

August 2024



A newsletter from Rossendale Trust

# RossenTales



**Packed with great news from around the Trust**



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# Hello and welcome to our August newsletter.

Blink and you may have missed it!! That seems to sum up our Rossendale Summer.

In spite of the unseasonal weather, our staff and tenants have ensured they have made the most of their Summertime with so many day trips, holidays and activities taking place. You can read all about them in this month's RossenTales.

We were exceptionally lucky to welcome the sunshine to our Afternoon Tea last month. This is always one of my favourite events in our social calendar, as it is an opportunity for staff and tenants from all over the Trust to come together and enjoy some time socialising and relaxing in the gardens.

And as we move towards the autumn and a new academic year, it is lovely to read about the successes of our Supported Interns. The program has such a positive impact on the lives of the young people we support. I wish them all luck in the next stages of their careers and look forward to hearing about the 2024/25 intake.

We also start looking towards our autumn/winter events and dare I mention the 'C' word. But with that in mind tickets are now on sale for our Fashion Show and don't forget if you want to start the shopping early, you can order some fabulous gifts from our online shop. Full details of how to order are in this edition.

As always, I hope you enjoy catching up on all the latest news as much as I enjoy sharing these moments with you.

*-Andrea Wright - Registered Manager & Head of Supported Living*



Eleanor welcomed a visit from Rachel Bamford (Oakwood - Team Leader) and her son Reggie.

## Marie says Goodbye to the Trust



We recently bid farewell to our wonderful friend and colleague, Marie Allan-Gray, Senior Operations Manager at the Trust. Marie has worked at the Trust since 2011.

Staff and tenants came together at Rossendale Hall to wish Marie a happy and fulfilling retirement. Speeches were given thanking Marie for all her years of service and recognising her compassion, commitment and support to all our tenants and staff during her time here. There was lots of laughter as staff shared memories from times past and a few tears were also shed.

Steve Nichols, CEO of the Trust expressed his gratitude to Marie for her loyalty, "This is a very special day for the Trust as we get to wish Marie a happy retirement. Marie was key in changing the culture at the Trust when we moved from residential care to supported living. Her colleagues hold her in very high regard. She is an extremely popular leader and will be sorely missed."

Everyone at the Trust wishes Marie and her family all the best.



Bidding farewell to Senior Operations Manager Marie Allan-Gray (left) and welcoming Operations Manager Lisa Stopford (right).

# The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training



The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism is named after Oliver McGowan, whose preventable death highlighted the need for health and social care staff to have better training. This standardised training was developed for this purpose and is the government's preferred and recommended training.

Oliver's Training looks to upskill the wider care workforce to provide appropriately adjusted care for people with a learning disability and autistic people. The aim is to save lives by promoting health inequality by ensuring the health and social care workforce have the right skills and knowledge to provide safe, compassionate and informed care to autistic people and people with a learning disability.

The Trust are working in Partnership with BeWell Learning and the local ICB to prepare our own facilitators and experts with lived experience of Autism and Learning Disabilities to co-deliver this new training course, which we plan to roll out over the next few months.

The Trust has provided the venue for one of these sessions and going forward we hope to be able to work alongside our trained Experts to provide this important training.

This is a huge national undertaking, and the Trust is dedicated to working alongside the NHS and Training providers to ensure that both ourselves and our colleagues across the sector have access to this training.

# Stevie sets sail



In July Stevie and Senior Support Worker Cathy, went on a Mediterranean Cruise aboard The Royal Caribbean ship 'Oasis of the Seas'. They flew to Barcelona before setting sail on board the ship to Palma, Florence, Pisa, Rome & Naples. Safe to say Stevie had a wonderful time.

He loved the days spent at sea and aside from visiting some amazing places, the highlight for Stevie was watching the shows onboard – the Broadway production of Cats being his favourite. He also got to watch the England football team take on the Netherlands in Euro 2024 (and win!) and all on a giant screen in an outdoor theatre.



## Charlie's Cat cafe



After wanting to visit for some time, last month Sarah spent the day at Charlie's Cat Café. A particularly friendly cat sat on the table gazing at Sarah – or perhaps he just wanted to share Sarah's dinner? Sarah loved her afternoon at the Charlie's Café, interacting with the cats and feeding them plenty of treats. She is looking forward to visiting again soon.

