

REACHING OUT TO THE HOMELESS IN POOLE



Dr Graham Kings, Gabi Sanger-Stevens and Pat Southgate



On Sunday March 25th we gathered at St Peter's Church to celebrate and give thanks to God for 10 years of being Routes to Roots and we were delighted to have many of our supporters with us. It was also a real blessing for us to have the Bishop of Sherborne join us - one of the most moving parts of the service was when Graham presented a Bible to one of our homeless friends (*Mark's story is on pages 6-7*).

Christ has no hands on earth but ours.

Mark's story encourages, and reminds, us that with God's help we can be the route by which even the most entrenched rough sleepers can put down roots in a new way of living. Some of those who sleep on the streets of Poole chose that way of life: for them being rootless means freedom. For others, homelessness is a tomb from which they are unable to break free on their own.

The Gospel account of Jesus reaching his hand into the tomb of Lazarus and saying 'Come out and live' is what I believe Routes to Roots is all about. Christ has no hands on earth but ours. Ours are the hands with which he can still reach into the tombs of those who are imprisoned by their circumstances and say 'Choose life!'

It's up to us now. We need to feel compassion, compassion which will propel us into action, the kind of action which will be liberating, for all those we serve. If like us, you feel compassion for the homeless when you see them on our streets, then please consider joining us. We have lots of volunteering opportunities at the moment! We need more hands, to be Christ's hands, as we continue Christ's 'liberating' work, on the streets of Poole.

The Revd Pat Southgate

Chair of Routes to Roots and Chaplain to the Homeless in Poole



NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Quaker Homeless Action & Routes to Roots Mobile Library

QHA and R2R are joining forces to provide a mobile library for the homeless. QHA has provided such a facility in London (*right*) for some time and together we are now able to move this out to Dorset and Hampshire. Volunteers are needed to catalogue and prepare the books for lending, to drive the van and to help clients access books at the various locations that we shall be visiting. If this might interest you, or someone you know, please get in touch with Caroline Foy at office@routestoroots.org or on 07901 387 643. We are also looking for donations of books so if you want to declutter your bookshelves, please consider passing them on to us.



First Outing for the Library

St Peter's Summer Fayre
Saturday 9 June
Ashley Cross Green

The library van will provide us with a very visible and branded presence at St Peter's Summer Fayre. Please come along and take a look while enjoying all the stalls and entertainment on offer throughout the day.

R2R AGM

**Thursday
21 June**

7.30pm

**Skinner Street
URC**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIR	Revd Pat Southgate
TREASURER	Sarah Percy
HON SECRETARY	Ann Tyson *
CO-OPTED MEMBER	Richard McLester
CO-OPTED MEMBER	Susan Gittins
OUTREACH WORKER	Liz Bailey
ADMINISTRATOR	Caroline Foy

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Pat Southgate
Dick Dyke
Jennifer Harrison
Kate Mellor
Sarah Percy
Paul Richards

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Tel: 01202 667880 / 07901 387643
office@routestoroots.org
www.routestoroots.org

Committee and Trustees elected at R2R AGM on 25 June 2011 (except *)



Founded on Christian principles, and registered as a charity in 2002, Routes to Roots seeks to help all homeless people in Poole regardless of their faith. We hold drop-in sessions to provide immediate social and spiritual support as well as the basic necessities for life: food, clothing, a place to wash and a place to rest. We help to house rough sleepers and follow up to identify what each person needs to move forward and to maintain their housing and independent living.

