

Charity No. 1155945

www.routestoroots.org

PASTURES NEW FOR ROUTES TO ROOTS

Ask most people to name their favourite Psalm and I wouldn't be at all surprised if they chose the 23rd Psalm. For who doesn't want to be assured that our God promises to "maketh us to lie down in green pastures and to restore our souls"? And that is exactly what we are on the verge of being able to do, with God's grace, for three of our currently homeless clients. Through the generosity of a homeless charity aptly named Green Pastures, we now have the ability to lease a property bought by them, to take three people off the streets and give them a roof over their heads. Compared to the stone cold concrete of a town centre car park, where they are most likely to currently reside, surely it will feel like they are lying down in green pastures and hopefully their souls will be restored!

For Routes to Roots this is of course pastures new and we go into it with our eyes open and well aware of the challenges ahead. We will need your prayer support and the power of God's spirit within us to enable this to be a new start in life for homeless people here in Poole. In order to effect a positive change for them, this will need to be supported accommodation and R2R will be committed to providing that support. We have been assured by Green Pastures that they intend that this property will be the first of many they are willing to obtain for us and we are grateful to them for their faith in us.

The amazingly good work carried out by GP was initially inspired by Pastor Pete (below), who began by using his own money to house a homeless family who turned up at his church in Southport. He then went on the



found the charity, Green Pastures, which to-date has housed 669 homeless people.

Please take time to look at the Green Pastures website, <http://greenpastures.net/>, and be amazed at what one man who responded to God's call to be a good shepherd, has been enabled to do.

Please pray for us that this new venture will succeed in making us good shepherds too. Always being prepared to go after the lost sheep and bring them home to pastures new.

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

Membership Renewal Reminder: membership numbers do support our applications for funding so please don't forget to renew your membership, or consider taking one out.

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 to Routes to Roots, text **RTOR42 £2** (£5 / £10 / £££) to **70070**

or donate online at: <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/routestoroots-poolocio>

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



FROM THE COMMITTEE: NEW MEMBERSHIP FEE

We should like to take this opportunity to remind you that subscription is renewable annually on 1 April so we would encourage you to make sure you have set up your renewal.

We have maintained our membership costs for several years, being mindful of the austerity we all face. However, as the costs of carrying out all our activities to help our clients have increased we have decided to make a small increase in individual membership to £24.00 per annum or £2.00 per month, which we are sure you will agree is still a very reasonable figure. Church or Organisation membership has been increased to £48.00 per annum or £4.00 per month.

Regular monthly income helps us to plan our finances and if you set up your subscription through a standing order this will also help to minimise our admin costs. A standing order form is available from our office or website and you can arrange payment on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis, as you prefer.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

FINANCE ADMINISTRATION	Caroline Foy
MANAGEMENT SERVICES	Germann Keeling Ltd
PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION	Neil Robertson

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

Patron: The Right Reverend Dr Graham Kings, Mission Theologian in the Anglican Communion

OUR SUPPORTERS



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.

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

MANAGEMENT REPORT



ALL R2R DROP-INS, JANUARY - MAY 2015

Evening Drop-Ins Hot Meals Served	Afternoon Drop-Ins Lunches Served	Total No. of Individuals Served	Max No. of Individuals in any One Month (Jan)
896	606	151	76
18% less than in the same period 2014	19% less than in the same period 2014	0.007% less than in the same period 2014	
BIG BREAKFAST <i>With thanks to The Fisherman's Café</i>		2013-14 (18 weeks)	2014-15 (18 weeks)
Average number of clients per week		12	13
Number of individuals assisted in period		40	47
Number of breakfasts claimed		826	755

Holidays in April and May as always impacted on the number of afternoon drop-ins and in addition we were closed due to the elections on 7th May. The total number of individuals accessing our services remains very close to the numbers in 2014 (151 this year, 152 last year).

