

March 2025



A newsletter from Rossendale Trust

Rossendale Tales

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Packed with great news from around the Trust



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Hello

and welcome to our March newsletter

Andrea Wright

***Registered Manager & Head of
Supported Living***

A Message from Our Head of Supported Living

“As we move through another season at Rossendale Trust, we’re pleased to share some of the highlights from the last few months in this latest edition of RossenTales.

In this issue, we celebrate Trevor and Mandy’s milestone 60th birthdays. Trevor’s party, with the help of our staff, was a day filled with joy, while Mandy marked her special day with several memorable outings with family and friends. We also introduce Charlotte and Ben, our newest tenants, who are both settling in well and enjoying their new homes and the support we provide.

We hear from Supported Intern Marianne who has quickly become a valued member of the Oakwood activities team, and we extend a heartfelt thank you to volunteer Julie, who has been dedicated her time to supporting the Trust for nearly 10 years.

Although Christmas may feel like a distant memory, we reflect on the success of our festive celebrations. Thanks to the Activity Fund and funds raised from this year’s fashion show, our Christmas party was a highlight. We also send our thanks to the merry group of elves who braved a very wet evening in Macclesfield to accompany Santa, and we share the uplifting performance of Shrek by our music group.

This edition is filled with inspiring stories that not only showcase the positive impact we have on the individuals we support, but also acknowledge the dedication and hard work of our staff in making it all possible.

We hope you enjoy reading the stories in this newsletter as much as we enjoy sharing them with you all.”



Rossendale Trust
Supporting independent futures

The Rossendale Trust Ltd, Rossendale
Hall, Hollin Lane, Sutton, Macclesfield,
Cheshire, SK11 0HR

Reg. Charity No. 1146771
Company No. 7921722



Welcome, Ben! A New Chapter at the Trust

This January, Ben took an exciting step in his journey, moving into his own apartment with the support of the Rossendale Trust. Previously living in a shared supported living house, Ben's transition marks a new level of independence, and he is already settling in well—making friends, exploring Macclesfield, and embracing his new home.

His mum shared her thoughts on this big change:

"Moving Ben from supported living in a shared house to his own apartment was a difficult decision. But this is something Ben has talked about for years—he wanted to follow in his younger brother's footsteps and have a place of his own. It's still early days, but he's settling in well. The staff have been amazing and so attentive to his needs. We are all very proud of you, Ben!"

Ben's journey is just beginning, and we're excited to see him flourish in his new home!

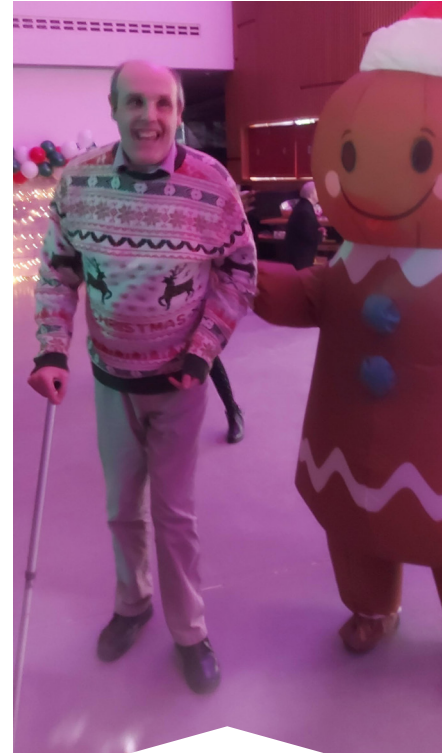


Charlotte's New Beginning at Rossendale Trust

Charlotte joined the Rossendale Trust just before Christmas, moving from her family home in Macclesfield. Although supported living is a new experience for Charlotte, she is settling in well, getting to know her fellow tenants and the staff team. She is embracing the opportunity to learn new skills while continuing to live as independently as she did before. Charlotte shared her thoughts on her new home:

"I'm glad to have moved into Rossendale. They have supported me along the way. I'm happy here since I get a lot of support after my mother passed on. They've shown me how to be independent, and it's nice to be with others who have the same conditions as I do. That's why I'm happy at Rossendale."





