



NEWSLETTER

February 2022

We are very aware that those who are likely to be affected first and hardest by any increases in fuel and food costs are those least likely to be able to afford them. When people in our part of West London struggle, we are here to help. I reported last month that we were increasingly busy across all areas of our work, and this continues to be the case. As you will read below, we have plans afoot to meet the further expected increases in need.

The team here continues to do great work, and amidst the challenges there are plenty of good news and success stories.

We also have exciting news about the opportunities for you to help us through fundraising and volunteering, including spurring me on at (or joining me in running!) the Richmond Half Marathon. I have been delighted to meet with more of our local friends and supporters in person over the past few weeks as we now emerge from the majority of the restrictions imposed because of the pandemic. Thank you as always for your support; we couldn't do what we do without it.

Chief Executive

UR4DRIVING

OUR NEW OFFICE IS UP AND RUNNING IN CROYDON

UR4Driving is now operational across 2 sites: at our home in W12 and now in Croydon. Our Project Manager, Elaine Reeve, reports:

"We have been operational from Thursday 27th January, welcoming our first client on 1st February, who took his theory test on the 14th, and I'm thrilled to say he passed. In addition to this, we have 2 clients coming regularly now and we are set to enrol another 2 from our waiting list.

Because of our location at the Croydon Voluntary Action building, we have had a lot of interest from other organisations and have met several large agencies who support ex-offenders, and a few smaller charities located in the same building, including the Mayor of London's 'MyEnds' project.

It's been a very promising start!"

UR4DRIVING CASE HISTORY

Mark passed his driving test in December. Here is his story.

A few months ago, I was in a community resettlement project – residential rehab. I was volunteering with [Forward Trust](#) as a peer mentor. I'd never had a driving licence before, nor had lessons... I wanted to, but the lockdown made this seem impossible to achieve.



UR4Driving offered online daily theory lessons, which gave me structure in my days again, and without this, I could have found myself in a different place mentally, not having anything to do.

Looking back, I never thought that I would ever get a full licence, but this was

made possible by the generosity of the charity and the time that they spent with me to help me overcome certain learning disabilities regarding how to break down learning different parts of the theory test. This has enabled me to tackle issues, and has shown me that I am able to achieve and not always believe that I can't before I have tackled the problem. It's given me the confidence to know that all things are possible or worth having a try for.

Financially, I am still not in a position to have paid for driving lessons or tests, so this has been massive for me. I now have the opportunity to save for my car.

Since I started on the course, I have changed address, married, passed my test and got a full-time job, and I've rebuilt foundations with my family (all during lockdown). Now it's all about maintenance – looking after what I have accomplished. The Upper Room is a great organisation!

SERVICES OVERVIEW

Planning is high on the agenda as we brace ourselves for an expected increase in need from our local community. Already in 2022, we have worked with 273 different people.

The Meals project has had a number of weeks as busy as any last year, while our Jobs worker is now working by appointment only due to demand for her services, and our small team of counsellors continue to receive more than enough referrals to keep them all busy.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

With all of this in mind, we have been busy consolidating existing relationships as well as developing new partnerships with other local organisations to meet the needs of our guests.

[Glass Door](#) have now doubled the number of hours with us, so their housing specialists are with us on Mondays and Fridays, while our guests continue to benefit from the support of a [Citizens Advice Bureau](#) worker every Monday, and the [West London Equality Centre](#) support guests with EU Settled Status work, amongst other things.

New partnerships due to start include with [Restart Lives](#), who will be delivering group employment sessions from March onwards, and each month starting on March 16th an Oral Health Worker from the [Central London Community Healthcare](#) team will be based onsite with us. We also have a barber who will be joining us on Thursday afternoons.

EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING

LATYMER QUIZ

Our big fundraising event for March is a [quiz](#) being hosted at [Latymer Upper School](#) on 10th March. Tables are selling, so don't miss out! Tickets are £25/person (plus booking fee) and you can have as many as 10 people in your team.

The [Chiswick Cheese Market](#) will be providing food on the night, and there is a complimentary glass of wine. There will be a raffle, and a bar selling a variety of drinks.

We're really looking forward to it and hope you can join us.

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT
in aid of The Upper Room homeless charity
in Shepherd's Bush

Poster by Erin, Year 7

Venue: Latymer Upper School dining hall extension - Thursday March 10th, from 7 to 10pm

Entry includes a platter of cheese and paté supplied by the Chiswick Cheese Market, plus a free drink.

There will be prizes for the winners, bonus prizes throughout the evening, and a raffle.

Information and booking form: theupperroom.org.uk/quiz-night

The Upper Room
theupperroom.org.uk
020 8740 5688

Supported by:



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT US

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Our [website](#) contains a wealth of information about The Upper Room, including our history, our team and our work. You can also see the various ways you can get involved, such as volunteering or donating money or clothes.

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