

R2R UPDATES, March 2022



21st March -It's Official



Just over two years after completing the purchase of the old Baptist Church on Hill Street, all R2R operations will be based at our newly renovated Genesis Centre from 21st March. We are holding a celebration at the Centre on 20 March to mark our 20 years of operation as a charity and the completion of the first stages of the refurbishment. During the following week we will move ourselves and our clients across town to our new home. Our new operating hours will initially be from 12:00 am to 2:30 pm, Monday – Friday. It is our intention to open longer hours as we recruit more volunteers.

We Are With You, who provide addiction support, will attend our Drop Ins on both Mondays and Thursdays between 1:00 pm and 2:00pm. Chiropody appointments will be offered by Jenny Fowler from Friday 25th March and occur on a monthly basis. In the near future, we will also regularly be joined by partners from St Mungo's, Victim Support and both Mental and Physical Health Support services.

At the Drop-Ins

Our lowest daily turnout was 12 clients during February and the highest 22; the average is 17. In January, those numbers were 7,22 and 15; and in December, they were 8, 19 and 14 respectively.

In addition to the fantastic lunches cooked up by our volunteers in February, we were also able to provide a venue for BCP Council to offer COVID 19 Vaccinations to those homeless or living in Emergency/Temporary accommodation. It was great to work with colleagues from St Mungo's and The Health Bus to vaccinate a number of our service users.



Sandbanks Support for Our Clients

Louis Rogers (centre), Manager of Rick Stein Sandbanks Restaurant, got in touch with us to let us know that he and his colleagues would like to help us not only by raising money but with training sessions that may help foster self esteem and improve employment prospects. Following their donation of kitchen equipment, cookery classes spring to mind.

<https://www.rickstein.com/restaurants/rick-stein-sandbanks/>

Graham Turner, Commodore of the RMYC in Sandbanks, and his wife Julie told us they have chosen R2R as the Club charity for the next three years. They have already donated £367 from the Christmas raffle and plan holding monthly raffles and charity lunches. The RMYC was founded in 1905 by the Royal Automobile Club and was originally known as 'The Motor Yacht Club'. The Admiralty Warrant to wear the blue ensign was granted to the Club the following year, and in 1910 the 'Royal' prefix was bestowed by King George V. The RMYC settled on Sandbanks in 1936. Today it has around 1600 members, evenly split between those with an interest in motorboats and those who enjoy sailing: <https://rmyc.club/about/>

And Support from Companies, Churches and Individuals

Huge thanks to MSP Capital, Poole-based property finance lender, for their very generous donation of £750 and 150 items of food and clothing: <https://mspcapital.co.uk/>

And to Lytchett Minster/St Dunstons for their £307 donation; and to Julia S, Jenny B and Ray A for their donations, which are paying for the cooker extractor hood and tables.

Volunteers Welcome



R2R relies heavily on our small army of volunteers. Even when the lights went out in January they carried on! They offer our clients opportunities for renewal of social contact and bring a variety of invaluable life experiences and skills. We are always looking for additional pairs of hands, so would welcome volunteers from all walks of life who are prepared to give some of their time to help deliver the great work of the charity. To request a volunteer application form please e-mail: ben.sargent@routestoroots.org

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. From 22 March 2022, we are based at Genesis Centre, Hill Street. Poole, Dorset BH15 1NR
