



# SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2023



**Phew!** It has been a whirlwind few months at Youth Cancer Trust. We've been super busy with events, challenges and our first holiday at our new site in Dewlish.

We are pleased to say our first trial week at Manor Farm Barn went extremely well, with lots of happy guests and some lovely feedback. We have 2 more trial weeks planned for this year, for invited Youth Ambassadors and guests, who are helping us to try out new activities and ensure the brilliant facilities onsite are accessible to everyone's needs.

## WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

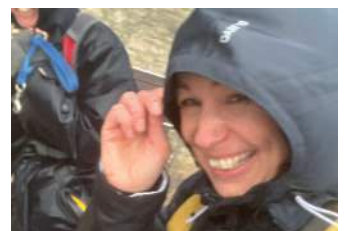
### 22 miles 22 challenges fundraiser

Staff members Laura and Wendy had an active start to the year, training for a challenge walk they completed on the 30th April. The 22 mile coastal walk, symbolically marked the 22 miles the charity has moved from its home for 25 years at Tracy Ann House in Bournemouth, to its new location at Manor Farm Barn in Dewlish.

As part of the challenge, they also had to complete 22 challenges - many of those with 22 parts to them!!

Challenges included going sugar free, acts of kindness, making new recipes and pancake flipping. The team also spent a day walking in fancy dress, completed a 3 legged walk, an illuminated night walk, bounced on a space hopper and went in the sea. They raised over £1,500 for the Trust- and had a lot of fun too!!

Some of our guests joined in with the challenge by setting themselves their own walking targets. We've loved seeing everyone's scenic photos they've been sending in.





## WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

### 22 miles 22 challenges fundraiser (cont'd)

Here's what guest Tracey said:

*"Back at the end of January, I posted to say how I was inspired by Laura and Wendy's epic walk challenge, to set a challenge of my own, and it was to walk their 22 miles from Feb to their walk date in a couple of weeks time.*

*Well, I've done it! Exceeded it in fact! I've managed 53.5 miles. And as predicted I had problems with joints so had to rest for two weeks but have picked up again and feel great!*

*If any of you feel like setting yourself a mini goal, no matter how small, over a long period of time, then I would highly recommend it! Being in the outdoors is such a bonus too! I'm going to try a tiny bit of jogging next... maybe just 50m to begin with but it's a start."*

Well done and thank you to Tracey for sharing this with us.

### 1st trial week at manor farm barn



All photos: Corin Messer

In May we hosted our first trial week at our new location of Manor Farm Barn in Dewlish. Located in a quiet village just outside of Dorchester, this working farm offers the perfect relaxing get away. The main house and adjoining cottage, border a courtyard garden, with a heated swimming pool, sheltered pergola and a large games room.

Tiffany and Millie, the resident donkeys were ready to greet guests on arrival, whilst the sheep and alpacas took a more relaxed approach, sheltering from the sun. Chickens wander freely around the site and guests are able to enter the fields to interact with all the animals.

The holiday was hosted by Laura Hartley who was joined by new staff members Jo Bingham and Josh Booth. We were also excited to welcome Chef Ian to the team, his amazing cooking received rave reviews from both the guests and staff.

For our first trial week we invited Youth Ambassadors and well known guests and asked them to give us their honest and unfiltered feedback to ensure we can deliver the best standard of holidays to our future guests. We are delighted that everyone loved the week and gave us lots of great feedback with helpful tips and suggestions as we continue to evolve our service.

The week was action packed as we wanted guests to try out as many activities as possible. In the future we want to offer different types of holiday - some action packed, others that are more chilled and then others in the middle!

*"This is a happy and magical place I love everyone here"*



## WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

### 1st trial week at manor farm barn (cont'd)

#### Summary of the week:

**Day 1** - Guest arrivals and a chance to enjoy the beautiful onsite facilities at Manor Farm Barn. The games room was an instant hit and guests could also enjoy a refreshing dip in the pool or some quiet crafting time.

**Day 2** - Off to Weymouth for a boat ride with Weymouth Bay Rib Charter. Then fish and chips on the beach and time at leisure, before heading back to the farm for fun in the games room and another feast from our chef Ian.

**Day 3** - We spent the morning at Gorcombe Extreme Sports for Rage Karts and Quad Biking. Guests had the option to go their own pace around the track or speed off with the diligent staff team for a faster paced circuit.

The afternoon was a more relaxed pace with a visit to Luccombe riding Centre for grooming and horse therapy. Or guests could take a tour of the farm with team member Josh and see the cows being milked.

