

# Summer 2021 Newsletter

## Welcome to TASS news Issue 3!

So here we are again, issue 3 of our Newsletter, and I am finishing this off in the middle of some extremely hot weather! We have delayed this edition as we awaited the outcome of the Government announcement on how and what restrictions are to be lifted on the 19<sup>th</sup> July. Despite the lifting of legal restrictions, we are maintaining a cautious approach. Visitors to our sites will be asked to sign-in, use hand sanitiser throughout their visit and wear a mask when not seated at all our venues. We are also maintaining social distancing and limiting the amount of visitors. If you would like to join in one of our activities it is best to call ahead and book where possible.

We have tried to concentrate on what we can do rather than what we can't and I am pleased to say that The Daisy Club have had their first trip out, they enjoyed a day out at Homeleigh Garden Centre. For the time being our trips will be for those destinations and venues which are outside, this assists us in ensuring that social distancing can be maintained. We know how popular our trips to our varied and delicious eating venues are, and we will post information on these as soon as we feel that it is safe to do so.

Our drop-ins at Horrabridge and Milton Abbot have re-started and having visited both, I have seen first-hand how important they are for keeping in touch and having a good old chat and a laugh. More details on when they meet are at the end of this newsletter.

A full list of activities are at the end of this newsletter. These could be subject to change so please book where possible.

To ensure we have content for this newsletter, please don't be shy, and if you have pictures to be included, all the better.

### **Brave the Shave for Macmillan**

Some of you may be aware that Bernice Edgar our Transport Co-ordinator was diagnosed with cancer at the end of last year. Having undergone treatment we are delighted to report that Bernice has been given

the all clear, and returned to work in March. On Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> June, Bernice Braved the Shave in

aid of Macmillan nurses and below is the before and after pictures. What an absolute inspiration this woman is, we are all so proud and delighted for her. Bernice has a just giving page and it's not too late if you would like to make a contribution. With an initial target of £300 Bernice has raised just over £1000, for a wonderful and personal cause. Well done Bernice!

Before

After

Sue Goodman left us in May and we wish Sue all the best, we are very grateful that Sue is still involved with TASS and will volunteer when she can. Sue's role as Befriending Co-ordinator will now pass to me. We recently had a reconnect meeting and on the 11<sup>th</sup> August we will hold their first training sessions, so that they can be matched to the referrals we have continued to receive.

## Meet the Team



**Jacky Norris: Centre Coordinator**

I have been working for TASS since July 2007. I started off as a bus driver, back then we had a contract with Devon County Council for Tavistock College. It was

great, I mainly used to do pick-ups from the farms on the moors. I also used to help Val in the Charity Shop 3 late afternoons a week, sorting out the donations, doing the banking and tidying the shop ready for the next day.

After we lost the school's contract in 2016, I started working in the office helping Bernice and answering the phone. This progressed to working in the office full time. My job role is Centre Co-ordinator which involves booking various clubs into the centre, booking the bus trips, banking and ordering supplies for the centre. I am based in reception and hopefully now things are settling down it will go back to how it was. During Covid I also took on some volunteer hospital driving in my own car and in the minibuses (which I still enjoy driving).

I love working for TASS and have enjoyed my time here. I love meeting the clients and volunteers, and my great work colleagues. We are a very happy team!



**Bernice Edgar:**  
**Transport Coordinator**

I started working for TASS in January 2012 as transport co-ordinator. When I started working for TASS we were doing around 35 trips a month and now we are doing

around 200 a month plus! I organise the jobs that come in and relay information to drivers and passengers. I try and fit my drivers with the appropriate client. I organise transport for hospital trips, days out and for clubs. Throughout lockdown we have concentrated on hospital journeys. I started at TASS on reception and shop mobility and then took on all the buses as well as hospital transport. Getting involved in local community events is a great part of the job and I organise and decorate the carnival float and make costumes.

I love TASS because their outlook is help, help, help and that's not just their clientele but their staff and volunteers also. With TASS it is all team work.



**Alison Turner:**  
**Admin Coordinator**

I started volunteering at TASS in 2017. At first, helping with general admin and covering reception. In April 2018, I became a staff member and

began working in reception with Jacky.

Reception is a lovely place to work, as I get to greet all our friendly clients and volunteers as they come into the centre. As well as various administrative tasks, my role involves directing telephone enquiries to the appropriate service, greeting visitors, hiring out shop mobility equipment, setting up the hall or lounge in readiness for groups and helping to organise our trips. Recently I have also had the opportunity to help out by providing cover in our transport department, taking bookings for hospital transport.

I enjoy working for TASS, as we are small, friendly team. I look forward to welcoming more groups back into the centre as life gradually returns to normal.



