

# the Pavement

The *FREE* monthly for West Midlands

June 2011





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# The Editor

## Mostly good news

At the start of the year, we were hearing every month about more and more local services that were being forced to reduce their facilities or close because of government cutbacks.

Happily, two new services have opened: Coventry Cyrenians has secured funding from the local Primary Care Trust to provide a multiple-needs service (see page 8); and in Birmingham, thanks to independent sources of funding, there is a new supported accommodation project for women recovering from addictions to drugs and alcohol. There is a dire shortage of accommodation for women in Birmingham, especially offering support of this kind, so this is very welcome news. The interviews with the current residents, in particular, make interesting reading (see page 6) and prove why the government is short-sighted to cut projects that provide on-site support.

Finally, another independently funded supported accommodation project in Wolverhampton working with those who have mental health issues is celebrating its 25th birthday (see page 8).

## Ellie Jones

Editor

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Imagery by Peter Tangen / *The Real Life Superhero Project* © 2011

[www.reallifesuperheroes.com](http://www.reallifesuperheroes.com)

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# The spread of heroes

*The Crimson Fist is one of a growing number of superheroes in the US*

A very different kind of movement to help the homeless people is gaining ground in the US. The Real Life Superheroes are advocates who dress up in comic-book style costumes to bring attention to the plight of rough sleepers in the world's biggest economy.

One such example is the Crimson Fist (pictured on cover and opposite), a young man from the southern city of Atlanta, Georgia.

Crimson Fist describes himself as a homelessness relief and public safety advocate from Atlanta. His mission since the beginning of 2009 has been to "to ensure the safety of my people and restore the prosperity of my city."

His creation took shape from a comic book that he wrote himself, and he does all his work in his dark red and white costume. Although not necessarily an intimidating physical presence (he stands at just 5 ft 6ins), Crimson Fist's costume alone seems to be able to frighten off the baddies.

On his first patrol, he came across two men attacking another down an alley. Without a thought to his own safety, he faced up to the two men, who were so startled to see a man in full costume that they turned and ran. The potential victim did not hang around to thank Crimson Fist either. He too was so taken aback by the whole strange scene that he ran away as quickly as possible.

At first the Crimson Fist says he wanted to be a vigilante like Batman, wandering the streets of Atlanta looking for criminals to beat up, a phase he quickly grew out of having realized it was an "unrealistic" way to spend his time. He instead turned to trying to help the increasing homeless

population on Atlanta's streets. He visits rough sleepers, offering water, food and fresh clothing when and where it is needed.

Crimson Fist is not alone in his heroism: a quick internet search finds hundreds of real-life heroes on the so-called Superhero Registry, a number of whom are dedicated to helping rough sleepers. These include the likes of Geist, who describes his task as "to make my city of Rochester, Minnesota, a better, kinder and fairer place" and to look out for what he calls "the Forgotten – those overlooked by mainstream society".

A lot of the Real Life Superheroes write that they are inspired by the need to protect their communities from high levels of crime and the indifference of other citizens, very much taking their cue from the comic book creations which inspired them.

The movement has also recently gained some welcome publicity. Superheroes, a film featuring Crimson Fist and fellow Atlanta hero Metadata, was recently shown at the Slamdance Film Festival and described by IndieWire magazine as "unquestionably the highlight" of the festival.

As we wrote in last month's issue of *The Pavement*, the US has a very large homeless population, with some estimates saying that 700,000 people sleep rough every night. The problem has been made significantly worse in the last few years by the economic crisis, which has forced a large number of Americans out of their homes.

In the city of Atlanta there are estimated to be around 20,000 homeless people. The difficult situation in the city could be made worse as one of its largest homeless

shelters is under threat of closure. The city government and local businesses have been trying to close down the Metro Atlanta Task Force shelter in the centre of the city, claiming it has a negative effect on business and tourism in the area. Their hostility to the centre became clear when they cut off its water because it had not paid its bill, even though nine other organisations which had not paid their bills either did not have their water cut off.

*John Ashmore*

- Find out more at Peter Tangen's site [www.reallifesuperheroes.com](http://www.reallifesuperheroes.com)

# West Midlands news

*All the homeless news from across the region*

## New women-only hostel offers space for recovery

In April, The Bridge, part of the Oasis Church Trust charity, launched the first project in Birmingham for women recovering from alcohol or drug dependency. The Timbers project can accommodate six women, and has a tailor-made support programme and daily group counselling.

Service manager Jon Smith, who has worked for The Bridge for nine years and has 15 years' experience of working with homelessness and vulnerable people with addictions, said: "Drug and alcohol addiction are an equal problem for men and women. There is less provision and support for women, but the need is the same."

A Catholic order of nuns gave Bridge House to The Jericho Foundation, a Birmingham charity with several well-established social enterprises, to house vulnerable women with addiction issues. Bridge House receives funding from a variety of grant-making trusts and donations; Housing Benefit helps maintain the property and staff costs.

Timbers has three support workers whose main objective is to help the clients stay drug-free and rebuild their self-esteem and self-worth. The counselling groups focus on relationships concerning authority, family and personal issues. They aim to help the clients to restore themselves within relationships and within society.

Jon Smith added: "One of the biggest issues clients have is resentment, which can often cause them to relapse. This can transfer their addiction from drugs to alcohol. If

they haven't dealt with past issues and how they came to be in their predicament, personal conflict will remain and will prevent recovery."

The 12-step model is the foundation for addiction counselling and addresses conflict resolution. Anger and hostility is reduced as the clients learn to forgive themselves and others for their situation.

Adellah, 29, a client at The Bridge, is in recovery from drug addiction. She said: "There aren't many options for women for drug dependency recovery in Birmingham, and there are long waiting lists for help. I spent three or four years trying to get off drugs and got little help from social workers, who didn't understand my situation. I have been in and out of prison because of my addiction, and relatives are looking after my three children. I was lost, very lonely, and I forgot who I was, which fuelled my drug habit. I had more support and guidance in prison than I did on the outside – I found comfort in returning there, as I knew I would get the appropriate support. However, The Bridge is a great place to be now, and with the help and support I am getting here, I am beginning to reclaim my identity."

Addiction dependent individuals receive spiritual and personal guidance from church-based charities that are not judgmental and understand the core need for care and recovery for each individual.

Adellah has signed up to do her GCSEs in September and would eventually like to work as a drug support worker: "It would give me job satisfaction because I can relate to young people with drug dependency issues."

Michaela, 23, originally from Northern Ireland, came to England

four years ago to work as a mortgage adviser for the Abbey National Bank and became involved in an abusive relationship. She is recovering from heroin and crack cocaine addiction. She said: "I love it here – I feel safe. I am getting better and have managed to stay clean from drugs. The 12-step programme and group counselling are really good for me." Michaela is looking forward to being reunited with her family for a holiday. She wishes to remain in England and has enrolled on a computer literacy refresher course in July.

