with troubled families and improve responses from local authorities.

Lizzie Cernik

Bid to elect 'Supertramp' as bearer of Olympic torch

More than 17,000 people have joined a Facebook group to nominate a Bournemouth eccentric to carry the London 2012 Olympic Torch.

Gordon Roberts, 82, is affectionately known to locals as 'Gordon the Supertramp' because of his amazing time-keeping ability - despite not wearing a watch. He is being proposed as a torchbearer on the basis of his being an inspirational member of the community.

Mr Roberts, who is not homeless, has become something of a local celebrity in his Dorset hometown, where he has spent more than 20 years wandering the streets sporting a trademark white beard, football scarf and Parka jacket - and always

knowing the exact time.

But despite his mass backing, Mr Roberts says he has still not made up his mind if he will accept, commenting: 'I'll still have to think it over. It won't change my life and if it's heavy I might drop it.'

Jade Reynolds, 21, who started the Facebook campaign with her cousin, said: 'Gordon is the nicest, most genuine man you could meet, so when we saw an advert for local heroes to carry the Olympic Torch, he was the first person who came to mind.'

The Olympic Torch Relay will take place next year from May 19 to July 27, with 8,000 torch bearers carrying the flame for 300 metres each across the length and breadth of Britain.

Gordon added: 'I like sport and it would be very good fun - but what if it rains?'

His supporters will now nominate Mr Roberts to the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG) as a worthy candidate for the job.

Rebecca Evans



“Where do they get the booze from?!”

STREET SHIELD

EPISODE 23

STREET SHIELD AND THE POPSTAR ARE RESTING AFTER THE RIOTS...



SLEEPING OUT IN A TORRENTIAL SHOWER...



YOUR WORK..?

HE LEFT THE HIGH STREET PICKINGS. HE IGNORED THE LOOT TO ADMINISTER KICKINGS.





NEXT: THE PAIR ON PATROL!

Health and wellbeing

The Pavement's health team aim to help keep you healthy and so happier

Male sexual health

How seriously do you take your sexual health? If you're like most men, you'll only think about it when things go wrong and then you'll get really stressed about it. Sexual health problems cause anxiety as they are so deeply personal.

Women get used to sharing sexual health issues with friends – you can't really avoid it if you have babies! We're deluged with information about breast cancer, have to go to the doctor for contraceptive advice and are invited for smear tests every three years. What do the boys get? Not much.

Your testicles produce sperm and the male sex hormone testosterone, so they're very important organs. They should feel smooth without any lumps or bumpy bits. It's normal for one to be lower than the other and they have a little tube at the back called the epididymis. There are a number of reasons for getting lumps in the testicles: don't immediately assume a lump is cancerous, but get it checked by your GP.

Testicular cancer is the one of the most common cancers in men between the ages of 20 and 35. If detected early, it's easily treated and curable. If you're a young man, you have roughly a one in 400 chance of developing testicular cancer. The best way to protect yourself from it is to get into the habit of checking your testicles regularly. It's really easy to do and only takes a few minutes. Here's how it's done.

Grab a hot bath or shower; this will loosen your scrotum and muscles, making it easier. Next have a good feel about, gently roll

your testicles between your fingers and thumb. When you first start checking yourself, you are really just getting to know what they normally feel like so you can pick up any changes later on. Your testicles will not be exactly the same size and shape and you'll feel some little tubes in there. This is normal. Do this once a month and you'll get to know your own testicles and what they should feel like.

The changes you are looking for are lumps, changes in size or swelling. Some men describe the early symptoms of testicular cancer as being like a "dull ache", while others find one testicle swells up, gets heavier or becomes tender. Some men also get back pain, abdominal pain or coughing. Everyone is different, so follow your instincts and if you find something while checking that you're not happy with, go to the doctor.

Non-cancerous causes of lumps and changes in the testicles are usually benign cysts, fluid or enlarged veins and may still need treatment. It is estimated that four out of every 100 lumps are caused by testicular cancer.

Finally, testicular torsion is when one of your testicles gets twisted and the blood flow is cut off. It usually happens to teenagers but can also happen to adult men. It is pretty rare but if it happens, it is a medical emergency and you should get medical help immediately.

Susie Rathie

The Pavement's nurse

Science and your feet

When you think of your feet, 'science' isn't probably a word that springs to mind, yet our feet are a scientific wonder, a spectacular blend of physics, biology and chemistry that keep us mobile. Although we give them little thought, they are so important in our daily lives. Understanding the scientific principles that keep our feet happy and healthy may go some way toward keeping us walking and keeping those feet sweet.

Physics

Physics considers many aspects of movement, energy and angles. Most people are surprised to learn that each foot contains 26 small bones, and this structure allows the foot to move freely when we walk across different types of surfaces.

Each bone makes a joint with the one next to it, and these joints are supported by tight ligaments, which are the structures which hold this whole bag of loose bones together. Muscles and tendons then help us move these joints.

When we walk, we exert a force onto the ground as we take each step, but the ground also sends a force back into us. Sir Isaac Newton summed it up for us in his third law (broadly, 'for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction'), meaning that as our foot hits the ground with each step, essentially the ground hits us back.

