

the Pavement

The *FREE* monthly for Scotland's homeless

April 2011



"I warned you not to be homeless again"



The Pig Society

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The Editor

Broad interests

Welcome to the April edition of *The Pavement Scotland*. With the Scottish General Election now just weeks away, we're bringing you a bit of an election special this month. As politicians trot out the same glib statements, it's easy to feel voting is a waste of time. But as we report, major housing charities are keen to make sure they don't get away with weasel words when it comes to homelessness. So whether you have a fixed address or not, register to make sure you can vote and hold your politicians to account before you put your X in the box on 5 May.

In this edition, we also have the latest on a London story – Westminster City Council's attempt to outlaw rough sleeping. It may be a story that's being played out down south, but it's a truly frightening threat to civil liberties and worth us Scots keeping a careful eye on – and offering our support.

Finally we have news of how far the cuts to homelessness services – being felt across the country – are already biting. Firstly we have an update on Glasgow City Council's plan to charge homeless people in temporary accommodation rates and water. And we also report from the Glasgow City Mission, an independently funded homeless centre with a Christian ethos, about how they fear the cuts will lead to even more demand for their services. Difficult times ahead? You tell us by emailing scotland@thepavement.org.uk or write to us at our new PO Box address (top left).

Karin Goodwin

Editor

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One of a pair of cartoons drawn by Neil Bennett – usually seen in the *Times* or *Private Eye*, but who's supported this magazine since the first issue – in response to the byelaw proposed by Westminster City Council, see page 9.

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Scottish news

The homeless news from Edinburgh, Glasgow and beyond

“I don’t know what I’d do without this place”

It might surprise you to learn that the modern glass and chrome building on Glasgow’s Crimea Street (pictured opposite) houses a centre that originated in 1826. Founded by Glaswegian David Naismith, the Glasgow City Mission (GCM) was set up to pioneer a method of Christian care designed to meet people’s physical, emotional and spiritual needs. GCM was such a success that centres soon spread throughout the UK and, from this model, GCM ultimately extended across the world. Funded privately, largely by Christians sympathetic with its ethos, the Mission has retained its independence throughout the centuries.

And now, with homelessness services across Britain facing an average of 25 per cent funding cuts, according to a Homeless Link survey, and particularly harsh cuts affecting some Glasgow services, organizations funded by independent income could become more important to the city’s homeless population than ever before.

The city may have changed beyond recognition since the centre place was first founded, but for those in dire need of support, food and advice, the Mission has remained an essential lifeline. This is not to say that it has not experienced hard times. Just a few years ago, GCM was housed in a dilapidated building alongside the River Clyde. But with the property market booming in the city, the land was seen as valuable and was snapped up by developers who offered to build the Mission a new home in exchange.

Then boom became bust and, with the swanky building on Crimea Street as yet unfinished, the whole venture was plunged into uncertainty. At the eleventh hour the Scottish Government saved the day, offering funding to finish the building. And by the skin of its teeth, the centre was saved.

Now, with reports of record numbers accessing GCM’s services - ‘and not just the usual characters,’ says centre manager Ewan Clydesdale – *The Pavement Scotland* popped into the centre to find out exactly how workers and guests are faring in these difficult times.

Clydesdale explained that the impending cuts would affect GCM and its services in some unexpected ways: ‘One of the blessings is that we’re not funded by the government which has its advantages - we’re independent,’ he said. ‘We have noticed over the past 17 years how much money the Labour government put into homeless issues, such as tackling rough sleeping. However, I expect we might see more established characters who’ve lost their jobs coming through the door; that’ll be a new thing for us.’

‘We’ve also seen an increase in foreign nationals in recent years which has been a challenge but a nice addition and they are welcomed here. We practice the ethos of ‘everyone needs support, everyone needs care’. That is fundamentally what we are about.’

He’s keen to stress that though this may be an organisation founded on a Christian ethos – they are there to serve people from all backgrounds and religions. The centre tries to offer a bit of everything. Dinner is served five times a week, there are showers and a laundry service. The range

of workshops includes cookery, IT, English, music and art - as well as prayer groups - and there are plenty of friendly faces on hand to offer advice and support.

Clydesdale explained that the Mission is genuinely concerned about how other homeless services might cope as funding is cut: ‘If other places are financed through sources which see their funding cut, it worries us that we’ll be expected to pick up the slack,’ he says. ‘We’re just open Monday-Friday, so it does concern me how it’ll go should other places find themselves in trouble. Who will look at those people who use that service?’ Last month they extended their opening hours from four to five evenings a week in response to demand. ‘This week during the evenings, we’ve seen over 100 men coming through our doors. We are always busy,’ explains Clydesdale.

Some of those may be new faces, he says, but others are old-timers who have long relied on the centre for support. One long-term service user is 41-year-old Davie, who has been in contact with GCM for over 15 years. He has gone full circle since the time he first walked through its doors, not only using the services but now volunteering to help out as well. ‘If I didn’t have this place I’d be stuck at home, constantly, looking at four walls and feeling not well but this gives me a lot of structure,’ he tells *The Pavement*.

‘I’ve done a good few courses in here and I’m doing a “life skills” course at the moment. The last one I helped out in and the next one I’m actually running.’ Davie feels that he’s benefited a great deal from the art and IT classes he’s been able to take at the centre. ‘They’ve

“It worries us that we’ll be expected to pick up the slack”

helped me get into college and have made me feel better about myself,' he says with a smile. 'I wouldn't know what I would do without this place, honestly I wouldn't.' Davie is without doubt one of the GCM's major success stories, but as I look around I can't help but feel there are many more like him passing through the centre's doors.

Being an independently run organisation certainly seems to have its advantages, granting the GCM more freedom to do things its own way. Let's hope that funding will be found to match the increasing demand as cuts cause more and more people to flood through the centre's doors.

Anthony Walsh

Report reveals 'upward trend' in homelessness

The latest national statistics on homelessness published last month by the Scottish government have shown a small but worrying rise reported by homelessness charities.

The figures, recorded over a six month period in 2010, provide information on homeless applications to local authorities, their assessments and outcomes, as well as uncovering some of the main reasons behind homelessness in Scotland.

The report revealed an increase of homeless applications with over 29,000 being made between April and September 2010 - a total increase of 212 since the same period in 2009.

Alison Watson, Head of Services for the housing charity Shelter, said: 'We have been warning for some time that the number of people presenting as homeless could rise as the effects of government cuts, job losses and welfare reforms start to bite. This is only a small increase, but we are concerned it is the beginning of an upward trend.'

Of these applicants, 62 per cent were single people, 24 per cent were single parents and households with children accounted for 31 per cent. The main reasons for applying as homeless were household disputes or relationship breakdowns.

However, despite an increase in the number of homeless applications, there was at least a two per cent increase in the number of people being assessed as priority need by local authorities.

Watt added: 'While any increase in homelessness is disappointing, it is encouraging that the number of people assessed as priority need by local authorities shows improvement. We congratulate those local authorities who have made progress toward meeting the 2012 commitment on homelessness and urge councils struggling to meet this commitment to redouble their efforts.'

Laura Blakely

Befrienders help turn houses into homes

Edinburgh Cyrenians is celebrating the success of its Be-A-Friend campaign, launched in February in order to boost a shortage of befrienders needed to help people at risk of becoming homeless.

Two months ago, the charity had a waiting list and estimated that nearly 40 people who might have benefited from being matched with a befriender had missed out on vital support.

Yet, following their first recruitment drive of the campaign, the Cyrenians have attracted nine volunteers who are now preparing to take up their new roles. While recruitment will continue throughout the year, the charity is confident that with new volunteers in place, they can start to make the most of the service.

The volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds and include those who have been at risk of becoming homeless themselves and understand the value of a friendly ear.

The charity, which offers befrienders as part of its wider Homelessness Prevention Service (HPS) in Edinburgh, provides training and sets out clear objectives for the project. The organisation helps volunteers make a long-term difference to people's lives.

Su Moir, Homelessness Prevention Service Manager, said: 'Preventing homelessness is not just about providing housing. It's also about making sure people feel secure in the place they have been housed, that they are comfortable and secure there – that it is a home.'

'It's easy to give vulnerable people support with budgeting or getting their benefits sorted. But for people who are simply lonely or isolated, the solutions are much harder – that's why we link our homelessness prevention strategy with a befriending service.'

'The key difference about this befriending scheme is that we have a very clear set of aims to help ensure that people have an increased social network at the end of the process. The befrienders help people find out what is going on in their local area – be it an art class, or a choir, or a five-a-side football team. As long as it's legal and ethical we encourage them to get involved.'

'In turn people who are linked into their communities are happier with their lives and that allows them to move on, to look for opportunities in training or employment, which takes them further away from the risk of homelessness.'

David Scott became a befriender after being made redundant in December 2009 and believes the experience taught him a valuable lesson. He said: 'Losing my job gave me an insight into how easily

and how quickly someone can go from top to bottom. Luckily I had my family and friends to support me but for those that don't, life can be difficult.

'Being a Cyrenian's befriender has taught me I can make a difference, no matter how small, and I'd urge people to give it a try and see how rewarding it can be for them.'

Zara Cameron

Scottish chef gets a taste of success

A young Scot has narrowly missed winning The Prince's Trust Celebrate Success Award this week.

When former homeless drug addict Steven Loughton, of Edinburgh, left prison he decided to make a change for the better.

The 21-year-old overcame drug and alcohol abuse to qualify for The Prince's Trust Get into Cooking programme, before being headhunted to work at The Prestonfield House Hotel and The Witchery – two of Edinburgh's top restaurants.

He was one of just three people in the UK to be nominated for the award, which celebrates young people who have changed their lives.

Mr Loughton said: "I'm really proud to be nominated for this award. I have come a long way in the past couple of years and I don't think I would have managed it without the help and support of the Prince's Trust."

Imran Ali

Politicians put under pressure to hear homeless voices

A series of hustings, aiming to put housing and homelessness at the heart of the political agenda, is being held across the country ahead of the Scottish Parliamentary Elections on 5 May.

