

VOICEBOCS

News and Views from the Brothers of Charity Services in Lancashire

Winter 2017/18 - Issue 95

Santa Stroll and Christmas Fair



On Thursday 7th December, Brothers of Charity Services in Lancashire held their annual Santa Stroll and Christmas Fair.

Everyone met up in the Chapel at Lisieux Hall, ready to set off on their festive 3km walk. The scenic route took the Santa Strollers round the surrounding grounds of Lisieux Hall, alongside fields with beautiful views across the countryside. The rain stayed off during the stroll making the walk even more enjoyable for everyone!

There was plenty of chatting going on around the walk and Santa also made an appearance; offering delicious treats at different parts of the route. Once everyone had completed the walk they went back to the Chapel to warm up. Agnes kindly made hot drinks for the Santa strollers to go alongside a delicious festive treat.

After the Santa Stroll had finished, The Christmas Fair began in the Chapel. BOCS in Lancashire's social enterprises; The Walled Garden, Roccoco, Pets Corner, Crafty Uniforms and Heaton Street, all took part and had stalls! The Walled Garden were selling a selection of their handcrafted Christmas Wreaths and Memorial Pots. They also held a Christmas Wreath workshop for people to make their own! Roccoco had a stall selling a great selection of delicious homemade cakes and cake mixes. Tina and Damion from Crafty Uniforms were selling handmade jewellery and craft items. Heaton Street Gardening Team had two free games for people to have a go at; Bat the Snow Ball and Find

Rudolph's Nose. Pets Corner brought along a few of their resident pets to say hello to everyone!

While everyone enjoyed shopping around the stalls there was also a Christmas Signing sing-a-long lead by the Music BOCS team.

Thank you to everyone who gave their help and supported this year's Santa Stroll and Christmas Fair! The event raised a great amount that will be donated to the clients Christmas Party in Lancashire.



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Photos from our Santa Stroll and Christmas Fair



Christmas Card Competition Winner 2017

Congratulations to Rebecca Price, our Lancashire services' 2017 Christmas card competition winner!

We had so many fantastic entries from everyone across our services; we found it so difficult to decide on a winner.

We chose Rebecca's design as her fabulous drawing of Father Christmas with his festive treats really stood out to us and we think summed up Christmas perfectly.

Thank you to everyone who had submitted a Christmas card and to the support that was given to make them. The effort that had been put in to creating the designs was superb!



National Citizen Service Sports Day



Students taking part in the National Citizen Service (NCS) summer programme visited the Brothers of Charity Services in Lancashire this month to organise and run a sports day.

After initial discussions around activities earlier in the year, Matt Hoyles and two of the Land Based Enterprise teams met with students in Team Perham from NCS. They spoke about the Brothers of Charity Service and the type of activities/ sports they wanted to do on the day. Team Perham were really impressed by the services provided by the Brothers of Charity Services and the opportunities for people to work across the enterprises.

The group suggested football, cricket and basketball and took Team Perham to look at the

area which they would be using. They set up some activities to assess the skills that the group had to give a better idea for the planning of the activities.

The next day, Team Perham ran sports sessions over two hours, including football, rounders and cricket for the people we support and staff. Everyone enjoyed working as part of a team and it was great seeing how much people appreciated the sessions, they really loved being able to learn and develop skills from each other. Before they left, Team Perham gave the group a thank you note signed by everyone involved, which said: "Dear Brothers of Charity, from all the members of Team Perham, thank you! It was truly an eye-opening experience, one that we will never forget. We appreciate the hospitality."



National Fitness Day

Activities were held across the English Services for National Fitness Day in September, to promote new activities and healthy living.

Charlotte's Tandem helper, David, came to Lisieux Hall to demonstrate tandem bikes and trikes to the people we support and staff. The people who came along had lots of fun riding the tandem bikes around the Lisieux Hall site. The activity gave everyone who joined in a chance of trying a new way of keeping fit; with the Lisieux Hall site being a great location for people to

practice and get used to riding a bike. We look forward to Charlotte's Tandems visiting again, demonstrating such a rewarding new experience to enable people to get out and about with family and friends. Charlotte's Tandems lend bikes to people with learning disabilities free of charge, to enable families to get out together and have fun. You can also find more information on their website here:

<http://www.charlottestandems.co.uk/>.



Voice for All at Preston Pride

What an amazing day at Preston Pride!

On Saturday 9th September, our Lancashire Self Advocacy group, Voice for All were once again very proud to be at Pride! It was a fantastic day and everybody enjoyed celebrating diversity and sexuality.

The event at Preston Flag Market was attended by hundreds of people and had numerous stalls, with live music and entertainment throughout the day, and lots of fun, love and laughter being shared. It was a real celebration with a fantastic party atmosphere, and it was so good to see so

many people, both young and old, enjoying, expressing and celebrating their own individuality, diversity and sexuality.

The community of Preston was well and truly united and it was a pleasure and a privilege to experience and share a real sense of community and togetherness.