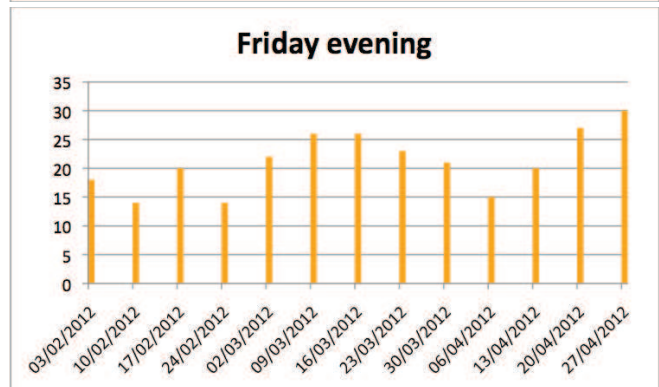
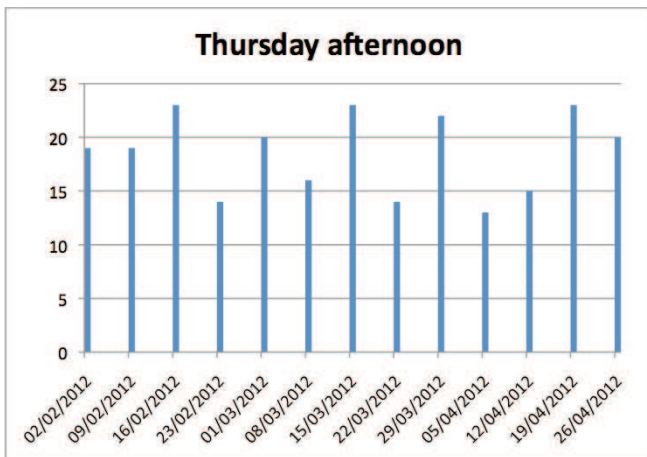
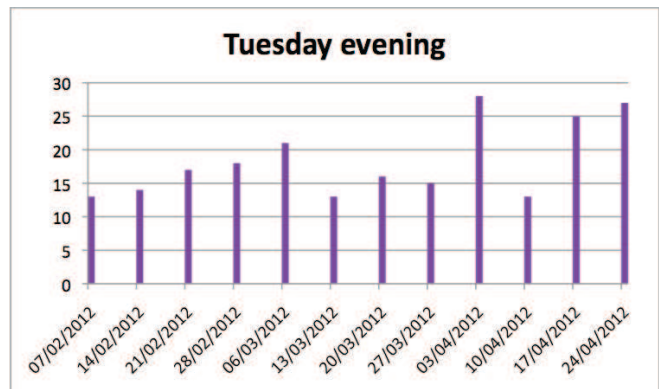
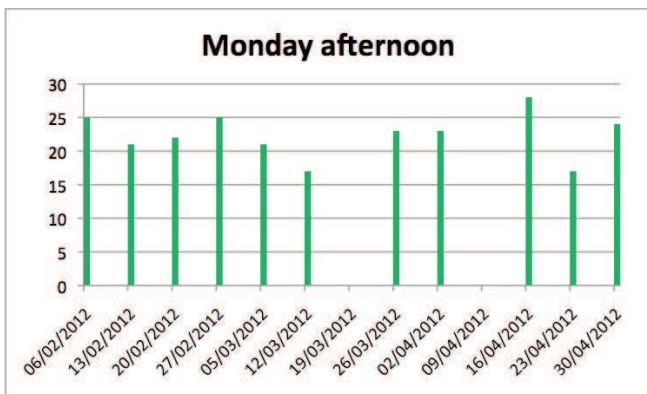
Routes to Roots is supported by Big Yellow Storage, Conical Sphere Web Design & Group UK, Princercroft Willis LLP, RGL Displays Ltd and The Fisherman Café, as well as by many Church and Christian groups in Poole and the surrounding area.



REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

R2R and BCHA Poole Outreach Support Team Individuals Housed 2010 - 38 2011 - 27 1st Quarter 2012 - 7 Clients registered and awaiting housing - 16	
Afternoon Drop-Ins 487 Lunches Served in February, March and April 2012 40% rough sleepers - 40% sofa surfers - 20% others recently housed <i>Skinner Street URC Church Hall</i>	
Average Attendance Mondays <i>(closed on Bank Holidays)</i>	22
Average Attendance Thursdays	19

Big Breakfasts Start December 2011 - End March 2012 308 Breakfasts Served The Breakfast Vouchers have provided a very real lifeline to those who are rough sleeping and we are grateful to The Fisherman Café who have made it possible to provide this hot meal at the start of the day. The service has now finished but will resume, if sufficient funds are available, in December 2012.	
Evening Drop-Ins 546 Hot Meals Served in February, March and April 2012 40% rough sleepers - 40% sofa surfers - 20% others recently housed <i>Hill Street Baptist Church Hall and Skinner Street URC Church Hall</i>	
Average Attendance Tuesdays	18
Average Attendance Fridays	21



Gabi Sanger-Stevens



WORKING TOGETHER: R2R AND PCSOs

Olly Duell, the PCSO responsible for oversight of the homeless in Poole, spoke at our Volunteers' meeting in February about the day-to-day workings of Police Community Support Officers and how they offer assistance to the Rough Sleepers Community.

