

December 2024

A newsletter from Rossendale Trust

RossenTales



Packed with great news from around the Trust



Hello and welcome to our December newsletter

As we approach the festive season, I am filled with gratitude and pride as I reflect on the year we've had at Rossendale. This time of year reminds us of the importance of community, support, and togetherness, and it has been heartwarming to witness so many of you come together to make a real difference in the lives of our tenants. From supporting our successful events to the meaningful work placements and generous donations, your support has been truly invaluable.

In this special Christmas edition of RossenTales, you can read all about another memorable Fashion Show and celebrate the many achievements of our tenants from the last few months. Oakwood share news of their upcoming Christmas show, which I, for one, cannot wait to see!

On behalf of everyone at Rossendale, I'd like to extend my warmest wishes to you all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May this season bring peace, happiness, and continued success as we look forward to another year of making a difference together.

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



The models ready themselves for much anticipated 2024 Rossendale Fashion Show - read all about it on p13.



A BIG move for Aidan

Aidan's family started the process of looking for supported living at the Trust in 2016 when Aidan was just 17. It was then that Aidan went on to our register of interest.

Each time a suitable vacancy became available we contacted Aidan's mum to let her know, but it has only been in the last year or so that the family were ready to start the process for Aidan to move.

During this time we have worked very closely with Aidan and his family to make sure that everyone involved has understood and was happy with the steps being taken to ensure a smooth transition into Supported Living. The whole process is person centered.

During the last year, Aidan's family have been able to visit the property, the local authority have approved the care package, Aidan himself came to visit and then was given time to think about the move and discuss it with his family until he was ready to sign his tenancy. Aidan also spent time getting to know the tenants and the staff and he even came along to our fashion show with his friends.

Aidan is happy with his new home, but taking the transition at his own pace and staying there currently as much as he is happy to. He'll continue to do this until he is ready to leave his family home (and cat) fully. We will support him along the way until he feels fully prepared to move permanently into his new home.



60 years young

Richard celebrated his 60th Birthday in style - Afternoon Tea at Blackpool Tower and a visit to Madam Tussauds.



Halloween



Adrian, Heather, Elena, Mandy, Paul & Sarah all enjoyed a spooky time at the Mayfield Halloween Ball – Paul was even lucky enough to win the raffle and was very pleased with his prize! Also joining in with the Halloween fun, Apt 6 at Riverside held their very own pumpkin carving competition.



Holidays



Several tenants across the Trust have been making the most of the autumnal sunshine enjoying holidays to Llandrindod Wells, Blackpool, Ribby Hall & Prestatyn.



It's Showtime



Sarah became the 'Dancing Queen' for the evening when she went to watch an Abba tribute at Buxton Opera House.

Paul, Duncan & Chris also enjoyed a blast from the past with the ultimate party night watching 90's Live!



WorkTaste - Lisa Learns on the job at King's



Coach Sarah is supporting tenant Lisa at a new placement as part of King's catering team in the school's 6th Form kitchen. Lisa has been made very welcome by Donna and the team who train her in food preparation, cake decorating and cleaning. The team goes to great lengths to ensure Lisa has a range of varied tasks. Lisa has achieved her Level 1 Food Hygiene certificate in a previous placement and is putting the skills learnt there to very good use.

Sarah says *'Supporting Lisa is an absolute joy. It is such a pleasant workspace with staff who want to make sure she is enjoying the tasks, learning and gaining experience across all kitchen duties. We already feel like part of the team after a few weeks, and she's enjoyed meeting staff and pupils.'*

Lisa has already made an impact, learning quickly and getting through more jobs than expected in each session. Smiles were abundant when Lisa received her staff lanyard, and she enjoys a cookie or cake at break time. When asked what do you like most about the job Lisa said, *'the people and I enjoy my job'*.

Kevin Kent, General Manager (Holroyd Howe) at King's School commented *'Lisa has become a great asset to the team. She has settled in very well and carries out any task we give her with care and pride. The pupils loved the Chocolate cupcakes Lisa decorated and her gingerbread Christmas treats!'*

Colin Gillespie, WorkTaste Manager at the Trust commented *'The partnership with King's School, Macclesfield has enabled our tenants to thrive. Lisa, in particular, has slotted into the catering team perfectly. Thank you to Steve, Kat, Diego and Kevin for giving Lisa this fantastic opportunity'*.