Thanks to everyone for making the day so special and a big shout out to Lorraine and the team for organising yet another fabulous PRIDE!

Hope to see you all next year!



The BOCS' Lancashire Christmas Party

Our Lancashire Services held their clients Christmas party at Shaw Hill Golf Club and Spa on Wednesday 13th December. Everyone enjoyed a festive afternoon tea and entertainment from TABU.





A Fantastic Day at our LGBT Event!

Voice For All held a LGBT event at Lisieux Hall on 16th August. People came from all over the North West including Blackpool, Preston, Rochdale, Stockport, Bolton, Blackburn and of course Chorley!

The afternoon was spent meeting new friends, learning more about LGBT, sexual health, staying safe and reporting hate crime. But most importantly we discussed what is wanted and needed for the future and what we can all do to help.

It was an absolute pleasure to spend an afternoon with so many fantastic people and in an environment that truly welcomed and celebrated everyone's individuality, sexuality and diversity.

A special thank you to Stuart and Ian from Lancashire Police, Travis from Lancashire LGBT, Anji from Lancashire Sexual Health Service and of course Sue and Lucy from 'Y be Shy' and 'Meet 'n' Match', who together with Becky from 'Voice for All', took us through a very interactive

and inclusive presentation and workshop.

Thanks again to everyone who came and showed their support. We hope to have many more LGBT events in the future.



Voice for All's Spooktacular Halloween Party

Voice for All organised a Halloween Disco at Fox Lane Sports and Social Club in Leyland on 31st October. Everyone from the Brothers of Charity Services in Lancashire and the local community were invited to join them!

The party was a huge success! Everyone came

in their scariest costumes and had a great time dancing the night away to music from Tabu. The delicious hot pot went down well with everyone and Voice for All also held a raffle with gave away lots of fabulous prizes.



Pastoral Care Update

Christmas Carol Service



The Pastoral Group held its annual Christmas Carol Service on the 11th December in St Joseph's Church on Harpers Lane.

The theme was the birth of Jesus, which was portrayed by a cast of thousands (sorry, dozens!!) playing the various parts.

The Baby Jesus was brilliant and the other players were quite good as well.

As usual the event was followed by a disco in St Joseph's Centre but we broke with tradition by replacing the Fish & Chip supper with a Hotpot! This was delicious and it is hoped that it will continue.

Once again we thank Father Peter for allowing us to use the church.

Michael Holden - Pastoral Team

Ruth C. Rotherham (27.10.1944 - 07.01.2018) By Jean Bury



Ruth had so many qualities - warmth, love, friendship, commitment, passion, determination, loyalty - all those gifts we hold dear and which are not always easy to uphold.

Determination: Ruth lived most of her life with pain from back and joint problems culminating in major and multiple surgeries. But these and other challenges she faced, including those with Stephen her son and the death of her beloved husband, created a greater determination and resilience to "get on with life". And she did!

Passion: Ruth was a vocal, passionate debater, speaking up for what she fundamentally believed to be right (and wrong) in society. She took up causes in which she strongly believed and on many occasions she generated change, saving landmarks, creating awareness and shifting opinions.

Commitment: Ruth was totally committed to her family. She and John fully supported the Brothers of Charity when Stephen went to live under its care and Ruth has continued to take an active part on the BOCS voluntary team. She developed and ran the Reading Group where she made everyone feel valued and appreciated - that this Group is still active and vibrant after 9 years is a fitting testament to her commitment.

Loyalty/Friendship: Ruth was a warm and loving person. She was always willing to help and support, whether in practical ways, or offering advice and encouragement on life's problems, or just giving a warm smile and a hug. She made a lot of friends, and although she will leave a hole in our lives, she would ask us to make each day count, living positively, with determination and passion.

I feel immensely privileged to have been able to call Ruth MY FRIEND for 52 years.

Friends in Faith Christmas Party

Our Christmas Party took place on Monday 15th January at St Chad's Parish Centre in Whittle-le-Woods. After all the 'Happy New Year' greetings were carried out we started the proceeding with 'Pass the Parcel' which had been provided by Mary and each layer had surprise goodies.

Everyone settled with a drink and we had a few games of Bingo; Tony made a great job by calling the numbers - maybe he's missed his vocation! Sue, the manager provided a fantastic buffet supper which was paid by the Brothers of Charity for which everyone expressed grateful

thanks. The highlight of the evening was the raffle; everyone ended up winning something, although Chris Eden seemed to do better than most.

Thanks go to all the volunteers who provided prizes and helped with the organising of the event. See you all next year.

If you are interested in joining our Friends in Faith Group, please see our Pastoral Programme for details or contact me on 07849856883.

Agnes Paul

News from our Social Enterprises

Roccoco Awarded Food Hygiene Rating of 5

Roccoco has been awarded the top rating of 5 for Food Hygiene from South Ribble inspectors! This is a fantastic achievement for the team. They

work extremely hard every day to make sure that the standards of hygiene are the best that they can be. We are so proud of our fabulous team!



