

Annual Report 2022 - 2023

20TH ANNIVERSARY



Working Together Ludlow

To include people with learning difficulties and disabilities

Charity No: 1147358

About Working Together

We are a charity supporting adults and young people with learning difficulties and learning disabilities.

We offer supportive opportunities and promote the positive role that our members can play within the local community.

We are based in the market town of Ludlow, Shropshire.

Our dedicated team of staff, volunteers and Trustees work collaboratively and inclusively with our members, their families and carers to create a positive environment for all.

Our services include:

- Daytime Opportunities
- Youth Club (11 to 18yrs)
- Diversity (18yrs plus)

We operate from the Rockspring Centre in Ludlow and are custodians of the Rockspring Community Garden.

Working Together Ludlow



To include people with learning difficulties and disabilities

Our aims are to foster a welcoming, loving and supporting environment to:

- Promote happiness, good health & wellbeing
- Encourage a strong sense of belonging
- Develop a stimulating and creative work and social environment
- Encourage all to develop their own skills and talents
- Do what we can as well as we can
- Create an environment where all are valued, appreciated and included
- Encourage the inclusion of people with learning disabilities in all aspects of community life.

2022-2023, our 20th anniversary year, has been a time of looking forward and a period of positive evolution, if not revolution, at Working Together Ludlow.

As the post pandemic rules and guidelines were slowly and cautiously relaxed, whilst being mindful many of our members remain at greater risk from Covid-19, we began to build significantly on the strong foundations that were laid in 2019, when Working Together relocated to the Rockspring Centre.

We continued to focus our daytime offer around food production – with our mini-café, cooking for each other, families and visitors forming the basis of our concentration on independent living skills and promoting the positive contribution our members can make to the local community.

Strengthening and building on the activities that have evolved since our move to Rockspring: the Community Lunches in partnership with the Baptist Church; our relationship with Ludlow Foodbank and Open Table events; increasing our involvement and the number of members who participate in managing the bag creche at Ludlow Spring and Food Festivals; our participation in Ludlow Carnival and Ludlow's Medieval, now Winter Festival, all help to raise awareness of Working Together and showcase the willingness and enthusiasm our members have to playing an integral part of their community.

Our Youth Club (for 11-18yrs), funded by Children in Need, continued to flourish, providing a varied range of activities and opportunities for our younger members to enjoy, promoting social inclusion and reducing isolation. Diversity (for 18yrs and over) continued to grow its membership and delivered a broad range of activities and a programme of social events to encourage friendship and mutual support.

We've increased the links and opportunities that our custodianship of the community garden offer and broadened the activities our members can enjoy – planting, nurturing and harvesting food that we can cook with and share, with support from our valued gardening volunteers.

The Charity Bookshop continued to go from strength to strength, contributing significantly to our financial sustainability and offering a wide range of opportunities for our members, stock management, e-commerce and fundraising book stalls to name a few. We're grateful to all our dedicated bookshop volunteers for the generous contribution they make to supporting Working Together.

A few Members' thoughts on Working Together:

I particularly enjoyed all our activities over the year. Working Together is important to me because it means being with your friends...

Working Together has opened a brand-new experience for me: doing Ziffiting, having a break from everything, doing the cooking (one of my favorite hobbies anyway), doing the arts and crafts, making brand new friends with Down's Syndrome, and enjoying myself when I get home again...

My highlight this year was dressing up with Nigel at Berrington Hall and having a picnic in the orchard...

The Fee Star Award

The Fee Star Award is presented to a person who has really shone by bringing fun, laughter, care or compassion to Working Together in the previous year.

Our 2022/23 award was given to James Small

The award is presented annually in memory of our colleague and close friend, Fiona Calderwood, who passed away in 2021 and who is sadly missed.





20th Anniversary (2022)

During 2022 , we celebrated our 20th Anniversary year with a range of activities and events, which culminated in a fantastic Garden Party in September 2022, with around 100 coming along to celebrate in the sunshine at Rockspring.

It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on 20 incredible years.

We acknowledged, thanked and remembered the many people who helped shape the very beginnings of Working Together 20 years ago, and thanked all those who have helped along the WT journey to make Working Together what it is today.

It was an incredibly special day and one that everyone was immensely proud to be part of.

Daytime

In the past year we've made a few changes to our morning routine at Working Together. Once all members arrive and get themselves a drink we all meet in the Activities room and discuss our plans and jobs for the day.

Everyone decides which activities they would like to participate in, meaning everyone knows what they are doing, making for a nice, calm start to the day.

