



APRIL 2024

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TRANSFORMING LIVES IN BLACKPOOL'S SOUTH SHORE

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'That Friday Feeling' is a new group for adults in Blackpool's South shore, delivered by Toc H in partnership with St Peter's church. That Friday Feeling is a creative arts group exploring how attendees can build strength through faith.

Here, our worker Jayne explains how the group is changing lives locally:



'Since starting the group 'That Friday Feeling' in January this year, we have worked with approximately 20 creatives; from folk using the support facilities offered at St. Peters to church parishioners regularly joining us. Sometimes we are blessed with the presence of the occasional pet dog! Volunteers will also sit in with the group or offer support or lend an ear, a cup of tea and a bite to eat. It feels like a little creative haven in a difficult world just now, a family where everyone is welcome to come and 'have a go'.

Already we have made porcelain votives for hope in the dark winter months, a textile hanging from a group project based on Noah's Ark and a beautiful large painted 'Eden' like landscape which we collaged with our colourful and vibrant animals that we'd used for templates on our textile piece.

The impact is broad, resonating, even therapeutic and hopeful. In our corner of the hall each week, magic happens and even those who are not confident to participate quite yet are encouraged and uplifted by the hum of happiness and productivity.

Confidence is building each session, not just on a creative level but members are able to recognise the progress they are making personally. For members to discreetly tell me 'This is my therapy' as they work on a drawing or painting feels completely satisfying. Each week we are making a huge difference with our little group.'



TRANSFORMING LIVES IN BLACKPOOL'S SOUTH SHORE

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Toc H also now deliver 'Soul Food' at St Peter's Church- - a guided faith discussion delivered alongside a complimentary lunch, participants can also access benefits and debt advice, foodbank and addiction services.

Our worker Amelia says:

'Since starting Soul Food in January, I have led a series of sessions looking at topics from the Bible, journeying through Lent and Holy Week together. The group offers group discussions and quiet, reflective spaces with music and prayer.

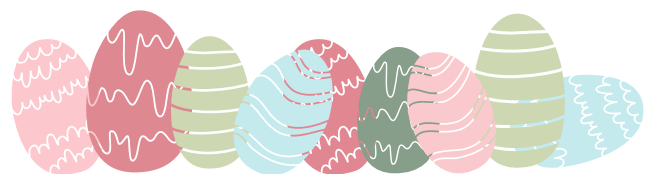
This group gives people a chance to speak and ask questions that they don't normally feel confident to ask- since growing together as a group people are opening up more whilst learning. Group members have expressed how much they enjoy the sessions and how they look forward to coming and being in a place to express their feelings.'



**THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDER
FOR MAKING THIS WORK
POSSIBLE.**

Westhill Endowments financially supports educational projects with underlying Christian values which change lives, foster empathy between communities and build bridges between people of diverse backgrounds and cultures.

Westhill
make things happen



STAY AND PLAY FOR FAMILIES IN HIGH BROOMS AND NEWPORT

Our Development Manager Elizabeth celebrates the success of our Stay and Play programme...

'Stay & Play sessions at our Hubs in High Brooms and Eveswell, Newport are really thriving. In Newport we've been running a facilitated play session for families with young children since April 2023. We began by offering this on a Thursday, however this experienced low numbers, so after some research, we started a session on a Monday morning. This time has been a great success & we are at maximum capacity. Also since starting our Monday session, our numbers for our Thursday session picked up, hence why we run two sessions a week!

In High Brooms, we started our Stay & Play offer for two mornings a week back in September 2023. Both our sessions are extremely popular, receiving around 18 adults & 22 children at each session!

We're grateful for funding from Awards For All that enabled all our Stay & Play sessions to get started!

Why offer Stay & Play sessions?