The 2002 Police Reform Act brought in PCSOs to fill a vacuum left by the changing role of the traditional bobby on the beat, to bridge the gap between the community and police service. Their work is based on partnership with, and working within, the community – a new concept in the UK though it has long been accepted in the USA, Canada and Australia.

The main role of a PCSO in Dorset is to contribute to the policing of neighbourhoods, primarily through highly visible uniformed cycle or foot patrol, to engage and reassure the public, increase orderliness in public places and be accessible to communities and partner agencies, through joint working at local level.

There are 151 uniformed PCSOs in Dorset and three in Poole itself. They operate as part of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and are each responsible for a dedicated area.

PCSOs are empowered to issue Fixed Penalty Notices and Penalty Notices for Disorder. They can also exercise a number of additional powers including requiring members of the public to stop drinking within designated areas, confiscating tobacco from young people under the age of 16 and dealing with abandoned vehicles. They cannot make arrests although they can detain (citizen's arrest) and use reasonable force; and they can issue tickets, for example for cycling on the pavement, and direct traffic.

"One of our main roles is high visibility reassurance patrol," CSPO Olly said, "and we are happy to spend time at drop-ins and soup kitchens. Through this we are able to create a relationship with the homeless community. This also means that we now know through organisations like R2R who is causing

problems and we can target that person or group. Rather than use an ASBO, for example, which would prevent the person from getting to a drop-in, we can talk to people like Liz (R2R Outreach Worker) who can help us to discuss the issue with the person and resolve it.

"Also if we have a particular issue, such as High Street drinking, which is a high impact crime on the business community, we are able to combat it effectively by links with groups such as R2R. The fact is that a lot of public drinkers are from

the homeless community and our partnership work means we can establish good relationships, which the police cannot normally do. In turn, as R2R becomes aware of the powers that PCSOs have, they can make sure rough sleepers know what will happen if they don't behave.

"When we become aware of a problem we can issue a Section 27 Notice, which would exclude a person or people from certain parts of Poole Town for variable lengths of time, but we don't like to do this because it also excludes those people from places where they can get help and food. We are currently trying to set up an anti-social behaviour contract, which will set terms that people have to agree to before they can attend a drop-in, as a new solution to this problem.

"We couldn't succeed without the help of groups like R2R because the homeless community is not naturally open to talking to the police – they would previously walk out if they saw us at a drop-in. I have seen that talk does make a big difference and that people can change – though they have to want to."

"If we have a particular issue we are able to combat it through links with groups such as R2R."

MEET OUR CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

Conical Sphere Web Design

Formed in 2006, Conical Sphere is a group of small enterprises run by Richard McLester. Richard first became involved with Routes To Roots by organising a fundraising concert in 2007. Through Conical Sphere, he also designed the Routes To Roots website which launched at the beginning of 2008.

Conical Sphere is currently divided into two main areas: *Conical Sphere Music* focuses on producing, publishing and working with music; *Conical Sphere Media* provides professional graphic & website design, maintenance and marketing solutions as well as professional product photography.

The most recent addition to the *Conical Sphere* group is the *Conical Sphere Virtual Enterprise Network (VENCS)*. This is a promotional platform aimed at product suppliers and high street shops. Members of the *VENCS* community promote themselves together by linking their products online. They also have access to the whole range of services provided by *Conical Sphere Media* at a subsidised rate. All of the members promote themselves together online through the *Shopping Village* website:

www.Ragtangle.com



Members of *VENCS* range from medium-sized retail outlets such as *Lumin-Essence* in Poole Dolphin Centre (www.lumin-essence.co.uk) to individual artists such as jeweller *Naomi Wilding*

(www.naomiwilding.co.uk). By coming together as one community, businesses are able to dramatically cut costs. New businesses are able to benefit from the already established customer base.

