

FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON

As I write, there is a definite chill in the air. The temperature outside has dropped at least 10 degrees, those hazy, lazy days of Summer are already becoming a distant memory and weather forecasters are using the word autumnal - far too often for my liking!

There's nothing we can do to change the weather, or to prevent one season changing to another. Change is something we all have to face from time to time for one reason or another. In Routes to Roots, change is always embraced as an opportunity to make an improvement, to begin a new venture, sometimes in response to a new challenge. Changes are never made for change's sake but are always made with the desire to change things for the better for our homeless brothers and sisters here in Poole.

Our purpose is always to improve the quality of life of those God has called us to serve and so during this Autumn you can be assured that we will continue to do those things which we can see are providing positive outcomes. Where we can see new opportunities to do things better, then we will not be afraid to make changes. In Routes to Roots 'for everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven'.

This Autumn let us pray that in all we do, we sow seeds of hope that will one day soon reap a harvest of good changes, for all God's children. God bless and keep you.

The Revd Pat Southgate

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



Calling All Online Shoppers

This is a great way for you to buy your Christmas gifts and raise money for R2R at absolutely no expense to yourself. If you already shop online, please consider visiting your favourite retailers through the website of 'Easy Fund Raising'. We have teamed up with this organisation, which is an online shopping directory, to secure a percentage of all you spend for R2R. The site lists over 2,700 businesses, including Amazon, Argos, eBay, The Trainline, Next, Tesco, John Lewis etc. Every time you shop online with one of the businesses on their list, R2R will receive a percentage of what you spend - at no extra cost to you. It is **FREE** to register and it doesn't cost anything to shop and raise funds in this way. Log on to the Easyfundraising site, register yourself and the charity, Routes to Roots, that you would like to support and start shopping. And of course, this is a year-round fundraiser and not just for Christmas.

For ease of access, add the address to your bookmark bar: <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/routestoroots>

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Halifax, New Corporate Supporter
 • After deciding they would like to support a local charity, staff at the Poole branch of Halifax have voted Routes to Roots as the charity they all feel the most strongly about. We welcome their support and will be reporting about it in future issues and on the website.
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To donate to Routes to Roots, text **RTOR41 £2** (£5 / £10 / £££) to **70070** or donate online at: <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/routestoroots-poole>
 Like Routes to Roots on FaceBook at: <http://www.facebook.com/RoutestoRootsHomeless>



FROM THE COMMITTEE

Charitable Incorporated Corporation: New Legal Form for Charities

The CIO was created in response to requests from charities for a new structure which could provide some of the benefits of being a company, but without some of the burdens. The R2R Executive Committee is currently drafting a new constitution to set up 'Routes to Roots CIO' based on a model constitution provided by the Charity Commission and our current constitution. We can't give you an exact timescale of how long the process will take as we are in the hands of the Charity Commission. Once 'Routes to Roots CIO' is set up, with a new charity registration number, we will begin to transfer everything over. Only when everything has safely transferred over, will we close down the current charity. We will let you know once 'Routes to Roots CIO' has been set up and what our new charity registration number is. If anyone has any questions in the meantime, please e-mail: office@routestoroots.org

Sarah Percy



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIR & TRUSTEE	Revd Pat Southgate
TREASURER & TRUSTEE	Sarah Percy
HON SECRETARY	Lynn Foster
TRUSTEE	Kate Mellor
TRUSTEE	Susan Gittins
MEMBER	Jenny Elson
MEMBER	John Parsons
MEMBER (Co-opted)	Ruth Meaden
OUTREACH & SUPPORT	
CO-ORDINATOR	Liz Bailey *
OUTREACH WORKER	Scott Jones *
ADMINISTRATOR	Caroline Foy *
MANAGEMENT SERVICES	Gabi Sanger-Stevens *

Routes to Roots Office
Skinner Street URC, Poole BH15 1RQ
Tel: 01202 667880 / 07901 387643
office@routestoroots.org
www.routestoroots.org

Committee & Trustees elected at R2R AGM on 20 June 2013
* ex officio members of committee

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.

OUR SUPPORTERS



...and many Churches, Christian groups and Businesses in Poole and the surrounding area.

