



October 2023

A newsletter from Rossendale Trust

RossenTales



Packed with great news from around the Trust



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Hello and welcome to our October newsletter.

As autumn/winter approaches, the nights may be drawing in but we still have plenty going on with our infamous fashion show and wine tasting events to look forward to.

There is plenty to read about in this month's edition, with lovely photos of tenants enjoying trips out, we welcome a new group of our Supported Employment Internships with WorkTaste and a day down the mines for Oakwood and much more.

It's approaching that time of year again when we will be hosting our annual 'Families Forum' event in November; the date with more details will follow on soon.

As always, there is plenty going on at Rossendale and even though our 50th Anniversary year is almost up we are busy planning our next year's fundraising events – stay tuned!

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of RossenTales and thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes.

-Andrea Wright - Registered Manager & Head of Supported Living





Amy's 30th Birthday Bash

Amy enjoyed a week of celebrations for the big 3-0! Amy started the week with a party at JD's at David Lewis – of course for such an important party there could only be one DJ – the birthday girl herself! Amy then spent a day celebrating with family and to finish the week off enjoyed a meal out with her friends at Pizza Express in Macclesfield.



Marion and Cara Ice Show in Blackpool

Marion and Cara spent a day in Blackpool where they watched the 'Amore, Amor, Amour' Ice Show at the Hot Ice theatre. Both ladies really enjoyed the performance and then took a walk along the front before having tea then heading home.





Cadbury World

Elena, Jon, and Helen went to Cadbury World with staff Kylie and Toni. Jon particularly liked seeing spaghetti junction and the 4D cinema experience, Elena LOVED the chocolate tasting and Helen enjoyed the afternoon tea.

It was Jon's birthday as well, so it was safe to say he had his fair share of chocolate and cakes! We were delighted that they had a wheelchair accessible 'Cadburys Cart', so Elena didn't miss out on the ride along tour!




Llandudno



Suzy and Paul spent August Bank Holiday Monday in Llandudno with Senior Support Worker Craig. They went on the Llandudno Ferris wheel, enjoyed food, ice cream and a Punch and Judy show.





Rossendale Trust
Supporting independent futures




La Dulce Verdimin
Wine Bar & Shop

FESTIVE WINE TASTING NIGHT

Including 6 tastings
Cheese and meat platters

£35pp
Thursday 16th Nov 2023 at 7pm
19 Church St. Macclesfield



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Supporting independent futures

Charity

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Doors open
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NOV 2

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BINGO



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TICKETS
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inc. 1 FREE
Bingo Card

Liverpool & Irish Sea boat trip

Neil and Neil took a trip to Liverpool where they got to admire some classic cars before heading out on a boat trip on the Irish Sea!



Tenant's Voice



Tenants share their views and ideas at our tenants' forum held every few months. These forums enable tenants who wish to come along to discuss topical issues, talk about what's happening where they live, and answer questions brought to the forum by the staff team or Trustees.

We plan each forum around what the tenants said they wanted to discuss previously, invite guest speakers to give information and answer questions, gain feedback on recent events, and discuss and plan upcoming events such as tenant and staff parties.

The agenda and minutes are written in accessible formats (Communicate in Print and Easy Read), and the minutes will soon be available as a recording to allow as many tenants as possible to understand what their fellow tenants have discussed.

Happy Birthday Andy!



Disco Time

Silky Sundays (Pack Horse Bowling Club) and the All-Abilities Disco (Macclesfield United Reform Church) remain firm favourites for many Rossendale tenants.



Talking Mats? What's that?



As part of an ongoing project around communication Zoe and Kath both completed training in the use of Talking Mats. Talking Mats is a Social Enterprise whose vision is to improve the lives of people with communication difficulties by increasing their capacity to think about and communicate effectively about the things that matter to them. The innovative and award-winning communication tool is based on extensive research and was designed by Speech and Language therapists. Both Zoe and Kath have already put their training into practice, and we hope that this will prove to be an invaluable aid for tenants across the Trust.



Pass on something wonderful by leaving a charitable gift in your Will to us.

