



R2R UPDATES, December 2020

Christmas Greetings



Thank you everyone for your support this year and we look forward to meeting you again next year when our new building at Hill Street will open its doors. At present this is likely to be in April but we will keep you updated. We are in the final throes of fundraising to complete phase 1 of the renovations, which will enable our move in – drop-in hall with IT and relaxing areas, kitchen, showers, toilets, laundry and office. Our Christmas appeal is for funds for a new energy efficient heating system. For the first time we took to social media for this and you can view our (extremely short) film at: https://m.facebook.com/RoutestoRootsHomeless/videos/168075455005865/?refsrc=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FRoutestoRootsHomeless%2Fposts%2F4232170820142702&_rdr

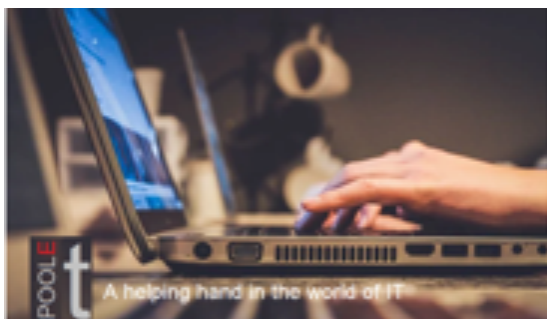
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Purbeck Artists and Craftspeople

41 Purbeck artists and craftspeople contributed over 300 Lots for the Art4Action Christmas auction. Organised by the publishers of Wareham Tower Chimes, with the backing of Wareham Town Council, the money raised was split between the artists, Routes to Roots and St Martin in the Walls Church in Wareham, resulting in a donation of £750 to R2R. The organisers are now in the process of creating a continuous fundraising Art4Action virtual art and craft market, and intend for Routes to Roots to be the first recipient.



Clients Will Get Online at Hill Street



Andy and Sara Powell at Poole IT are generously donating our IT equipment for free. They will also set up our broadband, wifi, telephone and internet café for clients, and give us on-going support. This new service will be a game-changer for our clients' employment prospects and we are very grateful to them. Andy says: "Routes to Roots is an amazing opportunity for local business to give support at the very heart of community, We all see people in less

fortunate positions that ourselves; therefore to help in a meaningful way by applying our professional skills is the least we can do. Having computers with safeguarding installed, and a safe internet connection will help connect the people in need with resources only available online."

The Givers Who Keep On Giving

A local family, who donated £25,000 at the beginning of the year to kick-start our refurbishment fundraising, have now donated a further £10,000. The Rotary Club of Poole Bay made two donations in April to help fund the new laundry and have now given £500 to pay for the crockery, cutlery, glassware and serving dishes we will need. Many thanks to them. "Over the years R2R has been one of the priority causes supported by the Club and we wish you all the very best in bringing this important project to fruition to the benefit of the less advantaged in our community. With good wishes for Christmas and 2021." – Eddie Newcomb, Rotary Club of Poole Bay.



Christmas Will Come to the Drop-ins

Under current rules we are back to take-away lunches for rough sleepers but continue to see the numbers taking advantage of this service growing. On average we see 20 each day, with a total of 41 individuals in both July and August, 52 in September and 62 in October. We will try our best to make Christmas special. Since 2014 Sarah and Joe of Kingsbere Kitchen have brought their van to serve burgers, hot dogs and hot and cold drinks, and again they will be brightening the festive season. Christmas Day lunch will be catered by the Chequers Inn at Lytchett Maltravers with the help of £150 from Horizon Motor Company.

School Sings Out

Despite the difficulties students and teachers are undergoing, many are continuing to think of those worse off than themselves and raise money for us in imaginative ways. We are grateful to them all. To end this eNews on a festive note take a look at St. Michael's Middle School, Wimborne, song appeal, which has already raised over £1300 (along with a collection of clothes and food from their reverse advent calendar requiring multiple pick-ups): https://youtu.be/Gw87rz_bVfl

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 this sign-up link to our newsletter with anyone that might be interested: <http://bitly.ws/9xCb>

Routes to Roots is founded on Christian principles and seeks to help all homeless, newly homed and vulnerably housed adults in Poole regardless of their faith. At drop-ins, we provide basic necessities, such as hot food, clothing and sleeping bags; we assist clients to engage with agencies such as the addictions team, health workers and Job Centre; we organise motivational activities; and we assist those who are placed in accommodation to remain in their tenancy. Since acquiring our three-bed 'Amos House' in 2015, we provide supported housing for former rough sleepers. We aim to achieve long-term outcomes for our clients through participation in motivational and well-being projects which boost self-confidence and self-worth, expand and develop skills, promote a sense of belonging and encourage integration into the local community. We are currently renovating 104 Hill Street as a one-stop centre for all help available to our clients in Poole.