**Braeside** - Jo, Alison and Eleanor at the Packhorse bowling club, enjoying a drink in the evening sun and watching the bowling.



## Robert's 60th

Robert Santon celebrated his 60th with a trip to Blackpool, a walk along the beach and fish & chips for his lunch.



## Mandy in Blackpool



Mandy Blackwell enjoyed a few days at Blackpool, staying in a lovely caravan and even met with the Royals (at Madame Tussauds)!

## Mayfield Ball

You shall go to the Ball!! And that's exactly what Heather and Elena did when they attended the Mayfield Summer Ball. They had a wonderful evening seeing friends and having a dance with Support Workers Abbie and Emma.



## Cavendale gets a makeover



Tenants at Cavendale had decided it was time for a bit of a makeover in their lounge and after choosing a colour, they got to work painting with the help of support staff. Everyone was very pleased with the finished results.

## Carnival Spirit



Staff and tenants in Buxton got into the carnival spirit this summer, decorating their home and entering the Best Dressed House Competition. The competition is a regular slot in the annual Buxton carnival where local residents are encouraged to decorate their homes and brighten up the town.



Tenants decided on an Alice in Wonderland theme, creating a magical garden which included the white rabbit, the mad hatter and a few magic potions! Their efforts were rewarded when they were awarded first prize and received a trophy from the carnival queen.

Congratulations to all involved.



Rossendale Trust  
Supporting independent futures

# Fun Golf Day!

Saturday 14th  
September 2024  
1pm - 4pm

BBQ  
Kids Fun Zone  
Fun Golf Games  
Trophy for Winning Team

**Marton Meadows Golf Club,  
Marton, SK11 9HF**

Find out more & to book your tee time

[www.rossendaletrust.org/events](http://www.rossendaletrust.org/events)

# WorkTaste

## Celebrating Supported Internship Success!



During the academic year 2023/2024, The Rossendale Trust worked alongside Macclesfield College and Cheshire College South and West (CCSW) on their Supported Internship program.

This is an Access to Work funded 39 week program for students who are aged 16-24 and have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in their final year of education. Students are vocationally profiled by the colleges and a work placement is sourced that matches their interests. The Rossendale Trust then provide the colleges with WorkTaste coaches, to support the interns on their journey.

Students receive 100% support at the start, and as they progress and become more independent in their role, support reduces. Support is practical – supporting the intern to complete the job and tasks required but there is also emotional and social support as interns are supported with communication and interpersonal skills, helping them to interact with colleagues and understand the ethos of the workplace.

We are delighted to share news that five interns have successfully gained employment at the end of the program.

From Macclesfield College, one student gained a five day a week contract at Proseal, another signed a contract of employment with Music Magpie and a third student was offered an apprenticeship at the college.

Two students from CCSW have also gained employment – a part time role for one student at Alvaston Hall, Crewe and a full-time position at Swansway Accident Repair Centre for the other.

Huge congratulations to all the interns who have progressed through the program and well done on securing employment - it really is a wonderful achievement! For those that didn't receive job offers, they walk away after gaining valuable experiences and new skills that can now hopefully be transferred to a new workplace. Could your business offer to host a Supported Internship placement and make a positive difference to a young person's life?

## Suzie got a Surprise!



Although Suzie doesn't usually like it when her WorkTaste Coach Sarah sings, she did make an exception recently when a choir of coaches (with the help of backing music) burst into a chorus of 'Happy Birthday'.

Suzie had celebrated her birthday on the weekend with a holiday to Blackpool but the party continued when she returned to her WorkTaste placement.

Since 2022 Suzie has been on a WorkTaste placement at Rossendale Hall. Once a week she provides help to reception staff with shredding documents, visiting the different offices and offering staff a much-needed hot drink. Suzie really enjoys the social element of her placement and her motto is, 'Here to help!'. Suzie celebrated with a brew and a slice of cake while she read her birthday card!



## Award Success for Adam



Tenant at the Trust, Adam Hipwell, was recognised for his outstanding hard work and dedication by the Macclesfield FC Community Sports Trust at their annual fundraising Ball in July.

