

February 2024



A newsletter from Rossendale Trust

RossendaleTales



Packed with great news from around the Trust



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Hello and welcome to our February newsletter.

Christmas flew past and here we are on the other side and in a New Year. With so much happening around the Trust between the last edition and this, RossenTales brings you a flavour of the news.

We welcomed new tenants into our properties in Buxton & Macclesfield. They are busy settling into their new homes and making them their own. You can also read a festive roundup from the holiday period and about Eleanor's BIG 5 ZERO birthday (below).

We have had amazing local support and donations of time from Ashfield MedComms who transformed the Trust's Media room - making it a bright and welcoming space. In other news Oakwood Day Service put on a festive performance of ELF, with outstanding performances from the Oakwood attendees and session leaders. WorkTaste saw much success with great person centred work placements.

Phew, AND great events on the horizon in fundraising with a Ladies Lunch, Wine Tasting and a Casino Royale Ball!

-Andrea Wright - Registered Manager & Head of Supported Living

Eleanor's 50th Birthday



2024 got off to a flying start for Eleanor (left) as she celebrated her 50th Birthday! Eleanor celebrated with a house party where many of her friends from the Trust came along to celebrate with her.

Chair of Trustees Announces Retirement after 40 Years of Service



Moira Beswick, Chair of Trustees at the Trust, has announced her retirement after 40 years of dedicated service to the community. Moira's tenure as Chair spans 12 years, during which she utilized the managerial and HR skillsets acquired during her time working in senior management at ICI/Astra Zeneca.

Moira's commitment over the years has played a significant role in rebuilding the Trust to its current position of strength where we now employ over 200 staff, who provide much needed support and services to adults with learning disabilities and complex care needs in our local area.

Under Moira's leadership, the Rossendale Trust has achieved a Good rating from the Care Quality Commission (CQC), with aspirations to now reach the Outstanding milestone.

Macclesfield MP and Patron of the Trust, David Rutley, has paid tribute to Moira's service, "Moira has been part of the fabric at the Rossendale Trust for decades. Her commitment and dedicated service were ever present during her 12 years serving as Chair of Trustees. Moira has always put the needs of tenants first and she should be rightly proud of all that the team

has achieved under her leadership. We are all very grateful for her hard work over many years and her amazing example".

Moira's successor has been confirmed as Adam Schofield, a former town councillor and Mayor of Macclesfield. Adam is looking forward to leading the Trust into the future and working with the Board and management team to continue in taking the Trust forward.

In recognition of Moira's retirement, the Trust's Board, at their annual AGM, granted her the title of Honorary President.

Steve Nichols, the Trust's CEO, expressed his gratitude for Moira's long - standing service. "Moira's commitment to the Trust has been unwavering and is a testament to her character. Moira has voluntarily given her time to support us to provide the best possible care for the people who use our services. It has been a pleasure to work alongside Moira during my time as Chief Executive and everyone here at the Trust wishes her a fulfilling and well-deserved retirement."

Moira's commitment to community services has also been honoured by the Macclesfield Castle Rotary Club, with the prestigious international award, The Paul Harris Fellowship. Moira is also a past recipient of the Mayor of Macclesfield's Pride of Macclesfield Award.

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.

If you donate online you will be prompted to tick the box, if you are making a cash or cheque donation then you can download a Gift Aid form from our website and send this to us along with your donation.

giftaid it

£1 + = £1.25p

Donate with Gift Aid and the government will add 25% to your donation. It won't cost you an extra penny and all you have to do is

#TickTheBox

Happy New Home

This Autumn we have welcomed four new tenants to the Trust. Living in Buxton and Macclesfield; Ruth, Alex, Louis and Ben are all busy settling into their new homes. Moving house can be a stressful time and we are delighted to report that they are all doing well and enjoying the independence supported living at The Rossendale Trust offers them.



Happy New Year



Following on from the success of the King's Coronation Party last year, the tenants at Rose Gardens wanted to host a New Year's Eve Party to welcome in 2024.

Helped by the Activity Fund tenants were able to get cracking with their party planning – invites were sent, decorations ordered, and party food chosen. Tenants from Rose Gardens & Maple Avenue really enjoyed the evening of music and chat with friends. The party atmosphere made it a special evening shared with good friends. Evenings like this really highlight the difference the Activity Fund can make to enrich the lives of the tenants here at The Rossendale Trust. It is because of your donations that we are able to provide the extra funding to support our tenants to host such events and make them extra special.

