

# *the* Pavement

The **FREE** monthly for the West Midlands' home

February 2012

I'M A FICTIONAL CHARACTER,  
SO I CAN'T SAVE YOU FROM THIS,  
BUT YOU CAN HELP YOURSELF  
AND YOUR FRIENDS.

STAY OUT  
AND  
STAY SAFE!



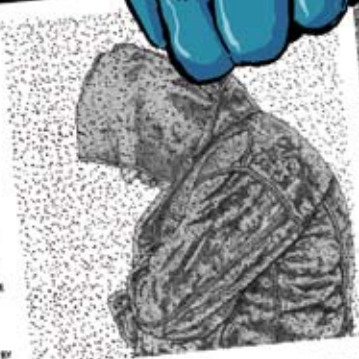
## BIN DEATH

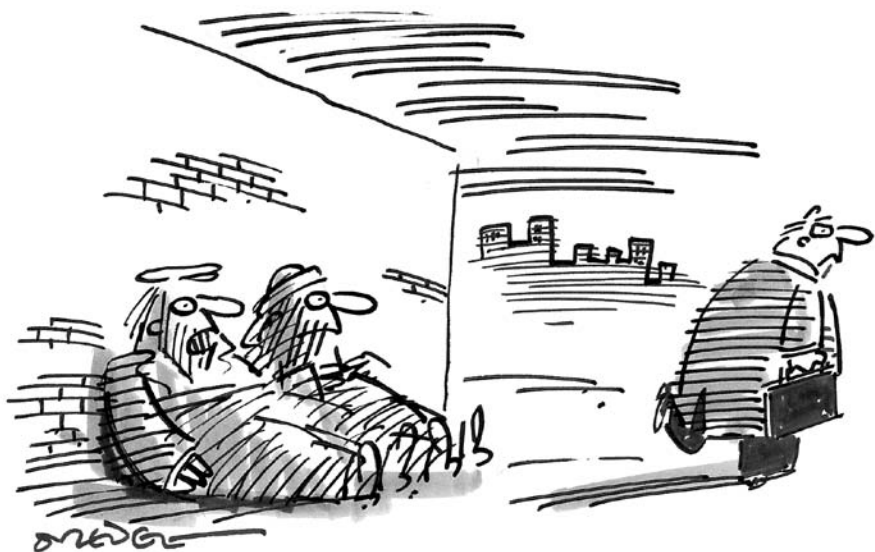
BIN DEATH IS A REAL PROBLEM FACING HOMELESS PEOPLE EVERY YEAR ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THERE ARE INJURIES AND EVEN DEATHS THAT RESULT FROM PEOPLE BEDDING DOWN IN BINS, SLEEPING AND CLOTHING BANKS. BINS ARE OFTEN EMPTIED MECHANICALLY IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING. THERE IS COMMERCIAL JUST ONE DRIVER WHO WOULD BE UNABLE TO HEAR OVER THE MACHINERY NOISE IF THERE WAS ANYONE INSIDE THE BIN.

STAY OUT AND STAY SAFE!

**the Pavement**

ILLUSTRATION BY  
LO PARKIN





*"There, but for the grace of God, go I"*

# the Pavement

www.thepavement.org.uk

Issue 15 / West Midlands / Feb 2012

Published by

**The Pavement West Midlands**

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*The Pavement* (print) ISSN 1757-0476  
*The Pavement* (online) ISSN 1757-0484

# The Editor

## Welcome back

Hope this finds you all safe and well after the festive season: it feels like an age since we signed off for Christmas.

Our reporters have worked off their mince pies by dashing around the Midlands to bring you the latest news: cuts in Coventry; numbers on the rise in Nottingham; and a budding new service. We can't promise it's all good news for the New Year, but we're nothing but honest here at *The Pavement*!

Don't forget to get in touch (details to the left) if there's anything you want us to investigate.

Until next time...

## Amber Woodfull

Editor

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Artwork by Mike Donaldson

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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*

## Christmas shelter welcomes homeless

One of Birmingham's oldest homeless shelters opened its doors and kitchens to hundreds of guests over Christmas, providing food and warmth at a time when social isolation – and the cold – are at their worst.

Birmingham Christmas Shelter, a charity formerly known as Birmingham Open Christmas, provided hot meals, refuge and companionship to the homeless and lonely from its base in St George's Community Hub, Newtown on 23–27 December.

Volunteers for the charity – in its 31st year – worked around the clock to welcome guests and served a remarkable 1,345 meals over the five-day open house.

Homeless visitors to the shelter were able to make use of all-important health care provisions as well as try out less accessible holistic services such as meditation, chiropody and yoga. Some guests even spent their Christmas studying osteology – the structure of bones in relation to health.

Birmingham Christmas Shelter is staffed entirely by volunteers and relies upon donations in order to survive. 2012's fundraising has already begun with a stylish donation from Birmingham's Bullring Shopping Centre. "We're auctioning off the giant festive jumper worn by the famous Bullring bull," says shelter trustee Dave Young. "We're hoping this iconic piece of knitwear will raise much-needed funds and a few smiles along the way."

*Elizabeth Barker*

## Birmingham winter shelter pilot

Here at *The Pavement*, we have been eagerly following the progress of the pilot winter shelter in Birmingham. We are pleased to announce that the project will kick off with a 'trial run' in February so as to be firmly established for next winter. The Birmingham Diocese Thrive West Midlands team is leading the pilot, with much-needed support and guidance from Housing Justice and the Birmingham Christian Homeless Forum.

The five churches taking part in the pilot include Birchfield (Perry Barr), Weoley Castle and Newtown. They will provide basic accommodation, dinner, breakfast and washing facilities every night for ten homeless people with low support needs on Fridays (Newtown), Saturdays (Weoley Castle) and Monday nights (Birchfield). Volunteers have taken part in valuable training on how the pilot will run.

The pilot shelter will run for a month starting on Friday, 3 February. It will launch – fittingly – during Poverty and Homelessness Action week (28 January – 5 February). Organisers hope to set up a longer running shelter with more churches for the following winter.

Referrals to the shelter will be handled by the helpdesk team at St Martin's in the Bullring. If you are already in touch with SIFA Fireside, the Health Xchange or Reach Out Network, please ask your support worker to contact St Martin's Helpdesk. Alternatively, you can visit St Martin's Helpdesk on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays (10.30am–12.30pm

and 1.30pm–3.30pm) or on Saturdays (10.30am–12.30am).

Housing Justice convenes a forum for church-run winter shelters which meets regularly in London and supports the development of new shelters by running training days. The charity also produces much needed guidance for pilots, such as the Shelter in a Pack resource, which offers step-by-step support for churches considering a pilot in their neighbourhood. <http://www.housingjustice.org.uk/resources.php/567/shelter-in-a-pack>

The steering group includes three representatives who work for and have strong relationships with local homelessness charities, ensuring that the winter shelter links in with local established charities and services. St Martin's in the Bullring will provide ongoing sign-posting and support to people staying in the shelters, especially to help find appropriate sustainable accommodation and other support services once the shelter has closed.

*Amber Woodfull*

## Homelessness on the rise in Nottingham

Framework, a Nottingham-based homelessness charity, expects to see the numbers of homeless people on the city's streets increase over the next 12 months.

Framework provides almost 8,000 homeless and vulnerable people each year with the resources to live independent lives by offering choice and opportunity. Like so many other charities, it is suffering from funding cuts. Its hostel

is already at capacity because increasing numbers of people are staying longer due to a housing shortage, so the numbers of people sleeping rough is inevitably rising.

Mr Cully, the manager of the London Road hostel, said: "People are becoming homeless for normal reasons like losing their job, having trouble with bills. A lot of it is obviously down to the economic problems that we're going through... Hopefully, we can move people through the system quicker."