MANAGEMENT REPORT



R2R and BCHA Poole Outreach Support Team 2013 Poole Outreach Support Team							
Service Users	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Rough Sleepers	22	23	24	20	16	20	27
Sofa Surfers	3	11	5	7	15	10	6
Outcomes							
Active Rough Sleepers	22	20	17	12	16	10	23
Sofa surfers	2	2	3	6	15	4	6
Emergency accommodation	0	2	3	3	3	3	3
Planned Moves	1	10	7	5	3	3	2
Unplanned Moves	0	2	2	1	2	10	2
<p>Evening Drop-Ins Jan-Aug 2013 1454 Hot Meals Served</p> <p>40% rough sleepers - 20% sofa surfers - 40% others recently housed</p> <p><i>Hill Street Baptist Church Hall and Skinner Street URC Church Hall</i></p>				<p>Afternoon Drop-Ins Jan-Jul 2013 (closed Aug) 992 Lunches Served</p> <p>40% rough sleepers - 20% sofa surfers - 40% others recently housed</p> <p><i>Skinner Street URC Church Hall</i></p>			
Average Attendance Tuesdays			21	Average Attendance Mondays			19
Average Attendance Fridays			23	Average Attendance Thursdays			18
<p>All Drop-Ins Jan-Aug 2013 40% rough sleepers – 20% sofa surfers – 40% others recently housed <i>Hill Street Baptist Church Hall and Skinner Street URC Church Hall</i></p>							
Number of individual clients throughout the period							201
Maximum number of individuals in any one month (July)							83
Some have been with us for some time, others only occasionally and some for only 1-2 sessions							

Successful Grant Applications

In June 2013 R2R received £2,000 from the trustees of The Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Charitable Foundation towards helping the homeless and newly housed people in Poole. The Foundation funds projects and appeals from local and national charitable bodies registered with the Charity Commission, with special consideration given to any which benefit the community in Dorset and West Hampshire. Thanks also to the Landmark No 2 Settlement Trust for a grant of £7,500.

Gabi Sanger-Stevens



HOLTON LEE – AN ONGOING, REWARDING...

Following our successful involvement in the launch of Holton Lee's Project Flourish, we have been asked to select clients to take up places that become available as the initial volunteers complete their commitment.

In a new move, Holton Lee has granted Routes to Roots a piece of land specifically for our clients to clear and develop as they decide. Clients on our allotment plot are able to create,



plant, grow and harvest, with horticultural assistance from the Holton Lee staff as well as R2R volunteers.

This will be a long-term project, which will provide opportunities for engagement for many years to come.

In offering us this opportunity, Holton Lee's Volunteer Co-ordinator Emma Browning said: "With the allotment plot you are essentially your own bosses; you can come and go whenever you want (when we're open) and do whatever you want on it (with a few rules about sheds, trees etc). I hope this will give more scope for a greater sense of autonomy for the guys and the levels of achievement are bound to be greater as they will have to come up with every idea off their own back and make it work through their own hard work."

Three Project Flourish 'graduates', John Parsons (new Executive Committee member – *see page 7*), Sid and George, are the first to take part in the allotment scheme. They are already hard at work, as their plan and these extracts from John's weekly report show.

Client's at our drop-ins enjoyed the first fruits of their labours, fresh lettuce, at the end of September.

WEEK 1	DUG TRENCHES AND FERTILISED ALLOTMENT. TOOK 3 DAYS' WORK TO COMPLETE – 4 HOURS PER DAY.
WEEK 2	VISITED SYDENHAMS, JEWSONS, B&Q, WICKES, SOUTH COAST BUILDING PRODUCTS TO LOOK FOR TREATED TIMBER TO USE AS SURROUND FOR ALLOTMENT. ORDERED WITH SYDENHAMS. UNDER ESTIMATED SIZES BUT RESOLVED THIS BY UTILISING SPACE LEFT TO BE USED AS COMPOST AREA, AREA FOR TOOL BOX AND AREA FOR FLOWERS. SYDENHAMS DELIVERED TREATED TIMBER. CUT AND SECURED TIMBER USING WOODEN POSTS SUPPLIED FOC BY SYDENHAMS.
WEEK 3	TOOK PLANTS TO ALLOTMENT. LEVELLED ALLOTMENT AREA TO PREPARE GROUND FOR PLANTING. STARTED BUILDING AND COMPLETED COMPOST AREA. BUILT COVERS FOR EACH COMPOST AREA. PLANTED CARROTS, BROAD BEANS, PEPPERS AND ONIONS. SECURED TOPS TO COVERS FOR COMPOST AREA. PLANTED LETTUCE.

