

‘THE VOLUN-CHEER’:

Crisis Skylight Coventry’s 1st Volunteer Newsletter

This Issue:

- *Spotlight on Member Success*
- *The Quiz Masters of Coventry*
- *Meet Fundraiser Farrell*
- *NEW Rapid Rehousing Team*
- *We’ve Got a New Allotment*
- *Levon’s VERY Big Adventures*
- *Emma Follows the Smart Money*
- *Wellbeing: Build a Birdfeeder in Your Soul*
- *Tree of the Week: Talk to the Palm*



by Unknown Author is licensed under

Our July issue is ***bursting*** with good news: success stories, new staff and services, fascinating facts, new ways we’re working with our members and of course, Tree of the Week.

If you have anything that you’d like included in future editions of this newsletter, email amy.rugg@crisis.org.uk. We would love to hear from you!

From Our Director...

Well, what a strange few months it has been. Firstly I want to say a huge thank you for your continued support through these uncertain times.

I also want to update you on the launch of our new ‘Homes for All’ campaign. The government made a commitment at the start of lockdown to get “Everybody in” so rough sleepers had somewhere they could stay. We now want to keep everybody in by making sure the majority of people are supported into long term housing/ accommodation. We have recruited two Rapid Rehousing Support Workers who are working hard already to get people into their own homes from the hotels.

Nationally, as part of the campaign, we asked the government to launch emergency legislation so that people will have somewhere to stay for at least 12 months, along with making sure people who don’t have entitlement to housing normally will still have somewhere to stay. Find out more here: <https://www.crisis.org.uk/get-involved/home-for-all/noticeboard/home-for-all-emergency-legislation/>

It has been a strange few months but we are still staying with our core mission – to end homelessness for as many people as possible and I’m really pleased to have your support.

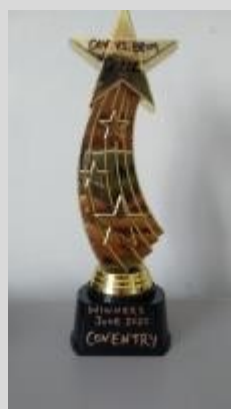
-Kieran Lyons, Director

The Quiz Masters of Coventry (and Warwickshire!)

On the 26th of June we held our first Birmingham Skylight vs Coventry Skylight quiz! This was also our first online event to engage members, staff and volunteers. We’ve had to change the way we do events due to the COVID-19 pandemic and we wanted to introduce this new format in a fun and exciting way.

Once all of us had assembled on Zoom, we quizzed...4 rounds including an emoji round, a “guess who said it” round as well as general knowledge and TV and film. The scores were moderated by Lucky, one of our lovely volunteers and the results were announced... Coventry were victorious! Eleanor and Eve had such a good time planning the quiz and everyone fed back it was a lovely way to spend an afternoon together. We are planning to do more online events in the future. If you would like to run or support an online event for our members, please do get in touch with Amy or Eleanor.

-Eleanor Nunn, Events & Christmas Coordinator



Black Lives Matter to Crisis Skylight Coventry

We are aware, both as an organisation and as individuals, of the wounds racism causes in our society, workplaces and relationships. Crisis Skylight Coventry and Warwickshire is committed to challenging all forms of discrimination and works to change the policies and practices that perpetuate inequality for our members, staff and volunteers. If you have a concern about something that you or someone else has experienced, we invite you to reach out to us for support. Report racist abuse or any hate crime to the police: www.coventry.gov.uk/hatecrime or text 0790 3674589.

No one has to tolerate abuse or discrimination.

Meet Fundraiser Farrell

A warm welcome to Farrell, who joined us last week and is settling in - or as much as she can - working completely remotely from her home in the Midlands.

An experienced professional fundraiser having worked for both Cancer Research UK and Macmillan, Farrell will be based in Coventry but cover Coventry, Birmingham and Warwickshire.

One of her first projects will be to build communities of fundraising volunteers, so please let her know if you are interested in hearing more about this exciting opportunity by email on:

farrell.hackett@cirisis.org.uk



New Rapid Rehousing Team

If we can take any 'positives' from the situation of COVID-19 it's this: During the height of the pandemic ALL rough sleepers were offered a place to stay to keep them safe. In Coventry most rough sleepers took this offer. For some of these, this has been the first time in a long time when they have not only had a safe place to stay but have also accessed support and services needed to end their homelessness and not return to a life of rough sleeping. We are determined to capitalise on the progress made recently, preventing people going back to the streets.