I should like to express my sincere thanks to the team of Early Morning Outreach volunteers who assisted me over the winter months: Liz Bailey, Chris Harwood, Mark Stubbs, Iain Scott, Phill Ricketts and Neil Robertson. We went out from 6am verifying those rough sleeping and bringing them a morning coffee, issuing them with Breakfast Vouchers and reminding them about Routes to Roots' services. My thanks also go to the Salvation Army for welcoming me to issue vouchers at their breakfast on the Friday mornings. I also attended the R2R Friday evening drop-ins to issue vouchers to anyone we had not found through the Early Morning Outreach or the Salvation Army.

We were able to provide breakfasts for more clients than ever this Winter although the number of vouchers used was actually lower. Clients recognise that if they have managed to sofa surf on some days then they perhaps do not need to use their vouchers or it may be that someone is just passing through and so does not need a full week. It is worth noting that if all 1,266 vouchers issued had been used we would have needed £5,697 to fund this.

Gabi Sanger-Stevens

Donations Needed Now

- Socks, socks and more socks
- Good Quality Trainers & Boots - Men's and Ladies'
- Men's Jeans & Jogging Bottoms (waist 32" to 34")
- Men's Boxers (small, medium)
- Ladies' underwear (10-14)
- Ladies' Jeans & Jogging Bottoms (10-16)
- Sleeping bags

Thank you to all who have donated. We now have sufficient duvets, pillows and blankets.



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Poole Bay Sponsored Walks and Family Fun Day

Sunday 5 July

11.00am – 4.00pm

Baiter Park

Fun Day: Free

Walks: £10 Registration

This is a fun event for local people supporting lots of local charities. Entry is free and parking is at the public car park off Catalina Drive. The day begins at 11.00am with the massed start of the sponsored walkers doing either 12km or 14km walks. Both walks start at Baiter Park; walk along Parkstone Bay promenade to Whitecliff; Sandbanks Road to Shore Road Beach via Lilliput and Evening Hill; back of Beach Promenade to Branksome Chine, Here the shorter route passes into the Chine and returns to Baiter. Throughout the day refreshments are available with local youngsters providing entertainment, climbing walls, bouncy castles and sumo wrestling. This year R2R is not one of the chosen charities but this is still a great opportunity for our supporters to participate. Can you walk in aid of Routes to Roots? Can you get people to sponsor you? Will you sponsor someone else? Will you pay the £10 registration fee for one of our guys to walk?

Register to walk at: www.poolebayrotary.org

Holton Lee Community Day

Saturday 19 September

12 noon - 5.00pm

Holton Lee

Livability, who have taken over at Holton Lee, are holding a community day with a thanksgiving service to show what they do and to provide an opportunity for charities to come together to share information with the wider public, and even get volunteers etc. It will also be a 'fun day' for kids and adults with a mix of Christian and non Christian charities.

As allotment holders and 'Friends' R2R plans to participate, so save the date.

Routes to Roots (Poole) CIO AGM

Thursday 9 July

5.30pm

Skinner Street URC

We invite you to our first AGM as a fully-fledged Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). At the AGM we will give an account of our activities and achievements over the past year and report on our financial situation. We will also take the opportunity to thank you for your support, whether monetary, in time or in kind – we rely on you to keep our work going and would particularly ask for your prayers for all our supporters, workers and volunteers, and especially for the homeless and vulnerably housed whom we seek to help.

FUNdraising Team

Volunteers are needed to help with FUNdraising events. There are lots of opportunities for raising money towards our work with FUN events that can be enjoyed by all. Last year we held a successful wine tasting quiz night. Other supporters have organised auctions, concerts, quizzes, cake sales and raffles.

We are looking for energetic people who enjoy a bit of a laugh and are willing to get stuck in with practical fundraising events and with encouraging others to fund raise for us. Ideas – dramatic, quirky, elaborate, simple: we'll consider all suggestions.

We already have organisations that are willing to support us with events, we just need you to make up the FUN team to make it happen. There will be some meetings to get things organised and then participation in the actual events.