The Bridge has two houses for men and one for women. The local police recently wrote to the Home Office to recommend its services. One former client was referred to The Bridge after the courts had served a Persistent Prolific Offenders action on him. After just three months, the officers assigned to watch over him when he came out of prison were impressed with his recovery. He has now settled into a home, is employed and has married.

*Jackie Lindoe*

- Access to accommodation is by referral only by a support worker; please email [recovery@thebridge.uk.net](mailto:recovery@thebridge.uk.net) for a referral form. All residents must agree to abstain from drugs and alcohol. Residents must be in receipt of benefits or have some other means to pay for their stay.

## The Insatiable Moon gets set to spark debate in Birmingham

Last month's *Pavement* featured a review of *The Insatiable Moon*, a film set in and around a New Zealand hostel, where a disparate group of characters struggle with homelessness and mental health issues. The film is with a sad, funny, dramatic and tragic, but ultimately uplifting.

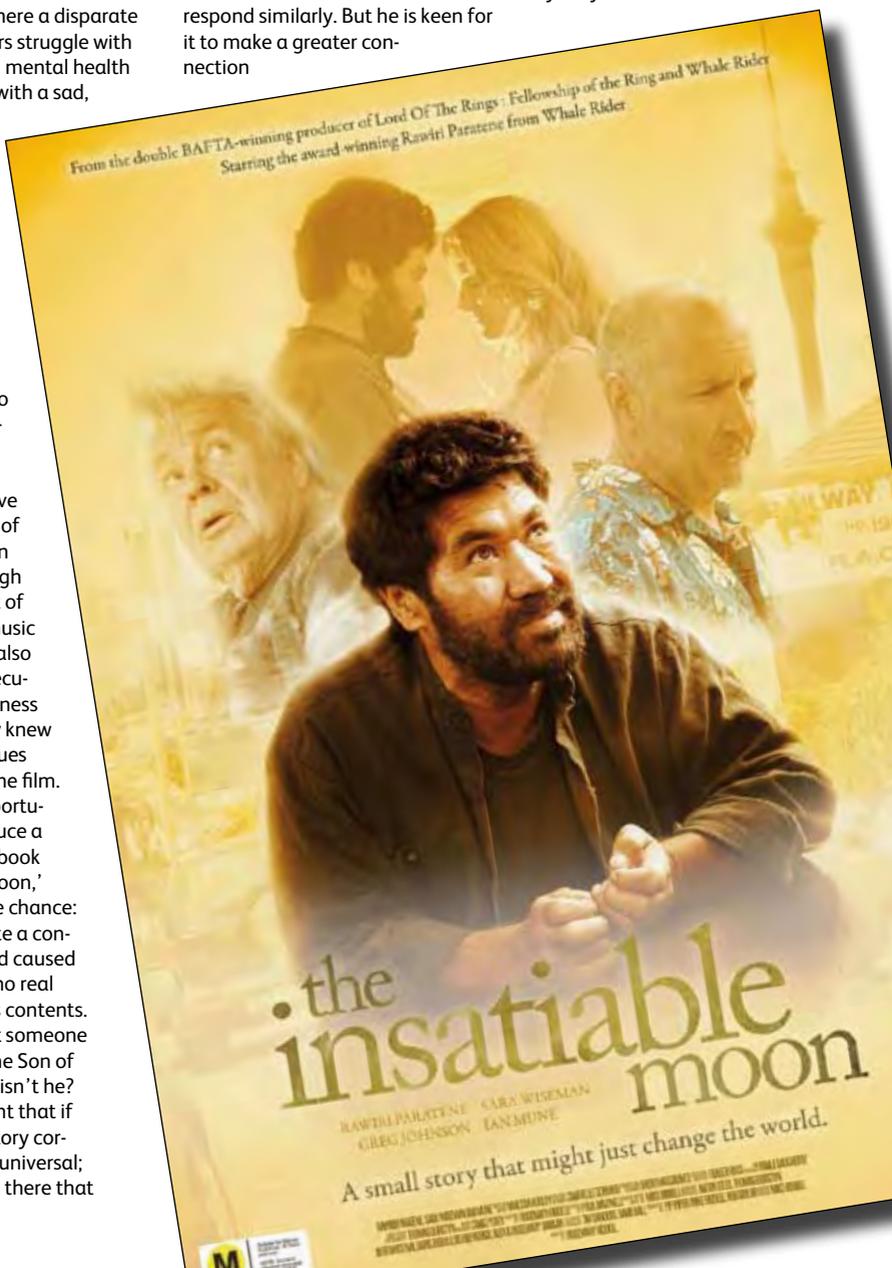
Before its first public showing in Birmingham (at the Mac Theatre in Edgbaston during May), *The Pavement* spoke to one of the producers, Rob Taylor, about the impact he hopes it will have on the perception of homeless people in the region. Although he has spent most of his career in the music industry, Rob has also been the chief executive of a homelessness charity, so already knew a lot about the issues touched upon in the film. And when the opportunity arose to produce a film based on the book 'The Insatiable Moon,' Rob jumped at the chance: "Although it's quite a controversial book and caused quite a stir, I had no real concerns about its contents.

"Yes, it's about someone who thinks he is the Son of God. Is he mad or isn't he? But we just thought that if the film told the story correctly, then it was universal; there are things in there that

people would say, 'that's about humanity'. It doesn't matter what country you are in, there are things in the film you can relate to."

'The Insatiable Moon' has been shown to great acclaim in Glasgow and London, so Rob was confident that a Midlands audience would respond similarly. But he is keen for it to make a greater connection

in terms of how homelessness and mental health issues are viewed and dealt with. "We didn't make it to preach or push a message, but to let the story emerge in its own way. But what has happened is that people who have seen the film say they now look at



others differently. The Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Trust sponsored a showing for their GPs and mental health workers. At the end of the film, these seasoned professionals told us they felt they had been reminded why they had got involved in their vocation in the first place.

“They felt that over the years their passion and enthusiasm had almost been pushed out of them by the system. A consultant psychiatrist said the film made him laugh and cry, and rekindled within him the outlook he had when he was a young trainee. Wherever it’s been seen, it has sparked debate, very positive debate. Another viewer couldn’t speak for 30 minutes following the film as he had to think about what he had seen.”

Aside from box office receipts and DVD sales, which are the obvious measures of a film’s success, Rob considers artistic integrity and audience reaction to be of equal importance. “We managed to tell the story we wanted to tell, which wouldn’t have been the case if big film studios had got involved. Secondly, it got people talking, thinking and discussing homelessness and mental health issues. So we are proud of it in artistic terms, and we are delighted with the reaction it has provoked so far.”

Rob Taylor is a Director of Birmingham-based Blue Hippo Media. In addition to his work with Blue Hippo, he is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and champions black and ethnic minority music and art. Rob also carries out consultancy work for a number of charitable organisations throughout the West Midlands.

*Fraser Tennant*

## A 25-year milestone for Fernbank

The not-for-profit organisation Fernbank Care in the Community (part of the Beswick Group), in Wolverhampton, is celebrating 25 years of providing supportive accommodation to those experiencing homelessness and mental health issues.

