

# FRIENDS OF BIG ISSUE NORTH

SPRING 2018

## Daruiz shares his life experience

**Thanks to your donations, Liverpool city centre vendor Daruiz is turning his life around, and helping others in the process!**

When Daruiz began to sell Big Issue North last year, he was homeless and had mental and physical health issues. He was also recovering from alcohol addiction.

Nine months on and living in a hostel, Daruiz is gradually changing his life. Our staff – using your donations – are supporting him to attend appointments to continue his journey through recovery.

And, although the recovery journey is never easy, Daruiz is now in a position to give something back to the community, sharing the coping mechanisms he has discovered to support people in Liverpool who want to move away from drug and alcohol use.

Working as a volunteer, Daruiz facilitates Alcoholics Anonymous meetings for the Polish community in Liverpool every Monday evening. He draws upon his lived experience and support to assist others on their journeys.

Explaining why he wanted to get involved, Daruiz said: “There seem to be issues in Liverpool with alcohol and I like to talk to people about their worries, as this also helps me to overcome my own.

“I believe in treating others the way I want to be treated. We all need to go beyond our



own ego, to help others from the bottom of the heart and to give more from ourselves, not requiring anything back.”

At the same time, Daruiz has continued his great passion – poetry. As he explains: “I write poetry and make them into booklets for people to read and share. I love sharing and selling these when I can.”

This creativity has got another outlet, as Daruiz is now attending an English course, supported to attend his classes by our staff. Daruiz says: “Learning makes me happy! My English has improved massively since college and I can now communicate with my customers and ask them questions.”

To make a donation to Big Issue North Trust, and enable more vendors like Daruiz to change their lives, please take two minutes to complete the attached form.

### Letter from Fay

Happy new year and welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter!

After the excitement of Christmas has passed, life on the streets for our vendors can be cold and challenging. That's why it's more important than ever that we do everything we can to support our vendors to change their lives – just like Daruiz is doing.

None of our work to help vendors change their lives would be possible without your donations of money, time and skills, so thank you for your ongoing support.

Fay Selvan,  
Big Issue North Chief Exec





# Readers take to the streets



Clockwise from left, Conrad Bower, Jo Miller, Dave Haslam and Andy Burnham



**Politicians, public servants, musicians and members of the public joined forces to sell Big Issue North for an hour to mark international Vendor Week.**

Readers of the magazine responded in their droves to our request to take part in the Big Sell, which invited people to find out first-hand the challenges faced by vendors.

In the largest Big Sell yet, more than 30 people braved the cold to do their bit in Salford, Bolton, Hull, Beverley, Sheffield, Doncaster, Leeds, Hebden Bridge, Manchester, West Kirby, Wigan, Ormskirk, Nantwich, Lytham St Anne's and Liverpool.

Among those who took part were Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham, Doncaster Council's Chief Executive, Jo Miller, Manchester music-scene legend Dave Haslam, and local councillors from Salford and Sheffield councils.

Each guest seller sold for one hour alongside a regular Big Issue North vendor, and all money raised from magazine sales went straight into the

vendor's pocket.

Jo Miller sold the magazine in Doncaster, alongside Will. Afterwards, Jo reflected on her experience.

"I take away what a brilliant businessman Will is. He's got to work out his supplies, he's got to go and get them. He's got to get his logistics sorted out. He's got to work out his sales pattern and to be relentlessly cheerful in the cold when people are walking by, just never, ever giving up.

"I think that there's a resilience there that I didn't appreciate before spending an hour next to Will, trying to sell Big Issue North."

***The Big Sell took place from 5-9 February, during #VendorWeek, an international event organised by INSP (International Network of Street Papers).***

To see videos of our Big Sell participants, visit [youtube.com/bigisuenorthmagazine](https://youtube.com/bigisuenorthmagazine).

## AROUND THE REGIONS

In **LEEDS**, we welcomed two medical science students, who chose to spend their placement with us. They spent time getting to know vendors, offering support and helped staff to wrap Christmas presents for vendors, which were funded through donations to Big Issue North Trust!

In **STALYBRIDGE**, we've been raising awareness of Big Issue North to commuters through Transport for Greater Manchester's Platforms For All project, which hopes to transform the region's stations into community hubs by connecting them to social enterprises.

In **MANCHESTER**, we've been participating in a focus group to share our views on how agencies can improve their services to people rough sleeping in the city centre.

In **LIVERPOOL**, we have attended volunteer recruitment fairs at Liverpool University, hoping to find people to assist us with outreach in the city centre and to gain experience in support roles.

We are pleased to be involved with the **SETTLE** Stories Festival this April. We'll be giving a talk about our work, and you can book your tickets at [settlestories.org.uk/aboutbigisuenorth](https://settlestories.org.uk/aboutbigisuenorth).

## Sam gives back for Sheffield's kids

**Sam, a former Big Issue north vendor, has coordinated a collection from vendors in the city for Sheffield Children's Hospital and Charity.**

He recently met staff at the hospital to present them with the funds raised by vendors, which will go towards Giggle Doctors, who entertain children on a weekly basis!

Sam chose this charity as he is keen to raise awareness of it. He is also aware that local people support vendors, and feels it's important to give something back to the local community, which is why he set up this idea.





# VENDORS GET SUPPORT TO GET ONLINE

Like everyone in modern society, it is more and more important that our vendors are able to benefit from getting online. This is especially true for those looking to enter mainstream employment, with 90 per cent of jobs in the UK now expecting a level of digital literacy.