The government is investing £400m over four years to support the work of local authorities and the voluntary sector and has said that statutory homelessness is lower than in 28 of the last 30

years. But is the government doing enough, when last year nearly 2,000 people slept rough every night?

With more and more people feeling the pressure of the current economic climate, will this investment be enough to keep vital services offered by organisations like Framework open and prevent the numbers of rough sleepers increasing in 2012?

*Emma Jarvis*

- Read about the rough sleeper hotline run by Framework – story page 23

## Sleeping out for St Basil's

On Friday 2 December 2011, 350 of Birmingham's finest gathered in a frosty car park wearing their warmest attire to take part in the 22nd annual St Basil's sleep-out.

The charity provides support and accommodation to homeless young people. Based in Digbeth, they have 27 supported housing projects across Birmingham and a further three in Worcestershire.

The sleep-out has become a core part of the fundraising they rely on to provide vital support to 4,000 young people in the Midlands every year. It is fun and raises aware-



ness of what homeless people go through every night. Lucy Hackett, head of fundraising at St Basil's, explained that the money helps ensure that other young people do not have to spend a night on the street. It will go towards helping 16- to 25-year-olds who are homeless and provide individuals who are vulnerable and at risk with essential support and prevention services such as family mediation, housing aid and advice, and working to increase individuals' confidence and aspirations. Along with the housing projects, St Basil's provides a 24-hour helpline and "crash

pads" for those desperately in need of a place to sleep. Going forward, the young people are offered accredited learning, skills and work programmes in order to sustain the progress made.

Although all the participants had their own reasons for taking part in the sleep-out, everybody involved recognised the importance of what they were doing for such a valuable cause, especially in the winter months, when thoughts often turn to how hard it is living on the street. Iqra Hussain, from the young person's charity The Challenge, wanted to "do something different and experience what it is like for the average homeless person sleeping on the street". The event has inspired her organisation to carry out its very own 'Sleep Out' in February.

The event attracted local celebrities Ed

James and his co-presenter Rachel New from *Heart FM*, which raised substantial funds by discussing and promoting the sleep-out on the show. The duo soaked up the atmosphere of the night and weren't afraid to get their hands dirty in the shelter building competition!

Unfortunately, the people from the Welsh House Farm Community Project were unable to attend this year because of illness, but they were determined to raise some money. Lead by the project coordinator Jess Hobbs, they teamed up a couple of weeks later with a community group from Bourneville who had organised a lock-in at the Pavilion. They raised money for St Basil's, and had an eye-opening discussion about homelessness with the youths involved.

Adam Yosef, one of *The Pavement's* newest recruits, has made a short film with footage from the event, which is available to view on You Tube – just search **St Basils Big SleepOut 2011**.

*Sarah Napier*

## Coventry City Council rubber-stamps cuts disguised as freezes

Coventry City Council has given the go-ahead to budget cuts – disguised as freezes – which are likely to have devastating consequences for homeless people in the city.

At a meeting on 17 January, cabinet members decided to "maintain" their existing annual budget of £1,396,583 for at least two years, a move that is expected to add considerably to the 30 per cent increase in those needing accommodation recorded by the Council over the last year.

The Council's data also show that the number of homeless people in the city has risen to 1,700, more than double the number recorded



## 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 helpline** on **Freefone 0800 700 740** or text **80234** for free, confidential 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 & blue jeans. He also wears glasses and has several tattoos on his arm.

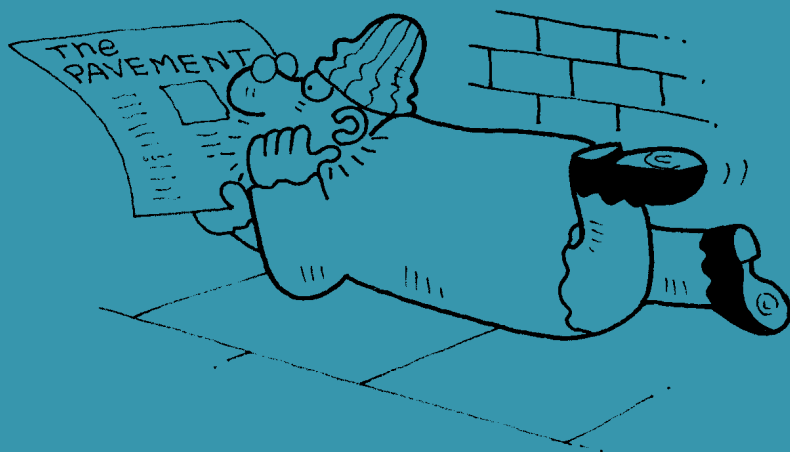
If you've seen Alan, please call the 24-hour confidential charity **Missing People** on Freefone **0500 700 700** Email: [seensomeone@missingpeople.org.uk](mailto:seensomeone@missingpeople.org.uk)

**missing people**

Registered Charity No: 1020418



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



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



just five years ago. According to the Council, this includes people who are 'non-statutory' homeless, which means they are not a considered a priority.

As always, the true extent of the problem is likely to be very much higher due to the fluctuating numbers of rough sleepers on the city's streets and the 'hidden homeless'.

Councillor Tony Skipper (Neighbourhood Action, Housing, Leisure and Culture), who spoke at the meeting, has previously said that the Council must cut services. He accepts that in freezing the budget the Council has, in effect, cut the homeless budget due to the high level of inflation (currently five per cent).

The meeting also agreed to introduce H2H (Here 2 Help), a consortium of local charities which it believes will "create opportunities for cooperation and innovation between providers" and "ensure the provision of a more flexible and joined-up service that is responsive to changes in demand and user needs."

For an 18-month period starting in September 2012, the Council will award current funding allocation to H2H to deliver services with a brief to "prevent homelessness and tackle the wider causes of homelessness." The cabinet meeting concluded that: "The management of service delivery through H2H had the potential to improve the level of service provided to users by putting in place a single point of access which would enable service users to access the right service first time and reduce duplication of effort."

Once it is up and running, the H2H consortium will have to demonstrate that joint working between agencies – which include the Salvation Army, Coventry Cyrenians and Whitefriars – can provide significant savings and improve service efficiency.

Mike Parker, chair of Grub and Gab, a charity which provides food and shelter to Coventry's homeless people, said: "With H2H Coventry, [the] City Council plans to 'pay' three businesses to run the homelessness services in the city. £1.4 million over 18 months to look after an ever-increasing number of homeless in the city? Only £1.4 million? How much of that will be spent on the people who are in need, I wonder? Three different businesses, each having to pay wages, rent, admin costs, all the associated other costs of running a homelessness business. So think again. Just how much of the £1.4 million pounds will end up actually benefiting homeless people?"

*Fraser Tennant*

## **Birmingham man charged with homeless murder**

A 35-year-old man has been charged with the murder of a homeless man following a vicious attack at a Birmingham bus stop. Richard Williams suffered fatal head injuries in the assault, which took place near the junction of Barford Road and Dudley Road, Winson Green, at midnight on 30 December. Paramedics battled to save Mr Williams's life, but he later died in hospital.

Deputy Inspector Wayne Jones described the incident as "unprovoked and extremely ferocious", adding: "I can't see any reason why Richard was attacked, none at all. He was sat in the bus stop, possibly asleep, minding his own business. It could have been any one of us waiting in that bus stop."

Russian Grigory Razgoniaev, of no fixed abode, is currently standing trial at Birmingham Crown Court. Mr Williams became known to a number of homeless hostels in the city after develop-

ing an addiction to alcohol.

The murdered man's sister, Elaine Shipway, said: "He was a quiet, gentle man when he was not drinking, and had never hurt anyone physically in his entire life even when he was drinking.

