

HELLO AND WELCOME

Firstly, Happy New Year. I hope you have had a lovely festive break and managed to put your feet up at some point. I hosted 10 people on Christmas day and felt like I needed 2 weeks in the sun to recover from it – and I was only on dish washing duty!

How did you spend your Christmas and New Year? I hope it was magical whatever you got up to.

So, we're into 2024 – does anyone else still feel like we're in 2020, this pandemic has really played with my concept of time!

Have you set your New Years Resolutions? You never really hear anyone saying they'd like to eat more chocolate or eat more cheese. Which is a shame!

For me, I've set myself a, quite frankly, unachievable goal, of running a Marathon in 2024. I'm currently at couch potato level so if anyone has ever run a marathon and has any advice, it would be greatly appreciated.

For Claire House, I'm expecting big things this year! I really think 2024 will be a fantastic year for the charity and for our volunteers too. I am really looking forward to working along side you all into 2024, and whatever this year bring, I hope you have peace and happiness.



OUR SURVEY

Just a quick update on our survey. Firstly, I'd like to thank everyone who completed a copy either online or on paper. The survey is now closed. On the 12th January our Data and Insight Team will be feeding back to my team on the findings – which is very exciting indeed. On 24th January, my team have a planning meeting. Which means by the next edition of the Newsletter – in February, I'll be able to share with you what you said, and what we're going to do.

For those of you who may have missed the closing date. Don't forget we have a survey that runs all year round on our Volunteer Hub area on the Claire House website. If you have anything you'd like to comment, any time, you can do so here.

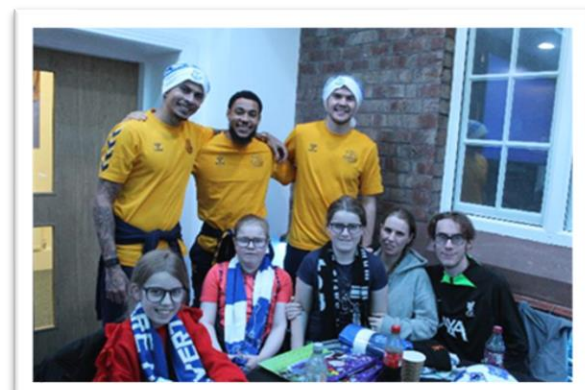
<https://www.clairehouse.org.uk/volunteering-hub/>



AN END OF YEAR VISIT

The boys in blue (football tops, or rather yellow) came to visit us last month in our Liverpool Site. Members of the Everton Team; Dele Alli, Michael Keane and Arnaut Danjuma came to spread some festive cheer and meet our Evertonian families.

They were over the moon to meet the players - it was very Christmassy and the children left with all sorts of gifts and huge smiles!!



FIZZ AND CRACKERS

Thank you to everyone who attended the final Tea and Chatter (Fizz and Crackers) in December!

We're taking a little break for these in January, but we'll be back with new dates in February for the year ahead.

To everyone who has attended over the last year, it's been lovely to see you. Thank you for taking the time to attend.



VOLUNTEERING IN OUR RETAIL STORE'S

This year we are opening a brand-new store in Connah's Quay. The shop will be opening on 25th January and we're all very excited.

We've also got big plans for our Great Homer Street Store – which will soon be adding a donation station in the store too.

We're desperately looking for volunteers for both these stores, so if you or someone you know, lives near by and wants to support either of these stores, please do let me know.

You can give as little as one hour a week, but it will make a huge difference to the support we need in the shop.

We also now (from 25th Jan) will have 16 shops located in your area and we're always in need of help.

You can volunteer in the back room, sorting stock, you can help with our window displays, or you can help us on the tills.

If you'd like to talk to a member of the team about volunteering, just drop me a line, or pop into your local shop today.



AND FINALLY...

And finally, if you're struggling for a New Years Resolution this year. BuzzFeed have created 9 'unusual' resolutions to spark your creativity, if you're struggling to think of something.

- Learn a decent party trick
- Get your photo taken in 6 interesting places
- Break a record
- Make a new friend each month
- Give one stranger a compliment every week
- Learn something you never learned as a child
- Try one new food per week
- Do something nice for someone every day
- Wear something you'd never normal wear once a month

Or why not do all nine? You could learn to tap dance, in Japan, for longer than the world record, with a new friend, who you met when you gave them a compliment, whilst also juggling, eating a prawn cracker, for charity, wearing a clown costume.... What do you think?

Until next time, look after yourself, Amy x

