



Issue 14

NEWSLETTER

Christmas 2016

Keeping you up to date with the project



Welcome to our Christmas newsletter

2016 will mark 22 years of LATCH support in Bromley and all members of LATCH staff as well as Trustees can be proud of the work undertaken over these years. LATCH remains a viable option for many single homeless young people in Bromley. Strangely the numbers of homeless coming to LATCH has dropped this year but there has been an increase in the numbers seeking advice and information. Whether this is a marked turning point for LATCH or merely a blip we will await 2017 and assess the situation as changes take place. Whatever the challenge we have the staff and Trustees to work together to ensure that LATCH remains a viable and necessary priority for the single homeless. Whether the new government policies for under 35 on housing benefit is having a fundamental change we are unsure but 2017 will provide further evidence.

During the course of 2016 we paid tribute to those Trustees who stood down having given sterling service over many years namely, Ella and Alice Power, Fiona Brandhorst, John Warren and Chris Cava and we welcome David Fagan (Treasurer) and his nephew Michael Fagan (Secretary) and Basel Hammada (a new Trustee).

Despite the fact of life changing events taking place in the country with the vote to leave the EU and a new London Mayor and the financial restrictions under which LATCH operate we are confident of another successful year with an offer from a major housing developer who is keen to work with LATCH and provide two empty properties that can be used for renting to single homeless for at least two years.

God is good because this was exactly one of the original objectives adopted by the founding Trustees to move to having rented properties that can be offered to the most vulnerable seeking a roof over their head. Now after 22 years LATCH will be in a position to offer rented accommodation to the single homeless. I will say much more in the Spring edition when, hopefully, all the arrangements have been agreed and the properties have been leased to LATCH.

In the meantime I want to thank all my Trustees who give their time freely as well as the members of staff - Jackie, Alexandra and Sarah and we send Nana-Ama our Project Manager on maternity leave with all our very best wishes and hope all goes well in the coming months. I also want to pay special tribute to our volunteers, Fabienne Brazill in the office, Ella Power (despite standing down as a Trustee) she continues to raise enormous sums of funds for LATCH. We are grateful to all our supporters, too many to name individually, who are always there at our Chinese New Year dinner, celebrations, summer quiz and Tamasha Curry lunches and Mr Tarat the owner of Tamasha who has been consistent in his support for LATCH. My own Catenian Association members and all the Churches in Bromley and Beckenham who still remember the needs of the homeless and without their prayers and support we would flounder. My own thanks to URC our landlords who provide so much more than an office and their kindness shown to me in particular.

For many of us in Bromley, Christmas is a time for celebration but we should remember that for many people it is time when some people are driven from their homes, their jobs and we could lose heart. But, for Christians we don't forget the vulnerable and homeless and we pray to the Child Jesus to come to be a real presence in our world and in our work. I will remember everyone connected with LATCH even in the smallest way and I will include them in my prayers and thoughts at Christmas.

Rev Duncan Aitkins
BCHA/ LATCH Chair



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A big thank you to Bromley Parish Church (St Peter and St Paul) for their kind donation of £3,901.07 towards The LATCH Project.

In the Pope's recent encyclical 'Laudato Si' Pope Francis speaks passionately about our responsibility to care for the world and all its beauties and wonders, created for us and gifted to us by our loving Father. For over twenty two years LATCH has been caring for the homeless and it is evident that the love of Christ is in abundance in the Brothers and Sisters of the Parish Church in Bromley who have recognised the vulnerable and the lowly of the homeless in our community and they have not ceased to practice listening to the abiding Word that all true hearers remind us of the incarnational possibility in each human word.

As Pope Francis reminds us that 'discovering God in all things' the congregation of the Parish Church know only too well to hold to that truth with their incredible donation to the work of LATCH for which we, who are connected to LATCH, are eternally grateful of their generosity which can only be based on the Love of Christ. It is God's creative love which is at the core of this most wonderful gift and we honour and bless their gift and we join with Isaiah in the words: *'And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. "Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth."* - Reverend Duncan Aitkins (BCHA/LATCH Chair)



National Citizen Service

Thank you to the National Citizen Service for supporting us and holding a stall in Bromley to raise awareness of our work.

Celebrating 20 years as a host

Our host Liz Izzard celebrated 20 years as a host this year.

Liz joined us at our Office Christmas Lunch where we presented her with some flowers and chocolates as a thank you for her hard work and dedication.



Ladies Night

Our Ladies Night took place on Wednesday 9th of November at Friends of Mine. The evening was a great success enjoyed by all. Thank you to all the stall holders as well as those who attended. We raised a grand £1,000



Giraffe trail



Thank you Tamasha Restaurant and the Rotary Club for nominating us for The Giraffe Trail. A big thank you to Green Street Green school for decorating our giraffe and helping us win first prize and £100. We are now in the process of auctioning it.



Christmas Lunch



During our Office Christmas Lunch we bid farewell to Nana-Ama, our Project Manager who will be leaving for her maternity leave just before Christmas.

Who We Are

BCHA

Duncan Aitkins - Chair
 Michael Fagan - Secretary
 David Fagan—Treasurer
 JJ Beck - Trustee
 Ranjana Chauhan - Trustee
 Judith Mascarenhas - Trustee
 Cora Marler - Trustee
 James Marler - Board member
 Ellie Turner - Graphic Designer
Staff
 Nana-Ama Martey - Project Manager
 Jackie Riley - Senior Support Worker
 Alexandra Coeln - Support Worker
 Sarah Willis - Fundraising and Administrator
 Fabienne Brazzill—Volunteer

Events

Christmas carols—9th of December

Christmas film screening for
 LATCH at Filmbox Cinema - 14th of
 December

To Make a Donation

Your donations change the lives of young homeless people in the Borough of Bromley. With your support we can continue to find safe homes for 18 to 25 year olds. To donate it couldn't be simpler...

Simply text 'BCHA00 £2/£5/£10' to
 70070 eg. BCHA00 £5.

A huge thanks to the following who have kindly donated to LATCH this quarter...

Emmanuel Church West Wickham,
 Holy Trinity Church Bromley Com-
 mon, St Philomena's Catholic Prima-
 ry School, Austin & Hope Pilkington
 Trust, The Methodist Church, Beck-
 enham Methodist Church, Tamasha,
 Charles McMaster, David Murray,
 Hayes Mens Fellowship, West
 Wickham Rotary Club, John
 Pentlow, Lucia Parnell, Tamasha
 Restaurant, Lydia Warmington,
 Garfield Weston, Bromley Parish
 Church, St Augustines, St Marks
 Biggin Hill