



R2R UPDATES, March 2021



Progress at Hill Street

The interior is now being laid out with the walls of the new showers, toilets and laundry going up. In the main hall the top level is looking good with its new ceiling and lights and the stained glass window specialists have now repaired and re-installed the three windows at the front of the building after preparing the metal framework. Down below we literally are at ground level and are building up again. New insulation is on order and carpet tiles have arrived. We are planning to make our new heating system as carbon neutral as possible

(which will also help keep our energy bills down) and are in the process of obtaining quotes for an underfloor system and air source heat pump.

Meet Kate and Martin

Trustees Kate and Martin, alongside pro bono architect Ken Morgan (see September eNews) are leading the Hill Street project.

American-born Kate first became involved with Routes to Roots in 2008, when she was Executive Director of the charity Quaker Homeless Action and became a Trustee in 2010. Kate's broad experience in project management and background in running businesses have been vital skills for her specific role within R2R of overseeing strategy, fundraising, and project management. A keen sailor, Kate is an active member at Poole Yacht Club, where she currently serves as Honorary Treasurer. She is also Director of Poole Sailing, a local sailing school that she owns with her husband Rob. In 2016, Kate formed a new company, Seaside Renovations, a grassroots property development business that focuses on small flats for people who want to 'get on the ladder'.



Martin's background lies in the building trade. He started volunteering with Routes to Roots in 2016 after a serious car crash and quickly became a familiar face in his role as a Team Leader at drop-in sessions and as the liaison for the residents of our Amos House supported accommodation for former rough sleepers. His passion and dedication towards helping the vulnerably housed and homeless in Poole resulted in Martin becoming a Trustee in 2018. His experience and contacts in the building trade are being put to good use for the Hill Street renovations.

Donations



Poole ASDA has given us food and clothing to the value of £350 through an Asda Foundation grant. Poole Asda Community Champion Rona with R2R's Elaine and their trolley loads of goods. The Rotary Club of Poole Bay has yet again dug into its coffers to provide funding for some of the equipment we will need at Hill Street and donated £300, which will pay for a wall-mounted water boiler. Despite extremely difficult circumstances, individuals throughout Poole are continuing to show their support for our work with donations coming in on an almost daily basis. We are very grateful to you all.

At Hill Street, Bournemouth-based SMPK Clearance & Recycling is the latest local company to step forward and offer to do some work for free.

Drop-Ins Re-Open

We re-opened our drop-ins on 1 March for take-away weekday lunches only, in line with the regulations. During our closure, although rough sleepers were offered accommodation in the Holiday Inn or B&Bs, we found that some opted out or returned to the street during the day. Andy, our Drop-In Manager, therefore, took out lunches and hot drinks and spent time with the guys. He generally found eight outside, meeting different people each day and seeing new people reporting as homeless. BCP Council believes there are 20 rough sleepers on the streets throughout its region. The council rough sleeper team, St Mungos, is working on forward plans to offer permanent housing though this is proving difficult to find. We are monitoring the situation and hope to offer indoor drop-ins after Easter and re-start some of the health outreach services we facilitated.

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.