



insight

A LOOK AT OUR WORK AND AIMS

New Community Facilities Will Help Homeless People in Sittingbourne

Bishop Michael Turnbull, a Patron of Church Housing Trust and former Bishop of Durham and Chief Secretary of the Church Army, was joined by Secret Millionaire, Gary Eastwood, at the official launch of new training and IT facilities which will benefit homeless residents, as well as the whole community in Sittingbourne, Kent.

They were welcomed to The Quays* housing scheme, run by Riverside ECHG, at the official opening of a raft of new facilities including a Computer Suite, a Consultation Room for use by agencies including NHS and Drug and Alcohol teams, and a conservatory-reading room.



Before Bishop Michael officially cut the tape, he likened the plight of homeless people to those who were currently stranded abroad because of the volcanic ash cloud. "All you hear," he said, "is people saying 'I just want to get home', and that's what homeless people want too. They want to go to a place they can call home. Just imagine what it must be like to say 'There's no place like home' in the sense of 'I have nowhere I can call home'".

"Homelessness is just a comma in people's lives, not a full stop, and helping them break the cycle is all about what support they have to develop skills, access training and grow in self confidence," said Riverside ECHG's manager at The Quays, Donna Lee.

"Because we are a big scheme that lies in the heart of our community we always look at how we can work with local agencies to benefit more people. So we're absolutely delighted that Gary as a local Sittingbourne lad is supporting us to make a difference for local people also."

Church Housing Trust raised £115,000 for the new facilities, and Steve Holdsworth, Trust Fundraising Manager said: "We are delighted to have been able to raise funds for the new facilities at The Quays, where the staff do truly outstanding work to help the residents rebuild their lives."

In addition, Canterbury College have also donated fifteen computers to the scheme along with IT tables and chairs. This will allow The Quays to offer full IT classes from the end of April.

*The Quays is a national award-nominated 84 bed housing scheme working with single homeless and disadvantaged men and women. The scheme provides support for people who have a diverse range of problems including drug and alcohol misuse, mental health problems, unemployment and institutionalisation through long term prison sentences.

Stop Press! New kitchen equipment!

Gary Eastwood (see above) who, with his wife, cooked the lunch for visitors at the opening, has offered to kit out the kitchen at The Quays with new equipment which means the project can now also continue with their cooking courses.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS



John (24) has been living in a hostel for 18 months. With a passion for computers but no formal qualifications he was eager to enrol on a BTEC National Diploma course, and Church Housing Trust helped with some of his course costs. John wrote to thank us for the support and said "All the help you have provided is very much appreciated and will help me towards my career in IT. I had an uncomfortable childhood and eventually left my mother's home moving in with my girlfriend. We later split leaving me homeless until being given a room here." John has gained enough knowledge and confidence to start a PC repair and data recovery business with a friend and is now just waiting for the opportunity to move on from the hostel.

Amanda (48) wrote to us after receiving a grant for her resettlement:

"I am extremely grateful for this aid as it means I can stop sleeping on the floor (albeit with a sleeping bag!), cook homemade food and not have to keep my perishables outside on the window sill."

Have you seen our video? You can find it on our website (www.churchhousingtrust.org.uk) Introduced by Bishop Christopher Mayfield you will see Tegan, Matthew and Michael describing their experiences of being homeless.

Ven. Dr. Colin Hill - new CHT Trustee

Church Housing Trust is delighted to welcome Ven. Dr Colin Hill as a new Trustee.



The Ven. Dr. Colin Hill (pictured above on the right with Chief Executive Jan Bunstead, and Chairman Canon Ian Gaskell), was formerly Archdeacon of West Cumberland and Chairman of the Board of Social Responsibility, and previously served as Diocesan Secretary for the Diocese of Carlisle. Before that he was extensively involved in the development of a church-sponsored network of social housing projects in Telford. Recently retired, he maintains his commitment to social concerns locally by serving as a board member of a local housing association.

CHT helps homeless people in Brixton back into work

Helped by a grant from Lambeth Community Fund, Church Housing Trust has recently raised the funds to launch an Employment Support Programme for the residents of Riverside ECHG's Acre Lane hostel in Brixton, South London.

Homeless people are frequently denied the opportunity to be involved in work activities for many reasons including mental health problems, a low level of motivation and discrimination.

Working with local businesses who have a strong relationship with Acre Lane, the programme will help give residents the knowledge, skills, practical experience and confidence required to help them find work in the future.

Acre Lane Manager, Antonius Meliat, said: "We are really grateful to Church Housing Trust and all its supporters. This money will enable us to work more closely with the local community to provide additional training and support, and get more of the residents back into work."

Stephanie's story

"Steph" had been sleeping in her dad's shed. Her mum had died when she was very young and her dad had remarried and Steph never managed to get on with her step-mother and had been living with her grandparents. When she was 16 they downsized their house and had no room for her. She tried again to live with her dad, but the relationship broke down very quickly and finding a place in a hostel was the only answer.

Once in the hostel she was given all the help she needed for dealing with the day to day aspects of living, including cooking and budgeting, and she studied at the local college, which, together with a part-time job, helped her self-confidence enormously. She is now setting her sights on University and has been offered an unfurnished flat. With a grant from Church Housing Trust she bought essentials for her new home and she is back in regular contact with her dad.

COUNSELLING SERVICE TO CONTINUE

David Hutchinson has provided counselling support to Marsh Way House, Wakefield since 2007 and during that time has helped nearly 50 residents with their personal problems. David has given us an example of how his work helps:

“Client V came to me following a suicide attempt. She had been treated badly by her ex-partner and the stress and upset of all this had made her try to end her life. Over a 12 week period we worked on why she allowed this person to make her feel life was not worth living. This was really difficult for her but once she started to accept the counselling process she saw that she was strong and that it was in fact better for her to be by herself rather than being in a violent relationship.”

