

Helping Herts Homeless AGM

We held our AGM on 28 January at The Vic pub in Hitchin. Rebecca Palmer, Fundraising and Communications Manager at New Hope spoke about their activities and the **£5,000** support provided by HHH. Match funding means double this will benefit people who are rough sleeping or in need of urgent support to avoid street homelessness in the winter months. Counsellor Val Bryant, Leader of North Herts District Council read a statement from Labour MP Alistair Strathern about government plans to alleviate homelessness in the UK.



The Charities first Honorary Life President

Peter Warren, Trustee, treasurer and a volunteer at the charity, has stepped down after 25 years service. This achievement was celebrated at the AGM as Cllr Bryant presented Peter with a commemorative print of The Sanctuary and announced his appointment as a Honorary Life President of Helping Herts Homeless.



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

hyh

Herts Young Homeless

£1,500
Donated

HHH donated **£1500** for the HYH Christmas hardship fund to provide 50 young people who are at risk of homelessness and in financial crisis with **£30** worth of supermarket vouchers.

In support of longer term funding for HYH we will donate **£10,000** over the next 12 months to their Future Roots programme providing safe, affordable, supported housing for several young people. See www.newhope.org.uk for more information.

Important steps to independent living

Several of our partner charities provide supported accommodation for people who would otherwise be homeless. This support, including help with addiction or health problems, works towards a return to independent living in rented accommodation. We have helped One YMCA and Resolve fund this important step by providing move on packs of essential items such as linen, cooking equipment and crockery. Sufficient funding has been provided for 50 packs throughout 2026.

Feedback from Resolve stated -

"This contribution has had an impact that goes well beyond its monetary value. For someone who has faced so many barriers, being able to set up her own kitchen has given her a sense of pride, ownership, and dignity. It has helped her take a meaningful step toward managing daily life independently and feeling truly at home".

Her gratitude is heartfelt, and this support has played a genuine part in helping her move forward with confidence.

Donations from those who go the extra mile...

It is always fantastic to receive surprise donations so we would like to thank:

Bea Benson

Bea ran the Cambridge half marathon on Saturday 8th March. Bea decided to raise money for people who live in the local area who are homeless. Bea aimed to raise **£300** and smashed her goal, raising **£836** to date. If you would like to donate to Bea, then click the link to her Just Giving page: www.justgiving.com/page/bea-benson-1

Millie Maund

Millie Maund from Henlow has seen the plight of homeless people in our area and decided to raise money to provide comforts and essentials. Millie organised a social media campaign and raised **£100**. A family member who owns a shop kindly donated the clothing.

Millie took time out from her 10th birthday celebrations to visit The Sanctuary to donate goody bags, new outdoor coats jackets in support of homelessness in our area. The goody bags contained, a mix of thermal hats, gloves, socks, hand warmers, toiletries & nutritional biscuits.

We are thankful for Millie's kindness and resourcefulness to help those in need.

Christchurch Barn Dance

On March 7 Christchurch held its annual barn dance in aid of HHH. Over **£800** was raised on the night. Thanks to Christchurch and all the volunteers and talented musicians that made the night a great success!



Hitchin Allstar Choir performance

The Hitchin Allstar Choir performed for us outside Sainsburys on a cold day in December for Christmas and then again at Easter. The total raised was a fantastic **£629**.



Trustee and Fundraising Vacancies

We are on the lookout for people to join us as a Trustees and Fundraising volunteers as we say farewell to Peter Warren and Kerri Cocks who we thank for their dedication. Please contact us at: volunteering@helpinghertshomeless.org.uk or via our social media if you or someone you know would be interested in either role.



Dates for the Diary

SATURDAY, 11 JULY

Pirton Summer Fair, with HHH annual Summer Draw - tickets now on sale!

FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER

Helping Herts Homeless annual quiz, St John's Community Centre, Hitchin

Election of Trustees

Katherine Bridge, Ian Chapman, Owain Lister and Elizabeth Poole were re elected as trustees. Peter will be sorely missed and consequently we have a vacancy for a new trustee so if you are interested please contact us.

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.



Christmas Tree Festival

We were delighted to win the Charity category at the Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival 2025 for our Nightingale Tree. The theme was to honour our hostel in Nightingale Road that has provided accommodation for single homeless people since 1999. Thanks very much for our talented volunteers who made and decorated the tree.

helpinghertshomeless.org.uk

Care of HW Associates, Portmill Lane, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG5 1DJ
info@helpinghertshomeless.org.uk | 01462 600425

@HHertsHomeless

@helpinghertshomeless

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