If we floated around, our joints would last forever, but as we have to hit the ground, and it has to hit us back, our foot joints have to take quite a lot of shock and trauma over our life course. This can

lead to arthritic changes within the joints, and that, combined with ageing ligaments, means that we tend to have less movement available in our joints as we age. Our feet can't fight physics (energy, forces and gravity are all inevitable), so all we can do is keep our feet cushioned a little by wearing shoes with thickish soles which can help absorb some of the normal shock sent back up into the feet and legs with every step we take.

Biology

Biology considers life and development, the cells we are made from and how they work.

Our feet push out somewhere between a half pint and a pint of sweat each day, and this normal sweating is essential and an important part of keeping our temperature regular and our fluids balanced. This sweat is mainly water and salt, but when it hits our skin, socks and shoes, the normal bacteria that lives happily there mixes with it and makes the characteristic 'sweaty feet' smell.

The best way to limit this is to use natural materials on our feet that allow evaporation of the sweat. Cotton socks and leather shoes are good examples of these, but not always easy to acquire, as most 'cotton socks' are blended with something, and shoes which are made of natural materials on the outside often have synthetic linings. Keeping our feet at a constant temperature is important, so try to avoid extremes of cold and extremes of heat.

If your feet are cold, warm them up slowly: sticking cold feet in front of a hot fire may feel nice, but it is too much for the blood flow in your feet to cope with. The skin around our feet is vital in protecting all the important stuff beneath,

and operates with a fine biological balance to keep us healthy. Keeping your skin intact is also important, and given that a lot of infections can be passed on via standing on damp floors, try to wear something on your feet in the shower (like old flip-flops) to avoid catching veruccæ and other bacterial, fungal and viral foot infections. Keep your feet as dry as you can, as wet feet encourage all these bugs to flourish.

Chemistry

Chemistry considers the way things are made, and what they are made from.

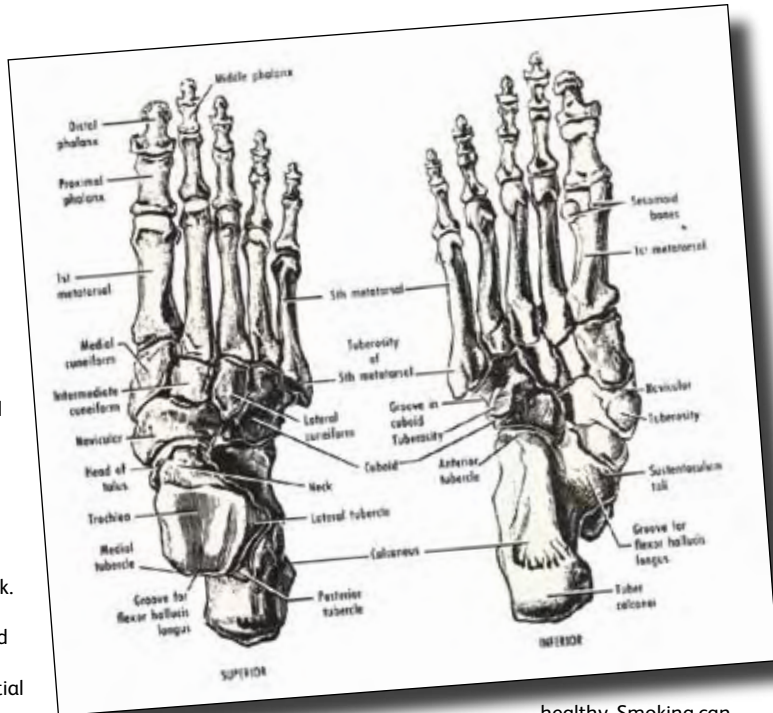
Chemistry affects our feet in ways we may not think of, particularly in the maintenance of the nerves that supply our feet to help us move and give us the ability to feel things through our skin. The blood that travels through our circulatory system also relies on a fine chemical balance to keep our feet

healthy. Smoking can have an impact on the blood supply to our feet, and drinking large amounts of alcohol over a long time can also affect the nerves to our feet. Drugs, both prescription and street drugs, can also have an influence on the chemical function of the nerve supply and blood supply to our feet. Chemistry also influences the skin condition of our feet, giving us dry skin, or wet, macerated skin, both of which can make breaks in the skin and let the bugs in.

Feet are a wonderful blend of art and science, and as they hopefully have to last us a long number of years, keeping them healthy is part of keeping healthy for life. To quote a little piece of useful guidance from Thomas Merton: "Be good, keep your feet dry, your eyes open and your heart at peace..."

Evelyn Weir

Lecturer in podiatry
Queen Margaret University
Edinburgh





"Ugg's stuff seems so chocolate boxy these days"

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

Housing advice for LGBT people

020 7359 5767

(Mon, Thu, Fri 10am–1pm;

Tue & Wed 2 – 5pm)

UK Human Trafficking Centre

0114 252 3891

WEBSITES

Birmingham City Council
Click through 'housing'/'finding a
home'/'help for homeless people'

www.birmingham.gov.uk

National Homelessness Advice

Service

Readers can click on the

section 'need advice'

www.nhas.org.uk

The Pavement online

Regularly updated online

version of The List.

