

New charity gives hope to homeless

A NEW charity aims to stop young people being forced to sleep on the streets - but it needs help. Redditch Nightstop has just been launched thanks to an £80,000 lottery grant, but hosts are desperately needed.

These volunteers will be asked to provide a young homeless person with a meal and a bed for the night.

Sarah Tyrrell

Charity worker, Sylvia Brown, said: "This project is immensely worthwhile because it provides a breathing space for young people.

"They could be fleeing from violence, splitting up from a partner or may have lost their job.

"We aim to give them hope and direction by inviting them into the homes of people who care, one night at a time.

"Steps can then be taken to find more

permanent accommodation, without the added pressure of sleeping rough."

Homeless people aged 16 to 21-years-old will be able to benefit from the practical help and emotional support provided by the charity.

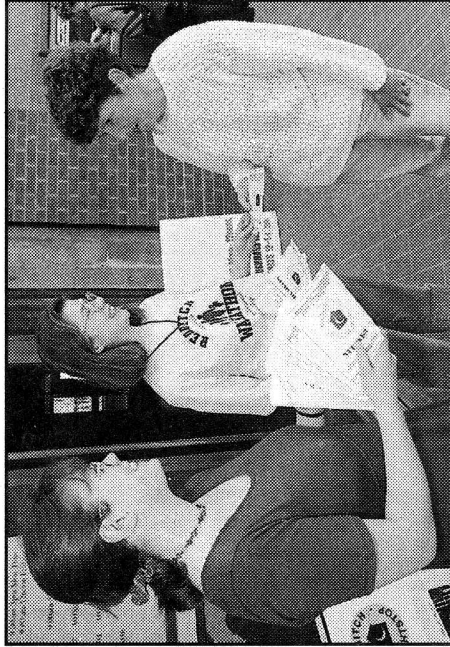
They will be referred to Nightstop by organisations such as Step Out, Signpost or Social Services.

These young people will then be interviewed and helped to devise an action plan.

Those who wish to reconcile with their families will also be offered a counselling service, organised by church volunteers.

Potential volunteers are being invited to a preparation course at the Ecumenical Centre, Kingfisher Walk, from 7pm to 9pm on Monday, May 12.

Hosts will receive full training, £5 expenses



per night and a 24 hour emergency support service.

Anyone who would like more information should call Nightstop co-ordinator, Lisa Waring, on 01527 66036.

● **Helping the homeless - Nightstop workers, Lisa Waring and Sylvia Brown, drum up support. (Picture by John Anyon) AP76397**

Mixed doubles on the dancefloor

DANGERS in Redditch will be able to grab their partners on a monthly basis from now on.

The Rocklands Social Club in Birchfield Road, Headless Cross, is putting on ceilidhs every month.

The event is being organised by Liberal

Democrat councillor and Parliamentary candidate, Malcolm Hall, himself an amateur caller and dance enthusiast.

He said: "There is definitely a vacuum in Redditch for this type of entertainment."

Call Malcolm on 01527 523985 for more details.



Rascals need

Garage burgled

THIEVES broke into a Greenlands garage to steal a jetski and trailer worth £5,000. The owner discovered the theft on Monday (April 28).

Vandals suspected

POLICE believe vandals may be responsible for a fire which wrecked changing rooms and a toilet at Morton Stanley Park.

The blaze may have started when a hand dryer was ripped off the wall, leading to electrical sparks.

Damage worth £500 was caused by the incident which took place between Friday, April 25 and Saturday. Anyone with information should call police on 01527 584888 or Crimestoppers, confidentially, on 0800 555111.

Jewellery taken

JEWELLERY worth £500 was stolen from a Church Hill North home on Saturday (April 26). Burglars struck in Home Meadow Lane between 7.30pm and 10.45pm.

Unwelcome find

A VISITOR returned from a Sunday morning stroll in Arrow Valley Park to discover £1,500 worth of property had been stolen from their car at the Battens Drive car park.

Property stolen

BURGLARS stole £7,000 worth of property - a computer and printer - from the premises of CNC in Arthur Street on Tuesday.