

Hope & Glory

The Newsletter of Re:Charge

May 2021

A BIG HELLO TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL SUPPORTERS



It's hard to believe that we are almost halfway through the year already, and what a challenging time it has been for many of us. At Re:Charge R&R we have continued to find creative ways to keep engaging with our clients and maintaining a sense of community to prevent isolation and loneliness which has been prevalent for many throughout the pandemic. We are very excited to announce that we are making steps towards opening one of our family sessions from June and are adhering to government guidelines to create a safe space for our families to meet in person once again. We are hoping to open more sessions going forward from September. We've also found this time to be a learning process and have continued to find that the use of online groups has enabled more people to access our services, so we hope to continue to use Zoom calls going forward with our Re:Focus sessions.

At the beginning of the year, we found ourselves saying goodbye to two of our faithful trustees. We owe a big thank you to Paul Grafham, who has served Re:Charge for several years as the treasurer. We are also sad to say goodbye to our lovely Georgie Grafham. Georgie, alongside Hannah Lucas, started Re:Charge R&R back in 2013. Throughout this time, she has taken on many roles, including her latest as Chair of trustees. We are so grateful for Georgie's hard work and commitment to Re:Charge, and we are all in agreement that we would not be where we are today without Georgie. So, we want to take this opportunity to thank Georgie for all that she has done and wish her well in her retirement. Sarah France who has been a trustee for Re:Charge since 2019 has now assumed the role of Chair. Sarah previously was an environmental consultant for 25 years until she felt called to leave her role and took up a voluntary position within St Peters at their community café. This then led to her connection with Re:Charge. We will be featuring more of Sarah's story in our next newsletter.

Best wishes,

The Re:Charge Team



Introducing Abi Griffiths Price

As promised in our last publication, we are introducing Abi Griffiths Price, our newest Trustee. We are very excited to have Abi onboard as she brings with her great knowledge and expertise which will help guide us as we take these next steps out of lockdown.

Abi, we are really excited to have you as one of our Re:Charge trustees, welcome! Could you please tell us a little about yourself and what led you to joining the board.

"I'm Abi, I'm married with two gorgeous little boys, who keep me pretty busy. However I feel called to serve others in my work, in my church and in my local community. So I work as a business and human rights consultant most days, I'm a member of the PCC at St Peter's in Maidenhead and now I'm a trustee of Re:Charge! About 18 months ago I heard a talk about Re:Charge and the

amazing work it does with families and individuals and wanted to support it. Having two small children I know how important it is to meet up with other parents which is partly what the family sessions provide, but also I wasn't able to volunteer at sessions so I thought joining the trustees would be the best way to get involved. Fortunately the other trustees agreed!"

What are you most passionate about and what are you/will you be bringing to your role within the trustees?

"I'm passionate about positive social impact and seeing people's lives change for the better. Also, having worked in corporate social responsibility for many years I'm convinced that companies can play an important role, so I'm looking forward to helping Re:Charge measure and communicate the way it benefits its clients and to engage local companies in supporting Re:Charge's work."

Introducing Abi Griffiths Price continued

What are your hopes for Re:Charge going forward?

“Simply put, I hope that in the short term Re:Charge is able to continue to support and bless its clients, particularly as we come out of lockdown and that the staff will continue to flourish and be fulfilled in their work. In the long term I hope that certain services that we provide won’t be needed in the future.”

Tell us something about yourself that we may not already know.

“So, something that some people find surprising about me is that I belly dance! I love it! I’ve done it for several years and really enjoy performing. You might have even seen me dance at events in Maidenhead, and I once performed at a festival when I was 30 weeks pregnant! Recently I also started learning to belly dance with fire!”

SNAPSHOT OF COMMUNITY LIFE

Our families

The third lockdown that we experienced as a nation had been particularly difficult for our families, home-school resuming and children missing their friends and family. We were able to bring a sense of cheer and connection to the families through various competitions that we ran over Valentine’s and Mothers’ Day. Alongside this, we continued to run our dedicated helpline and supportive WhatsApp groups that have not only provided round the clock support from our staff but have created a safe space for our clients to engage with one another.

