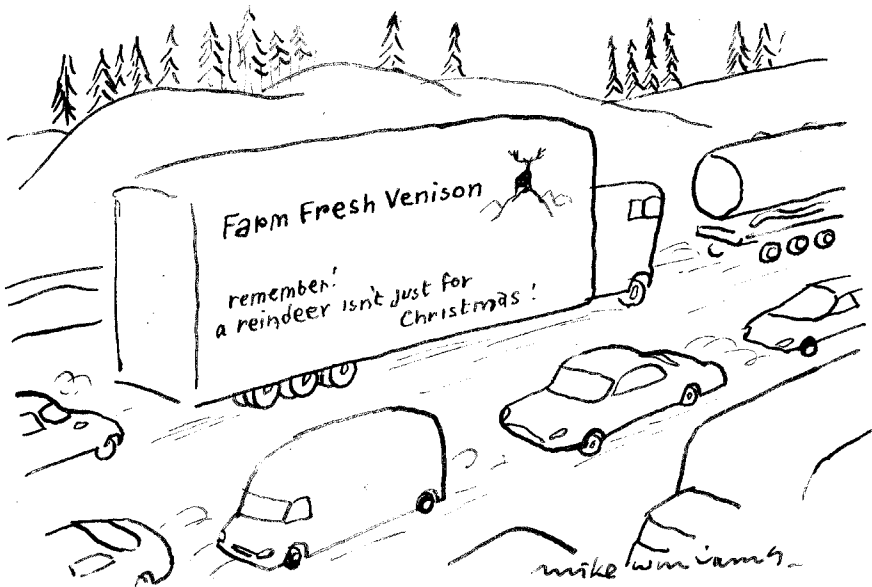


the Pavement

The *FREE* monthly for the West Midlands' homeless

December 2011





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The Editor

Baby, it's cold outside

It's been a busy month for *The Pavement*, with our journalists getting out and about to council meetings and social enterprises to bring you the latest stories from the West Midlands.

We're planning to get postcards into hostels and shelters across Birmingham in the New Year to help you communicate your thoughts and opinions to us – we'll be starting off at Midland Heart, so look out for them in the next month or so. Remember, we're still looking for more writers, so please get in touch via email, the PO Box or by postcard if you're interested. A big thank-you to the journalists who have contributed to *The Pavement* this year – we couldn't have done it without you!

It's that time of year where we take our winter publishing break, so we'll be back in February. We wish you all a warm and safe Christmas.

Amber Woodfull

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A rubbish way to die

It's time to wake-up to the dangers of bin deaths

Last month *The Pavement* ran its first advert warning of the dangers of sleeping in bins (opposite page). But how widespread is this issue and what is being done to discourage it? We asked Biffa, one of the UK's leading waste management companies, if this is something they're aware of and, if so, do they have any records to indicate the scale of the problem?

"It is on our radar," confirmed Shaun Davis, Biffa's Group Director of Health & Safety and the Environment. "In terms of statistics we're quite fortunate because in the last three years we've had one accident involving a person in a bin, which resulted in a guy injuring his leg."

Sadly, over the years, *The Pavement* has learned of and reported on much more severe, and sometimes fatal, cases. Just last month, two homeless men who were sleeping in a bin in San Antonio, Texas, were accidentally dumped into a waste truck compacter. According to *KSAT news*, one of the pair, Richard Salinas, managed to escape and raise the alarm but it was too late for the other man trapped inside, who was crushed from the waist down and later died.

In a bid to avoid tragedies such as this, Biffa has implemented a series of "pre-lift" procedures, designed to make sure no one is sleeping inside a bin before it is lifted and tipped into the waste truck. As well as visually checking that no one is in the bin, the bin is rattled once the lifting forks are in position to give anyone inside another opportunity to make themselves known. The trucks are also fitted with cameras, which film the rubbish material as it is tipped into the truck and relay the images back to the cab, giving staff

another opportunity to spot a body.

Similar procedures were recommended in *People in Commercial Waste Containers*, a guidance document issued by the Health and Safety Executive in June 2010. Although not a legal document, it is made clear that "if you adopt the practice and principles described, you should be taking sufficient action to discharge your legal duties, and secure compliance with the law." Required actions include carrying out a risk assessment of "all of the significant risks relating to the storage and subsequent collection of commercial waste, including the possibility of people gaining entry into bins."

As well as implemented on-the-ground procedures, Biffa is keen to make sure its employees are aware of the risks. "We've created a DVD called *People in Bins*, which we rolled across the entire organisation to educate people," says Mr Davis. "Secondly, as we know we're coming into that season now which is particularly wet and cold, we run refresher programmes – what we call Toolbox Talks – which are short briefing sessions on the risk of people in bins and the dangers associated... Obviously it's a risk all year round and particularly a risk in winter when it's cold and wet, so we're particularly active at discouraging it then."

Another step Biffa is currently taking is to introduce a "near miss" reporting programme. "We are looking at actually identifying how many people we think might have been in a bin prior to us lifting it," explains Mr Davis. "And also when we actually do move it, if anybody is found to be in that bin, making sure that our people report that internally as a near miss because

that's a potential accident – it might have been stopped at that time but we still need to know why." Under the new scheme, staff will be able to call the Biffa call centre to notify the safety team immediately.

Biffa, like other waste management companies, has also introduced lockable tops and warning stickers on bins, although how effective such stickers are is unclear. The bin slept in by the two men in San Antonio had warning stickers on, and warning stickers were introduced in Brighton long before the death of teacher Scott Williams, who was crushed in a rubbish lorry after falling asleep in an industrial bin. Following that accident, in July 2009, City Clean "upgraded" its warning stickers on large bins and worked with the council's homeless team to put up posters in hostels and other buildings visited by rough sleepers to warn them of the danger of sleeping in bins.

While Mr Davis sounds a note of caution about raising the issue of sleeping in bins – "people may not have thought of bins being nice and warm and dry and cosy" – he believes educating people is vital, and shouldn't stop with Biffa. "If you were to lobby the ESA [Environmental Services Authority] then they in turn might get behind a campaign like this and get a number of the other waste organisations behind this. It's something that I'm particularly keen on promoting and if it came from both sides – from the industry and pressure groups or public groups such as yourself – it could be really worthwhile."

Carinya Sharples

EVERY YEAR THERE ARE INJURIES AND EVEN DEATHS RESULTING FROM PEOPLE BEDDING DOWN IN RUBBISH BINS, SKIPS & CLOTHING BANKS. IT ISN'T SAFE! MANY BINS ARE EMPTIED IN THE QUIET HOURS, SOMETIMES BY A VEHICLE WITH A SINGLE DRIVER, DUMPING THEIR LOAD, WITH A LONG DROP, INTO A COMPACTOR - WHO WILL HEAR YOU OVER THE MACHINERY NOISE?

STAY OUT!
STAY SAFE!

West Midlands news

All the homeless news from across the region

From the abyss to the arts

Jason Turner has stared into the abyss and come back from the brink. He's the founder of iSore media.

For 22 years, he struggled with substance misuse: alcohol, cannabis, crack cocaine and then heroin. Mr Turner, from Chelmsley Wood, alienated his family, his work colleagues (he is a glazier) and, indeed, anyone who came into his orbit. It was, he admits, a deeply troubled existence that included stints in prison, the inevitable consequence of funding an expensive drug addiction: "I had no cause to blame it on my upbringing, though I tried to. I was not using to 'escape' anything. The fact is: I wasn't reliable; I wasn't consistent. I'd go missing for most of the day in pursuit of drugs. My world got smaller and smaller until it was just me in my bedroom with a bag of heroin and a rock of crack. The last four years of using was horrendous. I wanted to kill myself but didn't have the balls. It was a dark and painful place to be."

But now, at 42, Turner is clean, and he has been for over three years thanks to the Twelve-Step Programme, a recovery system that advocates total abstinence from drugs and alcohol. "My relationship with my parents is amazing now." He says. "I hated my dad because he got in the way of my using, but I love him to bits now. I can talk to my family, get on the phone to my sponsor or speak to other recovering addicts."

Turner's desire to help others who have also found themselves drug-dependent and socially marginalised helps him stay drug-free.

In January 2011, after completing a media techniques course at a local college, Turner founded iSore media, a not-for-profit social enterprise that seeks to enhance the lives of people undergoing rehabilitation through the power of filmmaking and creative media projects. It uses media workshops, one-to-one support and industry placements to help them to gain the self-confidence that is required to conquer addiction.

iSore media's latest project is a short film entitled *Flat Out and Back* which highlights how Naloxone can reverse a drugs overdose and, literally, save lives. The 15-minute film also features a contribution by Dr Ed Day, from the North Birmingham Community Drug Team, on how organisations in the region can best tackle drug misuse. The film, a testament to iSore media's growing reputation, was made in partnership with Birmingham Drug and Alcohol Action Team (BDAAT) and Service User Groups About Recovery (SUGAR) to promote the drug and alcohol services available in Birmingham.

