

# NEWSletter

Winter 2012



## New Beginning for WDGB

**WDGB started an exciting new life in 2012** - first of all we have shaken off the long title, Woodspring Deposit Guarantee Board which we have had from the start. We are keeping the initials WDGB because that is so much part of our identity. When we started Woodspring district council existed and we had a Board running the charity, so the name was right then. This advisory board became the Friends of WDGB in 2007.

So what is new? Although we ceased providing bonds for the council's statutory homeless applicants in June 2011 we have continued to provide bonds for homeless people to whom the council have no duty and also to look for other opportunities to work with homeless people in North Somerset. We needed to change the way the charity was governed so we have become a company limited by guarantee and broadened the purpose of WDGB so we can do more than provide deposit bonds as we move into the future.

Some things have not changed - Maggie is there to offer advice and help homeless people find a home. (pictured right) Maggie is our Manager and has worked for WDGB for 9 years so she has excellent knowledge about the landlords in this area and the other organisations who work with homeless people in North Somerset.



## A Helping Hand from WDGB

Brian is a born and bred Westonian and is 37 years old. When he was 5 years old his mother left the family home and he and his brother were placed in care.

Unfortunately, he made some wrong choices when he was a teenager which resulted in him being convicted on many occasions for 130 offences in total, mainly burglary, fraud and drug related.

Brian has been in the revolving door of crime for the past 22 years, mainly due to his Class 'A' drug misuse and alcohol problems. He was a prolific offender and was managed by the Probation Service on a Drug Rehabilitation Requirement.

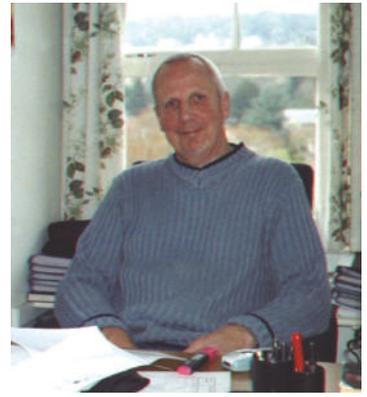
In December of 2009 he was offered a bedsit, with the deposit guarantee having been provided by the WDGB after achieving his care plan goals, which included completing a detox from all drugs and accessing the Addiction Recovery Agency's abstinence based day care programme.

After 3 months the WDGB arranged for Brian to move to a self contained flat near the sea front. Brian is a volunteer at a local charity shop and has enrolled at the College to catch up on the education that he missed out on.

**WDGB - Housing the Homeless of North Somerset**

# Gary Twinn - Manager WDGB 1998 - 2011

Last year was a sad year for Gary's family especially his wife and daughter when he became seriously ill and died in the summer. WDGB staff and committee were shocked to lose him and we still miss him. His cheerful good humour and abilities are irreplaceable and we will never forget him.



We are considering various ideas for a scheme to put in place as a memorial to Gary and all that he did for WDGB. This will take the form of a small bursary to help a tenant move on in their life, perhaps with education or training or help with essential items for living. Gary was always willing to go the extra mile for our tenants and we want to reflect this.

## How YOU can help

- You can join us as a Friend - we will keep you informed by email/newsletter.
- Run fund raising events for us
- If you are a landlord, consider offering us your property to let, via the WDGB bond. Contact the office for advice.
- Make a donation - it cannot be easier - just go to our website [www.WDGB.org.uk](http://www.WDGB.org.uk) and click on the yellow box which links to [Charitygiving.co.uk](http://Charitygiving.co.uk).

### WDGB Trustees

Martin Knight (Chairman)  
Isabel Cummings  
Simon David  
Chris Hibbs  
Wendy Griggs

Manager: Maggie Lyons  
Rooms 1/2, St John's Hall,  
The Boulevard,  
Weston suover Mare,  
North Somerset  
BS23 1NA

Phone: 01934 617617

## New web site

WDGB has a new web site - [www.WDGB.org.uk](http://www.WDGB.org.uk). It has information for tenants and landlords, including an application form for a deposit bond. Previous newsletters are available as downloads and of course it is easy to donate to WDGB, using the **yellow box** on the homepage.

## WDGB - a Snapshot

There are currently 434 active bonds. Of these 303 are the historic bonds for statutory homeless people from our work with the council. 131 bonds are for our WDGB clients who are those the council is unable to help.

These are mostly single people and all will be on very low incomes. It is for these homeless people that we rely on donations from individuals, churches and other organisations. An average deposit is £294.66.

It is becoming increasingly hard to find accommodation for under 35's due to the housing benefit restrictions which limit housing benefit to the cost of a bedsit or shared accommodation. This is in short supply and landlords will not accept a lower rent for a one bed flat.

**WDGB - Phone: 01934 617617 - [www.WDGB.org.uk](http://www.WDGB.org.uk)**  
Charity No 1146111