At Easter, we sent out craft packs to 24 families across Maidenhead, thanks to the generous RBWM capital grant. Our families thoroughly enjoyed them, and it was a great way to show care and concern whilst maintaining our connection.



Re:Focus

In our Re:Focus adult group, we have continued with our regular weekly Zoom sessions. The sessions have mainly been focused on mental health and well-being. We have found that they have become a real lifeline to our clients who for many were isolated and now have access to a safe community. Our group has become almost like a family, not only receiving support from our dedicated staff but being able to support and encourage one another.

Earlier in the year we ran an aptly named competition called “Hope” which was kindly judged by a local Councillor in Maidenhead. This competition encouraged our clients to get creative and channel positive thoughts for the start of the year, even though we were still experiencing the difficulties of lockdown.



The recently received RBWM capital grant has also enabled us to purchase tablets and phones for our session staff for which we are very grateful. This has enabled them to continue working remotely. Our plans are for Re:Focus to continue to operate through Zoom for the foreseeable future as it has created connection for many who otherwise may not be able to physically attend.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED



Volunteers

As we continue to take steps to move out of lockdown and gradually re-open our sessions, we are actively looking for more volunteers to get involved, specifically with our family sessions. If this is something you could consider doing, please get in touch and we can pass on more information.



Hampers

Up until very recently, Foodshare have very kindly provided our Re:Focus group with a monthly food hamper. These hampers are given away to a different client each month who very much appreciate them. Unfortunately, with the increased need presented to Foodshare in our town, it has not been possible to continue with this. These hampers have benefitted our clients so much over the past year, and we would like to continue offering them and are therefore asking if you, our supporters, would be able to contribute towards them. It could be a fun activity to do with friends and family – a bit like a reverse advent calendar throughout the year. Again, if this is something that interests you, please get in touch, we would love to hear from you!

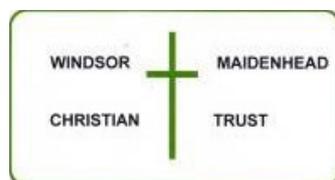


Become a Trustee

We are also looking for new members to join the Board of Trustees, particularly anyone with experience of finance or HR. At the moment we meet monthly, but this can vary depending on the circumstances at the time. If this is something you would be interested in, please get in touch for more information.

A VERY BIG THANK YOU

We would like to say a very big thank you to our regular monthly givers who continue to support us so faithfully! Huge thanks must also go to St Peter's Church, the Windsor and Maidenhead Christian Trust, RBWM Capital Grant, The Prince Philip Trust Fund and The Cumber Family Charitable Trust, and all those who have generously given individual one-off donations in the past few months. Without your support we would not be able to continue to do what we do.



Donating

If you would like to support us by becoming a regular giver, a copy of our standing order gift aid form can be found attached to the email.

We can now also receive one-off donations via our website, [click here](#) to find out more. Thank you!

Other ways in which you can support us

The Amazon Smile logo features the word "amazon" in black and "smile" in orange, with a yellow curved arrow underneath "amazon" pointing to the right.

Support us by using Amazon Smile!

You can choose Re:Charge as your nominated charity on AmazonSmile.

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.co.uk. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organisation of your choice.

[Click here to choose Re:Charge](#)

The Easy Fundraising logo features a stylized teal and pink smile icon to the left of the text "easyfundraising" in teal and "feel good shopping" in pink.

Support us by using EasyFundraising!

You can also support Re:Charge on [#easyfundraising!](#)

When you sign up as a supporter, 4,000 shops and sites will donate for free, every time you shop online. This includes all the big names like eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, ASOS, Expedia, M&S, Just Eat and many more!

[Click here to support Re:Charge](#)

Thank you for reading our Newsletter!

If you have any questions, feedback or comments, or if you no longer wish to receive the Re:Charge R&R Newsletter, please contact Amy Stock at: amys.recharge@gmail.com

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