

October 2024



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 I sit here, watching autumn unfold in the grounds of Rossendale Hall, I'm reminded of the exciting happenings that have been taking place around the Trust. The changing seasons certainly haven't slowed us down, and this issue is packed with stories of all the activity unfolding here.

From Oakwood's apple harvest turning into fresh, delicious juice, to the launch of WorkTaste's new Supported Internships, there's plenty to celebrate. And, of course, our tenants are buzzing with excitement for the highlight of the year—our Annual Fashion Show! Be sure to secure your tickets online or at the Hall, so you don't miss out.

This issue also features some snapshots from our tenants' recent adventures and holidays —moments definitely worth sharing!

Earlier this month, we were thrilled to welcome families to Rossendale Hall, giving them an inside look at our progress and plans. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect, as families got to know one another and our dedicated staff. Be sure to catch up on all the details in this edition.

So, grab a warm drink, settle in, and enjoy this edition of RossenTales. There's so much to explore!

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



Adam and Chris on a recent holiday to North Wales and the Yr Wyddfa mountain railway.

## Ruth – Rosegardens spokesperson for the Tenants forum



Our Tenant's forum provides tenants with an opportunity to voice their opinions, ideas and wishes for the future, as well as inviting guest speakers to tell the forum about themselves, answer questions and take on ideas.

Ruth moved to Rosegardens in September 2023 and recently joined the quarterly forums. She has proved to be a wonderful addition to the group. Ruth has taken it upon herself to speak to everyone she lives with gathering their concerns, questions and comments to present to the forum. Not all the tenants want to join the forum, but Ruth ensures that their voices are heard by speaking to everyone before attending on their behalf.

Ruth also supported Rosemount Lodge in Macclesfield recently by helping them interview for a new Speech and Language Therapist. Rosemount provides specialist health care to people with learning disabilities living in Cheshire East and we have supported them a few times now in their recruitment process. Ruth went along, chose her questions then interviewed potential new therapists – she thoroughly enjoyed the day.

## Peak Wildlife



Marion and Ruth enjoyed a visit to Peak Wildlife park where they fed the wallabies, but the highlight had to be watching the polar bears play with a canoe! The ladies enjoyed some lunch before saying goodbye to the meerkats and penguins and returning home.



# Families Open Event 2024



Each year we invite our families to an open event here at Rossendale Hall. Over a cup of tea, we get an opportunity to chat with families and gain their input by asking for suggestions and support for our continuous improvement plans. Families also have the opportunity to complete a written survey seeking their views on the services we provide. Their responses are invaluable in ensuring we continue to meet the needs of the people we support and provide the highest quality service..

Families' events are also a wonderful opportunity for families to connect with each other and meet members of our management team and Trustees.

Do remember that if you were unable to attend this year's event, our doors are always open. If you have any questions you want to raise or anything you want to discuss then please call or email our Family Liason Manager Zoe Williams.



Rossendale Trust  
Supporting independent futures



Wine Bar & Shop

# FESTIVE WINE TASTING NIGHT

Including 6 tastings  
Cheese and meat  
platters

£35pp

Thursday 21st Nov 2024 at 7pm

Church St. Macclesfield

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



## Welcome Josh & Katriona



We have recently welcomed two new tenants to the Trust.

Josh has moved into one of our Buxton properties. Josh has settled in well and is really enjoying learning some new skills with his housemates. Josh and Neil (pictured left) are enjoying cooking together in the evenings - we look forward to seeing Josh developing his culinary skills over the next few months!

Katriona (pictured right - far left) has also recently moved to one of our Macclesfield properties. She has settled in well with her new house mates and they all recently enjoyed a trip to the bowling alley.

## Inclusive Biking

Mandy is back on her bike after being supported to return to the Everybody Leisure sports sessions for people with disabilities at Macclesfield leisure centre. Mandy hasn't been able to take part since the Covid outbreak, so we are delighted to see her return to something she really enjoys. She is looking forward to now attending her regular sessions.

And cycling seems to be a popular pastime for others around the Trust. Regular visitors to the Hall may have seen Amy and Neil cycling around the grounds here on their tricycles. Both cycles are in need of some TLC at the moment so with the help of the Trust's activity fund we are in the process of getting the bikes refurbished and repaired.





# Holidays

## North Wales Adventure



Chris and Adam thoroughly enjoyed their holiday to North Wales. They were very excited to share news of their travels on their return and without a doubt the highlight of the holiday was a trip to the top of Yr Wyddfa on the Mountain Railway. They enjoyed lots of sightseeing around the North Wales coast and spent some time in the arcades.

The train tickets were purchased from the Trust's Activity Fund and really did make the holiday for them. The Activity Fund enables tenants to experience new activities that wouldn't be possible otherwise and is made up of fundraising we receive from our supporters and through different events, throughout the year.

