

FRIENDS OF THE BIG ISSUE

TOP CHEF CATERS FOR LEEDS

Welcome to the spring 2009 Friends of the Big Issue newsletter. I hope you enjoy the newsletter and keeping up to date with all that's been going on in our Big Issue in the North offices.

Staff and vendors at Leeds Big Issue in the North enjoyed a slap up Christmas party thanks to the top class cookery skills of Richard Allen – head chef at Harvey Nichols.

Magazine vendors joined St Anne's service users for the special party where each person received a gift together with dinner, which was served up by Chef Richard, two of his

own staff and St Anne's staff.

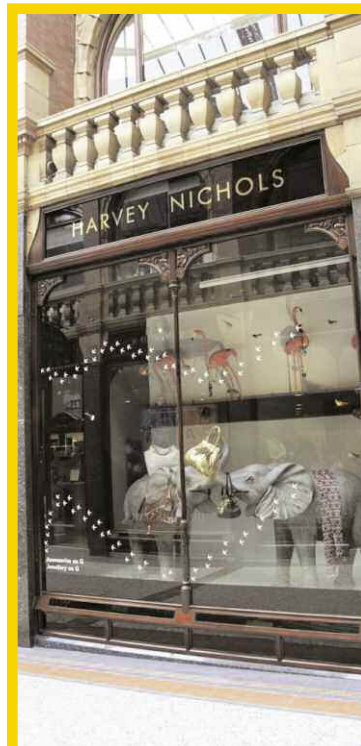
Big Issue in the North Team Leader at Leeds Patricia Fas said: "We were delighted with the meal, we had homemade soup, hotpot, sweet potato mash and sprouts and then mince pies and treacle tart with clotted cream."

Guests then all sang carols led by the Madrigal group from Notre Dame College and Cardinal Heenan High School, while a tribute singer belted out Christmas favourites and Carpenters' classics.

Patricia added: "St Anne's Resource Centre where we are

based in Leeds are always wonderfully supportive of us and even donated gifts of gloves, scarves and socks to all our vendors. We are really very lucky to be there."

The afternoon finished with a good old fashioned game of bingo and a good time was had by all.



Harvey Nichols Chef, Richard Allen with his assistants and volunteers from St Anne's in Liverpool

Appeal Update

Thanks to your continued support we managed to raise £17,460 from our 2009 Christmas appeal and as ever this money will go towards providing much needed support and services to vendors who sell The Big Issue in the North magazine.

It's been a particularly hard winter this year which can be difficult for our vendors, not only because they are out on the streets selling the magazine day in and day out to earn a legitimate income, but also because some of them (at least 10%) are sleeping rough and even more are staying in places with poor heating and insulation. With your help, we are working to help vendors move on in their lives, into better accommodation and away from the streets for good.

No one can fail to have noticed that the news is full of reports of a global recession and a credit crunch - we are all feeling a little lighter in the pocket. It's important that in the coming months, however, those who remain on the fringes of mainstream society and who are often excluded from both the mainstream jobs market and mainstream services are not forgotten or ignored as they have sometimes been in the past. With your help we can ensure that vendors working to improve their own lives can continue to do so through The Big Issue in the North.

Sharing the Journey

Inspirational stories about the journey from addiction to life beyond drugs and alcohol were shared by members of Community Voice at a conference. The event, the North West Conference on Harm Reduction, was held at the Liner Hotel, Liverpool, and four Community Voice volunteers shared their journey through addiction and how they have turned their lives around today. Community Voice, a project managed by The Big Issue in the North, gives support and advice to people in Liverpool affected by addiction.

New Look Website

The Big Issue in the North and Trust websites are being relaunched later in the spring. By going on-line to www.bigissueinthenorth.com you'll be able to keep up to date with all the latest news from both the magazine and the charity, including what's in this week's Big Issue in the North magazine and all the latest ways you can support The Big Issue in the North Trust.