Unlike other large scale networking websites, *Conical Sphere Media* manages all of the content. This means that the site is regularly updated and is also presented in the most professional way possible to



customers. Pages on *Shopping Village* are designed in keeping with the branding of each business. This means that despite a large number of products, none of the products are 'lost' within the website and all receive equal prominence. One example of this is *Fleur De Lys* florist, whose website is www.fleurbouquet.co.uk and whose *VENCS* online shop on Ragtangle.com *Shopping Village* is www.fleurbouquet.co.uk/shop

Routes To Roots has also benefitted from this network. You will see from the Routes To Roots website (www.routestoroots.org) that you can donate safely online by credit card via a bespoke link back to Ragtangle.com *Shopping Village*.

There is no upfront charge to join. Instead, membership of the *VEN* is based on a monthly-negotiated commission on sales, subject to a small minimum commission. This means that *Conical Sphere* has a vested interest in all of the products being promoted. It also means that the costs of joining the network can be offset and covered by additional sales. Most, if not all, of the current network members do not pay directly for any of the services provided.

How Can I Join VENCS?

You can join the virtual enterprise network by calling 07789 344411 or by filling out a very short application online at <http://ven.conicalsphere.com>

Where Can I Find Out More?

You can find all of the information about any of the *Conical Sphere* group at www.conicalsphere.com

R2R OUTREACH

Re-Discovering a Passion for Life

Poole Community Passion Play is a community theatre group, which performs a Passion Play, 'Through the Eyes of a Child', every two years in St Peter's Church and Parkstone United Reformed Church. 'Through the Eyes of a Child' tells the story of the Passion of Christ and its relevance today, and the group is completely open to everyone - faith and non-faith, all ages and abilities.

Two of our clients, Mark and John, joined the cast for this year's Passion Play and it proved to be an amazing experience for them both. Mark was the first to sign up after he heard about the Play in February as a result of PCPP's engagement in our afternoon drop-ins. Mark was given a role as a Jewish guard and Roman soldier and says: "I found it difficult and felt a lot of pressure to get my lines right because I was just 3-4 months into recovery and hadn't worked for 3 years. But it was good fun and a learning experience. I really enjoyed it and overcame my fears."

John heard of the Play from Mark after they both went to our 10th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service and he arranged to go to a rehearsal with him. He was told he could be one of the crowd and "given a frock to wear and four words to say". The first performance was just a few days later. John says: "I have never done anything like that before. The buzz was amazing - 60 people that I had never met in my life, from children of 5 or 6 to guys of 89 and 92. I will do it every time now - that's how good I thought it was. It made me think about what I could do if I put my mind to it. Brilliant. Amazing."



John's Story

John found himself homeless in 2011 after a divorce and losing his job put him into debt and lost him his flat. From March to October he commuted between Poole, Plymouth and Salisbury staying with friends and family. When Poole Council was unable to help because he wasn't regarded as homeless he decided that his only option was to live on the streets so he could get help.

He slept in the loading bay behind the YMCA and the people there gave him a cup of tea every morning.

After one week he was approached by R2R Outreach Worker Liz and volunteer Jeff who asked him about his circumstances and told him about the help available from POST and R2R.

John went to the drop-ins and in January 2012 Liz and Kat went to Poole Council offices with him and, says John, "they had a big impact on what the Council would do for me. It took just from a Thursday to the following Tuesday to find a place, get the paperwork sorted and for me to move in. If I hadn't taken the decision to go on the streets I would never have found out about R2R."

John is still looking for work and applying for jobs. He is interested in volunteering for R2R as "at the end of the day they have got me back on my feet. In October my whole demeanour was rock bottom and now I feel I'm on the first rung of the ladder and have set myself goals to get back where I was."

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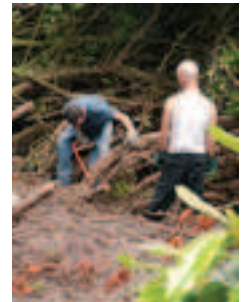
SUMMER APPEAL

Sponsor a Guy for the Summer

“One of the problems that homeless people face is lack of motivation, partly due to boredom. One day a week of doing something worthwhile can be life changing.”