Fernbank’s founder and director Thomas Harvey-Beswick believes the key to their success has been “providing a safe, stable home where everyone can come to terms with their problems at their own pace [...] rather than placing restrictions on their recovery”. With a combination of hard work and determination, his vision of tackling the cycle of homelessness became a reality and has changed hundreds of lives since.

Fernbank is unique in that it provides not only a supportive community environment to those who have ended up homeless, but also looks to accommodate and care for residents who have been released from long-term institutional care for mental illness and who cannot support themselves alone. The close-knit community spirit is essential to the heart of Fernbank; staff believe this environment gives residents a “safe haven” where they can feel comfortable and supported.

Residents benefit from information and guidance surrounding skills for life, with the aim to grow confidence and prepare them for independent living. Topics cover personal safety, how to cope with stress and anxiety, as well as practical skills such as how to budget and use a computer. There is a firm no-alcohol policy, so substance misuse education is also a key discussion point.

The main hostel can provide accommodation for up to 12 residents from the age of 25 upwards, mainly in shared rooms, where residents receive 24-hour

support. The option to progress to more independent living arrangements lies within the vicinity, as Fernbank has four “progression” houses where residents still have the option of support. Residents must be referred and come from bodies including the police, probation and mental health services.

Derek, a resident at Fernbank, explains how much he has gained from the service: “The longer I stayed at the hostel, the better my health became and I slowly started to regain my self respect. Without the caring and guiding way that Fernbank deals with its residents, I would not have had a second chance in life”.

Over the last 25 years, Fernbank has helped over 300 residents and has been home to more than 130 people who have been through prisons or mental health services and ended up on the streets.

### *Amber Woodful*

- To find out more about Fernbank and its services, visit [www.beswickgroup.co.uk](http://www.beswickgroup.co.uk)

## New Multiple Needs Service gives Cyrenians a new lease of life

In the March edition of *The Pavement*, we brought you the sad but, as it turns out, premature news that the Coventry Cyrenians charity was being forced to severely restrict the vital services it offers users following funding cutbacks. Happily, we can now report that the Cyrenians and Coventry Primary Care Trust have agreed that a more focused and targeted project – a Multiple Needs Service – should fill the void, and a further year’s funding has been secured specifically for this purpose.

“The Multiple Needs Service is aimed at clients who have no fixed abode, are in poor or

inadequate housing, or are at risk of losing their accommodation,” explains project leader Lloyd Woolcock. “Our experience is that clients with complex needs require an integrated approach.”

The service also serves clients struggling with two or more of the following issues: mental health, substance misuse, personality disorder, offending behaviour, learning difficulties, physical health problems, challenging behaviour or vulnerability due to age.

Continues Lloyd: “It is also cheaper and more effective for an organisation like us to help resolve a person’s range of problems, rather than to let individual agencies deal with individual problems as and when they arise.

“One client has been in and out of short-stay hostels, has been sleeping on the street, has an issue with alcohol and is in poor health. Between January and March this year, he cost around £15,000 in ambulance call-outs, visits to A&E and overnight hospital stays. Working with Coventry Law Centre and Social Services, we identified the most suitable care package for him. He is now in supported accommodation, his alcohol consumption has gone down and the overall social costs associated with his care have been lowered significantly.

“Another thing we have discovered since starting the Multiple Needs Service is how many of the clients on our Rough Sleeper Service have multiple needs. The percentage is very high and clearly shows that if you are a rough sleeper, the chances are you have multiple needs.”

But undoubtedly the most difficult part of the work undertaken by Lloyd’s team is the complexity of managing multi-agency partnerships and accepting that in some cases, agencies are simply unable to understand the wider social benefits that come from dealing with a client’s issues. This difficulty is par-

ticularly acute when the Cyrenians’ window of opportunity is often so small. “We believe that this is a problem that will be remedied when our service has been promoted across the region, which is a challenge in itself for any small charity operating as we do at a local level.”

*Fraser Tennant*



## Alan Murray

Age at disappearance: 63

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

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

Alan is 5ft 5in, with long grey hair and a full beard. When he was last seen, he was wearing a khaki coloured  $\frac{3}{4}$  length coat & blue jeans. He also wears glasses & 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. 1089117



# Red Cross training

*A new project teaches first aid to those who're likely to need the skills*

More than 150 homeless people have been trained in first aid as part of a Red Cross scheme to have "a first aider on every street corner".

"Homeless people have seen and experienced first-hand most of the subjects we cover," explains Jimmy Connolly, a community-based first aid trainer working with the Red Cross. One of his clients, trained at a session at Crisis in December, used his new CPR skills when a man collapsed in a pub only 10 days later, keeping him alive until an ambulance crew arrived.

But training the homeless in first aid isn't just about treating wounds or giving mouth-to-mouth, says project co-ordinator Anna Willmington.

"We have three main aims for this project," she explains. "We want to improve community resilience through first aid training, build people's confidence and help bridge the health gaps experienced by homeless people."

The courses also try to dispel some of the common myths about first aid, such as the 'fact' that chest compressions make sufficient CPR, without the need for mouth-to-mouth, or that using a tourniquet can lead to amputations later on.

And as well as reaching a community that doesn't always turn to doctors in time, First Aid for the Homeless is also about building people's confidence – in themselves, as well as in their new skills.

"First aid is also a highly regarded skill," says Willmington, and one that she hopes will push people to consider returning to education, employment or training – or some of the 35,000 volunteer positions offered by the Red Cross around the UK.

Rodney, 31, from London, attended one of the sessions at Broadway 65 in Hammersmith. "I wouldn't have felt comfortable stopping to help someone who was in trouble before," he says, "but now I feel a lot more confident – and I'd definitely like to learn more."

"Anyone who wants to be able to help someone in need should do one of these courses," adds Rodney.

His is a common viewpoint – many people do not want to get involved when they see someone in trouble – but First Aid for the Homeless hopes that its courses will give people the confidence and the willingness to step in when someone needs help.

"We want a first aider on every street corner, in every family and within every community," says Willmington, "so they know how to deal with emergencies."

First Aid for the Homeless launched on 1 March and will be running for 12 months, though Willmington hopes that volunteers will keep the scheme going after its initial first year.

Along with around 20 organisations that are currently involved, the Red Cross aims to train at least 500 homeless people in London over 12 months, bringing basic first aid to the streets through night shelters, walk-in centres and hostels across the capital.

Each session lasts between one and three hours, with each course being tailored to the needs of those attending on the day. "As well as first aid skills, we can also discuss needlestick and other sharps injuries, blood-borne viruses, and drug and alcohol awareness," explains Willmington.

The training is carried out at service centres to make it more

accessible to users, and although each session is led by a trainer, they are 'designed' by those who attend.

The scheme is aimed at everyone from rough sleepers to those in shelters or insecure and supported housing, so the needs of different groups can be really diverse.

"We can offer first aid knowledge about how to prevent, recognise and treat certain conditions such as dehydration, hypothermia and trenchfoot that will more specifically but not exclusively affect groups like the street homeless," says Willmington, "but we do not assume people need or want to know specific skills."

