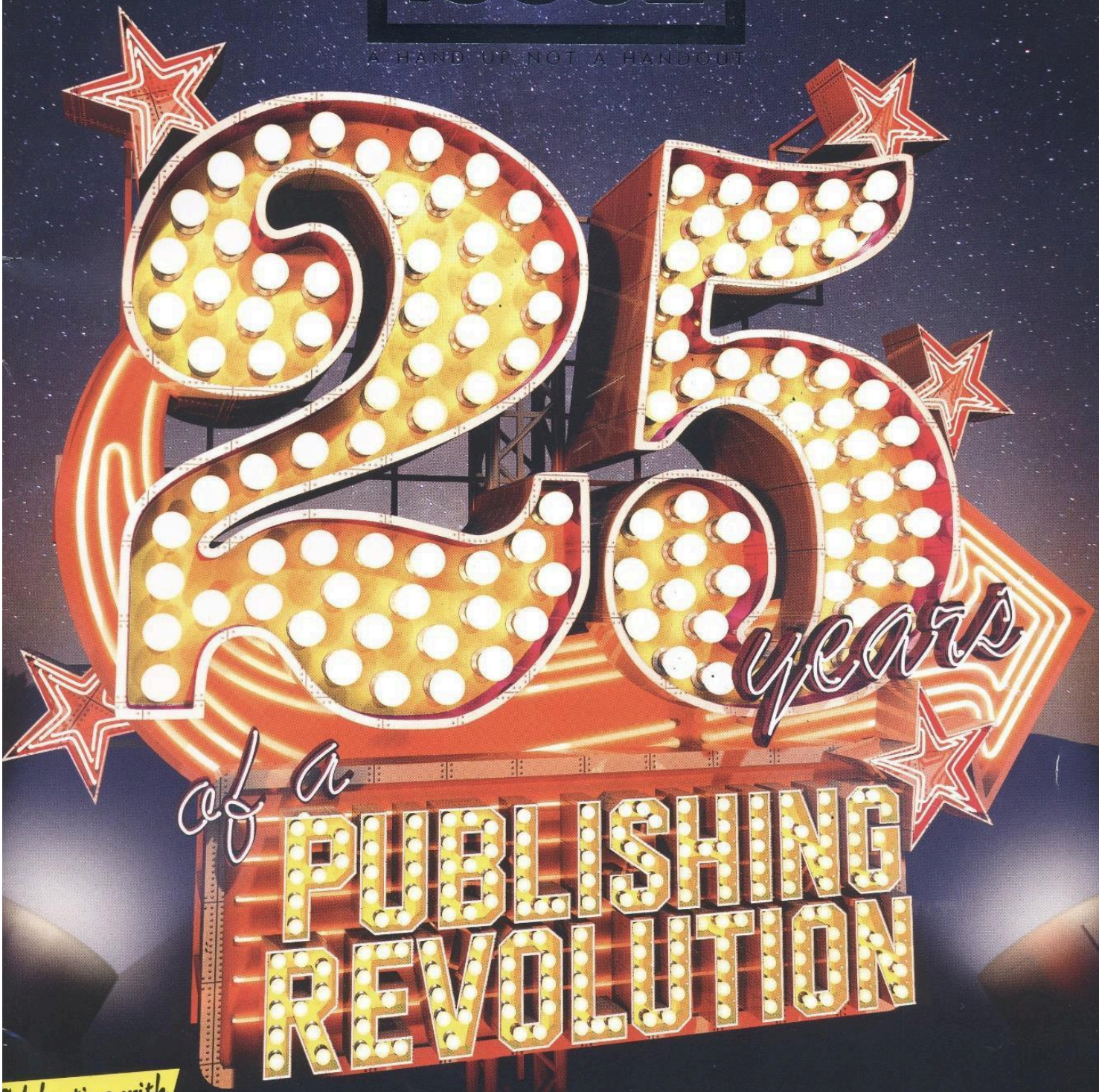
SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY EDITION

OCTOBER 17–23, 2016 NO.1227

EVERY MONDAY £2.50

THE BIG ISSUE

A HAND UP, NOT A HAND OUT



Celebrating with

Andy Murray, Theresa May, Sir Alex Ferguson, Nicola Sturgeon, the Dalai Lama, Daniel Radcliffe, Julie Walters, Paul Weller, Sheridan Smith, Sadiq Khan, Michael Palin, Grayson Perry, Betty Boothroyd, Benjamin Zephaniah, Street Cat Bob, Joanna Lumley, Arctic Monkeys, Jon Snow, Colin Farrell, Caroline Lucas, Mel C, Christopher Eccleston, Yanis Varoufakis & many more

Plus THOUSANDS & THOUSANDS OF VENDORS!