At Crisis Skylight Coventry we have dedicated two new Rapid Rehousing Worker roles for working with people temporarily housed due to COVID-19. Paul comes to us as a seasoned EU Rough Sleeper/Navigator, helping to end homeless within the EEA Rough Sleeper community from the Coventry Refugee and Migrant centre. We are fortunate to have such an experienced and proactive professional with us and look forward to working with him. And a welcoming cheer to our very own Janis Docker, previously our Skylight Coordinator, who has retooled to join our Housing work force. Only two weeks into their new roles and have already successfully housed our first member!



- Kimberley Sysum, Progression Manager

We've Got a New Allotment!

We are preparing the groundwork (*see what we did there?*) to offer members the opportunity to work outdoors growing fruits, vegetables and flowers learning gardening skills and growing green thumbs in the process. We need one or two volunteers who could work alongside our members with Sadie and Gary, two of our Wellbeing and Learning Coaches to support this. **See attached poster and let Amy know if you would like to volunteer in our allotment.**

Emma Follows the Smart Money

Despite our long period of lockdown, Emma Christopher, our Learning lead for numeracy and IT has been busy with plans to deliver online learning around financial capability including budgeting and banking for our members. This forms part of our overall programme for renting readiness.

If anyone would like to support our online learning sessions with Emma, we are looking for one or two volunteers to follow up with our members. Please let Amy know.

Fascinating Home Facts: Doorknobs Keep You Healthy

If your home has brass doorknobs, it's **staying cleaner** on its own than homes with wood or glass ones. "Brass doorknobs will typically disinfect themselves in about eight hours," explains Vancouver-based Realtor **Shannon McNulty**. "This is because metal ions in brass and copper are actually toxic to mould, viruses, and other living things."

<https://bestlifeonline.com/amazing-home-facts/>

Levon’s Very Big Adventures

YouTube now has some calming and beautiful new content, thanks to Levon, one of our sessional tutors, who’s been spotted out and about with a new video camera strapped to his head, taking members on virtual walks and ‘quiet adventures’ in the great outdoors. Everyday next week we’ll be posting a different video for members to watch and be inspired to get out and about.

Check out Levon’s Uplifting New Videos: One for Each Day!

Monday Enjoy the Lake and the birds at sunset https://youtu.be/sr_PHclfzLc	Friday Peaceful walk at Newstead Abbey https://youtu.be/8pvLj-mgAAk
Tuesday In the Clouds with Peaceful Music https://youtu.be/XsaqSw9fkxg	Saturday Pure Country Sounds https://youtu.be/qi2ZCeXWl4M
Wednesday Gentle walk at Foremark Reservoir https://youtu.be/siBxt-KexzY	Sunday Focusing on the stream https://youtu.be/goznoMTReiQ
Thursday Drift away in birdsong at the side of the water https://youtu.be/7xkixkALXhU	

Wellbeing: Build a Birdfeeder in Your Soul

During lockdown I’ve been really enjoying watching the birds in my garden- rain or shine they are always around and I’ve gotten to know the regular visitors to the bird feeder. Here is a really lovely craft activity for people to encourage wildlife into their gardens or outdoor space. It can be easily made with an old juice/milk carton. Not only is it really easy to make but can also be personalised by painting each one with acrylic paint. ☺

<https://www.instructables.com/id/Recycled-Milkcarton-Birdseed-Dispencer/>

- by Eleanor Nunn, Christmas and Events Coordinator



Tree of the week: *Talk to the Palm*

Meet Joan—so called for her ‘big hair’ and big attitude. She’s a *cordalyne australis* and was already planted in my back garden when I moved in. I named her Joan after Joan of Arc, for braving our cold winters and for Joan Collins, the film and television actress famous for her diva-type character Alexis Carrington on the 1980’s television series ‘*Dynasty*’. She gives me courage as she’s lasted 20 years in an urban city – centre garden and still holds her big head high. *Rock on, Joan!*



NEXT MONTH’s ISSUE: Hear about one Member’s extraordinary journey towards a new life with help from Crisis. And a BRAND NEW Puzzler: Try out our corona conundrums and keep your mind as sharp as a politician’s retort!