## *Garnet Roach*

- Anyone interested in learning more about First Aid for the Homeless should contact Anna Willmington by email: [awillmington@redcross.org.uk](mailto:awillmington@redcross.org.uk)

For more information about the volunteer opportunities offered by the Red Cross visit: [www.redcross.org.uk](http://www.redcross.org.uk)

- Pictured opposite and overpage, a session held at Crisis (London) in May, Katie Pavoni instructing.

“Homeless people  
have both seen  
and experienced  
most of the  
subjects we cover  
first hand”



First aid education by



**BritishRedCross**



*"I think you'll find your bonus this year elevates you to pariah status, Simon"*

# News in brief

*The homeless news from around the bazaars*

## St Patrick's reopening

The Archbishop of Westminster officially opened St Patrick's Church, in London's Soho, at the end of May, after the completion of a £3 million restoration project. Part of the refurbishment has seen an extensive improvement of the church's homeless services, including a new kitchen to cook meals for rough sleepers, a new café area doubling up as a place to feed the homeless, and a brand-new area for drug and alcohol counselling, and outreach work. Now the church has reopened, it will resume its former outreach services to the homeless that had been taken over by St Anne's Anglican Church on Dean Street.

St Patrick's was also the location for the first ever Open Cinema, which started at the church back in 2005, allowing homeless people to watch the latest movies and have a chance to make some of their own. The scheme has since spread across the UK.

The building itself has also had something of a colourful past. Before becoming a church in the 1890s, St Patrick's was home to some of London's high society. One of its previous owners, a Mrs Cornley, was a famous opera singer, socialite and bankrupt who had a child by the legendary Italian lothario Casanova.

*James O'Reilly*

## Changes at *Big Issue*

*Big Issue* vendors have expressed concern that the decision to allow the unemployed to sell the magazine may make it

harder for existing vendors.

*Big Issue* co-founder John Bird announced on 17 May that he would allow the magazine, currently sold by the homeless and vulnerably housed, also to be sold by the unemployed. He said he wanted them to have a chance to earn an income rather than get stuck on benefits.

A *Big Issue* vendor who calls himself vendazero wrote on Twitter that the move could cause problems for people currently selling the magazine.

"There are already too many of us," he wrote. "There are fights over pitches. What's going to happen when 1000s of unemployed start selling it? It's already hard enough to sell as it is."

The magazine is currently sold by between 2,000 and 3,000 people around the UK. Since the magazine was formed 20 years ago in September 1991, these have all had to be either homeless or in temporary accommodation. By allowing them to sell the magazine at a profit, the *Big Issue* hoped to give "a hand up, not a hand out". Bird said he now wants to offer the same opportunity for those who have lost their jobs or are long-term unemployed to earn an income rather than rely on benefits.

Speaking on *BBC Radio 5 Live*, he said that allowing unemployed to sell the magazine did not constitute a shift in direction for the magazine.

"We're changing absolutely nothing," he said. "We've been banging on over the years that we are there for people who are slipping into the crisis of homelessness.

"All we've done is wave a hand in the air and say, look, there's going to be more and more people... Prepare yourself for the fact there are people going

to be slipping into homelessness or long-term unemployment."

"We haven't changed anything. All we're saying is that Britain's changing."

*Nicholas Olczak*

- We'll try to look more at changes in the *Big Issue* in the next issue, and if any readers, particularly vendors, want to get in touch we'd welcome your thoughts and comments.

## Body found on roundabout

A former manager of a halfway house for reforming criminals who was sleeping rough after losing his job died from a suspected drug overdose.

The body of Damon Hughes, 42, was found by a roundabout near medieval ruins in Exeter, Devon, by another homeless man.

Mr Hughes, a former drug addict, had worked as an assistant manager at Prospects House, in Exeter, providing support for offenders released from prison and people with drug addictions. But he was made redundant a couple of years ago due to funding cuts and started to take drugs again and offend.

After being made redundant, he had been given accommodation with drug addicts but did not want to be with them, having beaten his own habit.

A month ago, he was released from Exeter Prison, where he had been serving a short sentence for breach a non-molestation order and had been living rough since then. Exeter Drugs Project chief

executive Lucie Hartley said: “We are terribly sorry to hear about Damon’s death and our thoughts are with his family and friends.

“Damon was not employed by EDP, although he did work for a period at Prospects House, supporting people with substance misuse problems who had been released from Exeter Prison.”

Police said they were not treating Mr Hughes’s death as suspicious.

*Rebecca Evans*

## Concerns about hub

The No Second Night Out (NSNO) scheme and its “homeless hub” have been accused of creating a “two-tier” homeless hierarchy. The London scheme is part of the Mayor’s plans to end rough sleeping by 2012, and aims to get new rough sleepers off the streets as soon as possible

An anonymous source told *The Pavement* that some of London’s most entrenched rough sleepers were losing out because of the scheme, which is designed to help those new to the streets.

“There has been no additional provision of beds, there’s no new housing, no new schemes – so where are all these people going?” he asked.

Our source, who wished to remain unnamed, added: “What’s going to happen to the unwanted homeless, those people with the biggest problems and the biggest need? At the moment, they are being pushed to the back of the line.”

But Petra Salva, director of NSNO, dismissed the claims, saying that “very few people had been sent to shelters from the hub – most people have been reconnected”.

Our source also questioned how effective a scheme with a turnaround of just three days could

be. “Much of the NSNO is focused on ‘reconnection’, or sending people back to where they came from. But to people leave for a number of reasons – violence, abuse etc.

“Outreach teams put in a lot of time to reconnect someone. How much can be done in three days?”

More than 130 people have passed through the hub since it opened on 1 April, said Salva, with around 60 per cent of these being “successfully reconnected”, something she defines as “no longer sleeping rough”.

The remaining 40 per cent left the hub “unsuccessful”, and the NSNO doesn’t know what has happened to them since.

Demand for the hub has been high, said Salva, though the NSNO had underestimated users’ needs. For example, around 70 per cent of those seen by the hub have medium- to high-support needs because of drug use or mental health issues.

“We are coping,” she said. “But do we need a different approach or more resources? So far, the jury’s out.”

*Garnet Roach*

## Dead man identified as rough sleeper

A decapitated corpse found in the River Wandle close to Wimbledon last June has been identified. According to the London *Evening Standard*, the body, which was discovered in Plough Lane, belonged to rough sleeper, Waldemir Drobig, a 32-year-old Polish immigrant and former baker.

By the time Drobig was found and pronounced dead by a police medical examiner, the corpse was badly decomposing and in an extremely poor state. As a result, Coroner Shirley Radcliffe was unable to establish the precise time

and cause of death. She recorded an open verdict, admitting that while foul play was unlikely, it could not be completely ruled out. Police told *The Pavement* that there was no evidence to suggest anything other than a natural death, and further investigations were not being carried out.