Find out more at RossendaleTrust.org

Oakwood updates



Astra Zeneca support

We have been lucky to welcome many teams of volunteers to Rossendale Hall this year. Recently a team from Astra Zeneca came along to 'Make a Difference' and Mathew Dean (Oakwood attendee) asked them a few questions about their day.

Mathew Dean Hi, my name's Mathew, what's your name?

Areba (Astra Zeneca) My name's Areba.

MD Where are you from?

A I'm from Manchester.

MD Why are you here today?

A We're here to help paint the art room and clear the garden for you guys.

MD Oh wow! What have you been doing?

A I've been sanding down the walls, cleaning the walls and then painting them.

MD Have you enjoyed it?

A Yeah, I've enjoyed it a lot. I've never painted before so it's a great learning experience.

MD You've done a great job, thank you!

A Do you like it?

MD Yes.

A Are you excited to use the art room?

MD Yes.

A Do you like the colours?

MD Yes.

A And have you seen the garden? Its all clear now, do you like it?

MD Yes!

All year round we have numerous maintenance jobs that need doing to keep everything in tip top condition so if you and your colleagues would like to lend a hand, enjoy a day away from the office and see first hand what we do here at the Trust then get in touch. Email us at:

Hello@rossendaletrust.org





During a recent Media session, Fiona Mason (Tenant) sat down with Jane Hitchener to chat through Jane's recent promotion to Oakwood Team Leader.

Fiona Mason Congratulations on your new role Jane, how long have you been working at Rossendale?

Jane Hitchener Thank you Fiona, I've been working for the Trust for just over 18 years now.

FM What did you do before you started in your new role?

JH I used to run the Media activity, starting off under the house with a couple of old PCs, then onto an office building on Park Lane in Macclesfield and then finally in the purpose built Media room we have today. I enjoyed being able to introduce activities such as photography, videoing and initiating a printer business within the Media activity. Most recently I have been part of setting up the new video gaming activity, which has been lots of fun!

FM Are you enjoying your new job?

JH Yes I love it! I've really enjoyed the new challenge and seeing how Oakwood runs from behind the scenes.

FM What would you like to achieve in the role?

JH Initially, I'm in post for a fixed 12 months as maternity cover for Rachel Bamford who is about to have her first child. During this time I really want to have a positive impact on the service, helping the team to keep on improving the activities for everyone who attends.

Mining Tour



For many years now we have worked alongside volunteers and rangers from the National Trust at Alderley Edge and spent hours with our walking groups enjoying the paths and trails there, and on several occasions, we have bumped into groups that have been on tours down the mines organised by the Derbyshire Caving Club.

So we decided to give it a go ourselves and having made contact with the tour leader Bill a visit for the Oakwood group was arranged. The first stop was for the Day Service Manager to go and visit and risk assess the potential activity (he didn't need much persuading!). Following the risk assessment, we selected a group of 4 Oakwooders accompanied by a member of staff each to work one to one during the tour.

The group were kitted out with safety helmets and head lamps, something everyone enjoyed and it gave us the feeling of what lay ahead! After a short walk through the wood, we were met at the steel entrance door where the adventure began.

We walked along a narrow tunnel through to an open Chamber, where Bill gave a talk about the history of the mine and the methods used

at the time to break the rocks. The group continued to weave their way through the tunnels to see several highlights, such as the beautiful colours formed from the ore in the rocks.

As we approached the exit, Bill stopped the group and asked them to take a deep breath as they went through the door. Under the ground there are no smells and as we walked out everyone took a deep breath and commented on the heightened smells of the air and the forest.

The tour lasted around an hour and was very informative and exceeded all expectations of everyone involved. Richard, one of the group said "I loved that, I've never done anything like that in my life"

We'd like to say a big thank you to Bill and the Derbyshire Caving Club for facilitating the event.



WorkTaste updates



Britain in Bloom

In early August, our tenants who volunteer at St Peter's Community Gardens as part of our WorkTaste program were invited to take part in 'Britain in Bloom' judging morning. Our tenants Stevie, Andy and Bobby accepted an invitation of tea and coffee and healthy sugar-free scones!

When the 'Britain in Bloom' judges arrived, they looked around the gardens and recognised all the hard work that our tenants have put in.

