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**MAY 2025**

NON PROFIT ORGANISATION

# ROOM AT THE INN



Room at the Inn

Registered Charity: 1176629

## Welcome to the 2025 Newsletter

We hope everyone has had a wonderful start to 2025. Spring has arrived and the days are finally brighter. Roll on Summer!

### Who We Are

**Room at the Inn** charity was launched after the closure of the Warrington YMCA.

We provide daytime services to homeless and vulnerable people. On a walk-in basis, we open our site on Winmarleigh Street from Monday to Friday, between 10am and 5pm. We also operate a supported accommodation hostel on Museum Street, for people who Warrington Borough Council has referred.

Not everyone can move forward without support due to the challenges they face. Our dedicated staff and volunteers support people through difficult times and help them to find a better future. **Our goal is to help people access the services they need to go forward more positively with their lives.**

Written By : Anna Smith

## Announcements

- **New leadership:** We are happy to introduce our new CEO, Martin Pearson, who has joined a fantastic team of dedicated staff and volunteers (Page 2)
- **Real Life Stories:** An interview with one of our residents (Pages 4 and 5)

## Meet Our New CEO: A Fresh Vision for *Room at the Inn*

We're delighted to welcome the new CEO of *Room at the Inn*, **Martin Pearson**, whose remarkable career journey and passion for community wellbeing will bring an exciting new chapter to our charity. With a background that spans marine engineering, nuclear energy and charity leadership, our new CEO brings a wealth of experience.

Beyond his professional background, Martin has long been committed to community engagement. After semi-retiring, he redirected his energy into the third sector, volunteering on charity boards as a trustee and later taking on a chief executive role. "I've done a lot of work around mental health and youth initiatives," he says. These experiences have given him valuable insight into how charities operate and how they can thrive. "I've also got an allotment and six grandchildren, so I keep busy."

***"I'm here to make the charity more stable, more secure and more sustainable for the future."***



One of his core strengths is stabilising and strengthening charitable organisations. "I'm here to make the charity more stable, more secure and more sustainable for the future."

When he first joined the team, he instantly felt the warmth and passion that make *Room at the Inn* unique. "I've had a brilliant welcome. It's been an absolute joy to join the charity. The staff are so passionate and knowledgeable. I've also met our trustees and volunteers, who give their time freely and are just as passionate about what they do."

Reflecting on his early days, he adds, "It's lovely to work with such great people, who are navigating a difficult sector with great humility and heart."

With experience, compassion and a clear mission, our new CEO is ready to lead *Room at the Inn* into a stronger, brighter future. We're absolutely thrilled to have him on board!

## Our Supporters

**Nomadic Nubbins** is a local artist and long-time supporter of *Room at the Inn*. Each time he sells a piece of his artwork, a donation is given to our charity. Nomadic Nubbins embraces creating art full of imperfections, as they lead to surprises, exciting developments and strange ideas he could never have imagined.



Nomadic Nubbins has one ambition for his art: to spread positivity. If he's brightening someone's grey day, supporting a good cause, or just adding a bit of joy to the world, he knows his creations are doing what they're meant to.

You can find his artwork on his website:  
<https://www.nomadicnubbins.co.uk/>



A massive thank you to **Multisol** and **More than Men**, who donated Easter Eggs to *Room at the Inn* this April. Their donations meant that all of our residents here at Museum Street received an Easter Egg. We are so grateful for these kind gestures, which bring so much joy to our residents.





## From Chaos to Hope: How *Room at the Inn* Saved My Life

***"I was with an ex-partner and he was very aggressive. I went through a lot of domestic violence. I ended up being sent to jail and then homeless, because the house was in his name."***

**Before *Room at the Inn*, J's life was a whirlwind of instability, pain and survival.**

Growing up in different care and foster homes across the country, she never had the chance to settle anywhere. As an adult, her life followed a similar pattern and she moved turbulently between hostels, hospitals and the streets. Every night was a battle with addiction and every morning brought uncertainty. "I didn't know when to stop," she says. "People would find me unresponsive. It was just chaos."

### **Finding *Room at the Inn***

Everything changed when J arrived at *Room at the Inn*. "I came straight here from the hospital with nothing but the clothes on my back," she recalls. "Normally, I'd have been kicked out in three or four weeks because of how chaotic my lifestyle was. But here, I settled straight in. I really liked it. It's different to other shelters and there are no drugs or alcohol allowed on site. It helps because it's not in your face, so it's easier to say no to temptation."

J found more than a place to stay – she found people who truly cared. With fewer residents and staff who showed genuine compassion, she started to feel safe. "The team here are absolutely brilliant."

