

Hextol

Issue 27

Christmas 2020

happenings

THE
HEXTOL
FOUNDATION

FOR WORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Hi folks and welcome to our review of the year.

I won't repeat what's below—instead I want to say thank you to:

- * Our volunteers for your patience in waiting to get back to work here, your courage in coming back when we reopened (I know some of you were really worried), and your willingness to work in different ways
- * Our funders who have really stepped up and not just eased the financial pressure we might have suffered from closing our services, but also enabled us to renew a lot of our equipment and prepare ourselves for the future
- * Our customers for standing by us and giving us such a positive response when we reopened our services
- * The Hextol staff team whose commitment to the Foundation and our volunteers has been fantastic—always a pleasure working with you
- * The Hextol Board for their support and commitment during the year.

As we've covered in recent Hextol happenings we have a lot to look forward to in 2021.

So have a good Christmas. Stay safe and I'll see you all next year.

Bruce



JANUARY-FEBRUARY

Hextol Tans coffee shop and vegetarian cafe



At the Hextol Tans on Friday 28th February, from 7 to 9.30pm—A Hextol Fundraising Event



This year started out like so many others, we were still revelling in the excitement of our Christmas party and Ipots visit but keen to get back to work.

All businesses hit the ground running in the new year, including the Tans making the most of Veganuary, Catering doing lunches for staff and starting the Lunch Club at Hexham Community Centre.

February had a few events too, including a fundraising quiz at the Tans and a bowling night at the Wentworth in Hexham.



The Hextol Foundation, 14C Gilesgate, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 3NJ

01434 605253 - contact@hextol.org.uk - www.hextol.org.uk

Company number: 5896869 VAT number: 131 9118 36 Registered charity number: 1120857



The Hextol Foundation
The Hextol Tans



@HextolCharity

MARCH-JUNE



March was when things started to change even before lockdown hit on 23rd March. It definitely felt like Groundhog day as we waited each day for new updates! But once the decision was made and we knew we all had to stay home to save lives, we locked down like all other businesses. The Tans closed and only Bruce was in the office with Nicky working from home keeping us ticking over until things eased. (There was no rest for the gardeners though, who continued to work without volunteers)

But all clouds have a silver lining...as a result 'Hextol happenings' was born! Our newsletter has become very popular and has meant we can stay in touch with our volunteers, staff and supporters even when shifts weren't running. We loved hearing about what you'd all been up to and how you were staying busy and positive during such a tough time.

CORONAVIRUS
STAY HOME
PROTECT
THE NHS
SAVE LIVES



JULY-OCTOBER



July brought hopeful news of things slowly reopening. The Warehouse was first back after lockdown working one on one with new precautions in place to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Greenbox was next to join as we rearranged the office so we could social distance effectively.

Finally, the Tans was allowed to reopen to sit in customers on 15th July with new safety procedures including NHS Test and Trace. We were thrilled to see our customers return as we slowly started allowing volunteers to come back for their shifts.

As the summer went on, we got busier and busier and could safely start up more shifts in all of our businesses. The Tans benefitted from the Government's Eat Out To Help Out Scheme in August and the Gardeners welcomed new staff including Mark and volunteer supervisor Andrew.



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER



When it was all going so well, the autumn spike in COVID cases happened and the nation saw the '3 Tier System' come in closely followed by Lockdown 2.0. Unlike the first lockdown though, we didn't have to close all of our businesses (just the Tans). Which was lucky because we've had a ton of customer orders in Greenbox, Gardening and the Warehouse!

At this time of year we would normally be enjoying Christmas parties, buffets and lunches all together but not this year. We have been doing what we can to stay in the Christmas spirit including decorating the Tans window (go #teamhextol) and enjoying the decorated tree in the office as we work the last few days before the big day.



So however you are spending Christmas this year, the whole Hextol team would like to wish you a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year! We appreciate all of the hard work and support from our volunteers, staff, customers and funders over the last year and we can't wait to welcome in 2021 with you.

And a special thank you to Adam Chapman, for designing us a fantastic Christmas card again this year!