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EST. 1991
THE BIG ISSUE
OCTOBER 17-23 2016
NO. 1227

WIN!
A BEN EINE LIMITED EDITION BIG ISSUE EXCLUSIVE PRINT
TURN TO PAGE 56

CELEBRATE

Photo: David Tett

Hello, my name is Donato

I'm honoured to feature in the 25th anniversary edition of The Big Issue. It made a big difference in my life when I needed it. I've worked all over the world but I came to London for a fresh start. I now have a roof over my head and a fantastic pitch inside Victoria station. Read more of my story on page 58.

THE BIG ISSUE MANIFESTO

WE BELIEVE in a hand up, not a handout...
Which is why our sellers BUY every copy of the magazine for £1.25 and sell it for £2.50.

WE BELIEVE in trade, not aid...
Which is why we ask you to ALWAYS take your copy of the magazine. Our sellers are working and need your custom.

WE BELIEVE poverty is indiscriminate...
Which is why we provide ANYONE whose life is blighted by poverty with the opportunity to earn a LEGITIMATE income.

WE BELIEVE in the right to citizenship...
Which is why The Big Issue Foundation, our charitable arm, helps sellers tackle social and financial exclusion.

WE BELIEVE in prevention...
Which is why Big Issue Invest offers backing and investments to social enterprises, charities and businesses which deliver social value to communities.

THE BIG ISSUE | THE BIG ISSUE FOUNDATION | BIG ISSUE INVEST

THE EDITOR

This is a milestone. Where will it take us?

Illustration: Lauren Crow

In autumn 1991, Bob Dylan didn't have a Nobel Prize. In fact, his late period renaissance that kicked off with *Time Out Of Mind* had yet to come.

Mikhail Gorbachev was still in charge in Russia, making the world feel that not only had the Cold War thawed, but a period of global peace was here to stay.

Donald Trump was a garish self-publicist with weird hair.

Syria was a (relatively) stable state and friend of the West.

The euro was barely a glint in a technocrat's eye. A run at a bank was a thing that happened in the Depression. The internet didn't really exist. Amazon was simply a river.

In the intervening 25 years, as the world has shifted angrily with what feels like unstoppable pace, The Big Issue has pulsed and grown. Our focus has remained true. A hand up not a handout. That's it. Everything else builds from there.

A means to make a living, a means to move out of broken poverty back into society, allowing the men and women who sell The Big Issue to rebuild their sense of self, for those who were invisible to become visible.

There is a traceable line through our history in which we have challenged authorities to work for the poorest in society, to act rather than to pay lip service.

You can see how The Big Issue changed the publishing world. Before we came along, newspapers were sold on the street, but not magazines. And certainly not by homeless people. Now, the street is not just an accepted place of distribution but a crowded one. Still, we remain the only street magazine that charges for copies. And while the move to digital is hurting many fine old print titles, we're on the up.

While our medium of sale is a clear message, our content, the message between the pages, is vital. We enjoy being a rogue element, a raised rebel voice that challenges orthodoxy and standardised received notions.

John Bird, The Big Issue founder and still our pilot light and beating heart, this week details the core ambition for the next stage of The Big Issue development. To be locked into prevention; to deal with the foundations of poverty rather than treating the symptoms.

To begin, we will look to literacy. We will fight for those without access to books, the great joy and possibilities of reading. We will agitate to protect libraries and independent bookshops.