Organised by the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations (SFHA) in partnership with other housing organisations, including the Chartered Institute of Housing, events were held in Edinburgh and the North East last month with MSPs called to account for their policies.

Further hustings will be held in Glasgow on 7 April, and in Ayrshire on 11 April. SFHA Chief Executive Mary Taylor said it was essential that politicians from all parties recognised the central role that affordable housing played in the whole of society.

She added: 'Affordable housing providers in Scotland are facing many challenges – with big cuts in capital funding to build new homes, and a squeeze on the incomes of our tenants, due to welfare reform changes and the difficult jobs market.'

'Politicians regularly tell us that housing is one of the biggest issues in their constituency postbag, and we want to see it getting as high a political profile as possible. It's vital that as many people as possible attend these free hustings events to quiz their candidates on what they will do to tackle the shortage of affordable housing in Scotland.'

Meanwhile, housing charity Shelter Scotland has teamed up with the Electoral Commission to encourage people in rented, social or temporary accommodation to register to vote in May's Scottish Elections.

People in these types of housing – or who are homeless – are

known to be the most under-represented on the voting register, although they are eligible to vote.

Graeme Brown, Director of Shelter Scotland, said: 'Hundreds of thousands of people across Scotland are not on the electoral roll and therefore cannot vote. By registering, people can ensure that if they want to influence the outcome when election day arrives, they will have the opportunity to make their voice heard.'

Andy O'Neill, Head of the Electoral Commission in Scotland, said: 'We want to make sure that anyone living in temporary accommodation has the information they need to make their voice heard on election day, 5 May.'

Staff

- How to register to vote – Go to www.aboutmyvote.co.uk. If you have a temporary (or permanent) address, you can fill in your post-code and register online. If you have no fixed address you can still vote. Find your local Electoral Registration Office at the same website and contact them to fill in a 'Declaration of local connection' form.

You must register by 15 April if you want to vote in the Scottish General Elections.

What the parties say

The Scottish National Party (SNP) claims to be planning an ambitious council house building schedule over the next four years. But Labour accuses the ruling party is 'failing badly'. The Scottish Conservatives intend to increase the involvement of charities in housing the homeless, while the Lib Dems stress the importance of supporting homelessness prevention services. The Scottish Greens would replace the Council Tax with a Land Value Tax, which they believe would be an incentive to build new houses.

So who will get your vote?

Scottish Conservative Party: 'Homelessness is a serious and grave concern and we must do all we can to ensure that new ways of housing Scotland's homeless are explored and put into action. We especially would like to see heavy involvement from the third sector in doing this as they can often provide unique and thorough first-hand experience of helping those who are living rough on the streets of Scotland.'

Scottish Green Party: Greens propose the abolition of Council Tax and its replacement with a Land Value Tax that will make it uneconomic for developers to sit on land with planning permission for new homes and wait for the market to move, which the party hopes will be a real incentive to get building. They will also oppose the removal of the requirement for 25 per cent of homes to be provided in large-scale housing developments to be affordable ones.

Scottish Labour Party: 'We need an urgent step-change in Scottish Government policy to deliver a major expansion in the number of affordable homes being built for rent. We need this now because a strategy for homes is also a strategy for jobs. The best way to deal with the housing crisis is to build more homes. And in these tough economic times, we will never abandon families facing the trauma of repossession. Local people deserve a decent environment to live, work and spend their leisure time in.'

Scottish Liberal Democrats: 'There is a major challenge in tackling the housing shortfall and we are focused on helping deliver more homes for people that are affordable, both in the heart of towns and cities and in rural areas. We commit to the 2012 homeless target and will put in place a package of measures to help meet demand with supply.' They also plan to offer early intervention programmes to

those at risk of homelessness including those leaving care, prison or the armed forces, and to take steps to bring empty homes back into use.

Scottish National Party: Over the next four years, they plan to build 5000 new council houses across Scotland, a commitment that say will also support 8,000 construction jobs. They will also introduce a levy on long-term empty houses, which they claim will bring in up to £30 million of additional resources annually to help fund this new council housing. They have also pledged to support the Scotland Empty Homes scheme.

Simon Gwynn

Glasgow homeless hit for council tax payments

Glasgow City Council is set to charge its homeless population water and sewerage charges from next month, as the local authority struggles to cope with a near 50 per cent cut in housing benefit from the central government.

For the majority of homeless accommodation, which falls under Council Tax band A, the annual bill for 2011/2012 would be £262.38, payable in ten monthly installments.

The council says it is required by law to collect these charges on behalf of Scottish Water. But there are fears that the move will push homeless people further in poverty, since they are already required to use their own money to pay for meals, heating, lighting and hot water while in temporary accommodation.

It has even led to fear that the city may be forced back into a situation of using larger hostel-style accommodation, where charges would not apply.

Labour Councillor Matthew Kerr, of Craigton, said: 'It is unbeliev-

able how badly Glasgow has been let down by the Westminster government. We explained to them exactly how Glasgow would be singled out by the changes in housing benefit but our advice has been blatantly ignored.'

Mr Kerr, who is also the council's executive member for social care, called for the government to reconsider. He added: 'Glasgow is now effectively being punished for implementing stock transfer and giving power to local housing associations. The vast majority of our homeless accommodation is now through the housing associations but funding for that accommodation has been cut in two.'

'Yet a 100 per cent subsidy for our hostel accommodation remains fully intact. It is absurd that central government policy actually favours hostel accommodation. The large scale hostels didn't work. They reinforce the problems that led to homelessness, institutionalising many people simply because they lost their home.'

'Glasgow spent much of the previous decade closing them down but we are being pointed straight back in that direction. The government is being breathtakingly short-sighted and has shown no understanding of homelessness in Glasgow.'

A full exemption is still available if the council property is completely occupied by students, young persons under the age of 18, people with severe impairment of 'intelligence and social functioning,' and members of visiting forces.

There are currently about 2,000 temporary furnished flats around the city for homeless people, provided mostly by GHA and other local housing associations.

The spokeswoman for the Department for Work and Pensions said: 'Glasgow's arrangements for temporary accommodation are a matter for the council.'

Imran Ali

Fighting the ban

Proposed soup-run ban makes way for £2.8m Westminster development

Anyone passing London's Westminster Cathedral on Sunday 20 March would have observed a hive of activity in the Piazza, as opponents of Westminster City Council's proposed ban of soup runs and rough-sleeping staged their protest picnic.

The gathering was one of a number of actions decided by homeless people, groups and charities at a meeting on 3 March, organised by Housing Justice in response to a letter outlining the council's controversial plans. Word of the picnic (and the reasons for it) spread rapidly, through media reports and interviews, Facebook, Twitter and Simon Community's (London) mail-drop to local residents.

On the day of the event, as churchgoers attended mass in Westminster Cathedral, some 500 protesters peacefully gathered outside. A band of Hare Krishna musicians and a London drumming group provided musical accompaniment, while protestors in 'Don't feed the homeless' t-shirts mingled with residents, representatives from homeless charities and rough sleepers, all tucking into the free picnic.

The protest was organised by charities and groups including Housing Justice, Open Cinema, *The Pavement*, The Simon Community (London) and The Sock Mob. In addition to the picnic, there was a flashmob outside the nearby offices of the Department for Communities and Local Government, which is believed to back the council's proposal. Sock Mob volunteers handed out questionnaires that have been issued by the council as part of its four-week consultation process, which ended on Friday 25 March. 200 were filled in before they ran out.

The end of the council's consultation marked the beginning of a tense waiting period, while Westminster City Council councillors make their decision. If they decide to go ahead with the ban, new Byelaws will be created to forbid rough sleeping and the distribution of free refreshments in the Victoria area of Westminster.

Exceptions will be made for free refreshments distributed at sporting events, in licensed premises, for marketing campaigns or by the council or any health authority.

Anyone found breaking these laws will be liable to a fine of up to £500.

Westminster City Council's preliminary letter about the proposals, dated 24 February, states: "The council believe that homeless people should make use of building based services (via the commissioned street outreach teams), rather than living rough and making use of soup runs. In addition, the council and its voluntary sector partners are clear that soup runs are detrimental to rough sleepers in the long run and prolong the length of time that people spend on the streets."

Alison Gelder, director of Housing Justice, responded to the council's announcement, saying: "While we completely understand the problems experienced by residents in this area, this Byelaw, which is an attack on civil and religious freedoms, is a completely over-the-top response. It also cuts across the successful work that Housing Justice and others are doing to reduce both rough sleeping and the need for food distribution on the streets."

Housing Justice are far from alone in their opposition, with The

Passage day centre, The Simon Community (London), Crisis, The Methodist Church and others all issuing statements voicing their support for the anti-ban campaign. Hilary Benn, shadow leader of the House of Commons, has also described the proposals as "the shocking face of 21st-century Tories in the richest borough in the country, supported by the Communities Secretary." Benn added: "Their Big Society hides a big, nasty, spiteful stick."

London charities Thames Reach and St Mungo's are frequently cited as backing the ban, yet their support appears cautious or partial. St Mungo's is in support of the council's efforts to find out what the public reaction is to a Byelaw that prohibits soup runs. However, the charity has said: "St Mungo's will be expressing to Westminster that the byelaw should not seek to ban rough sleeping. Rather, St Mungo's is reiterating its call for government to introduce a Right to Shelter."

Thames Reach chief executive Jeremy Swain, meanwhile, told *The Guardian* that it was reasonable that the council to seek to introduce a Byelaw covering the specific area of Westminster city, while at the same time using resources to work towards ending rough sleeping in the wider borough. Swain pointed out: "This is not a borough-wide ban, which I would oppose."

This is not the first time Westminster Council has attempted to sanction soup kitchens. In 2007, the council proposed a new London Local Authorities Bill that would close soup kitchens and make it illegal to give free food to the homeless in Central London. However, in the face of strong opposition



Iain Mowatt

Age at disappearance: 32

Iain has been missing from Arbroath, Tayside since 12 August 2007.

There is great concern for him and he is urged to contact our confidential service, **Message Home**, on **Freefone 0800 700 740** for advice and support.

