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Cre8's December Newsletter

That's a wrap for 2022

Garden & Allotment | Surplus Grocery & the Big Give | Learning Plus | Farewell to Emma | Meet Sophie | Music | Clubs | Enterprise | That's a wrap

Our award winning Garden & Allotment



Our garden and allotment scooped second prize in the community garden category at the Peaks & Plains Green Fingers garden awards back in September. Part of Project Grow, and located at St Barnabas on Lyme Avenue, the garden and allotment provides a quiet space for members of the community to relax and reflect. The full list of winners is available on the Peaks and Plains website.

Why not join our Facebook Page - "Garden & Allotment at St Barnabas"

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Pictured is Graham Brown Project Grow coordinator and Jenny Wilde our Garden and Allotment volunteer both Cre8, alongside Peaks and Plains Chief Executive Mark Howden Estate Manager Caren Breddy, Estates Manager both from Peaks & Plains.



Cre8 Surplus Food Grocery

Grocery visitors top over 200 per week. As the cost of living crisis starts to affect families across our community we've seen an increase in those using our surplus food grocery with visitor numbers now regularly topping over 200.

The grocery which is open to anyone, operates three times per week. Tuesday and Wednesday at St Barnabas on Lyme Avenue and Thursday at Green on the Corner Cafe on the Hurdfield. Visitors make a £3 Donation in return receive up to £20 worth of food.



To keep up with demand we are now working with Iceland, the new Barracks Mill Aldi store and Tesco in Bollington. Details about our grocery can be found on our Facebook Page: "Cre8 Surplus Food Grocery" Please note next week we are holding two Groceries, one at St Barnabas Church on Wednesday 28th December from 4.30 pm, and one at Hurdfield, on Thursday 29th December from 1pm.



The Big Give 2022?

Each Christmas Eve we deliver hampers to households who need a little extra help across Macclesfield providing them with a bit of Christmas cheer. The hampers contain a mixture of food, gifts and toiletries. Last year our fantastic team of volunteers packed and delivered up to 150 hampers.

This year we anticipate this could rise as high as 200! Graham and his team of staff and volunteers is busy preparing for this year we are so thankful for the generous donations from all our supporters - without you none of this is possible - watch this space!

Learning Plus

At the end of last term we said goodbye to some regular young people who have moved on to other schools or colleges. This year we welcome some new young people and they have hit the ground running using their incredible skills and talents to make things.

Here's a small sample.

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Jai has made the most incredible bench.

Oliver has made a terrarium. He had the glass cut, glued it together and scavenged for the contents.

As a combined effort we made a planter for Holy Trinity Hurdsfield Church.

Thomas and Andrew have been making some fantastic music with Aaron.

Stan is making some great Vlogs. Please visit our YouTube channel and give us a like and subscribe.

Harvey continues to make some great food.

Charlie has been doing some great art

At the moment we are delivering 17 Learning Plus sessions with 12 fantastic young people.

It's also been a real privilege for Keirra to be able to go into Macclesfield Academy to do some work with young people there..



Farewell Emma

Emma Thomas our Office Administrator has moved on to a new job. Here's what she said in her final days:

"I have really enjoyed working at Cre8 in such a varied role and supporting the different projects and all that goes on here. I will miss being involved but know Cre8 will continue to thrive and move forward. I am off to work for another charity Odyssey as their Operations manager. Odyssey uses the outdoors to take people living with or recovering from cancer on residential aimed at rebuilding their confidence, self-esteem and enjoyment in life. I will really miss working at Cre8 and working with the team but I am excited to get stuck in with Odyssey, a real mix of emotions as I hand things over! "



Meet Sophie



her 3 children.

Here's a few words from Sophie:

" I am really looking forward to my adventure with Cre8 as the Office Administrator. Its so lovely to be part of something that shaped my youth. I have joined a fab team at Cre8 and have been welcomed with open arms and cant wait to get stuck in, in the community"

Music



Music is up and running for a new year and there been some great music making - and a fabulous Christmas Concert at St Barnabas on Friday 16th December!

We have a busy programme with lots of opportunities to perform.

During a regular week we run after school drop-in sessions - Monday - Primary Drop in from 3.30 - 5.30, and Wednesday from 3.30 - 5.30 for Yr 8 upwards. On a Friday we are delivering Music Development and Leadership sessions. Please contact the office (01625 503740) if you are interested in joining or drop along. During these times we also offer one to one music tuition for young people to work towards grades in guitar, ukulele, drums, singing and piano.

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Clubs

Clubs are busy! Both the Secondary Club on Tuesday and the Primary Club on Wednesday have attendance of 20+ young people attending both each week. We have been doing art and craft, playing games, cooking, going for walks, having a bonfire.



Here's a picture of our bonfire.....in the rain.

Our most recent adventure with young people consisted of a basket- ball in a river on a late night river walk.... These are always adventurous and fun

Watch the short video on our YouTube Channel



We made pancakes in the rain.....



Enterprise

With support from Cream line Dairies and PPHT we continue to provide our Jet Washing service. We clean Milk Floats from Creamline Dairies and Vans for PPHT. These are both fantastic opportunities for us to work and we are really grateful.

Our Christmas Tree campaign was another success we had great fun working with young people to provide Christmas Trees across Macclesfield.



That's a wrap

What a year we have all had, some great work with young people, they are truly amazing. Seeing our young people organise and deliver an awesome Christmas concert in a few weeks was just fantastic. We know how difficult times are for our community, but we are encouraged through our daily work with young people that we can flourish and make change happen. We are looking forward to a much earned break, as we work towards our Big Give on Christmas Eve. We are hoping to host some community events next year, the first being on Saturday 21st January where we hope to provide some food and fun hosted at St Barnabas Church. Thank you to Cheshire Freemasons for supplying our new vehicle Happy this year, we have also had news that Cheshire Community Foundation are funding a project for developing our next youth workers and to provide holiday clubs on the Moss Estate, enabling us to realise our mission to strengthen local connections and enable our community to make change happen for themselves and for their neighbourhood. Thank you to all our supporters and



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