
Do you do a soup run?

Are you interested in what soup runs are doing?

Are you homeless or formerly homeless?

Do you have a point of view about soup runs, whether for or against?

Then this forum is for you!

NEXT FORUM MEETING

Date: Wednesday 8th February 2006

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: All Souls Clubhouse
141 Cleveland Street
London W1T 6QG

Nearest Tube: Great Portland St or Warren St

<http://www.allsouls.org/ascm/allsouls/assets/10773/100.jpg>

For further info or to come along, contact

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GOOD NEWS FOR SOUP RUNS!

The first meeting of the new **London Soup Run Forum** was held on Wednesday 23rd November 2005. Representatives from many of the main groups came, including **ASLAN, St Ignatius, Simon Community, London Run, Imperial College, St. Vincent De Paul, Kings Table, Hayes Run, and the Quakers.** Also attending were Inspector Malcolm Barnard, journalists including The Pavement, which has been doing a "Good Soup Guide", and the TB Screening Unit. The Forum will be chaired and supported by the staff of **UNLEASH - Church Action on Homelessness in London.**

Why a Forum? The new Forum came together because of a widely perceived need for some collaboration between the many different groups involved in this voluntary activity. One hope is to counter some of the negative publicity about soup runs, such as that there is "one soup run for every two rough sleepers in Westminster".

Here's what the new Forum is going to try and do -

1. COORDINATION

- To identify all the soup runs in London
- UNLEASH to be a point of contact for all soup runs
- To assist in the coordination of soup runs, preventing duplication e.g. the Strand
- Compiling this information into a weekly timetable, maybe online.
- To encourage all soup runners, especially smaller, less regular groups, to come to the forum.
- Maybe to encourage some groups to go out at more anti-social times, so that their efforts reach more rough sleepers

2. INFORMATION

- To provide (and update) information to soup runs e.g. signposting where homeless people can get

help with accommodation, substance misuse, health services, winter shelter etc.

- To create a website forum with a members area for soup runners to exchange information
- Sourcing and distributing, maybe producing information in different languages e.g. Polish for volunteers to give out to homeless people

3. GOOD PRACTICE

- To promote a model of best practice e.g. food hygiene standards, clearing up litter afterwards, handing out useful information to people using soup runs, knowing how to deal with conflict, how to help vulnerable users, a "people at risk" policy etc.

NB. ASLAN good practice guidelines are a good start. See <http://www.aslan.org.uk/Index-3.htm> for a lot of info such as do's and don'ts and even a PowerPoint presentation! (Thanks to Chris Peacock)

- To provide training for Soup Run Volunteers in best practice, awareness of homelessness issues etc.

4. CAMPAIGNING

- Being a point of contact for the media, improving the "media voice" of soup runs
- Fighting back against misinformation like "soup runs are not helping homeless people" etc.