

Hope & Glory

The Newsletter of Re:Charge R&R



December 2019

**We wish you a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year from all of us at Re:Charge R&R!
And a huge Thank You for your continued support during 2019!**



Update from Georgie Grafham, Chair of Trustees

What a busy few months it has been! Hannah Lucas continues to take time to rest and recuperate due to her back and the pain she is continually in – we wish her well.

Jocelyn Milne, our Office Administrator, left us in July to pursue a career in an Architect's office, which is her dream job and what she originally trained to do. We were sad to see Jocelyn go but wish her all the best, and thank her for her hard work in the office and her commitment to R&R over the past two years. So many policies and procedures put into place!

It has therefore been a challenging few months so we want to say a huge thank you to all our staff and volunteers who have kept the sessions running so successfully during this time, continuing to serve our families in every way; we could not have done it without you!

BUT I am delighted and excited to inform you that we have three new office staff who started at the beginning of November:

Amy Stock is our Operations Manager, and will be supported by Annie Bullen and Rebecca Carboo, our new Office Administrators. All three are working part time and will be making sure we continue to work in a professional and efficient way, while abiding by the necessary policies and procedures. We will learn more about these lovely ladies in our next newsletter!

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, and we wish you all the very best for the festive season.



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Upcoming Events - Christmas Party

Tuesday 17th December at Larchfield Community Centre. Father Christmas is booked and will give all the children and adults a present. Lots of fun, games, and party food to finish off the year. Photos to follow in the next newsletter.

There will also be party food and a present for everyone who attends the new Re-Focus group.

A huge thank you to St Peters Church who have lovingly bought and wrapped presents for our customers. Also for providing toys as presents for those families who will benefit from extra gifts for their children.

Family Sessions in the Summer Holidays

Once again we had a very busy summer holidays, with each session having a theme which the creative activities were organised around. The aim is to offer different and wide ranging art and craft opportunities at each session for all ages.



At one of the Wednesday sessions, the children made their own pizzas. This was great fun and very messy, with flour and toppings going everywhere! The children were delighted with the end results and sat down to eat their creations for lunch, with cucumber sticks and tomatoes to promote healthy eating.

Alongside our staff and regular volunteers we had two 'young helpers' who gave up their time to help at the summer holiday sessions. One was 16 years old and looking to go to college to study to become a nursery teacher and the other was 17 years old and was going back to school this term to finish A-Levels. They were absolutely amazing and fitted into the team brilliantly, bringing energy and enthusiasm to the sessions.

They both got involved with all the activities and creative art, as well as playing games with the children, or reading stories to all ages. It was great to have them as part of the team and something we will continue to do at future holiday sessions.

Also during the summer holidays the Trustees came to volunteer at the sessions. This not only gave them a chance to see what goes on, but also a chance to speak with the parents and children.

Once again in the summer holidays we partnered with the brilliant Foodshare team who prepared and served our families every Tuesday with a hot meal, ensuring that no child went without a hot meal as it was the holiday. They served over 180 main meals and puddings, giving everyone a choice of dishes and as always, they were all absolutely delicious. Thank you Foodshare!



Re-Focus (Adult Session)

As you are aware, last year we set up a new session called Freedom Café, aimed at helping individuals to recover from addictions. By coming to the Freedom Café sessions, customers have the opportunity to attend an NA (Narcotics Anonymous) meeting and then to speak to our staff who support them, on a number of issues such as housing benefit, family matters, child custody, and so on. In the first 8 months of 2019, we have helped a total of 80 adults in recovery at the Freedom Café.

Unfortunately it became apparent that our customers were not happy with the venue due to the position, being a RBWM building and a CCTV camera, so St Peters Church were kind enough to let us hold this Wednesday session alongside our family session for the short term, until we found a suitable venue. A huge thank you to St Peters Church for hosting these sessions for the interim period.

At the beginning of September the Freedom Café was moved to a hall at the Methodist Church in Maidenhead town centre. The new venue with extra space will allow the group to expand, and at the very first session 10 people attended. The customers were very excited about the new venue being in the town centre and at the first session they agreed the set of rules for the group and came up with the name Re-Focus, with the aim for our customers to be involved in how the group is run. The group is going from strength to strength and we look forward to sharing more news from these sessions in the next newsletter.

