



MAY 2022

# CHAT NEWS

*CHAT believes that everyone is entitled to decent, secure and affordable accommodation - somewhere to call 'home'*

## Homeless 4 A Night is back!

**Anyone who knows me will know that I am not a happy camper, I like my warm bed and coffee in the morning!**

Although I have known about and supported CHAT in various ways since it was formed 26 years ago, I have always managed to avoid the Sleep Out. I had many excuses (some good, some not so good) but the truth is I just didn't want to be uncomfortable for a night and have to cope with the lack of sleep the following week so I would sponsor other people to assuage my guilt!

This year feels different. At CHAT we see a tragic (but seemingly inevitable) rise in rough sleeping in our area and as I meet the people who are affected by this my excuses seem less acceptable. I have been increasingly challenged to do something about it so this year I will be sleeping out on 1st July - because I want to understand in a very small way some of the challenges those who do not have the option to go back to a bed the following night

face, and I know the money raised goes towards helping people move forward.

If like me you want to do something to help (and who knows it may be fun?!), the main Sleep Out will be held on Friday 1st July, with 2

venues (one for youth, one for adults), but if you want to pick a different evening, that is also fine with us!

Why not get together with a group of friends? Or you could do it in your own garden?

But if you are still not ready to sleepout you could always be a part of it by sponsoring us. Visit our page at [www.justgiving.com/campaign/homeless4anight](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/homeless4anight)

*Alison Padfield*

*Visit the website for more information or search Homeless 4 a night on Eventbrite to take part. Any questions, please contact Holly on [holly.sutton@chatmid.co.uk](mailto:holly.sutton@chatmid.co.uk)*

***"I have been increasingly challenged to do something about it"***

## Friday 24th June–Sunday 3rd July



# 4 A night

***Tackling homelessness, avoiding evictions, bringing hope.***

## Bid & Win

We held our first Online Charity Auction in March. It was a great success, and raised over £1800 for the work of CHAT.

A massive thank you to everyone who took part, those who placed bids and congratulations to our winners. Many thanks also to our volunteers, Ingrid & Millie, and to our generous donors, we couldn't have organised it without them.

Did you miss out on winning this time? At Christmas time you'll get a second chance, when we will be running another auction.

If you think you may be able to offer lots for the auction (eg. home made Christmas cake, gift sets), please email [holly.sutton@chatmid.co.uk](mailto:holly.sutton@chatmid.co.uk)

## CHAT on the Road

CHAT supported the energy advice pop up sessions at Lapford and Bradninch at the end of April, along with Exeter Community Energy (ECO) and some of the Neighbourhood team from Mid Devon District Council.

It was helpful to network with these other services who we work with regularly to ensure our clients are accessing all the help and support they need to manage their energy bills and their council tenancies, as well as being present in some of the more rural parts of our community.



*Denise at Energy Road Show, Bradninch*

At the Lapford event, Denise also met a new family support worker from the Department of Work and Pensions, which has led to a number of referrals for our clients with families. We also made contact with, and could see, the local food support available in Lapford and Bradninch.



# HARVEST TIME

**Would your church or school be able to support CHAT this harvest and collect items for the foodbank?**

**If you would like us to come to your group/school, we are booking talks now!**

**Email [holly.sutton@chatmid.co.uk](mailto:holly.sutton@chatmid.co.uk)**

## Bags for New Life

Thanks to Annette our clients now get to have some lovely strong reusable bags when they come to use our foodbank.

Annette makes the bags from old duvet covers and sheets, which is a great way to use something that would otherwise be going to waste, and also means we are passing them on so our clients can reuse them.



***Tackling homelessness, avoiding evictions, bringing hope.***

## Meet the Team

I have worked for CHAT since June 2015, as CHAT's first Debt and Money advisor enabled by a generous legacy. I have recently been appointed as CHAT's Support and Advice Team Leader.



Outside of my work I enjoy walks (and more recently runs) in the beautiful Devon countryside and I also love bird watching and caring for our 9 guinea pigs!

