

Chairmans Introduction

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2024 with best wishes for the coming year to all our supporters, volunteers and partners. This year promises to be an exciting one for the charity with both change and continuity being central to our intentions.

Continuity is very important in that we maintain our strong reputation built up over many years in Hitchin and the wider area as the North Herts Sanctuary. We are particularly grateful for the continued support of our immediate neighbours in the streets around the Sanctuary building. I also know from feedback that continuity is important to and appreciated by the charity partners we support with donations, particularly around Christmas.



Change is very important because as a small charity we cannot stand still. We need to forge new partnerships and maximise the potential provided by our main asset The Sanctuary building in Nightingale Road, pictured above. Change from central government in the way otherwise homeless people are accommodated means the building has become outdated and unsuitable.

As we indicated in October's newsletter we have been working to secure future use and are able to cautiously tell and show you more so please read on!



Support us through Easy Fundraising

Did you know you could support Helping Herts Homeless while you shop? Easy Fundraising has partnered with over 7,500 brands, including Amazon, M&S and John Lewis. They donate part of what you spend to HHH. It is a free way to support your local community every time you shop.

Spotlight on the Sanctuary

We are excited to report that One YMCA and North Herts District Council have led a bid to Homes England to get funding for a complete redevelopment of our site. The HHH board has agreed to the use of our land; in addition we will make a significant financial contribution to the development. A planning application is available to view

at <https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/view-or-comment-planning-application> using the address or reference 23/02782/FP.

Please help by adding supporting comments. The proposed hostel will provide accommodation and support services for up to 23 people in bedrooms with ensuite showers and space to prepare food. The illustration shows the proposed scheme with final details subject to the planning process.



We look forward to continuing to support the community with this new development.

**£1,200
Donated**



Helping Herts homeless donated £1200 to Resolve, supporting clients during the holidays. The money was used to support the Restart homeless service, providing a Christmas lunch and gifts for clients and residents. Sparkle Baby hub received £10 Asda gift vouchers for service users. Resolve provides over 65 meals a day at a pay as you can basis for people on low incomes and for residents of housing schemes in the local area.

Fundraising

& Donations

£1,000
Donated



Keystage Housing

Helping Herts Homeless provided £1,000 to fund a Christmas celebration for residents of the local hostel. Keystage Housing has a number of hostels across England.

Christmas Gift Bags

Helping Herts Homeless organised a collection of goods to provide 50 gift bags to local hostels. Goods were donated at the Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival and at Hitchin BID.

Allstar Choir at Sainsburys

Hitchin Allstar Choir hosted a concert at Sainsburys in Hitchin, raising £734. We thank all the individuals and organisations who supported our collection. You can view more information and pictures on our Facebook page.

£734
Raised



£1,500
Donated



Herts Young Homeless

Helping Herts Homeless donated £1,500 to support Herts Young Homeless to provide Christmas packs for young people. They were given gifts including toiletry sets, sweet treats, socks, hats and gloves. Clients supported included young care leavers, young people in temporary and supported accommodation, and those accessing the HYH Crashpad service to prevent homelessness.

Do you have you any fundraising ideas?

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

AGM The Vic Pub



Pirton Village Fair



Dates for the Diary

WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH
7.30PM

**AGM The Barn, The Victoria Pub,
1 Ickleford Rd, Hitchin**

SATURDAY 30TH MARCH
10:30AM – 1:00PM

Hitchin Allstar Choir, Hitchin Sainsburys

SUNDAY 26TH MAY
3:00PM

Bank Holiday Raffle Draw

SATURDAY 6TH JULY


Pirton Village Fair


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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