

Discover



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Welcome to our Winter edition of Discover

As we near the end of 2024, I'm thrilled to share our latest newsletter, filled with inspiring news and stories.



I'd also like to take this opportunity to share with you a remarkable achievement by Matt Vince, his family, and friends, who took on the Three Peaks Challenge in the summer, raising over £45,000 in memory of Matt's daughter, Luna-Rose, who sadly passed away in October 2022. Luna-Rose had attended our pre-school group, Aquamovers, at Chailey Heritage with her mum, Sam. The group provided valuable support for the family, and Sam said it was a life-changer for her.

Matt began fundraising in April 2023 by running the Brighton Marathon, his first marathon, raising an incredible £25,000 for the charity. But he didn't stop there. In the summer, he and a team of 13 took on the Three Peaks Challenge and cycled between each peak, covering over 450 miles in just four days—through flash floods and all!

When Matt and the team cycled into the riding arena for the Victory Parade at Chailey Heritage to hand over the cheque, the children, young people, and their support teams cheered and waved flags and some also cycled on their trikes as the group performed a moving lap of honour! It was an unforgettable scene.



We are deeply grateful to Matt and the team for their dedication and hard work. The funds they've raised will make a massive difference, helping more young people and families access essential support and education through Chailey Heritage Foundation.

On this uplifting note, I wish all our readers a wonderful Christmas. I hope this edition of Discover brings you joy as you read about the incredible achievements of the young people here.

Warm regards

Gareth Germer
Chief Executive

If Matt's story has inspired you, we'd love you to join us in one of our upcoming races! We'll be there to support you every step of the way.

Upcoming Races:

- Brighton Marathon – 6th April 2025 | Fundraising target: £500
- Stockholm Marathon – 31st May 2025 | Fundraising target: £550

To secure your place, contact fundraising@chf.org.uk or call 01825 724752.

A Summer to Remember

When the school gates at Chailey Heritage Foundation close for the summer, the fun is just beginning for the young people who live with us onsite full-time. Each year, our dedicated social care colleagues plan a host of activities designed to engage, excite, and entertain, ensuring the young people experience the magic of summer in their own unique way.



Others found joy in simpler pleasures. James's face lit up when he managed to hook a duck and win a prize at the fair. Henry was content to take in the beauty of the park's lush grounds, while Toby found his happy place watching a traditional Punch & Judy show from the comfort of a deckchair.

For those who love the water, the fun continued in the resort's swimming pool, where even wheelchairs weren't a barrier to splashing through the water jets. The day reached its crescendo with a visit to the theatre for a lively performance of Jack and the Beanstalk, leaving everyone with smiles.

No seaside trip is complete without a stop at the beach, and with the beachfront directly accessible from the park, the group were able to stroll along the promenade enjoying ice creams. It was the perfect ending to a day that had offered something for everyone—a reminder that summer at Chailey Heritage is about so much more than just fun. It's about creating memories that will last a lifetime.

This year, the itinerary was packed with unforgettable adventures. From the vibrant streets of London, where the young people visited the Zoo and watched Grease at the West End, to the seaside charm of Brighton, every trip was carefully planned to offer something special for everyone. But one outing stood out as a true highlight—a day at Butlins in Bognor Regis.

The moment the young people arrived at the iconic seaside resort, they were transported to a world of wonder. Entering The Dome, a vast space buzzing with colourful shops, lively music, and the enticing aromas of summer treats, the excitement was palpable. It was a feast for the senses, a place where memories were waiting to be made.

For the thrill-seekers, the daredevil rides beckoned. Tristan, known for his love of adventure, wanted to go on the waltzers. Soon he was spinning and tilting at dizzying speeds. Far from being overwhelmed, Tristan signed to his carers that he wanted another go—and who could say no to that enthusiasm?



Introducing our new Volunteer Coordinator

We are delighted to welcome Sharon Attfeld-Davis as our new Volunteer Coordinator. Sharon has worked with volunteers for over 10 years in a variety of organisations including Children and Family Centres, the Witness Service, Citizens Advice, East Sussex Community Voice and NHS Sussex.

Sharon says, "I love working with volunteers as they have such a special quality in wanting to give up their valuable time to support others. Volunteers are a vital part of our community, and we are currently seeking to increase the number of volunteers for Patchwork Farm, Fundraising and Gardening. In return, we provide a positive and supportive experience for volunteers which enhances our standing in the community."

Being a volunteer is a great way to make use of spare time and help other people. You can:

- gain new skills and valuable work experience
- feel part of a team
- make new friends
- enjoy better physical and mental health and wellbeing
- be doing something worthwhile
- improve your confidence
- gain a sense of connection to others in the community.



Two of our volunteers reflect on their experiences at Chailey

Sharon

Sharon began volunteering with our finance team in 2000 when she retired from her career in magazine journalism. Even though she knew nothing about finance, she was intrigued to learn more as it differed so much to her previous role as a journalist.

