

Charity No. 1155945

www.routestoroots.org

A 'GOOD FRIDAY' AT ROUTES TO ROOTS

Every year on Good Friday, Christians from churches all over Poole, carrying the Cross of Jesus, join in a walk of witness which culminates in an act of worship in the town centre. This year the walk ended at URC Skinner Street, which gave us a wonderful opportunity to invite our friends who come to our Drop-Ins at Skinner Street to join us. Together we walked, we worshipped, we ate hot cross buns and, when everyone else had gone, we held our own short service of remembrance.

We remembered and prayed for all our friends in R2R who have sadly passed away since we first started. It turned out to be an immensely moving time as each projected picture evoked spontaneous memories, sometimes with smiles and laughter and at other times with tearful eyes. As well as our former clients, we also remembered people like Dot our wonderful volunteer who was a much loved mother figure to the guys on the streets and Colin Harley our legendary outreach worker who inspired so many clients



and volunteers alike, with his sacrificial giving of himself in the service of others.

Remembering them reminded me of the influence all our volunteers can have, on all of us.

I hope this Good Friday walk of witness and remembrance will become for R2R a yearly event, which sends out a

strong message to those we endeavour to help, that even when we can no longer see them, we will never forget them.

The Revd Pat Southgate, Chair of Routes to Roots and Chaplain to the Homeless in Poole

Routes to Roots AGM

Thursday 12 June
7.30pm
Skinner Street URC
Main Church

This is the final AGM of the 'old' charity

Calling All Online Shoppers

Buy online and raise money for R2R *at absolutely no cost to you* by visiting your favourite retailers through 'Easy Fund Raising'. Log on to the site, register yourself and the charity, Routes to Roots, that you would like to support and start shopping. Every time you buy from one of the businesses on their list, R2R will receive a percentage of what you spend.

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/routestoroots>

To donate online, or by text or to download an R2R donation form, please visit:

<http://www.routestoroots.org/updates/donations>

Like Routes to Roots on FaceBook at: <http://www.facebook.com/RoutestoRootsHomeless>



FROM THE COMMITTEE

Following our registration as a CIO, we would like to remind all our supporters of a number of actions that will ensure that their support continues smoothly:

- * Become a member of the new R2R
- * If you have set up a standing order, please do a new one with our new details
- * If you have set up a legacy to benefit us, please notify your executors of our new name and charity number
- * Continue to support us

New R2R bank details: Routes to Roots (Poole) CIO, Account No. 47668868, Sort Code 30-96-73, Lloyds Bank, High Street, Poole, Dorset BH15 1AJ.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHAIR & TRUSTEE	Revd Pat Southgate
TREASURER & TRUSTEE	Sarah Percy
HON SECRETARY	Lynn Foster
TRUSTEE	Gabi Sanger-Stevens
TRUSTEE	Susan Gittins
TRUSTEE	Kate Mellor

STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE

TRUSTEES <i>plus</i>	
VOLUNTEER REP	Jenny Elson
CLIENT REP	John Parsons
SOUP RUN REP	Ruth Meaden
PROJECTS CO-ORDINATOR	TBA*
ADMINISTRATOR	Caroline Foy *

Routes to Roots (Poole) CIO
R2R Office, Skinner Street URC, Poole BH15 1RQ
Tel: 01202 667880 / 07901 387643
office@routestoroots.org
www.routestoroots.org

* ex officio members of Stakeholder Committee

Founded on Christian principles, R2R seeks to help all homeless, newly homed and vulnerably housed adults in Poole regardless of their faith. We provide basic necessities at drop-ins; organise indoor and outdoor activities; and assist those who are housed to remain in their tenancy. We aim to achieve long-term outcomes for our clients through motivational and well-being projects which boost self-worth, expand and develop skills, promote a sense of belonging and encourage integration into the local community.