Some mornings we also have Circle Time where we discuss different topics. One of the topics we discuss regularly is food hygiene which obviously is very important at WT.

During the year we had a visit from NLG Training who completed a one day course with 8 of our members who all did extremely well.

NLG was so pleased they suggested some members could complete their Level 2 food hygiene course.

We are so proud of all our members for achieving such high standards with their Food Hygiene.



Down Syndrome Day



Lots of Socks! The wearing of odd socks has become a big part of celebrating World Down Syndrome Day – a day very close to our heart here at Working Together.

Sewing Bee

It has been a really productive year for Sewing Bee.

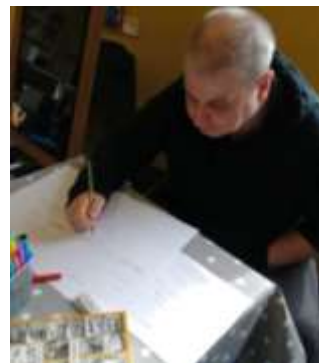
We were fortunate to secure the help of a friend of Working Together, Emma Small. This has meant that we have taken on some more ambitious projects with Sewing Bee.

We've been able to make kimono jackets, trousers, shirts all of which will be on display at the AGM this year.

With the advent of the big screen at Rockspring, we have chosen materials and trims online and looked at pattern options.

We also made a trip to Leominster to the Stitches haberdashery shop where we were very generously gifted the fabric for the kimonos and various other items over the year.

Our thanks to Liz who runs the shop and is a long term supporter of Working Together.



Writers' Club

The year began with sunshine summer poems and continued with poetry inspired by our Mortimer Forest trip in August.

Autumn work included harvest hymns, display labels and seasonal recipe writing.

A project on the Hindu Festival of Light, Diwali inspired art as well as non-fiction reading and writing.

The introduction of Working Together 3-month topics has helped to inspire us even more.

Our April, May, June topic was Nature and this resulted in bird leaflets, animal poems and illustrations and a mini-project on trees, when we made sure we were familiar with the trees in the Working Together garden.

We took this further on our trip to Berrington Hall, leading to tree fact sheets and report writing.

A day out on the Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway

Lots of Working Together members joined us for a lovely day out at the Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway...



Youth Club (for 11 -18yrs)

Youth club continues to meet every Tuesday evening and provides a safe fun and stimulating space for young people to meet peers.

We plan our sessions together at the start of each term ensuring the sessions include members interests with subtle themes of informal education and life skills. In the last year we said goodbye to two members who moved out of the area and welcomed three new members and a returning member.

This year has included activities such as regular supper club evenings, Taskmaster, karaoke and (by popular request) a bouncy castle. We made use of local resources when the weather allowed, have been pond-dipping at Mortimer Forest and had a games evening and picnic at the Linney.

We continue to enjoy our relationship with the Croquet Club and had several evenings there during the summer. Our members had also been asking to play tennis, so we made contact with one of their coaches who offered us several sessions which were really enjoyed.

We took advantage of an offer of input from Shropshire Youth Association and have had a number of games with Nerf guns and Sumo wrestling suits.

Above all, Youth Club remains a positive, happy place where our members come to meet friends and socialise, providing a gateway to other opportunities offered by Working Together.

Thank you to Children In Need for funding our Youth Club.





I like coming to Diversity to do different activities and making new friends...

If I had to say a favourite, it would be drinks at the pub. I like to have a coke and a chat with my friends...

At Diversity we do cooking and then some games plus a chat and mainly get together...

I like to go to Diversity because it's fun and because of the discos we have...



Diversity (18yrs+)

Diversity continued during the year, providing a social evening once a fortnight for members to 'get together' and enjoy a variety of activities.

Members have been particularly fond of bowling, a fish and chip supper and a well attended meal out in Leominster where some family members joined us. Bingo and quiz nights have also been popular.

Members have the opportunity to chose activities, giving them ownership and responsibilities to help run each session.

The goals and objectives of Diversity are to provide a safe and enjoyable environment where members can socialise, relax and enjoy each others company.

We were kindly invited to the Croquet Club where we played croquet with the members and finished up with a BBQ.

Ludlow Festivals



Spring Festival



Ludlow Carnival

A trip into town



Community Gardening



Eggciting Easter time



Pavement art



Our 'almost monthly' Newsletters...



Not only are our newsletters a great way to keep in touch with everyone, they are also a great way of hearing about what our members have been up to.

Download your copy of this year's Annual Report:
www.workingtogetherludlow.co.uk/book/annual-report-2023
 Paper copies are available on request

