

Chairmans

Introduction

It must be incredibly hard being homeless at any time of year; but even more so in winter and around Christmas when many of us are enjoying being at home with our families. Homelessness is on the increase due to the rising cost of living, insecure tenancies, an increase in migration and early release from prison all exacerbated by a general lack of housing particularly for those on low incomes or benefits. There are currently over two hundred people waiting for accommodation in North Herts alone. Our partner charities tell us that pressures are increasing and fundraising is getting harder.

There are early signs that the new government is well aware of these pressures, and they are showing serious intent to tackle homelessness and increase funding. As ever there is a delay between intentions and the reality of things improving.

It is through the hard work of our volunteers and generosity of our donors that we are in a position to help. In the run up to Christmas we have donated nearly £20,000 and have increased our loan to the Black Squirrel Credit Union to £15,000. The trustees of Helping Herts Homeless say a massive thank you and wish you all the best for 2025.

For further updates, please visit: www.helpinghertshomeless.org.uk



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>

We would like to thank...



Anglian Country Inns

Anglian Country Inns (ACI), owners of The Hermitage in Hitchin, Redcoats Farmhouse and Barns and the Fox at Willian donate 5% of gift card proceeds to local charities. ACI employees chose Helping Herts Homeless as one of the recipients this year, donating **£1000** to the charity.

The Hitchin

Allstar Choir

The Hitchin Allstar Choir continues to raise voices and funds for Helping Herts Homeless. The choir donated **£421.19** from their December performance outside Sainsbury's in Hitchin.



Meg Lowe

Meg Lowe created pom pom Christmas decorations and raised **£100** for the charity.

12 Days of Giving



£1800 Raised



Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival



Fundraising

& Donations

12 Days of Giving

Through the 12 Days of Giving programme, Helping Herts Homeless donated 50 Christmas packs for local hostels consisting of socks, hats and shower gel.

Christmas Tree Festival

Helping Herts Homeless supporters provided decorations for the Anniversary tree, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the hostel on Nightingale Road.

New Hope

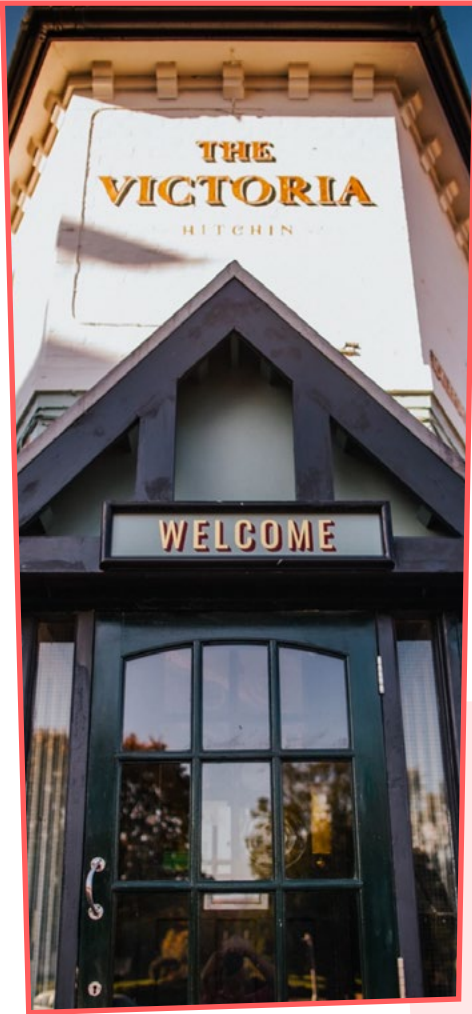
We were able to support New Hope with a donation of **£2000** for their Home for Christmas campaign which was fund matched. The University of Hertfordshire also kindly donated gifts from New Hope's wish list.

Annual Quiz

The Helping Herts Homeless annual quiz raised a record breaking **£1,800**, including **£635** from raffle prizes donated by local businesses, Hermitage Road Bar and restaurant, Glass painting by Kim Wardle, Clean Kept Yard, Gayle Harvey PT and The Haberdashery.

Do you have you any fundraising ideas?

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



Dates for the Diary

WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY

**Helping Herts Homeless AGM,
The Barn at the Victoria Pub**

SATURDAY 1 MARCH

**Barn Dance, Christchurch,
Bedford Road Hitchin**

www.ticketsource.co.uk/pa/t-gakjdao

Invitation


Please join us at the Helping Herts Homeless Annual General Meeting. It will be held at the Barn, The Victoria Pub, Hitchin. We will discuss future plans for the charity. **All are welcome.**


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

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