'Britain in Bloom' is a national awards body celebrating the work of towns, cities and organisations in making their environment a better and greener place for people. They have a particular focus on community engagement so St Peter's was included in Macclesfield town's bid for an award.

We were very proud to have the St Peter's community garden included and were able to show how fabulously the partnership between them and the Trust works.

During the year people on WorkTaste, supported by their lovely

coaches, work hard to prepare, sow, plant and harvest flowers and produce and we have a fine crop of tomatoes, beans, onions, potatoes, kale, strawberries and many other fruit and vegetables as a result.

After the judging, we all posed for a picture in front of the massive runner-bean plants!! Good luck to St Peter's Community Garden and thank you for letting us be part of your special morning!



**Cheshire College
South & West**

September 2023 sees the start of the next cohort of Supported Interns.

The Trust works with education providers who have a Supported Internship programme to provide support to young adults between the ages of 16 – 24 years with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) and who are in their last year of education. Our WorkTaste Coaches help the individual with their transition into employment over a 39 week programme.

At the start of the programme, we offer 100% full support to the individual and this gradually reduces over time as the participant's independence and confidence increases.

This year we have 12 students being supported from Cheshire College South and West and Macclesfield College.

The placements are varied, as always, and include companies such as Shackleford Pianos, Knutsford Leisure Centre, Siemens, Proseal, Music Magpie, East Cheshire Hospice, Cyprotex, Alvaston Hall and Swansway garage.

Good luck to all of our supported interns and we look forward to reading about your progress in future issues of RossenTales.

Alex and Petty Pool



“Petty Pool in the community” is a new venture allowing young people access to various activities to improve life skills, confidence and to make new friends. Alex has been able to access activities based in Macclesfield led by Martin Bagnall, the coordinator. Alex attends these activities with PA Rebecca Norbury.

Alex was initially nervous and anxious about going to a new place and meeting new people. However, over time support from Martin and the Petty Pool staff and other service users Alex's confidence has grown and he's really happy to attend. Alex is always made to feel very welcome and included and his interests and wishes are taken into account. Over the past few months Alex has enjoyed using a laser printer to make his own sign, going out for coffee with his new friends, a trip in a minibus to Manchester Science and Industry Museum, ten pin bowling and Alex's highlight- having a go at Archery at Petty Pool college! After the archery activity on the way home Alex said, “I don't feel nervous going to Petty Pool anymore. I feel EXCITED.” It is amazing to see Alex's confidence grow after his initial nerves and to see him participating in activities he had not done before, making new friends of a similar age and having lots of fun.

WorkTaste offer a PA service to anyone living in the wider community and provides one to one support to give people with learning disabilities and difficulties a chance to undertake activities that they chose and enjoy.

You can find out more about this service by contacting Colin Gillespie on 01260 252500 or emailing colin.gillespie@rossendaletrust.org



Life Long learning



Gareth Clifford's journey with the Guild for Lifelong Learning (GFL) started back in January 2022 where he has been volunteering as a Catering Assistant in their community cafe. The GFL is based in Wilmslow and work in partnership with Cheshire East to deliver education, health, and wellbeing programmes to improve the health, wellbeing, and fitness of the elderly, disadvantaged and people on low incomes and to reduce social isolation and improve quality of life.

Paula and Ali from the GFL were keen to provide WorkTaste placements for several of our tenants to run alongside the delivery of their programmes. Gareth has been volunteering at GFL for two hours a week carrying out various duties such as, loading and unloading the dishwasher, clearing and cleaning tables, refilling stock, polishing cutlery, taking food to customers at the table, making sandwiches and hoovering at the end of the shift. Gareth is very thorough when hoovering and moves all the tables and chairs in the café area and all the mats in the entrance hall.

Gareth has also completed an entry level food Hygiene Certificate and entry and level 1 Certificate in Health and Safety in the kitchen during his volunteering stint.

Gareth has become so proficient with his tasks, particularly the dishwasher, that it quickly became apparent that Gareth was a real asset to the Café. This has now resulted in an offer of paid employment for two hours each week. Gareth started his first paid shift on Friday 22nd September 2023. Gareth told us "I like working at the Guild and am happy with my paid job".