A Festive Celebration

The Rossendale Trust Christmas Party brought together tenants and staff for a joyful celebration.

Held at Astra Zeneca, the evening was filled with laughter and excitement and there was plenty of music and entertainment to keep everyone in high spirits.

The staff team worked tirelessly to ensure that everyone had a fantastic time and it was wonderful to watch everyone come together and kick off the festivities in style.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, the Christmas party was funded by the Trust's Activity Fund, which includes money raised from this year's fashion show. This meant we were able to put on a memorable evening for all to enjoy.

Celebrating Dignity Action Day at Rossendale Trust

On 3rd February 2025, we proudly came together to celebrate Dignity Action Day, a national initiative that highlights the importance of respect, choice, and empowerment in care. It was a wonderful opportunity for tenants, Oakwood and WorkTaste users, and staff to reflect on what dignity in care means to them—all while enjoying delicious cakes kindly provided by Louise Brown Bakes!

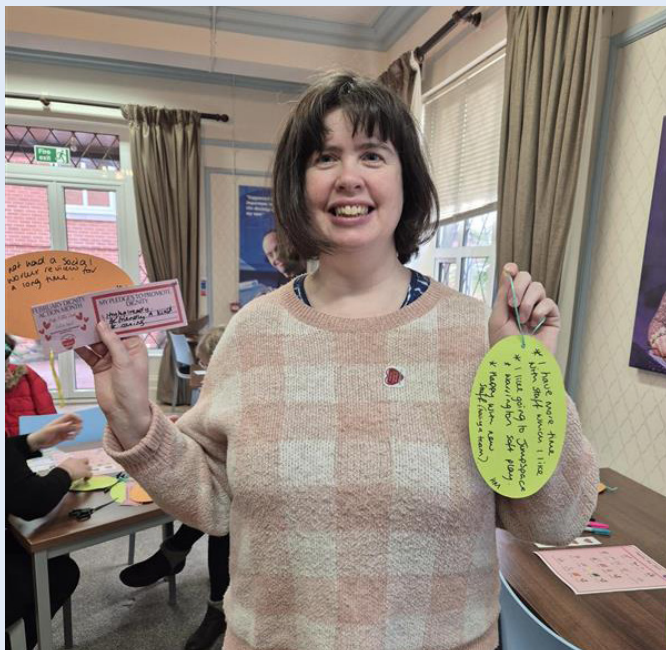
At Rossendale Trust, dignity is at the heart of everything we do. Our aim is to ensure that everyone—tenants, service users, and staff alike—feels valued, respected, and empowered in their daily lives.

This year, we invited attendees to consider three key areas and share their thoughts:

- Personal Pledges to Promote Dignity
- What's Going Well
- Improvements Needed

Some of the pledges included:

- Respect beliefs and religions
- Give people choices
- Keep an open door for staff and tenants
- Help the people I live with



What's going well?

"I have more time with staff, which I really like."

"My staff are kind and helpful."

"I enjoy WorkTaste, and it's going really well."

"I feel supported in a person-centred way and have more independence."

What could be improved?

- More garden improvements
- Better vehicles for transport
- More days out
- More staff availability

To keep these conversations alive, we've displayed everyone's responses on our Dignity Tree in Reception. Those who couldn't attend on the day were given the opportunity to contribute later.

Dignity Action Day is more than just an event—it's a commitment to ensuring that everyone at Rossendale Trust feels respected, valued, and heard. Thank you to everyone who took part!

From the frontpage:

Lisa is all smiles as she decorates heart-shaped biscuits for Valentine's Day.

Through her WorkTaste placement, she has been honing her creative skills, crafting delightful treats for the students and staff at The King's School, Macclesfield. They look almost too good to eat!

Double Celebration: Trevor and Mandy Mark Their 60th Birthdays in Style

Reaching a milestone birthday is always special, and recently, two of our tenants, Trevor and Mandy, celebrated their 60th birthdays in wonderful ways.