Adam has been an invaluable volunteer at the Sports Trust for over 12 months, participating through the Rossendale Trust's WorkTaste programme.

With the support of his WorkTaste coach, Lisa, Adam diligently volunteers every week at the Leasing.Com stadium. His responsibilities include organising equipment for the Community Cup competition, a competition open to all local primary schools. During school holidays Adam volunteers with Macclesfield FC's youth academy, helping to prepare for their early evening training sessions.

Adam thoroughly enjoys his role as Lee Folkard, Head of Macclesfield FC Community Sports Trust explains, "He is a breath of fresh air every week and always smiling. Adam is an integral part of our team and a deserved winner of the Volunteer of the Year Award."

The partnership between the two charities extends beyond the WorkTaste programme with the two organisations working collaboratively to provide weekly multi sports sessions for the Rossendale Trust's tenants and attendees of the Oakwood activity service.

**Could your business host a WorkTaste placement?  
Email [colin.gillespie@rossendaletrust.org](mailto:colin.gillespie@rossendaletrust.org) for more  
information on how you can help.**

# Oakwood

## End of Season Performance

The Drama and Musical Theatre sessions aim to provide adults with learning disabilities with the opportunity to gain confidence and improve their social skills through fun games and activities. The groups sing, dance, and act their way through famous musicals such as Grease, The Greatest Showman and Joseph & The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. The teacher selects extracts from musicals that she knows the participants will love. Each session, they play group drama games, learn scripts from famous scenes and get active with a dance routine.

During the four-month activity cycle the groups practice skits, group performances, group improvisations and solos, working up towards a performance to family and friends on the last session of the rota.



This last run ended with a mash up of performances from Mamma Mia, The Lion King and Snow White. Ben, who recently joined the Musical Theatre group said of his most recent performance "I did a scene from The Lion King, I learnt one and a half pages of a script and did a solo performance to the audience. I liked that I had the confidence to push myself to get up on stage and perform, a few years ago I just couldn't have done it."

Laura, the Activity Leader for the sessions explains how fun and rewarding the sessions are "Roxy, the tutor, does an excellent job of adapting the sessions to be fully inclusive to all that attend. It's been amazing to see the changes in people from when they first come. It's such a wonderful day, most of the time it just feels like one big party!"

## Online Shop



### Did you know that Oakwood has it's own online shop?

Located on the Trust's website, there you can order personalised gifts such as mugs, coasters and canvases. Its simple and easy to order online. Upload and add your favourite image to any of the products or choose from one of our own images, add to your shopping basket and checkout!!

All products are printed by the Media group. Individuals learn how to operate the software that sets the design and how to safely use the heat presses and printers. There are a number of processes that have to be completed so that every product is produced to the customers specifications. Checking the emails, downloading pictures, setting images in the correct design feature, printing, cutting out, using the heat presses and boxing up items for delivery.

Trevor, is a regular in our Media groups and he told us about his favourite part of the process "I like taping on and removing the transfers from the mugs and coasters when they have been pressed, I like that I can get involved"

The online shop is also the place to order your summer and winter hanging baskets, expertly produced by our Oakwood Horticulture group.

**Visit today Rossendale Shop - [www.rossendaletrust.org/shop](http://www.rossendaletrust.org/shop)**

## Oakwood in Wonderland

At Oakwood, the Arts & Crafts group often work on large scale collaborative projects, which usually take several weeks to complete. Over recent weeks they have been working together to create an Alice in Wonderland themed project. Everyone in the group has worked so hard, and this really shows in the finished display. From the grinning Cheshire Cat in a tree, to the colourful toadstools erupting from the ground and giant, floating tea pot - every element is an achievement that encapsulates the fun we have in Arts & Crafts.



Simone the Arts & Crafts activity leader sat down with some of the clients involved and asked for their opinions on the finished display.

Mathew Dean: ***"I like the teapot the most."***

Andy Granger: ***"I have enjoyed helping work on the display, I think it's brilliant. It's good because it makes a change to look at the different displays."***

Marion Clayton: ***"I like that, mate!"***

## Woodstock

The Oakwood Woodwork group have been busy over the summer and have built up a small stock of items for sale including bug houses and bird boxes. See the pictures below to see the collection. Prices vary from £25 to £50, call us or pop along to the polytunnels to ask John for more information.



