



Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness

*Autumn 2015
Reaching Out*

Bringing hope and support to homeless people in Kingston

Your prayers are asked for:

- Those who still live on the streets as winter approaches
- Effective partnership working between all agencies working with local homeless people
- Greater public awareness of, and practical support for, KCAH's work

Churches Winter Night Shelter

KCAH still hopes to initiate a new pilot to provide shelter for entrenched rough sleepers in Kingston to take place over the month of February. A meeting involving interested parties took place in March. Matt will shortly be contacting those who attended to discuss the viability of a new scheme. Anyone else who might be interested can contact him on 020 8255 2439 or matt.h@kcah.org.uk.

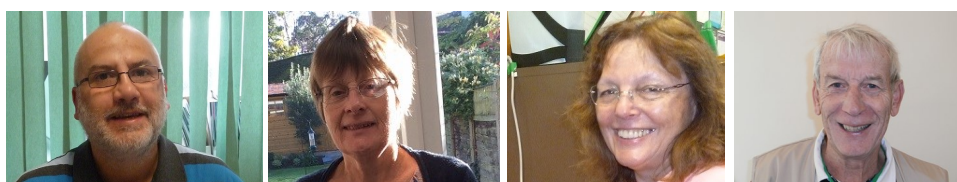
KCAH and Syrian Refugees

Back in July, KCAH was in conversation with the Council about the prospect of helping Syrian refugees with housing. Since then the crisis has escalated and further dialogue has been put on hold while awaiting further guidance from the Home Office. Refugee Action Kingston are also keen to help. At this point in time, it is 'watch this space'.

Thank you to our Volunteers!



L to R: Hilary Orton, Ian Curry, Jillian Dempsey and Bob Bailey



L to R: Andy Kill, Ann Lloyd, Cathy Seymour and Mike Simpson

Last time we reported on the staff team. This time we focus on the volunteers who help keep KCAH going. One volunteer not pictured is Jim Murphy.

Why do they volunteer?

Hilary said "I started volunteering for KCAH nearly 6 years ago as I wanted to do something worthwhile when my son started school. In that time I've done all kinds of admin jobs in the office, and although I've had to reduce my commitment recently, I still enjoy being able to do something that helps this amazing charity. The staff are fantastic and it's great to see first hand just how many people in need they are able to help."

Bob said: "Although I chose to retire at 60 (from my role as KCAH Operational Director), my strong calling to work with the homeless has not declined. So my main reason for being a volunteer is to continue to use the knowledge and experience I have gained to prosper the work of KCAH. It is good to keep up to date with the work of KCAH and use my banking experience to help manage the finances."

One Person's Story



Mark recently came into KCAH's offices to tell his story on camera.

Mark was originally advised to come to KCAH whilst he was staying at the YMCA. He was accepted into the Access Project for a 2-year tenancy in one of KCAH's shared properties. Whilst there he was helped to make job applications, worked 3 months for free and then secured a job. Before the end of his tenancy, KCAH asked the council to assess his needs, including his disabilities, and he was given a council property. He says he found the KCAH staff "friendly, helpful and kind". We are uploading his story to Youtube.

James Berry, MP for Kingston and Surbiton, recently visited KCAH. He is pictured here (on the left) with one of our Access Project clients. He subsequently wrote to say "I was thoroughly impressed with the dedication and professionalism of your team".



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Kingston Council (RBK): Commissioning

As reported last time, RB Kingston is planning to move from grant aiding the voluntary sector to commissioning from April 2016. KCAH is therefore at risk of losing £60k income per annum in the forthcoming bidding process.

RBK has published a draft 'Active and Supporting Communities Strategy' as a basis for identifying what services to commission. Meanwhile, KCAH has joined the consortium set up by Kingston Voluntary Action to enable a number of organisations to work together to submit any relevant bids.

It all adds up...

In 2014/15, KCAH:

- *Saw 444 new clients and supported existing clients during their 1,301 return visits*
- *Successfully referred 28 people to the Joel Project and 52 to the YMCA*
- *Gave out 29 sleeping bags*
- *Provided 28 men and 8 women with accommodation in one of our 9 shared Access Project properties*
- *Successfully moved on 15 people from the Access Project*

Come to our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 19 November, starting 7.30pm,, at the Everyday Church, Union Street, Kingston, KT1 1RP to find out more!
Please RSVP

Take Action

Can you give an hour on Monday 30th November between 11am and 5pm to **help us collect** in the Town Centre during the Rotary Club Christmas Appeal? Entertainers also needed!

Can you **fill in a form or write a letter** to nominate KCAH to benefit from the charity token schemes used by local shops such as John Lewis, Waitrose, Asda or Sainsburys? Call us, if you need, for advice on what to do.

Wanted: sleeping bags, rucksacks/backpacks (that are suitable for carrying sleeping bags) and toiletries.

Two new ways to donate

Online—search for KCAH:



On your mobile—text KCAH36 £2/£5/£10 to 70070

KCAH

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