"He was well-known and had friends in the area when he was homeless. He didn't deserve to have his life ended in this violent way."

*Elizabeth Barker*



# News in brief

*The homeless news from across the UK and the World*

## Hull in a handcart

Homeless families from south London could be asked to move hundreds of miles north, following a surge in demand for temporary accommodation.

Croydon Council is considering sending some of the families it houses in emergency bed and breakfast accommodation to live in Hull and other Yorkshire towns, where rent is cheaper and more homes are thought to be available.

The decision comes as the number of families in such accommodation has risen from 61 in 2008 to 300 today – costing the council £300,000 a month.

The increase in the number of homeless families entitled to council support is thought to be due to reductions in local housing allowance (introduced for new tenants last year and for existing tenants from January), combined with job losses from the financial crisis.

Croydon's housing crisis is particularly severe because 58 families who lost their homes during last summer's riots have also had to be placed in emergency accommodation. In 2011, Croydon Council paid for a homeless family to live in St Leonards-on-Sea near Hastings in East Sussex.

Councillor Dudley Mead, cabinet member for housing, finance and asset management, said: "We don't seem to be able to raise the supply of temporary accommodation. I told officers to look outside Croydon to find housing. We'll take it from wherever we can.

"A lot of seaside towns are certainly cheaper and have more availability. These moves would be by mutual agreement.

Sometimes families are keen to move so everyone's happy."

However, charities working with homeless people in Hull were concerned about Croydon Council's plans. Peter Drinkell, project director of Doorstep Of Hull, which provides temporary accommodation and which handles up to local 200 referrals at any one time, said that homeless services in the north were already stretched, and that London's problems should not be passed on to Hull.

Drinkell said: "There is no way this plan cannot disadvantage Hull's homeless people. The number of referrals our organisation receives continues to rise each year. There are people in Hull who wait several months for a property. It is not as though we have spare accommodation to dish out."

Jad Adams, chairman of Croydon homeless charity Nightwatch, said: "This is a very serious situation.

"Inviting people to move away is far from ideal but I do understand this is the time to take drastic measures."

Kay Boycott, of charity Shelter, said: "The fact that councils are offering people homes hundreds of miles away is testament to the scale of London's housing crisis."

*Katharine Hibbert*

## Rough sleepers predicted to live longer – 47 is the new 42

The outdated and overused statistic that "the life expectancy of someone who sleeps rough is 42 years" has finally been updated. The original figure came from

Crisis' 1996 report *Still Dying For A Home* (which we reported on in May 2010). The new report from Sheffield University, also commissioned by Crisis, ups this figure to 47.

But this doesn't mean 46-year-old *Pavement* readers should start worrying. What the 1996 and 2011 Crisis reports calculate is not how long homeless people can expect to live, but their average age of death.

The briefing to the new report, *Homelessness: A Silent Killer*, makes this clear (unlike the 1996 study) by avoiding the term "life expectancy."

In comparison to the average age of death in the so-called general population (77) it's a shocking, headline-grabbing figure – even though the reason the figure is so low is that more homeless people die at a young age, dragging down the overall average.

### Cause and effect

In the briefing to the report (which is still to be released in full), Crisis chief executive Leslie Morphy summarises: "This report paints a bleak picture of the consequences homelessness has on people's health and wellbeing. Ultimately, it shows that homelessness is killing people."

However, while being homeless can exacerbate existing health problems or even cause them, not having a home was not found to be the main cause of death among those counted. Instead, the study found homeless people are over nine times more likely to commit suicide than the general population, three times as likely to die as a result of a traffic accident, twice as likely to die of an infection and three times more likely to suffer from a fatal fall.

Most significantly, however, it

# 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

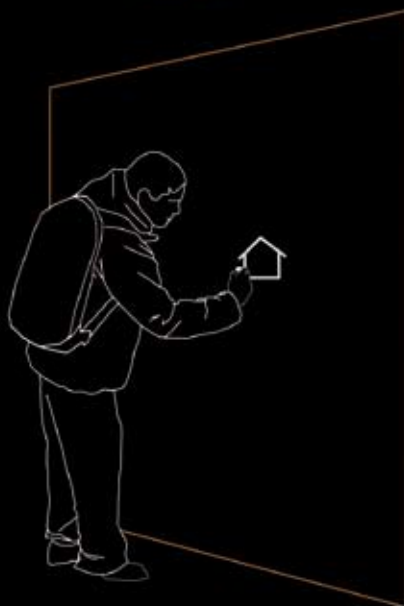


you'll get moved on here

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.



calculated that drug and alcohol abuse account for just over a third of all deaths – a huge proportion. But drug and alcohol abuse of course also affects (and kills) members of the general population too. And as Jeremy Swain, CEO of Thames Link, commented on Twitter soon after the release of the report briefing on 21 December: “we know from robust academic research that alcohol and drug misuse nearly always precedes homelessness”.

### Counting issues

The researchers also faced major obstacles in methodology. As Dr Bethan Thomas admits in the report: “Almost by definition, it is difficult to count homeless people and it is not possible to reliably estimate mortality for the previously homeless who have now found secure accommodation and so to discover what the long term effects of a period of homelessness might be. It is also difficult to count deaths of homeless persons. Death certificates do not record the deceased’s housing status.”

Despite these obstacles, Dr Thomas went ahead with the report – finding potential homeless deaths by matching postcodes from mortality data provided by the Office for National Statistics with postcodes of homeless day centres and hostel accommodation as provided by Homeless Link. In total 1,731 deaths (where the person was definitely homeless or there is a high probability they were) were counted.

### What next?

Crisis has used the new report’s findings to outline a set of recommendations to improve homeless people’s health, in short: prioritise the needs of homeless people in the restructure of the NHS, reform health service delivery for homeless

people and ensure provision meets needs and is integrated and holistic.

The next phase of the project, to be published in summer 2012, will investigate cause of death by age and analyse more detailed causes of death – plus, it is hoped, mortality by different accommodation type and area.

### Carinya Sharples

## Former US Marine arrested for homeless stabbing

A 23-year-old man faces the death penalty for the brutal stabbing of four homeless men in Orange County, California.

It has emerged that the suspected serial killer, Itzcoati Ocampo, is a former Marine who had himself been made homeless following the loss of his job as a warehouse manager.

Ocampo’s family has spoken of their shock at his arrest, describing the defendant as a “role model” American until his deployment to Iraq in 2008 “killed the person he was”. His father, Refugio Ocampo, has defended his son’s character, saying: “I saw him giving the last money he had in his pocket... to the homeless.”

Ocampo could face the death penalty if he is found guilty of killing James Patrick McGillivray, 53, Llloud Middaugh, 42, Paulus Smit, 57 and John Berry, 64. All four of the victims suffered the same brutal and frenzied stabbing, with each suffering at least 40 lacerations to the body.

His brother, Mixcoatl Ocampo, told the *LA Times* that the alleged murderer was suffering from depression and had been severely affected by the time he spent in service. Mixcoatl said: “He was always paranoid. He would search the closet and bathrooms in his home for bombs.”

Following a court appearance on the 18 January, it now seems likely that Ocampo’s defence will to plead insanity. Prosecutor Tony Rackouckas, however, condemned him as “serious, vicious killer who went out there intentionally going about killing people and terrorizing a whole area”.

Bonnie Tisdale, who acted as Ocampo’s supervisor at Camp Pendleton, described him as “a veteran” who has been let down by the State. “Regardless of what he’s been accused of, I trust him with my life,” the 27-year-old said.

“If he did it, it wasn’t right, obviously, but there’s something wrong with him,” Tisdale added.

The population of homeless people in the California area is so great (an estimated 200,000) that the police have their own dedicated homeless homicide unit. But even with the help of specially trained officers who have excellent outreach contacts, the police were hunting the killer for over a month, leaving the entire homeless community in a state of fear.