[www.thepavement.org.uk/
services.htm](http://www.thepavement.org.uk/services.htm)

Sock Book

sockbook.referrata.com

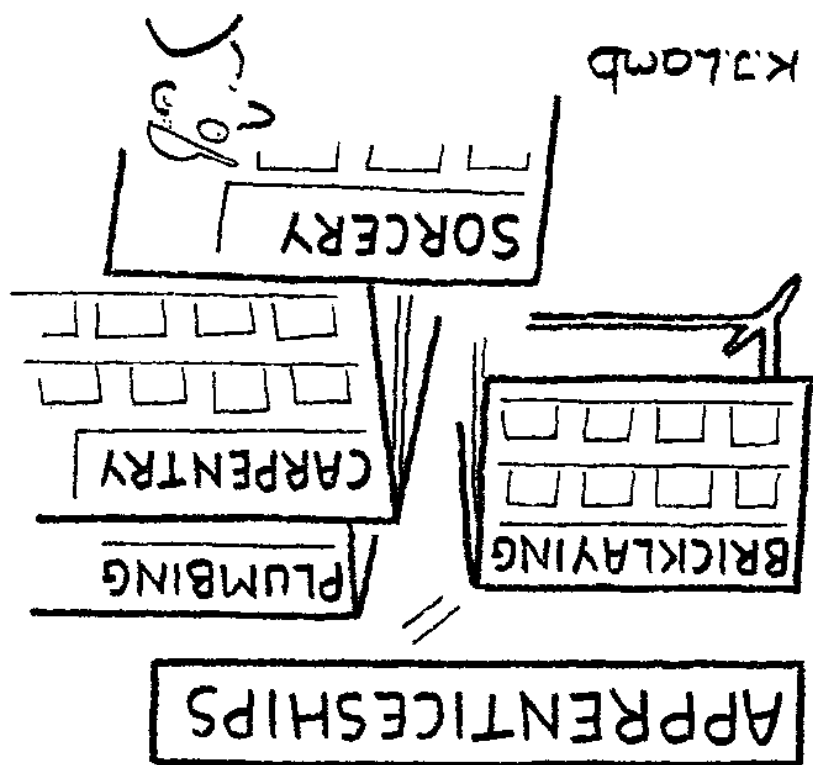
Stonewall Housing

Housing advice for LGBT

people of all ages

www.stonewallhousing.org

**You can read the news,
keep informed & search our
directory of services online @
www.thepavement.org.uk**



Coventry Refugee Centre

15 Bishop St, Coventry CV1 1HU
024 7622 7254

Mon–Thu: 9am–5pm; Wed & Fri: 1pm–5pm; Fri: 9am–4pm
Helps asylum seekers and EU citizens. Helps refugees given leave to remain to set up home. Women's and youth groups.

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

Dudley Refugee Support Team

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

Mon–Fri: 9am–5pm
Culturally sensitive support service. Advice on benefits, harassment, domestic violence, housing. Flooding support.

BA, H, OW

Gilgal

PO Box 3918, Birmingham B9 5AQ
0121 773 1431

Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
Escaping domestic violence. Emergency accommodation for women and children. Birmingham Domestic Abuse Refuges: 0800 111 4223

AS, AD, H, LA, SH

The Haven Wolverhampton

PO Box 105, Wolverhampton WV1 4LP
01902 572140

Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
For women affected by domestic violence and their children. Emergency accommodation, advocacy, emotional support, benefits and immigration support, resettlement, and help for children and young people. 24-hour helpline: 01 902 713001

AS, AD, BA, C, H, MH

IWIC (Older Irish Adults Project)

St Anne's, 45 Alcester Street, Dertend, Birmingham, B12 0PH
0121 604 6111

Mon, Tue & Thu: 1.30am–4.30pm; Wed: 2.30–5pm; Fri: 1.30am–3.30pm
Activities centre for older (50+) Irish people, inc. people who are homeless, isolated, living in poor accommodation, ex-offenders, those needing support around life skills. AS, AW, BS, CL, F, H, MS, MH, OB, TS

SAFE Project

Phone for details
0121 440 6655

Mon: 12.45am–1.45pm (clinic) – 01 21 440 0034; Mon: 1.15pm–3.30pm (walk-in clinic); Wed: 12am–4pm (drop-in clinic); Thu: 1am–1.30pm (Methadone clinic – 01 21 446 5381)
Promotes the health and wellbeing of female sex workers (18+) in Birmingham, Sandwell and Walsall. AD, BA, CA, C, D, MS, OB, OL, SH

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

Stonewall Housing

Housing advice for LGBT people of all ages
020 7359 5767 (advice line)
www.stonewallhousing.org

Time2talk Mediation Service

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

Mon–Fri: 9am–5pm (message service outside these hours. Interpreters can be arranged) AD, C
Free for Dudley residents.

Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council (Refugee Support Team)

2nd Fl, Civic Center, Darwall St, Walsall WS1 1TP
01922 653827, 653840, 653476

Mon–Fri: 9am–5pm
AS, BA, H, OL
The What? Centre
23 Coventry St, Stourbridge DY8 1EP
01384 379992

Advice, information and therapeutic counselling for people 13–25 in Dudley. AS, AD, BA, C, DA, ET, H, LA, MS, MH, SH

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

TELEPHONE SERVICES

Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
Single people and parents, inc. women escaping domestic violence, young homeless people, and young women who are pregnant or single parents. Referrals to other agencies for specialist help. CET, LA, OL

Community Legal Advice

0845 345 4345
National
www.communitylegaladvice.org.uk

Sat: 9am–12.30pm
AD, BA, DA, H
Free, confidential service, offering specialist advice on housing, benefits, tax credits, debt etc.

Domestic Violence Helpline

0808 2000 247

Frank
0800 776 600
Free 24-hr drug helpline
Get Connected
0808 808 4994
Free advice for young people (1pm – 7pm daily)

Job Centre Plus (benefits agency)

To make a claim
0800 055 6688
For queries about existing claims for Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance or Incapacity Benefit
0845 377 6001

For Social Fund enquiries
0845 608 8661
For the Pensions Service
0845 60 60 265

Message Home Helpline

0800 700 740, 24 hrs daily

National Debtline

0808 808 4000

Runaway Helpline

0808 800 7070

Free line for under-18s who have left home

The Health Exchange
William Booth Lane, Birmingham B4 6HA
Mon & Fri: 2:30pm-4:30pm;
Tues, Wed, Thu: 1pm-4pm;
Wed & Thu: 9am-11am
Medical practice for homeless people in Birmingham.
MS

Vision Care for Homeless People
William Booth Centre, Shadwell St, Birmingham B4 6HA
Mon: 10am-5pm (except bank holidays)
Comprehensive eyecare services, totally free of charge. MS

PERFORMING ARTS

Crisis Skilght Birmingham
0121 348 7950
PO Box 15850, Birmingham, B9 9HL
Running at various locations
— call for details
AC, ET, IT, MC, PA

SPECIALIST SERVICES

Anawim
PO Box 8902, Birmingham B12 9JZ
0121 440 5296
Mon-Fri: 10am-4pm (out of hours: 07976 188 220)
Reaches out in friendship to women trapped in prostitution. Courses and activities, creche. Methadone programme. 24-hour helpline: 0800 970 8232.
AS, AD, AS, BA, CL, C, D, ET, FF, H, LA, SH

The Castle & Crystal Credit Union
25 New St, Dudley DY1 1LT
01384 815771
All credit union members (18+) can apply for a Handloan (£100 to £500) and anyone living or working in Dudley can join.

Centrepoint Streets Project
PO Box 2156, West Bromwich, Birmingham B70 6HA
0871 717 7284
Outreach to asylum seekers, refugees, and the homeless. Education and training for children and young people.
AD, CA, ET, H

0121 236 1936
Employment and training.
CA, ET

EX-FORCES

AWOL?
01380 738137
Call the 'Reclaim Your Life' scheme from SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association): Mon - Fri: 9am - 10am

Birmingham City Council (Housing Pathways)
PO Box 13254B1, Birmingham B15 1DL
0121 675 1683
If you are leaving, or have left, the armed forces, you can apply directly. Phone or email (HOVulnerablepersons@birmingham.gov.uk).

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

Stonham (Ellesmere)
Fullwood House, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 0AA
01691 623756
Mon-Fri: 8:30am-5pm
Supported accommodation for ex-services personnel.
AS, BA, H, TS

Veterans UK
0800 169 2277
Free help and advice for veterans and access to dedicated one-to-one welfare service
www.veterans-uk.info

MEDICAL SERVICES

Community Mental Health Homeless Team
3rd Fl, Morcome House, Ledasam St, Ladywood, Birmingham B16 8DN
0121 685 6970
Mon-Fri: 9am-7pm; Sat & Sun: 9am-5pm
Help with accommodation, benefits, employment and resettlement. Help with access to mental health services.
AS, AD, BA, CA, C, H, MH, OB, OL

For people with alcohol, drugs and gambling addictions. 0121 685 6340 (North B'ham); 0121 414 0888 (South B'ham). AW, C, D

Birmingham Drug & Alcohol Team
1st Floor, Technology Block, Gee Business Centre, Birmingham, B7 5PA
0121 465 4930
0800 073 0817 (Helpline)
Daily 9am - 5pm
A, D, ET

Norman Imlah Day Centre
2nd Fl, The Matthews Centre, Duddeston Manor Rd, Duddeston, Birmingham B7 4LZ
0121 685 6346
Mon-Thu: 9am-5pm; Fri: 9am-4pm
For people wanting help and support in addressing their alcohol problem/dependence.
AS, AD, AW, AS, C, ET, LA, MH, SH

