

Milestone For Skills Centre Build



Nikki's Column

I joined trustees of The Fifth Trust on a visit to our Barham skills centre redevelopment earlier this month and got to see the final roof panel on the amenity hub being lifted into place.

This milestone means the main building – which will house the eating and meeting area, sensory room, kitchen and changing facilities – is now weatherproofed and ready

for internal works to begin. The trustees also toured the media centre and art building, which are further along and give a clear picture of the light-filled, accessible spaces our students will soon be able to enjoy.

It was great to be able to show them the progress and talk about our plans to welcome additional students and offer a new service supporting learning disabled adults with

profound physical conditions and a life skills programme for students getting ready for independent living.

The redeveloped skills centre, which will open next year, is the result of a fundraising campaign which has seen us secure over £1.6 million in grants and donations from members of the public, companies and other charitable bodies. We still need to pay for internal fixtures and fittings and landscaping to give students an equally beautiful outside space to relax in.

If you would like to make a donation, please visit www.fifthtrust.co.uk/get-involved/donate.

Nikki Marley,
Chief Executive Officer



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Sun 10am - 2pm



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Countdown To Christmas Craft Fair

We're busy, busy, busy getting ready for our craft fair on Saturday 4th December.

In every classroom our industrious students are working on creations to sell – from Christmas cards, wrapping paper and gift bags, artwork and handicrafts to jams, chutneys and ceramic and wooden decorations and gifts.

We will also have real Christmas trees and garlands, hot food and mulled wine, a raffle with some great prizes donated by local businesses, craft stalls from local producers and carols from Canterbury Christ Church University Music Society. Please come and join us at the Vineyard from 11am to 3pm and enjoy the festivities!



Meet The Team – Jo

Vineyard Garden Centre supervisor Jo Taylor joined The Fifth Trust in March 2020. Fascinated by the natural world since she was a little girl and with a 25-year career in floristry, she is now sharing her considerable knowledge and enthusiasm with customers and our students.



“The care side of the job really appealed to me,” she said. “I enjoy teaching and helping people and promoting greater acceptance of learning disabilities is important.”

Commercially, Jo is keen to grow our propagation programme, which was disrupted by the pandemic. She is also expanding the varieties of shrubs and herbaceous plants on offer.

Our regular customers and followers on [Facebook](#) will have noticed that the garden centre team have also introduced eye-catching new gift ranges, including metalwork and mirrors, and more for indoors such as houseplants.

Jo's focus now is firmly on Christmas, with our real trees coming in soon and two sold-out door wreath-making workshops to run. The whole team will also be busy making natural wreaths and table arrangements for sale.

“I love this time of the year! It's all about making everything cosy and beautiful and bringing the outdoors in,” she said.

Shop And Support

The Fifth Trust has been selected as one of the good causes supported by the Co-op Local Community Fund. Chosen charities receive 1p in every £1 that Co-op members spend on selected Co-op branded products and services. Members have raised £84 million for over 25,000 causes since 2016.



We are linked to Aylesham Co-op as one of their local causes until October 2022, but you can support us when you shop at any Co-op store. If you are already a member, simply log into your account or the app and select The Fifth Trust from the list.

To become a Co-op member for £1 (and get special discounts on the full range of Co-op services plus exclusive deals), sign up at www.coop.co.uk/membership - you will be prompted to choose a cause after registering. Then all you have to do is remember to swipe or scan your card when you shop!

All the money we receive through the Co-op Local Community Fund will go towards developing exciting [outdoor activities](#) for students that offer them a taste of adventure as well as building confidence and developing important skills such as communication and working as a team.



Registered Charity no. 1136718

Elham Valley Vineyard
Breach, Barham
Canterbury, Kent
CT4 6LN

www.fifthtrust.co.uk
Find us on Facebook 
Telephone 01227 832022
Email info@fifthtrust.co.uk