



THE HUB

Registered Charity Number 1095529

Newsletter April 2008

WELCOME to our FRIENDS!

The Hub is open

Monday to Friday mornings - 10 to 12.30

Great Western Road, Dorchester DT1 1RZ ,

01305 757599; next door to the Build Centre

Manager - Bob Matthews Asst Manager - Ann McDonald

*This newsletter is produced by Margaret Barker and Penny Fennell
for the Friends of the Hub.*

**This year's AGM will be on Wednesday June 4th at
6pm in the United Church. Please do come along and
support us. Come and listen to our successes and the
problems and the plans.**

Look at the website www.dorsethub.org.uk which was officially launched on April 14th and gives lots of information about the Hub and articles about the staff, volunteers and those who make use of its services. We are indebted to Phil Rimmer and Vicki Black for this and for the high quality of their work and their cheerfulness throughout.

To give you a flavour, here is one such article:

D. is relatively young amongst the men sitting around the dinner table. He does have shelter of sorts - an unheated caravan with no water - and he calls himself lucky. Without the hot water, laundry and hot

meals at the Hub, he knows he would be ill, depressed and what is more, scruffy! He takes pride in the fact he can keep himself clean and presentable.

At this point, S. joins in: "If it wasn't for this place, half of us wouldn't be alive." He has just been re-housed and he sees this as an opportunity to start changing his life around, have a job and become a member of society again. (Hub volunteers know this is not as easy as it sounds, but no one would dampen his optimism. They know that the recently re-housed need continued support, helping them learn what it actually means to run a home.)

Up to a few years ago, S. was working, had a wife and kids. Then life went pear shaped and he lost everything. He met up with old friends and started drinking. It has taken two years to regain his hopes and aspirations, and yes, he does have them like everyone else. He knows drink has been his problem, that whilst it helped him forget, it also got him into trouble loads of times. The Hub has helped him see a doctor and several medical conditions have been diagnosed. When he has sorted out the drink problem, his greatest hope is to see his children and grand children again.

M., laid off and homeless, actually saw re-offending as a way of getting warmth, food and security. Now, with help from the Hub, he is attending college and he hopes they might also help him find work now that the Job Centre is only open two days a week. His wants seem simple enough: to be able to get up, go to work, get home, eat, sleep and maybe meet up with his mates at the weekend. How many of us would actually moan about a life like that and want more?

Volunteers

Working in the Hub is always good fun and never dull. We warmly welcome new volunteers who can work in the Hub or who offer other skills. If you want to work directly with the homeless, you will be introduced gradually with a supported introductory period and someone to shadow. Our manager, Bob Matthews supervises these volunteers and Ellie Stephens coordinates their work. Training and regular meetings all create a full working team who really contribute to something very worthwhile and also enjoy working together. **Please ring Bob Matthews to arrange a visit if you think you can help us - 01305 757599, between 10 am and 1 pm.**

We are also looking for people with other skills to join the trustees - not necessarily for long-term commitments. **If you have particular management, fundraising, journalistic or HR skills to offer us, please ring Annabel Broome 01305 816551**

Wanted !

It costs about £150 a day to keep the Hub running so we do need a steady flow of donations to maintain the Hub's finances. Donations can be made via the website: dorsethub.org.uk Is your church or organisation or village thinking about good causes to support? Please speak up for the Hub!

We are always grateful too for gifts of tinned food, especially meat and vegetables

The Hub's Management Committee

Annabel Broome	Chairman and Trustee
Jane Culliford	Vice Chairman and Trustee
Rachel Bailey	Treasurer and Trustee since Dec2007
Bob Matthews	Manager of The Hub
Dr Margaret Barker	Secretary, grant raiser and Trustee
Penny Fennell	Trustee & Coordinator of the Friends
Robin Bunce	Trustee
Victor Myers	Trustee & Minutes Secretary
Eleanor Stephens	Trustee & Volunteer Coordinator
Julia Whiting	Nurse Practitioner
Nigel Tooth	Trustee

We thank Val Hellin for her great work as treasurer from the beginning in 2002.

The Hub is generously supported by all our Friends, many individuals, churches, groups and businesses, to whom we say a heartfelt thank you, including:

West Dorset District Council	The Hilden Trust
The Valentine Trust	Quaker Homeless Action
The Roberts Trust	Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Trust
Hall and Woodhouse	

We are pleased to have obtained an 'Awards for All' grant this year.

Friends of the Hub

The Coordinator of the Friends is **Penny Fennell** on **07900 647689**

It costs a minimum of £5 a year to join and Penny sends put a reminder when your next subscription is due. We are very dependant on local support and value this help enormously, as a group who are supporting the Hub and interested in its development. If you have not joined please do so now either on the website, using this form, or even pass it on to a friend.

I wish to become a Friend of the Hub

Name
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Address
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Tel. No
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E-mail
.....

I enclose a donation of £.....

For taxpayers:

I would like the Friends of the Hub to treat all donations I have made since 6th April 2000 and all donations I make from the date of this declaration as Gift Aid donations until I notify you

Signed -----

Please ring Penny to be given her address to send this form and your donation.