



YEOVIL NIGHT SHELTER PROJECT CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome everyone, Trustees, Volunteers and Friends of the Yeovil Night Shelter Project. We are most grateful to the Community Church for hosting our Annual General Meeting for the second year.

This year has been one of steady progress and innovative diversification involving many new faces backed up by our faithful band of Volunteers. Our efficient teamwork is boosted by monthly Trustees meetings followed in the same week by Committee meetings.

Since our last Annual General Meeting we have achieved most of our objectives and have experienced relatively few set-backs. We have many other aspirations planned ahead right up to 2013. Supporting People funding contributed to our much needed refurbishment in September and October 2009. With similar funding and co-operation from the South Somerset District Council (for which we offer our sincere thanks) we were able to set up our Dry House and equip it appropriately with huge assistance from many donations from local Churches and individuals helping to furnish it to a very high standard. Much help was also received from the Trustees, the Committee, and Racheall Welsh. There has been an occupancy of three or four clients ever since and it is running very successfully.

At the same time we were able to attract the services of Karen Smith to provide daily group sessions at the Night Shelter. We encourage our evening guests to think seriously of seeking rehabilitation and consequently we are considering opening a second Dry House, possibly as early as this autumn, thus providing much needed light at the end of the tunnel for more of our clients. We have also introduced a weekly Alcoholics Anonymous drop in session on Wednesdays from 12.30-1.00pm.

In the spring we purchased adjacent land in order to widen our garden. Chris and residents from the Dry House have worked tirelessly to transform a wasteland into a pleasant area for relaxation.

Thanks especially to Chris Mounsher. I would also like to congratulate Aimee Chisholm who tutored the residents of Woodland Grove to gain their LPA (Learning Power Award) enabling them to be confident and to contribute their new knowledge to the Night Shelter.

C.R.B. checks on all Volunteers are being issued on a regular basis.

Volunteers have received thorough inductions and ongoing regular support.

I conclude by thanking all our Volunteers, Committee Members and Trustees for all their dedicated commitment to the buoyant progress that has been achieved this year. Thank you Chris, our Manager, for your inspired leadership, limitless energy and tenacious business acumen, all of which contribute to making the Yeovil Night Shelter Project a totally unique place.

Robert Edward Betts
(Chairman of Trustees)

September 2009