"The film was inspired by statistics around heroin overdoses," Turner said, "I know people who have died after being clean for some time and then using again. Your tolerance level drops."

"The film tells the story of what happens every day: guy gets out of prison, tells himself he won't use again, heads for the off-licence, then loses all his inhibitions and gets back on the drugs again... It's a dangerous cycle. I want this film to be screened in prisons, detox centres, community drug teams and rehabs, because 95 per cent of overdose deaths occur within the first week of an ex-addict being released

from some sort of institution."

Flat Out and Back will be premiered at 10.30am on 7 December 2011 at Cineworld, Touchwood, Solihull. Turner wants it to be seen by as wide an audience as possible: "I want people to be trained in the use of Naloxone. We are inviting commissioners and drug service providers from across the region to see the film. We have also licensed it to the BDAAT."

Turner hopes to expand iSore Media to produce educational and promotional films for other social enterprises, charities, private businesses and homelessness organisations. "Quite a lot of people become homeless because of heroin and are still using on the streets. I'm looking to get something set up with the likes of SIFA Fireside in Birmingham city centre."

Jason Turner is philosophical about his years as an addict: "I've got no regrets about the past. If I hadn't lived the life I did, I couldn't do the good that I'm doing today for myself and for others."

Fraser Tennant

- www.isoremedia.org

Old clothes, new looks

If you are fashion-forward or a retro geek, Forgotten Vintage is for you. SIFA Fireside and Reach the People have opened a vintage store in Birmingham's Great Western Arcade to raise funds for their homeless services across the city. We went along to meet the trio who are managing the venture: Marie Dennehy, Richard Leighton and Carl Foley. Dennehy and Leighton have worked with

the charities for a number of years, whilst Carl Foley's retail background ensures the shop will be a success.

Forgotten Vintage will sell clothes, accessories and other treats, such as a large collection of vintage teacups. The clothes will be temptingly priced to ensure a quick turnover in the small space, so regulars won't be left wanting. They will also have an exclusive selection of vintage items such as a real fox fur coat donated by one of the founders.

The government funding that charities are used to receiving is no longer secure. With extensive cuts taking place, many charities are reducing their services or, in some cases, folding. These testing times have pushed SIFA Fireside and Reach to explore new ideas to raise money. Along with the shop, there is also Change Kitchen, a vegan catering social enterprise that enables homeless people to gain cookery skills. The charities paired up to make best use of their resources: finance, passion, skills and experience. The 'pop-up' shop is a testing ground for the project: if, in six months, they have a successful business, they will form a social enterprise to make the business sustainable and independent. They hope to grow and develop an increasing number of opportunities.

The charities launched the project on 25 November with an exclusive preview for customers. This is not a musty shop full of floral shirts and elasticated waistbands: it is an ambitious store with thoughtfully selected, highly desirable vintage items – with the added bonus of a free feel-good factor with every purchase.

Sarah Napier

- www.forgottenvintage.com

Brum diners hope to raise £7,000

November saw the launch of the annual Birmingham StreetSmart campaign, which raises funds to tackle homelessness by asking restaurant goers to add a voluntary £1 per table to diners' bills in the busy run-up to Christmas. Thanks to the generous support of Deutsche Bank, every penny of every £1 donated is given to the charity to support homeless organisations.

Stephen Fry, a patron of the campaign, states: "StreetSmart is low in bureaucracy and high on delivering where help is needed. We may not be able to solve the question of homelessness, but at least by doing something, we in some way diminish its tyranny."

In Birmingham, the money raised goes directly to charities such as St Basil's, which provides accommodation and support services to young homeless people across Birmingham, Solihull and North Worcestershire. Anne Morton, its spokesperson, said: "The funds St Basil's has received over the years from the StreetSmart initiative have helped our young people so much, particularly in allowing them to continue or re-engage with formal education, helping them to build an independent future for themselves".

Karen Squire

- www.streetsmart.org.uk

Winter shelter talks continue

Plans for a winter shelter in Birmingham (see the February issue) are beginning to move forward, with the possibility of a pilot scheme as early as next year.

Housing Justice, a national charity for action in the housing



Stephen Walker
Age at disappearance: 26

Stephen has been missing from Coventry, West Midlands since 4 October 2011.

There is concern for Stephen's safety and he is urged to contact the **Message Home helpline** on **Freefone 0800 700 740** or **text 80234** for free, confidential advice and support.

Stephen is 5ft 7ins tall, of slim build with short brown hair although he is known to have a shaved head now. When last seen he was wearing blue shorts, a white polo shirt, trainers and a green cap.

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



and homelessness sector, is supporting the talks. Housing Justice, which believes that human dignity is challenged by the lack of decent housing, supports night shelters, drop-ins and hundreds of practical projects nationwide by providing advice and training for churches and other community groups who work with homeless people.

They support and encourage churches and other groups to set up, run and develop winter night shelters through their publication, *Shelter in a Pack*. Typically, a shelter is open from November to March and operates from a different church each night of the week. Guests are provided with a cooked evening meal, somewhere to sleep and breakfast before they leave in the morning. Most shelters have a referral procedure and aim to help guests find accommodation and step back into settled society.

Representatives of SIFA Fireside, the Christian Life Centre and churches from across Birmingham attended a seminar event to discuss setting up a winter shelter in Birmingham and to start turning words into action.

The group will discuss various options, including working towards a shelter for 2012-13, with meetings taking place from the spring to ensure all the work is completed ready for the winter. Another possibility is a 'pilot shelter', starting in mid-January 2012, to get the ball rolling – churches and centres across the city could help support and host one night of the project.

Winter shelters are an essential service for surviving the tougher months through the harshest, coldest conditions; however, the schemes that Housing Justice supports go further than simply offering a roof for the night. They also look at the bigger picture and at the wider issues for the individual. Alison Gelder, the director of Housing Justice, said: "Every year, church winter shelters save

lives by not only offering simple hospitality, but playing an invaluable role in the services homeless people need to help them back up the ladder to homes and jobs".

We shall cover this story and attend the meetings, so let us know if you've comment or strong feelings on this.

Amber Woodfull

- Housing Justice's Shelter in a Pack can be seen at: bit.ly/lhWU2K

Guilt caused rioter's confession

A rough sleeper in Birmingham was jailed at the end of October, having turned himself in to police for looting during the riots.

29 year old Lee Battenbough got 14 months, having pleaded guilty to looting from a Richer Sounds store during the unrest. However, this case at Birmingham Crown Court was unusual in that Battenbough had gone to the police on 29 September to confess his crime. The judge in the case made it clear that without Battenbough's confession it was very unlikely that he would have been caught or subsequently prosecuted. Battenbough stole audio equipment, which he then sold for £30.

Staff

Worcester winter warmer

The Worcester Night Assessment Centre (NAC) has opened its doors as a homeless shelter, and is offering hot meals and beds to vulnerable individuals in and around the city in the harshest months. The shelter, based at the YMCA in Henwick Road, St John's, is open 9.30pm–7am

daily until 11 March 2012.

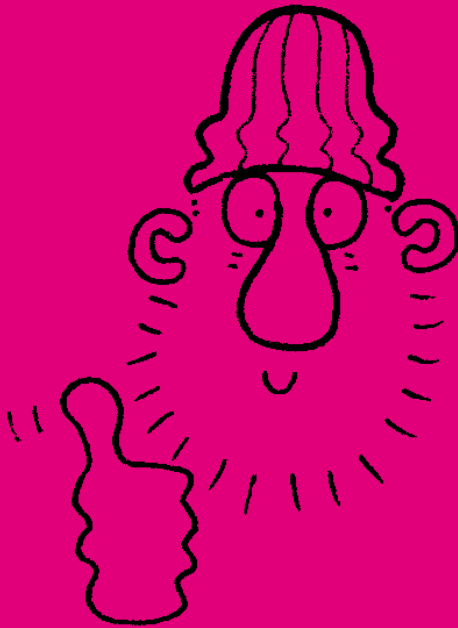
The shelter has room for 24 people and is much needed, especially at this time of year. The number of rough sleepers in Worcester is rising; recent counts found 17 in the immediate surrounding areas. The centre not only provides a warm and safe place to stay, its staff – St Paul's hostel workers and volunteers – also assess clients and help them towards sustainable accommodation away from the streets. Regular users can expect advice from the Homeless Intervention Team to guide them into more permanent and stable housing, as well as support in tackling the root causes of their current situation. Donna King, St Paul's hostel manager, explained the changing and unpredictable cause of rough sleepers' issues: "We did some stats recently, and 23 per cent of the people living here were homeless just because of family breakdown. They had no secondary issues, which is quite scary. I have never known that before, and I've been in this kind of work for eight or nine years."

The centre opened two weeks earlier than in previous years to shield homeless people from the harsh temperatures expected in coming weeks. NAC has been known to attract rough sleepers from across the country, and with 175 clients accessing the shelter last year, that number is only expected to rise this winter. Ms King added that their own research supported the concern homelessness was on the rise in the city. "We did the rough sleep count and found 17 people, but there were no familiar faces, so I am projecting there are more than that out there in need of our help".