Trevor's 60th Birthday: A Celebration to Remember

Last year, Trevor began planning how he wanted to celebrate his big day. A party with family and friends felt like the perfect way to mark the occasion.

By the end of 2024, the date was set, and the venue and DJ were booked. With the help of Senior Support Workers Karen, Julia, and Sonya, Trevor meticulously planned every detail—from the cake and balloons to the catering and invitations.

In January 2025, Trevor sent out invites to 40 guests, including his parents, old school friends, and friends from across the Trust. On the day, he arrived early to oversee the setup, make special requests with the DJ, and admire the fantastic balloon displays. As guests arrived, Trevor greeted each one personally before spending the afternoon celebrating with dancing, laughter, and great company.

A special highlight of the party was Trevor's pre-recorded speech, played by the DJ, in which he thanked everyone for attending and gave a heartfelt shoutout to Karen, Julia, and Sonya for helping bring his vision to life. Adding to the excitement of the day, Trevor even received a 'shout-out' on Silk FM, and



Macclesfield Town sealed the celebrations with a victory that afternoon!

Karen, Julia, and Sonya were touched to receive beautiful flowers from Mr. and Mrs. Kennerley as a token of appreciation. They all agreed it was an absolute pleasure to support Trevor in making his birthday dreams come true.





Happy Birthday

Mandy's 60th: An Elegant Celebration

Mandy chose to mark the occasion with several memorable events. She spent an evening in Manchester watching an Abba tribute act with Senior Support Worker Linda, and just a few days later, she was treated to a gorgeous afternoon tea at home. The following day Mandy enjoyed an evening meal out with family. Wow, what a week!!

Both birthdays were filled with joy and prove that turning 60 is something truly worth celebrating!



Thank You to Macclesfield Round Table for a Magical Evening!

A huge thank you to **Macclesfield Round Table** for inviting us to help make Santa's visit to Macclesfield extra special this past Christmas! On a very, very wet evening (with no snow in sight!), a merry team of Rossendale elves (made up of staff from across the Trust) were on hand to ensure Santa stopped to say hello to all the boys and girls, spreading lots of

festive cheer across the town.

Despite the weather, the festive spirit was alive and well, and it was wonderful to be part of such a magical community event. We're grateful for the opportunity to work alongside **Macclesfield Round Table** and support this wonderful tradition that so many families look forward to each year.



Thank you to everyone involved for making it a memorable evening!

WorkTaste: Marianne Seizes the Opportunity at Oakwood

Marianne, a student at Macclesfield College, is embracing her WorkTaste supported internship with enthusiasm. After months of searching for the right placement, WorkTaste Manager Colin approached Jason, Oakwood's Manager, to see if Marianne could support service users at Oakwood Day Activities. The answer was a resounding yes.

Since January, Marianne has been assisting in Arts & Crafts and Tabletop Games sessions, providing encouragement, practical support, and helping individuals complete their chosen activities. She sets up materials, prepares drinks, cleans up, and offers one-to-one support. Marianne has made an impression on the groups she works with especially Trevor to whom she provides 1-1 support, providing clear directions and hand on hand guidance.



Trevor, who is visually impaired, explained,

“Marianne is one of the best assistants I've worked with. She is my eyes.”



Simone, who runs the art group, praised Marianne's initiative, calling her “an asset to the group.”

WorkTaste Coach Sarah added, “Marianne is an inspiration. She works hard to overcome her own challenges while passionately supporting others.”

In just a short time, Marianne has made a lasting impact—proving that the right opportunity can be truly transformative.

Sarah took some time out to interview Marianne about her

Sarah: Can you introduce yourself?

Marianne: Hi my name is Marianne. I am a student at Macclesfield College

Sarah: Do you have any hobbies /interests?

Marianne: Yes I enjoy going horse riding, doing artwork and I am a leader at Guides.

Sarah: How long have you been working at Rossendale Trust?

Marianne: I started at the beginning of January this year.

Sarah: What do you hope to achieve from this placement?

Marianne: I would like to learn new skills and to be able to share my existing skills with others. I enjoying helping others to do their chosen activities.

