



4th July 2022

HELLO AND WELCOME

I'd love to start this summery edition by saying what wonderful weather we are having, but I don't know about you, I've so far been disappointed with the level of sunshine we are getting! My tomato plants are thriving however, but I'm a bit miffed with this so called summer so far!!

But anyway, how are you? Is it sunny where you are? Are you heading off to sandy beaches and warmer climates this month? Do send us some snaps so we can share with our volunteers if you're going anywhere nice in the next few months. **Prizes for the best photo!**



So what happened last month? Well, we celebrated Volunteers Week & the Queen's Jubilee. We held a recognition event for our vols who reached 5, 10, 15 and 20 years service!! We celebrated our retail volunteers who reached the same milestones, in the shops with tea and cake! We launched our Gift in Wills Campaign and we finalised our messaging for our Volunteer Recruitment Campaign (more on this in the next edition). So it's been a busy month! But no rest for the wicked, we keep moving forward and July seems just as busy!

AN UPDATE ON JULY

For the volunteering team we're all about Work Experience Programs this month. We're piloting our first hybrid work experience, where students can join us in the office and working from home (to give them a real feeling of working life). We're also running some in-house programs and retail too! We're looking to feedback on what works and what doesn't so next year we can offer the young people of our community a really great and worthwhile experience. So we will be out of the office a bit over the next few weeks so please do bear with us.

Our events team are crazy busy into the summer months starting with a Summer Sky Dive this weekend, The Peak District Challenge, Zip World Velocity, The Liverpool to Paris Bike Ride and finally the Liverpool Cathedral Abseil. Phew!!!

Then as we head into August, it just get's busier.

Remember if you have children and at are a bit of a loss during the summer holidays, you can volunteer with your children or grandchildren at our events. You don't have to be an events volunteer, you can just moonlight during the summer hols.

We get great feedback from mums who are struggling to fill the calendar, especially towards the end of the holidays, so if you would like to volunteer with the family, just contact Jess Murray on Jessica.Murray@clairehouse.org.uk - you also get a smile of approval from Teachers in September when you tell them you've spend the summer volunteering ;)



NEW STAFF UPDATE

ALEX WATSON

My name is Alex Watson and I am delighted to join the Claire House family as their new Hotel Services Manager. This is a new role for the Hospice but not for myself, Having gained lots of experience in the same role at Spire Healthcare. I am really looking forward to sharing my ideas and working hard to continue to help Claire House grow. Prior to working at Spire, I have a lot of experience in management roles in the Hospitality industry where I began my career.

Away from work, I am from Newcastle originally but reside in Liverpool with my partner and my 7 month old daughter. I am the eldest of ten, with five sisters and four brothers so naturally love being around children and helping in any way I can. I love my sport and I am already very excited to be part of the many activities going on, In and around Claire House with the children. I have volunteered in the past back home and I am looking forward to contributing my time towards the children again here.

Alex joins the Claire House family and will be looking after Housekeeping and Catering Volunteers (alongside Paula). If you would be interested in joining either team, do let me know and I can put you in touch with Alex.



LEWIS CROFT

Lewis Croft has joined us this month as our new Corporate Fundraiser.

Lewis will be responsible for working with local businesses who fundraise for Claire House, including Charity of the Year partnerships.

Lewis will also be supporting our Corporate Volunteers. These are volunteers who come on site, in groups, from local businesses. Usually they help us with gardening, painting and any manual jobs that need many hands.

LIAN ROGAN

Another great appointment this month is Lian Rogan, who is our new Director of Finance and Operations. This is a new role for Claire House, after a restructure in our Corporate Services Team. Lian will head up our Estates Team, Information Management, ICT and Finance teams.

Lian has a wealth of experience as she has worked in the charity sector for 18 years. She's been 4 years as a Head of Finance and has a wealth of experience in managing large companies and change programs.

Lian's position comes after a few changes in our senior management team including the retirement of Janet Wallace as our Head of Finance.



NEWS FROM CLAIRE HOUSE

Sisters Emma and Clare have set themselves a huge challenge of running 10K for Claire House due to the amazing support that their cousin Joanne received.

Emma and Clare live at opposite ends of the country and only started running in March this year, but on 24th July, they will be running the 10K distance, starting at Seacombe Ferry and along the Wirral water front.

Emma & Clare said: "The reason for this run is our cousin Joanne as she has heartbreakingly lost two precious baby girls, Ella and Libby. Ella was born in March 2020, and had a few cherished hours with her parents Joanne and J-P, before falling asleep forever and Libby was sadly born sleeping in February 2022.

Claire House have been a huge support and offered a lot of comfort to Joanne and J-P, their daughter Niamh, and entire family. Without Claire House and the amazing work that they do, what was an already unbearable time would have been even more difficult.

Claire House not only offered support through both pregnancies, but provided a safe and secure environment for them to spend time with Ella and Libby before they said goodnight for the final time."

Emma and Clare are running in memory of Ella and Libby!! Good luck girls!!



AND FINALLY...

Now, I know I'm a little bit strange some times. But bear with me on this one! I love a good tree! Do you ever stroll through a park when there's a bit of a breeze and see a mighty tree with it's leaves rustling in the wind? I marvel at them and often think about when they were planted, what life was like then etc.

Well, if you're like me, this story is for you. There could be MILLIONS of ancient trees in England, as many as two million (which is **ten times** more than previously thought).

There is currently a research project happening to map out where the trees are located, and volunteers are helping to track them down!!

Now, don't go jumping ship from Claire House to get involved in this project!! But I will say there are LOADS in our area!! Eek!!

The Head of Campaigning at the Woodland Trust, Adam Cormack said "they're out there somewhere – hidden in field corners, woods, hedges and even gardens and parks! Its like a map for buried treasure".

So next time you're walking the dog or taking a daily stroll, to have a look around your local park, there could be an ancient tree in your pathway!!! How blinking exciting!!

Until next time, look after yourself,

Amy x

