



2022 Newsletter

2022 has been packed full of holidays, adventures, days out and parties!

We've opened a new house this year called Lavender Place.



Anna's Words

I am writing these words the day after our annual Christmas party. It was a wonderful celebration, full of energy and laughter and of course, lots of dancing. It was lovely to see people who are 'Old friends' of Chester Link from our early days, and our newer service users, families, and staff teams. Everyone enjoyed socialising and we introduced some of our international staff to some Chester Link party favourites such as the 'Conga' and 'YMCA'. Hopefully they will learn the moves ready for next year!

2022 marks 20 years of service for me. I often tell new starters that I have worked every role in the organisation over the last 20 years and this is the best way to learn about how Chester Link works. Every role is essential to the smooth running of the charity, and every one of our 71 staff (as of today) plays a part in making Chester Link a great place to live in and work at.

You will see from the last page of this newsletter that we have a management team who support the different elements of work streams. Elaine C and Cate manage care and support, Charlotte – housing and Hannah – training, with Abby providing Admin support and Mandy Bookkeeping. We all work together to support the 'Human Resources' work of recruiting and managing staff while Lorna is on maternity leave. With the Lead Support Workers, we also provide a 24/7 on-call service for our service users and staff as well as having an open door at the office during working hours.

We work hard to recruit and retain staff with the right ethos, skills, knowledge, and experience. We take our time for them to get to know the service users and ways of work, and of course they have a number of training courses to complete. All staff new to support work complete the Care Certificate, and our Training Co-Ordinator runs courses so that staff can gain a qualification to further develop their knowledge. There is a recruitment crisis in social care, but I am proud to say that we are fully staffed with a waiting list of people wanting to join our staff teams.

Covid is still with us, however the government has decided this week that staff and visitors no longer need to wear masks when walking around the houses unless a service user has Covid. Masks will still be used for personal care and if a staff member or service user chooses to wear a mask. Please support us to keep Covid and other illnesses from the houses by continuing to respect personal distances and not coming to visit if you are unwell.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us during 2022, including our hard-working Trustees who give their time freely.

I look forward to seeing you all in 2023 and beyond.

Anna

Alison

I went on holiday to Blackpool in June, whilst there we went to Madame Tussaud's and I really enjoyed posing in front of all of the wax figures and even did a strut down the catwalk! We went to Sea Life Centre and Ripley's Believe It or Not.



We went to see an ABBA tribute show and Alison enjoyed singing along to the songs and especially enjoyed the cheesecake.

This is me at my first day at her my job at Dial House, I love to be helpful and I'm the best person there at washing up.



This was the Queen's Jubilee where I played games at the street party in Handbridge including Hook a duck. We all then had a scone together.



Anne

I am a very busy lady, with rarely an evening to spare! I attend day services 2 days a week, evening clubs at least 2 evenings a week and of course the disco every Tuesday! I sing and dance the night away.



My family is very important to me, and I adore seeing my mum once a week.



I love visiting cafes and restaurants wherever I go, whether it being around the local area or if I am away on day/overnight trips! I am especially partial to fish & chips.



I have been to many shows this year including day visits to Llandudno, Manchester and overnight stays to Liverpool. I have seen Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat, Dreamgirls, Mamma Mia, Legally Blonde, Gangsta Granny, Abba Mania, School of Rock, and Paw Patrol – Live!



Sian

I have had a successful and fun-filled busy year. I have been on four holidays: one to Blackpool with Alison, Brett and Becca. I went to Madame Tussaud's, Sea Life centre, Ripley's Believe it or Not and an ABBA experience. I bought lots of lovely souvenirs and won some prizes in the arcades and ultimately had a relaxed holiday doing my favourite activities.



We also took a trip to Newquay where I visited the aquarium, Newquay zoo, did lots of shopping and tried some new crafting activities.



As well as 2 family holidays to Scotland and to the Lakes, I has attended some theatre shows including The Lion King, Blood Brothers, Lord of the Dance and Strictly Come Dancing and has been to see McFly and Westlife in Concert