I can often be seen at CHAT in the mornings meeting new clients and recently I was able to get out to some of the more remote parts of Mid Devon for a joint "road show" with ECOE (energy advice charity who we work jointly with) and Mid Devon District Council in Lapford and Bradninch.

The rest of the time I have been busy overseeing all of our client enquiries, connecting with potential volunteers and supporting our Support and Advice Team with anything from processing a Debt Relief Order to co-ordinating meetings with our local mental health services as well as managing my own client caseload.

*"I couldn't see a way out, but Denise has changed my life. I am almost debt free, and I couldn't have done it without her"*

I absolutely love the variety in my work and the broad range of needs and backgrounds our clients bring. Every day presents a different challenge and I feel very blessed to be part of such a dedicated, caring team.

Denise



**Would you like to be the newest member of the CHAT team, as a Reception Host?**

Are you good at making tea and enjoy chatting? Are you a good listener and able to make people feel welcomed? Do you have a day/morning/afternoon a week to spare and would like to be part of a team that offers support and advice to those who need it in our community?

The role requires:

- Greeting our guests with a warm welcome and offering refreshments
- Working with the team of advisors to help clients with their needs
- Creating a calm and welcoming environment

*If you are interested visit [chatmid.org/volunteering](http://chatmid.org/volunteering) or email [volunteering@chatmid.co.uk](mailto:volunteering@chatmid.co.uk) for more information.*

*CHAT shows their commitment to safeguarding children and Adults at Risk by following our safer recruitment policy for all appointments. The role requires an enhanced DBS check*



*Rod & Laura, part of our Reception Volunteer Team*

**CHAT AT MID DEVON SHOW** 

**Saturday 23rd July**  
**9am - 5:30pm**

**Come and meet the team, in the Churches Tent, with refreshments and fun activities**



**Tackling homelessness, avoiding evictions, bringing hope.**

## Duke of Edinburgh

"I helped at CHAT's foodbank as part of my Duke of Edinburgh for school. I made posters for a food appeal and then did a collection of all the food I'd donated. I completed 16 hours helping CHAT, and I loved every second of it. CHAT is such an amazing charity; I feel so privileged to have helped them.

For one day I went in to see how it functions, the staff were kind and understanding. I know people who work at CHAT, they are lovely, so, I asked if I could volunteer and they put me in contact with Ali. I have now

achieved what I wanted to do for my Duke of Edinburgh.

Thank you to everyone at CHAT."

*Chloe, Uffculme school*

**"...I loved every second of it... so privileged to have helped..."**

*Thank you Chloe for choosing to support CHAT.*

*If you are doing your Duke of Edinburgh award and would like to get involved, please get in touch to discuss the opportunities available.*

## Help us bring hope?

**Could you become a CHAT Giver of Hope and support our vital work with a regular donation?**

- £10 will provide a hot meal for a rough sleeper.
- £20 will cover the cost of a tent for someone who would otherwise be on the streets.
- £30 will provide an emergency fuel voucher to help with the rising cost of gas and electricity.

**Thank you!**

To say thank you to our supporters, you will be invited to an annual Givers of Hope event. Come and hear the latest on CHAT, meet the staff and find out the impact your valuable donations are making.

*If you would like to become a Giver of Hope, or give a one off donation, please use our donation form opposite or alternatively visit our website [www.chatmid.org/donating/](http://www.chatmid.org/donating/)*



**We are inviting local primary schools to support us by organising a Teddy Sleep Out.**

Each pupil brings a teddy bear to school and makes a donation (Suggested £1). The teddies stay overnight at school and are collected the next morning. School library and classrooms are popular spots and some have even gone home with a member of staff to 'sofa-surf' for the night. You could build comfy cardboard forts for them to sleep in! Please get in touch if you would like to take part.



**We did it!!!**

**Thanks to your generous donations, our recent crowdfunder project with Aviva Community Fund reached its target and raised a fantastic £3800!**

We can now push ahead with recruiting and training new volunteers and expand our services to our community.

With the cost of living increasing and the needs in our community growing this is more important than ever before, so thank you.

