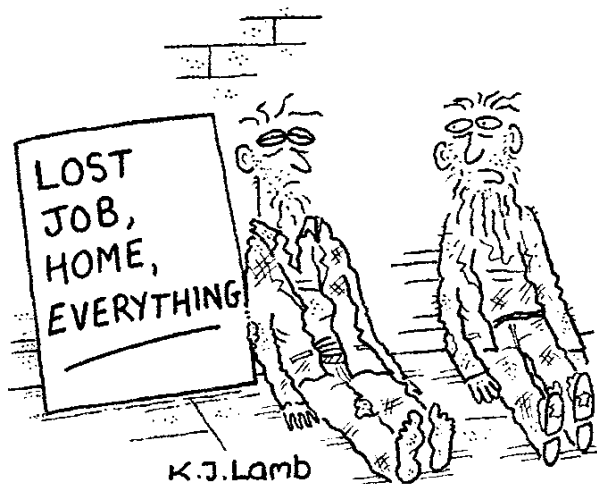


the Pavement

The *FREE* monthly for the West Midlands' homeless

March 2012





"So, what are you giving up for Lent?"

The Editor

Direct contact

If you see an error or omission in our directory of services, email Kit at thelist@thepavement.org.uk

If you know a service that wants to stock the magazine, ask them to email me at westmidlands@thepavement.org.uk

If you're interested in doing a sponsored walk or holding an event to raise funds for *The Pavement*, email Anita at distribution@thepavement.org.uk

Amber Woodfull

Editor

westmidlands@thepavement.org.uk

twitter.com/thepavementwm

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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 EMPYIED 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 and views from across the region

Becoming invisible, part I

Adam Yosef slept rough on the streets of London in his early twenties.

The thought of being invisible when you're young seems like a dream come true. To travel the world unseen, walk into sweet shops and enjoy all the candy you can eat, to bunk off school and get up to untold mischief, such is the appeal of owning the power of invisibility.

Of course, as you get older you accept that the chances of invisibility ever becoming a reality are at best slim, a simple but delightful fantasy with no grounding in reality, at least not in the literal sense. The closest thing in life to becoming invisible in any other sense, you find, is to simply be ignored.

We're all ignored at some point in life. Sometimes deliberately, but usually unintentionally and commonly followed by a near-instant apology. We're all guilty of ignoring someone too. We may ignore because of a short-term dispute, we may ignore due to absent-mindedness but we rarely ignore people simply because they exist ... do we?

There are thousands of people out there in the world who are doing this all the time. The majority don't even realise they are ignoring another person, the reason for which is simple: they no longer recognise the ones they're ignoring as 'people'.

When I was younger, the sight of homeless people very much intrigued me. Encountering individuals sleeping rough in shop doorways after closing time, on park benches covered in newspaper or on pavements reaching out to

passers-by for some "spare change" would no doubt stir curiosity in any untapped innocent mind.

But the over-zealous parental need to "protect" children from what adults have declared "social ills" conditions them to steer clear of homeless people as if being shielded from a large puddle in the road, an abusive bystander or even a stray dog in the street.

As children grow to become adults, these ideas often remain. They also continue to evolve on a subconscious level. Responding negatively to a request for assistance soon develops into the casual ability to completely ignore a person altogether. The more widely accepted it becomes as a social norm, the less hesitant people become to walk on by without even turning to look at, let alone smile or speak to, the person on the street.

The homeless become street furniture, existing as an unfortunate by-product of a consumer society. Their pleas are drowned in a sea of street calls from newspaper vendors to charity collectors. They become just another voice vying for the attention of people's time and purse; they become another voice to ignore by force of habit. The homeless are no longer the same as 'ordinary' people; they become less than human. They become invisible.

To be continued next month...

Adam Yosef

"Waste not Want not" campaign

The *Coventry Telegraph* as launched a campaign in response to the rising numbers of vulnerable

people in Coventry. The newspaper is urging shops, businesses and organisations to donate food they would otherwise throw away to the hundreds of families who cannot afford to eat.

The campaign highlights the importance of initiatives such as the weekly soup kitchen run by volunteers from city charity Anesis, with support from others like The Salvation Army. The soup kitchen aims to make contact with and feed some of the most hard-to-reach people in the area. Sainsbury's were the first organisation to get on board with the campaign – donating food to the soup kitchen, which feeds nearly 200 people under the ring road next to Lady Herbert's Garden between 2.30 and 4.30pm every Sunday.

With desperate families turning up hoping for a decent meal, the charity has recently seen a huge increase in the numbers of people attending the soup kitchen. The overwhelming figures emerge as jobs disappear and public sector cuts strip away vital services for those living under the poverty line.

The campaign's success is championed by the life-changing stories that emerge from the hard work of the volunteers. Mark Ring was a violent drug dealer who could see only two paths for his future: "I knew the way I was going, I was either going to end up on a life sentence, or dead".

His life turned around when a friend from rehab introduced him to soup kitchen organiser, Kervin Julien. After a successful first meeting, Mark began volunteering every Sunday at the soup kitchen. Giving something back was the greatest reward for Mark, who now works giving CV advice to young people with

criminal convictions and helping them back into employment.

"I've had a taste of this life now and I will never go back," he explained. "I've had to change my playground and my playmates to do this... they're just shocked and can't believe it. But it's good that people can see that kind of change".

If you'd like to get involved in the campaign, call Kervin Julien on **077963 65615**. You can also keep up-to-date on Twitter by following **@CovTel_WasteNot** or by liking the campaign on Facebook.

Daisie Mansell & Amber Woodfull

The truth about homelessness

For such a pertinent issue, it's fair to say homelessness has been given short shrift by the film industry. So amidst clichéd rags-to-riches tales and gritty social realism, it's refreshing to discover that new short film "The Truth About Stanley", featuring young Stoke-on-Trent actor Raif Clarke, provides an enlightening portrayal of homelessness.

The film, whose profits will be divided between The Big Issue Foundation and Anchor House, follows an unlikely friendship between young runaway Sam, played by Raif Clarke and rough sleeper Stanley, played by Kenyan star Oliver Litondo. Set against a backdrop of homeless London, Congolese Stanley takes Sam under his wing where he enchants him with fantastical tales of his past, leaving Sam struggling to differentiate fact from fiction.

Although a charitable film wasn't director and co-writer Lucy Tcherniak's original intention, she is pleased with how the project unfolded. "The Truth About Stanley began as a short film script, written as a stand-alone piece," she explains. "When producer Tom

Clark came on board, the idea to raise awareness and money for homeless charities came to light. Homelessness is something I've always been conscious of and this film has made me even more so."