Iain is 6ft 4ins tall with blue eyes and short brown hair. He has a panther tattoo on his right arm. When last seen he was wearing a Celtic football shirt, a grey hooded top, combat trousers, and white trainers.

If you've seen Iain please call the 24-hour confidential charity **Missing People** on Freefone **0500 700 700**
Email: seensomeone@missingpeople.org.uk



and lack of support from other London councils, Westminster was forced to scrap the proposed bill.

Despite opposition in 2007, Westminster City Council's drive to close soup kitchens continued. Two years later, in 2009, the council joined forces with Crisis to commission the London School of Economics (LSE) to carry out a study into soup kitchens. While research was being carried out, the council published the Westminster Cathedral Piazza Draft Action Plan.

Giving an early hint of the council's current plans, the Draft Action Plan proposed that the evidence gathered by LSE could be used to support Byelaws controlling the distribution of free food, an early hint of the council's current plans. The document repeatedly refers to the 'problems' supposedly caused by soup runs and their users, such as 'street urination, street fouling and litter.'

While Westminster City Council has long been against soup kitchens, the timing of its latest proposal is no coincidence. The Westminster Cathedral Piazza Draft Action Plan mentioned above announces a major development of Westminster Piazza and Wilcox Place. Significantly, the area earmarked for development falls in the centre of the designated area of the ban.

Planned improvements include "designing out crime and anti-social behaviour" and introducing public concerts and attractions, such as a second-hand book market, a rolling public-art programme and musical performances by the Cathedral School Choir. *The Pavement* added together the projected costs cited in Draft Plan (ignoring the estimated revenues) and calculated that the Piazza development would cost around £2.8m.

Planned actions affecting rough sleepers and soup kitchens include: seeking planning consent to align the nursery school gates of St

Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary School with the front of the neighbouring St Paul's bookshop "in order to prevent rough sleeping and other anti-social behaviour that blights this space" (£50,000). Compared to this, getting rid of soup kitchens is cheap, with "no anticipated costs" associated with introducing Byelaws that ban the kitchens "for the good governance of the Piazza".

Having received feedback from the consultation, Westminster City Council officers will now present a report to the Full Council, made up of the council's 60 elected members. At Housing Justice's initial campaign meeting, Westminster Councillor Adam Hug (Labour) said that the consultation summary would be presented to the Full Council at their May meeting, scheduled to take place on 4 or 18 May.

Campaign-wise, additional ideas drummed up at the Housing Justice meeting are now being implemented. An open letter was printed in *The Guardian* on 17 March and a list of alternatives to the council's proposals has been published on the Housing Justice website.

Jad Adams from Croydon Nightwatch is also compiling a list of soup-run organisers who have pledged to defy the ban if it comes into effect. The campaign against the ban has picked up more than 450 votes of support on leading campaigning website, 38 Degrees, and 3,434 members on the Facebook page, Do Not Make Feeding the Homeless Illegal, set up in 2007 when the ban was first attempted.

Though the consultation period is over, Alison Gelder, director of Housing Justice, advises those who oppose the ban to lobby the Full Council members – particularly the 48 conservative councillors – by attending their MPs' surgeries.

Carinya Sharples

Orderly discharge

Enlightened hospital policy promises better care for homeless patients

When a female homeless patient was discharged from University College Hospital London recently, she might have expected this to be the point where her care ended. Instead, a London Pathway nurse accompanied her from UCHL to the station and sat with her until her train arrived.

Alex Bax, chief executive of the London Pathway charity, explained: "We plugged her back into Aberdeen Social Services. We arranged the travel and then made sure she could get on the train."

This case study is just one example of range of care being offered to homeless patients by the London Pathway at University College London. The project is overhauling the way homeless patients are cared for at the hospital in an attempt to cut UCHL's high admission rate and reduce lengthy hospital stays. Although there were guidelines for discharging homeless patients, as we've reported in the past, they are only guidelines and practical solutions offered.

Currently the medical problems caused by unstable living conditions mean that homeless people are admitted to hospital four times as often as those who are permanently housed and, on average, their stay there is twice as long. The result is that medical care for homeless men and women costs eight times as much as that for the housed population.

The London Pathway project changes the care given to homeless patients so that it better addresses the causes of their medical problems. It offers patients a more complete or 'holistic' care package, which considers needs arising from their homelessness as well as immediate health concerns.

The project was established because the existing medical care did not seem to address the homeless patient's non-health related problems, such as drug or alcohol addiction or mental health issues. Yet these issues all contribute to homeless patients' health problems and, because they were not being identified, medical problems would persist. "Homelessness is co-related with health problems," said Bax. "If clinicians think about the homeless status of a patient, it may help them to understand why the patient is not getting better or keeps coming back to hospital."

Under the new programme of care being implemented by the London Pathway project, staff spend considerably more time with homeless patients, trying to find solutions to their particular needs. This might mean helping a patient to acquire new identification papers, arranging for them to move to a better shelter or helping them enrol on a detox programme.

"We try to use the time in hospital to put the best plans we can in place around and with the patient," Bax said. "So they have the best chance of not coming back to hospital – and hopefully a pathway off the street."

Alongside the nurses, the project has also introduced "care navigators" – formerly homeless people who can draw on their own experience to help guide homeless patients through the hospital process.

An in-house review of the project published in February this year, indicates that its changes have had some effect. The report states that the average time a homeless person stays in hospital has fallen by 3.2 days, saving the

hospital £300,000. Additionally, 10 times the number of homeless patients now leave UCLH with a multi-agency plan in place

The project has received a grant from the Heath Foundation charity to be implemented in more hospitals. London Pathway's chief executive has said that by September this year, the project should be running in two additional hospitals, Brighton and Sussex University Hospital Trust and Royal London Hospital,

Bax added that the project also hopes to increase post-discharge support for homeless people. This could involve building a sanctuary centre, offering care for those who are deemed healthy enough to leave hospital but are not yet able to return to the streets or hostels.

"More could be done to physically and metaphorically hold people's hands after they leave hospital," Bax said.

Nicholas Olczak

News in brief

The homeless news from around the bazaars

Herefordshire council admits error in homeless figures

Herefordshire Council has admitted it greatly 'overestimated' the number of rough sleepers in the county. A recent article published in the *Herefordshire Times* stated that 42 homeless people were sleeping rough in the area, more than many major cities including Liverpool, Birmingham and Newcastle.

However, John Burnett, spokesperson for Herefordshire Council, told *The Pavement* that the figures were an anomaly. "Having had a closer look at the results and the methodology applied to obtain the figures, it would appear we reported anyone we'd had contact with who may have been in contact with the winter shelter," he said. Mr Burnett explained that it is difficult to obtain precise figures due to the fact that homeless people are often on the move. "Taking this all into account and having reviewed more detailed data we have now obtained, we estimate that, realistically, there could be eight or nine rough sleepers in the county," he said.

The council has announced these numbers are still "too high" and it will be addressing the issue as soon as possible. According to Burnett, an individual action plan will be put in place for all of those sleeping rough and the needs of each will be thoroughly assessed. "We are also working closely with private landlords and those who have been sleeping rough to ensure that people accommodated in the private rented sector receive support to enable their accommodation to remain viable," he

explained. In addition, the council plans to develop a rough sleepers' strategy to address the problem and ensure the root cause of the problem is being tackled. This will also include a more refined methodology for counting rough sleepers, which, in turn, will lead to more consistent reporting on the issue.

Lizzie Cernik

Controversial strategy continues in City of London

The City of London has no plans to end Operation Poncho, the strategy to reduce homelessness in the area to zero.

The Pavement asked whether there were plans to discontinue Poncho, and was told that the City is "not considering ending it". According to Susanna Howard, of the City of London Corporation, the plan has so far succeeded in reducing the number of rough sleepers from 69 to 20.

Operation Poncho has been criticised by some because of 'hot-washing', the practise of spraying hot water over areas where rough sleepers are known to bed down. According to the Corporation, which works alongside City of London Police and the homeless charity Broadway, the sites that are washed down are "chosen by the level of detritus seen by our outreach workers, members of the public and businesses".

Outreach workers aim to house people in private rented accommodation, social housing or hostels. The Corporation explained that the allocation of

housing is "decided on an individual basis according to need."

John Ashmore

Thugs jailed for attack on asylum seeker

Three violent thugs have been locked up for a vicious assault on a homeless man. According to a national newspaper, Jack Williams (20), Jonathon Wood (19), and Ashley Dunn (21) launched the unprovoked attack after a night of heavy drinking.

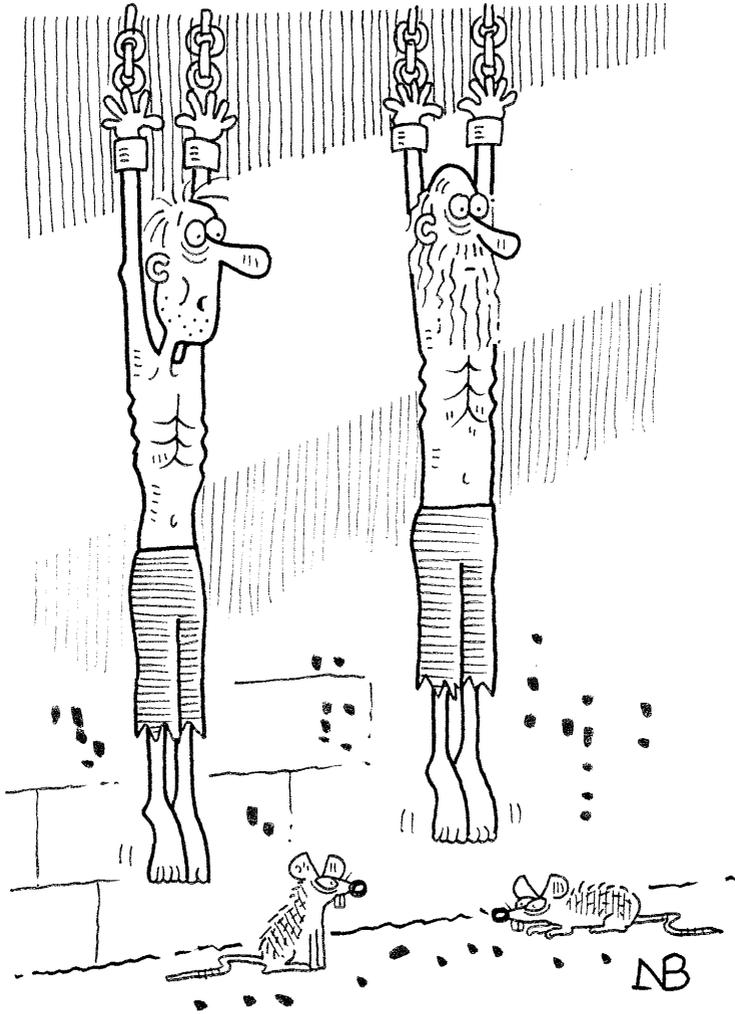
The victim, a failed asylum seeker who was sleeping on a park bench, was kicked and punched repeatedly during the incident, which took place at Broadwalk Park in Salford, Greater Manchester, on 31 July last year.

