



Newsletter

A MULTI FAITH INITIATIVE

APRIL 2011

The Drop-in

Where

Salvation Army Hall
109 Kingston Road
SW19 1LT

When

Wednesday & Friday
10am-3pm

What

Breakfast (cereal and toast)
Tea/coffee/squash all day
Freshly cooked, hot lunch
Dessert
Food parcels
Laundry
Showers
Clothing
Companionship

Quizzes

Bingo, Games
Table Tennis
IT Project,
Acupuncture,
Health screening
Access to other agencies
several on site

Contact Information

Co-Project Managers:
Nicki Zisman &
Andy Fairbairn

Faith in Action
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30-32 Worple Road
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The IT Project

We welcome our new IT Tutor, Philip, who started working at the Drop In in December. He is taking a lead in developing the IT Project to best support our service users & advertise the Drop In via our website.



The IT project is really in need of two more fully loaded and working laptops to meet demand. For many of our service users this is the only opportunity they have to access a computer to make contact with family and friends, to write a CV, to job search etc. If you are able to helping any way, please do contact us.

Eastern European Service Users

Approximately half of our service users are from Eastern Europe many of whom are destitute and living in appalling conditions. Many have lived and worked in the UK for several years but now find themselves without work and a means to support themselves. At Faith in Action we have been fortunate enough to have a superb Polish speaking volunteer, Dorota, who has helped bridge the language barrier between the project and these service users. Mariusz is one of these service users who has been using the Drop In for the last two years.

"Let me introduce myself. I am Mariusz and I have been homeless for over two years and have been coming here all this time. Thank you to all of you at Faith in Action for your help and continuous support. You gave me your hearts and your time and helped me stand on my feet. Now I have a safe place to live, benefits (as I have a broken foot) and I am hoping to get back to work very soon.

Thank you on behalf of all my Polish colleagues who come here. Everyone who comes here is treated with respect and equality and you make us feel that we are as good as everyone else.

This organisation is very necessary and does great work. Once again I am very grateful. Coming here I feel at home and that all the staff and volunteers are my family."

Mariusz Lipski



Appeal – We are in need of Polish speaking volunteers who are willing to work to support the needs of this group on Wednesday or Friday of each week. If you think you could help, please contact Nicki or Andy on 07843 280 419. Thank you.

NATIONAL HOMELESSNESS WEEK JANUARY 2011

Many of our Trustees were invited to speak to church groups & schools during Homelessness Week at the end of January. We are very grateful for the amazing donations that followed and the continued support of our local community.

Other visiting agencies on site:

The MACS Project offering auricular acupuncture.

The New Directions Team offering 1-2-1 support for hard to reach individuals not engaging with services.

Street Rescue. An outreach service supporting individuals off the streets and into hostels.

Health Screening. This mobile TB screening x-ray unit visits every 6 months.

Trustees:

Chairperson: Linda Kirby

Secretary: Stephanie Brada

Treasurer: Mary Black

Pascale Lo

May Nicol

Ann Walker

Jenny Cairns

Yvette Ball

Jonathan Easton-Crouch

We will be opening as normal over the Easter period



VOLUNTEER THANK YOU MEAL

In January we took our entire volunteer team out for our annual "Thank You" meal at a Lebanese restaurant in Wimbledon. It was a great evening very much enjoyed by all.



Volunteering at the Drop In

My first experience of FiA was being targeted and reeled in by Angela at the Wimbledon Village Fair last year, this set the tone for something I most admire about FiA and that is the enthusiasm and dedication of its volunteers.

I wanted to volunteer within the homeless sector as I've always felt dismayed that this country can't provide the basic right of shelter for all its citizens. As a politics lecturer I wanted to learn about the big issues and policies that lead to people ending up on the streets.

But I now realise this is not what it's all about and that service users have the same social problems with friends, family and work that we all have, but they lack the support and security, which I take for granted, to help get through these situations.

I now just hope my role at FiA helps to fill this gap through lending an ear, serving a healthy meal and contributing to the welcoming environment that is particularly special to the Drop In. I also never expected just how much I would benefit from volunteering. FiA is filled with fun, interesting people & other volunteers who I consider friends and look forward to seeing and chatting with every week. And to top it off the cooks really go that extra mile to produce food which is literally the healthiest and tastiest meal I have all week.

I am grateful that Angela signed me up at the fair and hope FiA continues growing from strength to strength.

Drop In Activities

Health Screening
by NHS Pharmacists



Hair Dressing



A Game of Scrabble



The Big Sleepout – Saturday 25th June 2011 at the Holy Trinity Church

This is our major fundraising event of the year. If you would like to participate with us and sleep out to raise money for the homeless, we would be so grateful.

Please contact Nicki or Andy on 07843 280419 for details.