Shot almost entirely on a handheld camera, the film roams from character to character, exploring the value of storytelling versus truth. Stanley's whimsical, and at times implausible, tales create endless ambiguities for Sam, but it is clear that his penchant for storytelling hides less fanciful truths. "It's about the ways in which people escape from their troubles" says Lucy. "For Stanley, it's through his vivid imagination. It's the one thing that can never be taken away from him."

Researching the realities about homelessness was very important to Lucy who spoke to a number of rough sleepers while making the film. "We were helped by a lovely lady called Viv who had slept rough for years and now sells The Big Issue. She told us a shocking story about a homeless man who was set on fire while asleep by a bunch of teenagers and that heavily inspired one of the scenes. We also visited food handouts, which helped us to decide on quite a few locations."

For the film's youngest star, 12-year-old Raif, the experience of playing runaway Sam was eye-opening. "Playing Sam made me realise that for some young people life at home can be so bad that they have no choice but to run away and live on the streets. I was really shocked by what can happen."

The film's cast and crew all worked for free in the making of The Truth About Stanley and several residents of Anchor House appear as supporting artists. The charitable intentions of the film could have resulted in a rose-tinted account of homelessness, but Lucy is quick to point out that this isn't the case. "Our charitable partners have allowed us to retain complete creative control. It's not like the

film ends with our lead character being saved by a charity or escaping life on the streets." Lucy hopes the film will generate awareness of homeless charities in a far more philosophical way than the usual doe-eyed charity appeal, however she is sceptical as to whether filmmaking is the new fundraising. "We would end up with contrived storylines shoehorning charity angles just for the sake of it."

So what then, is the truth about Stanley? "I won't pretend the ending isn't dark, but it is tinged with a little hope," says Lucy.

Elizabeth Barker

Flash mob

Seventeen members of the Birmingham Christian Homeless Forum and friends gathered in the city centre of Birmingham on 4 February to sing and dance to a medley of songs to mark Poverty and Homelessness Action Week.

The flash mob gathered outside the Bullring shopping centre to raise awareness of homelessness, with a mission to "break down the barriers between people; enabling excluded people to live full lives".

One of the event organisers, Lydia Townhill, said of the spectacle:

"Our flash mob was an exciting opportunity to gather a group of people who are passionate about making a change in this country and showing how much we care. In the freezing weather conditions we are experiencing, our concern is especially for those who are sleeping rough and those who cannot afford to heat their houses. We wanted to get across to people the idea that everyone has a responsibility to make a difference for good in our society, and that all of us have the capacity to do it. We took the public by surprise and hopefully made them take notice of the important issues that Poverty and Homeless-

ness Action Week is highlighting”.

Find out more about the Action Week here:
www.actionweek.org.uk

Amber Woodfull

Still work to be done on homelessness in Brum, warns Councillor

Birmingham City Council has released its Homeless Strategy and Review for 2012. Since its previous review in 2008, the council has worked collaboratively, with some success in tackling rough sleeping and improving hostels. Cllr John Lines, Birmingham City Council's Cabinet Member for Housing, said: “The issue of homelessness is a major concern to us all. We have made progress in this area, but there's still work to be done...”

“We are working against a backdrop of growing unemployment, a troubling economic climate and family fragmentation. Prevention is better than cure, and our plans will help to prevent homelessness in the city.”

The number of people in Birmingham recognised as homeless is increasing, with the city accounting for almost half of all ‘homelessness acceptances’ in the West Midlands and nine per cent of the national total. The number of homeless applications is at it's highest level since 2005, with the main reasons people declaring themselves homeless including relatives or friends no longer willing to accommodate them and domestic violence.

The report states that as of April 2011 there were 2,153 units of specific homeless accommodation within the city, including domestic refuge hostels and emergency accommodation for young people, and that in 2010/11, 4,810 households were prevented from becoming homeless, whether

through assistance to obtain alternative accommodation, or to remain living in their current home.

In order to reduce homelessness in Birmingham, the report outlines two key outcomes. The first is to prevent homelessness, stating: “homelessness can often be prevented if help can be accessed early enough”. To achieve this prevention the report suggests that the council should: work towards providing high-quality, consistent housing advice; provide schemes specific to the problems which lead to homelessness, e.g. family mediation and sanctuary schemes for those threatened by domestic violence; explore the possibility of a ‘Social Lettings Agency’ a not-for-profit organisation which would let on behalf of landlords and could mean greater security and quality accommodation for tenants; and review current policy so that access to social housing is fairer and more transparent.

For those who are already homeless, or who still become homeless, the second priority is to provide secure, suitable accommodation and support for those in crisis to manage the transition to settled accommodation. The report says: “At the point of becoming homeless, no-one should have to sleep rough, or remain in temporary accommodation for longer than is necessary.” In order to achieve this, the report suggests that the council should: help vulnerable people move on from supported accommodation through planned housing pathways; house the homeless in the private rented sector rather than in social housing or temporary accommodation; and co-ordinate services so that the impact homelessness has on healthcare, employment and education services is minimised.

A number of different funding sources have been identified to acquire the money required to provide the variety of services outlined above, with the hope



Piers Hopson

Age at disappearance: 35

Piers has been missing from Hastings, Sussex, since 25 January 2010. Piers is autistic and has Asperger syndrome. He may need assistance and there is great concern for him as his disappearance is out of character.

Piers is urged to call our confidential service **Message Home helpline on Freefone 0800 700 740 or text 80234** for free, confidential advice and support.

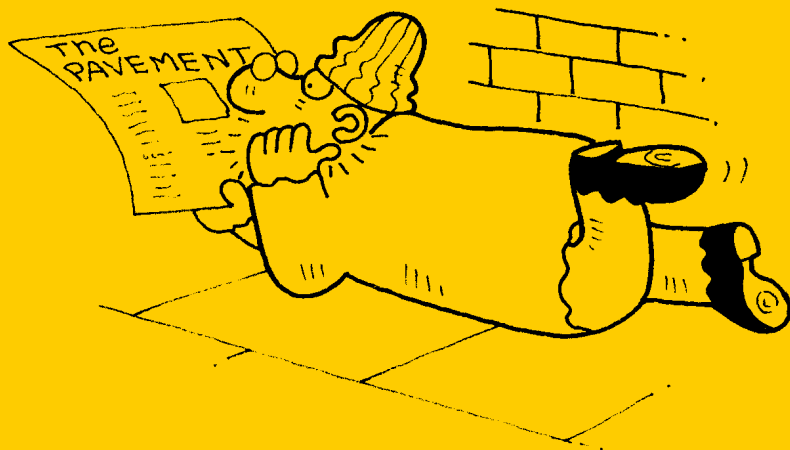
Piers is 5ft 7in tall, of medium build with hazel eyes and short brown untidy hair. When last seen he was wearing a mushroom coloured anorak, dark trousers, brown shoes and a light t-shirt.