We must also seek to speak for those still ignored or cast aside, whether damaged by stinging austerity measures, or feeling locked out of society by whatever means. We must think of kids here acting as carers, or indeed those about to face an uncertain world as they are set adrift after a life in care. We must look to the children left alone to dark, malignant forces in migrant camps just across the sea. We will, of course, seek to be a great magazine that continues to mean more than just the words on the page.

There is work to be done. We hope you stay with us. This week, though, we shall have a little cake.

Paul McNamee is editor of The Big Issue
Paul.McNamee@bigissue.com
@pauldmcnamee

SO... WH HOMELE

but why don't the **homeless** just go **home?**

Nick Hardwick, director of Centrepoint and long-time campaigner on homeless issues, writes on the causes of the growing homelessness in London, one of the richest cities in the world.

In 1991 the cover of the first edition of The Big Issue posed a stark and provocative question: "But why don't the homeless just go home?" Nick Hardwick, then director of the charity for homeless young people Centrepoint, answered in an article identifying factors such as broken family relationships, a desperate shortage of cheap rented accommodation and meagre social security payments. In the last 25 years great progress has been made in helping people up from the streets, raising public awareness of the problem of homelessness and challenging common misconceptions about the forces driving it. But with rough sleeping and statutory homelessness still on the rise in the UK, plainly much more remains to be done. With that in mind, we asked people on the frontline of homelessness provision in the UK the same question again in 2016: why don't the homeless just go home? Here's how they responded.

LETTER TO MY YOUNGER SELF

Grayson Perry

Colourful potter, textbook dad

I was already a transvestite by the time I was 16. I took my stepmother's clothes, changed in the toilets behind the Chelmsford Museum and walked up and down the high street in make-up, a mini dress and a wig. I was just acting on an instinctual desire, this need to play a role. It was very sexually exciting, a big turn on. Adrenaline is a great aphrodisiac. I got the wig from an advert in the back of the *Daily Mail*. It was about £1.50, a shapeless, brunette, very wiggy sort of thing. I'm sure the *Daily Mail* would be happy to know they facilitated my sexual fetish.

At 16 I was a complete mess. That was probably the epicentre of my adolescent woes, my annus horribilis. My mother had a volcanic temper and when she found out I'd been in contact with my real father for the first time in eight years she erupted. Within half an hour she'd packed up all my possessions and was driving me to my father's house. She dumped me at the top of the road. He wasn't even there, he was working away. His wife took me in and I ended up sharing a room with the lodger until she found out I'd been wearing her clothes and threw me out.

Getting into contact with my dad came out of chance. A friend of mine at school was going out with a girl who said her stepfather was my dad. So my ears pricked up. And I put feelers out through her and went to visit him. It was interesting but disappointing. My male role models weren't great. My dad was an emotional coward. And my stepfather was a violent ignoramus.

I wasn't a very sophisticated teenager. At 16 I was still watching war films and wanted to be a jet pilot. My plan was to join the army. I had a very well developed interior fantasy life, I did a lot of drawing. But I didn't relate that to any wider context. I was in the cadets and I saw the army as an easy transition. And lots of transvestites overreact, try to cure themselves by doing something manly; there was a bit of that going on. Then halfway through my 16th year I got my first girlfriend, I stopped going to cadets, and my art teacher said I should go for art college. Almost overnight I changed my ideas. I thought, actually, that sounds good – doing something I like. Wow.

I wish I'd had the emotional intelligence when I was younger that I have now. Perhaps I could have said things to my mother or father that would have made their lives easier. My mother would have had a much better life if she'd left my stepfather when I was 16. But I was very fucked up then. And my relationships with my parents just got worse. I see my father about once a year. My mother died this year and only half of her children went to the funeral, and that was out of morbid duty. She was, yeah... a difficult woman. And mentally ill, and it wasn't our job to fix that.

I don't think I'd tell my 16-year-old self everything is going to turn out okay. In a way it would be lovely to put my arms around him and tell him not to worry but then he might relax and he wouldn't be driven by the demons I was driven by. Yes, confidence is the most valuable commodity on earth because it allows people to reach their full potential. But I wouldn't be the artist I am now without all those years of self-doubt and anger. Fear and anxiety powered me through those times. Anger is a force that motivates you. I still use it now but in a much more measured way.