...AND FLOURISHING PROJECT



*Edging for the allotment
and compost box*



R2R ALLOTMENT 1 ST YEAR CROP PLANT		
20/8	4 ROWS	POTATOES
16/8	1 ROW	ROUND CABBAGE
16/8	2 ROWS	CAULIFLOWER
16/8	3 ROWS	SAVOY CABBAGE
16/8	3 ROWS	BEETROOT
10/8	2 ROWS	LETTUCE
8/8	2 ROWS	ONIONS
8/8	1 ROW	BROAD BEANS, PEPPERS
8/8	2 ROWS	CARROTS

You can follow John's Holton Lee Allotment Diary on FaceBook:
<http://www.facebook.com/RoutestoRootsHomeless>

WEEK 4	WENT TO HOMEBASE BRANKSOME, PURCHASED MORE PLANTS. STARTED PUTTING NETTING AROUND ALLOTMENT – SECURED TO BOTTOM END. WATERED ALLOTMENT, PLANTED BEETROOT, SAVOY CABBAGE, CAULIFLOWER AND ROUND CABBAGE.
WEEK 5	MEETING WITH JUSTIN FROM HOLTON LEE TO DISCUSS PROJECT. WATERED AND WEDED ALLOTMENT.
WEEK 6	REPOSITIONED ALL NETTING AND SECURED FOR EASY REMOVAL FOR WEEDING AND TIDYING. FINISHED OFF NETTING, PUT BORDER AROUND TO SECURE NETTING, TO STOP ANIMALS, ETC GETTING IN.



FUNDRAISERS, VOLUNTEERS, DONORS



Carnival Goers Spare a Thought and Some Cash for R2R



Casey Townsend and friends 'did' Swanage Carnival in aid of R2R by dressing up their Volkswagen and, with a couple of R2R collection tins, raising £26.40 plus a £10 on-line donation.

Welcome

John Parsons, Committee Member



I found myself homeless in 2011 after a divorce and losing my job put me into debt and lost me my flat. I slept in the loading bay behind the YMCA until found by the R2R Outreach Team who told me about R2R's Drop-Ins and the help available. R2R quickly

helped me into accommodation and are still supporting me. I became interested in volunteering for R2R as, at the end of the day, they have got me back on my feet. I am participating in the volunteer conservation work at Holton Lee and have even taken up acting in the Poole Passion Play. This has made me think about what I can do if I put my mind to it. I now hope to do more to help the charity and the guys as a committee member.

Thanks To Our Generous Donors

- * All Saints Branksome: £2088.21 - raised through their Lent project
- * Broadstone Methodists: £75
- * Buckland Road Baptist: £90 - raised through charity church lunch
- * Canford Magna PCC: £145 - regular gift
- * Rotary Club of Poole Bay: £150 - towards our outdoor programme for the guys at Holton Lee
- * St Lukes Church: £187 - raised from a craft evening
- * Upton Methodist Church: £426.32
- * Winterborne Zelston PCC: £70.20



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We'd Like to Tell You a Story...
...the story of Routes to Roots.
We can come and speak on any day, to all ages, in all places. Please contact Caroline Foy, our Administrator, to arrange a visit.
Tel: 01202 667880 / 07901 387643
Email: office@routestoroots.org
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AT WORK WITH OUR CLIENTS

Snippets from R2R Team Diary



June 2013: A client shopped with us, then prepared and cooked apple crumble with sultanas, cinnamon and custard for the 20+ people at a Monday afternoon drop-in. Held a crisis intervention with a client to enable him to keep his tenancy. Funded the bus to London Victoria for a client to attend job interviews.

July 2013: Supported a client with doctor's appointment. Positive result from Poole Council regarding a client's housing appeal. Supported a client's case at an ASBO meeting. Constructive meeting with Police from Safer Neighbourhood Team to improve

joint working. Great evening out for clients at a BBQ at Holton Lee (site of outdoor activity project).

August 2013: Obtained a 1-year temporary bus pass for a client with walking difficulties. Supported six different clients with housing applications to the council. Working with a client on an ESA benefit appeal. Delighted to report that a client has got a new job. Supported a client on a visit to Alderney Hospital. Our clients are progressing well on their outdoor volunteer activity at Holton Lee and have researched and priced suppliers and planted their first set of veggies. Following our intervention, we managed to prevent a client from losing his accommodation.

September 2013: Registered and supported female client to GP evening appointment. Housed client using a grant from Borough of Poole Discretionary Fund. Delighted to say that client has found employment and placed a holding deposit on a room. Assessed three new clients. Sadly learned that a street homeless client has passed away and we are now liaising with family over the funeral. Signed up a new client volunteer for Project Flourish at Holton Lee. Liaised with HMP Hewell for homeless lady whose partner is charged and detained there. Helped to clear the flat of another recently deceased client with his resettlement officer.

Follow the R2R Team Diary on FaceBook:

<http://www.facebook.com/RoutestoRootsHomeless>

You CAN Help Us

For information about becoming a member, volunteering or making a donation please visit the R2R website.

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

Membership, donation and gift aid form: <http://www.routestoroots.org/updates/volunteering-membership>

Volunteer application form: <http://www.routestoroots.org/updates/volunteering>