To find out more call St Paul's on **01905 723729**.

Staff

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



www.thepavement.org.uk

Cold cuts

No surprise, but 'efficiency savings' are going to affect services

Birmingham City Council's extensive public consultations disclose plans to reduce funding for 'at risk' groups.

Services for vulnerable people seem set to face the brunt of Birmingham City Council's proposed 2012/13 budget cuts, announced at a community consultation meeting in King's Heath last month.

The meeting – one of a series being carried out across the city – took place in a community centre on 7 November. Intended as an opportunity for residents and community leaders to have their say on the shape of Birmingham's budget, the meeting descended into disarray as council representatives struggled to calm tempered locals who voiced concern over the planned savings.

Tensions were high as residents vented their frustration towards the lack of political representation present and the inconsistencies in the consultation documents, which called for the protection of the city's vulnerable alongside plans to severely cut funding for vital services.

The proposed savings, part of the government's priority to reduce the national deficit over a period of four years, sees Birmingham City Council – the largest in Europe – having to save a further £65 million, totalling £350 million by 2014/15.

As well as reductions to Children and Young People's services, the Supporting People Programme, which is funded by central government but administered by Birmingham City Council, seems set to lose almost a third of its funding, way above the 11 per cent recommendation. Supporting People provides critical prevention services to vulnerable groups across the West

Midlands as well as sustaining vital housing-related support, stopping dependency on more expensive statutory services later on.

Community leaders expressed concern that the reductions would unfairly penalise vulnerable groups and significantly increase their risk of homelessness. Mark Barrow, Strategic Director of Development at Birmingham City Council insisted that the council still pledged to prioritise those most in danger, but added: "Supporting People used to be ring-fenced, meaning it was secure. The government has since reduced this protection, so it is no longer a statutory service which makes it more vulnerable to reductions."

While council representatives acknowledged that making savings involved some tough decisions, they emphasised the necessity of local action to reduce the national deficit, adding that they are legally obliged to return a balanced budget at the end of the year. Their explanation was met with hostility however as residents questioned the political agenda of the Conservative-Liberal council, with calls that 'savings' are an unnecessary ideological attack upon the welfare state.

Taking an overwhelming anti-cuts position, audience members proposed that tax justice – ensuring a fair tax system and closing in on corporate tax evaders – would be a much less painful way of tackling the deficit and would protect the most vulnerable. Figures from the Tax Justice Network show that £25 billion is lost annually in tax avoidance and a further £70 million in tax evasion by large companies and wealthy individuals. Residents also called for the banking sector to take responsibility for the financial crisis

through an end to fat cat bonuses and the 'me me me' culture.

Speaking after the event, a spokesperson from Birmingham Against the Cuts commented: "The entirely partial presenting officer took a transparently partisan stance on deficit reduction, and responded to the call for executives' pay to be cut by observing that it is essential to pay the highest rates possible."

The Kings's Heath meeting passed two resolutions, firstly rejecting all the cuts that Birmingham City Council is proposing for the 2012/13 budget and secondly stating them to be politically motivated.

Elizabeth Barker

- The community budget consultations began on 12 October 2011 and will continue until 8 January 2012. The process includes community meetings and an online survey. Consultation documents are available for view and comment at: bit.ly/hhBqvJ

News in brief

The homeless news from across the planet

Homeless men convicted of murdering fellow rough sleeper

Two men have been found guilty of murdering a homeless man in Swansea in January.

Brothers Darren Rigdon, 34, and Christopher Hart, 38, were sentenced to a minimum of 16 years and 75 days by Swansea Crown Court.

David Williams, 26, died from injuries caused to his face and head, and also alcohol toxicity. Blood was found on the trainers of the two brothers, who were said to have punched, kicked and stamped on Williams.

They were sentenced by Judge Nicholas Cooke, QC, who stated: "You have been found guilty of the offence of murder. Entirely correctly the law draws no distinction between a millionaire in his mansion and a rough sleeper on the street."

Although the attack was not found to be pre-meditated, a possible motive put by the prosecution was that the deceased called one of the brothers a "nonce" whilst they were in the same hostel in January.

Part of the conditions of their sentence is that they not be released until the parole board are satisfied that they will not return to their previous lifestyles, both already having convictions.

Judge Cooke ended by stressing the importance of organisations that are there for homeless people, specifically those in the case, including the YMCA, Dinas Fechan, Sisters of Mercy, Zac's Place and Cyrenians.

Gearing up for winter weather warnings

No severe weather warnings have been issued by the Met Office at time of going to press, but if we do see worsen weather, readers can expect the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) to be enforced by local authorities.

Homeless Link, who produce the guidance to local authorities on SWEP, state "every local authority should have a severe weather emergency protocol (SWEP) that kicks in when the temperature is forecast to drop to zero degrees (or below) for three consecutive nights." This requires councils and organizations to provide shelter on the first night of the forecast.

Despite the requirement for SWEP to be implemented if three freezing nights are forecast, in their guidance, Homeless Link stress this "is the absolute minimum requirement." For example, in their local guidance on SWEP Solihull Council state "cold or severe weather are defined as any time during which the night time temperature is predicted to reach zero degrees Celsius or below for one night."

Similarly, the guidance from Homeless Link makes it clear that the aim is to preserve lives, and so temperature is not the only consideration. Factors such as heaving snow and wind chill factor should be monitored.

Let's hope it's not needed, but if it is, take full advantage of the shelter.

Staff

Not enough shelters for rising numbers of rough sleepers

Outreach workers across Britain are seeing a rise in the number of rough sleepers, according to a new report by homeless charity St Mungo's. Three out of five outreach workers surveyed by the charity reported increased numbers of rough sleepers in their area, while over 70 per cent said they did not believe that there was enough emergency accommodation for homeless people.

The report, *Battered, Broken, Bereft – Why People Still End up Rough Sleeping*, is the first ever survey of outreach workers across England. St Mungo's also spoke to 1,500 of its clients, to try and identify the causes of homelessness. The biggest contributing factor was found to be relationship breakdown, with nearly half of the men surveyed saying it triggered their homelessness. Domestic violence was the main cause for women finding themselves on the streets, with over a third of women saying they had become homeless after escaping an abusive relationship.

St Mungo's Chief Executive, Charles Fraser, blamed government cuts for both the rise in rough sleepers and the decline in services to help the homeless. "As services close, or thresholds for accessing support are raised, some vulnerable people are being left with nowhere to turn with devastating effect," he said. "These cuts are proving too costly, both in human terms and in the very real costs of supporting people's recovery from the trauma of rough sleeping."

Emma Batrick

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.

Jeremy Paxman, *BBC's Newsnight* presenter, wrote in the report's foreword that: "All these problems are aggravated by the current economic crisis. But what shines through from these accounts is the resilience and sheer determination of people to survive. It takes courage of an order that most of us will never have to display."

Jim O'Reilly

Crisis day centre opens in Oxford

This month saw the UK's sixth Crisis Skylight centre open its doors to the homeless.

The impressive building - formerly a fire station - on George Street Oxford, has undergone a £3.5m transformation into a Crisis Skylight education and training centre for the homeless.

The Crisis centre, known locally as The Old Firestation, provides services for homeless people seeking employment and also offers one-to-one counselling.

There is also on-site cafe open to the public, which is staffed by homeless people, providing them with a meaningful way to use their time as well as valuable work experience.

One rough sleeper in the city said: "This will make such a difference to people in Oxford. It will get people off the streets and give them something to think about other than how awful their lives are."

"It's hard. It's hard to find a job if you've not got a fixed address or have committed a crime because no one wants someone who's unstable."

The building is also home to Arts at the Old Fire Station, an independent charity which will provide dance, art, theatre and music workshops. It houses an art shop, gallery, theatre and dance studio, and the two charities hope

to collaborate on some projects.

The opening of the Skylight centre is welcomed by Oxford's homeless, especially because cuts have forced other services in the city to close.

Crisis UK chief executive Leslie Morphy told *The Pavement*: "As the economic downturn continues to bite and austerity measures mean cuts to homelessness services, the work of Crisis is ever more important - particularly as homelessness is now on the rise again."

"Our supporters continue to be incredibly generous even in these difficult times, and so our plans to expand have been able to continue. We're lucky that we don't have to depend on statutory funding sources to do so."

Staff

Homeless hotel

An American entrepreneur is planning to open a luxury hotel in central London staffed by the homeless. Kurt Bredenbeck, a former city banker who founded the fashionable Hoxton Hotel, wants his new venture in Shoreditch to be run by 50 homeless people, recruited through the homeless charity Crisis.

The scheme aims to train applicants over six to nine months, after which they will either be offered full-time work at the hotel, or use their new skills to find a job elsewhere in the industry. Trainees will be paid while learning key skills like good timekeeping, customer service and presentation, as well as specific hospitality jobs like laundry and cleaning.