CCTV evidence resulted in the three men being handed 20-month sentences at Manchester Minshull Street Crown Court on 28 February. "This was a vicious, unprovoked attack by three fit, strong, young men against one person. An attack which was unrestricted in its ferocity in terms of violence," said Recorder Peter Cowan.

According to court reports, all the defendants are from unstable backgrounds and have previous criminal records as well as drug and alcohol addiction problems.

Lizzie Cernik





"It's not being allowed to vote that really gets to me"

Secret camp discovered in Villa grounds

A homeless man has been found living in a makeshift shelter beneath one of the main stands at the home of Premier League football team Aston Villa.

Despite a state-of-the-art security system and regular weekend crowds of 42,000 people, the man remained undetected by Villa staff until a routine sweep of the ground by security teams. His shelter, constructed from cardboard and other items found around the stadium, was found hidden away under the Holte End at Villa Park (pictured below). Since its discovery, the man has not been spotted again.

Club security are struggling to work out how the man managed to leave and enter the stadium repeatedly without being spotted by CCTV or any of the ground staff.

Regular drinkers at the local Aston Hotel pub reported seeing the man regularly in the area. "I know

who he is, but we've not seen him for a few days," said one customer. "No-one believed him when he claimed he was actually living at the Villa."

"It's amazing that he managed to escape detection for so long."

James O'Reilly

Another violent assault

A man who attacked a homeless woman in Bournemouth last summer has escaped a jail sentence.

Daniel Preston, 24, a builder from Poole, assaulted Elin Mitchell while she was asleep in a doorway in the centre of Bournemouth and stole £10 from her. Ms Mitchell, who has been homeless since April 2010, said: "He kicked me in the head and took my money. It makes me scared to be out on the streets now."

Sentencing Mr Preston at Bournemouth Crown Court, the Recorder, Philippa Whipple, described his

crime as "a really disgraceful act." Ms Whipple added: "You picked on a vulnerable single person and not only did you steal from her what little money she had, you kicked her to the side of the head. It was bullying, intimidating, foul behaviour. You were so drunk at the time you can't remember."

Mr Preston was given a six-month sentence, suspended for 18 months. His lawyer put his client's behaviour down to excessive drinking, saying: "It wasn't motivated by anything. The explanation lies in the fact that he was dead drunk at the time. He did say he was sorry."

Speaking to the *Bournemouth Echo*, Daniel Preston said: "I was very drunk and I am sorry. It won't happen again." As well as his suspended sentence, he has been ordered to do 100 hours of community service and attend an alcohol management programme.

John Ashmore



Bradford body finally discovered

A body discovered in a tent near Bradford city centre could have been there for almost a year, according to local police.

The tent's camouflage and the fact that it was set back from the road resulted in the body remaining undiscovered, officers explained. The deceased is believed to have been a rough sleeper. Following a post-mortem, police said that they are not treating the death as suspicious, but are appealing for information from members of the public.

Det Insp Mark Long said: "Our initial investigations suggest that these are the remains of a rough sleeper, however, we are still working to confirm an identity.

"Having spoken with the pathologist, it is believed that the death could have happened as far back as last summer. We need people's help to bring together the circumstances which have resulted in this discovery and to work out exactly who this person is. I would, therefore, ask that they cast their minds back to last summer and consider whether there is anything they can remember which could assist us further in our enquiries."

James O'Reilly

- If you have any information that might aid police investigation, please contact West Yorkshire Police on **0845 6060 606**.

The Big Issue goes App

The Big Issue, the magazine best known for being sold on the streets by homeless vendors, is to become available as a mobile phone app, according to the magazine's founder, John Bird.

Mr Bird announced the planned development at Is homelessness

set to rise?, a debate held at the London School of Economics to mark the launch of *Street Stories*, St Mungo's oral history exhibition.

Under the new scheme, when a buyer downloads a digital copy of the magazine, the app will register their location and pay the nearest *Big Issue* seller.

At the debate, Mr Bird also mentioned plans to move some vendors in-office to blog and write for the magazine.

Further details on the app are yet to be announced, according to The Big Issue Foundation. Look out for news of developments in the next issue of *The Pavement*.

Carinya Sharples

Rough sleeper's story takes to the stage

When Anthony Delaney was given an ASBO for sleeping rough at an airport, he probably never imagined what his conviction would lead to.

But now the story of the three years Delaney spent living at Gatwick Airport has been made into a theatrical production. *No Particular Place to Go* examines the challenge Delaney faced and celebrates the willpower he showed to survive. Doug Devaney, an old school friend of Delaney's who owns a theatre company and was inspired when he heard the remarkable story, is producing the play.

To try to understand and accurately depict what Delaney went through, the entire cast spent several days sleeping rough at the airport.

"The strip lighting is constant, there's a constant noise and buzz about the place," Devaney told the *BBC*. "Sleep deprivation and the ability to get an hour's sleep every now and then is really the essence of surviving."

As well as telling the story of Delaney's struggle to survive at the airport, the play also explores the seedier side of airport life, including the practice of human trafficking.

The play, by the Chronicle Theatre, was performed at the Lectern Pub, Brighton, up to 2 April.

Nicholas Olczak

More hostel beds lost

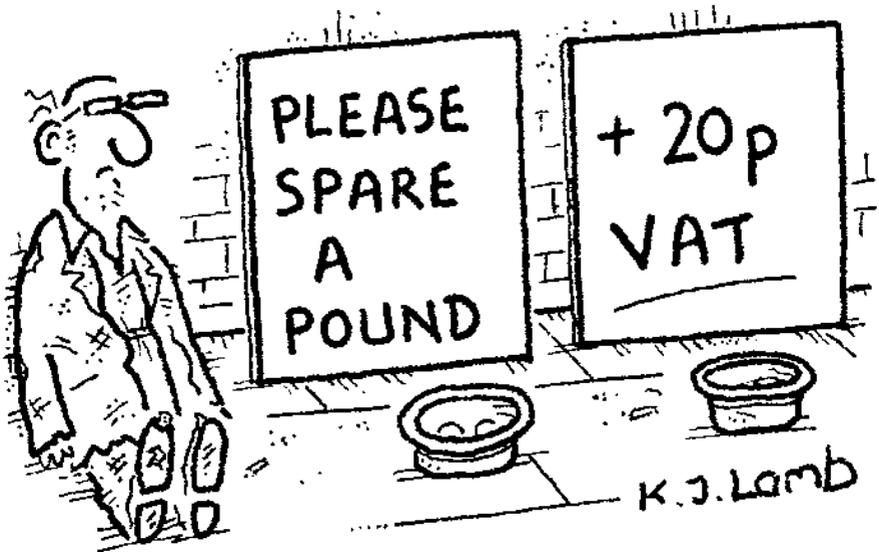
Local government spending cuts have led to a worrying trend of homeless hostels closing down. With the full impact of cuts yet to be felt, there are understandable fears over the provision of services for vulnerable people. Homeless Link has warned that as many as a quarter of beds available to rough sleepers could be lost as a result of reductions in public spending.

At the end of last year, Lambeth Council announced the closure of its 120-bed hostel in Cedars Road, Clapham, a decision that the council claims "will not lead to more homeless people on the street." However, the charity that runs the hostel, St Mungo's, has said that it is "very concerned" about the impact of closure.

Mike McCall, its executive director of operations, said: "We want an open and helpful dialogue with the council about homelessness in Lambeth, the role of Cedars and alternative options.

"Cedars Road is a cost-effective, vital place of safety and recovery for homeless people in Lambeth. The worry is that the number of rough sleepers will continue to rise as a consequence of public spending cuts."

This is in addition to the closure of two Centrepoint hostels at the end of March. The City of London Centrepoint and the Salter's City Foyer have both risen to national attention thanks to the support of Prince William, who spent a night





at one of the hostels last year after visiting both shelters as a child with his mother, Princess Diana.

The reduction in homeless services is not limited to the capital, with the announcement at the beginning of March that four of Nottingham's Framework hostels will no longer receive council funding. Although this does not necessarily mean that the hostels will close down, it does mean they will be unable to provide the same level of support for rough sleepers. Michael Leng, operations director at Framework, said: "this will have a huge, damaging impact on the city."

Mr Leng added: "People will die and, significantly, people will die early as a result of this."

John Ashmore

Guerrilla campaign

A Southampton Solent University student has teamed up with a local homelessness charity to launch a guerrilla campaign to promote homelessness issues.

To raise awareness about the plight of rough sleepers, a plastic skeleton, wearing a beanie hat and sitting in a sleeping bag, has been popping up on the streets of Southampton.

The skeleton – nicknamed Skinny Steve – is the brainchild of 20-year old media communications student Joe Miller.

When the Society of St James, the largest homelessness charity in Southampton, asked Miller to help promote their cause, he decided to turn to so-called 'guerrilla' marketing tactics, which work by grabbing people's attention when they least expect it.

Miller explained: "The skeleton's just got that shock element; you don't expect to see it at all."

But behind the shock value of the stunt, there is a serious message. The plastic skeleton

holds a sign saying "How long until you take notice?" and warns the public that, if homeless people are ignored, they will die.

