



R2R UPDATES, December 2021

Genesis Centre



We are pleased to announce the appointment of Ben Sargent as full-time manager for Genesis Centre. He joins us on 4 January and will be responsible for ensuring that the Centre's activities function in a way that supports clients, volunteers and staff.

Delays with plumbing work and the knock-on effect on plastering have delayed our hoped for move to Genesis Centre until January or February. We are, however, definitely on the final lap with all work to be done on the first phase financially covered. This is very much thanks to Talbot Village Trust who have agreed a further grant of £40,000.

We are now seeking funding for phase 2 of the work, which will be on a second hall, which we intend as the hub for healthcare activities, possibly a winter shelter and also other activities to help our clients' wellbeing and employment prospects. This work involves heating and electrical installation and decoration as well as external work including pointing, guttering and drain repair. We have already received a grant of £5,000 from the B&Q Foundation, in partnership with giving platform Neighbourly, towards this work. In addition a local family, who have previously supported our work, has made a generous grant of £10,000.



At the Drop-ins

These continue every weekday lunchtime at Skinner Street URC. In terms of clients, numbers are as variable as they always have been although they have risen a bit. There is still a tendency for numbers to be higher towards the end of a month. Our lowest turnout was 9 clients and the highest 20; the average is 14. In October, those numbers were 9, 21 and 15 respectively. It still seems to be the case that around one-third of the clients are rough sleeping at some point.

What a treat:

Sophie and Josh presented our clients with cup cakes made by themselves and three friends.





Outreach Services

We Are With You has taken over responsibility for BCP Council Drugs & Alcohol services from November. They are responsible for assessment, interventions, on-going support and prescribing for the entire BCP D&A client group. Their team is now undertaking outreach at our drop-ins in place of the former agency, EDAS. Founded in 1967 as APA (Association for the Prevention of Addiction), We Are With You is a charity with 80 local services supporting people with drug, alcohol and mental health issues, their families and friends.

Rock on: Many thanks to Rock Choir in Poole for their donation of clothing, toiletries and chocolates to our clients. Rock Choir is the UK's original and award winning contemporary choir experience, supporting many local charities: <https://rockchoir.com>



Winter Appeal

Click here to make a donation for Routes to Roots, making a difference to the lives of Poole's homeless and vulnerably housed: <https://www.routestoroots.org/charity/donations>

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 developing a one-stop centre for all help available to our clients in Poole.