

From the Chair of Trustees

Owain Lister

Welcome to the first newsletter for some time in which we hope to bring you up to date with recent changes and activities. Over the last twelve months the charity has, in common with all organisations, been returning to a post covid normality.

Some resultant changes are new, for example the government's standards for accommodating homeless people, and some for instance face to face meetings, are making a welcome return.

The charity retains our two main purposes, to raise money which is distributed to our partner charities who provide services to the homeless or those in danger of becoming homeless, and ownership of The Sanctuary building in Nightingale Rd which we tenant out to a service provider. For the last 14 years this had been Haven First who are based in Stevenage. At the beginning 2023, they merged with One YMCA who now hold the tenancy, manage the building and provide services to the residents.

For more information visit: **YMCA**



Spotlight on the Sanctuary

The most pressing issue currently is the future of the North Herts Sanctuary building which is no longer fit for purpose. The board are progressing discussions with one particular partner for a major redevelopment of the site which will make a significant contribution to alleviating homelessness in North Hertfordshire. **Watch this space!**

Charity Partners

we have helped

hyh

Herts Young Homeless

**£1,500
Donated**



The cost of living crisis has impacted many, but young people have been particularly hard hit. We were pleased to be able to support the Hardship Fund of Herts Young Homeless to mitigate the increase in cost of utilities and the large rise in food prices. HHH donated **£1,500** to assist youngsters with their bills.

Resolve run their Sparks Community Café in Hatfield where customers pay what they can. HHH contributed **£2,500** towards commercial catering equipment and redecoration to increase capacity to 75 meals per day. Our grant also allowed Resolve to freshen up their Sparkles mother and baby hub.

**£2,500
Donated**



**£500
Donated**



Keystage Housing wanted to create a garden at the Lord Lister hostel in Hitchin for their residents to look after and enjoy. It gave us great pleasure to contribute **£500** towards the Courtyard Garden. Residents now have the opportunity to relax outside when the weather is fine, and have a chance to organise and share the occasional barbeque.

Fundraising

& Donations

£1,500
Raised



We had a busy summer with fundraising events!

In May we held our Coronation Raffle with amazing prizes donated by TUI, Tesco and The Vic Pub, Hitchin. The draw was held at the Vic. Adam Charville won first prize of 2 x TUI Flights. A total of **£1600** was raised! Thank you to our generous prize givers and everyone who bought a ticket.

In July we provided refreshments at the Pirton Village Fair including delicious home baked cakes and cookies. Thank you to everyone who baked and our lovely volunteers who manned the stall dodging the rain! We raised a brilliant **£350**.

£350
Raised



Do you have you any fundraising ideas?

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

£600
Raised



Later in the month Briony and Friends kindly hosted a concert in support of the charity. It was a fantastic evening with music, poetry and drama by a hugely talented bunch. We provided Grazing Boxes and other refreshments for the audience. The evening raised over **£600**. Thanks so much to Briony for co-ordinating the evening, and all their talented friends.

Who's Who at



Owain Lister is our new Chairman. Owain joined the charity as a volunteer last year subsequently becoming a trustee and chair of the board. He retired in 2021 from a career in the construction industry managing projects and holding senior management responsibilities. He has been active in the community as a parish councillor and serving on organising committees for events, projects and sports clubs.

We have said goodbye to a number of trustees who we thank for their tremendous help particularly Jayshree Mistry and Phil Devonald who have given many years dedicated service. The new smaller board comprises longstanding members in Peter Warren & Ian Chapman, new to the board but familiar to the charity as key fundraisers, Katherine Bridge and Liz Poole along with Owain as chair.

Volunteering

Helping Herts Homeless is run exclusively by volunteers. Do you want to help? We always have room for people who can spare some time, either as a regular commitment or on ad hoc basis.

We currently have vacancies for:

- ♥ A Communications Co-ordinator to manage our social media presence and web site.
- ♥ An Accountant to help produce annual accounts and manage our money.
- ♥ A lead person to help build relationships with existing and new partner organisations.
- ♥ Fundraisers

Dates for the Diary

9TH – 11TH DECEMBER

**Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival,
Holy Saviour Church**

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](https://www.helpinghertshomeless.org.uk)

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