A real holiday to remember.

## Blackpool

Blackpool is a favourite destination for Ben and Ashley and they recently returned there for a few days with staff members Lynne and Jess. The highlights of the trip were a day at the Pleasure Beach, visiting the circus and watching a show.



## Wiltshire



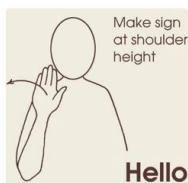
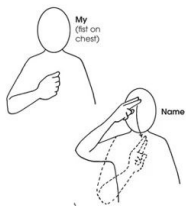
Amy and Alison enjoyed a week in Wiltshire where they visited Longleat Safari Park and Stonehenge. The ladies also managed to squeeze in some swimming and got to sample a few drinks in the pub. Both ladies had an amazing time with support staff Michelle and Vicky.





# Poynton High School & Makaton

Makaton is a language program that uses a combination of signs, symbols, and speech to help people communicate. It's often used in the UK to help people with learning or communication difficulties.

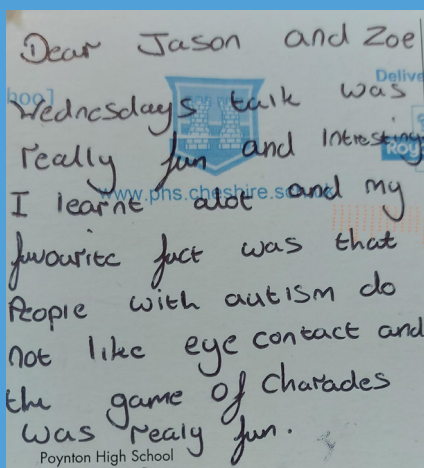


We were recently invited to Poynton High school to be involved in a student development day helping to educate their Year 8 students about positive relationships, specifically with people with learning disabilities or autism.

Jason Blythe (Oakwood Activities Manager) and Zoe Williams (Family Liaison Manager) introduced the students to Rossendale, explaining the work that we do. They then went on to talk about learning disabilities and autism before running interactive sessions to better equip the students in communication and to increase their empathy, understanding and confidence when they meet someone with a learning disability or autism.

Students got involved in playing charades and learnt some Makaton signs to aid their communication. These exercises really made them think about how they would feel if they were not able to communicate through speech.

Thank you to the staff and students for welcoming us to the school. We hope everyone took something positive and useful away from the sessions.



# Julia McCoy



WorkTaste coach, Julia recently hung up her WorkTaste uniform and retired.

Julia has been a key member of WorkTaste since 2022 and has been a huge part of our partnership with The Guild for Lifelong Learning, supporting tenants in their placements within the community kitchen.

Julia has supported a number of tenants, notably Lisa Bracewell, Eleanor Dobson and Gareth Clifford whom she guided through various relevant food related qualifications. Julia was also part of the negotiations in securing paid work for Gareth. Julia's kind, caring and determined nature were pivotal in making these placements such huge successes.

Julia was presented with some farewell gifts by tenant Eleanor who told RossenTales that "Julia was the best coach. She helped me so much to do my job and to get my food safety certificate. I will really miss her."

WorkTaste Manager, Colin Gillespie expressed his thanks to Julia also, "I am filled with admiration and gratitude for the remarkable contributions Julia has made to WorkTaste and The Trust as a whole. Her dedication, hard work, and positive attitude has left an indelible mark on us all and her presence will be greatly missed. I also need to thank Julia's husband, David, without whom we would have struggled to support our tenants at the Guild. David provided transport and supported Gareth when Julia was unavailable."

**We all wish Julia a happy, healthy, and fulfilling retirement.**



# WorkTaste

## New Supported Intern Cohort 2024 - 2025

September 2024 saw a new cohort of Supported Interns. The 39-week, DWP funded education program, is designed for students aged 16-24 with an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) in their final year of education. The program is designed to assist with the transition from education to work.

Support is high initially and is designed to reduce as the student becomes more confident by displaying independence.

We will be supporting fifteen young students from Macclesfield College, Cheshire College South & West (Crewe Campus) and for the first time this year, students from Reaseheath College. Students are taking up a variety of different placements across a wide range of industries including catering, IT, warehouse work, childcare, education, scientific research, leisure industry, farming, finance and retail – the list goes on. We have supported sixty-five students since 2019, and we are incredibly proud to be able to provide quality 1:1 job coaching for this program.

We know from our past experiences that the chances of these young people gaining meaningful employment at the end of their internships is incredibly high. We look forward to following the progress of this year's students and will of course keep you updated on how they are doing.

## Duncan's rushed off his feet at the Church House



New landlords Sean and Kristen Lucey took over the Church House Inn in Sutton in 2024 and we were delighted when they agreed to host a WorkTaste placement for us.