Ask the office for an application form or download from the website: <http://www.routestoroots.org/updates/volunteering>

Want to find out more about this, contact Kate via email at katemellor@aol.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Gabi literally jumped for joy to receive £3000 to provide supplies and help feed Poole's rough sleepers. The donation was proudly awarded by Spectrum Housing Group's Three Counties Community Forum who recognise charities and local organisations who work within the local community. The donation was made to support our work with The Fisherman's Café in Poole Quay, helping to ensure rough sleepers start their day with a hot meal. Pat Adams, Chair of the Three Counties Community Forum, said: "The Forum receive many applications throughout the year but this particular one caught our attention as Routes to Roots does such worthwhile work within our community. The thought that there are still rough sleepers, cold and hungry, on our streets in Poole is heart-breaking and Spectrum were certainly quick to try and help Routes to Roots where we can."

Other grants have been received from Canford Cliffs Land Society (£5000), George Temperance Trust (£1800), Souter Charitable Trust (£3000), Trelix Charitable Trust (£2000) and Valentine Charitable Trust (£5000).

...And Locally

Many thanks to Dan and his colleagues at Big Yellow Self Storage in Poole who have confirmed their continued support of R2R by providing us with storage facilities, valued at £1981 a year. Big Yellow has a company discount scheme for R2R members,

volunteers and church supporters. Mention R2RBY01 when discussing your storage requirements for a 10% discount off their current rates in addition to any other current offers e.g. First 8 weeks at 50% off.

For more information call Big Yellow Self Storage on 01202 846600, email: poole@bigyellow.co.uk or visit: www.bigyellow.co.uk



St Dunstan's Church Youth Club presented R2R Trustee Gabi with a cheque for £500 at a Monday Afternoon Drop-In. Joining the youngsters were club leader Chris Trent and Michael Tomlinson, since elected Conservative MP for Mid Dorset and North Poole.

St Mary's RC contributed £302 from their collection. St Luke's Mothers' Union gave £100 plus clothing and sleeping bags. Fiona and Roger sent 30 Easter Eggs for the guys.



And £22 from Sapphire – the same young lady who drew the Christmas card featured in our winter newsletter. She writes: "I gain points when I complete my Postal Bible School lessons and I wanted to transfer my points to money for the homeless, instead of earning a prize. I feel that God is asking me to support the people who don't have the home or protection that I have. I feel sad when I see homeless people, and I want to do something to make their lives happier. I hope someone will enjoy this gift."



HOMELESSNESS ON THE RISE



Official figures show that homelessness is rising – up by 12,000 in 2013-14 continuing an upward trend since 2009-10 – with rough sleeping also on the increase, and soaring numbers of homeless families in temporary accommodation. Official estimates of rough sleeper numbers in England in 2013 were 2,414 – up 37% since 2010.

The scale of hidden homelessness is evident in the 2013 estimate of 2.23 million households containing concealed single persons ('sofa surfers') in England.

The Homelessness Monitor 2015 argues that these official figures underplay the scale and complexity of homelessness in England because they do not capture the hundreds of thousands of people who are given informal help by authorities. Latest government statistics show 52,000 households were formally recorded as homeless in 2013-14, but 280,000 families were given some sort of assistance by authorities because they were at risk of losing their home.

The study finds:

- Housing benefit caps and shortages of social housing have led to homeless families increasingly being housed outside their local area. 'Out of district' placements, mainly in London, increased by 26% over the past year, and now account for 24% of the national total (up from only 11% in 2010-11).

- Welfare reforms such as the bedroom tax contributed to an 18% rise in repossession actions by social landlords in 2013-14, a trend expected to rise as arrears increase and temporary financial support shrinks.
- Housing benefit cuts played a large part in the third of all cases of homelessness last year caused by landlords ending a private rental tenancy, and made it harder for those who lost their home to be rehoused.

(The Homelessness Monitor 2015, latest report in a five-year study published by Crisis and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation)

R2R numbers on homelessness are broadly in line with the national statistics and housing shortages for our client group are particularly severe in Poole. Sadly, many of those who are on our streets are long-term rough sleepers or people who recycle into homelessness. Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payments are already being introduced in this area and will undoubtedly increase the problems for our clients – even if it is only having to fill in yet another book of paperwork in order to continue claiming their benefits. We shall be monitoring the number of people we help.