Grayson Perry built A House for Essex with FAT Architecture – a shrine to fictional local woman Julie; with wife Philippa and daughter Flo

IN 1976
THE YEAR GRAYSON PERRY TURNS 16...

The first commercial Concorde flight takes off / Nadia Comăneci scores the first-ever perfect 10 in gymnastics / Anita Roddick opens the first Body Shop branch in Brighton

If I met the 16-year-old Grayson now I might tell him to be nicer to people. Some of my friends tell me they used to find me funny but scary, that after a few drinks I could be vicious to people. I had the temper from hell. And I was articulate enough to pull people to pieces. I went on to have very taut relationships with art dealers, with arguments and fall-outs. One of my mottos now is it's nice to be nice. Because people will be nice back. I think because I was so hard on myself I was hard on other people as well. I was struggling all the time and I was very negative and cynical. That's still a big part of what I do but now I think being nice is fun and it makes the world a better place.

The 16-year-old set to join the army would just not get it if I told him his future was in ceramics. It's so random. I didn't go to college to do ceramics, I took an evening class in it because it sounded fun. I wasn't overly blessed with self-awareness as an artist, I just got on with things. I think that was helpful when I was young, and I'd tell my younger self to go with his instincts. That would be a lovely thing to say, because you're not sure of anything when you're young, your mind is just plastic. To be guided by your intuition, that's an asset.

I felt relieved to have a daughter, that I wouldn't inflict my own problems about masculinity on to her. I was so aware of the dysfunction I'd grown up with, it had been a worry regarding becoming a parent. I was a textbook dad in her early years. My wife would read me out passages from parenting manuals and I'd say right, this is how we have to do it. I took everything on board. One thing I'm good at is playing, so I taught Flo to play. I think being good at playing is an under-celebrated part of life. I felt quite sad when she became less huggy as she got older.

The thing I find most poignant is the idea of doing things for the last time. And you often don't know you're doing something for the last time, perhaps because it's the last time you're physically able to do it. Or it could be the last time your child sits on your lap. Most of the things I enjoy doing I can still do. But I do miss anonymity. Fame means that as a transvestite, I can no longer be this anonymous man in a frock walking down the street. I'm now Grayson Perry, public property, and I will be very nicely accosted by my mainly middle-class fans. I didn't realise how much I would lose when I became famous. I miss that thrill of being that weird bloke in a dress who is slightly dangerous and ridiculous.

The Descent of Man is out from October 20 (Allen Lane, £16.99). Grayson Perry's *Typical Man in a Dress* tour begins on November 2, with dates in Bristol, London, Salford, Worthing and Sheffield. Interview: Jane Graham @Janeannie

Photos: Guardian / Alamy / Rex Features

"The *Daily Mail* would be happy to know they facilitated my sexual fetish"

MOVING ON

Some Big Issue vendors stay with us for a long time – as long as they need us. Others use the magazine as a stepping stone to move on to new starts. Here are some of our great success stories.

STAN BURRIDGE
Healthcare Champion for Homeless People

Stan is an expert on homelessness through his own experience: he slept on the streets of London and sold The Big Issue outside the old BBC headquarters in west London during the late 1990s. "Selling The Big Issue, I learnt I had an ability to get people talking, not only talking but listening as well," he says. "I got to hear about other people's lives, marriages, divorces – it led me to where I am today."

Now in his early 50s, Stan is a project leader at Pathway, a charity that works within the NHS to get homeless people and other marginalised groups better healthcare. "I get a real sense of pride when one of the people we help gets a job or when they make a massive step forward in other areas of their lives," Stan says. "It's the same feeling that The Big Issue has when one of their flock smashes through the glass ceiling and begins to fly. The Big Issue opened the door to me and countless others."

MARVINA NEWTON
Youth Charity Boss

Marvina Newton, 30, began sleeping rough on the streets of east London when she was still a teenager. She decided to sell The Big Issue to earn an income, before finding a job as a waitress and beginning to build her career. Marvina now lives in Leeds and is a part-time biomedical technician. She has taken a career break to focus on her charity Angel of Youths, helping disadvantaged children.