Pets Corner's Competition to Name New Rabbits

The team at Pets Corner have been looking for names for their two new adorable rabbits! The team asked their followers on Facebook to suggest names, and from this they chose their favourite ideas and put together a short list for everyone to vote from. These were the options:

- Butternut and Smudge
- Thelma and Louise
- Honey and Patch
- Molly and Dolly
- Caramel and Marble
- Anna and Elsa

They are pleased to pronounce the winning names are... Caramel and Marble! Thank you to everyone who has suggested names. We are sure the new resident will be very happy living in Pets Corner.



Crafty Uniforms' Community Christmas Gift Competition

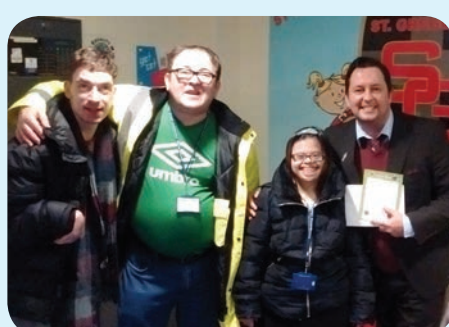
Crafty Uniforms, our retail enterprise based in Chorley, held a competition to win £10 school uniform vouchers for your local school.

They asked customers, friends and Facebook followers to like and share posts about the competition on Facebook as well as comment their local school's name to enter them.

The winning schools were:

- Duke St Primary School
- St Gregory Catholic Primary School
- Mayfield School

The Crafty Uniforms team presented each school with their vouchers before Christmas! The vouchers were given to schools for families in need, to spend on pre loved uniforms at Crafty Uniforms.



Social Enterprises All Aboard for Redevelopment of Station

Heaton Street Gardening Team, The Walled Garden and Roccoco team up for Bamber Bridge Railway Station.

The Brothers of Charity Services' Social Enterprises have teamed up with South Ribble Borough Council to help in the redevelopment of Bamber Bridge railway station. The Walled Garden have planted a selection of beautiful flowers to brighten up the area and

Heaton Street will be providing site clearances and litter picking for the station on a regular basis. Roccoco provided a selection of delicious cakes for 'Platform for Arts'; an event which showcased the redevelopment of the station as

well and featured art work from Cuerden Church School.

The teams had a great time at the event and said it was lovely to see so many people at it! They received lots of nice comments about the plants from the Walled Garden and the cakes provided by Roccoco.

Craig from the Walled Garden team did a speech to thank everyone for the opportunity to work on the project. The Mayor thanked Craig for his kind comments and said it was great to see all of the different parties working together to do such great things for Bamber Bridge.



A Special Reunion at Roccoco

When 92 year old Connie Sharples featured on Granada Reports in a story about a new Veterans' Café in Leyland, one viewer was particularly interested. Janey Webster recognised her as her long lost auntie who she hadn't seen for 60 years. So Paul Crone went back to see the pair reunited.

The team at Roccoco enjoyed hosting a special reunion this week! Connie, who attends the Veteran's Café that takes place at Roccoco, was reunited with Janey, her niece who had seen her on TV when the Veterans' Café launched. The long lost relatives spoke to Paul Crone about their family whilst looking through old photographs and enjoying delicious afternoon tea provided by Roccoco.



Retro Food for A Taste of Leyland

Roccoco attended the 'A Taste of Leyland' food festival in August. They joined up with 'My Leyland', who were launching their new Dementia Hub, and they both held a stall for retro food tasting.

Reminiscing can be a positive experience for people living with dementia - especially when they can share their memories with other people. Food can be a great trigger for memories of a time gone by. The team at Roccoco created dishes that people ate in the 1940s and 50s for tasting at the festival, including bread and butter pudding, made by David, John, Adam and Rebecca.

Other tasting samples included faggots, very rustic brown bread with mar-mite, sago pudding, milk jelly and corned beef hash. The team had some very good feedback from all at the food festival which is brilliant.

The dishes were made from ingredients that could be found in the cupboard at home or could be found in shops during the 1940s and 1950s as Britain was still rationing food at the time. The

use of faggots show how people in the 1940s and 50s made tasty dishes out of parts of the animal that people tend not to use in present day.



The Walled Garden's Garland Decorations

Our Services in Lancashire enjoyed their Christmas Party at Shaw Hill Golf Resort & Spa Hotel. The team at The Walled Garden designed and created this wonderful festive garland to decorate the venue.



Closing Date for the Spring/Summer edition of VoiceBOCS

The closing date for submission of articles for the next edition of VoiceBOCS is **Friday June 1st 2017**. Are you going holiday, having a day out, celebrating a birthday or would like to tell us about a hobby? Let us know about it!

Please email your articles and photographs to marketing@brothersofcharity.org.uk.

VoiceBOCS Information

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