

Manna House Update



January
2017

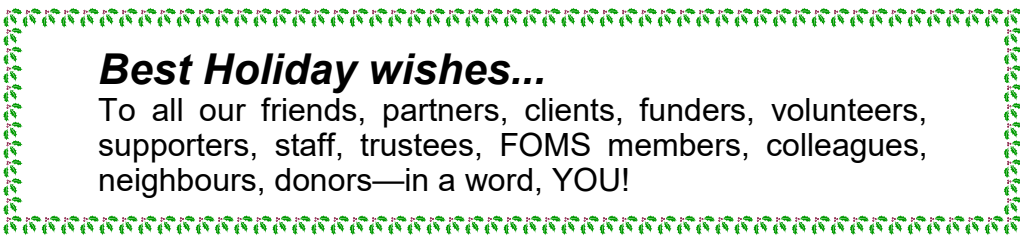
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Ringing in the New





Best Holiday wishes...

To all our friends, partners, clients, funders, volunteers, supporters, staff, trustees, FOMS members, colleagues, neighbours, donors—in a word, YOU!

Manna House Ringing in the New

Well, what a year that was!! I think the title of the story of 2016 must be “*Living with the Unexpected*”. First the calamity of the flooding, then the job of coming up with alternative solutions, which meant we ultimately shared the plight of the homeless as the Drop-in went mobile; having to say farewell to Marc & Kenny; Jonathan stepping back to take on a new role; Penny giving birth to baby Molly; and finally back to our refurbished Drop-in at Castle Lodge. No one can say that life with Manna House is ever dull!

At this point we want to say a big thank you to our staff team, our regular volunteers and all those who’ve stepped up to help at critical times. Thank you.

Our theme this month is “Ringing in the New”, taken from the tradition of church bells being rung to announce the beginning of a New Year. So, what can we look forward to in 2017? While I’d like to say things are settling down, realistically I’m believing that we should ring in the new year as “*2017 - a year of change and growth*”. Despite the return to Castle Lodge, we still don’t have a long-term solution to our housing need and we’re also working to secure the necessary funding to sustain our work.

We will face these challenges as we always do - positively and seeing them as an opportunity to maintain and develop our unique role as a provider of housing advice and support to the most vulnerable people in our area.

Colin Greaves, Chair of Trustees



Hi, I am Petra and I am a student from Kendal College. I've been volunteering at Manna House for a fair few months. During my time here it is clear to me that staff members (and volunteers) all care greatly about service user's thoughts and feelings.

From my first day at Manna House I have worked very closely with service users by involving myself in the Wednesday workshops. This has given me plenty of opportunities to sit down and really get to know clients and learn what it is that is important to them. But not all people wish to participate in the workshops and so they may be missing out on an opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings. Taking this into consideration, myself and Julie Oram from CADAS spent time planning a group consultation as one of the Wednesday workshops.

The aim of the consultation was to have service user's voices heard and for them to talk about things that they like about Manna House as well as suggestions for improvement. During the group consultation, many clients, including those who do not normally involve themselves in the workshops, brought up excellent ideas for Manna House.

We are currently looking at these ideas and thinking about how they can make them a reality. As a student and an aspiring social worker, it is amazing for me to see the compassion and consideration Manna House has for its clients. Service users made it very clear that one of the things they like the most about Manna House is the people, and I think it's safe to say that I could not agree more! I have never met a more caring team of people, and I cannot thank Manna House enough for allowing me to be a part of it.



Some good ideas to follow up on..

- Computing skills workshop
- First aid course
- More staff members
- Delegated laundry person—give clients tickets for their laundry
- Walking/getting to know the area
- Someone to manage drug & alcohol misuse outside
- Signs directing users to the services we offer

2016: A



February: Manna Swim raises £3000 for the building fund— thanks, FOMS!



March: Easter Feast at the Salvation Army. Winter Shelter ended its season after 14 guests were supported.



January 2016: Making the best of the URC kitchen. Our Coffee Morning at Town Hall raised £215.



April: Work on Castle Lodge makes slow progress.

Not to mention the Men's Group & our Skills Café!



December 2015: FLOODED!!



May: Molly Severn is born!! We also raised £450 at the Dog Show.



June: We enjoyed a amazing v which rais thanks, Ca

2,880
serve

A Year in Review



July: The Women's Group at Yarn in the Yards. We also raised £550 at the FOMS Garden Party.



celebrated our volunteers & folk concert raised £1500—arol!