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

missing people

Registered Charity No. 1020419

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



www.thepavement.org.uk

that a variety of funders will mean that the services needed have a better chance of being provided.

To view the draft Homeless Strategy and Review in full, visit: <http://bit.ly/yptP2p>

Chris Swann

There, but for the grace of God, go I

Unnecessary as it may be to highlight the fact homelessness is not a lifestyle choice as some maintain, the story of Mark Cashmore serves as a salutary reminder as to the accuracy of the phrase: 'there but for the grace of God, go I.'

46-year-old Mr Cashmore was, at one time, a successful IT Consultant with his own business and married with a daughter. However, following a series of difficulties which included him breaking up with his wife and losing his job, he was arrested in Worcester late last year after a drunken altercation with the police.

In court, homeless Mr Cashmore was described as having a tendency to binge drink and was accused of biting a police officer by magistrates. He was fined and ordered to pay compensation to the officer concerned. An aborted reconciliation with his wife and daughter prior to Christmas was the reason given for Mr Cashmore's behaviour and he has now applied to the Worcestershire Pathways to Recovery service for assistance.

Pathways to Recovery Service Manager Claire Walters said: "Pathways to Recovery is a substance misuse recovery programme for adults and young people who are experiencing problems with drugs or alcohol, or for those who are concerned about somebody else's drug or alcohol use. Our programme provides a wide range of support; from advice and information

through to medical and psychological treatment and access to residential rehabilitation. The service is confidential and treatment is tailored to meet individual needs."

The Worcestershire Pathways to Recovery team, part of the CRI (Crime Reduction Initiatives), can be contacted on: **01905 721020**.

Fraser Tennant

Midland Heart report

In the wake of increasing numbers of rough sleepers, and no reliable method to count them, Midland Heart has been commissioned to write a report on the state of rough sleeping in the West Midlands. The report outlines the current scale of rough sleepers in the area who do not have access to dedicated outreach services, and makes appropriate recommendations as to how funding could be most effectively utilised by the West Midlands Homelessness Forum.

The severe lack of integration between services is widely discussed throughout the report. There is no central system that a support worker can go to to access customer records. Many 'entrenched' homeless people have accessed various support agencies over the years, and when coming in fresh to a new agency it would be beneficial for all information collected to be easily obtained. Surely, the simplest way to do this would be through the NHS, which already has existing databases capable of handling the information.

We know that mental health problems are prominent within the rough sleeping group, so access to all available material would help to highlight an issue faster, meaning support can be offered earlier. The report highlighted the lack of mental health expertise and awareness within homeless organizations, and this seems to be an area that

increased funding could hugely benefit. Partially to blame is the current 'reactive' system that is in place, rather than a protocol focused on prevention. Both training frontline staff could be beneficial here, but also having a dedicated team available to deal with the specific issues across the area.

The report has suggested that due to the relatively small numbers of rough sleepers in the areas scoped, it might be beneficial for the authorities to pool their resources and have outreach workers covering wider areas. This could encourage more specialist support workers, with a dedicated team to facilitate information sharing, meaning customers would have increased options and support. The current lack of direct access hostels also increases the need for a 24-hour support system.

It is evident from the interviews that rough sleepers and sofa-surfers are well-known by the authorities, and they in turn do not know what help is available. The report suggests a marketing campaign and online portal could be beneficial, where people access what support is available, enabling them to contact the appropriate service.

The report is a step in the right direction. It has highlighted the need for more awareness among front-line workers and the urgent need for integration of services. It also notes the excellent work that currently takes place, particularly that of charities and volunteers. With rental prices rising and the economic downturn leaving many unemployed, rough sleeping is sadly on the rise, and therefore it is important to get in early with these preventative measures to ensure no one takes to the streets without knowing they have somewhere to go.

View the full report here: www.wmrhf.org.uk

Sarah Napier



News in brief

The homeless news from across the UK and the World

Council ban *Big Issue* seller

A rough sleeper in Peterborough was banned from selling the *Big Issue* by council officials who were urging him to “sort out his accommodation problem”.

John Chivers, 49, had been a *Big Issue* vendor for 22 years when the council removed copies of the magazine as well as his official vendor’s badge. Speaking in January, he said: “I was gutted. It was my income. I thought ‘what am I going to do?’ I thought ‘talk about kicking a guy when he’s down.’”

Mr Chivers had been sleeping in a tent on the city’s Embankment since mid-November after he split up with his partner. Upon discovering the rough sleeper, Peterborough City Council held talks with a homelessness charity and decided that removing his only source of income would encourage him to face up to his homelessness.

A council spokeswoman said: “The council had asked if Peterborough Streets could help in any way to get Mr Chivers to sort out his accommodation problem. After lots of conversation it was decided to take away his supply of the *Big Issue*.”

“The council has a duty to help people who are sleeping rough. With falling temperatures, these are dangerous conditions for someone living in a tent.”

After his local paper, *Peterborough Evening Telegraph*, made enquiries to the council and the *Big Issue* about Mr Chivers’ predicament, his badge was restored. The 49-year-old is now relieved that the whole “ridiculous” situation is over.

“I can hold my head up again”, he said. “I haven’t got to sit here looking at people’s shoes all day.”

We spoke to the *Big Issue* to ask whether they had supported the council’s decision to remove Mr Chivers’ badge. Communications manager for the *Big Issue*, Lara McCullagh, said that the magazine has “no rules or regulations” on how long a vendor may sell for.

“We cannot comment on the case in question”, she added, “but I can say that our vendors can stay with us for as long as they wish, provided that they do not breach our code of conduct. Selling our magazine is sometimes the only stability these people have in their lives and we understand that.”

But Ms McCullagh also suggested that if “a vendor has been with [us] for some time”, the organisation is keen for vendors to move onto “other training or jobs if they become available”. So with his 22-year selling history, would Mr Chivers have been a candidate to encourage out? And is there an average length of time that a vendor sells for before being encouraged to seek other opportunities?

According to McCullagh “We deal with each issue on a case-by-case basis, but nobody would be forced to leave – unless they had breached their contract. Our vendors could be with us for anything from a few days, just to get straight, to several years. But we don’t have a centralised, nationwide database for a number of reasons so I can’t give you any specific information.” Asked whether the database is in existence but not accessible by press, Ms McCullagh confirmed that they have no such database in existence.

Earlier this month, *Inside Housing* surveyed 22 English councils about the number of rough sleepers in their areas, with some councils reporting as much as a 164 per cent increase in numbers of people on the streets. With such tough economic times ahead and the number of rough sleepers on the rise one very important question remains: How does an organisation dedicated to working to help “thousands of homeless and vulnerably housed people to take control of their lives” achieve its difficult aim without detailed information on its vendors?

We will be following up this story in next month’s issue as we get to the bottom of Mr Chivers’ case and find out how the *Big Issue* achieves its difficult aim.