# Homebuilder Donates £1500 to the Trust



David Wilson Homes has donated £1,500 to Rossendale Trust in support of our Edendale project which will see the rebuild and redesign of the Oakwood activities hub here at Rossendale Hall.

David Wilson Homes' donation was made as part of its Community Fund scheme via The Barratt Foundation, which is run by its parent company, Barratt Developments. It is designed to support national and local charities, large and small, across the UK to leave a legacy in the communities in which the housebuilder operates.

David Wilson Homes is based close to the charity at its Kings Park development on Fence Avenue in Macclesfield.

Claire Jarvis, Managing Director at David Wilson Homes North West, said: "The wonderful work of Rossendale Trust is a valuable service for adults with learning disabilities in Macclesfield and Cheshire.

***"It's a privilege to donate £1,500 to the charity through our Community Fund scheme and we hope it can continue its fantastic services for the community."***

Sue Heaven, Head of P.R & Fundraising at the Trust recently welcomed James Griffith of David Wilson Homes to Rossendale Hall where he presented tenants with a cheque. James toured the grounds and saw exactly where the donation would be used.



## Macclesfield Sheep Dog Trials

Recently Sue Heaven, attended the Macclesfield Sheepdog trials to receive a cheque from the organisers. Along with four other charities, the Trust received a £200 donation.

Thank you to all involved for their support.

## On Top of the Peaks!



After 11 and a half hours and a gruelling 4650 feet of ascent, Support Worker Monty and his wife Jane, completed the Yorkshire Three Peaks challenge in July and all whilst raising a fabulous £860 for the Trust. Congratulations from everyone at the Trust and thank you for your support.

This challenge was organised with our partners Elite Adventures who offer a variety of organised and guided hiking challenges including the National Three peaks, Lake District 7 Peaks and Snowdon at Sunrise. If you are interested to taking part in any of these challenges or something similar, then please get in touch with

**[susanne.tidswell@rossendaletrust.org](mailto:susanne.tidswell@rossendaletrust.org)**

## Calling all runners...

We are delighted to be able to offer our supporters a chance to take part in various running events around the UK. From 5k runs to marathons and even obstacle races, we have running challenges available for all ages and abilities. A number of these events are currently available to book on our website, including Manchester Half Marathon and Marathon as well as the local Macclesfield Running Festival.

We have access to a huge variety of races through our collaboration with Run For Charity, so if you have a particular event in mind then please get in touch. Or if you are unsure about what event you may like to do, then simply email us and we can talk through the options with you. **[susanne.tidswell@rossendaletrust.org](mailto:susanne.tidswell@rossendaletrust.org)**

Scan here to book your ticket

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**TICKETS**  
**£10**  
inc. 1 FREE  
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**FASHION Show**  
& Christmas market  
*7th November*

Doors open  
6:30pm

Fashion Show  
7:30pm

Millcourt Reception, AstraZeneca, off Charter Way, Macclesfield SK10 2NA

Lots of Christmas gifts to buy & fantastic prizes to win on our BINGO

Tickets available at [www.rossendaletrust.org/events](http://www.rossendaletrust.org/events)

# Afternoon Tea

We were delighted to welcome over 250 visitors, staff and tenants to our annual Afternoon Tea celebration at Rossendale Hall.

Everyone was treated to a delicious selection of sandwiches and cakes in the grounds of Rossendale Hall and the sun made a very rare appearance especially for us! There was a wonderful atmosphere around the gardens as people chatted and enjoyed the music from our live band. There was plenty of dancing and signing on as well!!





With such a large number of guests joining us, there was a lot of hard work and preparation that went on behind the scenes and we would like to thank everyone of our volunteers who helped in the run up to this event and on the day itself. Special thanks also go to the team from Bennettbrooks accountants in Macclesfield who came along to serve tea on the day.



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### 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.



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Supporting independent futures



*'Employer  
of the Year'*



PRINCESS ROYAL  
TRAINING AWARD  
2022

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