Marvina's aim was to stop other teenagers ending up in the predicament she found herself in over a decade ago. "Whether they're white, black or whatever, I can see a little bit of me in them," she says. "No one's going to save you but you. You're the superhero in the story – that's what I got from The Big Issue. The only person I had was myself. I could have chosen to be a victim but I chose to sell as many Big Issue magazines as I could."

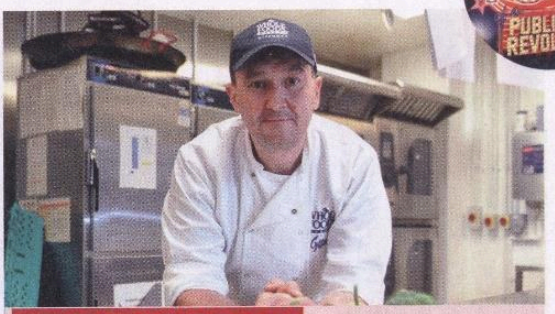
IAN DUFF
Chef

Ian Duff, 49-year-old chef, combines selling The Big Issue in Bath with running his own catering business. Run as a social enterprise, Duff Cooks has even taken on other Big Issue vendors to help with the cooking and waiting roles. Ian says selling the magazine helped "make it all possible" and he now gives talks explaining the entrepreneurial aspect of The Big Issue. "People are amazed: not only are we making an honest living, we are all trying to move on from homelessness."

Photo: Roger Moody

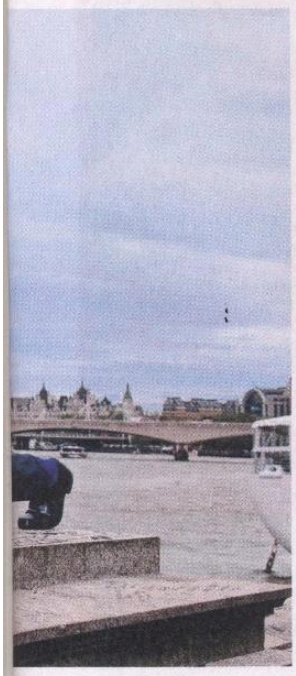
JOEL HODGSON
Legal Eagle

Seven years ago Joel was sleeping rough in London. Today the 27-year-old works for top City law firm Freshfields. He says the turning point was when he walked through the doors of The Big Issue in 2009: "It felt like someone was on my side for the first time in a while." After a corporate placement at Freshfields, he got a job in the firm's billing department. "The Big Issue turned my life around massively. The good thing is they give vendors the tools to help themselves."



FLORIAN CIOBANU
Organic Supermarket Chef

Florian, 47, used to sell The Big Issue outside organic supermarket Whole Foods in Glasgow. Then at the end of 2014 he landed a job as a chef in the shop's cafe. In 2012 he moved to the UK from Romania for a fresh start but when his newsagent business collapsed he lost everything. Selling the magazine outside Whole Foods led to a full-time job as a prep cook and kitchen porter. "I showed I'm not afraid of hard work and I think they recognized that," he explains. "I'm very grateful to The Big Issue for all the support over the two years I was selling it."



OWEN BAILY
Gambling Campaigner

Owen, 34, began selling The Big Issue in Canterbury in 2006, when he was still struggling with a gambling addiction, hooked on the high-street bookmakers' digital roulette games called Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs). After The Big Issue helped turn his life around, Owen began campaigning for regulation of FOBTs and now works with many organisations to combat gambling addiction. "Selling The Big Issue gave me some stability back," he recalls. "I realised I was getting the chance to run my own little business – it was the moment things began to change for me."

JO ADAMSON
Painter

Jo was known in Glasgow for many years as "the singing vendor," cheering everyone up with songs about the magazine. Registered blind, Jo stopped selling The Big Issue because of her deteriorating sight. But she is now thriving at her first love: painting. She has exhibited at CASS Art in Glasgow and also set up her own online Etsy store to sell her work. "I don't do depressing pictures – I do cheerful ones," she says. "Since I left The Big Issue I didn't think I could draw any more because I'm almost blind. So I'm very proud of what I've done."