Sarah Cox

Stuck in mud and then arrested

The Rio Grande river in New Mexico, US, is an icon of old cowboy films and stories of the American West. Recently it also became the site of an unlikely rescue operation, after a homeless man was found stranded in thick mud.

The man was discovered by a group of high school students on a school biology trip, after he had spent three days stuck on a bank by the side of the river. The students were visiting a wetlands centre when they heard his shouting and alerted the authorities.

Local fire crews arrived to find “a male subject stuck on a reed island about a hundred yards from the west bank of the river,” their

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.

report said. He was in so deep that they had to deploy a specialist propeller-driven boat and pulley system to haul him out.

His freedom didn't last long however. After his rescue, police identified the man as Clayton Senn, a wanted criminal who had been living near the river. Police had a warrant for Senn's arrest on suspicion of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, and said he would be arrested as soon as he left hospital.

The Rio Grande is one of America's most famous natural landmarks, and forms part of the boundary between the US and Mexico. Travelling through hundreds of miles of desert and sediment, it is no longer navigable by boat, and is often blocked by thousands of tonnes of sand and mud.

Jim O'Reilly

Rise in rough sleeping

Councils across the country saw a startling rise in rough sleepers last year with some figures growing by almost one hundred per cent. The majority of councils across England, contacted as part of a survey by *Inside Housing* saw a dramatic increase in the numbers of rough sleepers in 2011. The survey came ahead of the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) figures released in February showing a rise in England of 23 per cent in the last year. The DCLG statistics come from the count of 2,181 people sleeping rough on any one night, up from last year's total of 1,768. The greatest rise was seen in the South of England, particularly the South West.

Essex based homelessness charity Streets2Homes has reported a steady increase in rough sleepers in the last year, with yet more numbers predicted as local job losses leave many

redundant workers in rent arrears. The charity also fears that cuts to housing benefit including proposed changes to the single occupancy housing benefit will push more people onto the streets.

In London, nearly 4,000 people were reported to be sleeping rough during 2010 and 2011, despite Mayor Boris Johnson's plans to eradicate rough sleeping from the city streets by 2012.

Homelessness charity Crisis has predicted that the worst is yet to come "due to the combination of rising unemployment and government policies including cuts to housing benefit". A rise in this year's numbers is seen by those in the sector as almost inevitable.

Jo O'Reilly

Tent city fire

One man was killed after fire broke out in one of America's most famous "tent cities" – the latest reminder of the danger of these makeshift encampments.

Fire swept through the camp in Lakewood, New Jersey, and rescue teams' efforts were hampered by the thick foliage that surrounded it. "It took the (Lakewood) fire department a while to reach the fire because of the heavy brush," said local police sergeant, Glenn Clayton. "They had to use the fire department's brush truck to clear the area first."

When police and fire teams finally made it to the camp, the victim's body was discovered. "There was only one fatality," Clayton said. "We have not identified the person yet because the body was burned pretty badly and without records it is more difficult."

Lakewood is a popular spot for tent cities, and has seen five different camps spring up in the last two years – a result of rapidly increasing unemployment and

homelessness in the US. The camps are infamously unsafe however, and this was not the first time that the Lakewood camp had been hit by fire. In 2009, a man in his 60s was killed after a blaze at the same site – and a few months later, a 45-year-old man was left with 20 per cent burns after a similar fire.

Jim O'Reilly

Rough sleepers "Speak Out"

Rough sleepers and other homeless people have described their experiences of living on the streets, as sofa-surfers or in squats at a "Speak Out" event held at the Occupy London Stock Exchange protest camp in front of St Paul's Cathedral.

The event, held during Poverty and Homelessness Action Week in February, was intended to give a voice to the many homeless people who have become part of the capital's Occupy camps since they began last autumn. More than 50 homeless people are staying at the St Paul's camp, with more at the smaller Finsbury Square camp, organisers say.

Seven homeless speakers described how they became homeless. Experiences included landlords who had stolen deposits, problems with council housing departments and relationship breakdowns.

Speakers also criticised major charities, which they described as being part of a "homelessness industry". They said that homeless people "see very little of" the money given to such charities by the public and by the government.

One of the speakers, Kay Badibalgá, who says he has found a home at Occupy London, talked about how he had chosen "freedom" instead of staying in hostels, which speakers described as violent and controlling.

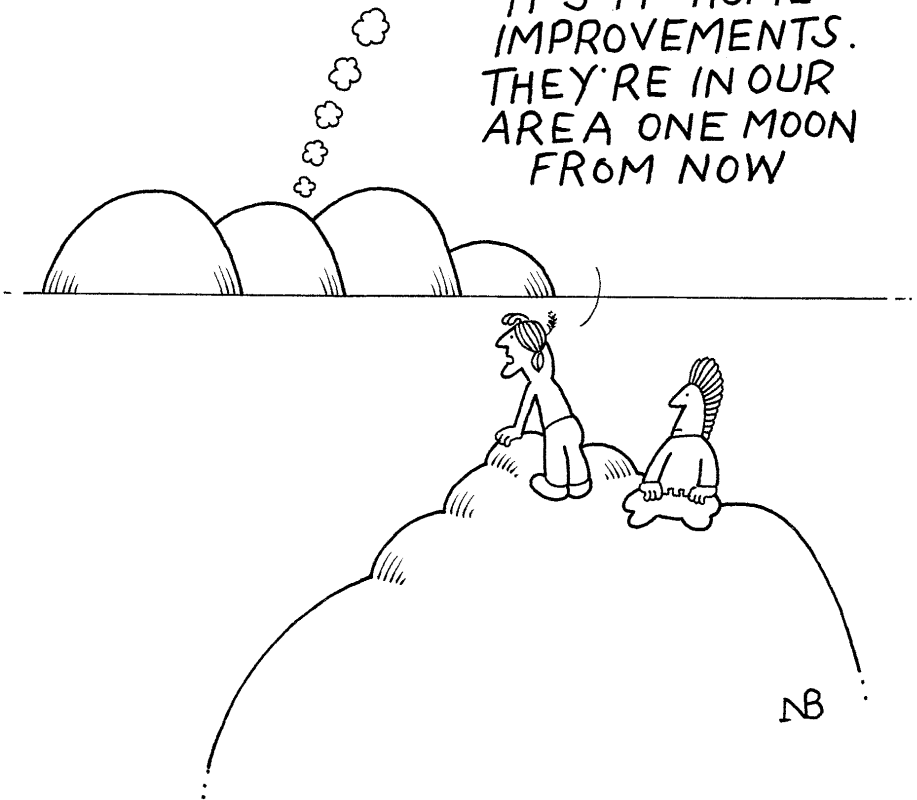
The Pavement, which operates without any funding from the state, has decided to try something new – asking readers to help support our operation. Not salaries or new kit, but our basic print operation.