Trevor Pickup, chief executive for the Society of St James, said: "This guerrilla advertising is a contemporary and exciting way of communicating with a new group of people, who we hope will support our work."

Media student Miller has taken to filming the public's reaction and has reported that most people respond positively to the stunt.

The skeleton appeared in various spots around the city throughout March and Miller hopes that the campaign can be used in other towns in the future.

Whether you view Skinny Steve as a hard-hitting guerrilla campaign or a cheap stunt, his unexpected presence on the streets of Southampton has certainly turned heads.

Amy Hopkins

End to restrictions on Eastern Europeans

The restrictions placed on the countries which joined the European Union in 2004 will come to an end at the end of May, with far-reaching implications for Eastern European migrants, including rough sleepers.

The UK was one of the few countries that gave full access to jobs for workers from the eight Eastern European nations (Poland, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Slovenia and the Czech Republic) which joined the EU seven years ago.

In the UK, the ending of these so-called "transitional arrangements" will mean that thousands more migrants will have greater access to state benefits, as Britain had imposed a 12-month restriction for access to certain handouts.

Any Eastern European who is able to show that they have

lived in the UK for three months and can demonstrate a "settled intent to remain" will be able to reside here permanently, and claim jobseeker's allowance, council tax and housing benefit.

At present, around a quarter of rough sleepers in London are from Central or Eastern Europe. Homeless Link, an umbrella organisation for those who work with homeless people, has produced a guide to help service providers and local authorities understand the changing situation.

At the top of their list of guidance, Homeless Link suggests that local authorities should try to make an "offer of connection" to enable Eastern European rough sleepers to return to their home countries. Homeless Link also warns that, despite the lifting of restrictions, access to hostels and benefits is still not guaranteed.

The guidance notes published on the charity's website explain: "All EEA [European Economic Area] nationals are required to show that they are habitually resident and have a settled intention to remain in the UK in order to claim out of work income related benefits.

"There is no automatic entitlement to welfare benefits once the transitional arrangements end for A8 nationals. Each case is determined on an individual basis. Access to hostels or other supported accommodation is not automatic, even if an applicant satisfies the Habitual Residence Test and has an entitlement to welfare benefits. Most local authorities require evidence of a local connection to their area as a condition of access to accommodation or support services."

The ending of restrictions will also mean that A8 nationals who want to work in the UK no longer have to register with the UK Border Agency.

To access state benefits, people from A8 countries will have to

pass the “habitual residence” test, showing that they are have been settled in the UK for three months and plan to stay here. To be allowed to stay, applicants must be working, studying, seeking work or self-sufficient. Homeless Link have pointed out that, “this may not be possible for someone who is currently rough sleeping with an intermittent employment history.”

Worryingly, some local authorities are already contemplating the forced removal of A8 nationals who fail to meet these criteria. In Bognor Regis, West Sussex, for example, Arun District Council is considering deportation for those who refuse to consider a “settled life”, with any forced removals funded by the UK Border Agency.

An Arun spokeswoman said the District Council is interested in becoming the first in Sussex to follow pilot projects run in seven areas – including Westminster and Southampton – where Eastern Europeans and other foreign nationals were removed if they refused to return home of their own accord.

Rebecca Evans

Rough sleeper badly burned

Police have arrested a 27-year-old man following a fire outside a Newport hotel last month, in which a rough sleeper was severely burned.

Officers had to release pictures (right) of the victim’s tattoos in order to identify him and believe that he had also been assaulted prior to the start of the fire.

The victim, who is in his 30s, is still in a critical condition.

In a statement, Gwent Police said: “Inquiries are still on going to

establish the cause of the fire and whether it was deliberately set.

“However, it has now been confirmed, following medical examination, that the man has suffered some other injuries and officers now believe he was the victim of an assault.”



The location and timing of the alleged assault are yet to be confirmed, and police officers are continuing to carry our inquiries in the Chepstow Road area.

The injured man was discovered lying in the forecourt area of the hotel and may have been sleeping or unconscious. Police are still trying to contact his relatives.

Catherine Neilan

- Detectives are appealing for anyone with information, or who was in the Chepstow Road area on 9 March, to call Crimestoppers on **0800 555111**.

Reading man charged over rough sleeper’s death

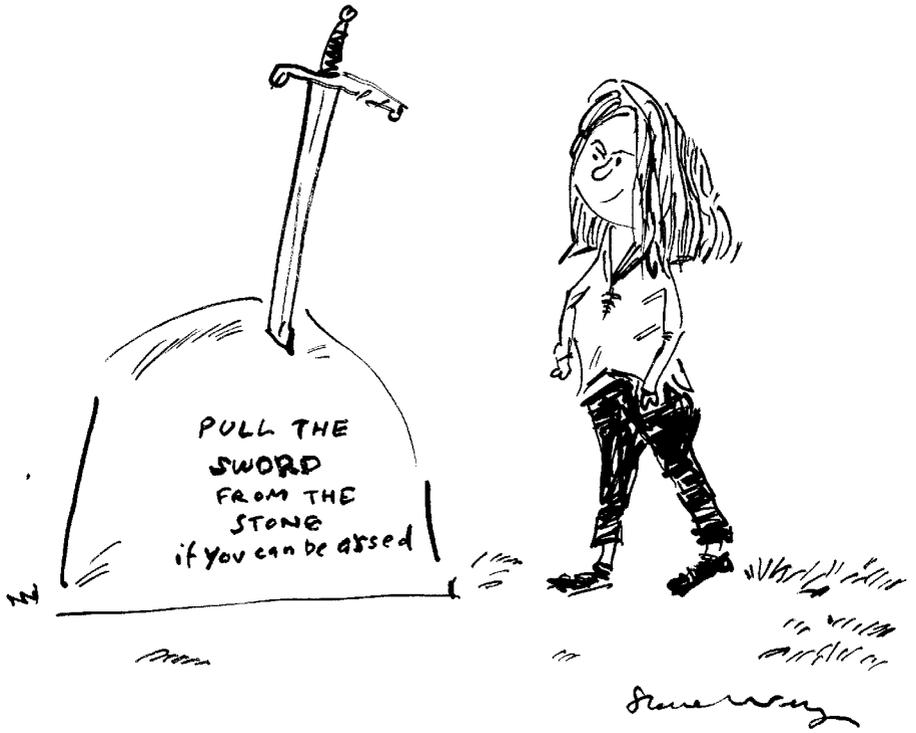
A man has been charged with murder following the death of homeless man Damian Whyte, 33, in Reading at the end of February. Alan Levey, 35, from the Katesgrove area of the city, was charged at Reading Crown Court on 1 March.

Thames Valley police appealed for information from Reading’s homeless community after a dog walker discovered Mr Whyte’s body on a riverside path. A post-mortem revealed he had died from multiple stab wounds.

Officers described Mr Whyte, who grew up in London before moving to Reading, as “a well-liked, sociable and friendly person”, well-known to people in the town.

A second man arrested in connection with Mr Whyte’s death, also from the Reading area, was released without charge on 2 March after questioning from police.

James O’Reilly



Westminster City Council, in the heart of London, has proposed a byelaw to criminalise rough sleeping and stop volunteers giving homeless people food and friendship. People sleeping on the street can be arrested and fined up to £500, and so can anyone giving food to those in need.

Westminster say the homeless people are on the streets because soup runs give out free food, although who would choose to sleep rough just for a cuppa and a sandwich? Westminster says everyone is offered a bed in a hostel, but there aren't enough beds, and many people find hostels threatening places, so take a while to be persuaded inside. Westminster also scares residents with tales of antisocial behaviour and street drinking, although most of this is caused by those in homes and is actually a real threat to homeless people.

Stop the homeless ban!



Westminster City Council's consultation on the proposed byelaw ended on 25 March, but, if they're still deliberating or going ahead with it, you can find details of the campaign and the byelaw at:

www.housingjustice.org.uk or
www.thepavement.org.uk

On **Twitter** use the hashtag **#homelessban** and join the **Facebook** group do not make feeding the homeless illegal.

Health and wellbeing

The Pavement's health team – a podiatrist and a nurse – aim to help keep you well

Easter feet – washing and care

Often it is the simplest things in life that make the difference. We stand on our feet all day and keep them hidden. In a lifetime, they carry us the equivalent of three times round the world. Not bad for appendages that get little conscious attention – until they're sore, that is. So, this Easter, let's spend 10 minutes pampering our feet.

Back in Biblical times, foot washing was very important, mainly because in the agricultural society walking outside made the feet unclean. The lowest house servant usually bathed the feet of house guests, but the ritual also became an honour – it was considered as a mark of respect. Mary Magdalene washed the feet of Jesus with her tears, dried them with her hair and anointed his feet with expensive oils. Christ forgave her sins for this act of humility. Jesus washed his disciples' feet at the Last Supper. When they protested, he reminded his devotees of the significance of foot washing.

'I have done this to give you an example of something that you should do.' Christ's action demonstrated that service rather than status represents greatness. Christians adopted the Hebrew foot washing ceremony and remains one of the three ordinances (sacrament) i.e. baptism, the Lord's Supper, and foot washing. For many, foot washing acts as a renewal of baptism and commitment to living God's way of life. Foot washing is still practised in one form or other throughout the world on the Thursday before Good

Friday, when Christian religious leaders and monarchy honour their commitment to faith and humanity. British king and queens washed the feet of selected poor people until the reign of William and Mary, when the ceremony was replaced by specially minted coins, called 'Maundy Money'. Today, the Queen distributes Maundy coins to the poor in a ceremony that is accompanied by the distribution of alms in the form of food and drink, clothes and money.

Routine foot hygiene consists of daily washing and inspection. Use soap and hand-hot water (46°C) – very hot water is not good for the skin. Bathe the feet for no more than 10 minutes. Dry the skin carefully especially between the toes.