CARON BOULGHASSOUL
Refugee Charity Manager

Caron, 42, sold The Big Issue in central London back in the early days of the magazine, from 1992 to 1995. Using it to gain some structure at a chaotic time, she applied to go to university in Lancaster, got a degree in social policy there and then went on to work with refugees struggling with homelessness. Today she is the project manager for Nottingham Arimathea Trust, finding housing for destitute asylum seekers and refugees in the city.

"Selling The Big Issue helped me get my self-esteem, a bit of structure in my life, and I met some very good people doing it," Caron recalls. "The people I work with now find themselves in desperate trouble, and I can relate and empathise with them, because as a young woman I went through some of the same things."

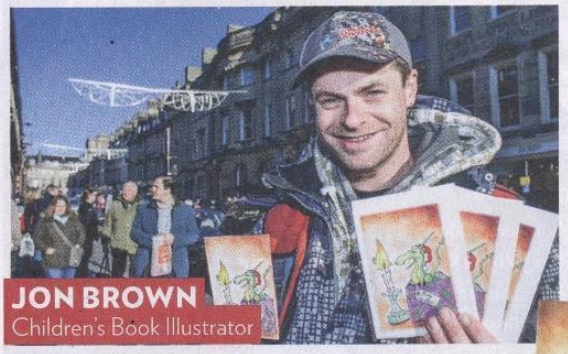
VIV ASKELAND
Tour Guide

Norwegian-born Viv, 58, was sleeping rough under London Bridge before she came to The Big Issue. She sold the magazine from the start of the 2000s until 2010, when she found a new role as a London tour guide. Part of the award-winning Sock Mob's Unseen Tours team, Viv takes tourists on a journey through hidden parts of the city. "When I started selling the magazine it gave me a lot of confidence," says Viv. "I realised how much I actually liked speaking to new people, and that's what I've moved on to doing with the tours."

MARK DEMPSTER
Harley Street Therapist

Former addict, drug dealer and prisoner, Mark Dempster turned his life around with The Big Issue's help. After selling the magazine in London in the mid-'90s he went on to become a qualified therapist, and the 51-year-old now treats patients at his practice in Harley Street in London. He hails his time selling the magazine as the catalyst to his recovery.

"It felt empowering – it gave me the platform to put drugs and crime behind me," Mark recalls. "I remember one day in The Big Issue office, a pal of mine called Paul, another vendor, came in and said he was going through a detox programme. I remember thinking, yes – I can do it, too. It was an important turning point, and The Big Issue was a very big part of that process."



JON BROWN
Children's Book Illustrator

Jon, 37, sold the magazine in Bath up until the end of 2015, when he finished work on a series of drawings for a children's book called *Katy and the Rainbow Mermaid*. Jon had painted a colourful dragon on the window of Waterstones where he sold The Big Issue, which caught the eye of author John West who offered him work on his book. "The biggest thing is confidence," says Jon. "It got me talking to people, gave me the push to talk to them about my work."

TERRY GORE
Housing Charity Manager

Terry, 51, used to sell The Big Issue in Wimbledon, and now manages Canterbury-based housing charity Catching Lives. "I started selling The Big Issue after I'd been sleeping rough for two years," he says. "It started to give me back my self-esteem. I'd become very isolated but selling the magazine meant I had to talk to people. That was the start of developing interpersonal skills that are key to the work I do now. It was the start of my route off the streets." TBI

More success stories at bigissue.com Words: Adam Forrest

MOMENT IN TIME THE BIG ISSUE

COVER OF THE YEAR

July 2015

Big Issue scoops prestigious PPA British magazine Cover of the Year gong, featuring Sgt Rick Clement, who lost his legs in Afghanistan, photographed by Bryan Adams.

NO SOGGY BOTTOMS HERE!

There's no party without cake, and who better to look to than the inspiring homeless trainees at Rise bakery

When *The Bake Off* is in turmoil and Mary and Mel and Sue are more or less on the lam (in baking terms), you need a good bunch to test the best of cakes. And who better to taste a Big Issue birthday cake than some of our vendors?

