

Grapevine

February
2020



Nikki's Column

Project Out To Tender

Welcome to this month's Fifth Trust newsletter

We have fantastic news with the development of our Skills Centre. We are out to tender and applications should be received by the end of February so a contract should be agreed in March, all exciting news for staff & students.

Funds have also been secured towards our IT pavilion and the Art pavilion so great progress with phases 3 & 4.

The students have been fully involved in the design process and are looking forward to the new facilities. The project will be complex to manage and I am sure will throw up its own challenges but the outcome will be hugely beneficial to all.

It has been a busy time for The Fifth Trust with staff training for the first 2 days in January. An essential part of this training was specific to understanding the needs of students with dementia and the challenges this presents.

We are constantly looking to improve our service for those with dementia by reviewing individual needs and support in our sessions and working to improve their experience with us.

Since the New Year we have been settling back into sessions and the students have been busy making items in pottery, woodwork art and design to build up our stock of ceramics, cards and pictures. These can be purchased in our Café and Garden Centre.

We are springing into life in the Garden Centre and have potted spring bulbs including Daffodils, Anemones and Iris for sale. As spring progresses we will shortly take delivery of this year's summer bedding and hanging basket plugs, which our students will help to grow them on in our propagation tunnels at The Skills Centre.

The Café has weekly specials organised through the spring using seasonal produce. Please keep your eyes on our social media pages and websites for further updates.

Nikki Marley,
General Manager

Very Important People

We are extremely fortunate to have the support of some unsung heroes, our volunteers. These people donate their time to assist in a wide range of our sessions. Their assistance benefits students by providing more 1-1 attention and instruction. This provides students with a greater scope for development.

Some of our volunteers are experienced in the sessions they attend, having gained their knowledge from a professional or recreational background. Others just have some spare time and wish to use this to help the students in any way they can.



Winifred working with Teresa in the craft room

Winifred has been volunteering in our craft sessions, supporting instructor Penny, for 14 years.

Winifred said, "I am very happy to come each week and work with the students in the craft room, some of whom I have seen make considerable progress.

I find the students very loveable and responsible, more so than many other people I meet in everyday life. I have also come to think of Penny as a special friend.

I shall be 89 soon, but I hope that I shall be able to continue for a while yet as Thursdays have become an important part of my life".

The Trust is grateful of its volunteers and appreciates their value. Some have gone on to be employed by the Trust, and even progressed into management roles.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer in any of our sessions, or in any other capacity, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us for further information on 01227 832022 or via our website. We do not expect a regular commitment but any time you can spare will be greatly appreciated.



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Meet The Students

Charlotte M

I live in Bridge house in Barham. I have lived there for a long time.

I like coming to The Skills Centre because I like working. I do all sorts of things like design where I do drawing.

I like print with Tom where I do my own pictures, at the moment I am doing one of different people's cars.

In pottery I make things out of clay. I have just made a face which is for my sister. It hasn't been fired yet. but she will get it soon.

I have woodwork on Monday morning with Les where I do sanding. I like sanding.

On Thursday I work in the garden where we grow vegetables. I like weeding and raking the leaves. We have a new instructor in the garden called Dulcy. I am nervous of working with new staff.

In media I send emails to my sisters. I like getting their emails back and reading them.

This year I am going to be 60. I am having a big party at Barham Village Hall. Lots of my friends from work are coming, and Elvis is going to be singing.

When I am at home I like to go into town shopping. I like to buy tracing paper so I can trace pictures of Elvis. In the evenings I watch TV. My favourite program is Jane McDonald and I like to watch Disney films.

Charlotte uses her media sessions to keep in contact with her sisters by email. This contact has become very important to Charlotte since her mother passed away. Although she sees her sisters regularly the weekly emails allow Charlotte to feel close to her family whilst waiting for her next visit. Charlotte's sister Clare told us,

" Charlotte has tried different courses and activities at the Fifth Trust and now has found the things she loves doing.

The staff take so much trouble to keep it interesting and engaging for the students and are so kind and friendly.

From careful drawing and colouring in Print, emailing brilliant letters to us in Media, making amazing things in pottery and having a laugh with the staff.

Charlotte's days are fun and rewarding, and we know she is progressing brilliantly."

DDD Rally Donation



During January we were visited by Jing Jenkins and Steve Bennet from The Rejects Brotherhood Motorcycle Club.

The Rejects hold an annual event in the Elham Valley. The DDD rally known as the 'Biggest Little Rally in Kent' is a weekend celebration of all things motorcycling and music.

The long running event also raises money for local charities and The Fifth Trust has been fortunate enough to benefit from The Rejects this year.

Jing and Steve handed a cheque to a number of our students for which we are truly grateful.

We would like to thank The Rejects Brotherhood for thinking of us and wish them the best for the coming years rally.

A Year On...

This month marks a year since we began in-house publication of our monthly newsletter. We hope that you have enjoyed keeping up with developments and news from the Trust and its students.

We use a variety of media to publish each edition with digital versions on our website and various Facebook pages related to The Trust's sessions. The digital versions are interactive providing links to our websites. We also print in house and can distribute by post, as well as having printed copies available to customers in The Cafe and Garden Centre at our Vineyard site.

As well as keeping our supporters, friends and the public informed of developments the newsletter is a key tool in raising awareness of the Trust, its work and supports our fundraising.

Our Trustees, management team and staff are constantly working to improve our service, its effectiveness and its efficiency. Our newsletter is no different, and we would like to hear your feedback to help us develop.

If you would like to help us by commenting on the newsletter or wish to join our digital or postal mailing list, please send an email to ern.marden@fifthtrust.co.uk or call our main office on 01227 832022. It would be great to hear from you.

Ern Marden



Registered Charity no. 1136718

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