Use a mirror to check for cracks and sores on the heels, the sole of the foot and between the toes. Treat any cuts with an antiseptic like Betadine® and cover them with a clean dressing. Report unhealed wounds to the doctor or podiatrist. Hand creams moisturise the skin, and gentle rubbing will stimulate your circulation and make you feel you're walking on air! Regular washing remove the bacteria that cause smelly feet, and a light dusting of baby talc can help absorb normal sweat. If you suffer from sweaty feet, get some medicated powder from your chemist and sprinkle it on your socks and into your shoes overnight. When the weather permits, mild exposure to sunlight helps air the feet, and bathing them in salt water takes away mild aches and pains. Remember to dry them carefully.

- Only cut the toenails in good light and if you can reach to see them. Cut them carefully across the growing edge, never too short

and never down the sides. You can file them with an emery board.

- Wear well-fitting, comfortable shoes and socks that suits your physical activities
- Be careful when you walk barefoot
- Don't smoke – it reduces the blood circulation to your feet
- Get your healthcare worker to check your feet regularly, and see a podiatrist if your skin and nails get unmanageable.

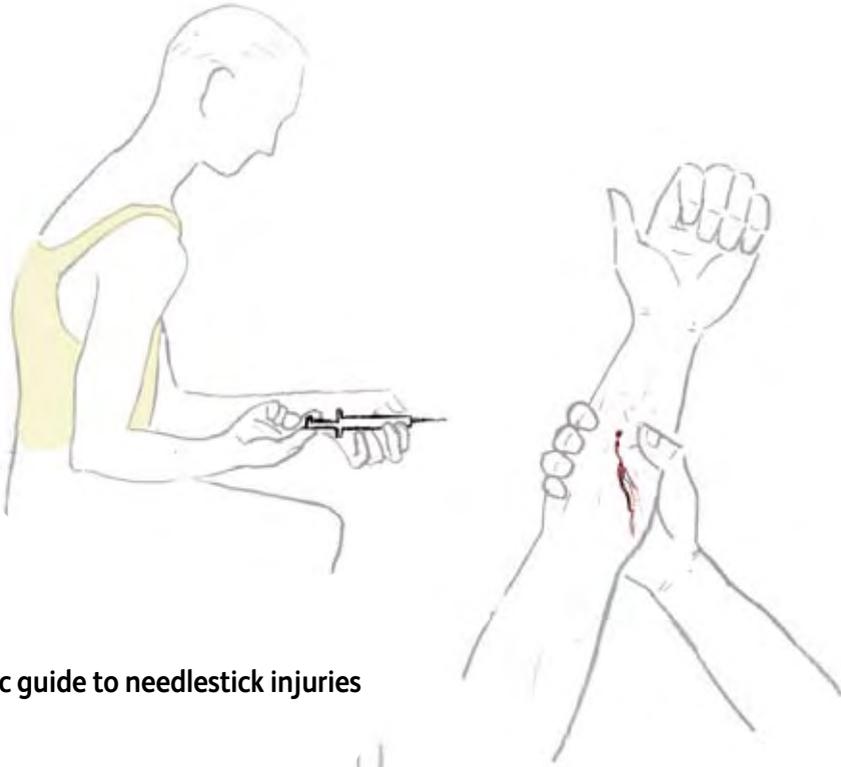
Important points when buying shoes:

- Buy them in the afternoon when the feet swell and are at their largest size
- Always try shoes on in the shop and walk about in them. They don't need to be broken in – if they're uncomfortable, choose another pair. Check for seams or tears in the lining
- Make sure your shoes are long enough and wide enough. If you are buying shoes for someone else, trace an outline of their foot on paper, cut it out and bring it with you
- You need 5mm–10mm between the tip of the longest toe and the end of the shoe
- Shoes should fit snugly at the heel and arch with ample wiggle room for the toes. Straps or laces help prevent unwanted foot movement
- Choose shoes with soft uppers and with soles that are hard-wearing and suitable for the activities you intend to put them to.

This Easter, take care of that pair, keep well and stay safe.

Toe Slayer

Registered Podiatrist
and Shoe Historian



A basic guide to needlestick injuries Part 2

If you missed last month's column:

Q: What is a needlestick injury?

A: A needlestick injury is when your skin is punctured by a needle that someone else has already used.

Last month we looked at ways to reduce the risk of getting a needlestick injury. But what if you accidentally stab yourself with a used needle?

It's easier than you might think – most nurses and doctors have had near-misses, despite being very careful. If you use a sharps box for your own needles and stay away from other people's used needles, you should be reasonably safe. But accidents happen and if you use needles for any reason, you need to know the first aid. Though I'm mostly talking about needles, this advice is relevant for any sharp object that punctures the skin.

Used needles carry a multitude of health risks – you can pick up hepatitis B, hepatitis C or HIV. They can also be contaminated with the drugs they were used to inject or with bacteria.





you are at risk of contracting. If you can't take the person along, try to find out about if they have hepatitis B, hepatitis C or HIV.

The doctor or nurse will ask you questions about how you got the needlestick injury. It is essential that you're as honest as possible as your answers will help them decide on the best course of treatment. You will probably also be asked to provide a blood sample. Depending on the level of risk, you may be offered antibiotics, immunisation against hepatitis B or treatment to prevent HIV.

You will probably feel stressed and scared by all this, which is normal. Remember that although needlestick injuries are high risk and definitely not a good thing to happen, it is possible to sustain one without getting an infection.

Stay safe, don't panic, and know what to do!

Remember: never share a needle with another person or use one that is not sealed in its original packaging.

If you have sustained a needlestick injury, then this is what to do:

First, bleed the wound as much as possible, preferably under running water. Don't scrub or suck the wound. Squeezing the area around the wound in short bursts is the best way to get blood out.

Next, wash the wound using running water and plenty of soap. Dry the wound and cover it with a plaster if you have one.

You must get medical advice if you have a needlestick injury. Go immediately to your GP or local Accident and Emergency and tell them what has happened. If you know the person who first used the needle, it may be useful to take them with you to help establish what infections

Susie Rathie
The Pavement's nurse



HOMELESS CITY GUIDE

 squat

 empty building

 dangerous neighbourhood

 danger

 guard dogs

 an attack happened here

 good place to drink / smoke

 unfriendly place

 friendly place

 soup run (with rating)

 strong police presence

 potential for work

 good food thrown away here

 safe for sleeping

 message board x mins that way

 security guard

 you'll get moved on here

step 1



step 2



MAKE YOUR MARK AND HELP OTHERS TO READ THE CITY

Make non permanent marks to keep the system up to date and stay within the law.

Glasgow Women's Support Project

See Telephone Services Glasgow

SAY Women Accommodation Project

3rd Floor, 30 Bell St, G1 1LG

0141 552 5803

Provides support and counselling to young women aged 16 – 25 who are homeless or threatened with homelessness and are survivors of rape or sexual abuse AS, C, SH

TELEPHONE SERVICES

Community Legal Advice

0845 345 4345

Nationwide

www.communitylegaladvice.org.uk

Free, confidential service, offering specialist advice on housing, benefits, tax credits, debt etc.

Edinburgh City Mission

Providing a listening service for anyone in emotional crisis. Also offers face-to-face counselling by appointment

Domestic Violence Helpline

0808 2000 247

0800 776 600

Free 24-hr drug helpline

Get Connected

0808 808 4994

Free advice for young people (1pm – 7pm daily)

Job Centre Plus (benefits agency)

0800 055 6688

To make a claim For queries about existing claims For Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance or Incapacity Benefit

Message Home Helpline

0800 700 740

24 hrs daily

National Debtline

0808 808 4000

Runaway Helpline

0808 800 7070

Free line for under-18s who have left home

The Samaritans

0845 77 90 9090

Out-of-hours helpline for those affected by mental health

SANLINE

0845 767 8000

Soon to have an online version of *The Other List*, which will soon be in several translations to download. www.thepavement.org.uk/services.htm

Shelter

0808 800 4444

Housing info and advice 8am–8pm daily

UK Human Trafficking Centre

0114 252 3891

Counselling and crossline helpline 0845 658 0045

TELEPHONE SERVICES

Glasgow Shelter Advice Service

0808 800 4444

Mon-Fri: 9am–5pm

Glasgow Street Service

0800 027 7466

Mon–Thu: 8am–1pm; Fri: 8am–5pm; Sat: 8am–3pm; Sun: 4–1pm

Glasgow Women's Support Project

31 Stockwell Street, G1 4RZ

0141 552 2221

Glasgow Home Helpline

0800 700 740

24 hrs daily

Project

0845 606 6026

For Social Fund enquiries For the Pensions Service

Project

0845 606 6026

For Social Fund enquiries For the Pensions Service

Message Home Helpline

0800 700 740

24 hrs daily

National Debtline

0808 808 4000

WEBSITES

Mental Fight Club

A creative/arts site for those with mental illness. uk.geocities.com/gabriele-jenkinson@btinternet.com/

The Pavement Online

Soon to have an online version of *The Other List*, which will soon be in several translations to download. www.thepavement.org.uk/services.htm

Proud to be mad

A campaigning site for those with mental illness

Sock Book

Previously *Everyone's Home*

An e-shelter, with a large directory of services. sockbook.referrata.com

Stonewall Housing

Addresses the housing needs of lesbians and gay men. Provides temporary, supported housing for 16 – 25 years old lesbians and gay men. www.stonewallhousing.org

Streetmate

An independent site with substantial information on housing, working and learning, built for those homeless who use the internet and want to do-it-themselves as much as possible. www.streetmate.org

WEBSITES EDINBURGH

Homeless Edinburgh

A comprehensive website containing information about services in Edinburgh including hostels, advice and support centres. Also has information on over 8,000 services outside Edinburgh