Sarah: What have you enjoyed doing the most?

Marianne: I have been working alongside Trevor, providing 1-1 support to enable him to complete his scrap book.

We look forward to following Marianne's progress during her internship.



MP Tim Roca Visits Rossendale Trust

Last week, we were delighted to welcome local MP Tim Roca to the Rossendale Trust, giving us the opportunity to showcase the vital work we do in supporting people with learning disabilities.

Tim was given a tour of the Trust by Chief Executive Steve Nichols, Chair of Trustees Adam Schofield, and Oakwood activities Manager Jason Blythe. The visit provided a fantastic opportunity to highlight the impact of our supported living services, Oakwood activities and WorkTaste.

Alongside sharing our successes, we also discussed the challenges we and other charities face in the current climate. As always, we are proud of the dedication of our staff and the difference we make to the lives of those we support, and it was a privilege to demonstrate this to Tim.

Following his visit, Tim shared his thoughts:

"I was delighted to visit The Rossendale Trust and see firsthand the incredible work being done to support people with learning disabilities in Macclesfield. From supported living to the fantastic Oakwood Day Service, the team is dedicated to helping individuals build confidence and independence."

It was great to meet Chief Executive Steve Nichols, Chair Adam Schofield, and Oakwood Day Service Manager Jason Blythe, who shared the Trust's vision and the challenges they face. In the current

climate, charities like Rossendale play a vital role, and I'll continue to champion their work.

"Thank you to everyone at The Rossendale Trust for the warm welcome."

We are grateful to Tim for taking the time to visit and for his support in raising awareness of the crucial work we do. We look forward to continuing the conversation and working together to ensure people with learning disabilities receive the support and opportunities they deserve.



Rossendale Trust
Supporting independent futures

Ladies Lunch

Friday May 9th at 11:30am
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Richard Finds a New Opportunity with WorkTaste

Richard, a Rossendale Trust tenant, has thrived in his WorkTaste placement at a charity shop. Since June 2023, he had been a valued volunteer at Barnardo's in Macclesfield, assisting with shop layout and stock replenishment. When the store sadly closed in February, Richard was eager to continue volunteering.

WorkTaste arranged a taster session at Sue Ryder, another local charity shop, where Richard quickly felt at home in their clothing section. With his prior experience, the transition was seamless, and he soon confirmed his interest in joining the team.

Now fully inducted, Richard works in the stockroom, checking clothing sizes, hanging garments correctly, and ensuring only quality items make it to the shop floor. He has been warmly welcomed by staff and volunteers, and his confidence continues to grow.



Retail Volunteer Co-ordinator, Leah Rubin, commented "At Sue Ryder, we believe in creating meaningful opportunities that empower individuals to grow and develop independence. Our partnership with Rossendale Trust exemplifies this commitment. We see firsthand how supported volunteering builds confidence, develops skills, and creates genuine connections. These partnerships reflect the heart of what we do at Sue Ryder - bringing people together to make a positive difference in each other's lives."

Richard's WorkTaste Coach, Lisa Miller, added "Richard has grown in confidence, is hardworking, willing to learn new tasks and always pleasant to both colleagues and customers."

Richard's journey really highlights the impact and benefits of supported employment and we wish him every success in his new role.



A Recipe for Success: Oakwood's Baking Group

The Oakwood Baking Group is a much-loved activity where participants roll up their sleeves and get creative in the kitchen. From sweet treats like cupcakes and muffins to savoury delights like quiches and tarts, there's always something delicious being made—and enjoyed! At the end of each session, the homemade bakes can be taken home and shared with friends and family.



Ethan was clear about what he enjoys most :

“I like making the cakes, but I love eating them!”

Fred, who supports Oliver during the sessions, added:

“Oli enjoys mixing the ingredients—he really loves the sensory feel of the ingredients when using his fingers.”

The Oakwood Baking Group continues to be a highlight for everyone involved and it's easy to see why!