0 lunches
ed on average



Throughout the year: We said farewell to Hannah; Penny went on maternity leave; Lesley and Zsuzsi and Fiona joined us as we bid adieu to Marc & Kenny; Jonathan left his post & we enjoyed our students Sophie, Petra and Kaya.



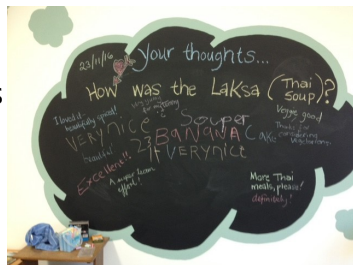
August: Concert @ the URC



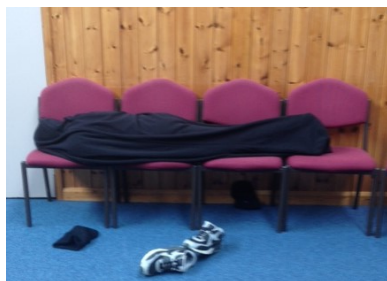
September: Manna House Torchlight volunteers accept a cheque for more than £1000



December: The Women's Group celebrate the season. Manna House decorate a Parish church tree.



November: Back at Castle Lodge and getting some great feedback. Our Auction raised over £2000.



October: Winter Shelter training of volunteers in preparation for 1st Dec opening.

Winter Shelter 2016/17

This year's emergency accommodation, facilitated and coordinated by Manna House, is being run by nearly 70 volunteers. Taking place in the URC, Salvation Army, the Catholic Church, Stricklandgate Methodist and St George's on Gooseholme, we offer a roof, a meal and a warm bed for the night to those who are homeless. Six different men have benefitted from the shelter already this winter and it is thanks to donations from the public, the churches and from private funding that we have been able to provide warm sleeping bags, air mattresses, pillows and solid nutritious hot meals each night.

*Please contact Fiona Nelson, Winter Shelter Coordinator,
info@manna-house.org.uk for more information.*



As we look

...we see a bright new building, fit for purpose and enabling us to deliver the work of which we are already so proud. We see secure funding with a harmonious team of staff and volunteers with the same high standards partners across all sectors—those we've enjoyed fruitful associations with to blossom. We see clients better equipped to manage their lives and community at large. Are we looking through rose coloured spectacles through 2016 with our enthusiasm and dedication in tact I think we are 2017. We look forward to seeing it through with you.

Andrea Aldridge

Friends of Manna House

A BIG THANK YOU to members of Friends of Manna House . Thanks to your financial help, Manna House has been able to maintain the essential services to the homeless and those in need in 2016. It has been a challenging year, but we have survived and look forward to 2017 with renewed vigour. Friends have booked the Leisure Centre swimming pool for Saturday 25th February 3-5pm for the BIG SWIM— swimmers, spectators and **sponsors** will be encouraged ! Wishing you a very Happy, and Peaceful and Blessed Christmas and New Year from all at Manna House.

forward to 2017...

ever better services than ever before, expanding and improving on which we have worked so hard to earn. We see
wards and aspirations. We see a host of
with before and ones which will begin
more confident to participate in the
? I don't think so. If we can make it
e bound to be looking at a successful



e, Acting Chief Officer

IMPORTANT DATES

Fri. 20th Jan Fundraising Committee @ Castle Lodge 10.30am

Thurs. 26th Jan Provider Forum @ Castle Lodge 10am

Sat. 28th Jan Coffee morning@ Kendal Town Hall 9.30—12.30pm

Sat. 25th February Manna Swim @ Kendal Leisure Centre 3—5pm

Volunteer Call Out!

Fancy cooking a lunch or two for us on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday? All help greatly appreciated—please get in touch: info@manna-house.org.uk

Current Programmes at Castle Lodge

Monday : Women's "Sew What" 10.30-12.30 pm
Men's group 1-3pm

Tuesday: Advice surgery & Drop In lunch 10-3pm

Wednesday : Drop-in, Skills cafe & lunch 10-3pm

Thursday: Closed except for rough sleepers

Friday: Drop-in, advice & lunch 10-3pm

Next Edition Update

Copy by 27th March for April edition please to the "Editor"
info@manna-house.org.uk or 01539725534

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