# Day Opportunities NEWS Basildon

#### December 2023

### **Card winners**

Carmen Millwood, a customer at our Day Opportunities Basildon recently won Papworth Trust's 'Welcome card' competition. This competition was open to customers/tenants across the whole organisation to design a card that will be given to staff members when they join the Trust. Carmen's creation truly stole the spotlight, and it's easy to see why! She also received a £20 Primark voucher for winning, happy shopping Carmen!







Ins graphic was designed by Josephine from Papworth Trust, Basildon, our chosen charity, who we have made a donation to in lieu of printed Christmas cards.

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Another one of our customers, Josephine Chapman, won the PCS Legal e-card competition for her fantastic design and also received a voucher.

Congratulations to both of you!





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# **Christmas event**

In a heartwarming initiative to combat loneliness and raise community spirit, Basildon's 'More In Common' hosted a delightful Christmas meal and party. The event, designed to reduce social isolation, proved to be a lovely gathering for all attendees. A talented singer and a captivating magician added enchantment to the atmosphere, while the highlight of the evening was undoubtedly Santa's visit. Santa spread his cheer and presents to all involved. The success of the event is owed to the efforts of the organisers, and heartfelt thanks go out to all who contributed to make this festive celebration a memorable event!





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# **Rock choir**

Customers enjoyed another visit from the wonderful Rock Choir! Rock Choir is the UK's leading contemporary award-winning choir experience offering local weekly rehearsals, performances and life-affirming events to more than 400 towns and communities across the UK. You can read more about them here: www.rockchoir.com





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### Christmas decorations

Basildon Day Opportunities customers enjoyed creating their own Christmas decorations, they look amazing and will be perfect for the centres Christmas tree! Our staff member, Bernard, even made a nutcracker for the centre too.



# Christmas tree

The customers used their Christmas creations to decorate our Christmas tree, it is certainly feeling festive in Basildon now!





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# Fig chutney

Basildon Day Opportunities customers also made their own fig chutney using figs from the garden! They finished off the jars with their very own Papworth Trust labels.



### **Barleylands Farm**

Customers enjoyed a day of volunteering at Barleylands Farm, they even ensured the pigs got their pumpkin lunch.





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# Vintage fire car

During pyjama week, customers were thrilled by a visit from the local fire station showcasing a vintage fire car, adding an extra layer of excitement to the event.





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# **Human Kind Café**

Marty and Ethan successfully completed their six-week volunteer programme at the Human Kind Café! Human Kind Café aims to help combat loneliness, social isolation and connect the community.





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# **Stephen Metcalfe MP Visit**

Papworth Trust welcomed local MP Stephen Metcalfe to our Day Opportunities service in Basildon. We held a questions and answers session led by customers where Stephen spoke about life as a Member of Parliament and customers told him about some of the issues faced by disabled people.

#### Stephen said:

"It was a great pleasure to have the opportunity to visit Papworth Trust again and to meet the service users who value so highly the opportunities which it provides. The Trust does tremendous work in supporting people with physical and learning disabilities giving them more confidence in dealing with the world around them. I was pleased to be questioned by them about my role as a Member of Parliament and what that entails. It was wonderful to see them so engaged and interested in the local community. Maggie Blackburn and the staff at the Trust do excellent work in supporting disabled people and their families and I am so grateful to them for taking their time to help."





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# International Day of Persons with Disabilities

International Day of Persons with Disabilities is an international day which has been promoted by the United Nations since 1992. It is celebrated every year on 3 December. In the run up to this year's International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we spoke with our Day Opportunities customers to discuss with them what changes they'd like to see to make their lives easier/better. Here's what they told us...



You may also want to read a blog we wrote called "Digital inclusion: Don't leave us behind"

www.papworthtrust.org.uk/news-and-blogs/international-day-of-persons-with-disabilities/



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# Supporting disabled people to be seen for who they are.



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Registered charity number 211234 Papworth Trust, 1 Saxongate, Bradbury Place, Huntingdon, PE29 3RR