



Housebites—a fun new way to raise money for charity (preferably Hope UK!)

Do you enjoy watching 'Come dine with me'? Housebites is a unique fundraising platform that enables people to hold dinner parties in their home and raise money at the same time. If you can cook and like meeting new people then this is for you.

How it works

Go to www.housebites.com and select 'host a bite'. Here you can set the details of your dinner such as the menu, date and whether it is private (just for people you invite) or for public (where anyone can apply – but don't worry, you can check their profile first). You can also set a price to cover your costs and suggest a minimum donation people should make. If raising funds for Hope UK, you need to make sure your dinner is a charity dinner and select Hope UK as your chosen charity. Housebites will pass all donations straight to Hope UK and any cover charge you make will be sent to you. Everyone loves dinner parties and this is a great way for you to put your cooking skills to really good use.

Likewise, if you'd like to attend one of their dinners and help support Hope UK, please go to www.housebites.com/hopeuk

In case you were wondering...

If a host sets a price for their meal, then Housebites take 10% of that and none of the donation. If a host makes the event free but asks for donations then they take nothing at all. Seems fair... If anyone tries it, please let us know and we will publish a report in a future newsletter.



Find out if there is a Hope UK Drug Educator near you

Although we are working hard to develop local teams, we continue to support about 160 Drug Educators in other parts of the country. If you would like a trained speaker to visit your school, church, Mothers' Union group, parents' group, youth club..... e-mail Debbie Devine at d.devine@hopeuk.org or call 020 7928 0848.

Call, email or use this slip to find out more

(Spring 11)

- Please send me information on doing sponsored events
- Please send me information about how I can become a Voluntary Educator
- Please send me a guide to making a gift in my will to Hope UK.
- Please send a regular giving form so that I can make a gift in memory

Title: _____ Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Postcode: _____
 Email Address (if you are happy to be contacted in this way): _____

Please return to: Hope UK, 25(f) Copperfield Street, London. SE1 0EN.

T: 020 7928 0848 E: enquiries@hopeuk.org www.hopeuk.org
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Are we seeing a 'light breeze' of change?

Can it be that the word 'teetotal' is coming back into fashion? Search the internet for 'teetotal celebrities' and you will find quite a collection of recent articles in the popular press that suggest that it is. Glamour.com, for example, has these words on its 'front page': "Take a look at these stars embracing sobriety and be inspired - never has being dry been more fashionable." Even if there isn't much evidence for this on the streets of our towns and cities on a Friday or Saturday night, there are heartening indications that attitudes toward drinking are slowly beginning to change.

This is in line with a general shift in attitudes towards drugs and alcohol, articulated in the Government's Drug Strategy released last year. There is now a renewed emphasis on preventing harm and promoting recovery. For years harm minimisation in prevention work, and harm reduction in addictions work, was the most that organisations working in the field could aspire to.

Add to this statistics that indicate that more young people are choosing not to drink alcohol or use drugs¹; and fewer adults are using illegal drugs², and there



is reason to hope that years of educational work by Government, media and voluntary organisations like Hope UK are finally bearing fruit.

While this is encouraging, it is not a signal to relax our efforts. A recent report by Alcohol Concern revealed that the children and young people who do drink are drinking more than ever and this means that 36 children a day are being admitted to hospital for alcohol-related conditions. Likewise the number of people admitted to hospital with drug-induced mental illness has also increased.

Hope UK works to bring an end to images like this. Will you help?



¹Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among Young People in England in 2009

²Statistics on drug misuse: England 2010; www.ic.nhs.uk

Mailings by e-mail

If you are already receiving our mailings by e-mail, thank you very much — but remember to let us know if your e-mail address changes.

If you would like to receive mailings electronically, please e-mail Marolin at: m.watson@hopeuk.org

Hope UK wants to see children and young people grow up to fulfil their potential. Sadly, the use of alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs results in many failing to do so. We train Voluntary Drug Educators who provide interactive drug awareness sessions for young people as well as those who have responsibility for them (eg, parents and youth workers) enabling them to make drug free choices. Hope UK was previously called the Band of Hope and was established in 1847. Its work today holds to many of the core values whilst remaining relevant to today's young people.