"At Chailey Heritage Foundation I've met wonderful people dedicated to what they do and it's such a friendly atmosphere to volunteer in. Recently I was able to spend a morning down on Patchwork Farm – who'd have thought bathing a tortoise with a toothbrush could be such fun!"

Lizette

Lizette volunteers in the Leisure & Skills Centre, helping with yoga classes and assisting volunteer Ed on Patchwork Farm - they are the dream team!

"I've been volunteering at Patchwork Farm since May 2022 and absolutely love it! It's a winning combination of being around animals, supporting the amazing young people during their visits and learning new things. There's a great sense of camaraderie and often much laughter (ever seen a donkey limbo under a 3ft pole?!). I feel immensely supported by Lesley and Torid who are always brilliant at sharing their knowledge. Volunteering on the farm has been so good for my mental health. Fresh air, hard work, inspiring young people, limbo-dancing donkeys – what's not to love?! I highly recommend it and hope I'll be volunteering at Patchwork Farm for many years to come."



Volunteering opportunities

To find out more about volunteering opportunities at Chailey, give Sharon a call on 01825 724444 ext 402 or email: volunteering@chf.org.uk
<https://www.chf.org.uk/volunteering.html>

Celebrate Good Times!

Celebration is one of our core values - we love to celebrate the children and young people we support, as well as the hard work and dedication of our brilliant colleagues.

Here are highlights from Celebration Day with its 'Down at the farm' theme, as well as our first ever Foundation Festival, a day where we all came together as one Foundation, to recognising everyone's contribution to making a difference to the lives of the young people we care for.





Transforming Dreams into Reality

Since launching in 2019, the immersive space in the Dream Centre has provided life-changing experiences for children and young people. This multi-sensory environment goes beyond entertainment – it’s a vital tool that helps unlock personal development in areas such as education, emotional growth, and physical wellbeing.



His work is time-intensive but deeply rewarding, offering young people sensory-rich experiences they may never have otherwise.

“Creating this content is incredibly fulfilling,” Mark says. “To see young people like Max engage in new ways makes all the effort worthwhile. It’s about helping them connect with the world around them in a way that’s meaningful to them.”

Max’s teacher explains how the space goes beyond entertainment - “The immersive space sparks curiosity. When Max shows interest, we build on that back in his personal targets – for example using a head switch to make choices – so when he sees something he likes in the underwater scene, a shark or particular fish, he uses his head switch to select more of that, enhancing his independence.”

Tailored entirely to the individual, the immersive space empowers young people to engage with content that resonates with their interests and needs. For teaching and support teams, it’s an invaluable tool that helps the individuals they support achieve personal targets, promoting both cognitive and emotional development.



Max’s Story: Bringing the Ocean to Life

Max who is 14 years old and has complex health needs, including sight impairments, loves the sea and underwater life. Thanks to our wonderful immersive space, he can now experience this passion in a whole new way. A bespoke designed 360-degree underwater scene featuring vibrant coral, colourful fish, sharks, using sharp contrasts allows Max to be fully immersed in this environment. For Max, this was a breakthrough - large visuals enabled him to react to changes in light, moving his head to follow the scenes and tracking images with his eyes, stimulating his eye muscles. It was an incredible moment for his family and support team to witness.

Our specialist content developer, Mark Elms, plays a critical role in making these immersive experiences come to life. Working closely with teachers and support teams, Mark creates content tailored to each young person’s unique interests, personal goals, and learning curriculum, as well as supporting group sessions such as drama or immersive art.



Please support Our Big Give Challenge!

With your generosity, we can continue to fund life-changing experiences for young people like Max. Just £45.39 could pay for an entire session, and remember all donations will be doubled between 3rd and 10th December up to £10k, resulting in an incredible £20K making a meaningful difference for children and young people like Max.

Please visit www.donate.biggive.org





A Banger of a Night Out for Teetee and Mikey

The Futures residential offering at Chailey Heritage Foundation aims to give young adults aged 19-25 the same thrilling experiences their peers enjoy – in this case, an exhilarating evening of banger racing!

As autumn’s darker evenings began to set in, two young residents of Futures, Teetee and Mikey, who live full-time in Willows bungalow, had an unforgettable night at the Ardingly Racetrack to witness the high-octane excitement of banger racing.

The moment they arrived with their dedicated support teams, they were greeted by an electric atmosphere that thrilled the senses—bright lights, roaring engines and the smell of petrol. For many, it might have been overwhelming, but not for Teetee and Mikey. Eager to immerse themselves in the action, they moved right up close to the track to soak in the chaotic energy of the races.

What unfolded was nothing short of spectacular. Cars thundered around the track at breakneck speeds, and at one heart-stopping moment, a car even flipped over right in front of the crowd! Thankfully, the driver emerged unscathed and waved to reassure the onlookers before the race continued. Teetee and Mikey were absolutely transfixed, their eyes wide with excitement as the night progressed, filled with adrenaline, petrol fumes, and pure joy.