There was also plenty of time for relaxing too! Hungry after a busy day, everyone enjoyed Chef Ian's BBQ in the evening.

**Day 4** - On the last full day off the holiday we took a trip to Springfield lake for raft building with the brilliant team at Cumulus Outdoors. We had a lot of fun building rafts then trying them out on the lake. We even managed to race them!

In the afternoon we relaxed at Manor Farm Barn with an ice cream tasting session. Thanks to the generous ice cream donation from Baboo Gelato. The double chocolate ice cream and blackcurrant sorbet were our favourites.

**Day 5** - It was time to say goodbye to our guests and to pack up our things after a memorable week together. We have collated all of the feedback and are now busy putting it into action and making plans ready for our next trial week in September.



All photos: Corin Messer

“Good mixture of relaxation and activities”



“Amazing! Lots of things to do and sightseeing. Staff were amazing and reliable at all times”



## WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

All photos: Corin Messer

### 1st trial week at manor farm barn (cont'd)



“Chef was brilliant. Good variety of comfort food and tasty treats. Something for everyone”

Here's a quote from Staff Member Laura about the week:

*“With anything new there is always a sense of anticipation and slight nerves in the build up to the first holiday of the season - let alone in a new place with new people. I probably shared similar feelings to those of the guests who were making their way across the UK to Dorset. It didn't take long for the nerves to disappear as we jumped straight into the holiday mode as the first few arrived. Having met all the guests over the last couple of years online and then meeting them all on zoom two weeks prior, I felt like I knew everyone before they even arrived!”*

*It was also great having Jo, Josh and Ian on board - many hands make light work! Both Jo and Josh were a fantastic addition to YCT holidays getting involved with everything, supporting everyone to feel comfortable as well as joining in with the fun.*

*And Ian; there aren't enough words-fabulous, fresh homemade food and plenty of it, all with a helping of a good chat in the kitchen.*

*Having helped Brenda last year run the holidays, previous voluntary work at YCT and having benefited from similar such holidays in my younger days, the aim of the week was simple; create a bubble for five days that allowed a dozen young people to come together to relax, unwind, have fun in an environment and atmosphere that radiated understanding, support and care.*

*From the feedback we received we couldn't be happier with how our first trial week went and I know that we are all eager for the next one happening in September.”*

**Laura Hartley**



“Beautiful, absolutely amazing. Love the donkeys”



## WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

### Dance Beats Cancer show raises £1,500 for Youth Cancer Trust

Dance Beats Cancer returned to the Lifecentre in May for its 5th year. The evening of dance performance was its most successful yet with a packed auditorium and breathtaking performances by local dance schools.

Over £1,500 was raised on the night!!

Dance Beats Cancer aims to provide opportunities for new dancers just starting out and to share the stage with experienced and professional dancers. All levels of experience, all ages and all dance genres are welcome for the inclusive event.



*"It's performance from the heart through a shared love of dance expression."*

*"Our events are deeply rooted in community and bringing people together, in the same way that we do at Youth Cancer Trust."*

**Wendy Parrott**

Read the full write up of our Dance Beats Cancer show in Dorset Biz News.

**Follow the link [here](#)**

All photos: Libby Bingham and Lucy Vogt





## GUEST'S NEWS

### Congratulations

To our Youth Ambassador Kirsty who married David on 25th May, in a beautiful celebration on a sunny day in Glasgow.



Congratulations to you both.



Youth Ambassador Natalie hosted an online fundraising raffle for Youth Cancer Trust. Thanks to everyone that donated prizes.

Natalie hosted several fundraising raffles and challenges during the pandemic to support the charity. Even completing a fake tan challenge to raise funds!

### Guest's Story: Leanne

“ My first holiday with YCT was last year, and I thought it was amazing, never did I expect the new place to top it. The grounds were truly beautiful, so much space to have free time or be alone if needs be.

Each one of the staff (new & old) were so kind and caring, and easy to talk to, they didn't feel like staff, they felt like FRIENDS! What more could you possibly want? I knew I could be open about anything.

I struggle so much mobility wise, but more so I feel such a burden with it, on those around me. YCT makes me see I am not a burden, and they make arrangements/cater for me in more ways I could ever imagine. They literally had it all sorted. They explain activities and let you make your own choices on whether you want to do them or not. I truly can't explain how much freedom they have given me and I'll always be grateful!

This holiday let me meet some amazing new friends. I was unwell one day, and they just let me take the time to chill and recover.

