

SATURDAY 1ST JULY 2023

With Lavinia Donling

FUNDRAISING

We have had the last two weeks of fundraising firstly from Ron, one of Non Executive Directors, who very kindly donated money from the sales of his photographs whilst taken on holiday. This was a sizable chunk of money, and we are always very grateful indeed to those who find ways to raise money for our not so well off clients. Last Sunday, John and I joined Charlotte (our Accountant) and her husband, Neil, on their Tractor fundraising event. Having never been on one, we were not sure what to expect, but oh wow, it was so exciting seeing a number of tractors turn into Overton Park to begin the drive and raise some money. We drove through so many villages, up and down hills, as a long snake of tractors and Hermes, TMW van, through some lovely areas of Shropshire. Charlotte's brother, Nick, brought his drone along and did some aerial shots, which Charlotte then uploaded. It was so good. We stopped at Ponderosa - a hive of

activity on one of the most famous hotspots well known to bikers for the superb large café and stunning views! We had to leave at this point and head back to Anglesey. Neil wishes to make this an annual event but time it when we can get many more tractors joining us! Charlotte paid in a large deposit earlier this week, which was just incredible. A big thank you to the tractor drivers for joining us, and an even bigger thank you to Charlotte and Neil for organizing!





BIRTHDAY'S ALL ROUND

This week it was Wendy's Birthday on Thursday! We wish her a very Happy Birthday weekend, and thank her again for all her support with TMW as a Non Executive Director. We sent her some flowers on the day, but I know you will wish her well also. Wendy does a lot of fundraising in her own way through Easy Fundraising where she purchases a considerable amount on line and clicks the button every time to give us pennies. All these pennies make pounds and periodically, we get a cheque to increase our funding pot!!! She also helps us enormously with scrutinizing our data and making sense of what we are doing to reflect this back to all our NEDs at the bi-annual Business meetings! We are very lucky to have her knowledge and support.

BIRTHDAY'S ALL ROUND

On Friday I attended a professional meeting for a young person. Despite my advice at the Annual Review at the beginning of the year, education chose to dismiss the advisories as did the LA. Our young person has amazing masking skills still to this day! What they saw of the young person did not commute with my raised concerns. However, when the young person stopped being able to attend college, they were flummoxed as to 'why' there was no warning, or trigger as to what might explain as to why the young person was expressing such anxiety they could no longer attend. I was cross, even more so when they tried to ask the young person who was unable to articulate why they are anxious. I stepped in and reiterated I had voiced my concerns at the beginning of the year, which had been ignored. I can explain why the young person is anxious. According to Mum, the young person was nodding their head and agreeing as I explained. What made me so cross was that it had taken 2 yrs for the family and I to get this young person to a place where they felt able to attend an educational provision again, having been out of education for several years. The family and I now are unsure how much of a setback this is and how long it might take to recover. A lot of people, parents and professionals alike, do not understand the complexities around mental health and Autism, and can do a lot of damage by not fully understanding. By putting unrealistic demands on a young person to ensure attendance is adhered to can actually impact a young person's mental health that can cause increased anxiety, burn out, and possible further damage increasing the risks of long term poor mental health.

Last night Yasmin and I left the Isle of Anglesey and drove to Birmingham Internal Conference Centre for the Learning Disabilities and Autism 2023 Awards. I had been nominated for the Nurse award, and there were several contenders. I was really happy to be nominated, despite not winning, as there were so many great nominations. It was very busy, loud with strobe lighting - not what is conducive to those with sensory issues associated with Autism, so Yasmin and I left before it ended. However, it was a really good experience, and we were grateful for the opportunity.

Have a lovely weekend!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lavinia". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'L'.