



## Christmas Meals

Monday 24th Dec,  
Christmas Eve

## Christmas Lunch

Open 10.30am

Tuesday 25th Dec. Christmas Day

## Christmas Breakfast

Open 9.30am

Not open Wednesday 26th Dec. Boxing day

## “Really Useful”

“Extremely Interesting” and “Excellent” were some of the comments about the recent volunteer training session on Addiction.

There have actually been eight training sessions for volunteers this autumn. A Core session (level 1) for new volunteers was offered on three occasions and attended by 25 volunteers altogether. A Core session (level 2) for Hall volunteers was on twice and 15 attended those. There were also two sessions on Housing and one on Addiction. Two thirds of all Opendoors volunteers have attended at least one session since September.

## Coming Up Next



There will be a new session on Money & Debt on Friday **1st Feb.** and a new Core session (level 3) for potential befrienders on Tues **5th Feb.**

A repeat session on Mental Health is planned for Tuesday **15th January**. Repeat Core sessions for level 1 and 2 will be on **11th and 1st March** respectively. There will also be repeat sessions on Housing (**26th March**) and Addiction (**9th April**).

All volunteers are encouraged to check the new training leaflet (which is being emailed out) and sign up in good time!

## Introducing Hilary

Hilary Sterrett started working with us on 1st November. She is our new paid Co-ordinator and joins Angie Carpenter (Deputy Co-ordinator) in the important job of seeing that Opendoors continues to meet the needs of homeless and vulnerable people in Devizes.

Hilary comes with lots of experience of working with people from a wide variety of backgrounds. She has worked for Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Learning Curve and further education colleges.

Both she and Angie said they are keen to help guests with basic needs like warmth and food and then go on to help meet some social needs, especially the need to be listened to in a non-judgemental way. Signposting to other agencies is important but if we can develop our own befriending arrangements in the coming year to compliment the work of our partner agencies, that will be a really great help.

## A Big THANK YOU to ...

- those who took part in the Sponsored Sleep Out on 1st December. One person got 103 sponsors and raised £687!
- the guest who had back benefit payments and gave Opendoors £400 of it.
- Cardwave, a Devizes-based company that donated £500 plus a lot of clothing.
- Tranquil Moments, Poulshot who gave the proceeds of their Raffle.
- several other groups and small businesses that are raising money for Opendoors this Christmas.

## Three Rooms Upstairs

Changes have been made to the small kitchenette, a social area and a study room upstairs at the back of St. Andrew's Church. Opendoors hopes to start using these rooms on Thursday afternoons in the near future. We could have creative pastimes, music and newspapers in the social area and use of three computers in the study area.

Devizes Opendoors

## JUMBLE SALE

10am – 11.30am Saturday  
**19th January 2019**

St. Andrew's Church Hall,  
Long Street

Clothing, Bric-a brac, Cake Stall,  
Refreshments  
FREE ENTRY

Please bring items for Jumble Sale to  
St. Andrew's Church, Thurs 17th Jan. 10am –  
12noon, or Friday 18th Jan 6.30 – 7.30pm

## Floaty Boat Fund

The Floaty Boat Fund hopes to build on the success of the K&A Floating Market, by supporting boaters to help themselves through developing entrepreneurship. It will be run for boaters, by boaters and funders, with the aim of supporting our community on matters of wellbeing and hardship. Contact [floatyboatfund@gmail.com](mailto:floatyboatfund@gmail.com)

## A different Christmas this year

Paul says, "I think this Christmas is going to be the best one for at least four years because I've got a roof over my head. Can you imagine Christmas in a sleeping bag? The last three Christmases I just slept, apart from coming to the Drop In."

"This year I have been invited to Christmas dinner at Alabere Place and another one just around the corner. I have been meeting quite a few new people and I've had a bit of time to work out who I want to associate with."

My main thoughts for the future are centred on my daughter. She is going to be sixteen in March and would like to come and live with me. I know her mum would like that as well. She took care of her when I was at my worst. I had a big drug problem at the time. My job now is to see my daughter through college. I'll need to get a place of my own. That is why I'm paying off my rent arrears and getting up to speed with everything."

## No Devizes Night Shelter?

Despite a great deal of planning and successful applications for grants there will not be a Shelter in Devizes this winter. This is mainly because we had to listen to local residents fears of an increase in anti-social behaviour in the streets around the premises.

If a likely premise comes available next year we would be wise to go to the County planning department early on and let them put the idea of a Night Shelter out for public consultation. That way, the advantages as well as disadvantages can be carefully considered and the decision made by local Councillors.

What we have in place for this winter is a greatly scaled down scheme that offers to note the details of anyone wanting a place at the Trowbridge or Chippenham shelters and see if a place is available for them. If it is, we are willing to pay for the transport for them to get to the shelter and actually go with the rough sleeper if appropriate.



### Homeless?

We might be able to help

Ring 07493 825258

## Other Useful Numbers

County Housing Options  
01225 718005

Impact (Turning Point)  
01225 341520

## What we do

Devizes Opendoors runs a Drop In Centre at St. John's Parish Rooms, Long Street four times a week. With no statutory funding it relies on grants, donations and fund raising. It serves more than 50 hot meals a week, provides a safe meeting place, friendship and support for homeless and vulnerable adults.

Website: [devizesopendoors.org.uk](http://devizesopendoors.org.uk)