EASTERN EUROPEAN

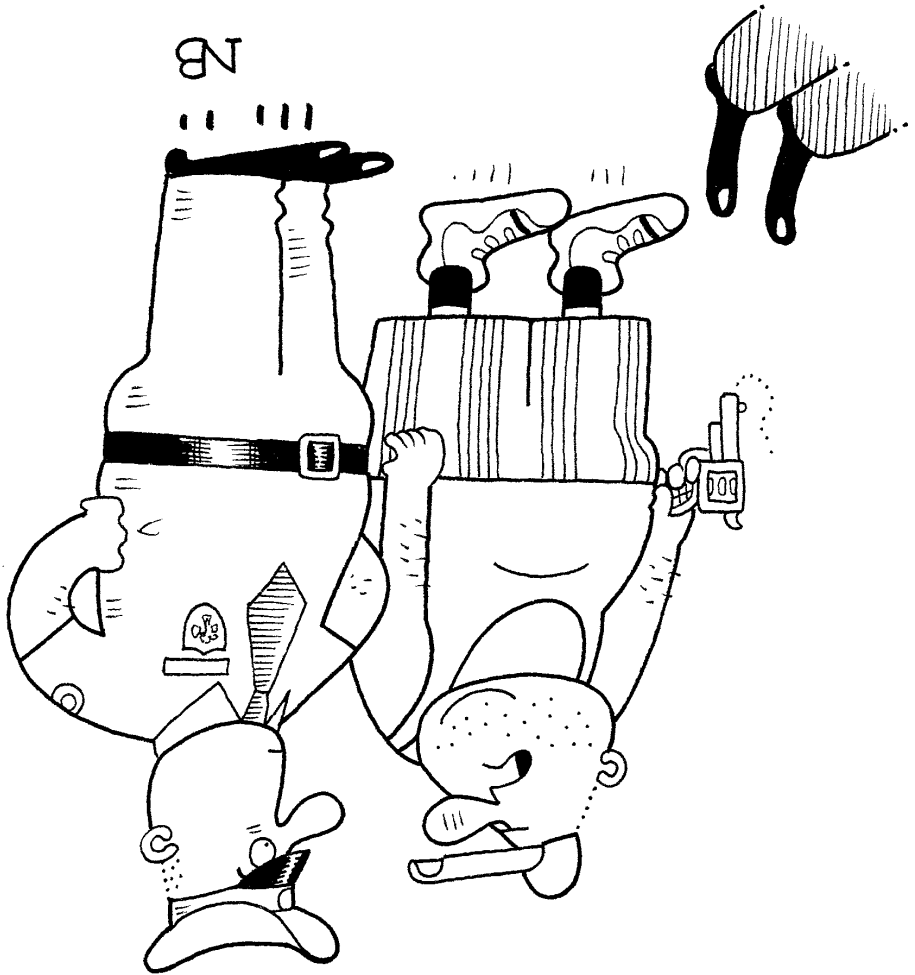
Polish Club Birmingham
Polish Millennium House, Bordesley St, Birmingham B5 5PH
0121 643 3577
Fri: 1pm-3pm
Advice on employment law, social benefits, housing and accommodation.
AS, BA, DA, H, LE

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

ENTA
10 Mill Street
Birmingham B6 4BS
0121 380 4801
Mon-Thu: 8.30-4.30; Fri: 8.30-1.30
CA, ET
www.entapeople.com

The Big Issue (West Midlands)
Pace House, 23-25 Summer Lane, Birmingham B19 3TN

"He was violating my constitutional right to shoot him"



“You...me...online...now!”



St Anne's Hostel
112 Moseley St, Birmingham B12 0RY
0121 772 4406
Mon-Sun: Open 24 hours
For single homeless men aged 25+, May accept dogs.
AW, BA, D, ET, F, MS, OL

Stonham (St George's House)
Old Hall St, Wolverhampton WV1 3AT
01902 420536
Mon-Sun: 8am-10pm
Single homeless men and ex-offenders.
AS, AD, ET, H, OL, TS

P3 – Bilston Hostel
53 Wellington Rd, Wolverhampton WV14 6AQ
01902 490050
Mon-Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless men, inc. ex-offenders and rough sleepers. D

P3 – Dickens Lodge
89-95 Dickens Rd, Wolverhampton WV10 8SD
01902 572162
Mon-Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless men, inc. rough sleepers, ex-offenders, people with mental health needs and those with alcohol or drug problems.
AS, AD, AW, D, ET, H, MH, TS

Women
Helen Dixon House
76 Alcester Road, Moseley, Birmingham, B13 8BB
0121 449 3748
For women aged 16-45
Young people (16-25)

Coventry Foyer
Holyhead Court, Lower Holyhead, Rd, Coventry CV1 3AX
024 76251001
Mon-Sun: Open 24 hours
For young people 16-24 who require support around independent living.
AS, AD, CA, ET, H, IT, OL

CHADD – On Route Project
6 Dixons Green Rd, Dudley DY2 7DH
01384 455464
Mon-Fri: 9am-10pm; Sat & Sun: 7pm-10pm

Stonham (Gilson Way Hostel)
c/o Morris House, 430-432 Chester Rd, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham B36 0LF
Mon-Fri: 9am-4:30pm