This unfortunate case made headlines when Detective Inspector Chuk Gwams explained to the coroners’ court why he had felt it necessary to call the police medical examiner to pronounce the decapitated man dead. When asked his reasons, the officer had said: “They are the experts; we are not.”

*Lizzie Cernik*

## Tickets home questioned

FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless, has questioned the policy of deporting A10 nationals who are found homeless in the EU, saying the rules are unclear on action that can be taken.

The statement from FEANTSA, under the title ‘*FEANTSA asks for Clearer Rules on Free Movement*’, covers all member countries. Stating that it “opposes arbitrary expulsions and calls for the respecting of procedural safeguards as set by the directive 2004/38”, it cites several examples of expulsion of destitute individuals by, for example, the Irish government, who flew back 548 EU citizens to their home countries in 2010. Within the England this will affect, if heeded by the EU, a UK Border Agency (UKBA) pilot scheme, reported several times in *The Pavement*, which began in Westminster, Oxford, Peterborough and Reading in 2010. This scheme seeks to deport A10 nationals found on the streets.

*Staff*

*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)



"Excuse me, do you mind if I exist?"

# 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.

## Street heat – our occasional slice of celebrity life

Russell Brand was spotted on the streets of Los Angeles giving food and drink out to homeless people. The actor, who was presumably taking a break from reading awful reviews of his new movie *Arthur*, was seen in LA handing out armfuls of ice cream and snacks to rough sleepers. The *Daily Star* reported that the rough sleepers chatted to Brand for about an hour, with one of them saying afterwards that the Essex-born funnyman was “wild”.

Meanwhile, on the other side of Sin City, troubled actress Lindsay Lohan has been assigned 500 hours community service at a homeless shelter after being convicted of shoplifting a \$2,500 necklace. Lohan has been assigned to work at LA’s Downtown Women’s Centre, where the gossip website *TMZ* reports she is going to run a theatre workshop called DIVAS – an acronym for ‘Dames Investing in Very Authentic Storytelling’. Apparently Lohan loves the idea of working with the DIVAS programme, thinking that it’s “a perfect fit for her community service.” What the women at the shelter think to working with the repeatedly-convicted criminal and star of the remake of *Herbie* is, sadly, unreported.

*James O’Reilly*

## Canadian cuts

Three emergency shelters have closed in the Canadian city of Vancouver after a wave of Government cuts. Housing activists had threatened to erect tent cities in protest to the closures in defiance of a recent bylaw prohibiting people

from erecting tents on city property. Despite this threat, a series of high-profile protests and petitions, the shelters – which accommodated around 75 people – closed in April.

It is thought that the majority of their residents were re-housed. Campaigners argued that the shelters – Cardero, Howe Street and Fraser – were lifelines for homeless people in a city that regularly experiences sub-zero winters.

On closure, a group of residents staged a sit-in protest at the Fraser shelter and refused to leave, but were eventually evicted. Fraser resident Tera Peters said the shelter was a relief from trying to find somewhere to hide and sleep on the streets. She said: “I’m tired of hiding in cubby holes during the day.

“At least I’ve got somewhere to eat, somewhere to sleep, somewhere to make sure I’m OK – and the staff do.”

The Housing Ministry defended the closures by saying the shelters were only ever opened as temporary winter housing and that all residents were offered housing. They also said the cost of temporary shelters was more than double that of a permanent ones.

Sam Rainbooth, spokesman for the agency managing the closures, BC Housing said: ‘The province is offering housing assistance to the approximately 75 people remaining at the three shelters.’

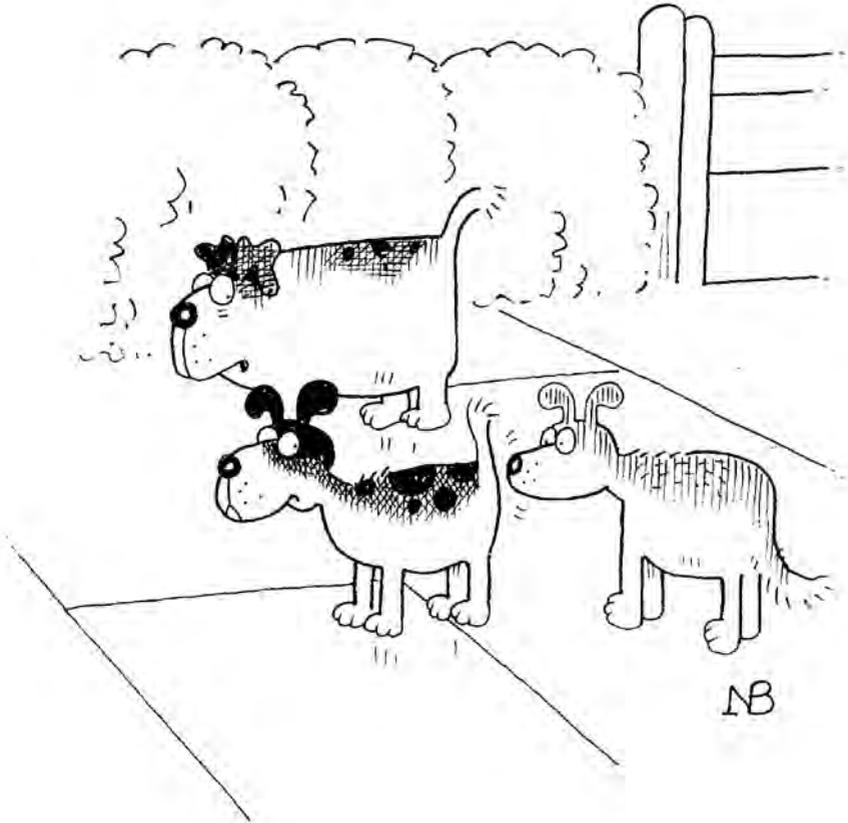
But Kat Norris, from the indigenous action movement, said that closing the shelters gave out the wrong message. She said: “Closing the shelters says that the government doesn’t care about their condition, but Vancouver has a chance here to do the right thing.”

There are plans to build more than 1,500 new support-

ive housing units for those who are homeless or at risk of being so, with 570 of these set to be open by the end of the year.

According to the 2010 homeless count, the number of homeless people in Vancouver has increased by nine per cent since 2008, from 1,576 to 1,715. The count shows that the homeless continue to be disproportionately Aboriginal, older and in poor health, and that the proportion of homeless staying in shelters is growing.

*Rebecca Evans*



*“Look out – a snooper from Environmental Health!”*

# STREET SHIELD

EPISODE 21

THE LINE UP.

UNDER A BRIDGE, BY THE RIVER...

ALRIGHT, GENTLEMEN!  
WE'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE -  
RISE AND SHINE IF  
YOU PLEASE!



OKAY, LET'S TRY AND  
AVOID TAKING YOU IN.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW  
ABOUT A DRUG DEALER  
ATTACKED LAST NIGHT?

HHMM...?