Andy at the Opticians

Support staff strive to empower the tenants they support to be as independent as possible and a recent trip to the opticians for Andy was no exception. Accompanied by Susan (SW), Andy went for his eye test and choose his new pair of glasses. Returning the following week, Andy collected his new glasses and signed for them on the new electronic system.

Special thanks to Park Lane Opticians for supporting Andy with his new glasses.



Festive Bake-off



Sarah (SSW) suggested holding a festive themed 'Bake Off' for the tenants. With entries from across the Trust, judges Petra, Jason, Simon, Karl & Kath spent an afternoon 'hard at work' cake tasting. Awarding marks for appearance, taste & creativity, 1st Place went to Apartment 5, Riverside with their Reindeer Chocolate Brownies. The bakers (and judges!) are looking forward to the event returning for Christmas 2024!



Christmas Round - up

Tenants across the Trust enjoyed the festive period, from panto visits to Christmas discos. Some tenants spent Christmas Day with family whilst others stayed at home, a few even enjoyed Christmas dinner at the pub. We look back on Christmas 2023 with very fond memories.



Fallibroome Party

As Fallibroome High School's chosen charity to support in 2023/24, tenants were invited to their annual Christmas Party. An afternoon of carol singing, bingo, entertainment and light refreshments was enjoyed by the Riverside tenants. A huge thank you to staff and pupils at Fallibroome for their very kind invitation to a wonderfully festive afternoon.



Media Makeover



Following on from the recent revamp of our art room, we welcomed a very enthusiastic team of volunteers from Ashfield MedComms. Eight volunteers descended on the media room and rejuvenated the white walls, adding a splash of colour – a gorgeous deep blue chosen by those that use the room. The adjacent toilet also got a lovely sunny refresh as it was painted with a lovely shade of yellow, adding a touch of warmth.

Rupert, who regularly accesses our media activity was delighted to see the new room, "It's really good, it's nicely decorated." Andy, another regular commented "It's much better, it feels like there is more space."

From all the team at Oakwood and all those people who attend the media group sessions, a very big thank you to the volunteers from Ashfield MedComms, you really have made a difference and gave our media room a much needed makeover!

We are so grateful to all the volunteers who attend Rossendale Trust every year. We simply do not have the time and manpower to maintain all our grounds and buildings and the kindness of our volunteers help make sure that these jobs get done. Our 'Make a Difference' days give colleagues a day out of the office and an opportunity to give back to the local community - A chance to have some fun away from the desk and make a real difference to the people we support. We are already booking in teams for 2024 so if you would like to be part of our Make A Difference programme then get in touch by emailing hello@rossendaletrust.org



The Show Must Go On!



The Oakwood Drama and Musical Theatre groups have been expertly led for the last 18 months by Sarah Mellor, who came in with great ideas and totally transformed the way our sessions were run. Sarah was recently offered a job teaching Drama at a school so unfortunately for us (congratulations to Sarah!) we were on the hunt for a new teacher.

Step forward Roxy, who is our Drama and Musical Theatre Activity Leader. Ben, a keen member of the Musical Theatre group sat down with Roxy to find out how she has been getting on.

Ben: Roxy, tell us a bit about yourself?

Roxy: I have loved coming here and working at the Trust. I have a background in dance, musical theatre, drama and performing arts. Coming here and being able to help and progress the group has really been an honour and a privilege to be part of.

Ben: How have you found the drama and musical theatre group so far?

Roxy: Sarah, (the previous drama lead), has done amazing work with everybody and because of her work you've all been so welcoming to me. The level of skill and talent that I've come across in these past few weeks has really blown me away and I'm very impressed.

Ben: Do you have any ideas for the group for the future?

Roxy: So, plans for the future are obviously carrying on as Sarah did. As that class plan clearly works very well for everyone. But I would like to introduce some new things like learning the technical side of the lighting and theatrical make up and props, as well as the stage music.

Ben: What has been your favourite moment so far?

Roxy: My favourite moment so far has to be the performance and talent showcase you all did at Christmas that I was lucky enough to be able to be invited to, everyone was encouraged to perform something of their choice, that they enjoy and makes them happy.

Good luck Roxy, we can't wait to see what comes next!

Elf the Musical



The Oakwood Music group held their annual performance on Friday 8th December 2023 at the Sutton St James Scout & Guide HQ, They performed 'Elf The Musical', an adaptation from the popular Christmas movie Elf.

