

SPRING NEWS 2026

WYCOMBE
HOMELESS
CONNECTION



**READ BRETT'S
STORY INSIDE**

SEE PAGES 4-5

**THEY MADE ME WANT
TO LIVE AGAIN**

YOU CAN HELP US TO HELP

PLEASE *pray*

GIVE THANKS FOR THE 2026 WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

Our community-led project saved people from sleeping on the streets in the winter. Give thanks for all our guests who have been housed and for those with whom our Support Workers are continuing to work.

FOR OUR YEAR-ROUND FRONT-LINE SERVICES.

For Plug-In, our weekly drop-in for people who are homeless, our homelessness prevention drop-ins, helpline, outreach and support work.

CHURCH LINK

Can you be a direct link between WHC and your church, sharing updates and prayer requests with your fellowship? No more than an hour a month. If yes, please get in touch.

 01494 447699




 communications@wyhoc.org.uk

- 1 Give**
to unlock life-changing possibilities for our clients
- 2 Pray**
for the people we serve, volunteers and staff
- 3 Tell**
so people know we're here

PLEASE GIVE TODAY



SCAN TO GIVE

 www.wyhoc.org.uk/donate
 01494 447699
Mon to Fri: 9am to 4pm
 **Post a cheque:**
Wycombe Homeless Connection
Oakley Hall, 8 Castle Street,
High Wycombe HP13 6RF

2 All statistics are correct at the time of printing. Names may be changed and stock photos used to protect the privacy of our clients.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



Dear friends

A local newspaper recently asked whether Wycombe has a problem with homelessness. Our answer is simple: yes, of course it does.

Homelessness is a serious and ongoing issue across Buckinghamshire. It is often hidden behind the county's reputation for wealth, but it is very real for many people. While working to prevent harm and find housing solutions for people in a housing crisis, our work is also to challenge the systems, inequalities and stigma that lead to homelessness.

Next year, Wycombe Homeless Connection will mark 20 years of serving South Buckinghamshire in our mission to end the harm homelessness does and stop it before it starts.

Over those two decades, one thing has remained constant: the extraordinary compassion of our community. When people find themselves in the horrific position of losing their home, or living with the daily fear that they might, the response from the people across South Buckinghamshire is action.

This year marked the 15th winter night shelter. It was hosted by seven local churches and led by more than 300 volunteers. You can see inside this newsletter the range of people who got involved and the difference they made. It all meant more than 30 people who might otherwise have been sleeping on the streets were given safety and support.

This is a community that cares for people forced into homelessness.

This is the story we see.

This is the story we are proud to be part of.

This is your story.
Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Boulton".

James Boulton, CEO



BRETT'S STORY:

[Trigger warning: suicide]

I OWE MY FUTURE TO THE VOLUNTEERS

In June last year, I took on a five year tenancy at a community pub working with a management committee. But things didn't go well. I ended up with no heating or hot water for six weeks and no kitchen for eleven. The committee were responsible for getting everything working, but it took them forever in which time my business had gone from turning over £9,000 a week to just £1,500.

I tried to keep the pub open, especially as the committee still wanted full rent, but it became impossible.

I suffered mental and physical abuse, and fell into debt and I had a mental breakdown. Sadly, I even tried to take my own life.

It was Aylesbury Homeless Action Group who referred me to Wycombe Homeless Connection who said I could stay in the shelter. But I didn't know the area or anyone in it. This, for me, was devastating.

I felt I should not belong there. How wrong I was.

I met up with Wycombe Homeless Connection, firstly a lady called Sarah. She was amazing. On my first night in the shelter I met lots of volunteers who were all friendly, kind and caring.

The other homeless people were not what I expected either. They were like me and had their own stories to tell.



BRETT CHATTING WITH A VOLUNTEER



BRETT WITH ANOTHER GUEST, VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF AT THE SHELTER

Sarah and the volunteers continued to look after me for several weeks. They made me smile again. Made me feel more confident within myself.

Most importantly they made me want to live again. I have now moved forward with their help. I smile everyday now, even laugh and there is a future out there.

I have currently got a room in a nice quiet shared house. I am helping a friend set up a business and am hoping to be employed when it is set up.

I owe my future to the volunteers of Wycombe Homeless Connection and I thank you all so much.

Thank you so much for making me believe again.

Brett Xxx

Most importantly they made me want to live again. I have now moved forward with their help. I smile every day now, even laugh and there is a future out there.

Note: Brett told us this story in his own words with his consent to share under his own name. We have only amended a few words for clarity.

YOU CAN BRING HELP AND HOPE TO PEOPLE LIKE BRETT

www.wyhoc.org.uk/donate

 01494 447699



GIVE NOW

*Your gift won't be restricted to a single project but will be used where it is needed most to help people who are homeless or facing homelessness.



