

Spring 2019

ISSUE 135



THE  
*Simon*  
STAR



[www.simoncommunity.org.uk](http://www.simoncommunity.org.uk)





[www.simoncommunity.org.uk](http://www.simoncommunity.org.uk)  
[info@simoncommunity.org.uk](mailto:info@simoncommunity.org.uk)

020 7485 6639



THANK YOU

Bloomsbury Baptist Church  
Dylan's Bakery  
St Martin's Gospel Oak  
St Giles in the Fields  
Pret a Manger  
Fareshare  
Time Out  
The Cruise Portfolio  
Bloomberg  
The Leatherseller's Foundation

All our individual donors and supporters

## CONTENTS

page 4

Thank you Jess!

page 5

Welcome Tom!

No More Deaths

page 6

What's Going On

page 7

Hello & Goodbye

Thank you

## Drivers needed

We are looking for drivers to help us take the food to the guests on the outreach runs. If you have a licence and are able to drive the van (it is not a special licence, just the same as the car) then we would love to hear from you.

We especially need help with the soup run (Thursday evening 8pm to 11.30pm) and the street cafe (Sunday 1pm to 3pm).

Please email us at:  
[rcullen@simoncommunity.org.uk](mailto:rcullen@simoncommunity.org.uk)

Thank you for reading this spring 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](mailto:admin@simoncommunity.org.uk) or call the office on 0207 485 6639

# WELCOME TO THE SIMON STAR

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

We are sorry that it has been a while since our last newsletter. As usual the winter was busy and we've come out of the cold weather with quite a to do list!

It seems odd now to be looking at pictures of Christmas dinner for this issue, but here we are!

We have had a few changes, more residents joining us and another great group of people that joined us

for the winter shelter this year (more about this on page 6).

We have had some changes at the house with new residents joining and more live in volunteers coming to share their time and energy with us.

There have also been changes to the Board... Jess stepped down as Chair (more on page 4) and we have a new Chair and Treasurer.

Big thanks to all the people helping, supporting and caring about our work and our guests.



All hands on deck at the Christmas dinner

# Goodbye and Thanks Jess Turtle

Thanks and goodbye to Jess and welcome to our new Chair Tom.

Jessica Turtle was elected in 2016 as our Chair after serving on the Board of Trustees for two years. She stood down at the end of last year after several action packed years with us, during which she made a huge contribution to the stability of the Community.

Jess has a lifetime connection with the Community. Her father Fred Briscoe met our founder Anton Wallich-Clifford while he was skippering in London. He came into the Community, met Jess's mother and they went on to start The Wallich-Clifford Community in Cardiff where Jess was born.

We have loved working with Jess, she has so much patience and love for all those needing space and care. We have had really testing times while she has been at the helm and she has steered us back on track.

As is our tradition we had a great leaving party (on Christmas Eve) with the customary Face Cake, a bespoke Simon themed nativity play with ukulele carols! It was a great day and a fitting goodbye.

Jess now has more time to focus on the work of the Museum of Homelessness that she co-founded with her husband Matt. We wish her every success and look forward to seeing more of their fantastic work in the future.

Thanks for everything Jess, you were ace and we'll miss you.



## Our New Chair

Tom joined us in 2015 when he took on the role of Treasurer at The Simon Community. Tom's background as a Chartered Accountant gave him the skills and experience to put his best efforts into future proofing the Community and making us more financially robust.

After a 6 month sabbatical to Beijing we were delighted that when Tom returned he felt ready to take on the role of Chair when Jess stepped down. Tom knows the Community well and is really supportive. We are really looking forward to working with him in his new role.



## No More Deaths



In March we joined with Streets Kitchen, MoH and others in a vigil for the hundreds of homeless people that have died across the UK in the last year with the clear message that one is too many and enough is enough.

Read about the project #makethemcount started by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism (and taken on by MoH) here <https://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/blog/2019-05-21/moving-on-with-respect-dying-homeless>

# WHAT'S GOING ON...

The house is feeling very full!!! We have a few new residents joined us lately and a big group of Live in Volunteers at the house at the moment. It is amazing to think that only a year ago we were such a small team and now we have to get up early to get a seat in the breakfast meeting!

The winter shelter this year went very well as we partnered with Quaker Homeless Action for the first time making things a lot easier for our group to carry on with all our other outreach services while still putting as much love and care into the shelter as possible.

We had a great group of guests that joined us, some of whom had been outside for a while and were quite sceptical at first. We soon settled into a routine of people arriving early, eating with the group and relaxing before bedding down for the night.

We were lucky to have some regular cooks for the shelter this year who came with some real treats for the guests. Thanks in particular to all the cooks from St Martins, to Jan and to Susan who is everyone's favourite vegetarian cook! Also to all the volunteers that stayed over and created such a welcoming space.

The tea runs have been busier lately, especially on Monday and Friday. We are taking extra food out with us. One thing that has changed lately is the cups. All the activity of extinction rebellion led us to a community decision about trying to find a more environmentally friendly cup! The solution was however not as cheap, so if anyone has any ideas of how to source donated eco-friendly cups we'd love to hear from you.

On another environmental note, our van now doesn't meet the Ultra Low Emissions Charges requirements for exemption, so we will be fundraising to replace it soon. Please keep a look out for fundraising events on social media and the website that will be coming up soon or get in touch with the office to find out more.



# Thank You

Our friends at the The Cruise Portfolio have been helping us again. This time they raised money with their Christmas Jumper day to pay for the food for our guests Christmas Dinner.

All the guests enjoyed a freshly cooked turkey dinner and Christmas pudding and the volunteers from the Cruise Company joined us to serve the food and welcome the guests. Thank you to Natalie and everyone there for all you have done for us this year.

Thank you also to the Bloomberg volunteers who joined us on the night to greet guests and hand out their winter packs with warm fleeces, hats, gloves, socks and toiletries for the guests to take with them at the end of the night.

Since our last issue we have said goodbye to volunteer Eugene, Reggie, Esther and Anton who have all returned home to continue their studies.

We have welcomed new volunteers Martina and Pauline (both from Germany), Yousra from Belgium, Pia from Chile, Bruno from Germany, Ashley from the US and Ryan from the UK. We are a big group at the moment and really enjoying having so



## HELLO & GOODBYE

many hands to help though it can be a struggle to fit everyone into the middle room for meals and meetings!

Angus joined us in December and has been settling in well, he is a regular helper on tea run and his porridge is highly recommended. Dawid has also joined us this April and is settling into his new room. He is a keen runner and we are looking forward to him joining our running group at weekends!

