



Night Shelter or Hostel Desperately Needed in Poole

During the summer Poole Council produced a PSPO (Public Space Protection Order) which, if it is passed, will result in those who sleep rough in our town being fined £100. This proposal has outraged many Poole residents and churches. Petitions have been signed and letters written, including from our own Patron, Bishop Karen. In my own letter sent on behalf of R2R I said the following:

"We urge you to think again about No 4 of your proposal which would criminalise homeless people from Poole, for sleeping rough in their own town. Is that really a criminal offence? What I believe is criminal is that this council is allowing very vulnerable people, many of whom have serious health issues, to sleep in such appalling conditions, made worse by the fact that there are no toilet or washing facilities. We would not allow other seriously ill people to sleep in such terrible conditions. However it appears not to be an issue for homeless people many of whom have drug, alcohol or mental health related illnesses."

If Poole Council is determined to put an end to rough sleeping in Poole, then I believe that they need to find an alternative to simply forcing them out of town to become a problem for someone else!

I believe a night shelter for people with a genuine Poole connection is the answer. Here the homeless would be kept safe and warm with winter coming, and the inclusion of toilet and washing facilities would help them build up their self esteem and feel cared for by their own town!

Once again let's never forget that Jesus said: 'What you do for the least of these, you do unto me.' Matthew 25:35

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

The Revd Lucy Holt, Rector at St James, Poole asked some of our clients:

How difficult will this PSPO make your life?.

"Really difficult – as I am from Poole I need to stay in Poole to get housed eventually."

"Routes to Roots is a lifeline for me I can't afford to feed myself otherwise."

"I need to stay in Poole to see my children (victim of Domestic Violence)."

"Wherever I go I will be less safe as I will stick out."

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

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

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

Follow Routes to Roots on Twitter at: [@R2R_Poole](https://twitter.com/R2R_Poole)

Founded on Christian principles, Routes to Roots seeks to help all homeless and vulnerably housed people in Poole regardless of their faith. At four drop-ins R2R provides basic necessities, such as hot food, clothing and sleeping bags, and offers indoor and outdoor motivational activities, which aim to boost self-confidence and develop skills. In addition, internet and telephone facilities, 'care of address' and one-to-one support, guidance and information are provided. From November 2015 Routes to Roots has provided supported accommodation to three of Poole's homeless.

THE R2R TEAM

CHAIR & TRUSTEE	Revd Pat Southgate
TRUSTEE	Kate Mellor
TRUSTEE	Iain Scott
TRUSTEE	Martin Finch
TRUSTEE	Andrew Teale
TRUSTEE	Revd Lucy Holt

HON TREASURER	Bradley Muncie
HON SECRETARY	TBA
NEWSLETTER	Susan Gittins

CHAIR ASST/VOL CO-ORD Elaine Mellers

Patron: Rt Revd Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne

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

NEW WEBSITE

At the end of June, our new website went live. It is some five years since we first made any major changes to the site and it was becoming not only dated but cumbersome to use. In particular the old design was not compatible with smart phones and other new devices.

The new site was designed by Conical Sphere who have supported us with this for many years. The cost, including a day's professional photography, was entirely paid for by a private donation.

OPPORTUNITY FOR HON SEC

Marilyn Latcham has stepped down as Honorary Secretary. She has held this position since Autumn 2015.

We owe a great debt to Marilyn both for her work as Hon Sec and also for her invaluable help with the set up of Amos House.

She spent countless hours trying to figure out the right kind of tenancy agreement and also the right kind of benefit claims for the guys. Because of her hard work, our Amos House financial account became viable, which gives us a great deal of confidence going forward.

If you are able to spare a few hours to take on this position, please contact Elaine Mellers to discuss.

We also welcome other volunteers who might be able to offer help with administration, fund raising as well as at the drop-ins.

