

# Factory Row Gazette

Newsletter of  
the Friends of  
Factory Row

Autumn 2021

## Rooftop drama



When the hostel was built in 2009, a roof garden was created but never quite reached its potential.

Now that has changed. The terrace project aimed at creating a more



pleasant space for residents to relax. It was also to engage residents in a practical project, something they could create themselves, learn some new skills and gain confidence working with staff and other residents.

Eight residents were involved from measuring out and cutting the timbers, to stopping the wood from drying out too much and then eventually the full assembly of the pergola.

It's been enjoyed throughout the summer. Our thanks to Aidan who led the project.



## Meeting the hostel's health challenge

YOUR giving helps fund a health co-ordinator at the Leonard Stocks Centre.

Nearly all our residents have complex needs which makes life on the streets doubly perilous.

So coming into the hostel where there is specialist support available is a life saver.

The Friends contribute £15,000 a year to help connect residents with the support they need.

A specialist drug and alcohol worker is in most days offering strategies to escape addiction .

Three days a week a GP service is offered with a practice nurse on site.

A liver specialist nurse visits weekly and has successfully treated nine

residents suffering Hep C infection.

Dr Tom, a psychiatrist with Devon Partnership Trust, goes in weekly to chat to residents experiencing mental health problems. Sadly a huge number of our residents have a diagnosis of mental disorder, a reminder that homelessness has multiple causes, layer on layer of co-morbidity.

The NHS Stop Smoking Service has continued to fund Vapes for residents and several have stopped smoking altogether.

Jenny McNulty, health co-ordinator at the hostel, said: "I'm grateful to the Friends for their help. Bringing all this support together gives our residents the best chance of recovery."

## Tony's treasured service

MANY of you may already be aware that Tony Moore, our treasurer for many years, died earlier this year. He was meticulous and reliable with a deep compassion for those living on our streets, rooted in his Christian

faith. Members will remember his carefully hand-written receipts and letters finished with a joke or two. "Well done, good and faithful servant ..... Enter into the joy of your lord."

## Moving on...

Moving residents on into long term, quality accommodation, is the ambition of much of the hostel's work.

To help a move go smoothly the Friends spend up to £300 a person on essential white goods to transform an empty flat into a home. Furniture charities are also contacted.

Last year, your donations funded £1500 worth of move-on support.

# Hostel's 30th Birthday

In December 1991 an old warehouse in Factory Row, Torquay was hastily converted to provide a night shelter for rough sleepers.

It was basic, a single dormitory for 14 men, but it was the start of a mission to help those in need that has lasted 30 years and continues with energy, compassion and generosity.

From those humble beginnings, Christian giving was able to purchase additional buildings in the street which made it possible to demolish the whole terrace and create a purpose-built hostel on the site in 2009 for up to 30 people. Crucially women were able to be accommodated for the first time.

The new hostel was named after one

of the founders of the original hostel Leonard Stocks. He was a rich businessman, a Christian with a can-do attitude which helped overcome the inevitable barriers which any new project faces.

When the race was on to get the hostel opened for Christmas, Leonard, a member of St John's on the harbour, switched the builders from Grade 1 renovation work on the church to do the plumbing and partitioning in the old warehouse.

Brilliant administrator Revd Mike Blunsum worked alongside Leonard to reach the goal.

Thirty years on the hostel remains true to its Christian roots, run by Plymouth-based Shekinah and the Langley House Trust.

And you the Friends have played your part as essential advocates and donors through the years. Bless you all.



Kath Davis team leader at the hostel with Friends chairman Nick Pannell delivering laundry baskets

## Home comforts

Thank you Friends for helping fund those little extras which make life a little easier in the hostel.

We bought laundry baskets and waste bins for each of the 30 rooms, we've funded new tables and chairs for the dining area. With your help we've delivered toiletries and towels.

This Christmas, as we do every year, we will help staff purchase individual presents for residents, with a generous donation for each resident.

And, Covid-19 permitting, we will resume our games, quizzes and buffet evenings. If you want to volunteer make contact via our website.

## How to give

- Send a cheque (payable to Friends of Factory Row) to Friends of Factory Row, PO Box 373, Paignton TQ3 1WX
- Go to any bank and make a donation to CAF Bank, West Malling, Sort Code 40-52-40. Account no. 00013915

**Visit our website: [www.friendsoffactoryrow.org](http://www.friendsoffactoryrow.org)**

## JOIN US NOW

IF YOU WANT TO JOIN THE FRIENDS AND RECEIVE OUR REGULAR NEWSLETTER PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW

*I enclose my membership subscription (minimum £5) to become a Friend of Factory Row (Leonard Stocks Centre). Please make cheques payable to Friends of Factory Row*

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

E-mail: .....

*Please return completed forms and payment to: Friends of Factory Row, PO Box 373, Paignton, TQ3 1WX*

**If you prefer to pay by bankers order, please complete the following:**

BANKER'S ORDER

To (Bank and Branch) .....

Account name ..... Account no .....

Please pay the sum of (amount in figures and words)

£ .....

on the .....

(date of first payment) and annually on this date until this authority is cancelled by me to:

CAF Bank, West Malling, Sort Code 40-52-40

Account name: Friends of Factory Row, Account no.00013915

Signed ..... Date .....