Zach's story at Riverside Organic Farm

Zach, a student at Reaseheath College, is being supported by WorkTaste as part of the Supported Internship program.

Zach met the owner of Riverside earlier this year for his interview accompanied by our WorkTaste coach Helen. Zach started working on the farm in September and has been enjoying the tasks he has been given. Whilst on the farm Zach has been raking leaves, feeding the animals, mucking out and laying bark chips in various places on the farm. He has also helped herd the cows and sheep.

Zach gets on well with all the staff and asks questions to find out more information about the goings on at the farm.

Zach says *"It is the best place I have ever worked and I love being at Riverside. It's good learning about gardening and the animals". When asked what he likes best he said, "meeting different people and working alongside the owners of the farm."*

Zach works very hard with the assistance of his work coach Helen. Zach is always on time when he gets to the farm and ready to do a day's work. Zach loves all the animals, especially the cows.

Zach's confidence and independence is growing all the time whilst working on the farm and we look forward to following his progress over the remainder of this academic year.



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

Oakwood - New Starters



It's always a real pleasure welcoming new people to Oakwood, giving them new opportunities to try out our varied program of activities and meet new people.

Anyone interested in joining our Oakwood activities group, can seek a referral from their social worker or healthcare team or they can contact us direct. Many people start to visit Oakwood when they are finishing their educational journey and are looking for things to do as they take the next steps into adulthood.

Rachel Bamford, Day Service Team Leader recently caught up with one of our newest members, Adam, for a chat.

Rachel *"Hi, can you introduce yourself?"*

Adam *"My name is Adam".*

Rachel *"How long have you been coming to Oakwood Adam?"*

Adam *"This is my sixth week".*

Rachel *"What were you doing before you started at Oakwood?"*

Adam *"I left school. I go to college as well and do farming and gardening".*

Rachel *"What Oakwood activities have you done so far?"*

Adam *"I do media and woodwork".*

Rachel *"What do you like about Oakwood?"*

Adam *"I love it. I like making new friends. John and Jason are really funny".*

Festive Wine Tasting

After a very busy year of events, we finished 2024 with a relaxed and enjoyable Festive Wine Tasting at La Dulce Vendimia, Macclesfield. Our expert host Emily, did a wonderful job of selecting some delightful wines for our guests to enjoy on the evening and we finished with a much needed glass of warming mulled wine before heading out onto the snow covered cobbles.



The event raised over £250 for the Trust. Thank you to everyone who supported the event and braved the snow and of course a very big thank you to our expert and host Emily.

Social Group



Every year Oakwood send out an annual survey, asking for feedback on the sessions they have been running, and if there any activities that they don't currently offer that people would like to see on timetables.

Oakwood have had plenty of requests over the years for a group that went out to a café for a drink and a chat, and from that, they created the Social Group activity. The group meet at the Hall and then travel together to different cafes in the local area. It is a purely social activity, giving those attending the chance to get out and meet new people in a relaxed and friendly environment.

We now run four different Social Group activities a week and recently Michelle, Oakwood Activity Leader sat down with a group to ask them what they liked about the session and where their favourite places have been.

James told us what he enjoys about the group *"Oh I love it, I love coffee and cake! I love the Moody Cow tea rooms (Nixon's Farm) because I love being able to look at the animals."*

Philip explained why he enjoys this activity so much *"It's perfect and I'm telling the truth, my favourite place is Bidlea Dairy Farm, I like the ice cream there"*.

Duncan told Michelle that he likes *"meeting new people and making new friends, my favourite place is Astbury Garden Centre, I like the cheesecake there"*.



Shrek Prep



The Oakwood Music group have been ramping up their preparations for this year's annual performance of Shrek the Musical. With just two weeks of rehearsals left Jason Blythe, Day Service Manager caught up with the group to find out more about the show.