Activity Leader Natasha loves seeing the bakers in action:

“We bake a wide range of cakes and biscuits, and everyone has their own station to get fully involved in every step of the process. My favourite part is seeing the pride on everyone's faces when they've created something of their own.”

Ruth, a keen and long-standing member of the group, shared:

“I love trying new recipes—it's really exciting! During my media sessions, I research recipe ideas, print them off, and pass them on to Tash. I've even made a recipe scrapbook during my arts and crafts sessions.”



Oakwood Music Group Brings Shrek to Life!

In December, the Oakwood Music Group took to the stage for their latest performance—Shrek the Musical—delighting a packed audience of family, friends, and fans. With the crowd cheering them on, the performers gave it their all, bringing energy, enthusiasm, and plenty of laughs to the show.

The night was a resounding success, ending with well-deserved applause and a post-show celebration over tea and biscuits.

Oakwood Music Activity Leader Trish reflected on the evening:

“The performance went brilliantly! Everyone worked so hard all year, and they absolutely loved getting into costume and embracing their characters. I can’t wait for the next one! The group has already started preparing for this year’s show—an adaptation of the Disney classic, Frozen! Mark your calendars for Friday, 5th December 2025—it’s going to be one to remember!”

Trevor, who took on the title role, shared:

“I loved playing Shrek! My parents were really proud. It took a while to wash off all the green makeup, though!”

Oakwood PAs: Enhancing Support and Enriching Experiences

Many individuals attending Oakwood are supported by Personal Assistants (PAs)—whether through the Trust’s Supported Living Team or external support agencies. PAs play a vital role in ensuring individuals get the most from their chosen activities while having their needs met.



Recently, Oakwood launched a trial PA role, directly employing a PA to support an external service user while they access activities. This approach provides one-to-one support while also integrating the PA into the Oakwood team, ensuring continuity during staff absences and access to the Trust’s training programme.

Rachel, Day Service Team Leader, caught up with Gaynor, Oakwood’s new PA, to see how the role is going:

Rachel: “What interested you in the PA role?”

Gaynor: “I love working one-to-one with people, so this role really appealed to me.”

Rachel: “Have you faced any challenges?”

Gaynor: “Not really—just getting to know the person I support, their likes, dislikes, and little quirks. I’m still learning new things about them all the time.”

Rachel: “How does this role differ from your Support Worker and Activity Leader roles?”

Gaynor: “The biggest difference is the one-to-one focus. I love all my roles, but this one allows me to really build a strong connection with the person I support.”

Rachel: “What have you enjoyed the most?”

Gaynor: “Trying different activities together. They challenge my arts and crafts skills, but I love that!”

Rachel: “Would you recommend the role to others?”

Gaynor: “Absolutely! It’s incredibly rewarding—I love it.”

With the success of this trial, Oakwood’s PA initiative is already making a positive difference, ensuring individuals receive tailored support while strengthening the Oakwood team.



Mathew, who played Donkey, added:

“It was great fun. I got to be Donkey—my favourite part was all the shouting!”

With rehearsals already underway for Frozen, excitement is building for another unforgettable performance later this year!



Celebrating Volunteer Julie: A Decade of Dedication

Oakwood has been fortunate to have the support of many wonderful volunteers over the years, from those maintaining the grounds to those assisting activity leaders in sessions. Volunteers play a crucial role, offering one-to-one support and helping individuals fully engage in activities.

One such dedicated volunteer is Julie, who has been supporting the Arts & Crafts group every week for nearly 10 years! Activity Leader Simone sat down with Julie to find out what keeps her coming back.

Simone: “Julie, tell us a little about yourself.”



Julie: “I’m an artist who loves nature, reading, and helping people. I’ve worked as a textiles and graphics designer, and I’ve had pieces of writing published in magazines. In 2019, I was even part of an art exhibition at the OXO Gallery in London.”

Simone: “What inspired you to become a volunteer?”

Julie: “Volunteering is a great way to share art in a different setting. I love helping people explore what they can achieve creatively.”

Simone: “Art clearly plays a big role in your life!”

Julie: “Absolutely! I’ve done art all my life and understand its therapeutic and mindful benefits. I want others to experience that too.”