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

IT'S TP HOME
IMPROVEMENTS.
THEY'RE IN OUR
AREA ONE MOON
FROM NOW





"On you marks... get set... owe!"

A female speaker said that single mothers had “occupied” before the Occupy movement existed by squatting homes with their children. She added that social services and neighbours were often prejudiced against alternative lifestyles, even though the children were being brought up in a caring environment.

Other speakers at the event examined the causes of homelessness. Reverend Paul Nicolson, chair of poverty charity Zacchaeus 2000, argued that deregulation of housing and finance during the 1980s, along with the sale of council housing, and current unemployment and benefit cuts, have combined to push people into debt and caused them to lose their homes.

The event could be one of the final ones at the St Paul’s camp, however. An eviction order against it was granted at the end of January, but lawyers acting for the protestors are asking for permission to appeal against the order, on the grounds that it was “more draconian than was necessary”.

A decision on whether or not the protest-

ers can appeal against eviction is expected on 22 February.

Katharine Hibbert

- **Stop press:** bailiffs moved in to remove the camp on 28 February (pictured below).

Landmark ruling in housing benefits for *Big Issue* sellers

There was tabloid outrage this month after a social security tribunal ruled that a Romanian woman could be given the right to housing benefit – in addition to £25,000 in other benefits that she receives.

The court’s decision hinged on the fact that the woman, 27-year-old Firuta Vasile, worked for the *Big Issue*, so was technically “self-employed”. Romanian citizens are allowed to claim housing benefit only if they work in highly-skilled or specialised

jobs, or are self-employed. Ms Vasile convinced the tribunal that she was in the second category, as she bought copies of the magazine with her own money to try and sell them for a profit.

“I can keep half of the money I take and I usually make around £100 per week,” she said. “This isn’t enough to meet all my family’s needs so I asked the council for housing benefit to help with my rent. My claim was turned down. I was told that because I am Romanian I could not get benefits unless I have a job or I am in self-employment. They said work for the *Big Issue* didn’t count. I got legal support and was helped with an appeal.”

Ms Vasile, who has four children and is a carer for her disabled son, was widely criticised after the decision, as she already claims child benefit, tax credit, disability living allowance and carer’s allowance. However,



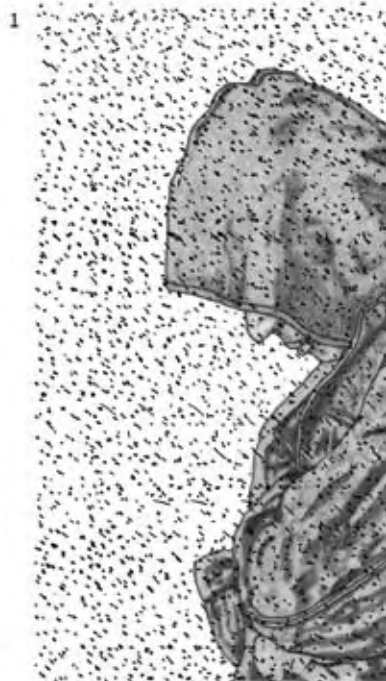
BIN DEATH

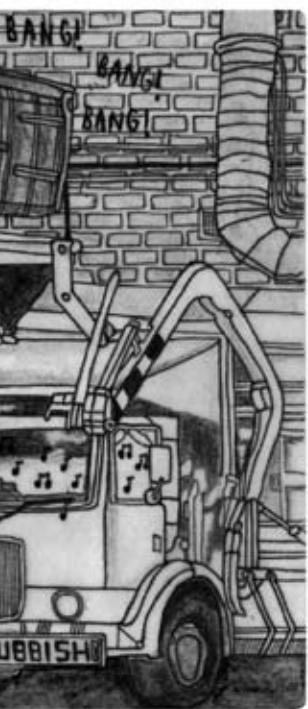
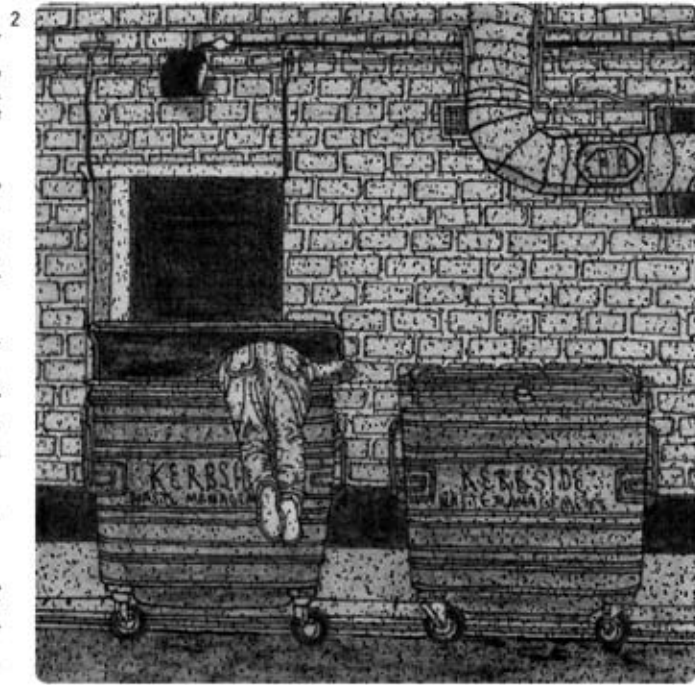
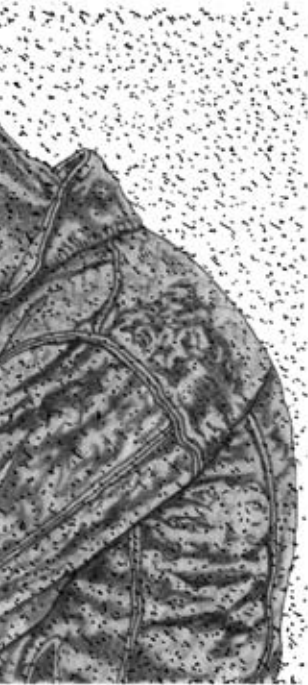
BIN DEATH IS A REAL PROBLEM FACING HOMELESS PEOPLE. EVERY YEAR, ACROSS THE COUNTRY, THERE ARE INJURIES AND EVEN DEATHS THAT RESULT FROM PEOPLE BEDDING DOWN IN BINS, SKIPS AND CLOTHING BANKS. BINS ARE OFTEN EMPTIED MECHANICALLY IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING, THERE IS COMMONLY JUST ONE DRIVER WHO WOULD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





welfare benefits advisor, Andy King, who represented Ms Vasile at the tribunal, defended the result: "This is a victory for people struggling to work to support their families," he said. "Anyone who thinks selling the *Big Issue* on a British street in winter is a soft option should have a go themselves."