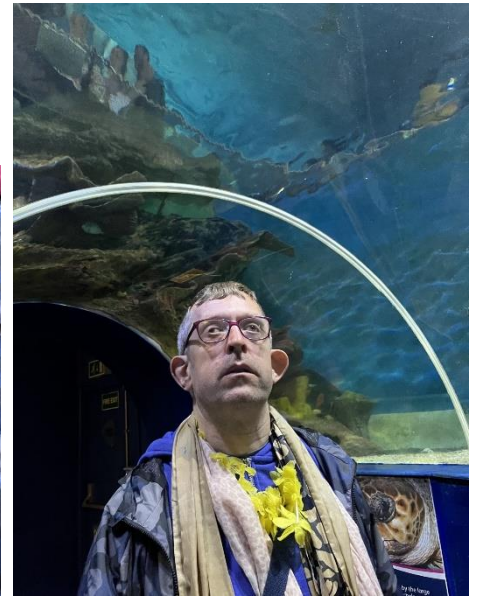


I have tried many new activities this year such as bowling and mini golfing with staff which I really enjoy, as lockdown restrictions have eased off, I has been able to go on days out with my friends independently. I have been attending Anatomy sessions to improve my confidence and strength and I attend a weekly sports club and Zumba session and I am always partying hard at the discos! I am even volunteering/working twice a week.

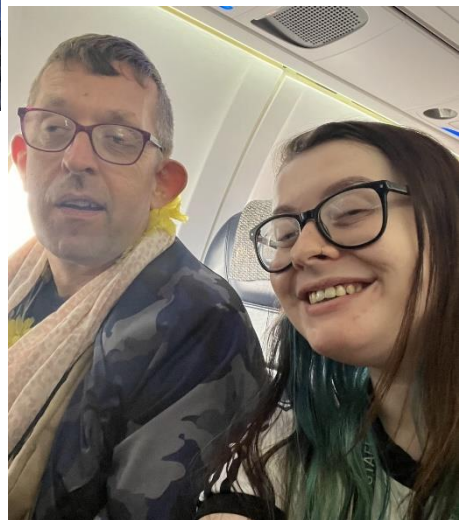
Adam



I went on holiday to Newquay in September, whilst we were there Becca and Adam went on a boat ride into sea which I really enjoyed despite getting absolutely soaked! We went to Newquay Aquarium and also Newquay Zoo where I got to stroke a goat which made me very happy.



I bought some lovely bags from the gift shop and from shops around Newquay and enjoyed flying on the plane.



I look particularly cheeky as it was suggested I should wear my raincoat to avoid getting soaked again but I thought it was funny that we had been soaked.



Ruth



This was my first session at Diverse Designs, and we were painting pictures of the night sky – I really enjoyed it.



I also moved into my new house called Lavender Place with Laura!



Dan



I've been out and about meeting dinosaurs and Lego-ing in Chester...



I also met a very large puppy!



I had a short break down to London with Fiona, Helen and Lisa in August. It was really hot. We went to see Grease at the theatre.

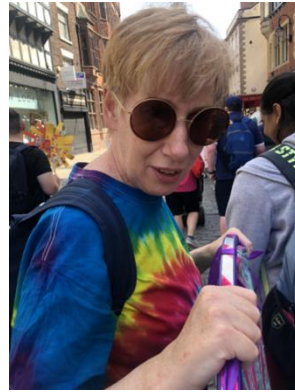


Last month, I took the train to Liverpool, where I walked around the Albert Dock and had lunch in the pub.



I also had a good catch up with Mike who I miss a lot!

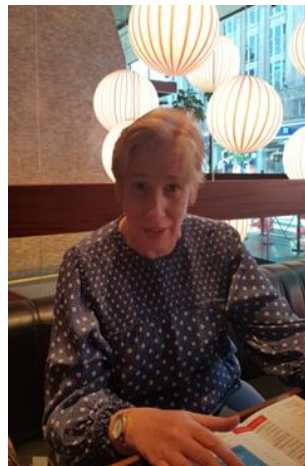
Fiona



The kaleidoscope festival was great fun. I enjoyed walking in the parade through the streets of Chester.



Dan and I took the train to London. We went to the theatre to see Grease, had a tour on the sightseeing bus and ate some lovely food.



I thought the hotel was very nice.



Julia and I went bowling and out for tea.



I have enjoyed spending time in the garden with my mate Winnie.

Paul

I went to London to watch Wicked at the theatre.



I am enjoying work at Canal Street and going to the gym working with a personal trainer.



Later in the year I underwent an operation and I was extremely brave!

