

Mayoral Awards

At the end of January this year, 28 of our volunteers at The Bridge open access drugs service in Southampton received awards from The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Southampton, Councillor Carol Cunio.

The awards were an acknowledgement that each volunteer had contributed over 100 hours of their time through our Bridge2Volunteering programme.

The programme develops the skills of ex-drug and alcohol users. Our volunteers at the Bridge are trained to help out in lots of ways, including reception or admin duties, working on the needle exchange, and working with outreach staff to support clients.

More than half of the volunteers were unable to attend the presentation ceremony, as they have already gone on to find jobs. This is a real accomplishment, and we are very proud of their achievement.

On behalf of all the staff and clients at the Bridge, we'd like to say a very big thank you to them all!



Volunteers collecting their certificates from the Mayor



Opening Doors

The Newsletter of the Society of St James

Spring 2011

Head Office Move

The head office of the Society of St James has now moved to our new home on Albert Road South.

If the name sounds familiar, that is because the building used to be one of our hostels. However, since it had shared dormitories, we decided 18 months ago that it fell below the standard which we wanted for our residents.

Over the past couple of months, teams of volunteers from local businesses have been hard at work helping us to remove rubbish, re-decorate, and even take down the odd wall!

Around 25 members of staff moved across to Albert Road South at the end of February, and we are now open for business as usual.

If you want to get in touch with us, our new contact details are:

The Society of St James
125 Albert Road South
Southampton
SO14 3FR

T: (023) 8063 4596 | F: (023) 8033 9026



Our new home



Can you donate to St James?

Your support will transform the lives of homeless and vulnerable people in Southampton and Hampshire.

£5 could pay for a set of toiletries for someone who is moving into one of our houses or hostels

£15 could pay for a resident at Avondale, our care home, to go on a day trip to the New Forest

£30 could pay for a bed for the night at one of our hostels

£50 could pay for a pair of boots, a hi-vis waistcoat and a hard hat for someone on a work placement at the Jamie's Computers warehouse.

You can donate online at www.ssj.org.uk, or by filling out this form and sending it back to us at the address below.

Name.....

Address.....

Phone..... Email.....

I would like to donate £..... (Please make all cheques payable to The Society of St James)

Yes / No Please reclaim the tax on all my donations to the Society of St James. I am a UK tax payer and pay tax equal to or greater than the tax deducted from my donation.

Signature..... Date.....

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Find out why Skinny Steve is causing a stir on page 3

Hampshire IOM Service

From 1st April, St James will be expanding into new territory, as we begin managing the Hampshire Integrated Offender Management Service.

We will be working to reduce crime and reoffending by providing the right interventions, to the right individuals, at the right time.

This will include supporting offenders with drug and alcohol issues, and those with a prolific history of offending.

This is an area in which we already have experience, having managed the Drug Intervention Programme which engages with drug using offenders in Southampton for 3 years.

We will have new offices in Eastleigh, Basingstoke, and Fareham, which means that we will be supporting more people across a wider area than ever before.



At the Drug Intervention Programme in Southampton



Avondale before the renovations began

Building Work at Avondale

Work is now under way on an extensive renovation project at Avondale, our residential care home. We have received funding from the Department of Health and 3 charitable trusts to enable us to carry out the renovations.

The project will include an extension with a commercial standard fitted kitchen, a new bedroom with en-suite bathroom, the conversion of a twin room into two single rooms, and redecoration of the day rooms. We will also extend the decking area to make it easier for residents to get out into the garden

Avondale provides a home for older people, many of whom have a history of homelessness, mental health problems, and addiction. The renovations will make sure that the residents of Avondale have a comfortable, bright and cheerful home to enjoy.

The residents are already enjoying a new bath room and wet room, which we installed at the end of last year. They no longer have to use uncomfortable hoists when they want to bathe, and the hairdresser's basin in the bathroom has proved to be extremely popular.

A Big Success for Jamie's!

If you were Christmas shopping near Debenhams in Southampton at the end of last year, you might have seen a new addition to East Street.

Our social enterprise project, Jamie's Computers, opened a temporary shop to take advantage of the busy November-January period, and made a grand total of £25,000.

We sold over 100 refurbished laptops, 20 PCs and a range of other IT equipment, all of which had been donated to Jamie's by local businesses and individuals and refurbished by our team of technicians at our warehouse on the Mount Pleasant Industrial Estate.

We offer socially excluded adults the opportunity to get involved with the refurbishment process, which gives them valuable training and work experience.



The Jamie's Computers shop on East Street, Southampton

Our sales team are now based back at the warehouse, where customers can continue to buy refurbished IT and also donate any of their own unwanted equipment. For the latest offers, visit the sales section of our website at www.jamies.org.uk/sales.html.

Did You Take Notice of Skinny Steve?

An unusual figure has taken to the streets of Southampton over the last few weeks to raise awareness of the dangers of homelessness and the work of the Society of St James.

Skinny Steve, a plastic skeleton, wears a beanie hat and a sleeping bag to protect him from the cold, and holds a sign bearing the words 'How long until you take notice?'

He is the brainwave of Joe Miller, a final year student at Solent University. Like many of us, Joe has passed homeless people on the streets of Southampton and wondered what their story was.

He came up with the idea of using guerrilla advertising in the form of Skinny Steve.



Skinny Steve on the streets of Southampton

Guerrilla advertising generates awareness by grabbing people's attention in an unexpected way.

'Far too many people have a stereotyped view of the homeless and how they act, including me', says Joe. 'We do not look at them on the same level and it is extremely problematic. I feel it is time to get people to take notice of the homeless, remove the stigma and blame attached, and encourage everyone to try and make a real difference.'

Trevor Pickup, chief executive of the Society of St James, says 'This guerrilla advertising is a contemporary and exciting way of communicating with a new group of people, who we hope will support our work.'

Skinny Steve has his own Facebook page, on which over 250 people have shown their support so far. Steve will continue to make appearances on the streets of Southampton in the coming weeks, so keep your eye out for him!

Or you can visit him at www.facebook.com/SkinnySteve.TakeNotice.