The night was a huge success as the group performed perfectly to a packed-out audience of family and friends, singing songs, playing instruments and acting between songs to carry the story through the night.

The group worked tirelessly throughout the year to build up to the performance, starting in January and meeting twice a week to practice. Congratulations on such a polished event and a big thank you to all those involved throughout the year who support the cast to put on such a professional and enjoyable show.

Trish, our Activity Leader for the Music group said "It was absolutely fantastic, I was so proud of everyone, everyone did amazingly well and worked so hard".

Sam, part of the cast said "I liked playing Michael, it was great" And work is already under way for this year's performance of Shrek The Musical, watch this space, we can't wait!





Alex at Avro



When Alex Marquis arrived from the USA four years ago, he came with a love of vehicles, especially American school buses, so his WorkTaste coaches have supported his passion; often taking him to see different garages and car collections. With things mechanical in mind, his new WorkTaste coach and P.A., Sarah, thought he would enjoy visiting the Avro Heritage Museum in Woodford, where a Vulcan Bomber is proudly displayed at its entrance.

Avro is situated on the site of the old BAE Woodford Aerodrome and runway, where many important and famous aeroplanes were built and tested. Now Alex has become a regular visitor; taking part in the different cockpit tours and building up his flight simulator techniques. Alex has enjoyed seeing inside the aeroplanes, learning about what it was like to fly in them, as well as meeting retired aircrew and engineers.

"It's been great to support Alex in a new environment and see his experience broaden", said Sarah, "and I hope he'll be able to engage more fully in the future, learning new skills and continuing to enjoy the activities that Avro offers. The staff, who are all volunteers, have been so helpful and encouraging too."

Alex still loves his American school buses the best, but is looking forward to his next visit to Avro. When asked what he thought of AVRO, Alex summed it all up with, 'Cool!!!'

Alex is supported as part of our P.A. service. A service which is available to people in the wider community and offers individuals with learning disabilities the chance to have one to one respite care support to do activities they enjoy. If you are interested in using this service, please get in touch.

Alison Gets Scooping!



Initially starting at Scoop & Scales for a short term 6-week placement back in January 2023, a year later Alison is still enjoying her placement there and has built up a wonderful working relationship with shop manager Louise.

Alison never knows what tasks will be required of her from week to week. If there has been a delivery, she might be restocking shelves, filling containers and using the trolley. Sometimes the shop needs tidying and Alison is very conscientious wiping work surfaces and sweeping up. Each week Alison also gets the opportunity to practice using the till with support and taking a card payment.

Over the course of the year Alison has become a familiar figure in her apron for the regular Monday afternoon customers of Scoop & Scales. Matt Todd – Scoop & Scales Shop Manager says, 'We are so pleased Alison continues to volunteer with us here at Scoop & Scales. She is part of the team now and we wouldn't be without her. Alison brings a sense of calm with her, and we love to hear what she's got planned for the week (it often makes us jealous).' Keep up the good work Alison!

musicMagpie

Music Magpie do the Duo!



In September 2023 we were delighted to start a new partnership with musicMagpie.

WorkTaste Coach, Julie, began supporting Luke on his Supported Internship. Luke started working in the company's very busy warehouse in Macclesfield where he has been learning all aspects of the job and is already showing competencies in many of the tasks. He was quite anxious to start with, but his colleagues at musicMagpie soon put him at ease. He followed a comprehensive induction process and Health and Safety briefings. He also shadowed members of the team before starting to do the job himself with the support of his coach.

In December, we were delighted to be joined by Tom who is also on a Supported Internship and supported by WorkTaste Coach, Sarah. Both of the students, have been warmly welcomed by the management team as well as their colleagues in the warehouse.

Both Luke and Tom are very grateful for the opportunities that they have been given, with Luke explaining, "I really enjoy working here and I want to hopefully prove myself and be considered for a job at the end of my placement". Tom confirmed "I am enjoying the experience at musicMagpie and really appreciate the opportunity to be in a working environment."

Sarah Ashton, Health & Safety Manager at musicMagpie explained to us what a difference the placements have made to them, "We first heard about the fabulous work that the Rossendale Trust do, when we were approached by Macclesfield College to host a placement. We had to consider what it would be like to have a student plus WorkTaste coach on site. We chose the Macclesfield site as it is a quieter environment and we worked with the coaches first to learn the role. We are very happy to be able to offer Tom and Luke the opportunity to gain workplace experience. The placements have really enhanced our workplace, we are all enjoying working with Luke, Tom and their coaches. We are looking forward to introducing them to the other departments here so that they can learn all aspects of the role."