Project

0845 606 6026

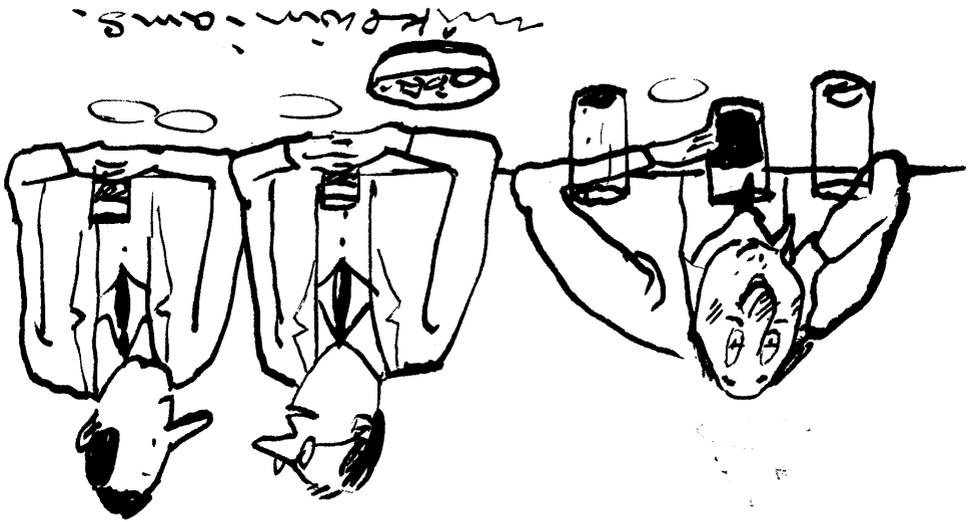
WEBSITES GLASGOW

Homeless Information Pages

Lots of useful information and advice on homeless services in and around Glasgow

www.hippinglasgow.com

“He’s trying to crack the genetic code of hops”



SOUP KITCHENS & SOUP RUNS
EDINBURGH

provide support for people who have hospital appointments and want someone to go along with them. There is also an addiction and mental health team based at this address
A,D,F,FC,MH,MS,P,SH

Barony Contact Point
101 High Rigg, EH3 9RP
0871 700 7777 / 0131 622 1867
Tue: 10.30am - 4pm;
Thur: 10am - 1pm;
FF,P

Calton Centre
121 Montgomerie Street, EH7 5EP
0131 661 5252
Tues: 6 - 8.30pm
FF,P

Care Van
Bethany Christian Trust's soup run in Edinburgh city centre
364 evenings a year
FF

Carubber's Christian Centre
65 High Street, EH1 1SR
0131 556 2626
Sun: 8 - 9am
FF,P

Grassmarket Mission
79/3 Grassmarket, EH1 2HF
0131 225 3626
Mon: 7 - 9pm; Tues: 6 - 7pm;
Wed: 1 - 4pm; Fri: 1 - 4pm;
Sat 9 - 10.30pm
AC,FF,P

Jericho house
53 Lothian Street, EH1 1HB
0131 225 8230
Sun: 10am - 2pm; Weds
CL,FF,P
and Thurs: 6 - 7.30pm

Little Sisters of the Poor
4/3 Gilmore Place, EH3 9NG
0131 229 5672
Every day 1 - 2pm and 6 - 7pm
FF,P

Missionaries of Charity
18 Hopetoun Crescent, EH7 4AY
0131 557 8219
Every day except Thur:

SOUP KITCHENS & SOUP
RUNS GLASGOW

Balvicar Street
G42 8QU
Thurs: 7 - 9pm
FF,P

Cadogan Street
Glasgow G2 7AB
Runs at these times:
Sun: 9 - 10pm; Mon: 7.30 - 9pm; Tues: 8.45pm - 12.30am;
Wed: 9 - 10pm; Fri: 8 - 9pm
FF,P

Rokpa Glasgow
Kagyu Samye Dzong
The Tibetan Buddhist Centre
7 Ashley Street, G3 6DR
0141 332 9950
FF,P

St. Columba's Church
St. Vincent Street, G2
Sun: 7.30 - 9pm
FF,P

St. Patrick's Church
North Street, G3 7DA
Thur & Sun: 8pm - 9pm
FF,P

St. Simon's Church
Dunaskin Street, G11 6PG
Sun: 1.30 - 2.30pm
FF,P

Waterloo Street
G2
Thurs: 10pm - 12am
FF,P

SPECIALIST SERVICES

Support in Mind Scotland
(formerly the National Schizophrenic Fellowship)
6 Newington Business Centre, Dalkeith Road Mews,

SPECIALIST SERVICES
EDINBURGH

Edinburgh, EH16 5DU
0131 662 4359
Mon-Fri: 9am-4pm
Support and action for people affected by mental illness (including friends and carers)
MH
www.supportinmindscotland.org.uk

Edinburgh Women's Aid
4 Cheyne Street, EH4 1JB
0131 315 8110
Mon: 1-3pm; Tues, Wed & Fri: 10am-3pm; Thur: 10am-7pm; Sat: 10am-1pm
Information, support and refuge for women, and accompanying children, fleeing domestic abuse
AS,AD,C,H,OL,P

Streetwork UK - Out of the Cold
2 New Street, Edinburgh
0131 556 9756
Working with people over 50 years who are or have been homeless / housing crisis
AS,AD,B,DA,H,LA,OL,OB,P,TS

Streetwork UK - Womens Services
4 Bellevue Street, Edinburgh
0131 467 2023
Mon, Tue & Thu: 1-4pm
Drop in for women
AD,AC,BA,CA,CL,DA,ET
LA,OL,OB,P,SH,TS

SPECIALIST SERVICES GLASGOW

GAMH Homeless Support Project
123 West Street, G40 1DN
0141 554 6200
Mon - Fri: 9am - 5pm
(4.30pm on Friday)
Practical support and advice for homeless people in Glasgow
Phone, write or just drop in
C,MH,P

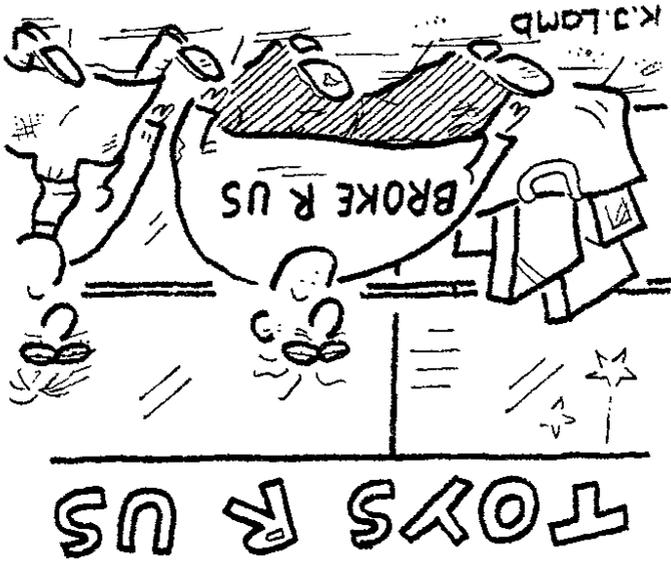
Glasgow Rent Deposit and Support Scheme

3rd Floor, Crowngate Business Centre, 117 Brook Street, G40 3AP
0141 550 7140
Mon-Thur: 9am-4pm; Fri: 9am-3pm
AS,BA,C,H,IT,TS



**The Pavement Scotland is delivered
by James Tait (centre) and the team at
FFWD Bicycle Messengers**

Contact them on 07717 640 410



Salvation Army – Ashbrook

492 Ferry Road, EH5 2DL
0131 552 5705
Single homeless people who are eligible for housing benefit
www.salvationarmy.org.uk

Men

Gilmore's Close, Grass-market, EH1 2HD
0131 220 5078
www.homelessedinburgh.org

Women

Cranston Street Hostel
2 Cranston Street, EH8 8BE
0131 556 8939

Temporary registered accommodation for single homeless women.

Number Twenty
20 Broughton Place, EH1 3RX
0131 557 1739
Young single homeless women aged 16-21 with support needs. Ring first (8am - 11.30pm every day)

Young people (16-25)

Open Door Accommodation

7-12 Adelaide Street, Livingston, EH54 5HG
01506 430221
Young single homeless people aged 16-21 with a local connection to West Lothian
www.odap.org.uk

Rock Trust

55 Albany St, EH1 3QY
0131 557 4059

Various activities and services for 16-25 year olds, including drop-ins, one-to-one sessions and Night Stop on referral.
www.rocktrust.org

Stopover (Edinburgh)

40 Grove Street, EH3 8AT
0131 229 6907
Young single homeless people aged 16-21 with a range of support needs
www.foursquare.org.uk

DIRECT ACCESS HOSTELS/ NIGHTSHELTERS GLASGOW

All with low-support needs

Salvation Army – Hope House

14 Clyde Street, G1 5JW
0141 552 0537
Referral by Glasgow City Council only
A, AS, BS, F, P

Laureston Centre

39 South Portland Street, G1 9JL
0141 429 6533
Open office hours only
A, AS, BS, F, P

Simon Community – Castlemilk

86-88 Arnprior Road, Castlemilk, G45 9HE
Offers a group-living model of supported accommodation to men who have experience of long term homelessness and are committed to addressing addiction issues. Possibility of continuing support after moving into own home. Referral from social work or similar agency is required, accepts men from all over Glasgow
0141 631 1798

Tabbot Association – Kingston

344 Paisley Road, G5 8RE
0141 418 0955
Referral by Glasgow City Council only
BS, C, DT, ET, F, H, L, MS, MH, P, SH

Turning Point Scotland – Link Up
112 Commerce Street, G5 9NT
0141 420 1929
A direct access service for homeless people in crisis as a result of mental health, drug, or alcohol problems
www.turningpointscotland.com

Women

Govanhill Women's Project
14 Polmadie Street, G42 0PQ
0141 423 5599
Works with single homeless women aged over 25 from the Glasgow area. The project is not suitable for women under 25 or those wanting to be accommodated with a partner or with children in their care. Ring first

Rachel House

503 Baitic Street, G40 45G
0141 556 5465
Provides supported accommodation for single/pregnant mothers aged 16 to 25 and children up to ten years old

Council for Homeless Young People (CHYP)

171 Wilton Street, G20 6DF
0141 945 3003
Details at
www.queenscrossha.org.uk

Quarriers Stopover

189 Pollockshaws Road, G41 1PS
0141 420 3121
For young people 16-25. Accommodation is on the upper levels of a four-storey building so not suitable for people with physical disabilities
A, C, D, ET, H, P

www.quarriers.org.uk

The Mungo Foundation – London Road Project

1920 London Road, G32 8XG
0141 778 1184
Works with 16-25 year olds who cannot access mainstream accommodation. (Open 24 hrs)
www.themungofoundation.org.uk

