

# bristol hospitality network newsletter



newsletter #2 - june 2010

## **greetings**

Welcome to the second newsletter from the Bristol Hospitality Network. It was lovely to meet so many of you at the supporters meal kindly hosted by Naomi W. and Nick who cooked up an incredible feast. It was a truly wonderful event and we hope this will be repeated in the not too distant future.

## **good news to report**

We are delighted to say that there is much good news to report since the last newsletter went out. The last few months have witnessed the purchase of a large house destined to become a welcome house for destitute asylum seekers. It can accommodate eight asylum seekers and three live in hosts, with ample communal space and a pleasant back yard. Since the papers were signed and the keys handed over, the BHN working group has been a veritable hive of activity. Henry has produced a phenomenal schedule of the work needed to bring the house up to the necessary legal as well as practical and aesthetic standards. This should be well underway by the time you read this, indeed, teams of willing volunteers have already enjoyed some en masse wallpaper stripping sessions!

On an administrative level, Naomi Woodspring has worked wonders preparing the governing documents which set out our charitable objectives and how we intend to go about achieving them. This is a legally binding document necessary to obtain charitable status and it forms the basis for all our future work. Considering this, we felt it important that BHN functions in as 'flat' ie non hierarchical a way as possible and to these ends the BHN working group attended a workshop on consensus decision making, something that we hope will be used in all areas of BHN.

## **collaboration**

Regarding links with other charities, we have agreed to enter a partnering agreement with Emmaus, where they'll provide us with advice and support, while we both look out for mutually beneficial ways to collaborate. BHN also hosted the NACCOM (No Accommodation Network) regional conference; an event that proved a fantastic chance to network with other charities from around the country with similar objectives and get some valuable advice.



## continuing home placements

As well as the welcome house, the network continues to arrange home placements for destitute asylum seekers - to date, thirteen people have been hosted by the BHN since its inception.

Recently, a man in his early twenties, from the Middle East, has been hosted by a group of friends in East Bristol for the last six months. He arrived in Britain in 2005 and after 7 months in NASS accommodation he found himself without support. After this he was forced to stay with friends, sometimes staying in a different place every night so as not to burden his hosts.

He says that his housemates now are 'like family'. He cooks delicious food for them and is often found enjoying chilli eating competitions.

He has really valued spending time with British people and getting to know the language and culture and similarly, the group he stays with have enjoyed eating Middle Eastern food, celebratory fire jumping and circle dancing. It is clearly an enriching experience for both parties.

## looking for volunteers

Just a final note, we are still looking for a third host for the welcome house as well as a treasurer and secretary to serve on the board of trustees. Do please let us know if you know of anyone who might be interested! From here on in we aim to do a biannual newsletter, coming out at the start of June and December.

Finally, thank you so much for your continued involvement in whatever way. Please feel sure that it is greatly appreciated,

Love

All at BHN

web:  
[www.bristolhospitalitynetwork.org.uk](http://www.bristolhospitalitynetwork.org.uk)

email:  
[bristolhospitalitynetwork@googlemail.com](mailto:bristolhospitalitynetwork@googlemail.com)

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