



TOGETHER, WE ARE STRONGER

SUMMER 2024 ISSUE



Kingston's Big Sleep Out: October 2024

On Friday the 4th of October, we are inviting 70 people to sleep under the stars for one night within the grounds of the historic All Saints Church. Please join us if you can!

Ten years since Kingston's last charity sleep out, KCAH is aiming to bring together every church in the borough, aiming to have a participant from each in attendance.

Not limited to churchgoers. Please see the KCAH website for more info and a video from Joe Moffatt, Vicar of All Saints.

Training Delivered for Street Pastors

In mid-June KCAH's Tracey, Georgie and Dan attended Kingston United Reformed Church as part of a training day for the local Street Pastors.

Street Pastors are local Christians who are committed to caring for, listening to and helping members of the community. Formed in 2006, the S.P.s patrol the town centre from 10pm to 4am on Friday and Saturday nights.

Although they have seen a reduction in excessive drinking since '06, cases of homelessness have increased.



Collaborating With Local Schools

KCAH is endlessly grateful for all support, including that which comes from local schools. In recent times, The Holy Cross School has been a great supporter. The pupils had raised money for us in their Christmas market and also secured **£1,000** for KCAH in their First Give competition.

Pupils at Richard Challoner School collected vital goods which can be given out to service users. Surbiton High students even painted the walls of one of our supported accommodation houses! Well done and thank you all.





Volunteer Tracey Wins Council Award

On Thursday 6th of June, the Kingston Celebrating Communities Awards 2024 was held at All Saints Church, as organised by Kingston Council, Kingston Voluntary Action and Volunteering Kingston.

Tracey O'Shea, a remarkably dedicated volunteer for us over the past 5 years, was awarded with the Unsung Hero Award and she could not be more deserving!

Tracey is on the frontline helping people who come to register at our Housing Crisis Intervention Service (HCIS). She also stepped up and helped to run our most recent winter night shelter when we needed her.

Pictured with KCAH CEO Georgie Forshaw (above, left), Tracey's trademark smile and very warm personality have greeted hundreds of service users at HCIS over the years.

A beacon of hope and calm in what is often an extremely challenging and upsetting time in someone's life, Tracey embodies the attributes we look for in KCAH volunteers.

It really is a massive personal commitment that has been shown when you consider that Tracey spends several hours with us for three days each week, unpaid.

Thank you, Tracey!

KCAH Dragon Boat Team Re-Launched



On Sunday 21 July, dragon boat racing returned to the River Thames at Kingston, based alongside the Boaters Inn pub within Canbury Gardens.

Thanks to boating enthusiast and KCAH supporter Matthew Taylor, highly experienced dragon boater and gymnastics coach Mily Brewer got in touch and agreed to show our team the ropes.

Mily volunteered her time on two occasions for training meet ups and also coached our team on race day (as well as being one of our paddlers).

The KCAH Spurdogs put in a best time of 46.71 second with no prior on-the-water training. This landed us in 10th place out of 24 teams in the open category (teams with more than half male teammates).

Thanks to Matthew also for raising over £350 and onboarding his next door neighbours Debbie and Mark Johnstone who went on to raise almost £600!

Over £2,250 raised in total and a great day had by all. Next summer we will aim to get into the final round of six teams!

Consider our Birthday Appeal

Since demand for KCAH's services has increased 30% in just 12 months, we are seeing a minimum of 10 new people at our drop-in centre each week. These are people who are already in homelessness or facing a housing crisis.

In 2024, we invite you to consider asking friends and family to donate money to KCAH to mark your birthday. This can be done easily by creating your own fundraiser from the Birthday Appeal campaign on our website.



CEO's Message

"With a new government in place, we are hoping for improved support at national and local levels to intervene in homelessness. We will be keeping a close eye on things then letting our supporters know of changes and, ideally, improvements for our grassroots charity.

Historically, fewer people in need of support present to KCAH during the summer. However, this is the second year in a row where numbers have been dramatically high. We anticipate the need for a Winter Night Shelter once again this winter. This is a cost absorbed by KCAH. If you can, please get involved in our Big Sleep Out on October 4th to ensure that we can afford to shelter those in need."

~Georgie Forshaw