Trish, Oakwood Music Activity Leader has been practicing with the group twice a week since January. As she explains "It takes a lot of work, preparation, repetition and dedication from all involved to get to this point. We have to plan scripts, choose which songs to sing, decide which members of the group want to play which role, organise costumes, seating plans and props and liaise with the Oakwood Arts and Crafts group for their creative skills. There are challenges along the way, such as members changing groups when the four month timetable runs change, members being unable to attend certain weeks and repeating the same sessions to instil the words in the cast. Beckie, our music teacher does a brilliant job creating the scripts and song lists and so far, it's coming along very smoothly, fingers crossed for the big night!"

Jason also spoke to some members of the cast:

Christine *"I've done lots of practicing, for the first time in all the years I've been doing the performances, I've even been practicing at home. It's been good, learning all the different words has been hard, I've enjoyed learning new songs I haven't heard before, my favourite is called Morning Person".*

Ayly *"I've been practicing my songs and instruments, I'm playing the captain of the guards and I've got my outfit sorted".*

Adam *"I've been learning my words, learning when it's my turn to speak, when to stand up and sit down, I've got two parts, the Ogre father and the Pied Piper".*

Mathew *"I'm playing Donkey, I've been learning my words since January, I love it".*

The big performance this year is on Friday 6th December.



Fundraising thanks...

Thank You, Alex Greensmith, for Running the Alton Towers Half Marathon for the Trust!

We want to send a huge thank you to Alex Greensmith for taking on the Alton Towers Half Marathon and supporting our Trust. It's not every day that we have someone who knows the ups and downs of a good challenge—especially when it involves running through roller-coaster thrills and twists!

Alex, who previously worked at Macclesfield Nub News, got to know the Trust and the impactful work we do in the community during his time with the news outlet. As he learned about our charity, Alex felt inspired to get involved, and what better way to make a difference than by running a half marathon?

Through our partnership with Run for Charity, Alex signed up to take part in the Alton Towers Half Marathon, which is known for its scenic route alongside the world-famous rollercoasters. It was an exhilarating way to show his support for our cause.

Alex showed true grit, pushing through the highs and lows to cross the finish line in support of the Trust and raising over £400 for his efforts. We're thrilled and grateful for his commitment, and we couldn't be prouder of his incredible achievement.

Want to get involved?

Alex isn't the only one who can experience the rush of supporting a great cause while taking on an amazing challenge. Thanks to our partnership with Run for Charity, you too can sign up for future events like the Alton Towers Half Marathon or maybe go international and take on the Paris Marathon. Whatever your distance, there's an event for you.

Sign up today, and who knows? You might find yourself taking on your very own adventure for the Trust, and just like Alex, you'll make a real difference along the way.

Full details of all available events can be found here <https://runforcharity.com/running-events> or you can email Susanne.tidswell@rossendaletrust.org for more information.



Thank You Event for Business Supporters at Rossendale Hall



In November, we hosted a special thank you event at Rossendale Hall to express our gratitude to the businesses that have supported us over the past year. This event was dedicated to those who have sponsored our events, participated in Make a Difference Days, and hosted work placements for our tenants.

We rely on the generous contributions of these businesses, whose time and support have a real impact on the lives of the people we assist. It was a wonderful evening, filled with heartwarming stories shared by our supporters about the meaningful connections they've formed with our tenants and it was a delight to hear of the progress being made by our WorkTaste employees.

Guests enjoyed festive treats, complete with mulled wine, homemade mince pies, and other delicious offerings. The evening also gave us the opportunity to share highlights from the year, including memorable photos of the events and moments that have made a difference.

"Our business partners are at the heart of everything we do," said Sue Heaven, Head of Fundraising ***"Their dedication and generosity are invaluable, and it's always inspiring to see the positive impact they have on our tenants. This event was a small token of our appreciation for their ongoing support."***

We are truly grateful for the continued partnership of these businesses, and we look forward to another year of collaboration and support. Thank you for helping us make a lasting impact!

What a Show!

Rossendale Trust's Fashion Show Raises £3000 to Support Tenants

Guests were treated to a fabulous evening of fashion, fun, and fundraising at our annual Fashion Show. Held at Astra Zeneca, the event featured staff and tenants confidently strutting their stuff on the catwalk in stunning autumn/winter collections from SOS Boutique and Marks & Spencer. It was a pleasure to welcome some of our newer staff and tenants, who made their debut on the catwalk this year.