Anaheim Police Chief John Welter said that investigators are now confident they have the man responsible for the murders.

*Sarah Cox*

## Homeless offered Spanish getaway

A new charity plans to offer homeless people from the UK a chance to spend time in Spain – especially while recovering from illness.

Based on a farm in a national park, the Simon in Spain charity hopes to host its first guests this summer. The family-run charity has no connection with the UK Simon Community charity, but founder David French spent time working with that organisation before moving away to found his own.

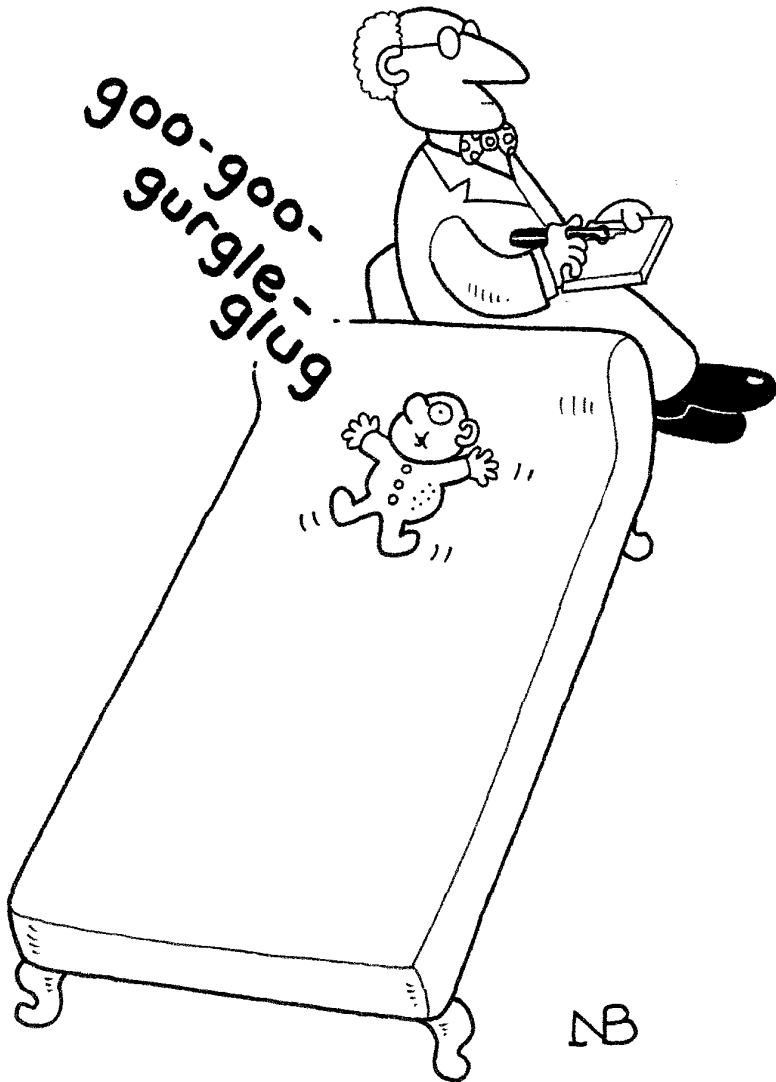
*The Pavement*, which operates without any funding from the state, has decided to try something new – asking readers to help support our operation. Not salaries or new kit, but our basic print operation.



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](http://www.justgiving.com/thepavement)







Five volunteers have joined French and his son and daughter-in-law to help to prepare the land and the houses where guests will stay. The charity hopes to encourage donors to sponsor a particular guest's stay, or to contribute a particular item or animal for the community's use.

French said: "The main idea came from when I was having cancer treatment and when my treatment finished I took a convalescent holiday, but others on the same course [of treatment] who were on low income sadly couldn't."

"I strongly believe that those who are homeless and on low income who go through life threatening diseases should have the same access as everybody else to this type of respite."

More information about the charity is available at [www.simoninspain.co.uk](http://www.simoninspain.co.uk)

*Katharine Hibbert*

## Funding boost for hostels

A \$42.5m government funding boost for homeless hostels will only result in an increase of 31 bed spaces countrywide according to the latest rough sleeping report.

The report, commissioned by St Mungo's, estimates that at least 1,169 bed spaces in England were lost between March 2010 and March 2011.

The £42.5m funding boost for the Homelessness Change Programme, announced by Housing Minister Grant Shapps, in October promises an extra 1,200 bed spaces across the UK. But the loss of 1,169 bed spaces over the past year actually means that this will only amount to an increase of 31 bed spaces.

Despite government figures stating that homelessness "remains lower than in 28 of the last 30 years", three out of

five outreach workers claim that homelessness has increased in their area over the past year.

The report highlights concerns over cuts in preventative services and states three of the main causes of homelessness as relationship breakdowns, domestic violence and mental health conditions.

There has been a significant rise in the number of rough sleepers with mental health issues. The report claims this is a direct result of public service failings and indicates that it would be more prudent to focus on tackling the causes of homelessness.

St Mungo's Chief Executive Charles Fraser said "The cuts in 'Cinderella' services such as those supporting people with mental health conditions and victims of domestic violence are of particular concern. As services close or thresholds for accessing support are raised, some vulnerable people are being left with nowhere to turn, with devastating effects."

The report shows that 71 per cent of respondents believed that there needs to be more emergency accommodation for rough sleepers. The proposed funding boost will be used to refurbish and build new accommodation across the country with an added 37 projects to improve facilities for rough sleepers.

The government will also provide around 320 beds for homeless charities across London, including St Mungos, West London YMCA and Islington & Shoreditch Housing Association. Cheltenham YMCA was also offered funding under HCP but is still awaiting their contract. David Wallace, CEO of Cheltenham YMCA, told *The Pavement*: "We are hoping to have new accommodation up and running by April 2014. Cheltenham YMCA has had no extra beds for over 10 years."

Despite claims that Britain has some of the toughest laws to prevent people from ending up on the streets, Shapps' decision to

"shut the door to squatters once and for all" by making squatting illegal sparked outrage amongst legal professionals who have accused Shapps of 'obscuring' the law and misleading the public.

The Housing Minister was also accused of putting homeless projects ahead of social housing, after figures from the Homes and Communities Agency showed that there had been a substantial drop in the construction of affordable homes across the UK last year.

A spokesperson for the Department for Communities and Local Government told *The Pavement* that the extra funding had "been found through Departmental resources." He added that, "ministers have made clear their commitment to protect the most vulnerable. That is why the government has announced £20million of new funding which for the first time will specifically help single homeless people who all too often slip through the safety net. This money will be used to help prevent homelessness at an earlier stage.

"Every council has a legal duty to ensure that households who are homeless through no fault of their own and in priority need are not 'roofless', and can provide free advice and information to prevent homelessness in the first place."

St Mungo's has welcomed the funding for more beds after the number of homeless people in London increased by eight per cent last year. "The ten move-on beds will benefit ten people initially but then potentially more, depending on how soon people are then able to make a positive move on into more permanent longer term housing. People usually stay in our hostels for up to two years, so these would potentially benefit many more people in future."

Referring to the No Second Night Out scheme, which the government claims has helped 382 people off the capital's streets,

# BIN DEATH

BIN DEATH IS A REAL PROBLEM FACING HOMELESS PEOPLE. EVERY YEAR, ACROSS THE COUNTRY, THERE ARE INJURIES AND EVEN DEATHS THAT RESULT FROM PEOPLE BEDDING DOWN IN BINS, SKIPS AND CLOTHING BANKS. BINS ARE OFTEN EMPTIED MECHANICALLY IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING, THERE IS COMMONLY JUST ONE DRIVER WHO WOULD BE UNABLE TO HEAR OVER THE MACHINERY NOISE IF THERE WAS ANYONE INSIDE THE BIN.

