

Our Story



Nikki's Column

Glimmer Of Hope

Following the easing of the lock-down I am pleased to say that we have had a very successful reopening of the Garden Centre and the diversification to a Farm Shop of the Café.

It was important that we were able to start to bring funds in as soon as we possibly could. This was imperative to ensure that our staff would be able to return when it is safe to do so.

A lot of planning went into adjusting the layout of both outlets to ensure that the social distancing was manageable. Helping to make our customers feel safe when they visited.

We must thank everyone who has visited us for their compliance and patience in how we are having to operate during this period.

We are doing all we can to make your visits as pleasant as we can and will continue to operate in this safe manner for as long as we are required to by government guidelines

We would also like to thank all our loyal supporters and customers who have continued to support us during difficult times. We are truly grateful.

At present, it is our intention to open to students again in September. Myself and the Senior Management Team are exploring ways in which we can make their return as safe as possible.

This is no easy task as the guidelines are changing frequently, requiring us to adjust our plans. I can say that at present our days will look very different. We are going to have to operate in a completely new way, and invariably will face further challenges. We are considering implementing a shorter day to allow for the required cleaning of the facilities after use.

Inevitably we will have to reduce our daily capacity to comply with social distancing, but it is our intention that all students who wish to attend will be able to do so at least one day a week. We also understand that not everyone will wish to return at this time. We aim for our online service to continue to support those at home during this period.

Thank you to everyone for your understanding in these still challenging times. Stay safe and we look forward to welcoming you back on site as soon as we can.

Nikki Marley,
Chief Executive Officer

Competition Winner

As you may have noticed our newsletter now has a new name.

Following our student competition to find a new name as part of our rebranding, we are pleased to announce that the winner is Shirley Rosum from Bridge House



The competition was judged by Suzanne chairperson of our Trustees. She said the reason she chose Shirley's entry was "because it truly reflects the spirit of The Fifth Trust. We are a wonderful community of students, staff, trustees, families, carers, supporters, funders and customers. We come together to support each other to achieve our full potential. We, The Fifth Trust, have a fabulous history which is evolving day-by-day. "Our Story" is a wonderful way for us to share and celebrate our community".

Our congratulations to Shirley who will receive her prize very soon.

Donate in amazon

Do you use Amazon for your online shopping?

If so, did you know that you can support The Fifth Trust as you make purchases. It doesn't cost you a penny and it's very simple to set up.

If you have an account with Amazon all you need to do is go to smile.amazon.co.uk, scroll down the page and click the get started button.

You will then need to login to your account, then select your charity by typing in The Fifth Trust. It is the top one which says we are based in Sevenoaks, click that and away you go.

After you have registered and set up the Trust as your Charity any purchases you make Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your purchases to The Trust.

You could also let your family and friends know, the more the better and it will all help support The Fifth Trust.

0.5% does not sound much, but if we can spread the word far and wide, and encourage as many people as possible to sign up for us, it could make a big difference.

Everyone's help and support is greatly appreciated.



vineyard
farm shop

Opening Hours
Monday -Friday 11am - 3pm



vineyard
garden centre

Monday -Friday 11am - 3pm
Saturday phone and collect only
10am - 12pm



VINEYARD
LOGS
kentlogsales.co.uk

01227 831052
Delivery and stacking service
available, price on request.

Meet The Online Students

Jamie C

I am 28 yrs old and have been attending the Fifth Trust Vineyard for a number of years.

I attend three days a week and take part in lots of different activities. I do Art, Woodwork, Tea rooms (where I get to wear a Dickie bow tie), Print shed and work in the Garden Centre. I think I like Art the best. My home is full of all of my work. Mother says she has no wall space left.

The great thing is, its about being able to concentrate on the things that I am good at and seeing them come to life and sharing with friends, My art is turned into Cards and I have also made some amazing items in Pottery, these are sometimes given to friends and family as gifts.