Bredenbeck was inspired to set up the scheme after volunteering in a homeless shelter in Islington. "We will aim for everyone who goes through our scheme to go on to get a job in the hotel industry," he said. "Our aim is to give not only vocational skills and work

experience, but also the confidence necessary to enable people to achieve long-term employment."

The new recruits are not just being employed as free labour - as well as receiving formal qualifications, all trainees will be paid a full-time wage.

The hotel has not yet been built, but after getting the green light from Hackney council, and is expected to open in 2013. Although the venture is set to be expensive, Bredenbeck is in a good position to launch the project, who is currently in the process of selling his stake in the Hoxton Hotel for around £70m.

The plan has drawn comparisons with TV chef Jamie Oliver's restaurant and social enterprise, Fifteen, which trains young unemployed people for a career in the food business. Crisis' Chief Executive, Lesley Morphy, believes that the scheme could play a key role in helping fight homelessness in the capital. "Partnerships such as this are vital to eradicating the scandal of homelessness," he said.

Jim O'Reilly

Channel 4 tackles UK's empty homes

Two rough sleepers are being given the chance to renovate and move into a house which had been sitting empty for years as part of a television programme which will be shown on *Channel 4* this December.

The programme - part of a *Channel 4* season looking at the problem of empty homes in the UK - will show TV presenter Phil Spencer meeting two men who have found it difficult to get off the streets due to a shortage of one-bedroom accommodation. Spencer will contact owners of long-term empty houses, and try to persuade them to allow their properties to be done up

and rented to the homeless.

Further programmes in the series will highlight the fact that a million houses are lying empty across the UK at a time of severe housing shortage, and will call on the public to get involved in a campaign to persuade government and local councils to make it easier to bring houses back into use.

Spencer said: "I've seen just how hard life becomes if you're living on the streets or don't have a permanent home. It seems scandalous that we are letting thousands of empty properties go to waste when they could be used to help people back on their feet and give them somewhere secure to live."

Katharine Hibbert

Protest camp is food source for rough sleepers

Traditionally, political protests might see placard-waving marchers on a street raising awareness of issues that were close to their hearts. These days, protestors are more likely to set up permanent camps in a local park to get their point across. Rough sleepers in the City of London are now sharing the streets with permanent protestors who are camped at St Pauls Cathedral and Finsbury Square (pictured opposite), and some homeless folk have joined the Occupy movement, finding in it a place of shelter.

Ace, 45, had been sleeping rough for 25 years after leaving the armed forces in his twenties. Ace moved up and down the country, staying on the streets or in shelters and occasionally getting casual work. He recently moved into the Finsbury Square protest camp where he has set up a free bike repair shop.

"Moving here to Finsbury Square and taking part in this protest is the first step for me, for a better life. I had been sent to a hostel

before, down in Waterloo. It was infested with fleas, it stank and it was full of pretty strange people, I couldn't stay there," he said.

"I turned up down at St Paul's, they gave me a tent and a blanket and then I came up here to Finsbury Square," said Ace, who is taking part in the protest for his son, Danny, who is five.

"I want my son to get a good education and not to get messed up by the same system that I had to deal with. The guys in the information tent even got in touch with Danny's mum on the email and she sent me a video of him. I cried for hours," he said.

Ace used to work in a bike shop in Brixton before he joined the army. Using the skills he learned years ago, he has been fixing bikes for the public and also sprucing up donated broken bikes to sell. He runs solely on donations and gives half of what he earns to the Occupy movement.

"I used to drink nine litres of cider a day, but these days I only drink four cans of beer. You need a steady hand to fix bikes," he added.

Despite being a little more protected by the community within the camp, the dangers of sleeping rough are still evident. Ace said he has had three bikes stolen so far, and drunken passers-by have urinated on his tent.

And not every new arrival makes him or herself useful to the protest community. Rough sleepers, some with serious drink and drug problems, have arrived at the camp. Protestors decided that a "homeless representative" might better engage with the new arrivals and help to enforce the no drink/drugs policy that runs on both sites. Ace happily accepted the role.

"Everyone is welcome at the camp, as long as you don't bring drink or drugs here. I have cycled around Old Street looking for rough sleepers to tell them to come along and have a cup of

coffee or some soup. I remember what it was like," he said.

At St Paul's, the huge camp kitchen provides breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as hot and cold drinks throughout the day. Everyone is fed. Bear, a protestor who has been here since the start, set up the camp kitchen, which has grown from a small stove and a tent, to a marquee that feeds hundreds every day.

"If people want to come here and help and get involved, we welcome them with open arms. There is a strict no drink or drugs policy though and we demand that everyone respects each other and themselves," he said.

"We had to start closing the kitchens after midnight because it started to get a bit rowdy," he added.

Justin, 40, a saxophone-playing protestor who, at the time of writing, has been at St Paul's for two weeks, says that homeless people support the protest more than anyone else.

"I met a guy from Liverpool who had just come back from Afghanistan. His wife had left him and his house was repossessed. He couldn't find work in this recession. He came down here and found a purpose, a place to give a voice to the anger he feels at the system that's let him down. I've also met guys as young as 18 with no place to go but who just want to help," he said.

The Occupy movement has called out to charities and welfare organisations to help them support the influx of vulnerable people arriving at tent city. A welfare tent has been set up at the St Pauls site where reflexology, counselling and massages are offered. There is talk of alcohol and drug workshops running soon.

Charities appear to be against the idea of providing support services at St Paul's. Petra Silva, director of No Second Night Out,



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

a charity working on picking up rough sleepers new to the streets of London, spoke of the protestor's plans to *Inside Housing*: "While they have a well-intentioned, political point of view, they are probably not even thinking about how that will affect, or get in the way of, the City of London getting people off the streets."

Ronan, a protestor who helped set up the welfare tent, argues that it's a crucial part of the camp: "People need support. For a lot of people, the camp here represents hope. There is a lot of "activist burnout" and a welfare tent helps to remedy that. It's not a duplicating service, we're not trying to compete with charities and professionals, but on the campsite it is needed. It's a listening service above anything," he said.

The debate here in the UK appears more flexible than that in the States. In New York, kitchen workers at the Occupy Wall Street movement revolted and refused to provide food for three hours in protest against feeding the city's homeless. In another Occupy camp in Burlington, Vermont, rumours circulated that homeless people were being referred on to the camp by service organisations, although the services denied the accusations. Authorities have now moved in and forcibly removed the Occupy camps, sparking nationwide revolts and mass arrests.

Perhaps buoyed by the apparent success of their American counterparts to remove the camps, London authorities served notice on the Occupy movement at St Pauls to leave the site by 17 November. The deadline passed and protestors have vowed to fight the eviction through the courts.

The fate of the Occupy movement in the UK is unclear. It is also unclear where the homeless will go if the camps are cleared. When the lines of distinction between street sleeper and political protestor are

becoming ever more blurred, and while protest movements can set up camp in public places without being moved on and provide food, shelter, community spirit and a sympathetic ear, the alliance between homeless people and demonstrators looks set to continue.

The legal battle to evict the protest camp outside St Paul's Cathedral will begin on 19 December.

Liza Edwards

Strike called off

Staff at youth homelessness charity Centrepoint called off a series of strikes planned for November after agreeing to a new offer on pay and working conditions.

The charity is restructuring its services after losing funding from local authorities. Planned pay cuts and longer hours for staff had resulted in an increasingly bitter seven-month dispute.

Unite, the union which represents 88 of the charity's 212 staff, had scheduled three days of strikes against Centrepoint's original offer to staff, which included 34 redundancies, an increase in the working week to 40 hours, and salary cuts of up to 36 per cent for some staff.

However, under a new agreement brokered by conciliation body ACAS, the charity has committed to no compulsory redundancies, a cap on salary cuts of five per cent for the next 15 months, rising to no more than 10 per cent after that, and leaving the working week at 37.5 hours. This offer was accepted by the union, which cancelled the strikes.

Centrepoint Chief Executive, Seyi Obakin, said: "We regret the need to restructure but are pleased to have reached an agreement with Unite and its members. We can now ensure the long-term existence of Centrepoint and continue to

help homeless young people."

Matt Smith, Unite regional officer, said: "We are pleased that Centrepoint's management listened to Unite and stepped back from the brink.

"At our members' union meeting, we received overwhelming support for the recommended offer. We believe this was the best deal possible we could have achieved for our members working for this iconic charity," he said.