We couldn't have done it without you!

***Tackling homelessness, avoiding evictions, bringing hope.***

## Yes I would like to give to the work of CHAT!

Please complete this form and return to: **The Manager, CHAT, Coggan's Well House,  
Phoenix Lane, Tiverton EX16 6LU**



### My Details:

Title.....First Name.....Surname .....

Address .....

.....Post Code.....

Telephone Number.....Email.....

### Single Donation

I would like to make a one-off gift of £.....

### Regular Donation - Standing Order Mandate

Name of Bank.....(Bank/Building Society)

Address of Bank .....

Account No .....Sort Code.....

Account Name.....

I would like to make a gift of £.....every month beginning on .....(day/month)  
and thereafter every until further notice

Please pay the above amount to: **CAF Bank, Churches Housing Action Team (Mid Devon) Ltd**  
Sort Code: **40-52-40** Account: **00005352**

Signature.....Date.....

Quoting Reference (CHAT Office use).....

### Gift Aid Declaration

**In order to gift aid your donation simply tick the box below to boost your donation by 25p for every  
£1 you donate**

- Please treat all donations I make or have made to Churches Housing Action Team (Mid Devon) Ltd for the past 4 years as Gift Aid donations until further notice. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

*Please let CHAT know if any of your details change, if you wish to cancel your Gift Aid declaration, or if your tax circumstances change (eg. if you stop being a UK taxpayer or if you no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains).*

*We do not pass on any of your information to any other organisations. We will store you personal data securely and use this information to communicate with you. If you wish us to remove your details please contact us.*

A Company Limited by Guarantee - Registered in England No. 03096996  
Registered Office - Coggan's Well House, Tiverton EX16 6LU Registered Charity No. 1049478

***Tackling homelessness, avoiding evictions, bringing hope.***



# AGM 2022

**Monday 18th July  
at 7.00pm**

**St. James' Church,  
Old Road, Tiverton**

Come and hear about what CHAT has been up to in the last year.

---

**TACKLING HOMELESSNESS,  
AVOIDING EVICTIONS, BRINGING HOPE**

## CHAT in the Community



**International Picnic Day**  
9am - 4pm  
*Tiverton Pannier Market*



**Homeless 4 A Night (Public Sleepouts)**  
8pm - 8am  
*Tiverton*



**Mid Devon Show**  
9am - 5:30pm  
*Knightshayes, Chettiscombe*



**Uffculme Show**  
10am - 5pm  
*Bridwell Park, Uffculme*

## Welcome



Mid Devon District Council and CHAT are working together to provide support to the Ukrainian Refugees who have arrived in Mid Devon. We're delighted to welcome Tanya to our team, who will be visiting families and their hosts over the next few weeks to support them.

Contact Tanya on [ukraine@chatmid.co.uk](mailto:ukraine@chatmid.co.uk) or 01884 255606



## BanktheFood

**"Over the years we have made a point of donating a couple of items a week to the CHAT foodbank and talking to our children about how important it is to support those who are struggling in our town.**

I do this using the supermarket collection boxes - but all too often I

get to the checkout and then remember when I am walking out!

This is why I love the BanktheFood app - because I set it to remind me when I enter a supermarket so I don't have to rely on my memory any more! It means I never forget and I always know I am buying what CHAT needs most."

*Katy Baker*

*The Bank the Food app is available on the App Store or Google Play. CHAT also have food collection points at Tesco,*

*Lidl and Morrisons in Tiverton. Find out how it all works at [www.bankthefood.org/](http://www.bankthefood.org/)*

**"...I never forget and CHAT gets what it needs most"**

### CHURCHES HOUSING ACTION TEAM (MID DEVON) LTD.

Coggan's Well House, Phoenix Lane, Tiverton, Devon EX16 6LU

T - 01884 255606/0800 0590104

E - [theoffice@chatmid.co.uk](mailto:theoffice@chatmid.co.uk) [www.chatmid.org](http://www.chatmid.org)

@CHATMidDevon

Member of