Over the remainder of the academic year, Tom and Luke will continue with their placements and we look forward to seeing how they develop in their roles.

We are always keen to hear from businesses who would like to support WorkTaste. If you think you could make a difference to the people we support, then please get in touch.



The London

Runners Gear Up for London 2024



As we approach Spring, anticipation is building for the London Landmarks Half Marathon (LLHM) and the iconic London Marathon, both scheduled for April 2024.

Among our team of enthusiastic runners are husband and wife duo Rob and Anthea, and a dedicated and eager team of six Marathoners: Toby, Martin, Fran, Vicky, Alison, and David.

Rob and Anthea, a husband-and-wife team, are no strangers to London. Having previously conquered the challenges of the London Marathon, they have now decided to return and take on the LLHM demonstrating their fantastic commitment to the Trust.

Meanwhile, the London Marathon boasts a remarkable representation from a committed team of 6 runners this year. Toby, a seasoned marathon veteran, is lacing up his running shoes for an astonishing 21st time in London. His dedication really is a testament to the enduring spirit of the London Marathon.

Toby will be joined on the start line by Martin, Fran, Vicky, Alison, and David. This is the first year we have also had a family representation with sisters Vicky & Alison running alongside husband and brother-in-law David.

The journey to London requires true dedication with lengthy training runs being completed in the dark winter days, with the race to complete the fundraising target taking just as much time and effort. We have been catching up with some of our athletes to find out how they are feeling about race day.

"The runners are encouraging friends, family, and the wider community to contribute to their fundraising efforts. Donations will go towards supporting various initiatives across the Trust, helping to make a positive impact on the lives of those people we support every day".

Please, support our runners by making a donation. Whether it's a small contribution or a more substantial pledge, every donation makes a difference. Donations can be made at www.justgiving.com/rossendale-trust

Martin Ashberry

What inspired you to run the London Marathon for charity?

I was inspired to run the London Marathon for a number of reasons. I'd never run competitively until last year, when my first race was the Manchester Marathon - in at the deep end! I enjoyed it, but was surprised at how many first timers said "never again!" So, when the option to run came up (while still nursing swellings and blisters from Manchester), I jumped at the chance

What has been the most challenging aspect of your training?

The most challenging aspect is finding the time to train. You can't miss many days before it starts to show in progress, but being a married father of three, grassroots football coach and IT Director at a global, FTSE listed company, it's a constant struggle to cram in running, eat well and at the right time and make sure nothing slips.

It's going well though and, now the nights are getting lighter, it's only the snow, ice and winter storms that are a problem for the self-motivation!



Martin Ashberry



Marathon

Fran Normansell

How have you approached your fundraising? Any top tips for other fundraisers?

I have been spending a lot of time in the local pubs organising games for people to take part in. It was fun, I got to talk to lots of people and people loved it and kept asking me if they could take part, so it didn't feel like I was mithering for sponsorship money. I also discovered hidden talents and new passions while doing the plant stalls and painting pots and trellises.

Are there specific milestones or achievements you hope to reach during the marathon?

I'm hoping just to finish in a not too embarrassing time and have some fun while I'm doing it. Also got a weekend in London to look forward to!

Alison Ralph

Do you have any pre-race rituals or routines that help you stay focused and calm?

I don't really have any rituals but always just want to enjoy myself whilst running! Listening to upbeat music is a must!

Can you share some insights into your training routine for the marathon?

My training routine consists of two runs during the week around Sutton and one long run on a Sunday - most of the time with Vicky and Dave. This week the long run took us all the way to Adlington.

Vicky Hulme

Are you planning to run with your sister and husband on race day and will there be any competition between you to see who can finish first?

Out of the 3 of us I am probably the most competitive however after realising how hard the training is I will just be very happy to be there and finish the marathon! I don't think we will all run together as we get into our own zones and rhythms.

Why did you choose to support the Rossendale Trust?

We all really wanted to do the marathon and have spoken about it for years, so when the opportunity came up to do it together we thought it was a great way to experience it together as well as raising funds for an amazing charity!!

What's the first thing you are going to do when you cross the finish line?

The first thing I will probably do when I cross the finish line is take my shoes off, ring my children to let them know i've finished and go on the hunt for some food :)

Toby Eyre

What advice would you give to someone considering running a marathon for charity?