Katharine Hibbert

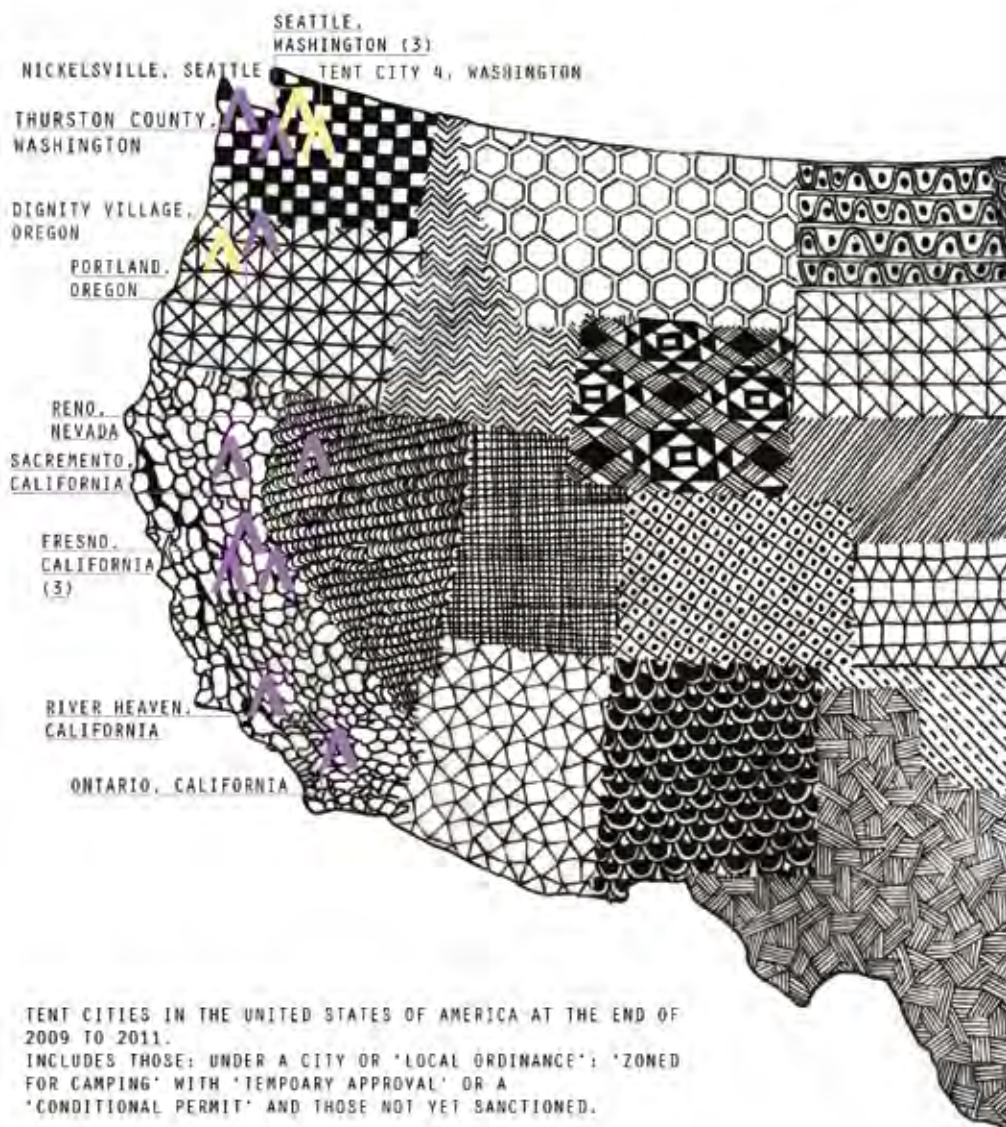
Tent Cities Update

While the world's media is busy focusing on the so-called Tent Cities of the Occupy movement, the Tent Cities of America's homeless communities continue to come and go mostly unnoticed. Often forced into frequent location changes to comply with planning and housing laws, with the economical situation worsening, these tent cities remain a lifeline to many.

At the time of writing, the only three "sanctioned" tent cities, other than Oregon's Dignity Village, are Pinellas Hope in Clearwater Florida, Nickelsville in Seattle, and Tent City 4 in Issaquah Washington. These Tent Cities (see over the page) in Florida and Washington have continued, against the odds, to provide housing to hundreds of people with nowhere else to go.

Celebrating its fifth birthday at the beginning of this month, Florida's Pinellas Hope has shown impressive staying power. The 20 acre site provides a safe place to sleep as well as ongoing support for over 250 men and women. The community suffered a setback earlier this year when 100 of the tents were severely damaged by storms, but thanks to fundraising by the Catholic Charities who help run the site, most of this damage has since been repaired.

TENT CITIES IN THE UNITED STATES



KEY:

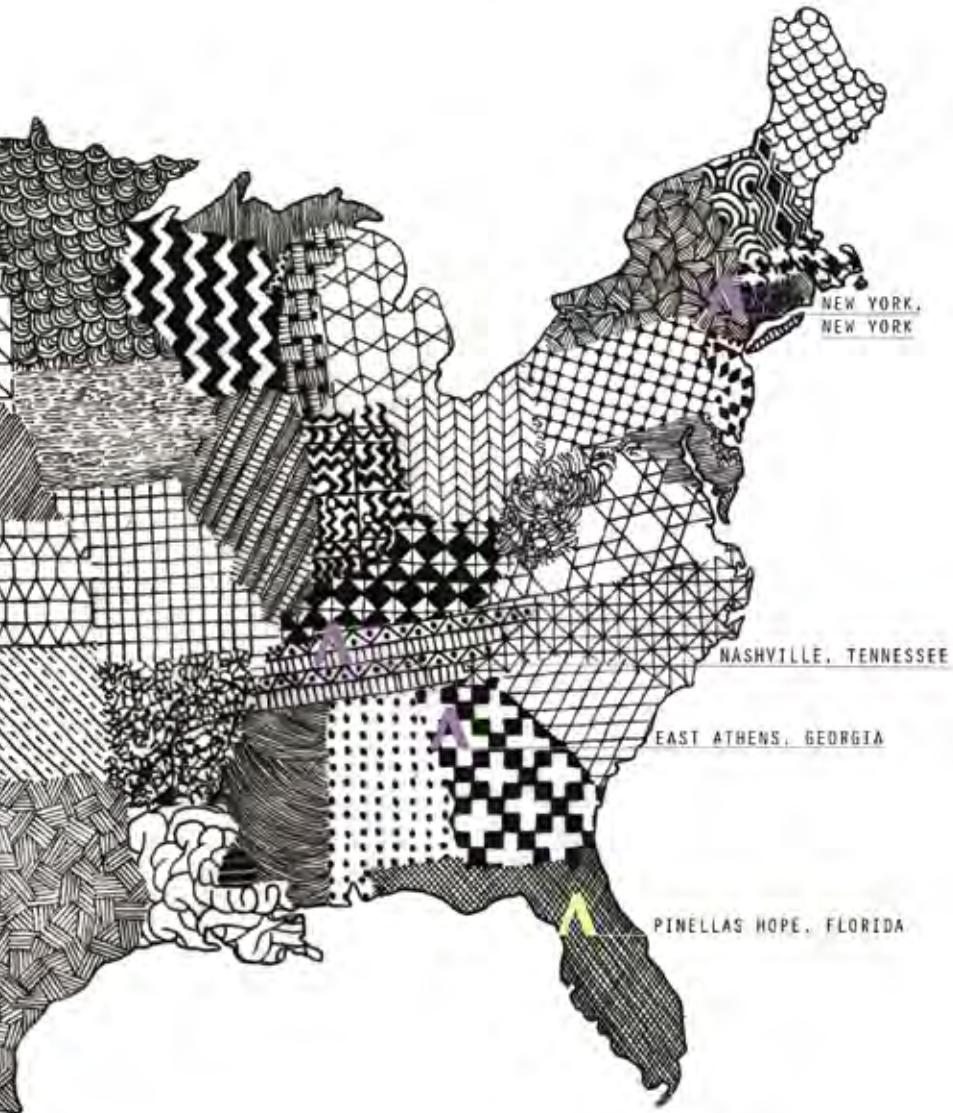


EXISTING TENT CITIES



CLOSED TENT CITIES

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



There was better news for Pinellas Hope residents in October, when employees from 11 local Home Depot department stores spent a day at the site. The volunteers helped to build platforms under the tents and a communal gazebo. The company also donated much needed items to the camp, including portable heaters that are vital to residents in the winter months, despite the mild Florida climate.

In Seattle, there was even better news for the residents of the Nickelsville tent city, when new legislation came into effect allowing a permanent site for the community.

September's legislation means that the camp will no longer have to move around the city to comply with housing laws stating tent encampments must be temporary. The new legislation will allow tent cities to remain in location, if hosted by churches or faith groups, as long as basic health and safety requirements are met, indefinitely.

The law states: "The proposed legislation

offers a reasonable and effective means to temporarily address homelessness in the city".

Elsewhere in the state of Washington, the Tent City 4 community is currently in place at Issaquah's community church, where it is able to remain until January 2012. The camp remains a roving camp at present as it must still comply with the states laws on tent encampments and move every 90 days.

Jo O'Reilly

Rough sleeper banned from churchyard

A London church whose churchyard has been used by rough sleepers for years has put up signs banning "loitering" on its property, and warning that the police will be called to deal with anyone who refuses to move on.

The church's vicar, Reverend Paul Turp - the inspiration for the character Reverend Adam

Smallbone in the hit BBC comedy series 'Rev', which is filmed in the church - said that the decision was made after a number of violent incidents in the churchyard, including one in which a homeless man was attacked with bricks.