Hope UK NEWS!

Hope UK's decentralisation of its work (thought of long before the Government came up with the idea!) involves recruiting and training teams of about ten Drug Educators in local areas (about the size of a town or London borough) and supporting them with a one-day-per-week paid Project Worker—who is also a trained Educator.

Why do Educators need support?

Most of our voluntary Drug Educators have 'day jobs' which means they don't have time to attend Drug & Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) meetings, for example, which sometimes means they miss out on opportunities to use their training. The Project Worker can not only attend these sorts of meetings, liaising with other relevant agencies in the area, but can undertake drug prevention work at times when volunteers are unavailable. Local Project Workers also arrange regular meetings where the local Educators can share experience, plan events and generally encourage each other.

Hope UK appoints seven Local Project Workers

Localisation had to start somewhere and so we chose areas where we either had good contacts or had funds that could only be used in a particular area.

Our first 'pilot' project was **Kingston** where HQ staff member Lovisa Liyanage took the lead, recruiting and helping to train nine volunteers who are now actively working in the borough with support from Chrissie Becares, an experienced voluntary Drug Educator.

With local funding available in **Southampton, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Poole**, the following Project Workers were appointed (from top right): Ann Galbraith, Jo Pickford, Nicola Molloy and Sharon Murphy. Their first task will be to recruit and help train a team of Drug Educators as well as making contacts with the local authority and other voluntary groups.

HQ staff member Ian Michell (bottom right) is recruiting a team of Educators in **Watford and Buckinghamshire**, Paul Coppeard (next left) in the London borough of **Newham** and Liz Wynyard (middle) in **Cornwall and Woking**.

We are currently looking for one-day-per-week Project Workers in the **North East** and **Sheffield**.

Hope UK continues to support a Local Representative in Cornwall (Clare Vincent, pictured below left) and in **Northamptonshire** (Camille Cummings, second from left).



Hope UK welcomes new Chair

David Linington took over the Chairmanship of Hope UK's Board of Trustees after David Taylor, Chairman for 24 years, decided to retire (though he continues to serve as a Trustee).

Dave (as he likes to be known) has been a voluntary Drug Educator since 2005. A retired businessman, he undertook psychology and psychotherapy training as well as counsellor training courses so that he could help those caught up in addictive behaviour. Since

selling his business interests, David has worked in a paid and voluntary capacity with different organisations all related to helping society's disadvantaged and marginalised. He is currently on the advisory board of Redeeming Our Communities, a national charity with outlets and partnerships across the UK. He is also on the board of Revival Fires, a large evangelical church reaching out to the needy of Dudley in the West Midlands. Of Hope UK he says, "I thought I knew it all after so long in the 'business' but found during Hope UK's training that this was far from the case!"

David has been married for forty-nine years and has three grown up children and seven grandchildren.

BIG SOCIETY—and small budgets!

It cannot have escaped anyone's attention that we are living in a difficult economic climate. The Government hopes that voluntary effort will fill the gap in public services that will be left by big reductions in spending, both by central and local Government. The dilemma faced by all charities, including Hope UK, is that this inevitably means a reduction in funding. Even though Hope UK has not received Government funding since March 2009, the trusts and companies on whom we rely for most of our funds are already seeing a substantial increase in the number of applications they are receiving from charities that have lost their statutory funding. This means there will be less to go round for everyone.

If Hope UK is to continue fulfilling its mission of preventing drug and alcohol-related harm to children and young people, we need more support from individuals and churches. As a charity with a Christian foundation, our aim is to work with local churches to make a difference in communities.

Can you help?



Alcohol Pricing Policy

Alcohol misuse in the UK costs about **£6 billion a year** (in costs to the NHS, losses to business and alcohol-related crime and accidents).

On the other hand, the Government receives about

£11.5 billion in duty and VAT from the drinks industry each year.

So it is not surprising that the proposed pricing policy will make so little difference to the price of most alcoholic drinks that it is expected to make no impact on consumption levels.