

**YMCA**

Ripon

Newsletter

Issue 6 – Spring 2019

**YMCA**

We believe that every young person should be able to develop their full potential in body, mind and spirit.



## Building awareness of Ripon YMCA and homelessness

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Over Christmas we received a record number of donations, goods and support to help us provide a positive Christmas experience for our tenants.

We have also worked with partners to run a number of events which will be the main focus of our Spring news.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support us. Your donations, food parcels, volunteering, likes on Facebook and retweets show that we are building awareness of our small charity.

Lucy Gratton – CEO

## Homeless Not Faceless

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In Summer 2018 we worked with Ripon Museums and Harrogate Homeless Project to produce an exhibition of portraits and stories of people using homelessness services.



After its initial showing at Ripon Museums the partners agreed to tour the exhibition in venues across Harrogate and Ripon.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2019 the exhibition was launched in Ripon Cathedral with an event attracting over 50 members of the public, professionals and local agencies.



Photograph from Homeless Not Faceless

Liz Hancock who is CEO of Harrogate Homeless Project introduced the services available for people across the Harrogate District. Lucy Gratton of Ripon YMCA shared information and a moving case study about a young person we are supporting. And Maggie Gibson a Senior Housing Options Officer at Harrogate Borough Council explained the duties of the Council, and the options people have when faced with homelessness.

A webpage will be developed on [riponymca.org](http://riponymca.org) to outline the services and local support available to those who are homeless in Ripon.

## Sleep Easy 2019

Overnight on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 25 volunteers slept out on Ripon Market Square to raise funds and awareness of homelessness. So far we have raised £5500 and the total is still climbing.

For more information see our news and blog page on [riponymca.org](http://riponymca.org)



*"I thought my eyes were open but there's definitely nothing like direct experience of sleeping out for 1 night. I now feel I can legitimately highlight some of the issues homeless people face with others who perhaps see it as a black and white situation. I know I for one wouldn't last a week on the streets and would no doubt turn to whatever I could to numb the bitter cold, isolation, loneliness and fear in whatever form that numbing came in".*

Leanne – 2019 Sleep Easy Participant

**YMCA Ripon**

# Dinner & Dance



**The Old Deanery, Ripon**  
**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019**  
7.00pm for 7.30pm

Dress Code: Smart

Arrival Drink, Three Course Meal, Coffee, Games, Raffle, Dancing and More.

Tickets £35 available from YMCA Ripon Office and The Little Ripon Bookshop

[info@riponymca.org](mailto:info@riponymca.org) / 01765 607609 / [www.riponymca.org](http://www.riponymca.org)

Proceeds go to YMCA Ripon to continue to provide supported accommodation to 16 - 35 year olds.

**YMCA** YMCA enables people to develop their full potential in mind, body and spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.

SUPPORT & RESOURCES ACCOMMODATION FAMILY WORK HEALTH & WELLBEING TRAINING & EDUCATION

## Coffee School event with Oliver's Pantry

Local cafe and business supporter Oliver's Pantry held a fantastic event in early February in support of Ripon YMCA. The evening event raised £230 which will help pay for equipment materials for our new craft group for tenants.

The workshop and masterclass was supported by Oliver's coffee supplier Roastology



Lou from Oliver's Pantry and the Roastology team.