OUR SUPPORTERS



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

MANAGEMENT REPORT



Routes to Roots, in association with The Fisherman Café and for a short period The Kings Arms, was again able to provide a much needed hot breakfast to rough sleepers over the winter months. This year the service ran from the end of November 2013 to the beginning of April 2014, a shorter period of 18 weeks in comparison to 21 weeks last year when the weather in April was severe.

In that shorter period, the number of individuals assisted has risen to 40, the average number of rough sleepers per week accessing the service has increased by 33% and the number of breakfasts claimed has risen by 38%, indicating an increasing need amongst our clients.

We are grateful to The Fisherman Café, The Kings Arms and to all those funders who have made it possible to make this service available to rough sleepers. This proves a real lifeline to our clients.

When asked why it was important to have a cooked breakfast, one of our clients Paul Ford said: "Five nights out of seven there is only cold food available – it gives you one hot meal a day at least – some nights can be rough and it's good to get camaraderie back – it does lift you after a crap night". Paul was recently housed in emergency accommodation and whilst he was delighted with this, one thing he did miss was having the hot breakfast and the opportunity to catch up with mates.



Pictured above is one of our rough sleepers enjoying breakfast at The Fisherman Café.

Gabi Sanger-Stevens

BIG BREAKFAST Year on Year Comparison	2012-13	2013-14
Number of weeks service provided	21	18
Average number of clients per week	9	12
Number of individuals assisted	39	40
Number of breakfasts claimed	604	826
Total cost inclusive project management	£2,416	£3,717

ALL R2R DROP-INS Apr 2013-Mar 2014		Evening Drop-Ins Apr 2013-Mar 14 Hot Meals Served	Afternoon Drop-Ins Apr 2013 -Mar 2014 Lunches Served
Total no. of individual clients	277	2391	1794
Max no. of individuals in any one month (October 2013)	100		

- 40% rough sleepers - 20% sofa surfers - 40% others recently housed



FAREWELL TO POST

R2R in partnership with Bournemouth Churches Housing Organisation delivered outreach services (POST) to rough sleepers in Poole from 2009 until April 2014 when Poole and Bournemouth Borough Councils jointly contracted with another organisation, CRI, to deliver this service across the whole conurbation. We would like to thank all our volunteers and outreach workers who contributed to the considerable success of this service, which was widely acclaimed for its good practice.

Service Users	Apr 13	May 13	Jun 13	Jul 13	Aug 13	Sep 13	Oct 13	Nov 13	Dec 13	Jan 14	Feb 14	Mar 14
Rough Sleepers	20	14	20	27	25	30	27	23	22	20	21	19
Sofa Surfers	7	13	10	6	4	6	12	9	11	5	4	5
Outcomes												
Active Rough Sleepers	12	12	10	23	22	23	15	14	12	13	15	11
Sofa surfers	6	7	4	6	4	3	8	9	3	8	4	2
Emergency accommodation	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	3	4	3	3	3
Planned Moves	5	3	3	0	3	4	8	6	4	3	2	6
Unplanned Moves	1	2	10	2	0	3	8	0	10	6	1	3

Tribute from Borough of Poole

Dear Sarah (BCHA), Mark (BCHA) & Gabi (R2R)

Just wanted to thank you and all those that have worked for POST over the past few years. The commitment, time and energy you have given to rough sleeper group in Poole is very much recognised and appreciated. There are too many individuals to name that have benefited from the support and assistance the service has helped to change and turn individual lives around. I'm sure they will also extend thanks.

The service has helped to significantly engage and influence a range of stakeholders, provide person-centred support in a multi-agency setting, to a complex group which is difficult to achieve, let alone sustain. Although there is much work still to do, the council recognises the progress made by the service in recent years (& is appreciative of your cooperation with CRI in the handover).

Thank you again and I'm sure there will be opportunities to work together in the future.

Regards
Ben Tomlin, Housing Services Manager

Tribute from a Client

Following the departure of R2R's Outreach & Support Co-Ordinator in December 2013, the charity appointed a part-time Outreach Worker to complete the end of our Outreach Contract with Poole Council.