No one pressured me or made me feel bad; they just let me take my own time and showed such care.

The grounds are provided by such amazing people, also who I had the pleasure of meeting, and they were willing to make any adjustments needed to help us. The care that went into this holiday and WILL continue to go into future holidays is unmatched.

My husband got to attend and he felt a weight off his shoulder as he knew I was cared for correctly, he could actually relax and enjoy the holiday!

I have memories I'll cherish and I hope to go in the future and continue to make such beautiful memories!

My life changed after my first holiday with YCT, and this second holiday on the trial week made me certain I had found peace here.

Life is too short, make the memories, take the chance, and enjoy YCT





## GUEST'S NEWS

### Guest's Story: Leanne (cont'd)

We were fortunate to be able to provide an extra surprise for Leanne during her stay.

We were kindly donated an electric scooter by Joe Shields. Joe sadly lost his wife recently and her wish was for her scooter to be donated to a charity that would be able to use it to help someone else.



Leanne was able to take the scooter home with her and we've loved hearing stories of how she's been enjoying her time using it.

## COMPETITION

### April was Teenage and Young Adult Cancer Awareness Month.

We decided to support this initiative by inviting everyone to light up their homes, schools and workplaces with gold and yellow lights. The colours symbolising childhood and adolescent cancer- as a display of support for our young people.

In addition to this we also introduced a sunflower growing competition, extending the golden glow and planting seeds for the future. A reminder that we are always here for our guests.



### Ready Steady Glow

We've invited guests and supporters to plant sunflowers in April and share photos of their progress using the hashtag [#illuminate4TYA](#)

The closing date is 31st August when we will invite everyone to send a photos and measurement of their sunflower to [wendy@yct.org.uk](mailto:wendy@yct.org.uk).

Entries will be judging using the following categories:

- Tallest sunflower
- Sunflower with the most golden glow
- Sunflower that looks most like its grower.

It's not too late to enter: If you have sunflowers growing please send us your photos and competition entries.





## THANK YOU

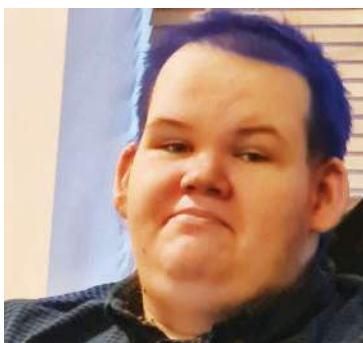
We have lots of people to thank in this edition.

We love hearing all your fundraising stories. If you'd like to fundraise for us please get in touch with a member of the team [admin@yct.org.uk](mailto:admin@yct.org.uk)

Our guest Harry Orrow raised £500 in a birthday celebration fundraiser.



Guest William Palmer raised £200 by dying his hair blue! He also asked supporters to vote for what colour hair dye he should use.



Beth from Parkstone Tower Practise raised £925.75 + £84.25 Gift Aid by abseiling down the Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth.



Leanne Cassidy hosted an 11 hour fundraising streaming event for us on Bank Holiday Monday and raised £334!



Residents of Isaacs Close held a Charity Street Party to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles.

*"This was our 5th street party over the years and it has given us all so many wonderful memories. Not only is it wonderful to celebrate such a momentous occasion but multi generations come together in true community spirit and help raise money for great causes."*

*This year we chose your charity to support. We contacted local businesses who donated prizes for our raffle, residents donated tombola gifts and cakes, a local DJ and singer donated their time and BCP ward councillor Karen Rampton judged a crown competition! Community spirit and great teamwork helped us to raise £1327 for Youth Cancer Trust which we are delighted to be able to send to you."*

Thank you to Joanne Keeling, Sofia and Mandy for organising and hosting this event.





## UPCOMING EVENTS



Jack Kings Beach Residence will be hosting a Great Gatsby Ball on 9th December to raise money for Youth Cancer Trust. The event will be held at the Royal Bath Hotel in Bournemouth and will include a 3 course meal and live music from Swing Unlimited.

Tickets £60 / Table of ten £550

Enquiries / Tickets:

Jack 07793 231087 / Wendy 07774523994

## OTHER

Don't forget to wear your suncream during this period of hot weather we've been having.

Here are some top tips for skin safety from the

[Skin Cancer Foundation](#)



## YOUTH CANCER TRUST FIND OUT MORE

To find out more about our services visit our website at [www.youthcancertrust.org](http://www.youthcancertrust.org) or contact our friendly team.



Videos about our services can be found on our [YouTube channel](#):



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