My advice for anyone thinking of running a marathon is to finish, take it steady, run with pride, stay hydrated and most importantly remember why you're doing it when you hit the tough times along the way....

running the final yards up the Mall is a lifetime achievement and an awesome feeling.

What impact do you hope your participation will have on the Rossendale Trust?

I hope my stories and the extravagant fancy dress outfits inspire future Rossendale runners to take on the challenge of the marathon and join the Rossendale Trust 'Family' at the Races!!!

Best of luck to all this year's runners.... Remember, first back gets the beers in!!!



Toby Eyre



Fran Normansell





Rossendale Trust
Supporting independent futures



Wine Bar & Shop

JOIN US FOR
WINE
TASTING
Event

**Includes 6 tastings &
cheese and meat
platters**

£35pp

Thursday 14th
March 2024 7pm
19 Church St.
Macclesfield
SK11 6LB

Book your place:

www.rossendaletrust.org/events

Reg. Charity No. 1146771



Rossendale Trust
Supporting independent futures

Ladies Lunch

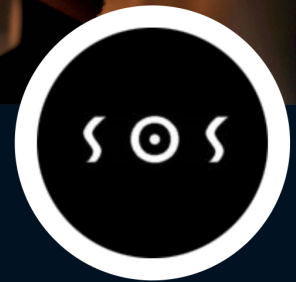
Thursday May 9th at 11.30 am
Mottram Hall Wilmslow Road
Mottram St. Andrew. SK10 4QT



£45pp

Includes

Welcome drink & 2 course lunch
Fashion Show
Shopping
Guest Speaker
Quote "Rossendale" to receive
exclusive rates on overnight accomodation



**Latest Fashions by
SOS Boutique,
Bramhall.**



Rossendale Trust
Supporting independent futures

Casino Royale Ball

June 8th 2024

Doors Open 6pm
Macclesfield Town Hall
£100pp

Includes:
Drinks Reception
3 Course Dinner
Live Entertainment
Fun Casino & Roulette
Live Auction

For more info or to book your ticket

www.rossendaletrust.org/events

Reg. Charity No. 1145771

Arighi Bianchi spread Christmas cheer



The festive spirit was alive and well at Arighi Bianchi as staff came together for a Christmas Jumper Day in the run up to the festive season. The initiative raised an impressive £153 for the Trust.

Arighi Bianchi employees donned an array of festive sweaters and spread Christmas cheer throughout the store as they embraced the true spirit of Christmas and raised funds for the Trust.

Among the participants were WorkTaste coach Julie Barnes and Arighi Bianchi employee, and tenant of the Trust, Paul Smith. Paul has been assisted by coach Julie at his WorkTaste placement in the Arighi Bianchi cafe for two years now and last year was delighted to be offered a contract of employment there. Paul's colleagues have been very welcoming and supportive of Paul which has resulted in him flourishing during his placement and becoming a valued member of the team.

The funds raised during the Christmas Jumper Day will be donated to the Trust and will make a meaningful difference to the lives of people like Paul and those who take part in WorkTaste.

We are very sad to share news of the recent passing of Mary Chapman.

Mary along with husband Alan and the Hyde family established the Rossendale Trust 50 years ago. Having welcomed their son Richard into the world, Mary and Alan soon recognised that there were no services available for people with learning disabilities or their families within our local area and from that their vision was born. In 1973 they purchased Rossendale Hall and the rest as they say is history. Having established its foundation, the Trust has gone on to thrive and grow into the organisation we are today and this is thanks to the support and commitment of the community, businesses and individuals, like Mary.

Mary will be fondly remembered by us all.





Rossendale Trust

Supporting independent futures

2024 EVENTS

Wine Tasting - March 14th - *La Dulce Vendimia, Castle Street, Macclesfield*

Ladies Lunch - May 9th - *Mottram Hall, Wilmslow Rd, Macclesfield*

Casino Royale Ball - June 8th - *Macclesfield Town Hall*

Afternoon Tea - July 18th - *Rossendale Hall, Sutton, Macclesfield*

Annual Fete - August 11th - *Rossendale Hall, Sutton, Macclesfield*

Family Fun & Golf Day - Sept 14th - *Marton Meadows, Marton*

Fashion Show - Nov 7th - *Astra Zeneca, Macclesfield*

For more information & to book your place please visit:
www.rossendaletrust.org/events

Our Core Values

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.



'Employer of the Year'



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TRAINING AWARD
2022