Accommodation for men aged 16-27, inc. ex-offenders or those at risk.
AS, AD, ET, H, OL
Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm
For single homeless people 16-25.
AS, AD, BA, CA, ET, H, OB, TS

Midland Heart – Gilbert Road
100-108 Gilbert Rd, Smethwick, Sandwell B66 4PZ
0121 555 6500
Mon-Fri: 8am-7pm (ring for appointment)
For young people aged 16-25 with low support needs.
AS, H, TS

Midland Heart – Grange Road
c/o 100 Gilbert Rd, Smethwick B66 4PZ
0121 555 6500 or 0121 558 5739
Mon-Fri: 8am-7pm (ring for appointment)
For single homeless 16-25-year-olds with support needs.
AS, H, TS

Midland Heart – Murdock Road
1-3 Murdock Rd, Smethwick B66 2LS
0121 555 8444
Mon-Fri: 8am-7pm (phone for appointment)
Single homeless people aged 16-25 who have support needs around life skills and are willing to engage in training and support.
AW, C, D, ET, IT, LF, OB, OL

Wolverhampton YMCA (Rugley Foyer)
Aelfgar House, Church St, Rugley, Staffordshire WS1 5WH
01889 585232
Mon-Fri: 9am-6pm
Young single homeless people 16-25.
AS, AD, BA, CA, C, ET

Midland Heart – Rolfe House
69 Rolfe St, Smethwick B66 2AR
0121 558 5739
Mon-Fri: 8am-7pm (phone for appointment)
For single homeless 16-25-year-olds with support needs who are willing to engage with employment, education and training opportunities.
AS, CA, ET, H, IT

Macro – Allesley Old Road Hostel
43-45 Allesley Old Rd, Coventry CV5 8BU
024 7669 1229
Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm (call for appointment)
Single people 16-25 with low support needs.
AS, AD, H, TS

Aquarius
2nd Fl, 16 Kent St, Birmingham B5 6RD
0121 622 8181
Mon-Fri: 9am-4:30pm

West Bromwich & District YMCA
38 Carters Green, West Bromwich B70 9LG
For single homeless people aged 16-40 with support needs.
CA, ET, IT

Wolverhampton YMCA (Badger Court Foyer)
Cannock Rd, Wolverhampton WV10 0AD
01902 870382
Mon-Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless people aged 16-25 who have support needs around life skills and are willing to engage in training and support.
AW, C, D, ET, IT, LF, OB, OL

Wolverhampton YMCA (Rugley Foyer)
Aelfgar House, Church St, Rugley, Staffordshire WS1 5WH
01889 585232
Mon-Fri: 9am-6pm
Young single homeless people 16-25.
AS, AD, BA, CA, C, ET

DRUG / ALCOHOL SERVICES
Addiction Birmingham
279 Gooch St, Hightgate, Birmingham B5 7JE
0121 465 4030
Mon-Fri: 10am-6pm
Information, support and advice for those with alcohol or drug problems.
AS, AD, A, BA, C, D, DA, H, MS, NE, OL, OB, SH
www.addaction.org.uk

Stonham (Morris House)
430-432 Chester Rd, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham B36 0LF
0121 770 9360
Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm
For single local homeless aged 16-25 with support needs.
AS, AD, C, D, H, IT, SH

West Bromwich & District YMCA
38 Carters Green, West Bromwich B70 9LG
For single homeless people aged 16-40 with support needs.
CA, ET, IT

Wolverhampton YMCA (Badger Court Foyer)
Cannock Rd, Wolverhampton WV10 0AD
01902 870382
Mon-Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless people aged 16-25 who have support needs around life skills and are willing to engage in training and support.
AW, C, D, ET, IT, LF, OB, OL

Midland Heart – Gibbs Road**Men**

House
18–28 Lower Essex St, Birmingham B5 6SN
0121 666 7023
Mon–Fri: 9–10.30am (breakfast); 12–1pm (lunch); Sat & Sun: 10.30am–11.30am (nurses Tue & Fri; chiropodist Thu)
One-to-one help, accommodation and support for people dealing with alcohol issues; counselling; resettlement and tenancy support; training opportunities; help for people on probation. Help accessing emergency accommodation. AS, AW, AS, BS, BA, C, DA, ET, FF, H, LA, MS, OB, SK, TS

St George's House
St George's Hub, St Marks Rd, Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton WV3 0TZ
01902 421904
Mon–Fri: 9.15am–4.30pm
Helps people 18+ to avoid becoming homeless and to live independently after resettlement. Leisure and sporting activities. AS, AD, BE, CL, F, H, LA, TS

St George's House Drop-in
1 Clarence St, Wolverhampton WV1 1WZ
01902 714746
Fri: 2.15pm–3pm; Mon–Thu: 2.15pm–4.30pm; Mon–Fri: 9.30am–1.30pm
For homeless people, ex-offenders, substance misers and others who are often barred from other services and facilities. Practical advice, support and guidance, and signposting to other services. Big issue distributor. AS, AD, AW, BA, D, ET, F, H, LA, LF, OL