We are particularly grateful to the Wakefield Diocesan Family & Social Welfare Council for their recent donation which is enabling the continuation of this invaluable service.



**New Name -
Same Service**

Supported and Sheltered housing specialist, English Churches Housing Group (ECHG), has amalgamated with Riverside Housing, and is now known as Riverside ECHG.

Deborah Shackleton, Chief Executive of Riverside, assures us: “Although there is a new name and a new logo, there will be no change in the services given by ECHG to homeless people. The same staff at the same schemes will be delivering the same services. ECHG’s board remains to provide familiar faces and to ensure ECHG stays true to its values.”

Church Housing Trust will continue to raise charitable funds to support Riverside ECHG’s work with homeless and vulnerable people, including day centres, general hostels, projects for people with drug/alcohol problems, accommodation for homeless families, mother and baby units, women’s refuges, temporary housing for ex Service personnel, accommodation for people with learning disabilities, and young people’s foyers. The charitable funds raised by Church Housing Trust directly benefit the residents of Riverside ECHG’s hostels and related projects.

Beacon lights the way

Construction work has started on a pioneering training and housing centre for veterans of Iraq, Afghanistan and other conflicts.

Veterans Minister Kevan Jones MP, cut the first turf on the site of the brand new facility in Catterick, North Yorkshire. The Beacon, a 31-unit, purpose-built centre will be run by Riverside ECHG for single ex-servicemen and women who are most at risk of homelessness, providing them with temporary accommodation for up to 18 months.

The centre will provide IT access and on-site training facilities, as well as guiding residents into employment and permanent housing. In a further innovative step, as part of its construction, The Beacon will offer residents from other hostels the opportunity to work on the building site to gain valuable construction training skills for future employment.



Derek Caren, Riverside ECHG Managing Director and Trustee of Church Housing Trust, with Riverside Chief Executive Deborah Shackleton, Veterans Minister Kevan Jones MP, Brigadier David Maddan and Richard Panter from Homes and Communities Agency.

Mr Jones said: “The Beacon will provide real and tailored help to those who are at risk of homelessness and will help them in their transition from Service life to the civilian world.”

It is estimated that around 10% of the homeless population in England are ex-Service personnel. Although the majority of service leavers settle well into civilian life, the reasons that a small but significant minority remains vulnerable are well documented. Some find it hard adapting to life outside of the armed forces having served for

many years, some will have suffered a breakdown of family relationships, and some will have to cope with physical or mental injuries sustained during active service.

The Ministry of Defence has given the land, and the Department of Communities and Local Government are funding the building costs, but this funding does not stretch to all of the furnishings and equipment.

Church Housing Trust has therefore launched an appeal to raise around £100,000 for items including furnishings for the flats and communal areas, and equipment for a training centre, IT suite, laundry and health centre. ABF The Soldiers’ Charity (formerly the Army Benevolent Fund) has generously donated £50,000 to start the appeal and CHT is hoping to raise the balance from trusts, foundations and other supporters.

Community Café in Middlesbrough

Church Housing Trust is raising the funds for an Employment and Training Co-ordinator for the Community Café in the new Stages Academy in Wellington Street, Middlesbrough.

Due to open in Spring 2011, this rebuilt hostel for 48 homeless men and women will be a groundbreaking new project and will replace the old-fashioned, outdated hostel. The ethos of the hostel will still be around offering support and giving the residents the confidence and skills they need to overcome their problems in order to make a successful transition to independent living.

Each resident will progress through the three levels of a Stages Programme, focusing first on identifying and setting goals, then moving into self catering flats as they use training and other facilities to prepare for resettlement, finally being helped to move on into their own accommodation. With motivated, knowledgeable and experienced staff on site 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, it will be warm, safe and welcoming, and will provide an environment in which residents will receive the best possible chance of progressing through the stages towards independent living.



The Community Café will offer training opportunities and, by working with the local community, businesses and colleges, will provide residents with a real chance of finding employment and further training as they rebuild their lives and prepare for independent living.

I should like to support Church Housing Trust.

Please accept my donation of £ _____

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or charge my Visa/Mastercard/Switch/CAFCard (please delete as applicable)

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Gift Aid. Please tick if you are a tax payer and you would like us to reclaim the tax on your donation at no extra cost to yourself. *giftaid it* Please note that in order for us to reclaim tax we need your address, and you must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that we reclaim on your donation in the tax year.

Please send me the following:

- Standing order form for regular giving
- Payroll Giving information



Please return to:

Church Housing Trust, PO Box 50296, London EC1P

Summer 2010



SNOW FUN

Residents from Hamble Court in Reading made the most of the snow earlier this year, turning their garden into a haven for snowmen. Icy creations including a goalkeeper adorned the lawns after the snowiest weather for decades struck. **Support Manager Stewart Tippett said: “This shows the fun side to life in our hostels. It’s great that our residents can enjoy themselves in a positive way and use their artistic skills at the same time!”**

Patrons: Archbishop of Canterbury, Bishop of Manchester, Sir Martin Berthoud KVCO CMG, David P G Cade, Peter Cooke CBE, Ian Hay Davison CBE, Charles F Green, Sir Philip Mawer, Rt. Revd. Christopher Mayfield, Michael Nicholson OBE, His Hon. David Savill QC, Rt. Revd. Michael Turnbull CBE, The Ven. David Woodhouse
Trustees: The Revd. Canon Ian Gaskell (Chairman), Susan Briscoe, Derek Caren, Commander Robert Cribb MBE, RN (Retd.), Revd. Preb. Graham Earney, The Ven. Dr. Colin Hill
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