A new leaflet from R2R provides information on all the help available in Poole for the homeless and vulnerably housed. Copies can be obtained from the R2R office or downloaded from the R2R website 'Schedule of Help available in Poole': <http://www.routestoroots.org/updates/soup-run-schedules>



- • • • • Please do remember to mention R2R if •
- you use any of the great local and •
- national companies / organisations that •
- sponsor us. You can find a full list on our •
- website under 'Links'. •
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R2R ON FILM

We have been extremely fortunate to be given two free videos to help us attract greater support for our activities.

Neighbourly

Late last year, Ryan from Neighbourly spent a day with our clients and volunteers at a drop-in and out at Holton Lee, resulting in an emotional short video where our clients have the opportunity to speak out for themselves. Neighbourly is the first social network to connect local projects and community needs with companies ready to help with funds and volunteering programmes.

R2R has put up two projects on their website: our annual appeal for money to fund our winter breakfast for rough sleepers and an appeal for money to buy a minibus to enable us to take more clients to outdoor projects such as at Holton Lee.

Visit their site to take a look at their work: <https://www.neighbourly.com/>

You can view the video 'Stephen was homeless' on our website, on any page - link is at the bottom of the right column below upcoming events.

It is also on our FaceBook site: <https://www.facebook.com/RoutestoRootsHomeless>

Or go directly to: <https://vimeo.com/118029209>

Event Alchemy

In February Jules and Andy from Event Alchemy joined us at our Drop-Ins to film and interview R2R volunteers in action. This shoot formed part of a short video, which the company has made for us as a gift. They also joined us on early morning outreach when we distributed breakfast vouchers and at The Fisherman's Café.



The small company (only three employees) produces videos and corporate conferences and has been based in Lower Parkstone since 2013. When he approached us to make his offer, Julian Ward said: "I have been looking for a charity which is local and helps people directly and you seem to fit the bill perfectly."

Event Alchemy also made a donation of £200 to R2R in December, in lieu of sending out Christmas cards, and brought along three filled rucksacks for us to distribute. www.eventalchemy.co.uk/

You can view this video which focuses more on the work done by our volunteers at: <https://vimeo.com/>

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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. We have a new set of five banners donated by Quadrant2Design to bring along and now two new videos.

Please contact us to arrange a visit.

Tel: 01202 667880

Email: office@routestoroots.org

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AT WORK WITH OUR CLIENTS

Over the last six months it has become increasingly evident that our clients are in need of additional support. Providing projects for them to be involved with is important and certainly helps with motivation, and we shall continue to offer this where appropriate. However, there is much more that we must do that is of immediate benefit to our clients:

- talking through problems in a friendly non-judgemental environment
- helping them to make phone calls for benefit claims
- helping them to talk with health professionals
- accompanying them to court hearings or the hospital
- informing them about the work of other agencies and the help they can offer
- helping with internet access for benefit claims
- helping them look for housing and make contact with landlords

All of this takes up considerable time from our staff and volunteers and we are currently recruiting and training a team of volunteers so that we can open the office for a few hours each weekday to provide these vital services.

This work is now becoming more and more important for our rough sleepers as CRI Bournemouth and Poole Rough Sleeper Team has reduced the drop-in hours available in Poole. They will now be operating only as listed below:

- Monday at Salvation Army, 8am-9am
- Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at St James' Annex, 8am-9am
- Friday at the Salvation Army breakfast between 10am-11am

CRI has stated: "The rationale for these changes relates purely to maximising resources to ensure that we can provide the most effective service possible for our client group. Reducing the drop-in times means that we can be more flexible and responsive, direct more time to street outreach (and hard to reach/non-engaging clients) and shape our service according to presenting needs."

We shall be keeping a close eye on how clients are affected by these changes.



Welcome to Dean Whale, R2R Honorary Treasurer

Dean is married to Elaine with two children, Katie and Lucy. As a Management Accountant at Sunseeker, he is happy to contribute his experience to help Routes to Roots. His interests include gym, sport, reading, travel and playing with his kids!

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 £24 for an individual or £48 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 forms: <http://www.routestoroots.org/updates/volunteering>