



The aim of Thames Homeless Project is to help to prevent homelessness and alleviate the effects of homelessness. We help single people from Elmbridge, Runnymede and Spelthorne who do not qualify for help from the local authorities.

July 2006

## Who are we? What do we do?

Many of our supporters are familiar with the background to Thames Homeless Project, but for those new to us or as a refresher for old friends - here is 'the history bit':

THP began with a group, led by Barbara Mudd, who wanted to do something practical for local homeless people. They started taking hot meals to the Nightshelter in Leatherhead. Then set themselves the target of providing a comfortable hostel in Walton for homeless people not helped by the local authorities - mainly single people. After tireless fundraising and campaigning, THP teamed up with Spelthorne Housing Association who purchased a house in Walton-On-Thames in 1998. THP contributed £50,000 towards the cost of the renovation and also furnished each room. THP has undertaken to help secure a sound financial future for the hostel. THP supporters chose the name Thames Haven for the hostel and from the start have worked to make this accommodation a home, not just a place to stay. Volunteers take food and gifts to residents; and we continue to offer befriending and encouragement to residents and former residents.

### And now?

THP offers practical support in a number of ways, including a Welcome Pack for all new residents of Thames Haven Hostel and household goods for residents moving on to their own flats. Residents also have the opportunity to take some of the furniture from their room when they move on as well as cookers or fridges where appropriate; and these are then replaced by THP.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, THP has also been able to widen its remit recently. For example, anyone from Elmbridge, Spelthorne or Runnymede, who meets the criteria, can apply to THP for a grant. Our grants and loans can help someone secure a home e.g. with a deposit, provide help towards essential furniture or household items or can even avoid someone becoming homeless.

We are supporting the development of a new Nightstop initiative in the area as reported in our summer newsletter; and plan to consider other ideas to prevent homelessness and support people so they can keep their homes.

### How?

All this is made possible through the ongoing generosity and commitment of local people. Our approach to fundraising has changed recently. Whilst we still need new funds to support all the services we aim to provide, we also want to ensure we are making best use of the funds already raised. Therefore we have chosen to concentrate our efforts on some specific local events - such as Walton Heritage Day and Oatlands Village Fair. Such events help to maintain our profile in the wider community, raise funds and remind people of the ongoing housing need in this area from those people who require help to get and sustain their own accommodation. We continue to have regular fundraising meals - such as our Annual President's Dinner, as well as encouraging our supporters to join our Pledge Scheme or the 100 Club which are vital to our work.

If you wish to get more actively involved in our work please contact Angela Horsey on (01932) 235885 or [angelahorsey.thp@virgin.net](mailto:angelahorsey.thp@virgin.net)

### There are a number of ways to contact THP:

#### Write to:

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c/o Elmbridge Housing Trust,  
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Walton-on-Thames,  
Surrey, KT12 1DZ

Phone: 01932 235885

E-mail: [angelahorsey.thp@virgin.net](mailto:angelahorsey.thp@virgin.net)