The things I love about working at The Vineyard are the people I work alongside. We all get along so well and there are so many people to help me. I enjoy media, My Ipad is very important to me, and I use it a lot at Work. We all have lots of laughs and I enjoy the social side. I particularly enjoyed the Meal at The Black Robin with my friends.

My friend Ian takes me in two days, which I love, and my sister Kim, and sometimes David picks me up one day and my brother Scott picks me up one day and takes me back for tea with Scarlet, Annie, and Charlie. My passion is Football, and all of my friends know My Team is Southampton, We continually joke about each other's teams and the weekends, results. Good or Bad.

This Covid-19 has been really difficult for me. At first I couldn't understand why I could not go to The Vineyard and got very anxious. I started helping more around the house, and learnt to Iron. After a few weeks we started taking part in Zoom meetings, they became my lifeline, now I had something to get up for each day, life is better. I have even downloaded Zoom on my Ipad myself with no help, I talk to my friends in Chat-club. Dance with Dom's disco, Karaoke and Bingo and Quiz, this keeps me busy and helps me so much fill the days. Lockdown has been very difficult for everyone but we must stay safe. My day ends with Penny's story-time and then I know, its Jacuzzi, Tea and Bed.....How things have changed. I am very content though and have adapted really well to this new way of living.

Jamie's Mum told us. "As Jamie's parents, we couldn't believe our luck to find such a beautiful, quiet yet bustling place for Jamie, practically on our doorstep, yet not knowing it existed. Jamie settled really well and made new friends and met up with old friends. We encouraged Jamie to think of the vineyard as his place of work. He works extremely hard in all of his activities taking them very seriously. We are very proud of the way he adapts.

We appreciate the recent difficulties, The fifth trust have worked really hard ensuring there is a wide variety of online sessions, you can come and go as you please and there is no pressure to take part. The hard work going on behind the scenes from everyone involved is much appreciated by us. It would be grossly unfair to name names as everyone has played their part. Thank you very much and we hope to see you all again very soon. It's strange and difficult for us all. As long as we stay safe, we can ask for no more."



From Café To Farm Shop

Facing the challenge of lock-down, the Café having to close and staff being furloughed, it was important to continue to provide a service for our students. So with colleagues from all our departments, we used Zoom to provide an online service, including cooking demonstrations. However, I couldn't help thinking that there must be something that I could do to make use of the Café space and provide some form of income for the charity.

As it became clear that only essential shops would be allowed to open. I decided to utilise the fact that as we had always been a food-seller and had existing suppliers, we should turn the Café into a Farm Shop. I contacted our local producers to see if they would be happy for me to sell their produce, they were all diversifying their business model's and were very happy for us to do so.

So, I put my plan into action, placed orders with suppliers, rearranged the Café and with the help of our horticulture department had a vegetable display stand made and we were soon up and running as a Farm Shop.



Our fruit and Vegetable rack.

We are selling all local produce, including fresh fruit and vegetables, cheeses, yoghurt and cream from Ottinge Farm, Kentish cheeses, sausages, bacon, free range chicken from our butcher in Bridge, Apple Juice from Kingston, Ciders from Marden (using our home grown rhubarb), wine from Simpsons Vineyard in Barham and of course our own Sparkling Wines! As well as displaying and selling art work, cards and gifts made by our students.

Taking advantage of our kitchen, we make our own homemade cakes, scones, sausage rolls, quiches and pies to sell with our jams and chutneys made in our Cook Club. I'm also really looking forward to being able to sell our own vegetables grown on-site, which should be available soon.

I am very pleased with the success of the Farm Shop and even though customers are not allowed sit on the premises, they have been buying our goods and enjoying the take away teas and coffees!

It has been lovely to see so many of our regular Café customers come into the Farm Shop and we are looking forward to hopefully being able to serve them in our outside space in the near future.

*Elizabeth Hunt
Catering and Events Manager*



Registered Charity no. 1136718

Elham Valley Vineyard
Breach, Barham
Canterbury, Kent

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



Email ern.marden@fifthtrust.co.uk