Brilliantly iced to look like our very first cover from 1991, the cake was made by the homeless trainees at Rise Bakery in east London. Graham Grenfell, 51, and Paul Logan, 57, who both sell the magazine around Liverpool Street station, came along to thank the budding cooks. "It's a very nice gesture, and a very tasty one too," said Graham.

Rise Bakery is the social enterprise arm of Providence Row, a charity tackling the root causes of homelessness. Orders for the team's speciality – boxes of delicious brownies – have come flooding in from the south coast to the north of Scotland. So far, 20 homeless and vulnerably housed people have taken advantage of the unique cooking course.

While 13 have already been accredited since Rise launched in April, the other seven are still being put through their paces in the kitchen. Two of those who completed the course have already found jobs.

"Some people have worked in the kitchen here previously, and some were completely new and ready to try something different," explains Dom Gates, enterprise and training manager. "Some are still sleeping rough at night and coming in here to bake during the day. But in all cases it's been a chance to engage with something positive, learn new skills and hopefully work towards employability. It's amazing how quickly people take to it."

Henry, one of the homeless bakers, took charge of the project to mark The Big Issue's first 25 years. "The trainees were all very happy to be baking for The Big Issue – it's great to be doing something special for an organisation working towards the same sort of ends," says Dom. "I think everyone thought of it like doing it for a mate, I suppose."

Graham, who said he would make sure other vendors got the chance to share some of the cake at The Big Issue's Finsbury Park office, said he appreciated the gesture. "It really was a lovely cake and very nice of them to do it – good luck to them all." TBI

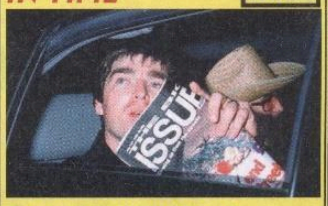
Words: Adam Forrest @adamtomforrest

Photos: Travis Hodges

To advertise: Jenny Bryan / jennifer_bryan@dennis.co.uk

MY PITCH

MOMENT IN TIME THE BIG ISSUE



GOING SUPERSONIC

April 1994

Oasis name check The Big Issue in their debut single as both band and magazine go Supersonic.

Donato Barbieri, 70

VICTORIA STATION, LONDON

"The Big Issue gave an old man like me a sense of purpose again"

FACTS ABOUT ME...

WHERE I LIKE TO GO

The British Museum – there is so much to see and explore there. A wonderful place in a wonderful city.

MY UNUSUAL HOBBY

Coin collecting – I've collected since I was a boy. My favourite coins were the British ones. I had nothing valuable but they were special to me.

ON MY PITCH...

I'm in Victoria station Monday to Friday from 7am until 2pm.

I'm still alive, after all my troubles – that's what I like to tell people. I've been through the mill but I'm still standing. That's the important thing.

I've been selling the magazine here at Victoria station since January this year, and it has been good for me. I had been homeless in London for a few months before that, having left Italy in September last year. I left Italy because life had become very difficult for me there and I needed a fresh start. So London seemed a good place to come because I lived here many years ago as a younger man.

I grew up in Turin in the north – a very industrial place, where they make the Fiat cars. Not many tourists but a good place anyway. When I was a child I grew up in an orphanage, and I was beaten up there by the nuns and the priests. Later, when I went home, I was beaten up by my stepfather. So my troubles began.

I moved around a lot. I went to Australia as a young man. I worked as a fitter and metal worker there, then I worked in the nickel mines. Australians are rough people – big drinkers – but I got on well there. I came to London in the mid-'70s and worked as a waiter for a couple of years. Then I worked on a cruise liner, a P&O ship, before going back to Italy to become a salesman for a time.

But life became hard because of a relationship with a woman – I would rather not explain – so I came back to London for a new start.

It was difficult at first. I slept outside, then found shelter at a Methodist church in Chelsea. Then, when I started selling The Big Issue, I found it gave an old man like me a sense of purpose again.

In February I began to share a room in Whitechapel, so things are getting better. I have a fantastic pitch here inside Victoria station, organised by The Big Issue and Network Rail.

The nice people in Caffè Nero bring me a cappuccino each morning, and I really enjoy speaking to my wonderful customers.

So life is good. After all, I'm still alive.

Interview: Adam Forrest
Photo: David Tett