STAY OUT AND STAY SAFE!

**thePavement**

ILLUSTRATION BY  
LO PARKIN

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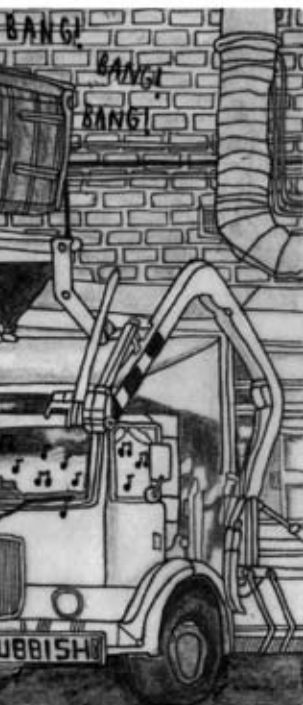
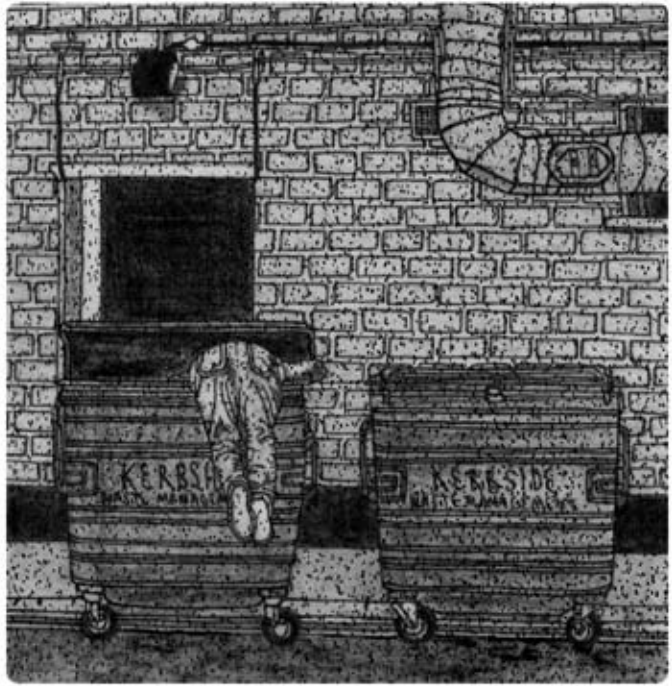
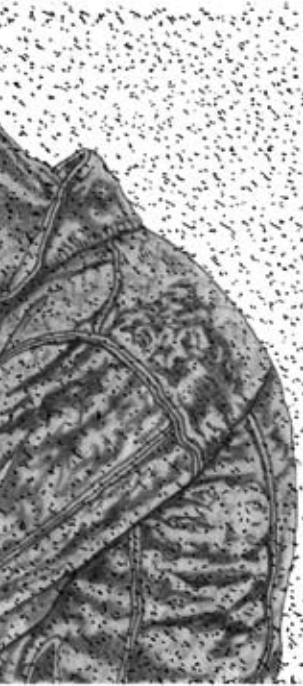


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Fraser added: "We welcome government action taken to stop anyone from spending a second night on the streets and this approach seems very promising."

"But what's also needed now is better support to prevent vulnerable people from hitting the streets in the first place – a commitment to 'no first night out'."

*Dearbhla Crosse*

## Bones in Bath wood

A pile of bones found in Bath woods shortly after Christmas have still not been identified, Police have confirmed. The remains, discovered by a local engineer, are thought to be that of a rough sleeper, as tarpaulin and other belongings were found at the scene. The bones could have lain undiscovered for up to two years in the secluded spot, detectives have said.

DNA results on the skull, leg and thigh bones are expected to be confirmed before the end of the month. The police plan to compare the results against the missing persons register in the hope of finding a match.

A post mortem has revealed that the bones are likely to have belonged to white, European man between 40 and 65, of moderate build and between 5ft 6in and 5ft 9in tall in height. Coroners have stated the death was from natural causes and police are not treating the discovery as suspicious.

Anyone with information about the bones has been asked to contact Bath police.

*Jo O'Reilly*

## The target year – an end to rough sleeping in 2012?

This is set to be a landmark year in the UK – and not just because of the Olympics and the Queen's Jubilee. It's also set to be the year in which local and national governments eradicate rough sleeping. "We must aim to get people off the streets and in to work," said Boris Johnson in the run-up to the 2008 election. "I have committed to ending rough sleeping by 2012."

*The Pavement* has been tracking the mayor's progress since 2008, as well as following what's been happening at national level in Scotland. Throughout 2012, we're going to keep an eye on whether any of these big promises have been fulfilled. We'll be reporting on who's hitting their targets this year, and who is falling short; but in this year's first issue of *The Pavement*, we're going to start by investigating what promises have been made about homelessness in the UK and what 2012 might bring.

Even back in 2008, it seemed like a tough task. "It's time for us all to say rough sleeping in 21st century Britain is unacceptable," said the then Housing Minister, Labour's Margaret Beckett, announcing her bold plan to end all street homelessness in time for the Olympics. Even then, Beckett's plans were met with some doubt by people in the sector – especially when not long after the announcement, the government stopped publishing statistics for the total number of rough sleepers. Keeping an impartial eye on what was being done became almost impossible.

Still, the official picture was one of a steady decline in the number of rough sleepers in the capital. Richard Blakeway, the Mayor's Housing Minister, told *The Pavement* in February 2010 that the number of "the most

entrenched" rough sleepers in London had dropped from 205 to just 67 individuals. "Everything I'm getting back from people working in the boroughs is that we should be able to help the remainder of the 205 into accommodation by this summer," he told us.

Back then, we were asking whether the plan to stop rough sleeping in London was a cosmetic campaign to get homeless people out of sight before the eyes of the world turned on the city for the Olympics. But soon after, the target moved – to the end of 2012, long after the games will have finished. "The original campaign was to end rough sleeping by the time the Olympics came to Britain, which would have been the summer of 2012," said a Homeless Link spokesman. "But the Mayor has since committed to this being the end of 2012 instead. This was considered to be more realistic and appropriate."

With 11 months to go until the revised deadline, what's the situation? The London government has slightly altered its approach, aiming to focus on its 'No Second Night Out' scheme, which aims to make sure people only spend one night on London's streets. Even so, a total of 2,878 rough sleepers were contacted by outreach services in London between July and September, an increase of 17 per cent from last year, according to figures from the Combined Homeless and Information Network (CHAIN). That doesn't mean that all of those people are long-term rough sleepers of course – if anything, it could show how much more energy outreach services are investing in the homeless.

The findings also give some sense of the size of the task facing the government and the complexity of the issues they're dealing with. Making ambitious promises makes for attention-grabbing headlines in an election year, but following them up is a different problem altogether.





*"Best before end August seventh?!"*



*"Can you fix my smile so it doesn't fade when  
I see how much you're charging?"*

## Scotland's target

Authorities in England have not been the only ones making pledges on homelessness targets. The Scottish government has not only promised to "end rough sleeping in 2012", it has made it a legal requirement, with new legislation coming into force this December which will entitle all rough sleepers in Scotland to permanent accommodation. With the deadline fast approaching, councils in Scotland have been warned not to "shirk" their 2012 targets. *The Pavement Scotland* will monitor the story north of the border throughout the year as well, to see if Scotland's bold commitments are honoured.

Jim O'Reilly

## Hungary outlaws homelessness

A new regulation passed in Hungary makes homelessness punishable by a fine of nearly £400, or a spell in prison.

Some 10,000 people are thought to be homeless in the country's capital, Budapest.

