

# Hextol

Issue 18

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2020

## *happenings*

THE  
HEXTOL  
FOUNDATION

FOR WORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Hi folks and welcome to edition 18 of Hextol happenings.

Living up to the name we are using this edition to tell you what's happening at Hextol!

We've updates on the various services which are now operating, news of some staff changes, a focus on the advice some of our volunteers would give to people returning to Hextol, and a massive THANK YOU to our very generous funders.

We hope you enjoy this issue. Stay safe. Bruce

## What's been happening at Hextol:

**Greenbox** has been running for the last few weeks on Thursdays and Fridays. It's great seeing 4 volunteers and 1 volunteer supervisor working hard on a big Simon Fraser order.



**The Tans** is now open 5 days a week with extended hours too! We getting much busier as more people are eating out in Hexham. We are also welcoming a lot of "staycation" tourists. As of last week the Tans is open Tuesday-Saturday and we now have dog friendly outdoor seating.



As the weeks go on, we are welcoming back more **Gardeners**. We are incredibly sad to be saying goodbye to Charlotte and Egle but we are so pleased to welcome Adam back and to be recruiting! More details next time...

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The Hextol Foundation  
The Hextol Tans



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Dealing with the changes of lockdown and coming back to work isn't easy for anyone but we are here to help. We will be speaking to some of our staff and volunteers who have returned to Hextol over the next few weeks about their experiences and thoughts when coming back. This week we have been talking to Rebecca and Faye from Greenbox, see what they said...

### **What is your favourite thing about coming back to work?**

Faye: Seeing different people to those you see on a daily basis.

Rebecca: Good to be socialising. Good to be able to get out and about.



### **What advice would you give to people coming back to work?**

Faye: If you're unsure about anything just ask. It's good to try it. If you're not sure give it a go. Don't let anxiety stop you.

Rebecca: Keep to the rules on distancing. Work's the same just with more precautions. Keep sanitising your hands. You have to feel ready to come back. Be aware that things are normal just with additional measures. Give it a go and see how you feel.

### **Now you are back, how are you feeling?**

Faye: Fine. I'm adapting to new ways of working with fewer people. I understand why we can't have more people in the team at the moment

Rebecca: Greenbox hasn't changed much. We're doing the same work but with fewer people

## **Thank you to all of our funders**

Hextol relies on support from our funders, especially during the pandemic.

Recently we received a significant grant from the Coronavirus Community Support Fund, distributed by The National Lottery Community Fund. This grant will enable us to update our computer systems so we can work efficiently away from the office, as well as supporting staff salaries and helping with the cost of the supplies we need to make sure we are staying COVID secure in all our services.

We have received other generous help as well, including £10000 from The Edward Gostling Foundation to help with core costs. Alongside this we have received several donations from other charitable organisations including one for £500 to cover the costs of this newsletter so we can continue to produce it after lockdown.

We are extremely grateful for all of the help and support we get from members of the public, our customers and other organisations. We couldn't do our work without your support.



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