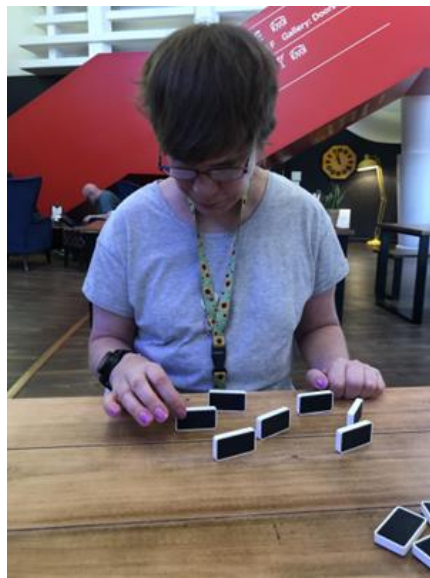
Julia



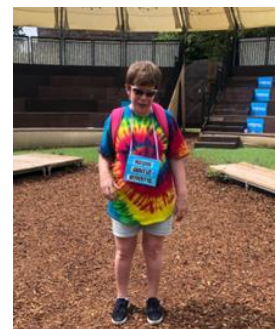
I went to the Halloween disco as a little boy from Oliver! I won a prize at the raffle and chatted to my friends.



I went to cafes to drink coffee and play dominoes.



I enjoyed going to the Kaleidoscope festival and making a sign for the parade. I even stood on the stage and made a speech!



John



Dan and I had a lovely week in Center Parcs in May. We had a day in Penrith, and we went swimming and bowling, with lots of lovely meals and drinks in-between.



This was our cabin right in the middle of the forest. We had a sauna too!



There was a big lake in the middle of the forest that we walked round every day, stopping off for a drink along the way.



I went to see School of Rock in the Liverpool Empire in July. Our seats were high up, but we had a good view. I enjoyed going to the pub beforehand where I had a really nice steak and a pint.



John enjoyed a trip to see Bedknobs and Broomsticks in Liverpool.



We had a kit kat and diet coke party to remember Mark Bell.



Diane

I had a lovely award from Dial West Cheshire celebrating my 20 years volunteering service. They gave me a certificate and a mug.



The Albert Docks is my favourite place in Liverpool.



I've had some good days out over the summer such as, River Cruise on the Dee, Grosvenor Park to see the Queen and Chester Zoo to see the sloths!



This year I celebrated my 60th Birthday. I had a big party with friends and family. I had a great time.



I spent the night in Llandudno with Elaine, Cathie and John, we had a fun time.

Trevor



I recently went on holiday to Towyn.



I enjoyed visiting the Zoo and meeting some animals.

I also took a visit to Trentham gardens monkey forest.



And enjoyed many desserts!

Joanne



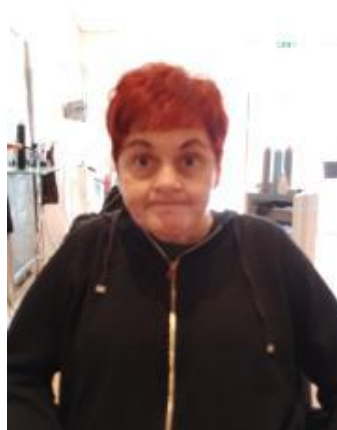
I've been up to loads of activities and days out including my weekly bingo trips and going out for hot chocolates in a café. I have also been given leg exercises from the GP to keep me active and healthy!



I have been attending friendship group club.

I've enjoyed personal shopping and using the self-scan to pay.

I also had a new haircut and colour which looks amazing!



John



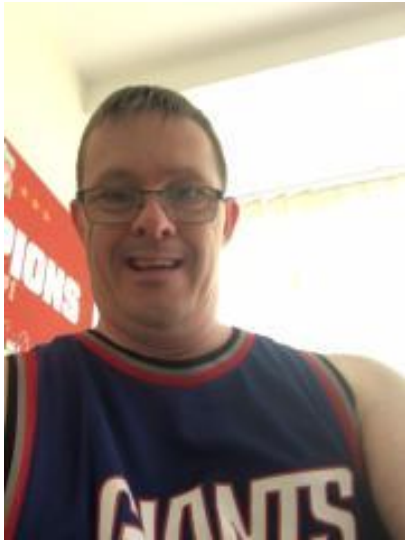
I am keeping active attending halls and I enjoy practicing with my walker, I'm getting really fast with it.



I still enjoy a walk in the local park or woodland. And at present I am swimming twice a week!



Chris



I've been cooking more and made a Chicken pie from scratch and curry!

I brought a new vest and had a new haircut.



I am still working in Ellesmere Port, but it has moved to the library now, I sort the post and laminate documents.



I'm trying to get fit by boxing on my punchbag and walking more steps. I count my steps on my phone.



I went to Centre Parks in Pembrokeshire earlier this year with Oz, JC and Joe Baxter. We went swimming, I had a massage and played snooker, I really enjoyed it.



Ian



I've completed two days of hedge laying training at Chester Zoo and received the qualification. This has allowed me to access the wildlife champions course at Chester Zoo which commences in November and will hopefully lead to further opportunities.