DIRECT ACCESS HOSTELS/NIGHTSHELTERS
All with low-support needs
Coventry and Warwickshire YMCA – Daimler Green
Endeavour Court, 20 Chelmarsh, Daimler Green, Coventry West Midlands CV6 3LB
024 7659 7009
Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless people and care leavers with low support needs. AS, AD, CA, ET, H, IT, TS

House
Gibbs Rd, (off Balds Lane), Lye, Stourbridge DY9 8SG
01384 423 771
Mon–Fri: 8am–7pm (phone for appointment)
For single people aged 17+ (83 men, 9 women). AS, H, TS

Salvation Army (Eden Villa)
13 Charlotte St, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 3EB
01926 450708
Mon–Fri: 9am–5pm (call for appointment)
Single homeless people with support needs, and 1 room for married couples. Residents who have moved on can use the drop-in advice centre. AS, AD, BA, H, TS

SHARP Hostel
57 Edgbaston Rd, Smethwick B66 4LG
0121 558 2104
Mon–Sun: 8.45am–11pm (phone calls); Mon–Sun: 9am–8pm (referrals)
For single people or couples aged 18+. Considers people who are overcoming dependency, but active drug use is not acceptable. AS, BA, H

Salvation Army (Lincoln St Centre)
1 Lincoln St, Coventry CV1 4JN
024 7625 1437
Mon–Sun: 7am–9pm
Staff provide help and advice as required. Job seeking sessions, computer literacy courses and basic skills sessions are also available. AD, AW, CA, ET, IT, LA, LF, MS

Salvation Army (William Booth Centre)
c/o Homeless Single Point of Access, Midland Heart – Homeless Services Centre, 44 Broadford St, Birmingham B5 6HX
0345 60 20 540 (24/7)
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri: 10am–6pm; Thu: 10am–2pm
For single homeless men aged 18+ with low- to medium-support needs. inc. refugees. Call in at Midland Heart's Homeless Services Centre. AS, H

House
61 Stratford St, Coventry CV2 4NJ
024 7663 5105
Mon–Fri: 9am–5pm (phone for application form)
Move-on accommodation for local single homeless men 18+. Priority to Irish people. Dogs allowed. AS, H, TS

Central and Cecil – Tullamore House
0121 643 5094 For men over 50
mirmingham, B5 5TH
52 Allison Street, Birmingham, B5 5TH
0121 643 5094 For men over 50

Allison House
53 Wellington Rd, Wolverhampton WV4 6AQ
01902 490050
Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless men, inc. ex-offenders and rough sleepers. D

P3 – Bilston Hostel
27 Thornley St, Wolverhampton WV1 1JS
01902 773721
Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless men. Must be substance-free at time of admission. ET, H, LA, LF, MH, OL

P3 – Thornley Street
01902 773721
Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless men, inc. ex-offenders and rough sleepers. D

Midland Heart – Zambesi Project
185 Stratford Rd, Sparkhill, Birmingham B11 1AG
0121 766 7645
Mon–Fri: 8am–7pm
For single homeless men aged 45+. AS, AW, D, H

Midland Heart – Hanwood House
Leopold St, Highgate, Birmingham B12 0QB
0121 753 1386
Mon–Fri: 8am–7pm (phone for appointment)
For single homeless men 25+. AS, F, H

Midland Heart – Zambesi Project
185 Stratford Rd, Sparkhill, Birmingham B11 1AG
0121 766 7645
Mon–Fri: 8am–7pm
For single homeless men aged 45+. AS, AW, D, H

P3 – Bilston Hostel
53 Wellington Rd, Wolverhampton WV4 6AQ
01902 490050
Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless men, inc. ex-offenders and rough sleepers. D

P3 – Thornley Street
27 Thornley St, Wolverhampton WV1 1JS
01902 773721
Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless men. Must be substance-free at time of admission. ET, H, LA, LF, MH, OL

Princp Street Hostel
Waterville House, 33–35 Princip St, Birmingham B4 6LE
0121 359 5953
Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
For single homeless men aged 25+ with support needs, inc. mental health and/or alcohol problems. AD, AW, MH

DAY CENTRES AND DROP-INS

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

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

Coventry Jesus Centre – The

Bridge Drop-In
7 Lamb St, Coventry CV1 4AE
02476 550033
Mon: 10am-1pm; Tues-Fri: 9am-4pm; Sun: 9am-10:30am; Sat: 9am-12am
Support groups, skills classes, café, and drop-in.