Wednesdays from 10am – 2pm in the Upton Room, High Street Methodist Church, King Street, Maidenhead, SL6 1EF

Volunteer from Cannon

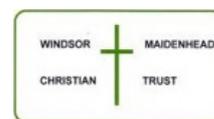
Agnes Umoetuk from Cannon-Europe, spent a day with us volunteering at our Larchfield Community Centre session as part of her company's Charity Day at Work programme. She was a great help at the session and absolutely loved every moment of working alongside Shelly, Tina, Charlotte and our volunteers. Agnes has since said that she wants to come back and help again which is fantastic!



Funding

Since the last newsletter we have received generous funding from the following:

- June - Windsor & Maidenhead Christian Trust
- July - Louis Baylis Trust
- July - RBWM Green Redeem Scheme
- July - Bridge Trust Thames Valley
- August - John Lewis Green Tokens
- September - Shanly Foundation
- December - Berkshire Community Foundation
- December - Maidenhead Malachi Trust
- December - David Brownlow Charitable Foundation
- December - Louis Baylis Trust



Thank you for your support!

Thank you to our regular and new donors, supporters, trusts and organisations who contribute so generously to Re:Charge R&R. We could not have kept running our family sessions and the Re-Focus group without you!

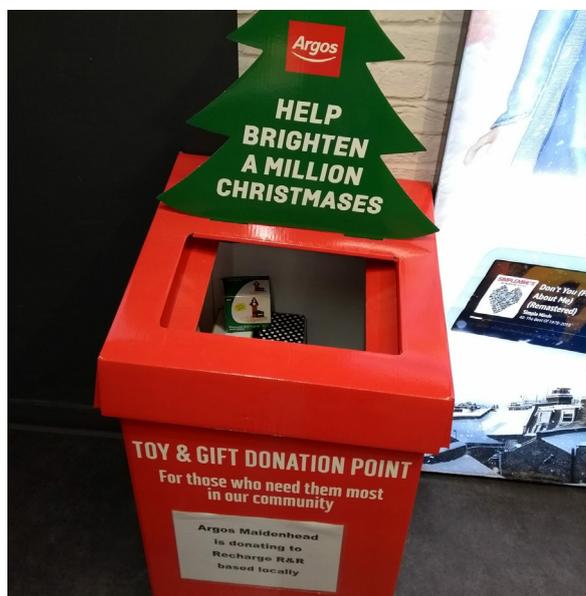


Fundraising

Once again we had a stall at the Lions Christmas Charity Fair on 9th November selling new and nearly new toys.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped either setting up on the Friday evening or during the fair on Saturday.

Not only did we raise £212.00 on the day, but we were able to hand out lots of flyers advertising the sessions.



Other ways you can support us this Christmas

Sainsbury's / Argos 'Help Brighten a Million Christmases'

This year we have been nominated as a Toy Donation Partner as part of Sainsbury's and Argos 'Help Brighten a Million Christmases' campaign. This special initiative aims to encourage one million food and toy donations in stores across the UK and runs in partnership with thousands of charities like us. Simply pick up new toys for children between the ages of 0-16 and then drop off in the donations bins at the front of one of the following Argos and Sainsbury's stores associated this year, with Re:Charge:

- Maidenhead Argos
- Sainsbury's Local Maidenhead Wootton Way
- Sainsbury's Local Maidenhead King Street
- Sainsbury's Marlow
- Sainsbury's Local Marlow

Thank you to all our volunteers!

Thank you to our volunteers: Barbara Jarman, Karen Weiss, Laura Vann, Shirley Harrison, and Lee Jones. We are grateful for all your help and time volunteering at R&R, we could not run the sessions without you. You are valued members of the team and we are truly appreciative of your commitment. We know our parents love chatting with you, and the children enjoy the time you spend playing with them.

Also a huge thank you to John Wason who behind the scenes looks after the book keeping and manages the staff wages.

You are all stars!

If you'd like to volunteer for Re:Charge R&R please get in touch with Amy Stock

Tel: **07805 799250** | Email: amys.recharge@gmail.com

Family Session Times



Tuesdays 10am to 2pm

Larchfield Community Centre
Desborough Park
Maidenhead SL6 4BB



Wednesdays 10am to 2pm

St Peter's Church, (In partnership)
St Peter's Road, Furze Platt
Maidenhead SL6 7QU



Thursdays 10am to 3pm

Quaker Meeting Hall
14 West Street
Maidenhead SL6 1RL

Thank you for reading our Newsletter!

If you have any questions, feedback or comments, please contact Amy Stock at amys.recharge@gmail.com

If you no longer wish to receive the Re:Charge R&R Newsletter, please request that your contact details are removed from the mailing list by emailing Rebecca Carboo at rebecca.recharge@gmail.com

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