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## Foreword



As the weather starts to get a little warmer, the Covid thaw seems also to be starting. We have reopened the Hub and Members are starting to return in larger and larger numbers.

With the relaxing of Covid restrictions comes a greater requirement for testing and soon we will be asking all Staff, Personal Assistants and Volunteers to undertake Lateral Flow Testing, in addition to the PCR testing that salaried staff already carry out. Members should complete LFT tests twice per week at home, before coming into TASC. However, this will not be a requirement in order to attend. We can provide LFT tests and PCR tests to anyone that attends TASC and wants one, but you must report the test result to NHS Track and Trace and let the TASC Management know the result. Please let me know if you would like to take part and I will provide you with all the details.



Since Christmas, two more of our Members, have sadly passed away. Laura's wonderful smile and infectious laugh will be missed by us all. She loved balloons, and singing and dancing, particularly to Michael Jackson songs. We also lost our longest standing Member, Geoff, this month; he had been attending for over 50 years. Geoff had an incredible memory and would always ask, by name, after family members of everyone he had met before. We will all remember his love of 70's jokes, dogs and listening to The Honeycombs and other songs from that era. Every Member's passing leaves a big gap in our community and we send our sincerest condolences to their families.



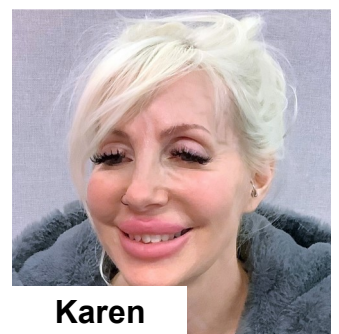
On a happier note, I really hope that we will be able to welcome back Members who live in residential homes soon, as we miss them a great deal. I hope my next Foreword can celebrate the fact that we have all Members back into the service and we can start looking forward to celebrating Christmas together, and what a celebration it promises to be!

Malcolm Turley  
General Manager, Day Services.

## Staff/Member News

### New Staff

Over the last, tumultuous 15 months, several of our staff have chosen to move on to pastures new. We wish them all every success in their new endeavours. Happily, over the same period, we have welcomed seven new staff, who have all integrated well into our team and we hope they will enjoy a long and satisfying stay with us.





## Members

Sadly, our 2021 Calendar included a dedication to three of our Members; Anthony, Fiona and Stephen, who had passed away during 2020. Since then, the sad news has continued, as featured in the Foreword, and two more Members, Laura and Geoff, have also passed away. Each Member is fondly remembered for their individual and endearing characters and will be greatly missed. We send our sincere, good wishes to all their families and our condolences for their loss.

## Happy Retirement

In April, we had to say a sad farewell to Fred, who, after 29 years, has decided it's time to hang up her badge and take a much deserved, early retirement.

Fred has seen many changes over the years and will take lots of good memories with her, as well as leaving some nice ones behind. Fred worked in the co-operatives for many years and loved enhancing the Members' skills, seeing them grow in confidence and ability. TASC can become part of your family, so it wasn't a shock for tears to be shed as well as laughter on the day she officially retired.

We wish her happiness in all she does and hope she finds time, from tending her delightful looking garden, to visit us regularly in the future.

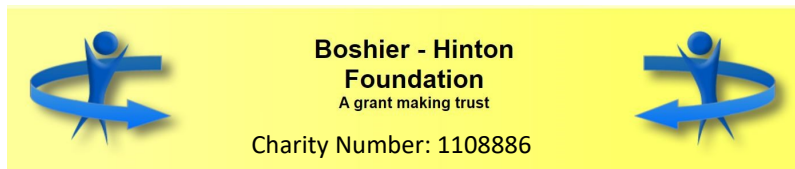


## Long Service Award

Twenty five years of fantastic, loyal service; that's what Dave has given to TASC. He's never been absent, never been late and nothing is ever a bother for him. He's always happy and chatty, so he's well-loved by all the Members and Staff. Thanks very much for your dedication, Dave. We hope you find a suitable use for your award money, display your certificate proudly and stay with us for a long time to come.



## Fundraising



Many thanks to the Boshier-Hinton Foundation, who have generously funded the printing of this News Update.

## A Big Shout out to Coca-Cola Europacific Partners

Thank you very much to Coca-Cola Europacific Partners for their donation of £200. We have spent the money on Members' Paints and Craft Activities; it has been really helpful when making some of our large cards, photos and posters.





# Facebook News

TASC 'Social Group' on Facebook is working well: it's a great place to share your thoughts with friends and family. There are lots of lovely photos to look through, to see what we're doing at the Centre. Many thanks to everyone at home for sharing your photos, so we can see what you're keeping busy with. We've recently started to try videos as well, to share them for all to see.

All Zoom information can be found on the page, under 'Announcements'; so lovely to see you all joining in. All our fundraising projects are shared on the page and we thank you all for the support you give to TASC; it's very much appreciated. If you do on-line shopping, have you thought about joining [www.easypundraising.org.uk](http://www.easypundraising.org.uk) and supporting TASC? For everything you buy, a percentage is donated to TASC, at no extra cost to you. Lots of lovely arts, crafts and baking activities are shared on the page, so everyone can join in, as and when they feel like it.



Thanks again to all our Members of the TASC 'Social Group' for sharing your ideas, photos, experiences and videos with us. This page has really helped us all during the difficult year we have all had; let's keep it going as the situation improves.





# Kitchen/Candy Bar News

**Kitchen:** Hi, everyone. I hope you are all well and keeping safe. The kitchen arrangements are working well, although a little different to before.