AS, AW, BS, BE, BA, CL, DA, ET, F, FC
FF, H, IT, L, LA, LF, LS, MS, MC, OB, TS

The Glebe Centre
Wednesbury Rd, Walsall, WS1 3RU
01922 625667
Mon - Fri: 9am - 4pm
For people (18+) who are vulner-

able, including homeless, unem-
ployed, drug dependent, mental
health issues or socially excluded
to public: 10am-3pm
AS, A, BA, BS, CL, DT, ET,
F, H, LA, MS, MH
www.thehegbeccentre.org.uk

Maggs Day Centre

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

Salvation Army – Homeless Action

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

St Martin in the Bullring Helpdesk

The Bullring, Birmingham B5 5BB
0121 600 6536
Mon & Fri: 10:30am-12:30pm;
Tue & Thurs: 10:30am-12:30pm &
1:30-3:30pm; Sat: 10:30am-1pm
Listening, advice and refer-
rals. Practical intervention and
support in a friendly environ-
ment. Many people seeking help
are encountering homelessness,
addition, mental health prob-
lems, bereavement and loss.
BA, C, H, OB

Soilhill Community Housing

(Chelsley Wood)
6/8 Copple Way, Chelsley Wood,
Solihull, Birmingham B37 5TX
0121 704 1515
Mon, Tues, Thurs: 9am-5pm;
Wed: 10am-5pm; Fri: 9am-4:30pm; Sat: 9am-1pm
AS, H

Soilhill Community Housing

(Kingshurst)
Church Close, Kingshurst, Soli-
hill, Birmingham B37 6HA
0121 717 1515
Mon, Tues, Fri: 9am-4pm;
Thurs: 10am-3pm
AS, H

Walsall Metropolitan Borough

Council (Homelessness and Housing Advice Service)
2nd Fl, Civic Centre, Darwall
St, Walsall WS1 1TP
01922 653405
Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm
Call for an appointment or if it's
urgent, call in 2pm-3pm. Out-of-
hours emergencies, call 01922
650000 and speak to the duty
social worker. General advice
will be available on the out-of-
hour service (0845 1112836).
AS, H, TS

Walsall Rent Guarantee Scheme

PO Box 1427, Walsall WS4 2YT
01922 746798
Mon & Wed: 10am-12am
Walsall people registered as homeless
in Walsall to access private rents.
AS

Housing Options (Sandwell)

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

Midland Heart – Homeless

Services Centre
44 Bradford St, Digbeth,
Birmingham B5 6HX
0345 6020 540; 0121 233 6370
Mon, Wed, Fri: 10am-6pm; Tues:
10am-8pm; Thurs: 10am-2pm
Drop-in and telephone housing
advice. Welfare benefits advice.
Outreach and tenancy support for
rough sleepers. Tenancy support for
refugees and asylum seekers, young
people with multiple needs, people
with current or past drug problems.
Alcohol and mental health referrals.
AS, BA, H, OB, TS

Macro Services – Coventry Young

Homeless Accommodation Project
1st Fl, Koco Building, The Arches,
Spon End, Coventry CV1 3JQ
024 7671 5113
Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm (call
for appointment)
Advice on homelessness and
finding accommodation. Tem-
porary accommodation with
support for young people,
pregnant women and women
with a baby aged up to 2 years.
AS, AD, H

St Basil's Link

The Tollhouse, 180-182 Fazeley
Street, Birmingham, B5 5SE
0300 3030099
Mon-Thurs: 9am-5pm; Fri: 9am-1pm
For people aged 16-25 who are
homeless or are facing homeles-
sness. Emergency 24/7 freephone:
0800 068 7499. Youthline (24/7
-0300 3030099) will give you
emotional support and help
you find accommodation, a
job, voluntary work or training.
Emergency accommodation
hotline (24/7): 0800 056 4034
(male); 0800 068 7499 (female).
AS, AD, BA, CA, C, ET, OL

the List

Directory of the West Midlands' homeless services

Updated 30 August 2011

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

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

Updated entries: 2
Services added: 0

ADVICE SERVICES

Base 25

Castle House, Wheelers Fold, Wolverhampton WV1 1ST

01902 572040

Mon–Thu: 12am–6pm; Fri:

12am–5pm; Sat: 1pm–3pm

Advice for people aged 11–25 on

housing, sex, drugs and alcohol,

emotional wellbeing and job search.

Groups for young women, fathers,

asylum seekers and refugees.

Free phone: 0800 073023

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

Derbyshire Housing Aid

Milestone House, 93 Green

Lane, Derby DE1 1RX

01332 642150

Mon–Sun: open 24 hours

(emergency); Mon–Fri:

1pm–4pm (assessment)

Assessment service for all single

homeless people in Derby.

Emergency accommodation.

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

CHAD Outreach Support Service

98–99 Dixons Green Rd,

Dudley DY2 7DJ

01384 237555

Mon–Fri: 9am–5pm

Advice and assistance on ben-

efits, debt, registering with a

GP, schools, work and college

etc. Tenancy-related problems.

Info about local services.

BA, DA, ET, OL, TS

Dudley Area Housing Office

5 St James Rd, Dudley, Bir-

mingham DY1 1HP

01384 815035

Mon–Fri: 9am–5pm

If you find yourself homeless over

the weekend or outside office hours,

call 0300 555 8283 for help.

AS, H

Dudley Tenancy Guarantee

Dudley Housing Office,

15–17 St James's Rd, Dudley,

Birmingham DY1 1JG

0300 555 2345

Mon–Fri: 9am–5pm

Helps people who are homeless

or threatened with homelessness

to access private rented property.

Phone 01384 815035 for details.

TS