I also took a trip to Africa earlier in the year.



Joe



I enjoyed a trip to Yorkshire with my parents, my sister, and my brother-in-law and we went to Yorkshire National Railway museum.



I love my girlfriend and she is beautiful and special. I enjoy spending time with her by going for tea outs and cinemas.



I went to Lake district, Central park with Chris from Newton Lane and support staff. It was brilliant. I had good food and sleep and enjoyed riding pedalos with Chris and the support staff.



I like my support staff and I enjoy cooking with staff. I get support when needed. I enjoy trying new recipes from my cookbook. I like my housemate Oliver and he celebrated his birthday recently. I like to play Yu-Gi-Oh card game and Fifa with him.



I recently celebrated my 30th birthday at Cheshire live with other tenants and support staff and my friends. I enjoyed it. I received lots of presents, gift cards, money and gift vouchers.



I love going to open mic night at story house and I enjoy singing (Karaoke) heavy metal and mix up songs.

Oliver



I spend as much time I can with the different support staff engaging in all sorts of activities and we have lots of fun! I go to Cheshire Oaks to watch films and take part in the mini golf courses; I play trading card games with the support staff, but I teach them how to play first and other fun board game. The support staff are always friendly and great to talk to if I have worries about daily activities that I want to take part in and are understanding if I am going outside of the house for the night to spend time with family and friends.

Overall Chester Link is a brilliant company all the staff are so kind and supportive and great fun to spend time with.

Laura



I joined Chester Link in July, and I've settled in well to Lavender Place with Ruth!

I love my one to ones with my staff on weekends where I eat out and try lots of different foods.

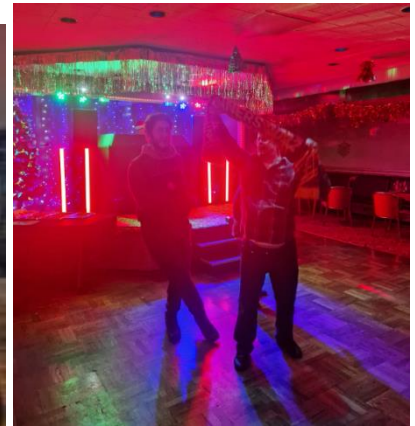


I love to sing and have joined a live choir and I'm really enjoying my time working with Matt Baker!

We held a Halloween party at Lavender Place earlier in the year and all got dressed up. More recently, me Ruth and I put up our first Christmas tree in the house and decorated it together, we had a lovely Christmassy evening together.



AND FINALLY, WE ENDED THE YEAR WITH OUR ANNUAL CHESTER LINK 2022 CHRISTMAS PARTY!



Winter Words 2022- Chairman

It has been quite a period of time since my last set of words for the newsletter.

During the last 12 months, amongst a number of achievements and developments, the company has opened up a new house for two service users and successfully integrated that into our day to day services.

As a Trustee board, we continue to meet regularly and have undertaken a business review with an agreed action plan to take forward various aspects of our business, including a refresh of our subcommittee structure and meetings.

On behalf of all my Trustee colleagues, our continued thanks to the service users, staff team and families and friends for your continued support.

Finally, I enjoyed seeing so many of you at our annual Christmas party on the 15th December 2022. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Roger

Our Staff

Anna – Chief Officer

Elaine – Registered Manager

Cate – Care Co-Ordinator

Charlotte – Housing Co-Ordinator

Lorna – Staff Co-Ordinator (Maternity Leave)

Hannah – Staff Co-Ordinator

Mandy - Bookkeeper

Abby – Administration Assistant

Danielle – Mental Health support

Shirley House	Hoole Road & Lavender Place	Dispersed Services	Greville Drive
<u>Lead Support Worker</u> Kayleigh	<u>Lead Support Worker</u> Adellade	<u>Lead Support Worker</u> Marc	<u>Lead Support Worker</u> James
Helen Lisa P Elaine S Aimee Ishioma Rayan Yomi Chloe (Maternity)	Brett Becca Lauren Miranda (Maternity) Chris N Charlotte BA Neyo Esther Emily Courtney	Gareth Chris S-A Dan Marcin Ellie Deepika Macwillson Paul	Ann Brenda Elaine H Jean P Lisa R Hayley Jackie Erioluwa Mark

Relief Staff

Maureen, Angel, Kathy W, Steph, Ben, Ade, Justina, Bhavani, Jo E, Liam, Dana, Neha, Tomisin, Ola, Cavan, George D, Caroline, Arian, Jason, Sophie, William, Helena, Chinonso