OUR SUPPORTERS



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

KEY SERVICES: STATISTICS

All R2R Drop-Ins: January - July 2017

	Total 2016	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	To-date 2017
Total individuals attending	263	63	69	77	75	73	81	240
Total afternoon meals	1587	90	144	144	102	146	132	1387
Total evening meals	1968	103	138	186	150	187	162	1500
Cumulative total of individuals	263	153	168	187	205	217	240	240

INVITATION TO SLEEP OUT ... AT ST JAMES



“Why not join us on Saturday 9th December 10 pm at St James Church in Poole Old Town. Spend a night sleeping outside in solidarity with our friends who are homeless: raising awareness and also vital funds for Routes to Roots’ Winter appeal. Last year we raised £1,055 and we are looking for new fundraisers to take on the challenge on this cold December night, and hopefully will beat that amount!

“It will provide a small insight into what it might be like to be without a safe place to call home, and having to rely on the support of others.

“You will need to bring a warm sleeping bag and lots of layers. We suggest bringing a ground sheet or some cardboard to sleep on, and some waterproof sheeting or a survival bag.

“It would be great to have lots of churches represented. Hopefully see you there!”

If you have any questions about the sleep out or would like to join in, please contact Rev. Chris Harwood on 0781 3782 801.

For more information, or to donate go to:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/R2Rwinterappeal>

Meanwhile, at **Lytchett Minster Church** Chris Trent is once again organising an overnight sleep out for the youth group on 24 November. This is an annual event in aid of R2R.

AT THE DROP-IN

From April 2016 until October this year Andrew Teale has joined our Monday afternoon drop-ins as the Harm Minimisation Co-Ordinator with PACT (Poole Addictions Community Team). Accompanied by Tracy, a Blood-Borne Virus nurse, he has engaged with clients who have drug and alcohol problems

Our drop-in was the only outreach PACT offered, so this was a very valuable service for our clients. Not all rough sleepers have addiction problems but some do. Opiate users are at a very high risk of over-dosing and death. Andrew worked closely with other local service providers of community and residential services e.g. SMART, Essential Drugs and Alcohol Services (EDAS) and counselling services.

Up to June 2017 they completed 31 blood tests, which have identified eight Hep C+ clients. They have managed to offer most of these eight new Hep C+ identified treatment, with referrals into the hospitals happening for most as well. All tests were DBST (Dried Blood Spot Testing) and were conducted on R2R premises during the drop-in service period.

Andrew has completed 154 Needle Exchange transactions whilst at R2R over the last 12 months, plus he has trained and supplied nine service users to use/carry Prenoxad Injection kits.

The kits that he has handed out in the Poole area since November 2016 have been used 14 times to save the life of a person in opiate over-dose.

They have also vaccinated R2R service users for Hep A and B. They both engaged with all service users that want them and constantly offered health advice as well as harm reduction advice and support.

Andrew is now the Service Manager at St Mungo's, which provides outreach services to rough sleepers in Poole and Bournemouth. He is continuing to support R2R with his invaluable experience as a Trustee. We hope that these vital outreach services will continue under the aegis of EDAS (Essential Drug and Alcohol Service).

Feet On The Street: Can You Help Us To Buy More New Shoes



Jenny Donovan, a self-employed Chiropodist and in business for over 30 years, has since 2009 been treating R2R clients at our evening drop-ins on the last Friday in every month.

Jenny's patients kindly keep her well supplied with socks but shoes are a problem, as they need to be suitable for a hard day, and night, on the streets. Jenny has, therefore, decided to buy shoes herself to give out to rough sleepers.

"The shoes that I buy are Karrimor, waterproof and comfortable. I have fitted six pairs so far and have one of each size from 5-12 in my car ready for the next visit for which I have already had two more requests."

Jenny is buying these shoes from Sports Direct and we are asking your help to raise funds to buy more by supporting her campaign of 'Shoes for the Shoeless'. The shoes cost £29.99 so £30 will get a guy or gal back on their feet.

Please mark any donations for this specific appeal as 'Shoes'.