Simone: “Finally, would you recommend volunteering at the Trust to others?”

Julie: “Yes, without a doubt! You get just as much out of it as you put in.”

A huge thank you to Julie for her incredible commitment and support over the years! If you’re interested in volunteering at the Trust, visit rossendaletrust.org to find out more.

Rossendale Trust Runners Take on Marathon Challenges to Raise Vital Funds

We are celebrating the incredible efforts of our incredible supporters who are going the extra mile—literally—to raise funds for the Trust in 2025. A dedicated team of runners will be taking on a series of gruelling challenges to support the Trust's vital work.

On **April 6th**, four passionate runners—**Beckie Morley, Sarah Mellor, Marie Porter, and Jade Duncan**—will lace up their trainers to tackle the **London Landmarks Half Marathon**. With personal connections to the Trust, they are all eager to give back through this challenge.



Beckie Morley, who leads music activity sessions at Oakwood, shared her motivation, "I'm running for the Rossendale Trust as I've worked alongside the charity running fitness and music sessions for almost 10 years now! It's a charity that's incredibly close to my heart, and I see the value in it every day."

Marie Porter, a WorkTaste coach at the Trust, added, "Since joining The Rossendale Trust, I've seen

firsthand the amazing work they do. With this motivation, I've decided to run the London Landmarks Half Marathon in April to raise much-needed money for the charity. I am really looking forward to the challenge."

Later in the month, on **April 27th**, another five runners will take on the London Marathon, pushing their limits for the cause. **George Morrison, Gavin Trevena, Sean Fox, Vicky Hulme, and Toby Eyre** are ready to embrace this ultimate test of endurance.

Gavin, a member of the Rundamentalists running club based in Macclesfield, said, "I've always wanted to challenge myself as a runner, and when the opportunity came through my run club to support the Rossendale Trust and take on the London Marathon, it felt like the perfect chance! The Rossendale Trust provides a vital supported living service, and supporting this cause makes the challenge even more rewarding."



Toby, a seasoned marathoner, is determined to cross the finish line after injury forced him to withdraw last year, "I hope this year I can complete my 19th London Marathon for the Trust! I've grown up in the parish of Sutton, and Rossendale has been a big part of my life. I love being able to play my small part in raising valuable funds for this amazing charity."

Meanwhile, Vicky has set her sights on a personal best after participating in last year's marathon, "I decided to do it again this year as I would like to get a sub-5-hour marathon time, which means I need to knock off 53 minutes from last year's time! It's very rewarding to raise money for such a good cause. The bingo nights I've hosted have been great fun for everyone too!"

As if that wasn't enough, **Michelle Carter and Rachael Higham** will also be flying the flag for the Rossendale Trust at the **Manchester Marathon** on the same day. Michelle said, "After saying no more marathons after Chester in 2023, (as it didn't go too great) I was offered a place on Manchester to run for the Rossendale trust. Not wanting to end my marathon journey on a bad one, how could I possibly refuse?"

And **Rachael** confirmed why she has chosen to fundraise for the Trust, "I could not be more thrilled to be taking part in my

first marathon on behalf of the Rossendale Trust. The trust and its users make such a positive impact on the town and community so it's great to have the opportunity to give back and to help raise awareness of such an amazing resource."

In an exciting boost for the Trust, local running club **Rundamentalists** has chosen Rossendale Trust as their **charity of the year for 2025**. The club, led by personal trainer **Matt Rigby**, has supported the Trust for many years and inspires runners of all levels—from beginners to advanced athletes. Matt will also be joining Michelle and Rachael at the Manchester Marathon. You can follow Matt on Facebook and Instagram where you will find details of his run clubs and find details of all his run clubs at

www.rundamentalist.co.uk

We are immensely grateful to all our runners and supporters. Their dedication and fundraising efforts are overwhelming and will enable us to continue to provide vital services to our tenants.



You can donate to our runners by following these links:



TCS London Marathon
2025's JustGiving Page



London Landmarks
Half Marathon 2025's
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