

LEAMINGTON NIGHT SHELTER

Registered Charity No. 1153583

P O BOX NO. 6213, Leamington Spa, CV31 9LA
Margaret Moore and Chris Johnson, Joint Coordinators
0771 868 3531 07743 697 802

MAY 2017

Dear Supporter

Thank you for your continued support. The Leamington Night Shelter has had another busy year. First of all, we are delighted to announce that we have two new trustees on the Board of Directors, these are Mrs Sidney Syson and Mrs Julie Wareing which will put the Night Shelter in a stronger position for the future.

We continue to serve our clients with hot meals, food parcels, clothing, toiletries and a listening ear, and most important of all a bed for the night for those who need it. There seems to be a more desperate mood amongst many of our clients, for a variety of reasons. We do the best we can to help them. During our last financial year we had 293 different individuals, men and women, visit the Night Shelter. This has been an increase of 12% as opposed to the previous year. Of these 293 different individuals, 73 were deemed to be rough sleepers. This has been an increase of 24% as opposed to the previous year. This does seem to reflect the trend of homelessness being more visible these days.

After eight years of keeping records of the numbers of clients who visit the Shelter, we are noticing that there always seems to be some clients coming back to us who visited us in the early days of the Night Shelter i.e. from 15th February 2009. This may seem to present a long term trend that there are areas of need that have not been addressed.

We are always looking to see if we can help our clients in other ways. Since January 2017 we have been buying new shoes for our clients; a shop in Leamington, Millets, is giving us a discount for shoes; they seem to be popular and well received by our clients. One client said that since wearing these new shoes the blisters on his feet had gone. One of the staff at Millets has told us that she has noticed our clients on the Parade wearing these shoes. Clients sign for them so no one gets more than one pair. We ask clients to try these on first and they usually say "Oh these are comfortable".

Sometimes our clients are faced with eviction notices. This happened to one female client because she was in debt, and behind with her rent. We went to court with her to contest this notice and we are pleased to say that helping her set up some standing orders for payment of her arrears prevented her from being evicted.

Recently we visited one of our clients who had not been very well. He looked really ill, living and sleeping in very poor conditions where he worked. We eventually persuaded him to agree to us calling an ambulance, and we followed to the hospital. We were there nearly five hours.

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

Continued overleaf

LEAMINGTON NIGHT SHELTER

Registered Charity No. 1153583

P O BOX NO. 6213, Leamington Spa, CV31 9LA
Margaret Moore and Chris Johnson, Joint Coordinators
0771 868 3531 07743 697 802

MAY 2017 /Page Two

The doctors expressed great concern at the state of his health. He was kept in, and we are pleased to say that the problems with his heart and lungs are clearing and he looks fifteen years younger! His future looks much brighter, and he is "over the moon" with his health improvement. His own positive attitude has done much to help his recovery. The nurses love him !!

Our greatest asset are our volunteers. We have four groups of volunteers, Sunday evening volunteers, Monday morning volunteers, Wednesday evening volunteers and Thursday morning volunteers. We need two volunteers to stay overnight, preferably a female and a male volunteer. A small number of volunteers will take it in turns to stay overnight. This is not always an easy shift to do; it can sometimes be quite stressful. Sheila has been a volunteer at the Night Shelter for a number of years. She is at the Night Shelter practically every Sunday and every Wednesday, staying overnight every other Wednesday. She is a Security Industry Authority Licensed door supervisor, as are some of our other female volunteers. Two other male volunteers have since completed this course.

The common element all our volunteers have is a good sense of humour. This creates a nice relaxed atmosphere at the Night Shelter. We have no rotas for the volunteers, so we are never quite sure how many we will have in any one shift. The "rule for the volunteers" is that they come to the Shelter when it suits them, and they leave when it suits them. We have been operating for over eight years and so far this "system" has worked.

Our other asset is our supporters. We have never ceased to be amazed at the wide range of sources from which our support comes. This includes Churches, business organisations, schools, individuals and other groups.

Our most important support is Radford Road Church, whose hall we use for the Night Shelter. Everyone at the Church has given us unstinting support, and we thank the Church and their Ministers, James Church and Andy Laird, with all our heart.

Our thanks go out to everyone for all the support that has been given.

We give thanks to God for all His help and may God bless you all.

Margaret

Chris

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

Continued overleaf