WINTER NIGHT SHELTER 2026

Our winter night shelter ran from January 5 - March 31.
Here's a snapshot of what was achieved:



32

GUESTS STAYED
IN THE SHELTER



6

GUESTS
WERE WOMEN



20

GUESTS ARE
NOW HOUSED*



524

BED
NIGHTS



366

VOLUNTEERS



70

LOADS OF CLOTHING
AND BEDDING LAUNDERED



1,447

HOT MEALS PREPARED
AND SERVED



*If I hadn't been in
the shelter I'd have been
sleeping on the street,
on buses or trains.*

~ Shelter guest



170

EQUIPMENT
RUNS



8,837

APPROX VOLUNTEER
HOURS SERVED



*We are still working with the rest!



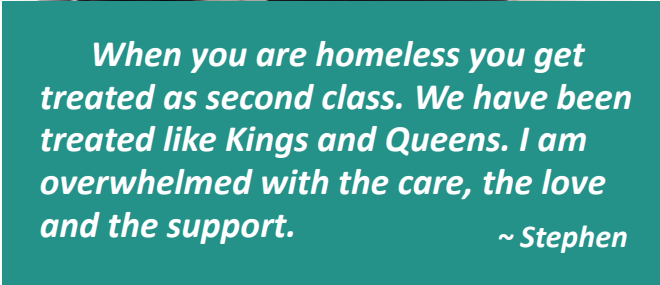
I've stayed in lots of shelters in my life. I still can't get over that the staff eats with us. It's like you are drawn into a family.

~ George



24-77

AGE RANGE OF
OUR GUESTS



When you are homeless you get treated as second class. We have been treated like Kings and Queens. I am overwhelmed with the care, the love and the support.

~ Stephen



7

REFERRING PARTNERS
INCLUDING WHC



2

UNEMPLOYED GUESTS
NOW HAVE JOBS*

*Stephen is thrilled to be one of them!

THANK YOU ALL!



Thank you to our partners, volunteers, supporters, and referring agencies for coming together making the shelter happen. A few are pictured below.



CASEY



LOVING THE HOMEMADE CURRY, DHAL AND NAAN

PIPPA AND SAF'S "COOK-OFF"



SAF'S WINNING DISHES



VAN DRIVING



ASSISTANT COOK, LIZ



PLAYING JENGA



SHIFT LEADER, DIPEN



KAREN WITH FRESHLY LAUNDERED CLOTHES



HOST, KARIN



CHATTING OVER TEA



MAKING BEDS AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH



SHIFT LEADER, ALICE



PAPERWORK



SERVING DINNER AT "THE HUB"



LUKE'S VOLUNTEER STORY

Life can be incredibly tough; I believe people should be able to feel seen and heard when they're struggling, and have someone to turn to for support.

I feel strongly about mental health as a result of my own experiences and of those around me. I'm not overly fond of the winter months and I've spent the past few Christmasses alone! I wanted to use my time productively. I got in touch with Wycombe Homeless Connection and they pointed me toward the night shelter.

I'm not sure what I expected when I applied to volunteer but the experience has been wonderful.

I threw myself in at the deep end, signing up for lots of shifts! I quickly got to grips with the role of Shift Leader and built a fantastic rapport with the guests and my fellow volunteers. I shared in some powerful moments with our guests, from the highs of laughter, to the lows of the odd grumpy morning, often due to a symphony of snoring overnight! I have been lucky to meet a group of like-minded volunteers, wonderfully kind-hearted members of the local community.

How they ended up where they are doesn't matter. Everyone deserves a safe place to sleep, a hot meal and a chance to get back on their feet.



LUKE LEADING THE VOLUNTEER TEAM BRIEFING

CONVERSATION



THE KITCHEN TEAM



I was amazed by how quickly a group of strangers band together when presented with a common goal of helping others.

I have been thrilled to hear when a guest has moved on to greener pastures...but in a way sad that I may not see them again!

Through volunteering I've gained so much. It's helped me navigate some of my own personal difficulties, and has certainly developed my view on homelessness and the challenges around it.

I have learned an awful lot about the people I have walked past far too many times in the past.

There's no denying, there's a "fear culture" built up around people who are homeless but I've learned people are vibrant individuals, full of character.

How they ended up where they are doesn't matter. Everyone deserves a safe place to sleep, a hot meal and a chance to get back on their feet.

I'll be joining in again next year and am looking forward to training as a Wycombe Homeless Connection speaker and outreach volunteer.

DINNER IS SERVED



IT TAKES A COMMUNITY TO END HOMELESSNESS.

SEE OUR YEAR-ROUND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES. 

WHAT'S NEXT?

We need you all year round because it is amazing what can be achieved when a community comes together. We have lots of ways that YOU can help.