IN THE NEWS: Drop-Ins That Are About So Much More Than Food

Drop-in services can play a significant role in helping people who are sleeping rough, to access healthcare. Their ability to build compassionate relationships over time can help to ensure that individual's needs are met. Vivienne Wiggins, chief executive of drop-in and primary healthcare centre Beacon House in Colchester, tells of their work with Lee.

At our first encounter with Lee in 2008, he was street homeless and addicted to drugs. Lee had a complex history, with episodes of paranoia and psychosis made worse by drug use. His behaviour was marked by anxiety and fear, which could present as irrationality and delusion. Lee's despairing view of the world meant that it was, initially, very challenging for the team to convince Lee that we could help to relieve his pain.

Lee had experienced apathy and neglect by friends, family and health services, which had led him to feel threatened by our offers of support. He could seem hostile towards us, and the prospect of accessing medical care seemed remote. Lee's behaviour could be eccentric and he had little social interaction. His symptoms of psychosis included hallucinations, delusions and thought disorder. As a result he struggled to carry out daily life activities and often presented unkempt, malnourished and with a variety of minor infections.

Over the years we were offering support to Lee, he would often move away or be imprisoned, re-engaging when he felt in acute need, dejected or alone. We were able to demonstrate our genuine care by consistently reaffirming our support for Lee and treating him in a compassionate, caring manner. In July 2015, Lee presented with the symptoms of chronic cough and haemoptysis (coughing up blood). In early August, we arranged access and supported Lee to go for x-rays and scans. The tests resulted in a diagnosis of small cell carcinoma of the lung. Because of our long and vigilant history with him, we understood that Lee might struggle

to engage with the services that would be providing treatment and care.

During the following months, Lee remained predominantly street homeless, and the team took it in turns to attend palliative treatment sessions with him. Beacon House worked in collaboration with the St Helena hospice outreach team, and the local authority housing department, to ensure that Lee didn't die in the street. His behaviour remained challenging, and he was initially unable to adjust to the constraints of the hospice or housing offers being made. However, the trust we had built over the years of day centre support at Beacon House enabled us to continue supporting him through these transition stages, as well as advocating on his behalf to health and housing providers.

The wider team, which included the St Helena hospice outreach nurse, worked to support Lee and did our best to improve his health. We succeeded in establishing effective multi-agency working with volunteers and staff at the hospice in order to secure a bed, where Lee was able to be looked after and have his emotional and spiritual needs met until his death in December 2015.

All agencies worked together to support a man who had long given up trying to work within systems, but we all adjusted and added to our ways of working to ensure that he had a peaceful and supported environment, as he died. We treated him as a person, not as a list of issues.

At Lee's funeral, a long-estranged brother was emotionally moved, when he realised how many local teams had gone beyond their standard procedures to ensure he had a good end of life. The stories told spoke of Lee's challenging determination to be treated as an individual, of his humour and of his humanity.

Homeless Link, 22 June 2017

<http://www.homeless.org.uk/connect/blogs/2017/jun/22/day-centres-connecting-street-homelessness-and-hospice-care>

IN THE NEWS: Homelessness Bill

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 received Royal Assent on 27 April 2017 and is likely to be implemented next year. Key measures include:

- An extension of the period during which an authority should treat someone as threatened with homelessness from 28 to 56 days, and clarification of the action an authority should take when someone applies for assistance having been given a valid Section 21 notice which is due to expire within 56 days. These provisions represent a shift in focus to early intervention, and aim to encourage local housing authorities to act quickly and proactively, addressing some concerns that some previously only intervened at crisis point.
- A new duty to prevent homelessness for all eligible applicants threatened with homelessness, regardless of priority need.
- A new duty to relieve homelessness for all eligible homeless applicants, regardless of priority need. This help could be, for example, the provision of a rent deposit or debt advice. Those who have a priority need will be provided with interim accommodation whilst the Local Housing Authority carries out the reasonable steps.
- A new duty on public services to notify a local authority if they come into contact with someone they think may be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. It is hoped that this measure will ensure that a person's housing situation is considered when they come into contact with wider public services.