Duncan went to meet the team and having been shown around he was keen to start work. He started his placement in August and some of his responsibilities include sorting and polishing cutlery, taking orders, serving orders to the customers and housekeeping. Duncan is very attentive and likes to check in with the customers and ask, 'Is everything ok with your meal?'

Duncan's WorkTaste Coach, Marie, said, 'Duncan is getting to know the regulars, in fact two ladies that come in most weeks have commented to me how well Duncan is doing and how much he has improved with his tasks over the weeks. I hear lots of feedback from people saying how great it is that Duncan gets this opportunity.'

Some weeks are extremely busy, but Duncan takes it all in his stride.





## Barry and Neil do the duo at The Lighthouse!



In September 2021 Barry started his placement at The Lighthouse Charity Shop in Buxton and three years on he is still enjoying his time there. Once a week he is responsible for preparing the stock, putting price stickers on paper tags, checking DVDs and CDs, tidying up bookshelves and arranging displays for toys. Lately, he is also managing to check clothes sizes and find the right marker to put on hangers.

In the three years Barry has rarely missed a shift. He enjoys doing something purposeful, being part of the team and having a laugh with his colleagues. He is engaging with people when working in the front room of the shop. His favorite moments are meeting the customers who visit with their dogs; this absolutely makes his day!

In November 2022 Barry was joined at the shop by another Buxton tenant, Neil. Neil settled straight into his tasks and started off with cleaning the shelves. He then moved on to preparing clothes for sale by checking the size labels, putting them on hangers with the right size marker, sticking gift aid stickers on price tags and tidying up the room before finishing his placement.

Neil is always looking forward to his weekly placement at The Lighthouse and his confidence has developed well over the last year. He is willing to do any task, and he loves to engage with the staff and customers.

**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

## Bosley Locks



The Wednesday Oakwood Grounds Maintenance group work in conjunction with the Canal and Rivers Trust. The group have been tasked with the maintenance of the series of 12 canal locks at Bosely. Working alongside staff and volunteers from the Canal and River Trust they are responsible for making the locks a safe sustainable environment and preserving the area's natural beauty. The work involves painting and oiling the series of lock gates, trimming back hedges alongside the tow path, laying fresh grit down to restore the tow path and maintaining and developing a garden at lock 5.

Rachel Hine, Oakwood Activity Leader for the Grounds Maintenance group said "The leaders at the Canal and River Trust are great, very patient with the group, the whole experience is really enjoyable, the group love to watch the canal barges passing through the locks".

## Squash



We were recently approached by Aron Robinson from Calder Community Squash, a nonprofit community organisation which aims to bring the racket ball game of squash to a wider audience. With the help of funding from Sport England, we were invited to take part in some taster sessions focusing particularly on inclusivity.

Teaming up with Chris Ogden from Inspire Squash, a group of four Oakwood attendees went to the local leisure centre. The sessions focused on warming up properly, development of hand to eye coordination, teamwork, handling of the racket and movement.

It was a roaring success and the team enjoyed every second of it, with everyone asking "when are we doing it again?"

Sam said "It was fantastic! I enjoyed hitting the ball off the wall and passing it to Adam".

Jason Blythe, Oakwood activities manager agreed "What a wonderful morning it was, Chris did a great job welcoming the group in and tailoring the activities so that everyone could take part. It was brilliant to see everyone getting involved in a new activity and in a new environment. I would really like to add this to our programme of activities in the future. Big thank you to Aron and Chris for making it happen".



## A windfall of Apple Juice



For a few years now, the Oakwood Horticulture group have been planting apple trees around the site. We have often used the produce to make delicious puddings in our cookery groups. This year however, Activity Leader Laura came up with a different approach!

Laura contacted High Peak Cider, a local company that produces apple juice and cider to see if there was any way in which we could collaborate and make the most of our huge harvest.

Laura explains "With the help of Joe from High Peak Cider, the Oakwood gardening team set out to collect apples from the numerous trees across the site to make some fresh apple juice. The grounds are home to a variety of different types of apple trees planted over the years, and the assorted apples harvested are perfect for making fresh apple juice.

The team used specialist apple pickers provided by High Peak Cider. Tenant Andy was particularly taken with the telescopic apple picker used to reach the apples from the top of the trees. The rest of the team worked hard collecting the apples by hand from the different trees that they could reach.

Despite the terrible weather, hundreds of apples were collected and taken back to the cabin, where Joe had supplied an apple mulcher and juicer. The mulcher was quite noisy, so hearing protectors were provided by Joe to make sure everyone felt comfortable taking part in the activity. The team worked hard, washing and putting the apples into the mulcher to create a thick apple mulch. The fresh smell of apples was delicious. The mulched apples were then placed into the juicer. Assisted by the team and under the guidance of Joe, the handle was turned to crush the apples and collect fresh apple juice in the bucket below.