The regulation was proposed by Hungary's leading conservative party, on the grounds that Budapest could no longer cope with the large numbers of people sleeping rough.

The new law, passed by a strong majority in parliament in December 2011, means that those found sleeping on the streets will first receive a warning, before facing imprisonment or a fine.

The move has provoked widespread criticism. Critics, who include Hungary's human rights ombudsman and charities for the homeless, argue that Budapest's hostels cannot cope with the number of rough sleepers in the city.

Miklos Vecsei, a spokesman from the Hungarian Maltese Charity Serv-

ices, said that the law is not based on professional research, but has been passed because the public are fed up with the homeless. Budapest has been stretched to its limits, but the city's poverty needs to be alleviated, not punished, Vecsei said.

The MP who drafted the law has pointed to new hostel projects and argues that local councils will take responsibility for tackling homelessness.

However, Hungarian charities claim that, even with these council schemes in place, up to 3,000 rough sleepers will be left without shelter.

The controversial new law has sparked a wave of demonstrations, including a series on sit-in protests.

Staff

## Nottingham hotline

Nottinghamshire-based homelessness charity Framework has witnessed a steady increase in the number of calls to its homeless hotline service. Since its launch at the end of last year, the service has encouraged the public to report rough sleepers to the charity, so that the organisation can offer its assistance.

If calls are made during the line's operating hours (Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm), the team will try to contact the rough sleeper immediately. At all other times, the line will divert to the Street Outreach Team leader who will provide support. "If the rough sleeper is no longer in the reported location we will continue to check that area anyway," Framework Communications Officer Neil Skinner told *The Pavement*. "The time the referral is relevant here as it means we may have to visit the location earlier or later." For rough sleepers who refer themselves, the team has the capacity to arrange bed and breakfast

accommodation for the evening.

Whilst Framework regularly receives multiple referrals from housing and health agencies concerning the same individual, staff manning the 0800 number have not experienced double referrals from the public. "So far we have not experienced an increase in multiple referrals," said Skinner. "We would always welcome them anyway as this means that vital information is filtering through to us."

According to Skinner, the organisation values its users' privacy and takes confidentiality seriously. Though the charity operates an interventionist service, the people they approach are treated with dignity and respect. The overall goal of the project is to support rough sleepers, encourage them off the streets and help to provide accommodation.

Lizzie Cernick

## Man dies on Ilford street

A 45-year-old rough sleeper, Leonard Hiller, died outside Ilford Baths, Ilford, Greater London, on 27 December, but his family were only found a week into January.

Speaking to the *Ilford Recorder*, his mother, Glenda Hiller said: "He got into drinking and drugs and he completely changed to a different person.

"But he had a good heart.

If he saw an old lady with a heavy bag, he would help her. He wasn't nasty in any way.

"We put him in shelters but he didn't want to do that. He would rather have a can of Special Brew or White Lightning and be on the streets."

Leonard Hiller died of natural causes, and his funeral service was held on 30 January in Weeley, Essex.

Staff

# Health and wellbeing

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

## Heart disease

Your heart is a muscle about the size of your fist. Its job is to pump blood around the body and it beats at about 70 times a minute. Most of us take it for granted and forget it's there until something goes wrong.

One of the most common heart problems is coronary heart disease, a condition responsible for about 94,000 deaths each year in the UK. If you want to prevent it you first need to know if you are at risk and there are a number of ways this can be measured.

The coronary arteries are the vessels responsible for giving the heart its blood supply. They branch out across the surface of the heart and feed oxygen to the hard-working heart muscle. Coronary heart disease occurs when one or more of these arteries become furred-up or blocked with fatty stuff and part of the heart isn't getting enough oxygen. The fatty stuff is called atheroma and is made up of cholesterol and other waste material. If an artery becomes completely blocked and the blood supply is cut off from part of the heart, then this is called a heart attack or myocardial infarction.

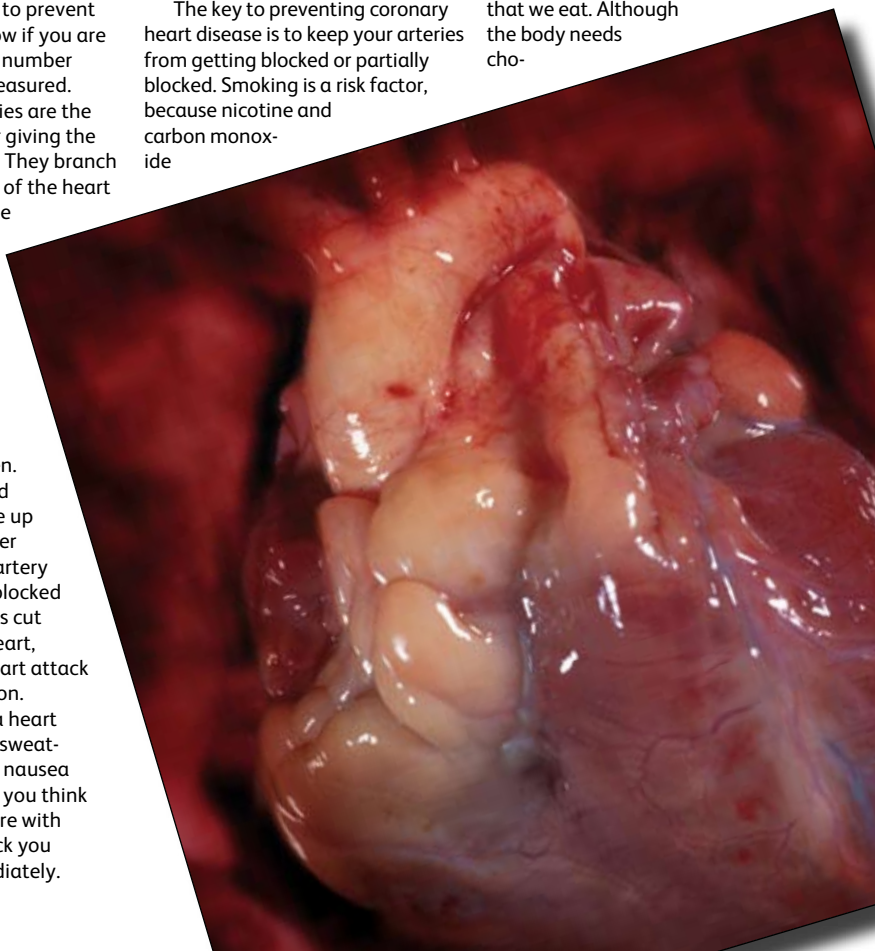
The symptoms of a heart attack are chest pain, sweating, light-headedness, nausea and breathlessness. If you think you or someone you are with is having a heart attack you should call 999 immediately.

Chest pain is a sign that coronary arteries are becoming blocked. This is also known as angina. Angina can be quite mild and is often mistaken for indigestion. Severe angina can be felt as a heavy, tight feeling in the centre of the chest and can spread to the jaw, arms or neck. People often get angina after exercise or when they feel stressed. Angina attacks usually pass after about ten minutes and there are sprays or tablets you can get from your doctor that will relieve them.

The key to preventing coronary heart disease is to keep your arteries from getting blocked or partially blocked. Smoking is a risk factor, because nicotine and carbon monoxide

from cigarettes make your heart beat faster and have to work harder. Other chemicals in smoke cause damage to the inside of your coronary arteries, making it easy for the fatty deposits to stick and build up. If you're ready to stop smoking there is a lot of free support available from your GP, Practice Nurse or NHS Direct.

High cholesterol is another major risk factor for coronary heart disease. Cholesterol is a fat made by the liver from the saturated fat that we eat. Although the body needs cho-



lesterol to function, too much can lead to build-up in the coronary arteries. You can get your cholesterol levels checked by a simple blood test and your doctor or nurse can advise on whether you need to change your diet to bring it down. Eating a diet low in saturated fat usually brings cholesterol down but there are also medications you can take if this is not enough.

