

Autumn 2018

ISSUE 134



THE
Simon
STAR



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THANK YOU

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DRIVERS NEEDED

If you can spare just a few hours a week to help drive our services please get in touch. Our amazing volunteers work so hard to bridge the gaps including taking outreach services on the bus and sometimes doing the runs on foot. If you can help at all, or know someone who can, we would love to hear from you.

Thank you for reading this autumn edition of Simon Star and for supporting the Community. We use this newsletter to let you know what is going on and invite you to share your stories.

If you would like to update, edit or remove your contact details then please get in touch.

You can email us on admin@simoncommunity.org.uk or call the office on 0207 485 6639

WELCOME TO THE SIMON STAR

Welcome to our autumn Simon Star. We hope that this newsletter finds you well and happy.

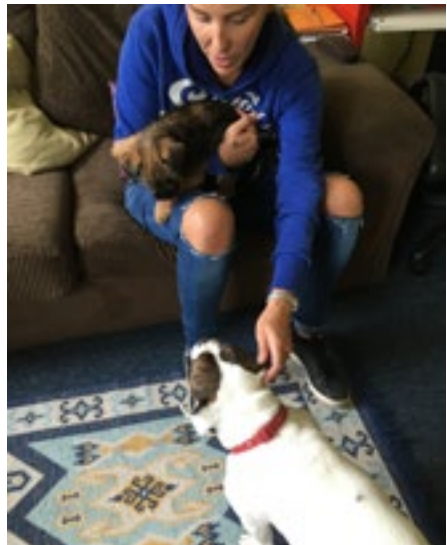
So far this year our guests have had a lot to contend with. Earlier in the year the Beast from the East brought heavy snow and freezing temperatures and this summer's heatwave has taken it's toll on our friends on the street.

For most of us the summer was a struggle, we find it hard to sleep and drink enough water and sweat so much that we need to shower twice a day.

For street homeless guests the luxury of frequent showers, unlimited cold water, fans and light summer clothes is completely out of reach.

We have been doing what we can to help and are grateful to our supporters and committed volunteers who consistently take help and support out to those who need it most.

Thank you for ready our news and taking an interest in our projects and our guests. We hope that you enjoy our news.



Zola meets Jinky on his first day!

ALL ABOARD!

We introduce you to our new Board members

At our AGM this April we saw some changes to our Board of Trustees. We were sad to say goodbye to Georgia, Marike and MT who all stood down this year. We would like to thank them for all their hard work and commitment to the Community.

We were pleased to be able to welcome some new members to the Board who bring a lot of useful skills and experience to share.

Chris is a former residential volunteer who works for Emmaus. He has a lot of experience in the sector.

David is Head of HR for Pret and his commercial background in HR will help us achieve strategic objectives.

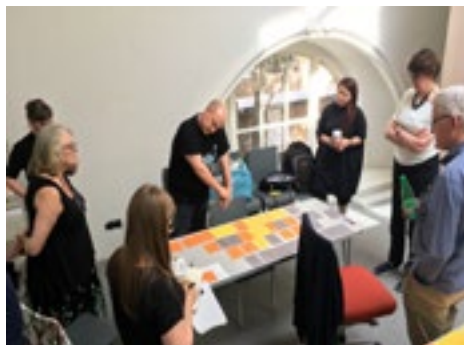
Heather has been involved in homelessness organisations for

many years and brings business skills from her professional life and her volunteering experience.

Pauline joined us as a part time volunteer, but as a property lawyer was willing to share her professional skills with us as a trustee.

Amanda has an academic background and brings many management and leadership skills as well as a real passion for community and people.

Welcome to the new trustees!



SKID ROW MARATHON

Community event and fundraiser film screening

This August we had a terrific Community event when we watched the amazing Skid Row Marathon at Prince Charles Cinema in London.

Regular volunteer (and marathon runner) Dan came to us with the idea earlier this year.

Criminal Court Judge Craig Mitchell began a running club for homeless people after visiting the Midnight Mission on Skid Row. The documentary follows the journey of his runners out of homelessness as they rebuild their lives and train to run international marathons.

Thanks to Dan and Vice Media, we were treated to a screening of this amazing film where we gave tickets for donations. We combined this fundraiser as a community event and invited our homeless guests, providing

food and entertainment. It was a really rainy miserable day and it was great that they joined us and enjoyed the film.

After the screening Dan announced that we are starting an entirely inclusive running club for guests that will welcome all people of all abilities. We can't wait to get started and will keep you posted... if you want to come for a run / jog / walk / crawl please get in touch!!!



WHAT'S GOING ON...

There has been a real shift in energy about the Community this summer, with new people bringing new skills and old friends holding traditions and values we are feeling a real sense of things 'coming together' that has been very rewarding.

In order to join things up a bit, we have moved the Community Meeting into our evening centre venue (thanks to Dawn at Bloomsbury) and it now take place once a month. This gives members who live / work / volunteer at different services a chance to meet up and share ideas and support each other.

The Board that was elected in April at the AGM have wasted no time and have really hit the ground running. One of the areas that we are concentrating on now is fundraising. As well as grass roots fundraising and donations that our fantastic supporters give us, we are also looking at how to sustain the charity in the longer term.

Some changes to the staff team now mean that we are looking for a professional fundraiser to join us. Details of this can be found on our website <https://www.simoncommunity.org.uk/jobs-in-simon.html>

With our team of residential volunteers replenished, we have been focusing on supporting each other and growing as a team through communication. Taking care of each other inside the house makes us that much more able to take care of our guests outside.

Lately we have had several ex full time volunteers come for a visit and stay a few days, jumping back into life in the house and getting stuck in with the team. It has been lovely to welcome some old friends back to the house and gives it a real family feel. We are not looking forward to the cold weather, but when it comes we will be ready for all the challenges it brings.



Our new bike trailer for outreach!

Fundraising Activities

Apart from the film screening that we have already told you about on page 5, we had some great help from our friends at The Cruise Portfolio.

Every week two volunteers come to our evening centre to help out and their staff have been raising money for us. As we have been having trouble getting drivers for all the services over the summer due to holidays etc. Chelsea came up the idea of getting a bike trailer to get supplies out onto the streets.

Berni from Cruise Portfolio had been fundraising for us with a sponsored bike ride, so it seemed like an ideal way to spend the money to get the supplies we need for outreach out onto the streets. Thanks everyone!!

Since our last issue we have said goodbye to our Full Time Volunteer Sandra. When Sandra came to us she was the only FTV for a few months and she coped with this amazingly well and provided great peer support for those that came after her.

Sandra left to return to Germany where she has an internship. We are hoping that she is coming to visit us for Christmas and bake us some cakes!



HELLO & GOODBYE

We were joined by Reggie from the US and also Eugene and Esther from Taiwan and most recently Anton from Germany.

We have also said goodbye to resident Andy and Director Kevin. We wish them both well for the future.

We are looking forward to new volunteers and residents joining us this autumn.



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Please complete this form and return it with your donation to: The Simon Community, 129 Malden Road, London, NW5 4HS. All personal details are kept securely in line with GDPR regulations.

Alternatively you can make a secure donation online via our website, why not visit us at: www.simoncommunity.org.uk