Vendor Audit

The 2008 Vendor Audit is now available from our website - www.bigissueinthenorth.com. Once a year, vendors are asked a series of questions to find out who they are, details about their lives and what The Big Issue in the North and Trust have done for them. Some facts from this year's audit:

- 11% of vendors slept rough the night before the audit
- 27% of vendors became homeless as a result of a relationship breakdown either with their partner or parents.

NEW LOOK AND NEW PRICE FOR BIG ISSUE IN THE NORTH

The Big Issue in the North magazine has recently undergone both a facelift and price rise

The recently re-vamped magazine has risen in price from £1.50 to £2 to cover the company's year on year increase in costs.

Regional Sales Manager for The Big Issue in the North, Keith Smith said: "We appreciate that members of the public may see this as a significant increase; however, we have not increased the price of the magazine since February 2007.

"During that period we have also made significant improvements to the magazine – we've refreshed our editorial outlook with a new editor, and had a redesign to keep the magazine vibrant and current."

The price increase is also designed to make the transaction easy for vendors and the public on the street, using £1 or £2 coins.



Keith added: "Vendors will purchase the magazine for £1 and sell it for £2, so they will

make a profit of £1 for themselves. This is so important for vendors as they are working to improve their lives. In effect, vendors operate as a business on a small scale and so are self employed. Selling the magazine helps develop skills in budgeting and time management.

"In addition, when vendors sign up to sell the magazine, we help them to find the services that they need to improve their lives – such as registering with a GP or finding accommodation.

"People can be confident when buying The Big Issue in the North that they are getting a great magazine with a broad mix of news, features and reviews that they would expect to see in any other quality publication."

YOUR MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

Every year we create The Big Issue in the North Trust Christmas card (*picture, centre*), to both help raise money for the charity and for members of the public to send messages of support to our vendors. We are always struck by the response and here are some of those messages of support:

"Please remember there are lots of us regular supporters of the Big Issue who will be thinking of you all especially over this Christmas - and holding you in our prayers. May you have as good a Festive Season as possible and may the New Year bring a better life for you..."

"Dear Big Issue in the North vendors, you're doing a brilliant job, and in this cold weather it's extra-challenging. Keep going. Keep selling the magazine. It's

really appreciated by many people and will hopefully lead to improvement in all your circumstances."

"Never ever ever ever give in, think "I can" and persist. Persistence pays off in the end and it is very important to keep going. Just remember you can make things happen and turn



your life around. Where there's life there is always truly hope and I wish you all the best. Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year."

"I believe that everyone deserves a second chance and it is never too late to turn your life around. Grab every

chance that comes your way and never give up hope for a happier life."

"I've bought the magazine for some years and congratulate you on the new look for the Big Issue in the North. I'm 73 and find it an excellent magazine and the ethos of The Trust very compatible with my own outlook on worthy organisations doing an excellent job to support those who are going through rough times and who need encouragement to find their way forward - giving them hope."

Many Thanks

Our thanks and thoughts go to the family of Mrs Ramsay, who sadly passed away recently. Mrs Ramsay was a keen supporter of The Trust and recently knitted a number of hats for vendors of the magazine to keep them warm in the cold weather.

SCHOOLS COLLECTION BAGS A FOOD MOUNTAIN FOR VENDORS

A mountain of tins, jars and packets have been sorted and packed in the Manchester offices of The Big Issue in the North after school children taking part in a music project joined forces to collect food for vendors.

Around 16,000 school children gathered at the Manchester Evening News arena to take part in a huge performance run by the musical organisation Young Voices, who work with musical professionals from across the musical spectrum, to work with and encourage young people to form a love and passion for music.

“Young Voices contacted us when they were working to put on their concert in Manchester, and asked all the children taking part to donate an item each,” explained The Big Issue in the North Manchester Team Leader Dante Harker. “We’re delighted with the results, as we had at least 2,000 tins and jars to distribute.”

