

Fund raising:

During the Spring there are lots of different ways to raise more money for our on going refurbishments: Why not do a sponsored walk out to see the bluebells ?

Or bike out to Dedham and visit Constable Country for us.
Make it a race where sponsors pay double if you win!

Anyone for al fresco eating should consider a deluxe picnic where they all bring a basket which is then bought by someone else for a large sum!

But you may have ideas of your own. Or just feel like giving a little extra this Spring.



All your efforts are appreciated.



Night Shelter News:



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Long term solutions for short stay residents

You already know how we now help people get housed when they have complex problems and difficult housing histories by allowing them to stay longer. Often they stay much longer than the 28 nights because of the time it takes to gather the information and contact all the relevant agencies.

But not everyone we help needs extensions or have difficult problems. Some schemes for instance the Rent Guarantee and Deposit Scheme can often help people move into private rented accommodation quite quickly. This scheme has helped 6- 7 people in the past two months.

Some supported housing projects such as Emmaus and St. Matthews have facilities right across the region or even the whole country and have often shown willing to take a resident at short notice. In the past two months we have sent around 6 people to Emmaus and 3- 4 to St. Matthews.

Finally the April Centre is running their own private accommodation where quite difficult clients with little hope of any other accommodation have found a new home and a new hope.





New website:



A new website is under construction and it will have much more depth and also contain some new headings such as fund raising ideas, volunteer job descriptions and who we actually are -staff trustees and csv.

It will have a new and more cheerful look and we want to make sure that it is inclusive. So we will be asking you for ideas as well as the residents.

Current refurbishment developments:

A grand plan for the total renewal of the whole house has been drawn up and we are about to launch phase two which is the bedroom phase.

Later this month The Lauren Evans room will be started with the help of Lauren's parents. She was a young woman who was very concerned about homeless people but tragically she died in a road traffic accident. Last year £2,000 was raised through sponsored events in her memory.

Her parents will visit the Shelter with a view to organise more events this year and we look forward to show them out plans.

Hopefully they will be pleased with the way we intend to honour her memory.



News in brief:

Colchester Council for Voluntary Services:

Are helping us by delivering free training in food safety and health and safety. We are affiliated so if you want to come please let up know. Please ring Pernille on 01206 549 885.



Skill share:

If you have skills you think homeless people need or would enjoy learning please ring John on 01206 549 885.