We were fortunate to find an excellent candidate, Alan Cook, from among our team of volunteers and within a few short weeks he obviously made his mark, as he reports:

"I was walking down Poole High Street and a client stopped me. He told me he had just been to see my colleague because it was her last day. He then said that when I was a volunteer I was a bit reserved and didn't do a lot, and he didn't really like me. Since I have been employed though by R2R, I am now a different person.

"He now likes and trusts me and feels he can tell me anything. He also said that I would do all I possibly can to resolve any problem he might have, and that I always do it with a smile."

Alan has transferred to CRI under TUPE to continue the good work.

WHAT NEXT FOR R2R?



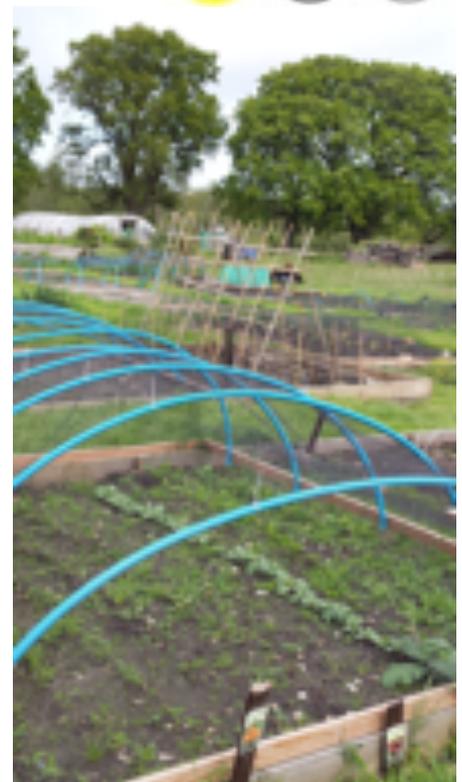
Many of our friends and supporters have posed this question. Early morning outreach services have always been just a part of what we do and we now feel that we have a great opportunity to concentrate on actions that will promote the reintegration of rough sleepers, vulnerably housed people and the newly homed into society.

Specifically, R2R will continue with our twice weekly Evening and Afternoon Drop-Ins at Skinner Street URC, our thriving Holton Lee Outdoor Project and Winter Hot Breakfast provision for rough sleepers. In addition we are currently interviewing for a Projects Co-Ordinator to plan and implement further projects and activities aimed at helping our clients move back into 'normal' society by providing support, guidance and skills training.

Core Work

1. **Outreach:** R2R delivers outreach at our drop-ins and at Poole soup runs. We help direct rough sleepers to the appropriate agencies that can provide them with assistance in resolving the problems that are keeping them on the streets, for example introducing those with drug addictions to the drug action team at a drop-in. We also inform rough sleepers about services and help provided by R2R and what help is provided under the contract from the Bournemouth and Poole Borough Councils and where and how to access it.
2. **Providing Basic Necessities of Life:** R2R distributes food at drop-ins, breakfast to rough sleepers during the cold weather months, clothing, sleeping bags, and move-in packs for those moving into accommodation, as needed. We also signpost rough sleepers to the Salvation Army shower facility, their breakfast provision and local soup runs.
3. **Prevention and Social Inclusion:** R2R works with those who are currently housed to help minimise the risk of repeated homelessness. We seek out and give support to those who are in danger of losing their tenancies through whatever means, such as non-payment of top-up fees, etc. Additionally, we encourage and work with clients who are struggling with addictions, so that they do not lose their housing. We also work with those who might choose to give up their housing because of their isolation and loneliness by encouraging their social participation and living skills.
4. **Life Skills and Wellbeing:** R2R provides projects to develop self esteem, self-awareness, social skills, and employment skills through participation in team working, volunteering, and training. We also provides creative activities including art workshops, drama workshops, cooking, etc.
5. **Engaging the Local Community:** R2R offers opportunities to volunteer, support and fundraise in order to involve groups, businesses and individuals in Poole in our vision and mission. We also give presentations and talks to inform and inspire businesses, schools, local community groups, and churches.
6. **Advocacy:** R2R monitors the current situation for homeless and vulnerably housed people in Poole and acts as an advocate for them with police, local government and services.