**Debbie Holland:**  
**Retail Coordinator**

Firstly I would like to pay tribute to all the volunteers who work so hard to make TASS a wonderful and successful Charity. Secondly I would like to tell you my own journey with TASS. I became a volunteer in July 2018 working at the Charity Shop and RAW, In July 2019 I was honoured to become a Trustee then in March 2020 COVID 19 arrived, as Trustees we worked hard to keep the Charity viable and still working in the community all via Zoom meetings, sometimes we had to make difficult decisions, but we have survived and continue to thrive. The new shop we had moved too in February 2020 was a source of income we needed. I had some experience of working in a charity shop so I undertook along with Annette (Trustee) the job of sorting out the shop, we opened in late August 2020 and I continued to run the shop as a Trustee. As you will all know, we then had another lockdown, until April 2021, during this time the decision was made to appoint a new member of staff (shop coordinator). I made the decision to Apply for the role. I had been retired for 6 years and I guess after COVID-19 and all the sadness it brought I decided to take on a new challenge. I had to resign as a Trustee and was lucky to be successful and joined the staff in May 2021.

Running the shop has been a challenge which I enjoy immensely I would like to say a big thank

you to anyone reading this who has donated to the shop.

I have recently taken on another role as a volunteer driver and have had the pleasure of taking 'The Daisy club' on a couple of outings. Looking to the future has been hard for all of us over the last 18 months, but I am positive that TASS, it's volunteers, trustees and staff will insure that TASS grows and prospers for all the people of Tavistock.

**Cathy Hipsey: Outreach Support**

**Brian Davis: Transport Maintenance**

## Tass Activities

Here is a round-up by day of activities which are currently meeting. All are welcome, at the time of writing we are still limiting numbers, so please book if you can by calling the main number on; 01822 616958.

**The Anchorage Centre:**

**Every Monday**

10-12 - Music & Movement – a gentle way to get some exercise with Rosie

12:30-13:30 Tai Chi – with Bob

**Every Tuesday**

2-4 – Art Club – all welcome, whatever your ability

**Every Wednesday**

10-11:00 Qi Gong – with Bob

**Every Friday**

13:30-15:30 – Bingo – with Nicola

**Rest-a-While**

Every Tuesday

Befriending Brunch Club – Come along for a cup of something hot or a cold drink, and have a catch-up.

**Every Wednesday**

9-13:00 – Crafty Chatters – bring along your own materials to make something alongside other crafters, or you can purchase items on the day. All enjoyed with refreshments.

**Contacting us & General Information**

**Anchorage Centre**

Chapel Street, PL19 8AG

**Tel: 01822 616958**

General enquiries, volunteering enquiries, Befriending, Outreach and Paula, lines are open Monday-Friday, 09:30-12:30 outside these hours please leave a message.

Our befriending service, outreach and hire of mobility equipment are still operating. Please call or email and we will do our best to assist you as quickly as we can.

**Email:**

befriending@tasstavistock.org.uk

enquiries@tasstavistock.org.uk

manager@tasstavistock.org.uk

**Transport**

**Tel: 01822 617525**

Transport, lines open Monday-Friday, 09:30-12:30 outside these hours please leave a message.

Our community transport is still operating. Our community cars are available for medical appointments.

**Email:**

transport@tasstavistock.org.uk

**Spiral Staircase – Shop**

24 Market Street, PL19 0DD

**Thursday, Friday & Saturdays**

**10:00 – 2pm**

**Donations are welcome during these times.**

## Rest-A-While

East End Stores, The Pannier Market

Opening times:

Wed 10:00-13:00

Thurs 10:00 13:00 and then 2-4pm

Fri 10:00 – 12:00

The above times may vary.

## Volunteering – make a difference



Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, get involved with your community & make a real difference. We have various opportunities available. Becoming a volunteer has many personal benefits, but one of the most important is how it helps mental health. So, whether it's driving, admin, making refreshments or retail, we will have something which suits you. Call us on 01822 616958.

In memory of

We have sadly lost some founding members and friends of TASS, and perhaps have not had the chance to say goodbye in the way we normally would. We use this section as a tribute to them.

*Queenie*

We send our thoughts & prayers to their Family and Friends.

**Submit your article** If you would like your article included in the next issue, in May, please email [manager@tasstavistock.org.uk](mailto:manager@tasstavistock.org.uk). If you have pictures, please include them. Articles ideally should be no more than 500 words and may be edited.

### TASS WORDSEARCH PUZZLE NO.1

V O L U N T E E R V G T K I Y C  
P I V F U R O U T R E A C H P H  
A G T G S A T R A T F U R S G A  
N S P O M N I I R R S T N F R  
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ANCHORAGE  
ARTCLUB  
BEFRIENDING  
BINGO  
CAKE  
CHARITY  
COMMUNITY  
FRIENDS  
MINIBUS  
MOVEMENT  
MUSIC  
NEIGHBOURS  
OUTREACH  
REFRESHMENTS  
RESTAWHILE  
SHOP  
TAICHI  
TAVISTOCK  
TRANSPORT  
VOLUNTEER