Gareth's new colleagues, tutors & students have a few words to say about him too:
"I'm thrilled to call Gareth my work colleague, he's worked extremely hard these last months and gained so many new skills, I can see his confidence shining. It's a delight to have you here each Friday, the cafe wouldn't function as well without you" - Alexandra

Woodburn - Executive Assistant to the Principal, Development and Fundraising Manager.

"Gareth gets on well with the rest of the team, he's a good team player, very personable. I've seen Gareth become more confident when carrying out his set tasks and he's starting to try new things, happily moving out of his comfort zone. He works on his own initiative which is a fantastic benefit in a busy setting".
- Julie Miles - Café Supervisor

"I can tell Gareth takes pride in his job and wants to do well, he's very helpful and cooperative in the cafe, always on hand to help out if I need anything" Janice Cahill – Student.

"Amazing and great to see you doing some amazing work today Gareth. Well done from all the jewellers and myself (Hannah) Hannah Webb – Jewellery Tutor.

"Many congratulations Gareth, you thoroughly deserved this opportunity for your hard work and dedication. You display a great work ethic that employers want to see. I would like to thank Paula Riordan and Alexandra Woodburn for facilitating the partnership and cafe supervisors Jane and Julie for their brilliant support. We hope Gareth can enjoy working at the Guild for many years to come." Colin Gillespie - WorkTaste Manager.

WorkTaste are delighted to be part of Gareth's journey securing paid work, which in our opinion is the ultimate outcome. Credit goes to his coach Julia McCoy (and David) for her support, guidance and expertise.

We have three other tenants volunteering in regular long term placements and hopefully, we can explore the possibility of paid work for them too in the not too distant future at the Guild for Lifelong Learning.

Bennettbrooks Partnership



In an exciting partnership that commenced earlier this year, we are thrilled to announce our collaboration with Bennettbrooks Accountants (Macclesfield branch), who selected our Trust as their 'Charity of the Year'.

Over the course of the next 12 months, the dedicated team at Bennettbrooks will actively engage in supporting our charitable initiatives and participate in fundraising events. Their commitment has already shone through as they generously sponsored our prestigious Golden Ball and Golden Golf Day events. More recently, we were privileged to welcome two teams of their volunteers to Rossendale Hall. With green thumbs at the ready, these teams took on the rewarding task of clearing weeds and adorning our borders with vibrant plants and spring bulbs. Furthermore, their support extended to our annual fete in August, where Bennettbrooks staff volunteered their time and energy.

Sue Heaven, the Head of PR & Fundraising at the Trust, shared her gratitude for this invaluable partnership, saying, "We are eagerly anticipating the various ways in which the Bennettbrooks team will continue to support us throughout the remainder of the year. Partnerships like these are not only of immeasurable value to the Trust and our tenants but also offer a platform for staff to unite outside of their usual work settings, fostering team spirit and instilling a profound sense of pride among all involved."

If your business would like to get involved and choose the Trust as their Charity of the Year then please get in touch with us here at Rossendale Hall, email hello@rossendaletrust.org or call 01260252500

Gift Aid Awareness

Ticking the Gift Aid box takes seconds, but it can make a lifetime of difference to the people we support. So next time you donate please make sure you tick the box. By ticking the box, we can claim an extra 25% on your donation, an extra 25p for every £1 donated. And it doesn't cost you a single penny.

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Cheers to the Beer Festival



The 2023 Macclesfield Charity Beer Festival raised a phenomenal £15,000 for the Trust this year. Sue Heaven Head of PR & Fundraising welcomed representatives from the organising committee and main sponsors to Rossendale Hall where a cheque was presented.

The funds will go towards a replacement headquarters and meeting hub for Oakwood activities. Anyone who visits Oakwood will know that the hub is in a state of disrepair so we are delighted that this generous contribution has been made to the project enabling us to replace and improve the facilities for people using our services.

Commenting on behalf of the Macclesfield Charity Beer Festival committee and Macclesfield Round Table, James Hogben said: "I'd like to say a huge thank you to our main sponsors SAS Daniels, The Cheshire Pub Co, Suburban Green and Spiral Print and everyone that attended or supported the 2023 Macclesfield Charity Beer Festival for helping to, once again, raise a fantastic amount of money to support an amazing Macclesfield-based charity."