The crowd added to the fun of the evening, with friendly spectators coming over to greet Teetee and Mikey, making them feel part of the action. As the night wore on, Teetee began to feel a bit overwhelmed by the noise, but in a heartwarming gesture, a kind woman from the track lent him her ear defenders, instantly calming his senses and allowing him to enjoy the remainder of the night in comfort.

It was a night to remember—a fuel-filled, adrenaline-pumping adventure that Teetee and Mikey thoroughly enjoyed. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of their support teams, they live life to the fullest!

Join Us and Make a Difference

If you think you’ve got what it takes to bring fun, adventure, and joy to the lives of young people like Teetee and Mikey, we’d love to hear from you. Chailey Heritage Foundation has an exciting range of career opportunities for all ages and experience levels. Help us ensure that every young adult can enjoy experiences like these— one incredible night at a time.

For more information contact careers@chf.org.uk

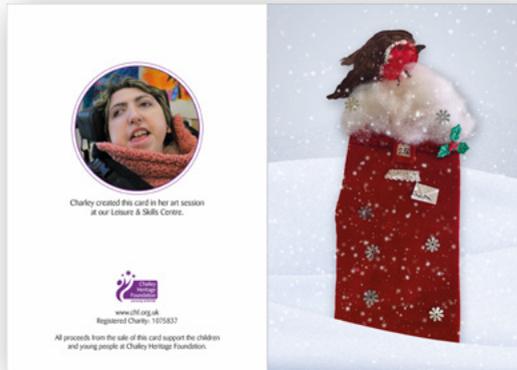
View current vacancies at www.chf.org.uk/careers

Celebrate Christmas with us!

Christmas cards

Christmas cards are now on sale! This year we have a wider selection of cards to choose from - 3 brand new, shiny e-cards to help the environment and with postal costs! And a choice of 2 printed cards.

To order visit
[www.chf.org.uk/
Christmas-Cards-2024](http://www.chf.org.uk/Christmas-Cards-2024)

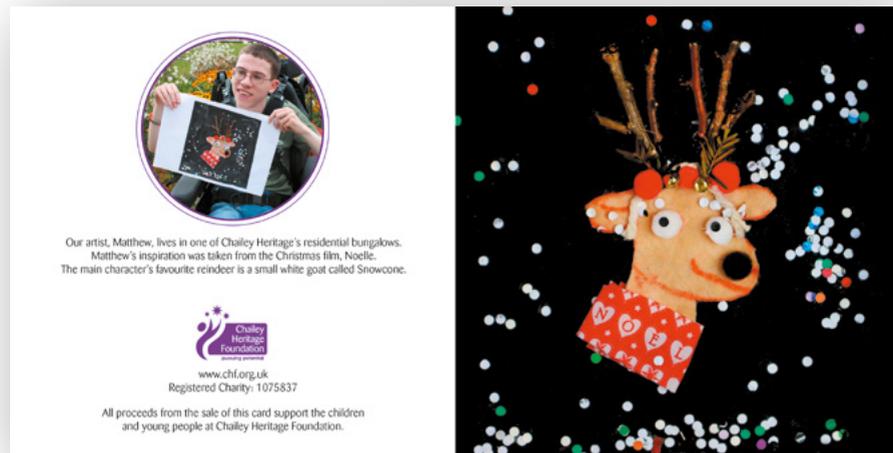


A Christmas Present For Someone Who Has Everything!

Our animal sponsorship packages make for the perfect Christmas present!

Patchwork Farm is our onsite therapy farm providing unique, multi-sensory experiences for the young people at Chailey Heritage Foundation. It helps the young people to develop their language and communication skills as well as building confidence.

Treat an animal lover to a year's animal sponsorship whilst supporting Patchwork Farm. Visit – Sponsor an Animal (www.chf.org.uk) to buy your Christmas Gift Today!



Christmas market

Chailey Heritage Foundation is hosting its first Christmas Market! Join us on Sunday 1st December from 11 to 3 pm for a festive market in the Dream Centre. Support local stallholders and find the perfect hand-crafted Christmas gifts!



Coro Nuovo Carol Concert

Join us on Thursday, 5th December at 6.30pm for a Christmas Carol Concert in St Martin's Chapel performed by the incredible Coro Nuovo Voices Choir.

Tickets available here



Our **Big Give** Christmas Challenge



Support Life-Changing Immersive Experiences!
All donations will be doubled between 3rd and 10th December
up to £10,000, resulting in an incredible total of £20,000!

Help fund our immersive experiences to make dreams a reality for children and young people at Chailey Heritage Foundation. In a fully immersive, 360-degree digital landscape, young people can watch their dreams come to life, just like Max, who interacted with a custom-made underwater scene.

This multi-sensory environment isn't just for entertainment—it's a vital tool for unlocking personal development in areas like education, emotional growth, and physical wellbeing.

Make dreams come true.



Double your donation at www.donate.biggive.org



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