Her case does have implications for other Romanian and Bulgarian *Big Issue* sellers in Britain, who could cite Ms Vasile's case in support of a bid for housing benefit. However, next year the stricter rulings over Romania and Bulgaria's membership of the EU are to be relaxed – and future claimants may not need to take their claims all the way to the courts.

Jim O'Reilly

HoboHunt

Just as Itzcoatl Ocampo, the 23 year old homeless serial killer in California (see *The Pavement* February issue), pleads 'not guilty' to murder and has two extra charges bought against him, an American software company are marketing an android phone app called HoboHunt.

The controversial new game allows players to (virtually) hunt down rough sleepers and attack them. Those with the game on their smart phone are encouraged to take photographs of rough sleepers, which are then uploaded into the game where the player can shoot at them. The app is only available on android phones because Apple are rejected it several times as an iPhone app.

As reported in the *Huffington Post*, the game's designer, Joel Usher, claims to have been inspired by a friend who took pictures of homeless people to send to friends, whilst pretending to hunt them.

Staff

Another chance for homeless man with "golden voice"

This time last year, *The Pavement* introduced you to Ted Williams (pictured below), the homeless man with the so-called "golden voice". Williams' life had started to spiral downwards when his alcohol addiction cost him his career in radio, but a chance encounter with an Ohio journalist propelled Williams to fame and allowed him to turn his life around.

Offers for voice-over work flooded in and, with after accepting several high profile gigs, Williams looked set to turn his life around completely.

However, almost as quickly as it had arrived, Williams' good luck ran out.

The stress of his new found fame caused Williams to turn to drink, after fighting to remain sober for years. As Wil-

liams spiralled back in alcoholism, the job offers started to dry up.

However, in this remarkable tale of knockbacks and comebacks, less than a year after his life imploded, Williams has fought his way back to sobriety, and back onto the airwaves. After two trips to rehab, Williams has been given another chance to salvage his career.

Last month, Williams' rich, gravelly voice could be heard on American TV on a Kraft mac-and-cheese advertisement. In a Valentine's Day campaign for the brand, Williams also recorded personalised videos for customers who tweeted in their love messages.

Williams is making the most of his second second-chance. The former rough sleeper is now living in a Brooklyn condo with his girlfriend and a sober-living coach. The man with the "golden voice" is back on top and living proof that it's never too late to turn things around.

Amy Hopkins





"We sat on that bench last year"

STREET SHIELD

EPISODE 27

THE
NIGHT
SHIFT

12.30 AM

STOP!

1.7

5.22 AM

KERBSIDE CHURCH'S
SOUP KITCHEN

THANKS, MATE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE
WE DON'T HAVE
A JACK.

HAPPY TO HELP!

6.33 AM



Health and wellbeing

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

March fractures

There's nothing worse than having a sore foot, especially when you can't find out why it's swollen around and behind the ball of the foot. Often, close inspection of the skin shows no break, hard skin or foreign object. All you've done is to be on your feet a lot and to have walked a fair distance.

A common cause is a fatigue fracture across one of the small bones of the foot (the metatarsals). Simple fractures are common and can be very painful. You might have fallen or twisted your foot in an unusual way, but

most are the result of something heavy or hard falling on your foot.

The most common type of fracture affect the small bones is 'March fractures'. These are caused by a crack in the metatarsals due to rotation forces running along the long access of the foot. During walking, a turning movement between the rearfoot (heel) and the forefoot (ball) results in rotational forces passing along the small bones. They are normally prevented by well fitting shoes, but sometimes overuse – walking long distances – can cause fatigue in the short bones.

During the Second World War, 'March fractures' reached epidemic levels among new recruits undergoing basic training which involved

"square bashing" (marching on hard, ungiving surfaces). They frequently occur in the middle three metatarsals (corresponding to the middle three toes) and pain in the middle of the foot makes walking unpleasant.

Fractures of the outside metatarsals (at the base of the fifth metatarsal, corresponding to the small toe) are common in footballers. These 'Jones fractures' cause pain and swelling over this middle/outside area of the foot, and make walking difficult. Fractures to the inside of the foot are usually the result of blunt trauma (such as dropping a heavy object on the foot).

If you have persistent foot pain, your doctor can arrange X-ray imaging, a bone scan, a CT scan, an MRI or even ultrasound imaging.

Stabilizing the foot and keeping it elevated helps heal stress fractures and reduce the swelling. Some fractures heal better if you're wearing a walking cast; more serious ones may require surgery.

The best way to protect your feet is to wear properly fitted shoes. If you have or are at risk of having osteoporosis, take any medications that are prescribed, eat a balanced diet and avoid activities or movements that are risky to your bones.

In general, keeping up with your vitamin intake and taking proper precautions when you're being active will help to reduce your risk of any type of fracture.

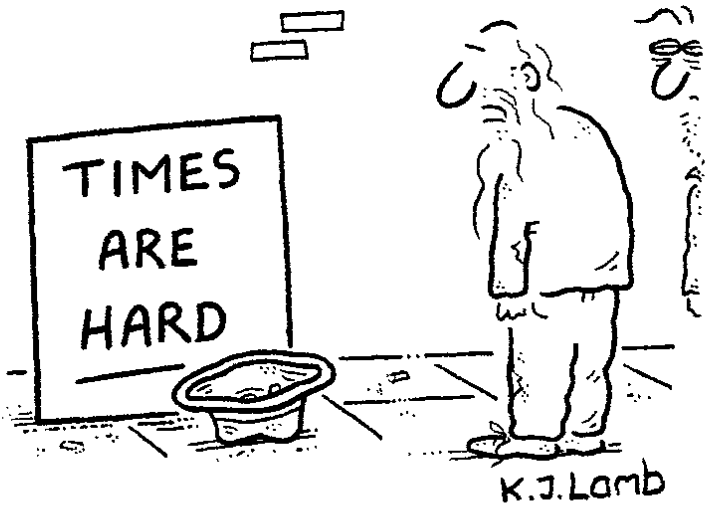
Take care of the pair and as always stay warm, stay hydrated and stay safe.