Two signs, one in English (pictured below) and another in Polish, proclaim: 'Following several complaints Shoreditch Church gives notice that anybody found loitering in this area may be asked to move on. Failure to do so could result in a call to the police.'

"Any belongings left in this area will be disposed of as rubbish. Climbing into this area when the gates are locked is trespass." It is signed by the Church wardens.

Rev Turp said: 'It got to the point where people wouldn't come to the Church because it was too scary. We felt like we had lost control of the Church.'

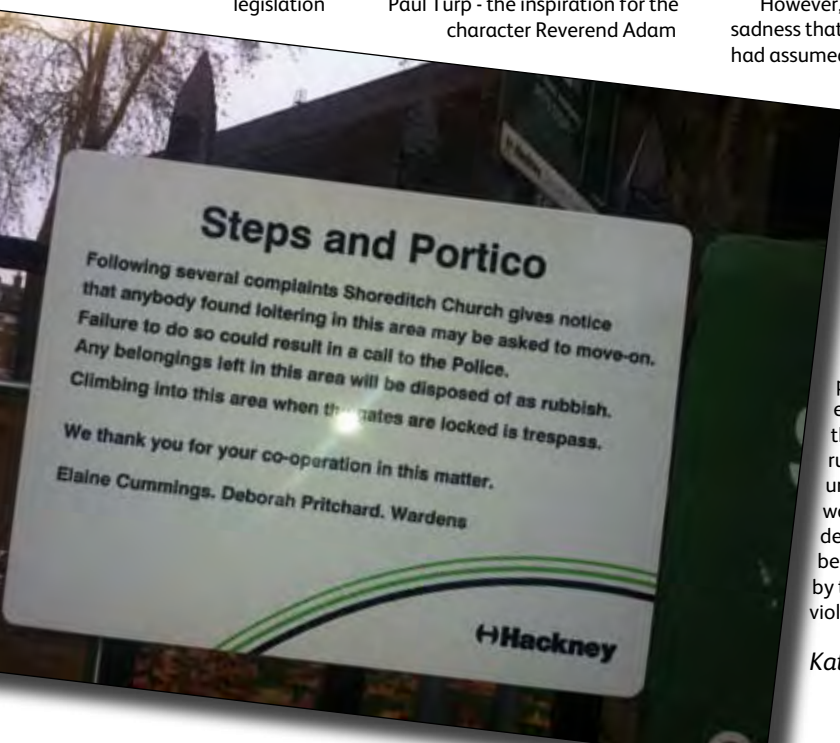
"There were a lot of drug dealers in the gardens and in the summer we found needles all over the grass."

However, Rev Turp expressed sadness that recent press reports had assumed that the trouble

had been caused by homeless people, saying: "Of the 17 regular people on our steps, only two were homeless and we offered accommodation to them. The rest had homes; the problem is drink and drugs."

He added: "We provide for hot meal every Monday of the year as well as running residential units and a drop in. The work for homeless and deprived people has been greatly damaged by the uncontrolled violence and drug abuse."

Katharine Hibbert





STREET SHIELD

EPISODE 26

HAVE A
SUPER
CHRISTMAS!

KERBSIDE CHURCH'S
WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

...IT'S JUST THAT HE
USUALLY LETS US KNOW
WHERE HE'S GONE.

DO YOU THINK HE'S
IN TROUBLE?

WELL, IT IS A
BUSY TIME, ESPECIALLY
FOR THE CHURCH...

...AND TO TAKE
YOU FROM YOUR
TROUBLES,
MIGHT I ASK FOR
YOUR HELP?

IT'S TIME FOR
A DELIVERY TO RESTOCK
THE KITCHEN.

WE'VE MORE
STAYING THIS YEAR,
SO WE'VE HAD TO
GET IN MORE
SUPPLIES.

OUTSIDE...

AH, HERE
HE COMES
NOW!



Health and wellbeing

The Pavement's health team aim to help keep you healthier, if not happier



Sox in the City this Christmas

Treat your feet this winter: don't hang up your Christmas stockings – wear them!

Cold weather is hard on hands and feet. Dry, clean socks are the simplest way to help prevent blisters and other skin irritations.

Always keep your feet warm and dry. If they're cold, the most natural thing is to warm them next to a fire or heater, but this overloads the circulation and causes severe pain and damage if you do this too quickly. Two pairs of dry socks

help insulate the skin. Many people wear thin cotton socks next to the skin, with thicker woollen socks on top, to trap air. The air heats to body temperature and insulates the skin, keeping the feet cosy. Air your socks regularly to let the sweat dry. Carry a spare pair.

New technology means socks not only keep feet warm, but they can also have antibacterial and antifungal properties. Despite these advances, socks can still irritate some people's skin, usually because chemicals used in making the socks cause a form of contact dermatitis, generally on the tops of the foot and toes but also on the sole of the foot, the legs, and the sides of the feet and heels. (The area between the toes is rarely affected.) Long-term exposure can make the skin thick, red and scaly. You often get inflammation, with swelling, burning and itchiness; and blisters and cracks (fissuring) often lead to secondary infection. You can treat itching and infection with medicated creams.

Routine foot hygiene should consist of daily washing and inspection. Use hand-hot water with soap, but do not steep the feet in very hot water, as this causes them to collapse. Use a mirror to check your heels, the sole of your feet and between the toes for cracks and sores. Hand creams moisturise the skin, and gentle rubbing stimulates the circulation and makes you feeling you're walking on air. If you discover any cuts, treat them with antiseptics and cover them with a clean dressing. Report unhealed wounds to the doctor or nurse. Untreated infections (especially in people with poor circulations or compromised immune systems) can quickly develop into life-threat-

ening and debilitating illnesses, often with serious consequences.

Regular washing removes the bacteria that cause smelly feet, and a light powder of baby talc will help absorb normal sweat. If you suffer from sweaty feet, ask a chemist for medicated powder to sprinkle on your socks and into your shoes overnight.

Have a safe, happy and warm Christmas.

Footnote: This winter keep warm and hydrated by drinking plenty liquids (e.g. weak tea, coffee or water). Keep the body warm by wearing layers of clothing, but try not to get overheated – it makes you sweat more (which can lead to dehydration) and make the skin feel colder (which can trigger hypothermia and frostbite). The signs of hypothermia include slurred speech, changes in vision, loss of concentration, and numbness in the hands and feet. Uncontrollable shaking and loss of colour in hands or face are also common. These symptoms come on suddenly – don't ignore them. If you think you or others are suffering early hypothermia, go somewhere warm immediately.

Toe Slayer
Registered podiatrist
and Shoe Historian

Fighting the cold

Winter weather can be pretty but it can also bring extra health problems for all of us. If you're sleeping outdoors, there are a few things you should think about to help take care of your health. The past two winters have been really harsh and when it gets extremely cold outside, it's time to make plans to get indoors if at all possible.

Most surgeries begin flu vaccination in the autumn. Have you had your jab yet? If not, get down to your GP or clinic. Vaccination is free to people who are at extra risk, and it helps protect you from the season's most common strains. Flu can be serious; its symptoms include a sore throat, coughing, sneezing, aches and pains, nausea and feeling generally unwell. Healthy people don't generally need to see a doctor – drinking plenty of fluids and taking paracetamol or ibuprofen is all you need. However, if you are sleep-

ing outdoors or have another medical condition, you should seek medical advice from NHS Direct online or your local surgery. If your symptoms don't clear up within a few days, or if you feel extremely unwell, see your GP.

SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) usually begins as the nights get longer. Experts think it has something to do with getting less daylight. Its symptoms and include putting on weight, sleeping more and feeling generally down. If you find yourself becoming depressed or extra sad for no obvious reason, go to your GP. Depression is a real illness and can be treated. If you are diagnosed with depression (seasonal or other), the most common treatments are anti-depressant medication or "talking treatments" such as Cognitive Behavioural Therapy.