Over the Christmas season The Big Issue in the North had approximately 160 vendors out selling the magazine and many of them spent the festive period alone in hostels or in temporary accommodation.



Big Issue in the North Manchester Team Leader Dante Harker, with volunteer Matt, among just a few of the 2,000 tins collected in for the vendors this Christmas.

ENGLAND: EIGHTH IN THE WORLD AT THE HOMELESS WORLD CUP

England’s Homeless World Cup Team did their country proud at the international Homeless World Cup street soccer tournament in Melbourne, Australia, last December. The team finished an impressive eighth out of forty-eight countries taking part in the event. Work is already underway to find the team for the 2009 event which is in Milan, Italy. Regional trials are currently being held across the country with hundreds of people expected to try out to be part of the the team. Visit www.homelessworldcup.org for more.



The England Team celebrate with the Hong Kong Team



Team Captain, Ryan Nash, was named player of the match

Supporting The Trust

Everyclick!

There's a new Big Issue in the North Trust page for the search engine Everyclick which can be found at www.everyclick.com/bigissueinthenorthtrust. Whatever you are searching for on the World Wide Web, use the Everyclick search engine every time and you'll be raising money for The Big Issue in the North Trust. Every search raises approximately one penny for The Trust. So if just 100 people did 10 searches on everyclick everyday for a year it would raise a massive £3,650 without anyone actually spending a penny.

Looking for Spring Flowers?

Well spring is here at last and hopefully it's going to be a good one. If you're sending flowers to a friend or relative over the next few months, perhaps as an Easter gift, for example, don't forget to use Charity Flowers. Visit www.charityflowers.co.uk and select from a large range of bouquets and chocolates. Then, when you come to "checkout", select The Big Issue in the North Trust as your chosen charity and we'll get 15% of the sale at no extra cost to you!

Introducing...

Jane Logan, our new Fundraising Assistant. Jane is now taking care of all the Friends of the Big Issue donors and is your main point of contact for any enquiries you have about The Trust. Jane has been in post since the end of October last year, she's enjoying the work and says that she "wants to work in the charity sector in the future and this is a good place to start, and it's a cause I believe in." Email Jane on fundraising@bigissueinthenorth.com or call her on 0161 832 5556.



Planning to Run a Mile this year?

We now have a sponsorship pack designed to help you raise money for The Trust through sponsored runs and marathons for example. So if you're in training for the Great North Run this year, why not get sponsored for your efforts and raise some money for The Trust?

For more information or for some sponsorship forms please call Jane on 0161 831 5556 or email fundraising@bigissueinthenorth.com

buy.at

Visit www.buy.at/bigissueinthenorth and shop on-line to support The Trust! Choose from a massive range of retailers, including Marks and Spencer, HMV, Amazon and John Lewis, who can supply you with a number of goods and services, from the latest fashions, books and music to holidays, flights and even car insurance.

Whenever you make a purchase, the company you are buying from will donate a percentage of what you spend to The Trust. For example, if you were to spend £30 on hmv.com, they would donate £1.80 to us.

Encourage your friends, family and colleagues to start shopping through Buy At today!



[www.buy.at/
bigissueinthenorth](http://www.buy.at/bigissueinthenorth)

The Patron of The Big Issue in the North Trust is Sir John Zochonis DL

The Trustees of The Big Issue in the North Trust are:
Fay Selvan • Mark Fitzgibbon • Adrian Jennings •
Angela Young • Iphigenia Papoulia • Tahira Hussain

The Big issue in the North and The Big Issue in the North Trust are part of The Big Life group of social businesses and charities

www.bigissueinthenorth.com

THE FBI NEWSLETTER

produced by The Big Issue in the North Trust
Registered Charity No. 1056041
Registered Office: Kath Locke Centre
123 Moss Lane East, Manchester M15 5DD

To make a donation please send a cheque to The Big Issue in the North Trust, Number Ten, 10 Swan Street, Manchester M4 5JN.