IT HAPPENED A  
ABOUT 2AM. JUST  
AROUND THE CORN

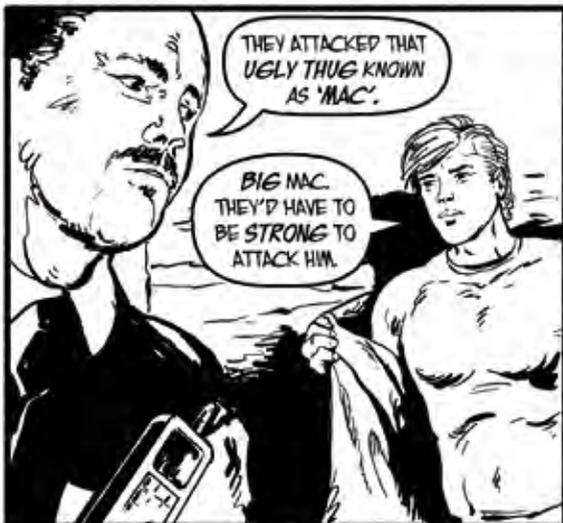
NOTHING.



YEAH...MAC WAS  
SLEEPING ROUGH OR  
IN A SQUAT NEAR  
HERE.  
AND HE'S FINE.  
IN A MANNER  
OF SPEAKING.

3

'IN A MANNER  
OF SPEAKING'...?



# Health and wellbeing

*The Pavement's health team aim to help keep you in the pink, but not sunburn pink!*

## Protect yourself from the sun

We all know that sunburns are bad for us and are a risk for cancer.

Although some types of skin cancer aren't very harmful, another type – malignant melanoma – is dangerous and can lead to death. You should contact a doctor if you find a shiny, red patch of skin that looks like a scar you never had before, or a growing lump on your skin that isn't a mole, or if you get a spot where the skin just seems to start disappearing and it gets oozy and crusty. Bad

sunburns can also form blisters that are very painful, and when they pop they can become infected.

However, just getting a tan can be bad as well. Although having tanned skin makes it less likely that you will get a burn, this can lead to you getting too much sun, which can lead to skin cancer. It's always best to simply avoid being in the sun too much; but if you can't, protect yourself.

The two best ways to protect yourself from the sun

1. The best way is to cover up with clothes. This can be uncomfortable when it is hot, so knowing where you can get a shower and clean, dry clothes in the

middle of a hot day is helpful. Covering with long sleeves and a hat is better than sunscreen because the sunscreen will become less helpful as the day goes on.

2. If you will be out in the sun and have exposed skin, then you need to be thinking about sunscreen. The higher the SPF value (which stands for Sun Protective Factor), the better. This number doesn't mean how long you can stay out in the sun – it's just a measure of how good it is. Instead, you should plan on putting more sunscreen on 30 minutes after you put the first stuff on. If you're sweating a lot, you'll want to keep putting more on every 30 minutes.

How to treat a sunburn:

So sometimes you will still get burnt. Here are some tips for keeping yourself comfortable:

1. Drink lots and lots of water. Your body needs it to help itself get better.
  2. Taking a painkiller like Ibuprofen or Panadol will help a lot, particularly to sleep.
  3. A cool bath or shower can help, but try to avoid too much soap, as this dries the skin out.
  4. If you have blisters, try to get a cream or aloe gel to soothe them.
  5. If blisters pop, you will want to see someone to get an antibiotic cream to prevent infection.
  6. Stay out of the sun until it heals!
- Keep safe and keep cool this summer.

*Abe Oudshoorn*

Abe Oudshoorn teaches Nursing at The University of Western Ontario, and is a former street nurse at the London InterCommunity Health Centre in London, Canada.





*“He says ‘it’s all gone to hell in a handcart as far as he can see’”*



*“Let’s sit still as mice, while James tells us  
about his battle with alcohol”*

**www.thepavement.org.uk**

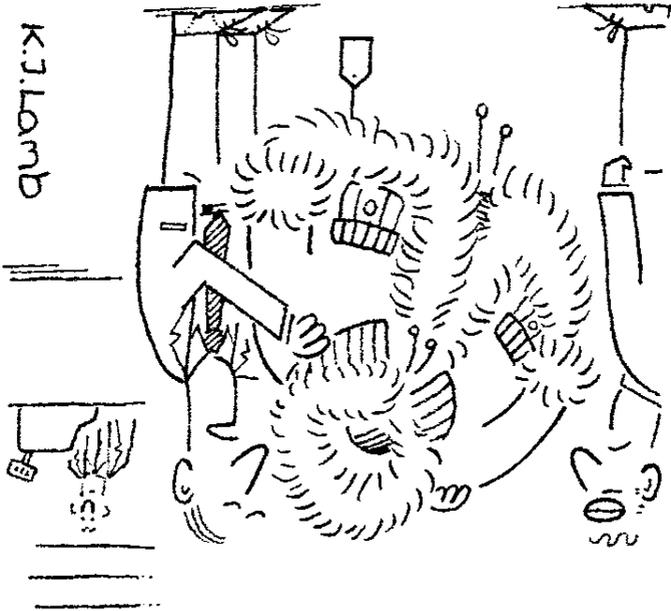
**You can read the news,  
keep informed & search our  
directory of services online @**

**Stonewall Housing advice line**  
Housing advice for LGBT people  
020 7359 5767  
(Mon, Thu, Fri 10am – 1pm;  
Tue & Wed 2 – 5pm)  
UK Human Trafficking Centre  
0114 252 3891

**Birmingham City Council**  
Click through 'housing'/'finding a  
home'/'help for homeless people'  
[www.birmingham.gov.uk](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk)  
**National Homelessness Advice**  
Service  
Readers can click on the  
section 'need advice'  
[www.nhas.org.uk](http://www.nhas.org.uk)  
**The Pavement online**  
Regularly updated online  
version of The List.  
[www.thepavement.org.uk/  
services.htm](http://www.thepavement.org.uk/services.htm)  
**Sock Book**  
[sockbook.referrata.com](http://sockbook.referrata.com)  
**Stonewall Housing**  
Housing advice for LGBT  
people of all ages  
[www.stonewallhousing.org](http://www.stonewallhousing.org)

**WEBSITES**

“Windproof... waterproof... warm...  
It's this season's smoking jacket”



K.J. Lamb

**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.

**Domestic Violence Helpline**  
0808 2000 247

**Frank**  
0800 776 600

Free 24-hr drug helpline

**Get Connected**  
0808 808 4994

Free advice for young people  
(1pm - 7pm daily)

**Job Centre Plus (benefits agency)**  
To make a claim  
0800 055 6688

For queries about existing claims for Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance or Incapacity Benefit  
0845 377 6001