ADVISE SERVICES GLASGOW

GENR8 Action for Children (16-24)

Westwood Business Centre, 69 Aberdele Road, G34 9H]
0141 771 6161
Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm
Advice and support for 16-24 year olds seeking accommodation

Glasgow Shelter Advice Service

AS, AD, BA, C, DA, H, P, TS
First Floor Suite 2, Breckendridge House, 274 Sauchiehall Street
0808 800 4444 Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm
Emergency surgery at office
Thu 2-4pm, at all other times
call the helpline above
AD, C, H, P

Glasgow City Council

For anyone who is homeless, threatened with homelessness, or in need of advice about homelessness - to discuss your circumstances with you in a private interview room and provide advice on what can be done next to help you
AS, BA, C, DA, H, TS
www.glasgow.gov.uk

Glasgow City Council

Homeless Person's Team
Hamish Allan Centre, 180 Centre Street, G5 8EE
0141 287 1800
Mon-Thur: 8.45am-4.45pm;
Fri: 8.45am-3.55pm
AS, BA, C, DA, H, P, TS

Glasgow Street Service

See Telephone Services Glasgow
EDINBURGH
DAY CENTRES AND DROP-INS

Barony Contact Point

101 High Riggs, EH3 9RP
0871 700 7777
Mon: 6.30-9pm; Tue: 10.30am-4pm; Thu: 3.30-7.30pm; Fri: 11am-2pm (women only); Sun: 11am-4pm
C, MH, P

Bethany Christian Trust

Leith Accorn Centre YMCA, Junction Place, EH6 5JA
Tue: 12.30-2.30pm (women only drop in); Thu: 1-3pm

(men only drop in) FF

Cowgate Day Centre

see Streetwork Crisis Centre

Crossreach - Church of Scotland Social Care Council

Charis House, 47 Milton Road East, Edinburgh, EH15 2SR
0131 657 2000

Mon-Thur: 8.45am-4.45pm; Fri: 8.45am-3.45pm
www.crossreach.org.uk

Four Square

67a Logie Green Road, Canonmills, EH7 4HF
0131 557 7930
www.foursquare.org.uk

Glasgow City Council

AS, ET, TS, P
Streetwork UK - Womens Services
See Specialist Services

DAY CENTRES AND DROP-INS GLASGOW

Glasgow City Mission - The Shieling

20 Crimea Street, Glasgow, G2 8PW
0141 221 2630
Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri: 10am-4pm (drop in); Thur: 1-5pm; Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri: 6.30-11pm
www.glasgowcitymission.com

AS, AD, AC, B, BS, BE, C, CL, ET, FF, H, IT, LA, MC, MS, OB, P
www.glasgowcitymission.com

Lodging House Mission

35 East Campbell St, G1 5DT
0141 552 0285
Mon, Tue, Thu: 8am-3pm; Wed, Fri: 8am-2pm; Sun: 4-6.30pm
BS, CL, E, F, IT, P

Salvation Army - The Laurieston Centre

39 South Portland Street, G5 9JL
0141 429 6533
AS, A, BA, C, DA, ET, FF, F, H, IT, LF, MS, P, SH, TS

Wayside Day Centre

32 Midland Street, G1 4PR
0141 221 0169
Mon-Fri: 10-11.30am; 12.30-4pm; 7.30-10pm; Sat 1-4pm
There are specific services for women and rough sleepers as well

as health, addiction and other specialist services at specified times

AS, AD, AC, B, BA, BS, BE, CA, CL, ET, F, FF, H, IT, L, LA, MS, OB, P

DIRECT ACCESS HOSTELS/ NIGHTSHELTERS EDINBURGH

All with low-support needs

Bethany House

12 Couper St, Leith, EH6 6HH
Emergency accommodation for single homeless people
0131 467 1010
AS, AD, A, BS, BE, D, F, H, L, LA, P

Bethany Supported Housing

65 Bonnington Road, EH6 5JQ
0131 553 1119
Ring First P

Castlecliff Hostel

25 Johnston Terrace, EH1 2NH
For homeless people aged 16 and over; accepts couples and people with pets
0131 225 1643
AS, BS, BE, H, L, P, TS

Cunningham House

205 Cowgate, EH1 1JH
For homeless people with additional support needs around alcohol, drugs, mental health and learning difficulties.
0131 225 4795
www.crossreach.org.uk

Dunedin House

4 Parliament St, Leith, EH6 6EB
0131 624 5800
www.dunedin-harbour.org.uk

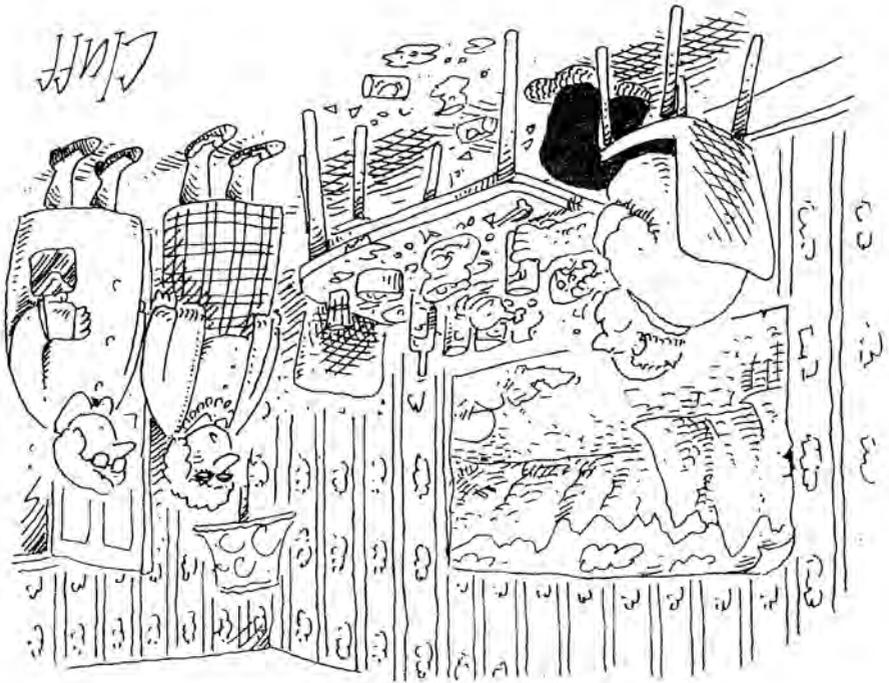
Gowrie Care - St John's Hill

1 St John's Hill, EH8 9TS
0131 557 5502
Ring or drop in: Mon - Fri 9am - 2pm P

Randolph Crescent Hostel

2 Randolph Crescent, EH3 7TH
Supported accommodation for single men and women from Lothian and Edinburgh Abstinence Programme (LEAP)
0131 220 1607
Referral from LEAP on: 0131 456 0221, P

*"We couldn't afford the cruise, so we're stuffing our faces
in front of this old fjord mural, for two weeks"*



the **OTHER** list

The directory of Scotland's homeless services

Updated 28 March 2011

Key to this list:

Accom. assistance – AS

Advocacy – AD

Alcohol workers – A

Art classes – AC

Barber – B

Benefits advice – BA

Bathroom/showers – BS

Bedding available – BE

Careers advice – CA

Clothing – CL

Counselling – C

Debt advice – DA

Dentist – DT

Drugs workers – D

Education/training – ET

Free food – FF

Food – F

Foot care – FC

Housing/accom advice – H

Internet access – IT

Laundry – L

Leisure activities – LA

Leisure facilities – LF

Luggage storage – LS

Medical services – MS

Mental health – MH

Music classes – MC

Needle exchange – NE

Outreach worker links – OL

Outreach workers – OB

Pavement stockist – P

Safe keeping – SK

Sexual health advice – SH

SSAFA – SS

Tenancy support – TS

If you've any changes or sug-

gestions write to us at the

address on page 3, or email:

thelist@thepavement.org.uk

Updated entries: 2

Services added: 0

ADVICE SERVICES EDINBURGH

Advocard

332 Leith Walk, EH6 5BR

0131 554 5307

www.advocard.org.uk

Mon – Fri: 10am – 4pm, MH, P

City of Edinburgh Council

– Housing Options Team

1 Cockburn St, EH1 1BJ

0131 529 7584 / 7368

Mon, Wed, Thurs 8.30am

– 5pm; Tues 10am – 5pm;

Fri 8.30am – 3.40pm

Advice and information on

housing options for homeless

people, including assessment

of priority need for housing.

Out-of-hours emergencies phone

0800 032 5968, AS, H, P

Edinburgh Cyrenians

57 Albion Rd, EH7 5QY

0131 475 2556

Mon - Fri: 10am - 4pm

Advice, information and support

for people who are homeless or

threatened with homelessness

AS, ET, H, P

Homeless Outreach Project

19 Smith's Place, EH6 8NT

0131 554 3961

Mon - Fri: 9.30am - 5pm

people with mental health, alcohol

and drug-related problems

AS, AD, A, BA, CA, C, D, ET,

H, MH, P, OB, SH, TS

Streetwork UK - Crisis Centre

22 Holyrood Road, Edinburgh

0131 557 6055

Free phone 0808 178 2323

24/7 crisis centre for people in

housing crisis or at risk of sleep-

ing rough. Includes outreach

service / needle exchange.

AS, AD, A, BA, BS, CA, CL, D, DA, ET, F,

F, H, IT, L, LS, MH, NE, OL, OB, P, SH

www.streetwork.org.uk

The Access Point

17-23 Leith Street, EH1 3AT

0131 529 7438

Services for people 16 years or over

who do not have care of children

Mon, Wed, Thu: 9am–5pm;

Tue 10am–5pm; Fri: 9am–4pm

(drop-in services only): Mon–Thu:

1.30–4pm; Fri: 1.30–3pm

Emergency assistance outreach

office hours phone 0800 731 6969