As you may know, there are four Bubbles, each with their own meals trolley. The Bubble Members' meals, e.g. main meal, salads, jacket potatoes and sandwiches, are placed on their trolleys and taken to the Bubble at 12 o'clock. After lunch, the trolleys are returned to the kitchen, where they are sanitised. The dishes and cutlery go into our new dishwasher, which cleans and sterilises them, before being placed back on their trolleys.

Following Lisa's departure, we have a new kitchen lady, Karen Williams, who is looking forward to getting to know all the Members and Staff.

See you all soon,  
Kitchen Team; Michelle and Karen



**Candy Bar:** Hello, all. Just to say Candy Bar is still open, in case you were wondering. We still have staff who are able to keep the shop going, via cleaning, stocking up, ordering and we now even deliver produce to the Bubbles in the Centre.

We still do the hot drinks, but we use individual flasks for the hot water in each Bubble and they have their own supplies of tea, coffee, etc.

Hygiene is our top priority, so we are cleaning all areas in the shop regularly and Brian does a deep clean every Tuesday; we are also using the industrial dishwasher machine for the pots.

We are still selling cold, sugar-free drinks and snacks and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Bubbles for their support. We hope you will keep using us for your hot/cold drinks and snacks and we're all looking forward to being able to sell bacon buns and homemade soup again.





# News from Bubbles

**1** We are a Bubble of 7 Members and 7 Staff, including 1 to 1s. We all get on really well together and we have had some really fun times. We have done art projects that have been transferred into the garden areas and we have a new TASC birthday card which Derek designed.

Now we are going into Summertime, we have started growing plants from seeds. We did have a bit of a disaster when the frost and snow came but we have carried on and we have now been able to plant some outside; fingers crossed, we will have some lovely produce as well as flowers later in the year.

Everyone is staying positive and we join in the Zoom activities with the other Bubbles and Members, so we still get to see our friends. Zoom activities can be varied, from the Keep Fit to the Bingo and even a bit of Horse Racing.

It is nice to be back at the Centre with our friends and things are only going to get better as the lockdown slowly winds down. We are all looking forward to the day when all the Bubbles can join back together again.







Bubble 2 have had lots of amazing fun since the reopening of the Centre. We have taken part in activities and the Members have taken ownership of which ones we do. We have a meeting every Friday to discuss activities and this gives the Members a chance to request those that they would like to do in the following week. If we can do it, we will; it's as simple as that.

With support from the Staff, the Members of Bubble 2 have taken part in a huge range of activities, such as Art, Curling, Makaton and Quizzes.

We have also managed to get out on plenty of trips in the minibus. We bring packed lunches, as we have not been able to dine indoors just yet, due to Covid regulations. The places we have visited include Redcar, Saltburn, Guisborough Forest and many of the local parks.



What has been really encouraging about Bubble 2 is seeing how much the Members have engaged with activities. The Members are fully involved and they are presented with regular opportunities to share their ideas.

Well Done Bubble 2







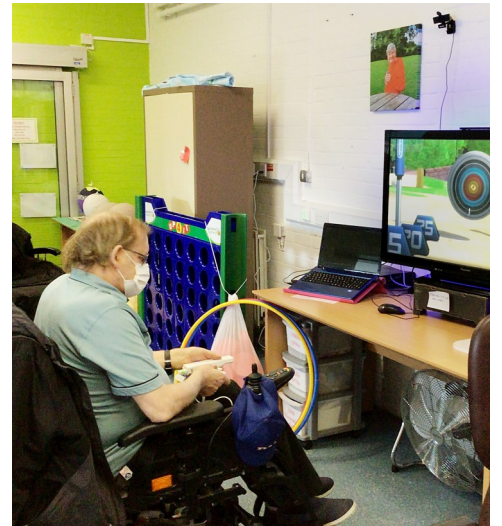
Hi, everyone; just to let you know that Bubble 3 Members are doing well and hope you are too. We can't wait to see you all again.

We have been doing a lot of craft activities, which we all love. Our latest group project was Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. We were all excited when this won us the Easter competition. One of our Members also made an Easter sweet tree, which we raffled off as an Easter prize.

We also love fitness, in our Bubble, and we are doing lots of exercise videos, games and dancing to help us feel good about ourselves and stay healthy. We have just completed a 'mile a day' walking challenge, until we completed a Marathon (26 miles). We achieved this on 1<sup>st</sup> April (no joke!) and have decided to keep going, just for fun.



Take care and stay safe.







Bubble 4 Members have been having lots of fun getting involved in plenty of activities since their return to TASC. To name a few: Arts and Crafts sessions, Makaton, Cooking, Gardening, Darts, Audio Book, Bingo, Curling, Quiz, Cards, Relaxation session in the Light and Sound Room, Virtual Tour of Chester Zoo, Zumba/Stretch and Fletch via Zoom.

Here are some of our Members' comments:



**Samantha T:** I love our cookery classes, especially when I made pizzas; I made ham, cheese and pepperoni, which was very tasty.

**Ann-Louise V:** I have enjoyed taking part in all the activities; making a Valentine's Day card and playing darts against other Bubbles, on Zoom, have been my favourites. I'm looking forward to my sister coming back to TASC.



**Liam T:** I have really enjoyed my time at TASC, getting to know the Staff and the other Members; I think the Staff are amazing. I've enjoyed the gardening group most; planting sunflower seeds and watering all the plants that we have grown in Bubble 4. I also enjoy the curling and golf activities.

**Rob F:** I have loved doing the Arts and Crafts, in which I have been building a theme park; this involved lots of painting, colouring and sticking. I have also liked joining in the competitive games that we do at TASC: curling, darts and group quizzes, which we do via Zoom, with all the other Bubbles.





## **Teesside Ability Support Centre**

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