For Social Fund enquiries  
0845 608 8661

For the Pensions Service  
0845 60 60 265

**Message Home Helpline**  
0800 700 740, 24 hrs daily

**National Debtline**  
0808 808 4000

**Runaway Helpline**  
0808 800 7070

Free line for under-18s who have left home  
The Samaritans  
08457 90 9090

**SANeline**  
6 - 11pm  
0845 767 8000

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

**Shelter**  
0808 800 4444

Housing info and advice  
8am-8pm daily

0121 440 6655

Mon: 12:45am-1:45pm (clinic)  
-0121 440 0034; Mon:  
1:15pm-3:30pm (walk-in clinic);  
Wed: 12am-4pm (drop-in clinic);  
Thu: 1am-1:30pm (Methadone clinic - 0121 446 5381)  
Promotes the health and wellbeing of female sex workers (18+) in Birmingham, Sandwell and Walsall.  
AD, BA, CA, C, D, MS, OB, OL, SH

**Stonewall Housing**

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

**time2talk Mediation Service**

DACHS, Dudley MBC, 5 St James's Rd, Dudley DY1 1HP  
01384 812 422  
Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm (message service outside these hours)

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 Coventry St, Stourbridge DY8 1EP  
01384 379992  
Advice, information and therapeutic counselling for people 13-25 in Dudley.  
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 women who are pregnant or single parents. Referrals to other agencies for specialist help.  
CE, LA, OL

**Dudley Refugee Support Team**

17 St James's Rd, Dudley, Birmingham DY1 1JG  
01384 812626 or 815108  
Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm

Culturally sensitive support service. Advice on benefits, harassment, domestic violence, housing. Flooting support.  
BA, H, OW

**Gilgal**

PQ Box 3918, Birmingham B9 5AQ  
0121 773 1431  
Mon-Sun: Open 24 hours  
Emergency accommodation for women and children  
Escaping Domestic Abuse  
RefugeeLine: 0800 111 4223  
AS, AD, H, LA, SH

**The Haven Wolverhampton**

PQ 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, Dentend, 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**

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

**EASTERN EUROPEAN**

**Polish Club Birmingham**  
 Polish Millennium House, Bordesley St, Birmingham B5 5PH  
 0121 643 3577

Fri: 1pm-3pm

Advice on employment law, social benefits, housing and accommodation.

AS, BA, DA, H, LE

**EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

**ENTA**

Mill Wharf

10 Mill Street

Birmingham

B6 4BS

0121 380 4801

Mon-Thur: 8.30-4.30; Fri: 8.30-1.30

[www.entapeople.com](http://www.entapeople.com)

CA, ET

**Jericho Foundation**

196 197 Edward Rd

Balsall Heath

Birmingham

B1 2 9LX

0121 440 7919

[birmingham@jericho.org.uk](mailto: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  
 PO Box 13254B1, Birmingham B15 1DL  
 0121 675 1683

If you are leaving, or have left, the armed forces, you can apply directly. Phone or email (HOUVulnerableresponses@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-service women

**Stonham (Elsesmere)**

Fullwood House, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 0AA

01691 623756

Mon-Fri: 8:30am-5pm

Supported accommodation for ex-services personnel.

AS, BA, H, TS

**Veterans UK**

0800 169 2277

Free help and advice for veterans and access to dedicated one-to-one welfare service

[www.veterans-uk.info](http://www.veterans-uk.info)

**MEDICAL SERVICES**

**Community Mental Health**

**Homelss Team**

3rd Fl, Morcome House, Ledsgam St, Ladywood, Birmingham B16 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, Birmingham B4 6HA

0121 465 3965

Mon & Fri: 2:30pm-4:30pm; Tues, Wed, Thu: 1pm-4pm; Wed & Thu: 9am-1am

Medical practice for homeless people in Birmingham.

MS

**Vision Care for Homeless People**

William Booth Centre, Shadwell St, Birmingham B4 6HA

Mon: 10am-5pm (except bank holidays)

Comprehensive eyecare services, totally free of charge. MS

**Birmingham City Council (Housing**

**Pathways)**

PO Box 13254B1, Birmingham B15 1DL

0121 675 1683

If you are leaving, or have left, the armed forces, you can apply directly. Phone or email (HOUVulnerableresponses@birmingham.gov.uk).

AS, H

**PERFORMING ARTS**

**Crisis Skilght Birmingham**

0121 348 7950

PO Box 15850, Birmingham, B9 9HL

Running at various locations

AC, ET, IT, MC, PA

**SPECIALIST SERVICES**

**Anamim**

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, creative Methadone programme, 24-hour helpline: 0800 970 8232.

AS, AD, AS, BA, CL, C, D,

ET, FF, H, LA, SH

**The Castle & Crystal Credit Union**

25 New St, Dudley DY1 1LT

01384 815771

All credit union members (18+) can apply for a Handloan (£100 to £500) and anyone living or working in Dudley can join.

Centrepoint Streets Project

PO Box 2156, West Bromwich, Birmingham B70 6HA

0871 717 7284

Outreach to asylum seekers, refugees, and the homeless.

Education and training for children and young people.

AD, CA, ET, H

**Coventry Refugee Centre**

15 Bishop St, Coventry CV1 1HU

024 7622 7254

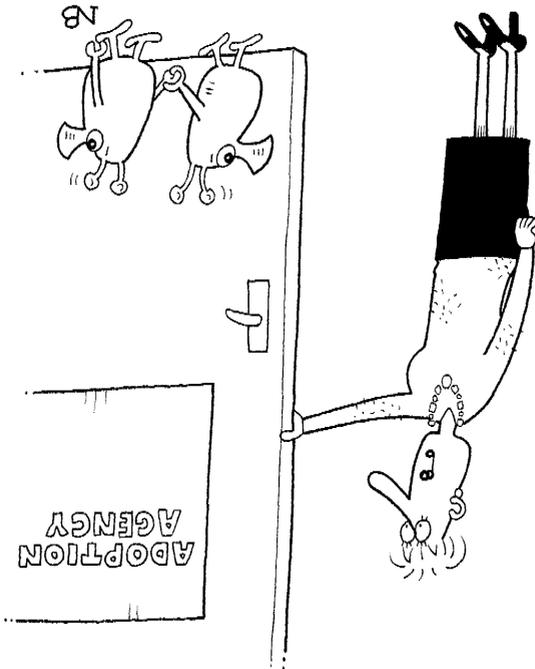
Mon-Thu: 9am-5pm; Wed & Fri: 1pm-5pm; Fri: 9am-4pm

Helps asylum seekers and EU citizens. Helps refugees given leave to remain to set up home.

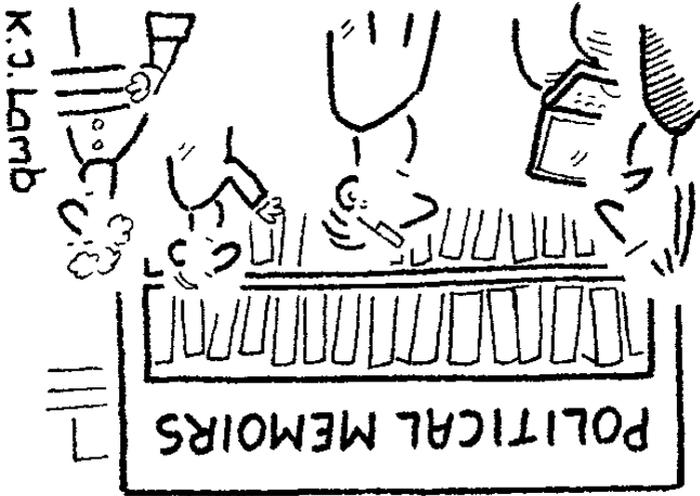
Women's and youth groups.