Everyone in the gardening group was able to assist in the activity, from collection to juicing. The final product was a beautiful and fresh bucket of apple juice. As the fresh juice had not been pasteurised, Joe very kindly brought in some bottles of apple juice he had made at Random Apple HQ, where High Peak Cider is based. This had been pasteurised and was safe to drink. He even bought in some sparkling juice to make apple spritzers. Despite the torrential rain, the team had a fantastic morning harvesting and enjoying spritzers. Thanks Joe!"





# A BIG Thank you



Members of Second Macclesfield Probus recently visited Rosendale Hall where they presented us with a very generous donation of £1000. Thank you to all club members for choosing to support the Rosendale Trust. Donations like these really do make a difference to the lives of the people we support.

Scan here to  
book your ticket



Rosendale Trust  
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TICKETS

£10

inc. 1 FREE  
Bingo Card

## 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.rosendaletrust.org/events](http://www.rosendaletrust.org/events)



# Charity Golf Day

What a wonderful day we had down at Marton Meadows Golf Club on Saturday September 14th for our Charity Golf Day. The sun was shining on the golfers as they took to the course and battled it out to take first place in our Texas Scramble competition.



Thank you to everyone who took part and helped us raise funds for the Trust.

Of course, these events are also only possible because of the wonderful support we receive. So lots of thank yous to everyone that made the day happen – our event sponsors Capitol Carpet Company and Bennett Brooks accountants, Captured by Life photography for the wonderful photos, Veronica McNeil from Leek Building Society for her support on the day and every member of the team at Marton Meadows who are always so welcoming and so kind and generous with their support. We are very grateful to you all.

## **Competition Winners were;**

**Cheeky Monkeys – 21 points**

**Bennett Brooks – 22 points**

(Closely contested by Rossendale's own team also on 22 points)

**Best VFM team – Shauns Shankers**

**Nearest the Pin – Connor Collis-Cooper**



**Thank you to everyone who entered this year's Grand Prize Draw. You raised an incredible £2000 for the Trust. Winning tickets were drawn at our Golf Day and all winners have now been notified and have received their prizes.**



# Inclusive website

When we launched our new website back in 2023, it was important to us that the users journey was inclusive and the site was as accessible as it could possibly be, after all every website user deserves an inclusive online experience.

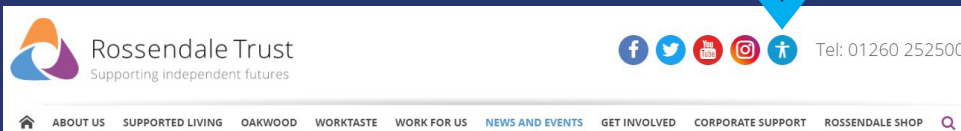
After much research we were delighted to be able to add the Recite Me toolbar to our website. With customisable options which allow the user to choose how they navigate and consume information in the best way possible for them, the toolbar really has opened up our site to more visitors.

Some of the features include;

- Screen Readers to assist those with visual impairments. Website text can be read aloud and customised to suit the user
- Translation – the technology translates content into over 100 languages and 65 text to speech voices
- Styling & Customisation – Recite Me allows users to change the way the website looks with users able to customise colour scheme, text, font, style, size, colour and spacing
- Reading Aids – the toolbar provides six main tools – ruler, screen mask, magnifier, margins, page summariser and a dictionary to simplify and support those visitors for whom reading content on line can be a challenge

If you haven't tried it out yet, please do take a look next time you visit the website.

**Simply click on this icon...**



**...at the top of the page to launch the toolbar.** Once you have set your preferences in the toolbar, they will be saved so every time you return to the site it will be ready for you to use.



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Supporting independent futures

*Are you looking for a*

## Personal Support Assistant

*Supporting people with learning difficulties to live fulfilling lives!*



PRINCESS ROYAL  
TRAINING AWARD  
2022



**Call on 01260 251503 for more information**

**Do you need a Personal Assistant?** The Rossendale Trust, specifically WorkTaste, are seeking clients who need a Personal Assistant. We operate Monday to Friday 9-5, but will consider clients who need evening and weekend support. We can accommodate up to five days full support for clients 16+. We can also seek a suitable work/volunteering opportunity for any client who wants gain work experience. Please call Colin Gillespie on 01260 544887 or email [colin.gillespie@rossendalerust.org](mailto:colin.gillespie@rossendalerust.org) for further details.





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*CAN YOU HELP?*

# WE NEED A VOLUNTEER RECEPTIONIST



## **PART TIME RECEPTIONIST**

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in our friendly reception at  
Rossendale Hall in Sutton.

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- Support given throughout
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Our Core Values

**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"*



**Warm**

*"The Trust is a homely environment where everyone feels welcome and well supported"*



Rossendale Trust  
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'Employer of the Year'



PRINCESS ROYAL TRAINING AWARD 2022

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