

LEAMINGTON

NIGHT SHELTER

Registered Charity No. 1153583

Founders: Margaret Moore and Chris Johnson
Please reply to: PO BOX No. 6213, Leamington Spa, CV31 9LA
Tel: 0771 868 3531

N E W S L E T T E R

January 2021

Dear Supporter

Well what a year! This newsletter is to bring you an update of what has been happening at the Leamington Night Shelter. We have not been able to operate as since March 2020 when we needed to close due to the pandemic as it was unsafe to offer the premises to any of our clients, together with the fact that a lot of our volunteers were over the age of 70. We are glad to say that 57 rough sleepers were put into accommodation instantly during the month of March 2020. Since then we have been trying to do things indirectly which is helping the other organisations who are working on the frontline. A summary of what we have achieved is as follows.

We have supported, Helping Hands, LWS Night Shelter and the Way Ahead Project and have given substantial amounts to these organisations since June 2020. During the early part of that year we did provide funding for those people who had no access to Public Funds. We are glad to say that this situation has now changed and there has been other funds available now to this end.

Since November 2020 we have also helped provide passports for two client's and travel expenses to go to London and Manchester to obtain this. Eight portable radios were also bought for clients staying at William Wallsgrove House, which made a difference to their lives. Travel expenses were also given at short notice which helped some immediate situations.

Over the Christmas period we provided 89 Christmas Hampers which were distributed to places where people are now staying and also given directly to the LWS Night Shelter to be given away over the Christmas period. Funding for heating accommodation over the Christmas period was also given where needed. Food Bank forms too have been given out upon request.

Many emails and phone calls were received from members of the public. mainly for enquiries regarding donating by either giving funding, food or clothing, and also for volunteering, which we passed onto the relevant organisations. Many enquiries about the housing and homeless situation were all answered by giving the enquirers the necessary phone numbers for contacting the relevant organisations.

We continued to have Trustee meetings, Organisational Team meetings and Volunteers' meetings over this time. Some of our younger volunteers went to help other organisations working on the frontline.

/continued overleaf

The LEAMINGTON NIGHT SHELTER is a Company Limited by Guarantee Reg.No. 7028980

**This is a Christian initiative arising from
Poverty and Homelessness Action Week 2008 and Hope Leamington**

LEAMINGTON NIGHT SHELTER

Registered Charity No. 1153583

Founders: Margaret Moore and Chris Johnson
Please reply to: PO BOX No. 6213, Leamington Spa, CV31 9LA
Tel: 0771 868 3531

Some of you may have already heard about the death of one of our volunteers, Pat Murphy, at the end of November. Pat had heard of the shelter through his brother Jim and Pat asked to come along and help. He worked regularly in the kitchen serving drinks and conversing with clients. One of his co-volunteers has written, "Pat was a real force in our Wednesday evening team even in the latter years when his contribution was his warm smile and welcome for all, especially the clients. It was so good to listen over the years to his stories". Jim, who is also one of our trustees, says "Relationship is at the heart of volunteering"

We could not end without saying a word about all the people who visited and stayed with us before the pandemic. We hope that the time that they were with us has helped them in some way to put down firm foundations now that they have somewhere to stay.

We recently began a new project of temporarily washing clothes for clients who have no access to a washing machine. While this was being carried out we heard of a quote, said by one of our clients.

"Without the Leamington Night Shelter I wouldn't have survived, they gave me funds to get a mobile phone and helped me with getting my passport" their kindness and humanity towards people who have no recourse to public funding has been incredible, they have stepped up and provided a lifeline for people that have nothing". A support worker has said "you have made a massive difference in the lives of people I work with and I thank you from the bottom of my heart".

Below is a photo showing our first batch of the clean clothes.

All of this could not have happened without your support over the years and we thank you for all your help in the past and we are glad to be able to send this update to you all. We are also thankful to the Radford Road Church who have kindly given us the use of their premises over the last 11 years. We do have ample funds to begin again and we are keeping enough funds in reserve to this end. At the present time we will continue to help others as mentioned above.

With best wishes

January 2021

Margaret Moore
Co-Founder and Trustee



The LEAMINGTON NIGHT SHELTER is a Company Limited by Guarantee Reg.No. 7028980

This is a Christian initiative arising from
Poverty and Homelessness Action Week 2008 and Hope Leamington