The evening also included a market where attendees got a head start on their Christmas shopping, followed by a lively game of bingo to round off the festivities.

Thanks to the generosity of all who attended, we are thrilled to announce that the event raised an incredible £3000! These funds will directly support our tenants by providing activities, experiences, and holidays that help them live full and meaningful lives.



We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who made the evening a success, including:

- SOS Boutique and Marks & Spencer, Handforth Dean for the beautiful outfits
- Karen Hill
- Staff from Sodexo and Astra Zeneca for hosting us & ensuring everything went to plan
- All our wonderful stallholders who all generously donated to the raffle

Finally, a massive thank you to our inspiring models—you were all AMAZING!

Eleanor and Paul give a helping hand!

Leek Building Society in Macclesfield held a coffee morning to raise money for the Rossendale Trust.

Customers were invited to enjoy a hot drink and a slice of cake in return for a donation to the Trust.

Eleanor was keen to go and help out with her WorkTaste coach. Eleanor had a busy morning serving drinks, cakes and washing up. Eleanor had a really good time and even asked if she could go back the following week!

Friday was the turn of Paul, one of our Oakwood attendees. Paul was extremely excited about going along to help out. Paul was accompanied by Jane, Day Services Team Leader, and they both helped sell products from the Rossendale Trust stall, even managing to find time to make a brew!

Over the two days £115.04 was raised. Thank you to Leek Building Society and all the staff and customers at the Macclesfield branch for their continued support.



Rossendale Trust
Supporting independent futures

Are you looking for a

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Supporting people with learning difficulties to live fulfilling lives!



PRINCESS ROYAL
TRAINING AWARD
2022



Call on 01260 544887 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** for further details.

Leaving a Lasting Legacy



At The Rossendale Trust, our mission is to provide exceptional care and support to individuals with learning disabilities, helping them live more independent and fulfilling lives. As a charity, we rely on the generosity of our community to continue our work, and one powerful way you can make a lasting impact is by leaving a gift to the Trust in your will.

When you choose to leave a gift in your will to The Rossendale Trust, you're not just making a financial contribution; you're making a lasting difference in the lives of the people who depend on our services. These gifts help us continue to improve the lives of individuals with learning disabilities, ensuring they receive the care, respect, and opportunities they deserve.

A gift in your will can support various aspects of our work, from providing vital resources and equipment, to funding social activities and supporting people into work. Whether large or small, every donation helps us make a tangible difference in the lives of the people we support.

By choosing to leave a legacy, you're helping to secure the future of The Rossendale Trust, ensuring that generations to come will continue to benefit from the services and care we provide. It's a wonderful way to contribute to a cause that you believe in once your friends and family have been taken care of.

Gifts in wills can be tailored to your personal wishes. Whether you wish to make a specific donation for a particular purpose or leave a general gift for the Trust's ongoing work, whether you choose to leave a specific amount, a percentage of your estate, or an item of value, your legacy will help provide a brighter future for the individuals we care for.

Our Partnership with Farewill: Making Wills Easy and Free

We understand that writing or updating your will can feel like a daunting task, but we're here to help. The Rossendale Trust works in collaboration with **Farewill**, a leading online will-writing service. Through this partnership, we are offering a **free will-writing service** to anyone who wishes to create or update their will.

Farewill's easy-to-use online platform allows you to write your will from the comfort of your own home, and it takes you through each step of the process. Whether you're writing a will for the first time or reviewing your existing will, the process is straightforward and accessible.

How It Works:

1. Visit our website: Head to our website and follow the link to enter the Farewill site www.rossendaletrust.org/leave-a-gift-in-your-will/
2. Complete the online form: The platform will guide you through a series of questions about your wishes, helping you create a will tailored to your needs.
3. When creating your will, you can choose to leave a gift to The Rossendale Trust, helping support our future work. There is no obligation on you to do this, you can still write your will for free.
4. Free support: Farewill offers guidance if you need any assistance, ensuring that your will is correctly written and legally valid.

For more information about how to include The Rossendale Trust in your will, or if you have any questions about the free will service, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for helping us to continue making a difference, today and in the future.



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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
Supporting independent futures



FESTIVAL
Shine a Light

@VICTORIA PARK MACCLESFIELD

SAT
12TH
JULY
2025



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