

Chairmans

Introduction

We would like to thank The Vic Pub, Hitchin, for hosting our AGM which was well attended by HHH supporters. Laura Stewart from Herts Young Homeless talked about their school education service which HHH have helped fund. This service provides free sessions available to statutory Hertfordshire Education providers to educate young people how to avert a crisis that could lead to homelessness. Bernard Lovewell, Treasurer of the Black Squirrel Credit Union spoke about helping prevent homelessness by providing emergency low cost loans to people in need. Val Bryant, Deputy Leader of North Hertfordshire District Council informed us about a new 'one stop shop' service to coordinate information about multiple service providers to be run by Citizens Advice. This is to promote the provision of the best possible service with one easy access route for all and to promote awareness of the services.



Support us through Easy Fundraising

Did you know you can support us whilst you shop, without any cost to you? Easyfundraising has partnered with over 8100 brands including John Lewis, Amazon, Tesco, Currys and ASDA. The brand pays the donation cost, making it free to you.

Please sign on at: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/helping-herts-homeless>

Fundraising

& Donations

Herts Young Homeless (HYH)

Helping Herts Homeless provided shopping vouchers along with a pack of donated items including toiletry gift sets, hats and gloves, a hot water bottles and sweet treats for young people aged 16-24 who are being supported by HYH. This is in addition to a donation to the education service. Caroline Neill thanked HHH trustees and donors for supporting young people at Christmas.



Black Squirrel Credit Union



Black Squirrel Credit Union (BSCU) operate a fund and work with North Herts District Council Housing Officer Andrew Goodwin to help people obtain new or stay in existing tenancy agreements, an area of increasing difficulty for the less well off. Helping Herts Homeless have increased our loan into this fund to the maximum to enable BSCU to provide funds to help secure tenancies quickly. BSCU processed 684 loans in the last financial year, amounting to just under half a million pounds.

Annual Raffle – 17 May



Helping Herts Homeless annual raffle is here! There are great prizes donated including a trip to Mallorca for two from TUI, Afternoon Tea for four at The Farmhouse at Redcoats and a voucher for The Victoria Pub in Hitchin. Tickets cost £1 each or a book of 5 for £5. They can be purchased by direct messaging through Instagram or Facebook or emailing Katherine.bridge@helpinghertshomeless.org.uk. All proceeds are used to support local homeless people. The prize draw will be held at The Vic on Saturday, 17 May at 3pm.

Barn Dance at Christchurch

The annual Barn Dance was held at Christchurch on 1 March and raised **£831.87**. Thanks to the musicians and volunteers from Christchurch Hitchin and Helping Herts Homeless for support in organising and running the event.



Hitchin Allstar Choir



The Hitchin Allstar Choir continues to support Helping Herts Homeless with a concert held outside Sainsbury's in Hitchin on Easter Saturday. Moore Kingston Smith LLP very kindly fund matched the money raised, making a grand total of **£819.68** donated to HHH.

Do you have you any fundraising ideas?

If so please get in touch we would love to hear from you!

We would like to thank...

Watertight of Runcorn



**Property flood
resilience and
management
solutions**

Watertight of Runcorn have installed some much-needed flood defences including flood barriers for doors and waterproofing to external walls, at The Sanctuary where we have been flooded three times in the last three years. We thank Mark Arrowsmith, operations director and his team who have done this work free of charge as part of their corporate social responsibility activities.

We would also like to thank...

Kim Raymont

Local artist Kim Raymont, known for her depictions of local Hitchin landmarks, was commissioned to create a print of The Sanctuary to celebrate its 25th anniversary for supporting local homeless. The print will be available to purchase in future, keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates.



Dates for the Diary

SATURDAY 19 APRIL

**Hitchin All Star Choir concert,
Sainsburys Hitchin**

SATURDAY 19 JULY

Pirton Show

FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER

**Annual Quiz, St Johns
Community Centre**

Calling Volunteers

Are you a social media guru? Love driving?
We are looking for volunteers to help with
our social media accounts and drivers to
help with transporting donations.
If you have some free time and would
like to help, please contact:
volunteering@helpinghertshomeless.org.uk

We would welcome comment on, or discussion arising from our newsletter and would welcome any help you could give to our charity. In either case please contact Owain Lister by phone on **07475 005525** or by email on **owain.lister@helpinghertshomeless.org.uk**

helpinghertshomeless.org.uk

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