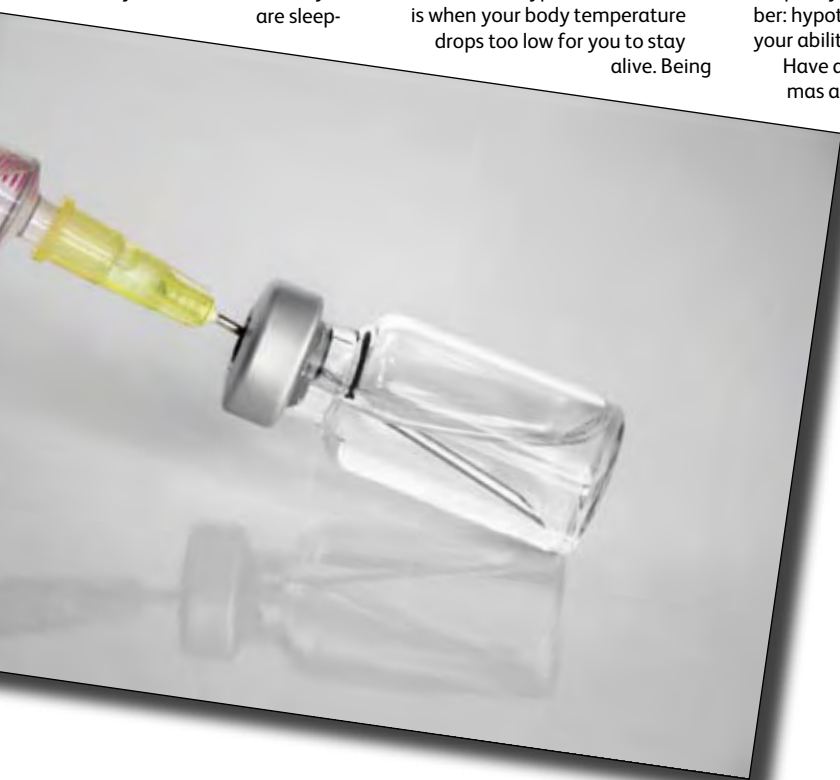
Try not to be alone over the winter. Extreme cold brings with it the risk of hypothermia, which is when your body temperature drops too low for you to stay alive. Being

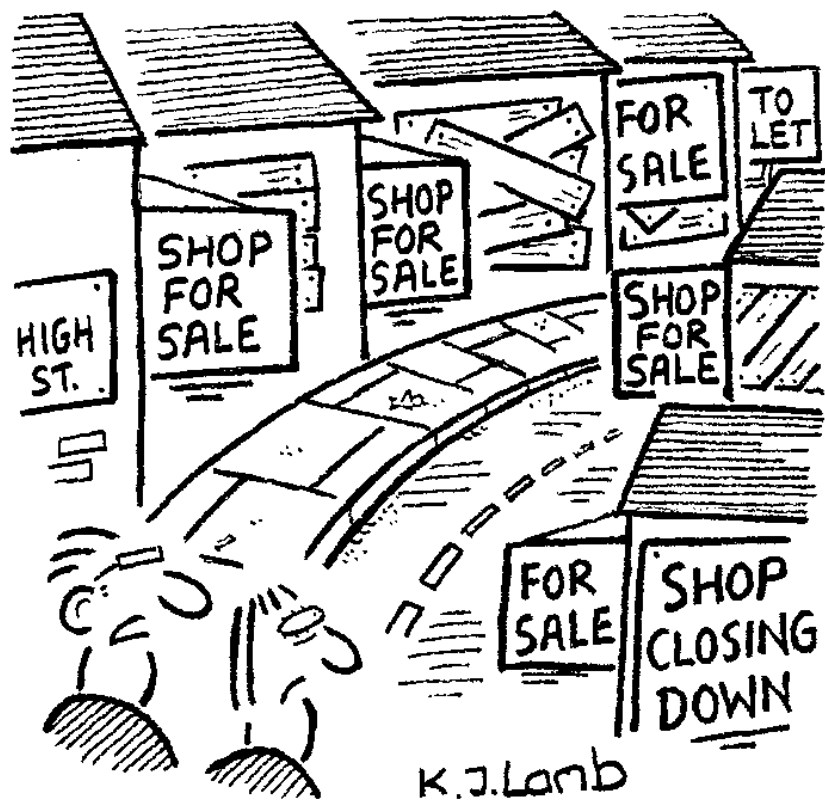
with someone else means you can look out for its early signs in each other – shivering is an obvious one. Look out for the "umbles": stumbles, fumbles, mumbles and grumbles. Hypothermia slows you down, and the first symptoms may be a lack of co-ordination, flatness, don't care attitude or drowsiness.

If the temperature drops below freezing, do everything you can to get indoors. Drinking outdoors is risky, as alcohol dilates blood vessels and makes you less aware of how cold it is. Being dehydrated increases your risk of hypothermia, so try to drink a litre of tap water every day. Keep your head covered, as most body heat is lost through the head. Layer your clothes and try to stay dry – wet clothes are a contributing factor to developing hypothermia. Most important of all, if you think you or someone you are with has hypothermia, get them indoors and get medical help as quickly as possible. Remember: hypothermia can impair your ability to make decisions.

Have a good Christmas and keep well.

Susie Rathie
The Pavement's nurse





"I see the sales are on"

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

WEBSITES

Community Legal Advice

0845 345 4345

Nationwide

www.communitylegaladvice.org.uk

Mon-Fri: 9am-8pm;

Sat: 9am-12:30pm

AD, BA, DA, H

Free, confidential service, offering specialist advice on housing,

benefits, tax credits, debt etc.

0808 2000 247

Domestic Violence Helpline

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

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

Runway Helpline

0808 800 7070

Free line for under-18s

who have left home

The Samaritans

08457 90 9090

SANeline

6 – 11pm

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

Help for Depression

A comprehensive explanation of the various approaches and

treatments for depression

www.helpfordepression.com

MH

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

services.htm

Sock Book

sockbook.referrata.com

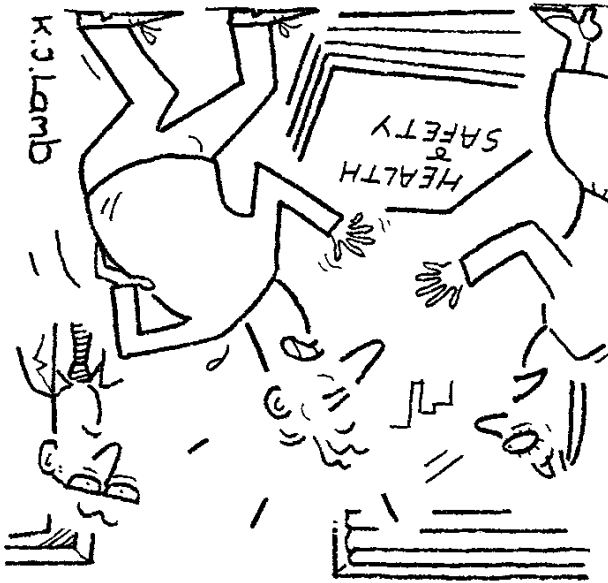
Stonewall Housing

Housing advice for LGBT

people of all ages

www.stonewallhousing.org

*"He put his back out lifting the
Health and Safety regulations"*



23 - 28 Dec: 24 hours (opening 11am on 23 Dec, and closing 11am on 28 Dec)
Age 18+ mixed: Dogs on a lead welcome: Beds for up to 150
Bus service 46/46a from Bull Street stops outside St George's. Buses 16, 74 and 79 stop in Great Hampton Street
www.birminghamchristianssshelter.org

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 Handiloon (£100 to £500) and anyone living or working in Dudley can join.

Centrepoin 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

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.

Gilgal
PO Box 3918, Birmingham B9 5AQ
0121 773 1431
Mon-Sun: Open 24 hours
Emergency accommodation - tion for women and children escaping domestic violence. Birmingham Domestic Abuse Refugeline: 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: 01902 713001
AS, AD, BA, C, H, MH

IWIC (Older Irish Adults Project)
St Anne's, 45 Alcester Street, Deritend, Birmingham, B12 0PH
0121 604 6111
Mon, Tue & Thu: 11.30am-4.30pm; Wed: 2.30-5pm; Fri: 11.30am-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

Panaghgar
Coventry - phone for details
0800 055 6519
Support for Asian women and their children facing domestic violence. Safe house, advice, info, advocacy, counselling, and children's services. AS, C, OL

SAFE Project
Phone for details
0121 440 6655
Mon: 12.45am-1.45pm (clinic) - 0121 440 0034; Mon: 1.15pm-3.30pm (walk-in clinic); Wed: 12am-4pm (drop-in clinic); Thu: 11am-1.30pm (Methadone clinic - 0121 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

Stonewall Housing
Housing advice for LGBT people of all ages
020 7339 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)
Free for Dudley residents. AD, C

Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council (Refugee Support Team)
2nd Fl, Civic Center, Darwall St, Walsall WS1 1TP
01922 653827, 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
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

TELEPHONE SERVICES

Birmingham Drug & Alcohol Team
0800 073 0817 (Helpline)
Daily 9am - 5pm
A, D, ET

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Supported accommodation
for ex-services personnel.
AS, BA, H, TS

Veterans UK

0800 169 2277

Free help and advice for vet-

erans and access to dedicated

one-to-one welfare service

www.veterans-uk.info

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

The Health Exchange

William Booth Lane, Bir-

mingham B4 6HA

0121 465 3965

Mon & Fri: 2:30pm-4:30pm;

Tues, Wed, Thu: 1pm-4pm;

Wed & Thu: 9am-11am

Medical practice for home-

less people in Birmingham.