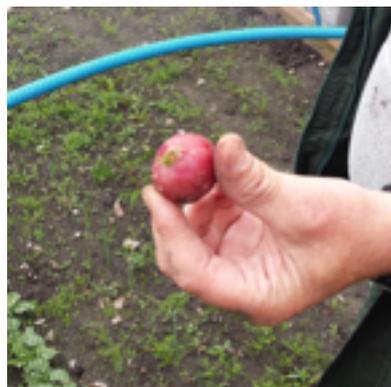
HOLTON LEE ALLOTMENTS - YEAR 2



“It was great to go out to the allotments at the start of May and see the work that the guys have been doing. Last year was a first run at trying something which none of them had ever done before – and they have definitely progressed from those early beginnings.

This year both allotments are in full production, with everything from radishes to runner beans, broccoli to beetroot, potatoes to peas and much, much more. Sid, John and George have all been working hard since the end of March to prepare the ground after a very wet winter and to get seeds started in the little greenhouse they have on the plot. They have been rewarded with plants coming up strongly in the ground, some ready in the greenhouse to move out into the allotment and even some ready for harvesting.

Sid pulled a wonderful radish just to check and, knowing that I liked them, gave it to me – I took it home, washed it and then munched away very happily.



The guys will be bringing their produce in to Skinner Street on a

regular basis to add to the veg for the drop-in meals. It's great to know that not only are they enjoying themselves doing this work but they are bringing the benefits of organic fresh veg to our other clients. Well done to all of you – you're doing a great job.”

Gabi Sanger-Stevens

Donations

In March 2014 the pupils of St Mary's Primary School Swanage were inspired by the Rucksack Project to deliver a pile of donations for our clients.



.....
• **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

Afternoon Drop-Ins

We are eagerly awaiting the appointment of our new Projects Co-Ordinator to drive forward a series of motivational activities and well-being projects for individual and groups of clients.

In the meantime, we are regularly setting up an arts table and putting out board games from chess to dominoes, and found that clients are keen to participate. We are also trying to get a poetry/prose writing venture off the ground.

PC Simon Young, part of the Safer Neighbourhood Team for Poole Old Town, re-started 'Dialogue' sessions on Thursdays. Simon has regular contact with many of our clients. Dialogue was very well received in the past and aims to improve relations both between the police and clients and between the clients and the community, especially with the summer months approaching and opportunities for inappropriate behaviour increasing.

Sarah Templeton, a qualified Counsellor, is also volunteering with us on Thursdays. Sarah is assisting with the Dialogue sessions as well as offering one-to-one talking therapies for clients.

Snippets from R2R Team Diary

February 2014

* Assessed five new clients in just five days * Two Saints, who have a supported lodgings service in Poole visited the R2R office to see how we operate * Attended a Core Group meeting at Poole Council * Supported a client at a Job Centre interview * Attended a meeting about a proposed Clothing Voucher Scheme * Poole Addictions Community Team (PACT) visited to find out more about R2R and our activities * Helped a new resident into E-bed accommodation * After four months of trying to engage with a rough sleeper in the Ashley Cross area, they finally came to the office for help * Met CRI, the new providers of outreach services in Poole from April, to discuss handover and their plans

March 2014

* Funded a return train ticket for a client to take his exams in CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate) in London * Took a client to Poole Council about housing * Liaison with CRI to ensure smooth handover of Poole early morning outreach services to rough sleepers * Meeting with Christian Entrepreneurs * Received notice of the death of one of our clients * Discussions with SMART (Substance Misuse Assessment and Referral Team) about attendances at R2R Drop-Ins * Attended JSA Claimant Commitment workshop at Poole Council

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, from April to March, costs only £10 for an individual or £25 for a Church, School or Business (pro rata if you join during the membership year).

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

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