Revd Pat Southgate

R2R has worked with Dorset Wildlife Trust and other local organisations to plan motivational Summer outdoor activities since 2009. We aim to provide one day a week of interesting and worthwhile work in the conservation area over a number of weeks. While engaged in this work, we need to provide the guys and girls with transport and lunch and are appealing for funds to support this. Just £5/person/day or £30/person/activity will make all the difference. Please send your donations to the R2R Office at the address on *page 2*. Thank you.



contd from page 6

Mark's Story

Mark parted from his wife in September 2011 and became homeless, sofa surfing and living in his car rather than on the streets. He began attending a 12 step recovery programme and from there he was introduced to R2R who told him about the drop-ins. “In January”, he says, “I spent 3 nights in the severe weather emergency shelter which gave me the ‘kick in the proverbial’ to get sorted out and find a place to live.” In February 2012 Mark found his accommodation.

Mark was reintroduced to God through his recovery steps and meetings and since then his spirituality has grown. “I go to church regularly now and every day I feel better and that I can deal with life and not blame others. Life is good today - better than it has ever been. All my friends are alcohol and drug free so I have a support network.”

Mark is training to be a chef and has completed his level 1 certificate and is about to take level 2. He's also doing voluntary work with the Salvation Army lunch club. “I want to get off benefits and get work for my own self esteem, stability and to get a bit more money. I love cooking and like working in the kitchen and enjoy talking with the elderly people at the lunch club. I want to go to work and create something.”

Want to Learn More About R2R?

“Since it started, so many people have been helped to get off the streets. They have helped me out financially. They sorted me a second-hand suit for my father's funeral. R2R is more than getting people off the streets. I have got friendship from it. I enjoy the activities that are organised.”
(R, aged 45)

“The service is good, gets the job done quickly... keeps me off the streets... I have been helped a lot with my drink and drugs problems.”
(D, aged 26)

Now that The Rev Pat Southgate, Chair of Routes to Roots, has entrusted the managerial work of R2R to our new GM she is looking forward to speaking to more of you about our work.

If your church, organisation or any other group would like to find out more about what we do, please contact Caroline Foy, our Administrator. Caroline will be pleased to organise a visit from Pat or others of our team. They will be able to give you first-hand information regarding the homeless here in Poole and the way that Routes to Roots works with them.

Tel: 01202 667880 / 07901 387643
Email: office@routestoroots.org

YOU Can Help Us



● Please consider becoming a Volunteer

R2R relies heavily on our small army of volunteers. Opportunities exist in the following areas:

- * Morning Outreach, Afternoon Projects, Evening Drop-ins
- * Befriending Scheme - please contact the office
- * Mobile Library - driving, staffing, including preparing books
- * Outdoor activities - accompanying clients on organised events
- * Providing skills training for clients, health & personal care support to clients
- * Administrative support - helping with mail shots, preparing for events

For details of how you might volunteer, please contact our Administrator on 01202 667880 or at office@routestoroots.org Volunteer application forms are also available at: www.routestoroots.org

● Please consider making a Donation

- * £3 buys a rough sleeper a cooked breakfast
- * £10 buys a sleeping bag
- * £200 helps to make an empty flat a home
- * £4 buys a pair of jeans
- * £40 provides food for an evening drop-in

● Please consider becoming a Member

- * Annual membership costs only £10 for an individual or £25 for a Church, School or Business.

To make a Donation or become a Member, please complete the form below or visit the website to pay securely via the Internet or download a standing order: www.routestoroots.org/updates/volunteering-membership

Membership Application and Donations

I would like to become a Member for £10 / £25 (*circle as appropriate*)

I would like to make a Donation to Routes to Roots to the value of £_____



Name (*please print*): _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

*“When you did it to the
least of these - you did
it to me.”
Matt 25:35*

I am a UK taxpayer and I would like to gift-aid my donation

I enclose a cheque payable to 'Routes to Roots' to the value of £_____

OR Please debit my card to the value of £_____: Mastercard / Visa / Solo / Visa Debit (*circle*)

Card No: _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / 3-Digit Security Code: _ _ _

Valid from: _ _ / _ _ Expiry on: _ _ / _ _

Name (*as it appears on the card*): _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please return to: The Administrator, The R2R Office. Skinner Street URC, Poole BH15 1QR