***"The team here are absolutely brilliant."***

***"It's different to other shelters and there are no drugs or alcohol allowed on site... "***

### **A Life-Changing Impact**

Just three months into her stay, the staff and residents threw J her first birthday party. "I'd never really had presents or birthday cards before," she says. "There were banners and lots of gifts, everyone made me feel special."

But not long after, she woke up in the night to something terrifying. "I was covered in blood. I couldn't stop bleeding. I was rushed to the hospital and they found a massive tumour. It was stage three, going on to stage four cancer."

Her world was turned upside down, but the team stood by her side. They brought her pyjamas and essentials. The love and support she received made a life-threatening situation feel a little less scary.

Thanks to *Room at the Inn*, J was given access to an adult social worker who secured her a place at a specialist hospital. "I was so lucky," J says, remembering her time as an inpatient in the hospital. "It was an opportunity for me to detox too, which was scary, but I realised I didn't need alcohol or drugs to be able to speak to someone. I had some important, deep, sober conversations and felt like my personality finally came out."

**Continued...**

J's addiction has a long and painful history. She was involved in a car accident early in life that left her with a shattered femur. After her time in the hospital, she developed an addiction to painkillers. "When I was discharged, they didn't give me any morphine to wean myself off and it's highly addictive. I started withdrawing and I began to look for it on the streets. I was self-medicating. I still can't walk properly today."

Despite the physical and emotional toll of her cancer treatment, this time, with support from our staff, J didn't fall back into the same pattern. When she returned from the hospital, the other residents gave her presents and cards. "It meant so much," she says. "They were brilliant."

#### **A Brighter Future**

Today, J's cancer is stage one, which is curable. She's paying rent to stay at the shelter and finally putting her roots down. "Before the cancer, the way I was living, I wouldn't be here if I hadn't come to *Room at the Inn*. This place saved my life."

***"...My life has changed completely. If I hadn't come here, I wouldn't be alive today."***

***"...I wouldn't be here if I hadn't come to Room at the Inn.  
This place saved my life."***

Life is still tough. J's legs are weak and she lives with severe arthritis. But things are no longer chaotic. A nurse visits three times a day to manage her medication. She's thinking more before she acts. "Everything has changed. My addiction is more under control and I feel more settled."

Now, she's preparing for her next chapter in long-term supported accommodation. "It's scary to move on. I'm not looking forward to leaving. But I'm ready and I really hope this is my last move."

#### **A Message to Supporters**

When asked what she'd say to someone in the same situation, J doesn't hesitate: "Do it. What have you got to lose? There's help out there, you just need to want it for yourself. My life has changed completely. If I hadn't come here, I wouldn't be alive today."

And to those who support the charity, she says:

***"A massive thank you. You're saving lives. You have saved mine. I have so much gratitude. Room at the Inn gave me a second chance."***

## Ending Rough Sleeping, One Bed at a Time

Warrington Borough Council has pledged to end rough sleeping in Warrington in a bid to get people off the streets and into long-term, settled accommodation.

*Room at the Inn* is in talks with the council to make the Night Hub on Winmarleigh Street more long-term. We have successfully run the Night Hub for over a year and are now looking to operate it on a contractual basis. We have increased our number of beds to 27 and hope to extend our hours, so watch this space!

## How You Can Help



### The Purrfect Addition to Our Inn

Meet Tilly, our friendly feline who lives here at Museum Street. Tilly was a stray when we found her and she quickly became one of our lovely residents. She is so affectionate and spreads joy across the shelter. Here is a photo of her relaxing in our garden.

**We couldn't do all of the valuable work we do here at *Room at the Inn* without the help of our brilliant supporters. So, if there is anything you can do to contribute to our cause, whether that is by volunteering or raising money, please consider getting involved.**

Here are a few suggestions of ways that you can help us :

- **Volunteer Opportunities:** We are always on the lookout for new volunteers. If this sounds like something you could do, even just once a week, please get in touch.
- **Vacancies:** We advertise all our vacancies on the *Room at the Inn* website and our Facebook page.
- **Fundraise:** You could do a bake sale, a sponsored run, organise a raffle, or put on your own event to raise funds for our charity.
- **Donate:** We accept payments made via our website on our 'Giving' page. We also accept item donations and have a list of desirable items on our 'Most Needed' page.
- **Nominate:** Nominate us as your charity of the year at work to encourage match funding.
- **EasyFundraising:** You can set up *EasyFundraising* on your browser and make a donation that costs you nothing. *EasyFundraising* allows you to install a plug-in to your browser, so when you make purchases online, *Room at the Inn* receives a commission in the form of a donation. Further details are on our website on our 'Giving' page.



Scan the QR code to access our website and donate to our cause. Thank you for supporting *Room at the Inn*.