MS

Vision Care for Homeless People

William Booth Centre, Shad-

well St, Birmingham B4 6HA

Mon: 10am-5pm (except

bank holidays)

Comprehensive eyecare serv-

ices, totally free of charge. M5

PERFORMING ARTS**Crisis Skylight Birmingham**

0121 348 7950

PO Box 15850, Birmingham, B9 9HL

Running at various locations

— call for details

AC, ET, IT, MC, PA

SEASONAL SHELTERS**Birmingham Christmas Shelter**

St George's Hub, Great Hampton

Row (off Great Hampton Street),

Newtown, Birmingham, B19 3JG

07846 299336

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, Bir-

mingham, B7 5PA

0800 073 0817 (helpline)

Daily 9am - 5pm

A, D, ET

Norman Imlah Day Centre

2nd Fl, The Matthews Centre,

Duddston Manor Rd, Dud-

deston, 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

Turning Point Birmingham**Drugline Rough Sleepers****Vulnerable Persons Team (RSVP)**

Dale House, New Meeting

Street, Birmingham, B4 7SX

0121 632 6363

Mon-Wed, and Fri: 9:30am-

5:30pm; Thu: 9:30-10am

Service for adults (18+) who are

affected by drug use, homeless-

ness and/or the male sex industry

Turning Point Birmingham**Drugline**

Dale House, New Meeting

Street, Birmingham, B4 7SX

0121 632 6363

Mon-Wed, and Fri: 9:30am-

5:30pm; Thu: 9:30-10am

Service for adults (18+) who are

affected by drug use to reduce

harm and support recovery

C, D, ET, NE, OL

EASTERN EUROPEAN**Polish Club Birmingham**

Polish Millennium House, Bord-

eseley St, Birmingham B5 5PH

0121 643 3577

Fri: 1pm-3pm

Advice on employment law,

social benefits, housing

and accommodation.

AS, BA, DA, H, LE

Stonham (Ellesmere)

Fullwood House, Ellesmere,

Shropshire SY12 0AA

01691 623756

Mon-Fri: 8:30am-5pm

Royal British Legion

08457 725 725

Ring the Legionline to see

how they can help ex-service-

men and ex-servicewomen

AS, H

sons@birmingham.gov.uk).

email (HOUVulneraleper-

can apply directly. Phone or

left, the armed forces, you

If you are leaving, or have

0121 675 1683

mingham B15 1DL

PO Box 13254B1, Bir-

Pathways)

Birmingham City Council (Housing**Pathways)**

PO Box 13254B1, Bir-

mingham B15 1DL

0121 675 1683

If you are leaving, or have

left, the armed forces, you

can apply directly. Phone or

email (HOUVulneraleper-

sons@birmingham.gov.uk).

AS, H

08457 725 725

Ring the Legionline to see

how they can help ex-service-

men and ex-servicewomen

AS, H

01691 623756

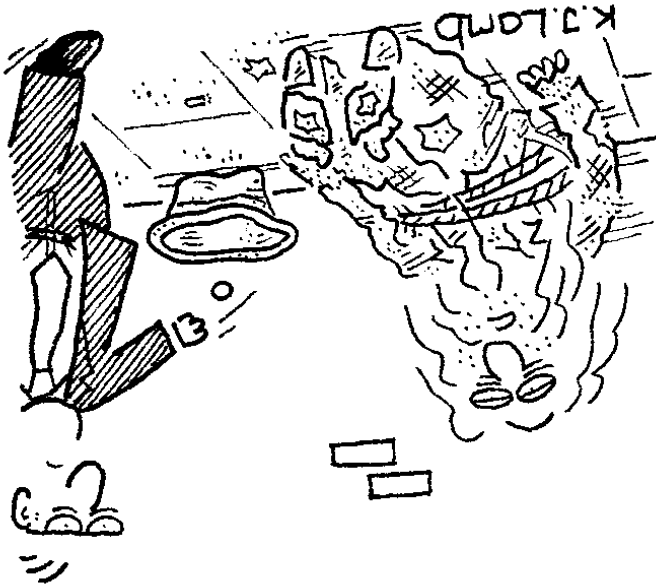
Fullwood House, Ellesmere,

Shropshire SY12 0AA

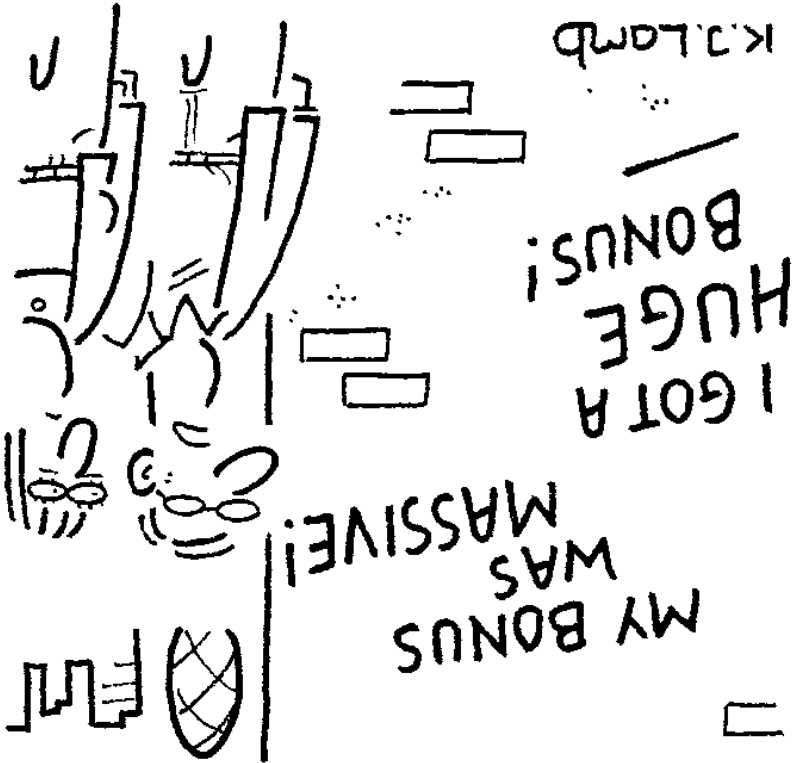
01691 623756

Mon-Fri: 8:30am-5pm

“Thank you, I won’t let it change me”



"More obscene graffiti"



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

Accommodation for men aged 16-27, inc. ex-offenders or those at risk.
AS, AD, ET, H, OL

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)
For young single homeless locals aged 16-25 with medium support needs who are home-less or in housing need.
AS, C, H, MH

Midland Heart – Rofe House
69 Rofe 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

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

Aquarius
2nd Fl, 16 Kent St, Birmingham B5 6RD
0121 622 8181

0121 770 9360
Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm
For single homeless people 16-25.
AS, AD, BA, CA, ET, H, OB, TS

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

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

DRUG / ALCOHOL SERVICES

Addaction 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

Midland Heart – Gibbs Road**Men**

- Allison House**
52 Allison Street, Bir-
mingham, B5 5TH
0121 643 5094 For men over 50
- Central and Cecil – Tullamore 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
- Midland Heart – Hanwood House**
Leopold St, Highgate, Bir-
mingham 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, Wolver-
hampton 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, Wolver-
hampton WV1 1JS
01902 773721
Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless men. Must be sub-
stance-free at time of admission.
ET, H, LA, LF, MH, OL
- Princp Street Hostel**
Waterside House, 3–35 Princp
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
- House**
AS, H, TS
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, Smeth-
wick 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
skill 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 – Home-
less Services Centre, 44 Brad-
ford 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
- 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
- St George's House**
St George's Hub, St Marks
Rd, Chapel Ash, Wolver-
hampton 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, Wolver-
hampton WV1 1WZ
01902 714746
Fri: 2:15pm–3pm; Mon–Thu:
2:15pm–4:30pm; Mon–Fri:
9:30am–1:30pm
For homeless people, ex-offend-
ers, substance misers and others
who are often barred from other
services and facilities. Practical
advice, support and guidance,
and signposting to other serv-
ices. 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
- SIFA Fireside**
18–28 Lower Essex St, Bir-
mingham B5 6SN
0121 666 7023
Mon–Fri: 9–10.30am (breakfast)
; 12–1pm (lunch); Sat & Sun:
10.30am–1:30am (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 access-
ing emergency accommodation.
AS, AW, AS, BS, BA, C, DA, ET,
FF, H, LA, MS, OB, SK, TS

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

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.

The Glebe Centre
Wednesbury Rd, Walsall, WS1 3RU
01922 625687
Mon - Fri: 9am - 4pm
For people (18+) who are vulnerable, including homeless, unemployed, drug dependent, mental health issues or socially excluded
Alcohol Drinking Lounge open to public: 10am-3pm
AS, A, BA, BS, CL, DT, ET, F, H, LA, MS, MH
www.theglebecentre.org.uk

Maggs Day Centre
St Albans, Deansway, Worcester, WR1 2JD
01905 25027
www.maggsdaycentre.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

(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

Solihull Community Housing (Kingshurst)
Church Close, Kingshurst, Solihull, 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).

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. Temporary 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 homelessness. 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 28 November 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: 1
Services added: 2

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

BA, DA, ET, OL, TS

Info about local services.

etc. Tenancy-related problems.

GP, schools, work and college

elts, debt, registering with a

Advice and assistance on ben-

Mon–Fri: 9am–5pm

01384 237555

Dudley DY2 7DJ

98–99 Dixons Green Rd,

CHADD Outreach Support Service

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