



A warm welcome from our Chairman

I hope you are keeping well during these extraordinary times.

I am delighted to welcome you to our first e-Newsletter which will provide regular updates on all the good things that Routes to Roots is doing for Poole's vulnerably housed. The newsletter also gives us an opportunity to acknowledge and thank all the wonderful organisations and individuals who have provided us with their time, donations and grants, without which we could not exist.

We are blessed to have a dedicated team of volunteers and Trustees who tirelessly give their time and passion to make sure we achieve our long-term vision.

As many of you will know, work has now started on the renovation of our dedicated new drop-in facility in Hill Street. At Routes to Roots, we are very excited about the prospect of having a permanent and exclusive outreach centre for the very first time! We look forward to updating you on the progress of the work as we work towards opening.

I really hope you enjoy reading our first issue and we look forward to sharing all the exciting developments of our Hill Street renovations as they progress.

Warmest wishes

Revd. Pat Southgate

Chairman, Routes to Roots

Doors re-open for drop-in sessions

As the council's Covid-19 emergency accommodation provision wound down and more rough sleepers started taking to the streets again, our drop-in sessions at the Skinner Street United Reformed Church re-opened on 1st July after more than three months of closure due to the pandemic.

The drop-ins are vital in providing our clients with regular nourishment and outreach from our experienced team of volunteers. In July we welcomed back a total of 45 clients and served 133 takeaway lunches.

The sessions run every weekday between 1.30 and 2.30. Due to government guidelines, we are currently only able to serve take-away lunches through a hatch in the main hall. Showers and toilets remain closed and we will keep you updated as this changes.

We would like to say a huge thank you to our local Asda and their Community Champion Rona for donating some much-needed suntan lotion, food and water for our rough sleeping clients.



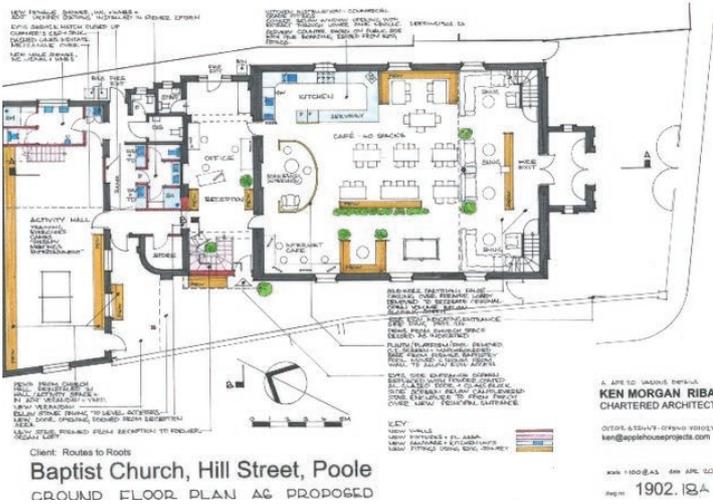
An office to be proud of!

A full supply of office equipment has been donated for use in the new Hill Street centre by Albion Language Tour Company manager, Janet Wright.

Like many business owners during the start of the Coronavirus lockdown, Janet temporarily ceased operations while her overseas students were unable to travel to the UK. Realising she could work just as effectively from home, she decided to give up her large office space, leaving a big surplus of office furniture and equipment

that she no longer had use for. Hearing about Routes to Roots and the Baptist church renovations, Janet donated it all to us. We are now the proud owner of a photocopier, three office settees, a coffee table for our sitting area, 12 tables, 30 stackable chairs, coat stands, cork boards, a filing cabinet and shelf room dividers. As a boxer and personal trainer, husband Lee has also kindly offered to give some 1-1 sessions to clients once we are up and running. Thank you so much Janet and Lee!





Hill Street planning application approved

Our Hill Street project management team have drawn up some exciting and ambitious plans to transform the former Baptist Church into a special place from which to help Poole's vulnerably housed achieve lasting positive change in their lives.

We are delighted to announce that we have now received approval for these plans and have been granted Listed Building Consent.

The new layout incorporates important facilities such as showers, toilets and a

laundry in addition to dedicated areas where clients will receive 1-1 support from outreach workers for addiction and mental health support and access to nurses, chiropodists and housing and benefit advisors.

The first of our pews at Hill Street have been removed and this is an exciting milestone in the transformation of our building! We still have a few one-ended pews available if you are interested. Ross (pictured) can help remove and restore them. His contact details are available from our office.