Toe Slayer
Registered podiatrist &
shoe historian





"I'm afraid we can't treat you until you stop smoking"

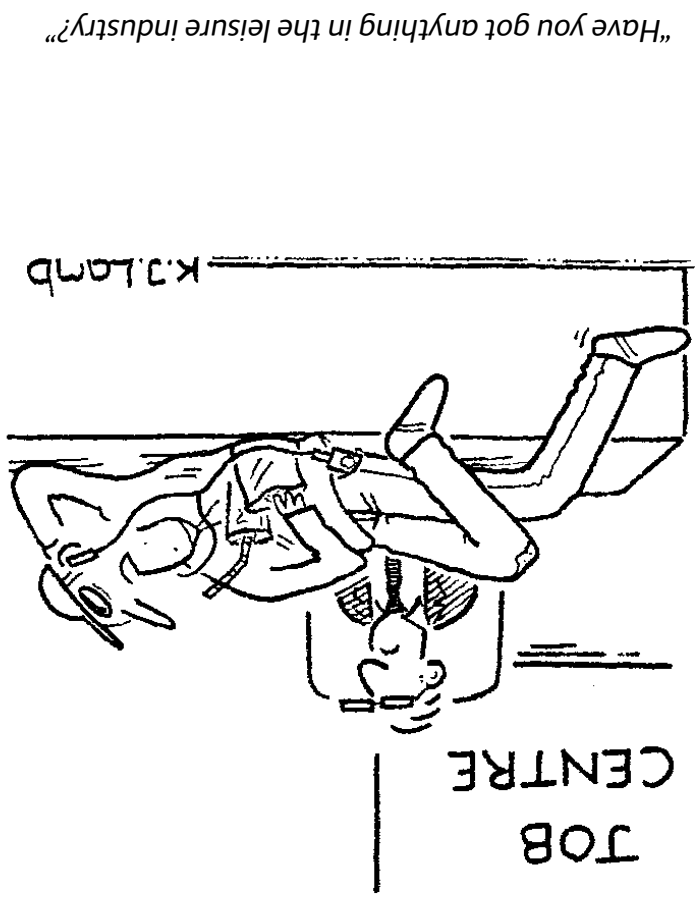


"It's a sign of the times"

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

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| <p>Birmingham City Council Click through 'housing'/'finding a home'/'help for homeless people'</p> | <p>www.birmingham.gov.uk National Homelessness Advice Service Readers can click on the section 'need advice'</p> | <p>The Pavement online Regularly updated online version of The List. www.thepavement.org.uk/services.htm</p> | <p>Sock Book sockbook.referrata.com</p> | <p>Stonewall Housing Housing advice for LGBT people of all ages www.stonewallhousing.org</p> | <p>The Samaritans 08457 90 9090</p> | <p>SANeline 6-11pm 0845 767 8000 Out-of-hours helpline for those affected by mental health</p> | <p>Shelter 0808 800 4444 Housing info and advice 8am-8pm daily</p> | <p>Stonewall Housing advice line Housing advice for LGBT people 020 7359 5767 (Mon, Thu, Fri 10am-1pm; Tue & Wed 2-5pm)</p> | <p>UK Human Trafficking Centre 0114 252 3891</p> | <p>Help for Depression A comprehensive explanation of the various approaches and treatments for depression, <i>MH</i> www.helpfordpression.com</p> | <p>Frank 0800 776 600 Free 24-hr drug helpline</p> | <p>Get Connected 0808 808 4994 Free advice for young people (1pm-7pm daily)</p> | <p>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</p> | <p>Message Home Helpline 0800 700 740, 24 hrs daily</p> | <p>National Debtline 0808 808 4000</p> | <p>Runaway Helpline 0808 800 7070 Free line for under-18s who have left home</p> |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|

WEBSITES



"Have you got anything in the leisure industry?"

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, FF, H, LA, SH

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

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

Covenry Refugee Centre
15 Bishop St, Covenry 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-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, Dertend, 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

Panahgar
Covenry – 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

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

SAFE Project
Phone for details
0121 440 6655
Mon: 12.45am–1.45pm (clinic); 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

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, 653840, 653476
Mon–Fri: 9am–5pm
AS, BA, H, OL

The What? Centre
23 Covenry St, Stour-bridge 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, Covenry 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

TELEPHONE SERVICES

Birmingham Drug & Alcohol Team
0800 073 0817
Helpline. Daily 9am–5pm
A, D, ET

Community Legal Advice
0845 345 4345
Nationwide
www.communitylegaladvice.org.uk
Mon–Fri: 9am–8pm; Sat: 9am–1.30pm
AD, BA, DA, H

Domestic Violence Helpline
0808 2000 247
Free, confidential service, offering specialist advice on housing, benefits, tax credits, debt etc.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

For people with alcohol, drugs and gambling addictions. 01 21 685 6340 (North B'ham); 01 21 414 0888 (South B'ham). AW, C, D

ENTA

10 Mill Street
Mill Wharf

Birmingham

B6 4BS

0121 380 4801

Mon–Thu: 8.30am–4.30pm;

Fr: 8.30am–1.30pm

CA, ET

www.entapeople.com

Jericho Foundation

196–197 Edward Rd

Balsall Heath

Birmingham

B12 9LX

0121 440 7919

www.jcp.org.uk/

birmingham@jericho.org.uk

CA, ET

The Big Issue (West Midlands)

Face House, 23–25 Summer

Lane, Birmingham B19 3TN

0121 236 1936

Employment and training.

CA, ET

EX-FORCES

AWOL?

01380 738137

Call the 'Reclaim Your Life' scheme

from SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors,

Airmen and Families Associa-

tion): Mon–Fri: 9am–10am

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 (HOUVunitedleper-

sons@birmingham.gov.uk).

AS, H

Royal British Legion

08457 725 725

Ring the Legionline to see

how they can help ex-service-

men and ex-servicewomen

Stonham (Ellesmere)

Fullwood House, Ellesmere,

Shropshire SY12 0AA

01691 623756

Birmingham Drug & Alcohol Team

1st Floor, Technology Block,

Gee Business Centre, Bir-

mingham, B7 5PA

0121 465 4930

0800 073 0817

Helpline. Daily 9am–5pm

A, D, ET

Norman Imlah Day Centre

2nd Fl, The Matthews Centre,

Duddeston Manor Rd, 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

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

Polish Club Birmingham

Polish Millennium House, Bord-

eseley St, Birmingham B5 5PH

0121 643 3577

Fr: 1pm–3pm

Advice on employment law,

social benefits, housing

and accommodation.