High blood pressure is also associated with heart disease and you should aim to have your blood pressure checked at least once a year. Stopping smoking and getting more exercise can bring down your blood pressure but there is also medication for high blood pressure. It's very important to get medical advice for high blood pressure as it is a risk factor for lots of illnesses.

People who have diabetes are also at higher risk of developing coronary heart disease and people with a strong family history. It's worth finding out if your parents or grandparents had heart attacks or suffered from angina. Regular exercise can reduce your risk of developing heart disease as can eating a low-fat diet.

**Susie Rathie**  
The Pavement's nurse

## Wet feet... nothing worse

Somehow wet feet can make you feel like you are cold all over and can dampen even the happiest mood. Avoiding wet feet is always the best strategy, but as we live in a climate known for its rainfall all year round (in fact, spring in particular) it is pretty much impossible to avoid rain and puddles.

When rain and water get into shoes, it takes a huge amount of time for them to dry out. Usually made of multiple layers, trainers in particular seem to have a tremendous capacity for holding on to the moisture, staying wet until the next day and squeezing out yesterday's rain when we put our feet into them again tomorrow.

Wet feet create a number of problems. Firstly, the water on the skin creates a feeling of cold that reduces the temperature in our feet, and thus the temperature of our bodies. This is why having wet feet makes us feel shivery and miserable. Contrary to what my mother always told me, wet feet won't give you a 'chill', or make you get a cold (that comes courtesy of a viral infection, not just cold and wet extremities) but will certainly make you feel under the weather. The 'wetness' softens the skin, and makes it more vulnerable to blistering and rubbing. Peeling of the skin is also common when feet are wet. That's where the importance of wearing socks comes in. Yes, the socks will get wet, but they will offer some protection against the frictional stresses going on inside your shoes and onto the bare wet feet – so keep them on – even when wet, as wet socks are preferable to no socks. You have probably noticed that when feet get soaked, they tend to go paler in colour and 'wrinkle' due to the absorption of the fluid. This can last for some time, even when the feet are surface dried. The feet also become more porous when wet, and thus leave us more likely to pick up

localised bacterial and fungal infections of the feet if we walk around barefoot with our 'wrinkly' feet.

A pair of decent waterproof shoes can be a good long term investment. Look out for walking boots in second-hand shops or shoe recycling projects. Walking boots are usually properly 'waterproof' in that they are specially designed so that the tongue and the lace part are also waterproof. Many shoes that claim to be waterproof might well be made of waterproof material, but rain gets in through the holes where the laces go, and as such still wets your feet.

Rain gets in through the top of the shoes, up the sides sometimes, and of course if you have any crack or holes in your shoes it gets in that way too. Try to get shoes or boots which have no holes, and are made of material which is naturally weather repellent, like leather or plastic, for example. Canvas shoes are fashionable and popular at present, but provide little protection from the elements.

If you are staying overnight somewhere in a safe indoor environment, and have wet socks and shoes, remove them. Put the socks near (but not on – we don't want socks on fire!) a heat source, and open up the shoes as much as possible. Stuffing them with old newspaper can help as this draws the moisture into the paper. Don't put them in a plastic bag; this will just retain the wetness. If they are still soaking in the morning and you have no other option but to put them on, see if you can get hold of some old cardboard (even a cereal box would be fine) and cut out some rough insoles to put inside the shoes.

So keep out of puddles, and enjoy the dry days while we have them!

**Evelyn Weir**  
Lecturer in podiatry  
Queen Margaret University  
Edinburgh



*"They've taken all the chairs!"*



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

## 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

(1 pm–7 pm 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 Samaritans

08457 90 9090

## SANeline

6–1 pm

0845 767 8000

Out-of-hours helpline for those affected by mental health

## Shelter

0808 800 4444

Housing info and advice

8am–8pm daily

## Stonewall Housing advice line

Housing advice for LGBT people

020 7359 5767

(Mon, Thu, Fri 10am–1 pm;

Tue & Wed 2–5pm)

## UK Human Trafficking Centre

0114 252 3891

## WEBSITES

## Help for Depression

A comprehensive explanation

of the various approaches and treatments for depression, MH

www.helpfordpression.com

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

Sock Book

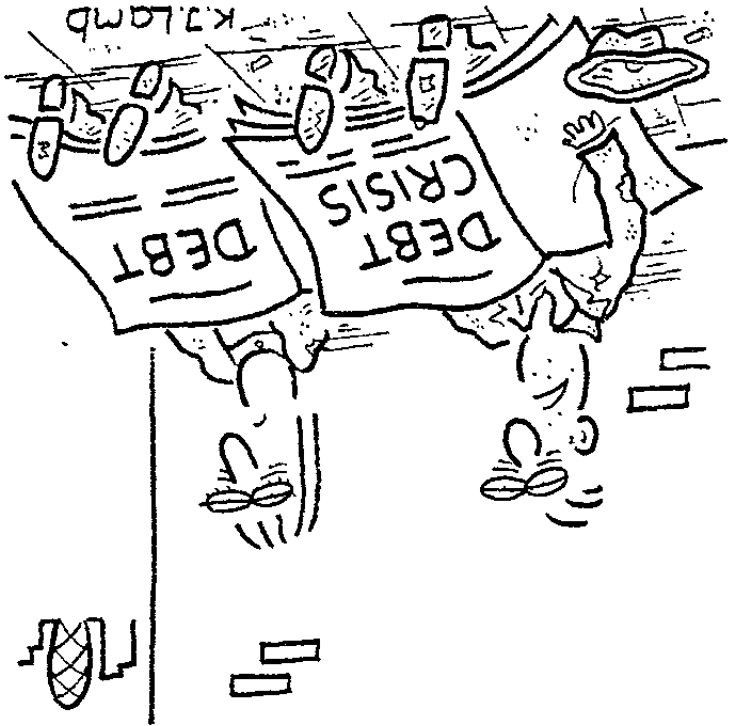
sockbook.refdata.com

## Stonewall Housing

people of all ages

www.stonewallhousing.org

*"It's the beg society"*



## 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. 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.

**Centrepint 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

**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 Refugeeline: 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, B1 2PH  
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

**Pananghar**  
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 -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

**Stonewall Housing**  
Housing advice for LGBT people of all ages  
020 7359 5767 (advice line)

www.stonewallhousing.org

**time2talk Mediation Service**  
DACS, Dudley MBC, 5C  
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, Drwall  
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 aged 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. C, ET, LA, OL

**Birmingham Drug & Alcohol Team**  
0800 073 0817  
Helpline. Daily 9am-5pm  
AD, D, ET

## TELEPHONE SERVICES

**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.

**EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

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, Ledzam St,  
Ladywood, Birmingham B1 6DN  
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  
MS

**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

www.entapeople.com

CA, ET

Mon–Thu: 8:30am–4:30pm;  
Fri: 8:30am–1:30pm  
B6 4B5  
0121 380 4801  
Birmingham  
10 Mill Street  
Mill Wharf

**ENTA**

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

Helpline. Daily 9am–5pm  
0800 073 0817

A, D, ET

**Norman Imlah Day Centre**

2nd Fl, The Matthews Centre,  
Duddleston Manor Rd, Dud-  
deston, Birmingham B7 4LZ

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  
AS, BA, C, D, ET, H, NE, OB

**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

**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).

If you are leaving, or have  
left, the armed forces, you  
can apply directly. Phone or  
email (HOUVulnerableper-

0121 675 1683

mington B15 1DL

PO Box 13254B1, Bir-

**Pathways)**

**Birmingham City Council (Housing**

tion): Mon–Fri: 9am–10am

Alirmen and Families Associa-

from SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors,

Call the 'Reclaim Your Life' scheme

01380 738137

**AWOL?****EX-FORCES**

CA, ET

Employment and training.