AUTUMN & WINTER OUTDOOR PROJECT: Dorset Wildlife Trust

In September two of our clients, who are rough sleepers, joined a team of 15 volunteers to undertake ground clearing work on Brownsea Island for Dorset Wildlife Trust. They will be doing this work every Friday until Christmas.



Hopefully reading about these two rough sleepers will help to dispel the myth that all that homeless people do in Poole is to beg in the High Street. For these rough sleepers nothing could be further from the truth.

The picture shows them waiting for the National Trust boat to pick them up and ferry them across to the island where they will get stuck into building fences, cutting scrub and trees, re-gravelling tern island and making tern rafts. This last week they engaged in bracken bashing! A big thank you to Luke Johns from Dorset Wildlife Trust for giving these guys an experience neither of them want to end.

The Dorset Wildlife Trust reserve is leased from the National Trust and has diverse habitats and wildlife, including a red squirrel population, with a large sheltered lagoon. It is particularly important for overwintering and summer breeding birds. Routes to Roots first worked with Dorset Wildlife Trust in 2009 to manage woodland habitats on Brownsea Island's nature reserve. Much of the management required removing established rhododendron bushes, an alien and invasive species, which prevents the growth of other plants.

https://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/brownsea_island_nature_reserve.html

OUR SUPPORTERS



Laura Wyatt continues to run fundraising events for R2R, supported by Flying Tiger Copenhagen in West Quay, Southampton.

Her two latest school Tombola events raised the amazing sum of £531.02. Laura collected from the schools for the shoe boxes full of gifts given to our guys and gals last Christmas and she has organised a number of school events throughout this year.



Our team leaders and volunteer co-ordinator are now able to manage the food for our four drop-ins more efficiently. We are getting a lot more donations and our volunteers use what we have in stock rather than buying more.

We are also picking up bread, pastries, eggs and fruit from **Tesco's** twice a week so that all helps to reduce the money we have to spend.

GRANTS

Following a visit to a Monday drop-in by Roger Gregory of **The Valentine Charitable Trust**, we were delighted to hear that R2R has been awarded a grant of £10,000. The Trust has previously supported us and we are grateful that they continue to take an interest in our work.

The **Swire Charitable Trust** has approved a grant of £4,000 towards our work.

<https://www.swirecharitabletrust.org.uk/>

The **Screwfix Foundation** has announced a grant of £1,000 specifically to fund an exterior fire door at Amos House. The Trustees informed us that: "We felt that your charity sits well within our own charity objectives to support projects that will fix, repair, maintain and improve properties and community facilities specifically for those in need in the UK."

www.screwfixfoundation.com

Nationwide Building Society has nominated Routes to Roots to be one of three local causes to receive a proportion of a £2,000 charity grant. The amount each cause receives is based on the percentage of votes given to that cause by members. Voting took place in September.

www.nationwide.co.uk

In May website and fundraising volunteer Susan nominated Routes to Roots to be a **TSB Local Charity Partner**. Mary Bannion, who works in the small TSB branch in Falklands Square, visited our afternoon drop-in in August to inform us that R2R has been chosen as their charity of choice for the next year. During her visit Mary discussed how they can help us and how we can support them in their efforts. They hope to raise £500 for R2R.

www.tsb.co.uk

WINTER APPEAL



Routes to Roots, Skinner Street URC, Poole BH15 1TU
Tel: 07901 387643 / 01202 667880

<https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/routestoroots-poolocio>
Text **RTOR42** £2 / £5 / £10 / £etc to **70070**

Please contact the R2R office before bringing in any donations.

You can also leave donations of clothing and other items at Big Yellow Self Storage, Poole when it is open: from 8am to 6pm on weekdays, 9am to 6pm on Saturdays and 10am to 4pm on Sundays.

The Reception will notify R2R that a donation has come in so we can sort it. Please label your donation with your name/organisation so we know whom to thank.

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/charity/volunteering-membership>

Volunteer application forms: <http://www.routestoroots.org/charity/volunteering>