Grants, Donations & Crowdfunding

We set a sizeable target of £150,000 for the initial renovations of Hill Street and thanks to some very generous donations from grant givers, individuals, local businesses and churches, we are well over halfway to achieving this - an amazing feat in such trying times.

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone for your very generous donations. There are too many individuals to name and we wouldn't want to leave anyone out, but you know who you are!

Our grant givers were:

- The Haddon Trust
- The Poole Bay Rotary Club
- The Canford Cliffs Land Society
- The Valentine Trust
- The Salisbury Diocesan Social Welfare Fund
- Southall Trust



We also ran a successful crowdfunding campaign in July via Aviva's Community Fund and raised a further £3,000 towards the refurbishment of our Hill Street building.



Pro Bono Professional Services for Renovations

Four local professionals have offered their expertise free of charge, making sure that the Hill Street renovation project is completed to the highest of standards.

Architect, Ken Morgan RIBA and co-founder of Dorset based Morgan Carey Architects has been instrumental in the ambitious re-design of the former Baptist church and in drawing up the plans and submitting them for approval.

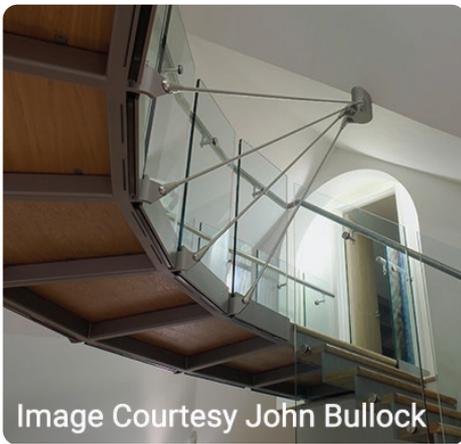


Image Courtesy John Bullock

Commenting on his involvement, Ken said, "I am delighted to be part of the team responsible for converting the Hill Street Chapel as a base for Poole's homeless community. It is an extremely worthwhile cause and one in which I have some personal interest."

In June, Mark Cook of MC Plan and Site Services offered to do the Hill Street building control on a pro bono basis. "We are very passionate about supporting local charities such as Routes to Roots. As a Poole based business, what your charity is trying to do for homelessness in Poole is something very close to our hearts," said Mark.

Structural Engineer, Brian Willis of BE Willis Consultant Civil and Structural Engineers has well over 50 years of experience in structural engineering and like Ken and Mark, has generously dedicated his time and expertise

to ensure the building is structurally safe to proceed with renovations and will be on hand to inspect the renovation work until it is completed.

Sherborne-based lighting designer John Bullock has offered his services free following an introduction by Ken Morgan. John will not only do the lighting design for us but is also hoping to source good quality fixtures through his industry contacts and the on-line magazine he publishes for the UK lighting industry. John says: "One of the enduring fallacies that we hear constantly is 'we're all in this together', when – of course – we certainly do not all experience life equally. We are NOT all in this together. Initiatives like Routes to Roots help to bridge an inequality gap that we all should be ashamed of and I'm happy to be able to provide my knowledge to the success of this project."

Job opportunity

We are sad to be saying goodbye to Helen, our Drop-in Manager and Volunteer Coordinator, who has worked tirelessly for Routes to Roots for the last two years. Thank you so much Helen for all your hard work and we wish you the very best of luck and success for the future. Helen's departure means that we now have a rewarding new vacancy.

Passion, enthusiasm and self-motivation: These are the qualities Routes to Roots is looking for in our new Drop-in Manager and Volunteer Co-ordinator.

We are looking for someone who wants to see the lives of the most vulnerable in Poole change for the good.

Location: **Poole Town Centre**
Drop-in hours: **Monday-Friday,**
12noon-2.00pm
18 hours/week at £10/hour

You can download the full job description here and then to discuss your applications further, please contact Pat Southgate, Chair of Routes to Roots on **07867 424737**.



2019-20 AGM Update

We think it is unlikely that we will be able to hold an AGM this year and it may well roll into next year's meeting. The financial and trustee's reports are available on our website.

Please Share Our Newsletter

We want to get the word out about all the good things we do here at Routes to Roots, so we would be grateful if you could share the sign-up link to our newsletter with anyone that might be interested: <http://bitly.ws/9xCb>