0121 236 1936

Lane, Birmingham B19 3TN

Face House, 23–25 Summer

**The Big Issue (West Midlands)**

CA, ET

birmingham@jericho.org.uk

www.jcp.org.uk/

0121 440 7919

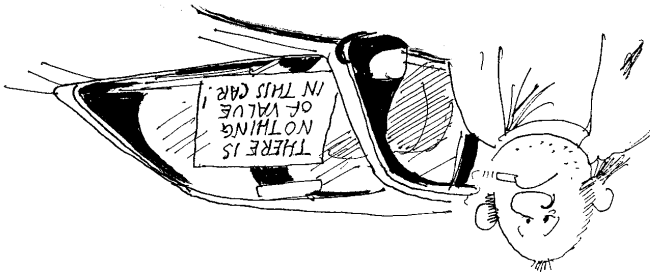
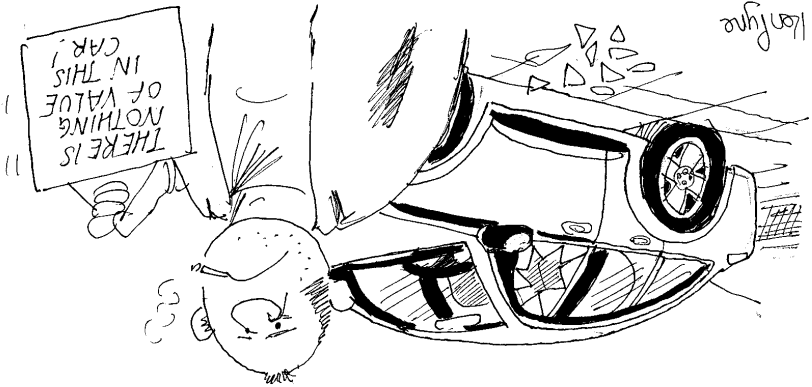
B12 9LX

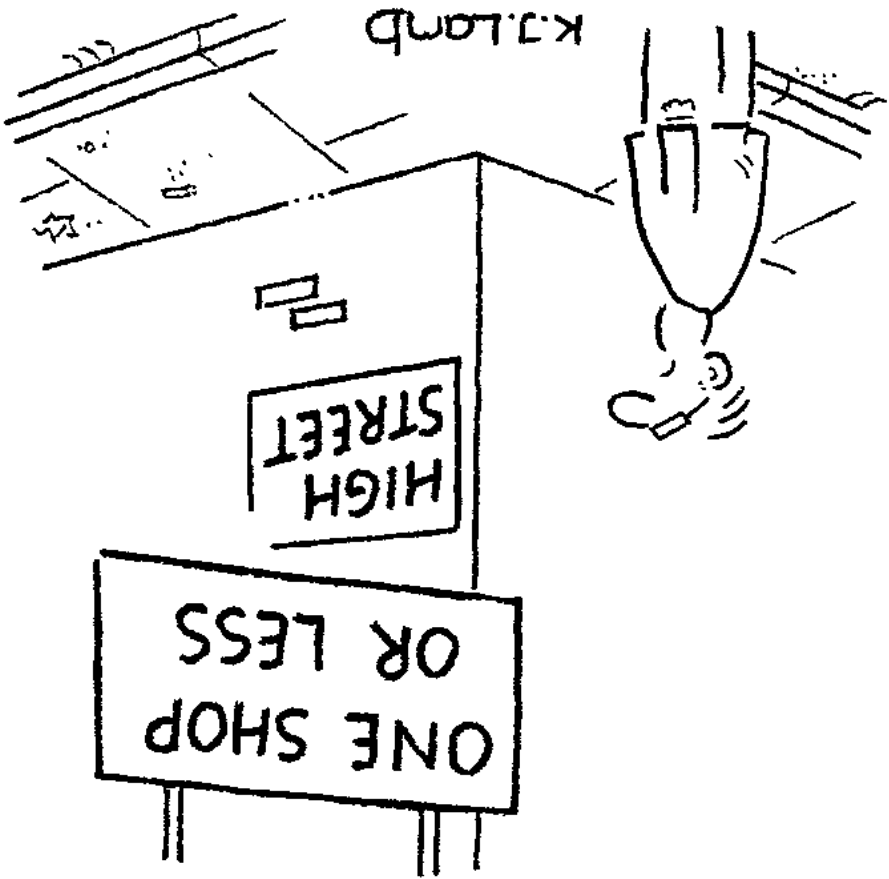
Birmingham

Balsall Heath

196–197 Edward Rd

**Jericho Foundation**







**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, Wolver-

hampton 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, Wolver-  
hampton 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, Wolver-  
hampton 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  
Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm

**Midland Heart – Gilbert Road**  
100-108 Gilbert Rd, Smeth-wick, 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, Smeth-wick 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, Smeth-wick B66 2LS  
0121 555 8444

Mon-Fri: 8am-7pm (phone for appointment)  
For young single homeless located aged 16-25 with medium support needs who are home-less or in housing need.  
AS, C, H, MH

**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

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

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

**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, Wolver-  
hampton 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 home-less 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

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

**Midland Heart – Gibbs Road****Men**

**House**  
 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–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, 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

**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, 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

**Princip Street Hostel**  
 Waterside House, 3–35 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

**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 WV14 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

## DAY CENTRES AND DROP-INS

### St Martin in the Bullring Helpdesk

The Bullring, Birmingham B5 5BB

0121 600 6536

Mon & Fri: 10:30am–12:30pm;

Tue & Thu: 10:30am–12:30pm &

1.30–3.30pm; Sat: 10:30am–1pm

Listening, advice and refer-

als. 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

44 Bradford St, Digbeth,

Birmingham B5 6HX

0345 6020 540; 0121 233 6370

Mon, Wed, Fri: 10am–6pm; Tues:

10am–8pm; Thu: 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**

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–Thu: 9am–5pm; Fri: 9am–1pm

For people aged 16–25 who are

homeless or are facing homeles-

ness. 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

**Salvation Army – Homeless Action**

Project (Leamington)

1A Chapel St, Leamington Spa,

Warwickshire CV31 1EJ

01926 883613

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri: 9:30am–

12am; Thu: 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

**Chace Centre**

Chace Ave, Coventry CV3 3AB

024 7630 2694

Mon–Fri: 9am–12am; Mon–Thu:

2pm–5pm; Fri: 1pm–4:30pm

For single men 18+.

CA, ET, LA, LF, OL

**Coventry Cyrenians**

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 625687

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

**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

# the List

Directory of the West Midlands' homeless services

Updated 30 January 2012

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 - <a href="http://www.thepavement.org.uk">www.thepavement.org.uk</a> - or email: <a href="mailto:thelist@thepavement.org.uk">thelist@thepavement.org.uk</a>	<b>Updated entries: 2</b>	<b>Services added: 0</b>	<b>ADVICE SERVICES</b>
<b>Base 25</b> 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	<b>Derbyshire Housing Aid</b> 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, AS, BS, BE BA, DA, H, LF	<b>CHADD Outreach Support Service</b> 98-99 Dixon's Green Rd, Dudley DY2 7DJ 01384 237555 Mon–Fri: 9am–5pm Advice and assistance on benefits, debt, registering with a GP, schools, work and college etc. Tenancy-related problems. Info about local services. BA, DA, ET, OL, TS	<b>Dudley Area Housing Office</b> 5 St James Rd, Dudley, Birmingham 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
<b>Dudley Tenancy Guarantee</b> Dudley Housing Office, 15–17 St James's Rd, 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			