

## News from...

# Walthew House

We are delighted to announce that our **Making More Happen** project has secured funding for the next three years from the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund.



We have appointed Naomi Mather as our new Development Officer. Naomi will be co-ordinating the project, which is supporting new opportunities for people with a sensory loss. We have been piloting Making More Happen over the past couple of years, involving over thirty local organisations and more than 350 people with a sensory loss – with activities as diverse as sign language interpreted and sighted guided tours and day trips, and participation in local and national consultations.

Naomi was straight in the deep end on day one, helping with a pottery making session. The photos below shows the group just starting to create bowls, with the help of Mauro and his team from Pottery Corner in Chorlton and Naomi working with Shui on her pot.



The next Making More Happen event will be a **Planting Party** on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April when we will be planting up tactile and scented planters. The event has been supported by a grant of £100 from Stockport Hydro which will help to pay for planters, compost and plants. We are charging £2.50 including refreshments to take part, and afterwards planters can be purchased for £5.00.

The photo right shows our fundraiser Shannon receiving our cheque from Stockport Hydro chairman, Ben Alexander and Laurence Jackson.



Our next **Cheese and Wine** event is on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April. Tickets cost £10.00 and are available from the office. The event will be sign language interpreted and we will have a bar (and a reduced ticket price) for anyone who wants to come along, but doesn't drink wine.

As part of the Manchester Walking Festival we are working in partnership with Mirrlees Fields Friends Group to organise a fully accessible **Guided Walk** on Mirrlees Fields, Woodsmoor on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May. The tactile and sign language interpreted walk will be led by Adam Linnet from Cheshire Wildlife Trust. There will also be an opportunity to take part in a sponsored walk as part of the day. For more information contact Naomi or Shannon on the usual number 0161 480 2612 or email [MMH@walthouse.org.uk](mailto:MMH@walthouse.org.uk)

Walthew's new **Assistive Technology User Group** meets every second Thursday of the month from 1pm, offering volunteer led support for people with sight or hearing loss to make the most of the information and support available online. The group offers one to one support using members' own devices, or equipment available in Walthew's resource centre, including an iPad and desktop machine purchased with a Digiknow grant from Stockport Council.

The Making More Happen project is also developing a 'Consulation Pool' of people interested in local and national consultations. Pool members sign up to receiving regular updates, and can contact Walthew for more information or support to take part in anything they are interested in – groups of deaf people and visually impaired people recently, for example, took part in the Council's Walking and Cycling Strategy consultation.

Our Walthew House Cup, blind bowling event, was won this year by the team from Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club, pictured right being presented with The Walthew House Cup by the Mayor of Stockport.



Many thanks to Laura at TenPin for providing the venue free of charge, Stockport Council for providing the refreshments, Booth Ainsworth for their tombola donations, the Mayor of Stockport Councillor Walter Brett for being a good sport and trying blindfold bowling, our lane sponsors, volunteers and everyone who took part. We raised a fabulous £820 on the day! If any visually impaired readers are interested in bowling regularly, the bowlers meet every Wednesday morning, and are always pleased to welcome new members to the group.

### **Just a few thank yous...**

... to everyone who contributed their loose change to our Tube of Twos and tried their luck guessing the number of twos collected. The closest guess with 5000 twos was Lynn Thorpe, who won the cash prize of £25. There was a total of £262.80 in the tube, of which 5526 (£110.52) were two pence pieces.

Thanks also to everyone who took part in the Rotary Club of Stockport Lamplighter's Swimathon, and a special mention to the Staunton family, Christie, Glen, Skye and Jonah, who were amazing!

Many thanks for donations received from Bramhall and Woodford, Hazel Grove and Stockport Rotary Clubs, Cale Green Park Residents' Association, Specsavers Stockport, Stockport Carnival Committee, The David Hopkins Foundation and Waitrose Cheadle.

We are grateful for donations in memory of Colin Jones, Jack Scott and Marjorie Warren, and especially in memory of long standing Walthew members, and our good friends, Tom Danson and Alastair McKenzie.

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**Friends of Walthew House 2019**

Members of Walthew House have a vote at the Annual General Meeting, can nominate new trustees, or stand as a trustee themselves. You can support our work as a member by completing the form below and returning it with your contribution of £10.

- I would like to become a member/renew my membership of Friends of Walthew House. I enclose my donation of £10.
- I would like to make an additional donation to the charity. I enclose my donation of .....

If you are a tax payer Walthew House can claim tax back on your donation through the Gift Aid scheme at no extra cost to yourself. Please tick the box if you would like to Gift Aid your donation.

**First name**..... **Surname**.....

**Address**.....

.....**Postcode**.....

**Contact (telephone/fax/SMS/email)**.....

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