

Nikki's column

### Help as you shop

At The Fifth Trust, we're welcoming in spring – gorgeous yellow daffodils are in bloom, the vineyard's wildlife is active with quacking ducks waddling around, and our Vineyard Garden Centre is stocked full of seasonal stock to make your gardens and outdoor spaces pop.

We are honoured to have been chosen for the Tesco Stronger Starts scheme. From 1st April, shoppers in Folkestone and Hawkinge can use tokens to vote for The Fifth Trust for an award of up to £1,500. The funds will allow us to purchase new cookery equipment for our Cook Club where our students with learning disabilities learn about cookery and food hygiene, equipping them with essential life skills.

The support we are given by our community is vital to the operations of The Fifth Trust. Although we receive local authority fees and make money through our social enterprises, this isn't enough to enable us to offer the quality and range of experiences we want for our students.

Whether you're sharing our posts on social media, donating to our campaigns, or getting involved yourself, there are tonnes of ways you can support The Fifth Trust. To discover how you can get involved, visit:

[www.fifthtrust.co.uk/get-involved/overview.php](http://www.fifthtrust.co.uk/get-involved/overview.php)

In this month's newsletter, we see the results of our Big Give Christmas Challenge, learn about the new courses we have developed at the Trust, hear from an amazing fundraiser and more.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support.

Best wishes,  
**Nikki Marley**

Chief Executive Officer



### Green light for AQA

The Fifth Trust is excited to announce that we now provide AQA's Unit Award Scheme (UAS).

The UAS courses have been designed by The Fifth Trust to provide adults with learning disabilities with a variety of different skills, from life skills such as employability, to practical skills such as gardening. The courses are a flexible and accessible way for learners to have their achievements formally recognised by the AQA accredited awarding body.



One of our social enterprises, the Vineyard Garden Centre, has already been putting the courses into action, starting with a module on potting. In this module, students watch a demonstration film, have a discussion on their learning, and complete their worksheets. For the practical element, students recall what they learnt and prepare the tools and equipment needed to pot strawberry plants into hanging baskets.

And what did the students think? "It was good," said Kirsty. "It was clear and straightforward. I enjoyed it," said Jodie.

Tom German, The Fifth Trust Education Lead, was instrumental in the development and implementation of the UAS courses. "The courses have been created to suit our students and their diverse needs," said Tom. "I believe these new courses will provide our students with essential skills that allow them to have more fulfilling lives.

"I look forward to teaching the students and moving forward with this programme."



**vineyard café**  
**OPEN**  
Mon - Sat 9am-4pm  
Sun 10am-4pm



**vineyard garden centre**  
**OPEN**  
Mon - Sat 9am-4pm  
Sun 10am-4pm



**vineyard logs**  
**BULK BAGS & NETS**  
01227 831052  
vineyardgardencentre.co.uk

## Congrats, Nat!

Congratulations to Natalie Andrews who ran the Brighton Half Marathon in aid of The Fifth Trust.



Despite the tough weather conditions, Natalie completed the run along the blistering Brighton coastline - a total of 21.1km!

"My run went really well! The weather was crazy and super windy, so it made things a bit harder," said Natalie. "However, I did finish and have managed to raise £355 so far."

Fundraising Manager Mick James said: "Amazing fundraisers like Natalie help raise the vital funds we need to continue providing the highest level of care we can for our students with learning disabilities.

"Thank you Natalie for making The Fifth Trust your nominated charity."

If you would like to support our charity, then please consider getting involved. You can fundraise for us, volunteer with us, or even bond with your colleagues at our corporate volunteering days.

## Music room revamp

In December, we ran our first ever Big Give Christmas Challenge and raised an incredible £4,285. These funds have allowed us to completely revamp a once unused storeroom into a state-of-the-art recording studio, enhancing our music sessions.

Our music sessions provide a strong therapeutic and sensory experience for our students with learning disabilities.



The new, specialist equipment will make our sessions more accessible and increase the creative opportunities we can offer to our students, like the ability to record songs, podcasts, and learn music producing skills. We've got our eye on the charts!

## Farewell Penny

After an incredible career of 23 years with The Fifth Trust, we say goodbye to craft instructor Penny.



Care and Operations Manager Mike Theoff shares some words to wish Penny a happy retirement:

"It's impossible to summarise the hard work and dedication Penny gave to The Fifth Trust - we were lucky to have her part of our team. Though it may be an ending, it's also a new beginning. We hope she enjoys doing the things she didn't have time to do before.

"Instead of saying goodbye we would like to say see you soon. We wish her well in her retirement."



## WIN Easter EGG HUNT

Hop on down to our Vineyard Garden Centre between 29 March - 14 April for a **FREE** family friendly Easter Hunt.

Hunts operate between 10am-3pm.  
There will be no hunts on Sunday 31 March.

Vineyard Garden Centre  
Elham Valley Vineyard, Breach,  
Barham, CT4 6LN



Elham Valley Vineyard,  
Breach, Barham  
Canterbury, Kent  
CT4 6LN  
Registered Charity no. 1136718



[www.fifthtrust.co.uk](http://www.fifthtrust.co.uk)  
Find us on Facebook  
Find us on Instagram  
Find us on X / Twitter  
Telephone - 01227 832022  
Email - [info@fifthtrust.co.uk](mailto:info@fifthtrust.co.uk)