Check out our whole range of exciting volunteering opportunities on our website:

Could you help with:

wyhoc.org.uk/volunteer-opportunities

Community Engagement

Events

Office Admin

Church Links

Community Links

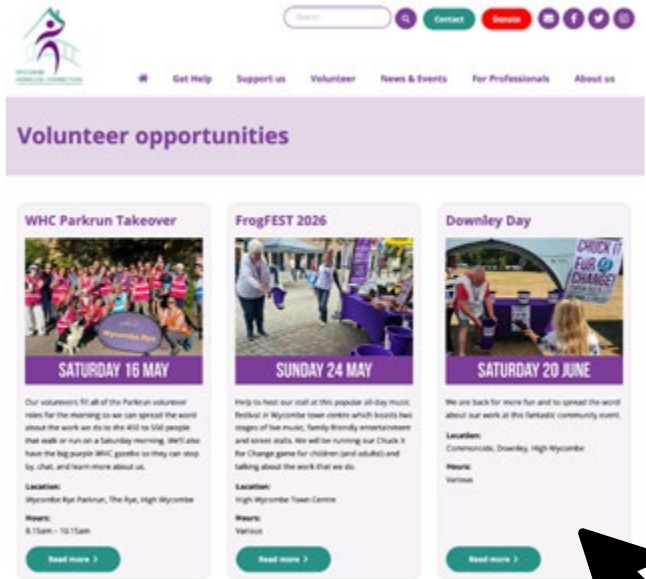
Publicity Support

Donations Sorting

Outreach

Support Centre

And lots more...



We'd also love to hear from you if you have a particular skill or expertise that we haven't listed but you think could be helpful.

Maybe you're great at photography and can spare a few hours here and there? Or perhaps you are a keen baker or have another skill or hobby to offer.

Get in touch with Dane our Volunteering Coordinator:

 volunteer.enquiries@wyhoc.org.uk



BIG HEARTS, BIG IMPACT: COMPANIES SUPPORTING OUR MISSION

We're incredibly proud of the strong partnerships that already power our work. Thanks to the dedication, generosity, and passion of our corporate supporters, we're able to reach further, respond faster, and create meaningful change in the communities we serve. Together, we've already achieved so much.



SHANLY FOUNDATION'S SHELTER TAKEOVER



HAWRIDGE LAND'S DONATION

But there is still more to be done and more opportunities to make a difference. As the needs in our community continue to grow, so too does the potential for new partnerships to bring fresh energy, ideas, and impact. We warmly welcome organisations who share our vision to join us on this journey.

Contact Sarah, our Community and Events Fundraising Officer, who will be able to talk to you about how your business or organisation can get involved.

 communications@wyhoc.org.uk



SARAH VISITING PLADIS GLOBAL'S "MAKE HAPPY BE HAPPY" DAY

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

ANNUAL SHOWCASE

RSVP HERE →



Save the date for our Annual Showcase, where we'll share the impact we've made together over the past year and outline our vision for the year ahead.



Wycombe Museum

Priority Avenue, High Wycombe HP13 6PX



Tuesday 7 July

7 - 9pm



BIG SLEEPOUT 2026 13 NOVEMBER



**ONE NIGHT. A SLEEPING BAG. A POWERFUL ACT OF SOLIDARITY.
THOUSANDS RAISED TO END HOMELESSNESS.**

The Big Sleepout 2026 promises to be more challenging than ever.

Participants will build and spend the night in their own shelter at our new venue. Before 'bedtime,' families, friends, and supporters can join the Sleepout festival to show their support for the people we serve. Explore stories about the impact the Sleepout makes, take part in games and activities, and explore food and a mini-market from local businesses, all coming together to help end homelessness.

Registration opens in June so mark your diary now!
Make sure you are signed up to receive our emails to be the first to hear more!



wyhoc.org.uk/keep-in-touch



NEW VENUE: The Walled Garden
Chorley Road, West Wycombe HP14 3AP



TWO CHALLENGES: EVERY STEP COUNTS

NIK AND VICTORIA'S BEN NEVIS CHALLENGE 2 MAY 2026

Two years ago, Nik and his daughter Victoria, just ten at the time, conquered North Africa's highest peak to raise funds. Now they're back, taking on Britain's highest mountain, pushing themselves further to raise even more money and awareness for the cause.

"There are people who don't even have a roof over their head and we hate that. This year we are conquering Ben Nevis to help those who need support."



justgiving.com/page/bennevis2026

DANE'S "RACE TO THE STONES" 11-12 JULY 2026

Dane, our Volunteering Coordinator, is taking on his biggest challenge yet tackling the world famous Race to the Stones. It's a 100km along the Ridgeway, the UK's oldest footpath, finishing at the iconic Avebury standing stones.

"In February 2025 I took part in the Big Sleepout to raise money for WHC, and that led me to want to do more to combat homelessness."



wyhoc.org.uk/racetothestones

CHECK OUT CHALLENGE EVENT OPPORTUNITIES OVERLEAF >>>>>>



TAKE ON AN EPIC
CHALLENGE EVENT AND...



WYCOMBE
HOMELESS
CONNECTION

YOU CAN HELP STOP HOMELESSNESS IN ITS TRACKS



100s OF EXCITING ACTIVITIES
TO CHOOSE FROM



wyhoc.org.uk/challenge-events



WALK...RUN...PUSH...CYCLE...JUMP...



Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

Reg. charity no.: 1156211