AS, BA, DA, H, LE

MEDICAL SERVICES

Community Mental Health

Homeless Team

3rd Fl, Morcome House, Lednam 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–1pm (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

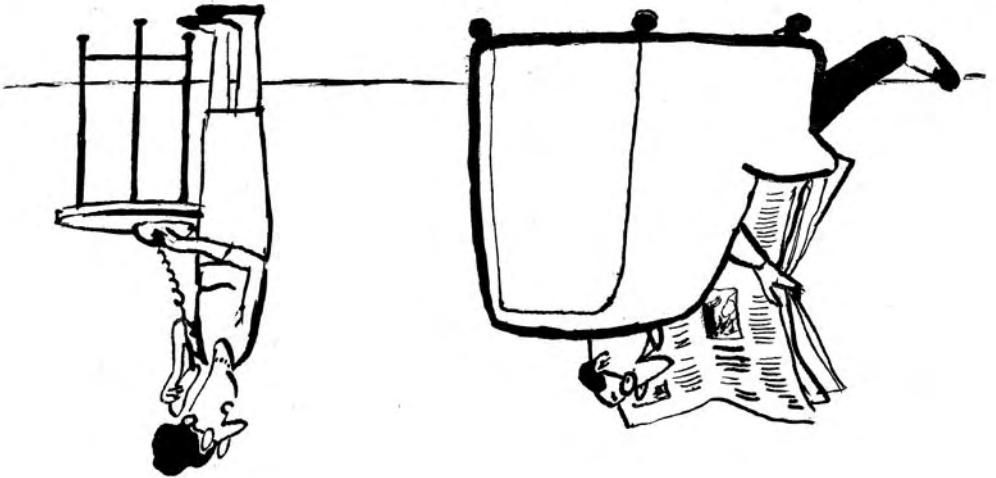
Running at various locations

– call for details

AC, ET, IT, MC, PA

"It's the Grim Reaper, he says do we know
that our doorbell is on the Fritz?"

Mike Williams.





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

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 located aged 16-25 with medium support needs who are homeless 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 (Gilsdon Way Hostel)

c/o Morris House, 430-432 Chester Rd, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham B36 0LF

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

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)

Canook 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 5 WH
01889 585232
Mon-Fri: 9am-6pm
Young single homeless (call in or phone for appointment)
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.
MS, NE, OL, OB, SH
www.addaction.org.uk

Aquarius

2nd Fl, 16 Kent St, Birmingham 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**
hampton WV1 1WZ
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
- Midland Heart – Gibbs Road**
(83 men, 9 women).
For single people aged 17+ for appointment)
Mon–Fri: 8am–7pm (phone) 01384 423 771
Lye, Stourbridge DY9 8SG
Gibbs Rd, (off Balds Lane),
0121 666 7023
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 skills sessions are also available. AD, AW, CA, ET, IT, LA, LF, MS
- Salvation Army (William Booth Centre)**
c/o Homeless Single Point of Access, Midland Heart – 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**
Wateraide 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

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

Coventry Cyprians
1 Bird Street, Coventry, CV1 1FX
02476 228099
Mon-Fri: 9:30am-4pm

AS, BS, BA, CL, DA, F, H, L, OB, TS

Coventry Jesus Centre – The

Bridge Drop-In
7 Lamb St, Coventry CV1 4AE
02476 550033
Mon: 10am-1pm; Tues-Fri: 9am-4pm; Sun: 9am-10:30am; Sat: 9am-12am

Support groups, skills classes, cafe, and drop-in.

AS, AW, BS, BE, BA, CL, DA, ET, F, FC

FF, H, IT, L, LA, LF, LS, MS, MC, OB, TS

The Glebe Centre

Wednesbury Rd, Walsall, WS1 3RU
01922 625667
Mon - Fri: 9am - 4pm

For people (18+) who are vulner-

able, including homeless, unem-

ployed, drug dependent, mental

health issues or socially excluded

Alcohol Drinking Lounge open

to public: 10am-3pm

AS, A, BA, BS, CL, DT, ET,

F, H, LA, MS, MH

www.thehegbeccentre.org.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

AS, BS, BA, ET, F, H, IT, L, LA, OL

St Martin in the Bullring Helpdesk

The Bullring, Birmingham B5 5BB
0121 600 6536
Mon & Fri: 10:30am-12:30pm; Tue & Thurs: 10:30am-12:30pm & 1:30-3:30pm; Sat: 10:30am-1pm
Listening, advice and referral. Practical intervention and support in a friendly environment. Many people seeking help are encountering homelessness, addiction, mental health problems, bereavement and loss.

BA, C, H, OB

Soilhill Community Housing

(Chelsley Wood)

6/8 Copcise Way, Chelsley Wood, Soilhill, Birmingham B37 5TX
0121 704 1515
Mon, Tues, Thurs: 9am-5pm; Wed: 10am-5pm; Fri: 9am-4:30pm; Sat: 9am-1pm

AS, H

Soilhill Community Housing

(Kingshurst)

Church Close, Kingshurst, Soilhill, 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-

hours service (0845 1112836).

AS, H, TS

Walsall Rent Guarantee Scheme

PO Box 1427, Walsall WS4 2YT
01922 746798
Mon & Wed: 10am-12am

Walsall people registered as homeless

in Walsall to access private rents.

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.

Midland Heart – Homeless

Services Centre

44 Bradford St, Digbeth, Birmingham B5 6HX
0345 6020 540; 0121 233 6370
Mon, Wed, Fri: 10am-6pm; Tues: 10am-8pm; Thurs: 10am-2pm

Drop-in and telephone housing

advice. Welfare benefits advice.

Outreach and tenancy support for

rough sleepers. Tenancy support for

refugees and asylum seekers, young

people with multiple needs, people

with current or past drug problems.

Alcohol and mental health referrals.

AS, BA, H, OB, TS

Macro Services – Coventry Young

Homeless Accommodation Project

1st Fl, Koco Building, The Arches, Spon End, Coventry CV1 3JQ
024 7671 5113
Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm (call

for appointment)

Advice on homelessness and

finding accommodation. Tem-

porary accommodation with

support for young people,

pregnant women and women

with a baby aged up to 2 years.

AS, AD, H

St Basil's Link

The Tollhouse, 180-182 Fazeley
Street, Birmingham, B5 5SE
0300 3030099
Mon-Thurs: 9am-5pm; Fri: 9am-1pm

For people aged 16-25 who are

homeless or are facing homeless-

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

the list

Directory of the West Midlands' homeless services

Updated 28 February 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 - www.thepavement.org.uk - or email: thelist@thepavement.org.uk

Updated entries: 1
Services added: 0

ADVICE SERVICES

Base 25

Castle House, Wheelers Fold, Wolverhampton WV1 1ST
01902 572040

Mon–Thu: 12am–6pm; Fri: 12am–5pm; Sat: 1pm–3pm

Advice for people aged 11–25 on housing, sex, drugs and alcohol, emotional wellbeing and job search.

Groups for young women, fathers, asylum seekers and refugees.

Free phone: 0800 073023

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

Derbyshire Housing Aid

Milestone House, 93 Green Lane, Derby DE1 1RX
01332 642150

Mon–Sun: open 24 hours

(emergency); Mon–Fri: 1pm–4pm (assessment)

homeless people in Derby. Assessment service for all single

Emergency accommodation. AS, AS, AS, BS, BE BA, DA, H, LF

CHADD Outreach Support Service

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

Dudley Area Housing Office

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

Dudley Tenancy Guarantee

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