



RISE BAKERY

**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.



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." **TEB**

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