So we have teamed up with the experts at Google Digital Garage, who put on a session to provide digital skills training to vendors at their pop up office in Manchester. In order to make sure vendors got the most from the day, Big Issue North staff supported

them to attend the workshop, and provided translators for those with limited English.

Daniel Achim, Service Manager at Big Issue North, said: "As well as giving people a chance to earn an income through selling the magazine, we look to support our vendors in making positive changes and help them move on with their lives. In today's society, supporting access to digital skills training is really important for us; it gives vendors greater opportunities to enter mainstream employment, and generally become more digitally savvy."

Manchester vendor, Nicolaie who took part in



Left to right: Sarah Burnham, Google Digital Garage, vendor Nicolaie, and Big Issue North staff Emma Ion and Martin Taylor

the workshop also gave an account of his experience of the day: "I really enjoyed the session and it helped me compile my CV. It was a great atmosphere and now I'm looking forward to finding a job. I feel happy and more confident that I will find

future employment."

We plan to continue with our digital skills initiative for vendors, and already have another Google Digital Garage workshop lined up in Sheffield. We will keep you updated, so watch this space!

## Pampering for a good paws

Sheffield dog grooming salon, Pampered Pooch Grooming Parlour, has opened its doors to canine companions of Big Issue North vendors!

Keen to make a difference to those people sleeping rough with their dogs, salon-owner Jane took the decision to reach out to relevant organisations in the area – including Big Issue North – to offer free dog grooming appointments for their service users.

This is not Jane's first social venture. Pampered Pooch is a member of Groomer Volunteer Network, a collective of animal enthusiasts and grooming professionals, who volunteer their services free of charge to rescue dogs to boost their chances of finding a home.

Jane said: "A dog is so much more than a dog, its family. For people who are experiencing homelessness, their dog can mean everything to them. The free dog



grooming offer also provides a temporary safe space where the owner can get out of the cold and have a cup of tea while they're waiting for their four-legged friend."

If you have an offer of practical support for our vendors, however small, please email: [fundraising@bigissueinthenorth.com](mailto:fundraising@bigissueinthenorth.com)

## LOTS IN TRANSLATION

In our most recent vendor audit, conducted in 2016, we found that 68% of vendors identify as non-British. As a result, we now provide a telephone translation service for vendors in a crisis.

The phone interpreting support has worked well, and both vendors and staff have found it to make a real difference. It enables vendors to ask for support and explain their situation, and staff to be able to better understand vendors' situation and how best to help.

This service has become more and more relevant for vendors, in particular since the Brexit vote. We have had increasing enquiries from vendors regarding permanent residence, and their rights and responsibilities while living in the country.

As the uncertainty surrounding their future remains difficult for many of our non-British vendors, it is vital that we're able to understand people's concerns and help them get the support they need.

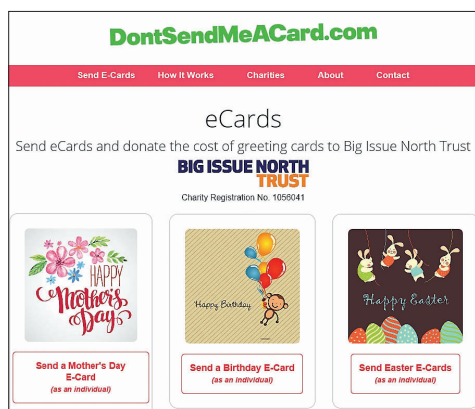


# DON'T SEND ME A CARD.COM

There's a new way to donate to Big Issue North Trust – and do your bit for the planet at the same time!

We're now registered with dontsendmeacard.com, a website where you can make and send e-greetings cards to your loved ones instantaneously. The funds that you would have spent on a greetings card goes to great causes.

To send your card and support your vendors, visit



dontsendmeacard.com and select Big Issue North Trust from the 'Community Causes' list.

## How to donate

We are so grateful to everyone who donates to us, if you haven't donated already, here are some ways to support our vendors.

To set up a standing order to support our vendors please fill in the form enclosed with the newsletter or call 0161 848 2420.



You can also donate by mobile phone, just text BITN18 and the amount you wish to donate e.g. £20 to 70070



Please make out donations by cheque to Big Issue North Trust and send it to 463 Stretford Road, Manchester, M16 9AB.



For more ways to raise funds for us please contact fundraising@bigissueinthenorth.com



It's really easy to raise funds for the Trust with EasyFundraising while shopping online. Just remember to set Big Issue North Trust as your chosen charity and start raising at no extra cost!

Go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) today!

# Classic copies

We've been on an adventure to the Big Issue North archives and sourced a limited number of sought after classic copies, dating all the way back to 1994! Icons have graced the cover include: Prince, Bowie, Uma Therman, Samuel L. Jackson, Steve Coogan, Sir Alex Ferguson, The Spice Girls, George Michael and many, many more!

Each issue chronicles a key stage in the featured icon's career, while the rest of the magazine gives you a flavour of what was making the news at that time.

These are a must for any avid collector and can be bought through our online shop, for the price of a regular back issue! To find them and much more, visit [shop.bigissuenorth.com](http://shop.bigissuenorth.com).



## BIG ISSUE NORTH SHOP

**Buy something BIG.**

Take a look at our shop for photographic prints, canvas tote bags, back issues and more.

All profits made from our shop are reinvested back into Big Issue North, ensuring we can continue to support people to earn an income.

[shop.bigissuenorth.com](http://shop.bigissuenorth.com)

### THE TRUSTEES

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