Fete News

The Rossendale Trust Summer Fete 2023 proved to be a resounding success, drawing in crowds from far and wide for a day of fun, laughter, and community spirit.

The grounds of Rossendale Hall transformed into a vibrant carnival of activity, with a plethora of stalls, attractions, and entertainment options catering to attendees of all ages. From food stalls to live music performances, the coconut shy to hook a duck – the fete was enjoyed by everyone who attended. Even the sun made a rare appearance and whilst we didn't quite escape the rain, this did not dampen the spirits of those who attended.

Sue Heaven, Head of PR & Fundraising expressed her gratitude for the overwhelming support received from the community. "The Summer Fete has been a wonderful event and it is testament to the dedication and enthusiasm of our tenants, staff, volunteers, and supporters, that we are able to put on such an event year after year. It's heart warming to witness the wider community coming together and supporting the Trust. Local businesses and volunteers play a significant role in the event's success, with many generously donating their time, resources, and expertise to ensure a memorable day for all. So, thank you to all who have made the Summer Fete possible"

The fete raised almost £6000 for the Trust which will go a long way in supporting our tenants to engage in activities and provide opportunities for them to live as independently as possible.



Golf Day at Marton Mere



We welcomed over 50 golfers to Marton Meadows Golf Course on Saturday 16th September for our Golden Golf Day. The day was packed full of activities for families and golfers alike and everyone got into the 'swing' of things taking part in golf quizzes, Putt 'n' Prosecco competitions, a fabulous raffle, Golf Simulator competitions and so much more.

We would like to say a very big thank you to all the team at Marton Meadows who all worked so hard to make the day a success. Lisa Harrop, Assistant Manager of Marton Meadows explained "We were delighted to host the Rossendale Trust's Golden Golf Day at Marton Meadows recently and help raise funds & awareness during the trust's 50th Year. It was a great day (even the weather played ball) and all involved thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We hope this will be the first of many!"

And we cannot forget to mention our event sponsors, Capitol Carpets, Bennettbrooks, Cheshire Diamonds and Hogbens Chartered Surveyors and finally all our enthusiastic golfers who participated on the day. As a result of everyone's generosity the event raised over £800 for the Trust.

Sue Heaven, Head of PR & Fundraising at the Trust was thrilled that the event was such a success, "The day was jam packed full of activities thanks to the enthusiasm and creativity of the team from Marton Meadows. We were delighted with the turn-out with many families joining us for the day as well. We sincerely hope this is an event that we can repeat year on year and build on the great success of our first Golden Golf Day!"

Prism - Mid-Summer Mingle Raises £1000 for the Trust

The local business community came together recently at a Mid-Summer Mingle Networking event held at Congleton Tennis Club. The event was organised by PETT, the philanthropic arm of Prism Solutions and gave local businesses a chance to network in informal surroundings and enjoy a light lunch.

PETT had very generously donated a wireless portable monitor (perfect for those who enjoy hybrid working!) which was raffled on the day and along with ticket sales and matched funding the event raised a fantastic £1000 for the Trust. The audience were treated to an inspirational talk from Sue Heaven, Head of PR & Fundraising at the Trust who explained how important fundraising was to the Trust and how the lives of people with learning disabilities were transformed by the work that we do.

Commenting on behalf of PETT, Peter Neal, Business Consultant confirmed why they had chosen to support the Trust at this event, "Having worked with Rossendale Trust for over 7 years, we know the quality of their outputs and consistency in delivering. We made a promise to support their fundraising and profile through one of our "Mingle Events" pre covid, and this was our opportunity to do just that. We were thrilled to hear about the great work Rossendale Trust do through an animated, witty, and honest speech delivered on the day by Sue Heaven. It was also reassuring to see the generosity of so many of the local business community who turned out midweek to support the Mingle and a very worthy cause as a result."



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Warm The Trust is a homely environment where everyone feels welcome and well supported.

Respectful We respect and appreciate others for their individual beliefs, passions, goals and choices, whilst embracing person centred care.

Inclusive The Trust provides an inclusive environment where people of all backgrounds can come together and feel valued.



Rossendale Trust
Supporting independent futures



*'Employer
of the Year'*



PRINCESS ROYAL
TRAINING AWARD
2022

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