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

*“It’s nothing to do with being green,  
but there are cultural implications”*



*"They're lying off the shelves"*



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**

tbta

**Young people (16-25)**

**Coventry Foyer**

Holyhead Court, Lower Holy-

head 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

**CHAD – On Route Project**

6 Dixons Green Rd, Dudley DY2 7DD

01384 455464

& Sun: 7pm-10pm; Sat

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 – Gilbert 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

locals 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, educa-

tion 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 (Morris House)**

c/o 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 WS15 2WH

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, Highgate,

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

For people with alcohol, drugs and

gambling additions, 0121 685

6340 (North, B'ham): 0121 414

0888 (South, B'ham): AW, C, D

**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

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, Birmingham B12 0QB  
0121 753 1386  
Mon-Fri: 8am-7pm (phone for appointment)  
For single homeless men 25+. AS, F, H

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

**P3 – Bilston Hostel**  
53 Wellington Rd, Wolverhampton WV1 4BA  
01902 490050  
Mon-Sun: Open 24 hours  
Single homeless men, inc. ex-offenders and rough sleepers. D

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

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

**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  
for application form)

For single people aged 17+ (83 men, 9 women). AS, H, TS

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

**SHARP Hostel**  
57 Edgbaston Rd, Smethwick B66 4LG  
0121 558 2104  
Mon-Sun: 8:45am-1pm (phone calls); Mon-Sun: 9am-8pm (referrals)  
For single people or couples aged 18+. Considers people who are overcoming dependency, but active drug use is not acceptable. AS, BA, H

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

**Salvation Army (William Booth Centre)**  
c/o Homeless Single Point of Access, Midland Heart – Homeless Services Centre, 44 Bradford 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

**Men**

**Central and Cecil – Tullamore House**  
61 Stratford St, Coventry CV2 4N  
024 7663 5105  
Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm (phone for appointment)

One-to-one help, accommodation and support for people dealing with alcohol issues; counselling; resettlement and tenancy support; training opportunities; help for people on probation. Help accessing emergency accommodation. AS, AW, AS, BS, BA, C, DA, ET, FF, H, LA, MS, OB, SK, TS

**St George's House**  
St George's Hub, St Marks Rd, Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton WV3 0TZ  
01902 421904  
Mon-Fri: 9:15am-4:30pm  
Helps people 18+ to avoid becoming homeless and to live independently after resettlement. Leisure and sporting activities. AS, AD, BE, CL, F, H, LA, TS

**St George's House Drop-in**  
1 Clarence St, Wolverhampton WV1 1WZ  
01902 714746  
Fri: 2:15pm-3pm; Mon-Thu: 2:15pm-4:30pm; Mon-Fri: 9:30am-1:30pm  
For homeless people, ex-offenders, substance misusers and others who are often barred from other services and facilities. Practical advice, support and guidance, and non-opposing to other services. Big issue distributor. AS, AD, AW, BA, D, ET, F, H, LA, LF, OL

**DIRECT ACCESS HOSTELS/ NIGHTSHELTERS**

**All with low-support needs**

**Coventry and Warwickshire YMCA – Daimler Green**  
Endeavour Court, 20 Chelmarsh, 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 House**  
Gibbs Rd, (off Balds Lane), Lye, Stourbridge DY9 8SG  
01384 423 771  
Mon-Fri: 8am-7pm (phone for appointment)

**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

**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.

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

are encountering homelessness,  
addition, mental health prob-  
lems, bereavement and loss.

AS, AD, H

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

**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; 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.

**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.

**Solihull Community Housing  
(Chelsley Wood)**  
6/8 Copicke Way, Chelsley Wood,  
Solihull, Birmingham B37 5TX  
0121 704 1515  
Mon, Tues, Thu: 9am-5pm;  
Wed: 10am-5pm; Fri: 9am-  
4:30pm; Sat: 9am-1pm

AS, BA, H, 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  
Alcohol Drinking Lounge open  
to public: 10am-3pm  
AS, AS, A, BA, BS, CL, DT, ET,  
F, H, LA, MS, MH

**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

**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.

**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, AD, H

**SIFA Fireside**  
18-28 Lower Essex St, Bir-  
mingham B5 6SN  
0121 666 7023  
Mon-Fri: 9-10.30am (breakfast)  
: 12-1pm (lunch); Sat & Sun:  
10:30am-1:30am; (nurses

AS, H, TS  
Mon & Wed: 10am-12am  
01922 746798  
Helps people registered as homeless  
in Walsall to access private rents.

AS, AD, H

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

AS, AD, H

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, H, BA, CA, C, ET, OL

AS, AD, H

# the List

Directory of the West Midlands' homeless services

Updated 31 May 2011

Key to this list:

Accom. assistance – AS

Advocacy – AD

Alcohol workers – A

Art classes – AC

Barber – B

Benefits advice – BA

Bathroom/showers – BS

Bedding available – BE

Careers advice – CA

Clothing – CL

Counselling – C

Debt advice – DA

Dentist – DT

Drugs workers – D

Education/training – ET

Free food – FF

Food – F

Foot care – FC

Housing/accom advice – H

Internet access – IT

Laundry – L

Leisure activities – LA

Leisure facilities – LF

Luggage stowage – LS

Medical services – MS

Mental health – MH

Music classes – MC

Needle exchange – NE

Outreach worker links – OL

Outreach workers – OB

Pavement stockist – P

Safe keeping – SK

Sexual health advice – SH

SSAFA – SS

Tenancy support – TS

If you've any changes or suggestions visit our website - [www.thepavement.org.uk](http://www.thepavement.org.uk) - or email: [thelist@thepavement.org.uk](mailto:thelist@thepavement.org.uk)

Updated entries: 3  
Services added: 0

## ADVICE SERVICES

Base 25

Castle House, Wheelers Fold, Wolverhampton WV1 1ST

01902 572040

Mon-Thurs: 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,CD,ET,H,LA,OL,SH

BA,DA,ET,OL,TS

**Derbyshire Housing Aid**

Milleshone House, 93 Green Lane, Derby DE1 1RX

01332 642150

Mon-Sun: Open 24 hours

(emergency); Mon-Fri:

1pm-4pm (assessment)

Assessment service for all single homeless people in Derby.

Emergency accommodation.

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

**CHADD Outreach Support Service**

98-99 Dixons 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.

**Dudley Tenancy Guarantee**

Dudley Housing Office,

15-17 St James's Rd, Dudley,

Birmingham DY1 1JG

0300 555 2345

Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm

Helps people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness

to access private rented property.

Phone 01384 815035 for details.

TS

AS, H

If you find yourself homeless over the weekend or outside office hours,

call 0300 555 8283 for help.