- Opportunity to explore and play in a safe environment
- Offers a range of toys that assist the child's developmental needs that they might not have at home
- Helps child by encouraging speech and language
- Encourages sharing, turn-taking, etc
- Providing a welcoming & supportive environment for child & parent
- Supports positive interactions between parent & child



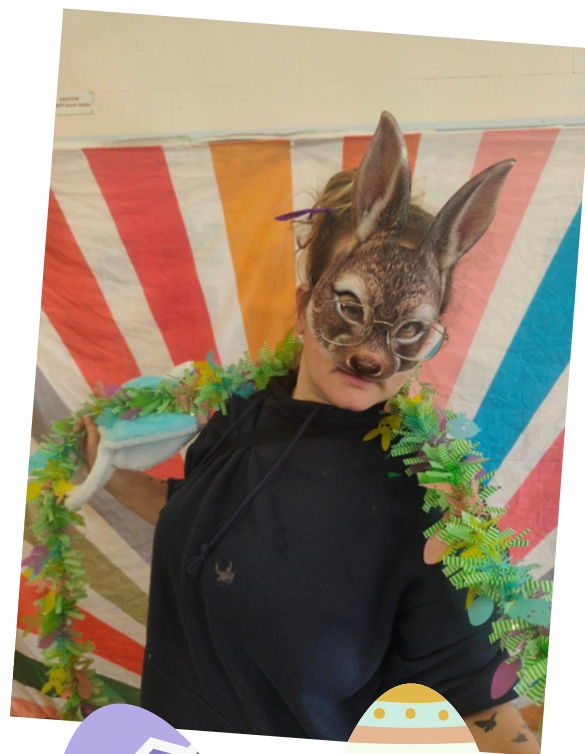
EASTER FUN AT TOC H HIGH BROOMS

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On Monday 8th April & Wednesday 10th April, our community worker Beth & her team of volunteers at the Toc H High Brooms Hub ran two Easter Events for families in the local area. Both sessions were fundraising events to help raise money for a new roof at the hall.

Over 25 adults & 37 children arrived to participate in various activities, from taking pictures in our photo booth, fling a chicken, spring skittles to a 'how many carrots can you eat in a minute' contest!

The two events raised £196, a great start to our local fundraising strategy & lots of egg-cellent fun was had in the process!



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

By Paul Hackwood - Toc H Chief Executive

We live in times of change. Pope Francis wisely noted in a lecture he gave a couple of years ago that we live not so much an 'era of change' but more a 'change of era', such is the scope and depth of change that we see around us. When we are in times of change, we have to look to the important things that we do not want to let go of. For those of us who have committed to making the world a better place, one of the key things we need to hold onto is the idea of virtue.

Virtue has had a hard time over the last few years. Long ago we used to define ourselves by virtue – how kind people were, how honest, how friendly and how they took responsibility for serving those who needed help.

However we now seem to define ourselves much more our identity, whether we are black or white, gay or straight, deaf or blind, southerner or northerner, working class or middle class, male or female and so on. These things are obviously very important -but they should not define us.

It seems to me that if we measure ourselves by our differences, all we do is create divisions between us.

This is a dead end which sets us against our neighbours and leads to a zero-sum game – some may profit but overall things do not get better. It's at the root of much of the division we see in our society at present.

Toc H was built on a set of values which we need to hold onto as we come to terms with the changes we see in the world around us.

It's not so much our identity (in the sense set out above), that should define us but rather the quality of our character, how committed we are to serving our neighbour, how friendly we are, how fair-minded we are in our conversations and dealings with others and the rootedness we have in something bigger than our own egos.

So let's consider each other's virtue as things change - it may be an old fashioned idea but it's been at the core of Toc H work for over 100 years and a much better way of understanding ourselves than simply by our differences.



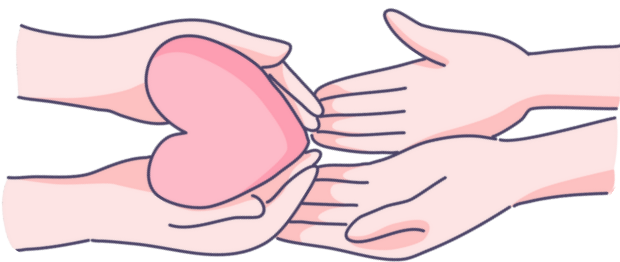
HOW TO SUPPORT TOC H IN 2024

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REGULAR GIVING

One of the easiest ways to support our work is to offer us a regular gift by direct debit. If you are a UK taxpayer, we can also claim Gift Aid on your donation, meaning that the government will add extra to the value of your donation.

A monthly gift of £10 will mean that Toc H will receive £12.50 with Gift Aid- an extra £30 a year!



CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

Our new website is now live - please do visit us and share with friends and family. Directing people to our website is a great way for people to find out about us and what we do.

You can also Like us on Facebook- our main page (Toc H International) posts regular updates on our work. Our local Hubs also have dedicated Facebook pages- connect with us here for local updates. See below for more details.

RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER OR VOLUNTEER A BIT MORE OF YOUR TIME

It has been a hard decade for Toc H. The pandemic hit many organisations with many closing.

Yet Toc H is still here, smaller & leaner but keener than ever to take forward our legacy in new and exciting ways. As you can see from our newsletters, we are engaging a new generation of people and delivering inspiring work in communities.

Each year, Toc H relies on the goodwill of many members and volunteers who gift their time to help others. Without these fantastic people, we would not be able to do the things we do and want to achieve.

So, please consider whether you could recruit a new member or offer us a little of your time.

Email us and tell us what you think!

WWW.TOCH-UK.ORG.UK

Toc H Langdale - Weirside

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/621940004618760

Toc H Barton upon Humber

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/1916579835027080

Toc H National

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TOCH.INTERNATIONAL

Toc H Newport

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TOCH.NEWPORT

Toc H High Brooms

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TOCH.HIGHBROOMS



EASYFUNDRAISING

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TURN YOUR ONLINE SHOPPING INTO EVERYDAY MAGIC FOR TOC H



Did you know that you can support Toc H with every online purchase you make?

Over 7,000 brands will donate to Toc H **at no extra cost to you** - so you can raise donations when you buy clothes, gifts, holidays, your grocery shop or anything else!

At Toc H we are excited to continue supporting communities and expanding our

work in 2024 and beyond- but we can only do this with your support.

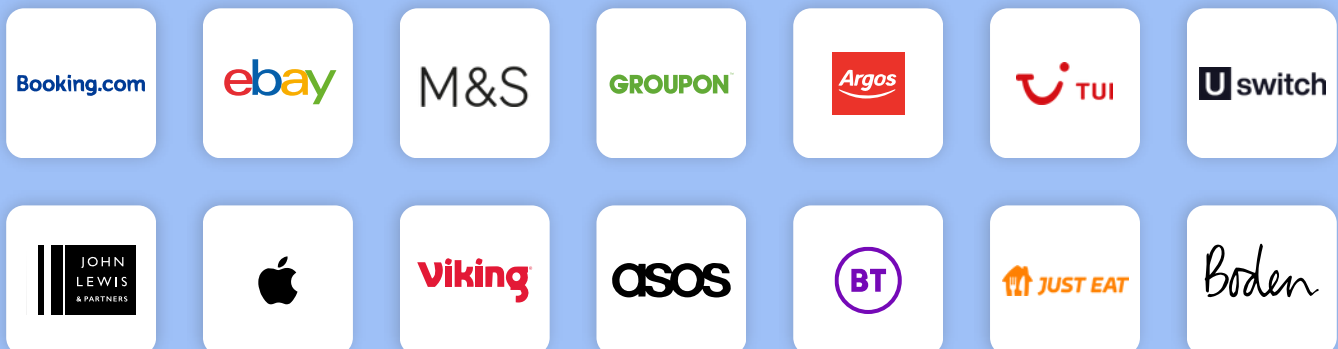
With Easyfundraising, brands will donate a percentage of your sale to Toc H - so, **for free**, you can make your shopping bargains go even further!

HOW TO SIGN UP - IN THREE EASY STEPS!

- 1 www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause
- 2 Search for Toc H
- 3 Say "yes" to donate to Toc H



Or scan this QR code to sign up



+ OVER 7,000 MORE BRANDS....

Download the
easyfundraising App



Excellent 
3,945 reviews on  Trustpilot

CONTACT TOC H



Visit our website at: www.toch-uk.org.uk



Email us at: info@toch.org.uk



Call us on: 0208 057 4200



Connect with us: www.facebook.com/TocH.International

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Dates for your diary:

Sunday, 10th November- Cenotaph

Sunday, 15th December All Hallows Carol Service

Please contact us for more information on these events

HOW YOU CAN DONATE

Donating to Toc H has never been easier:

- To set up a regular gift, or offer a one-off donation, please visit our website: <https://www.toch-uk.org.uk/get-involved>
- Raise FREE donations for Toc H when you shop online using Easyfundraising. Find us at: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/toc-h/
- If you wish to remember Toc H in your will - Please call our CEO Paul Hackwood on 0208 057 4200

TOC H MEMBERSHIP



Our members commit themselves to an associational life, encouraging participation, friendship and engagement in local communities.

Membership is **FREE** and supports us all to make our neighbourhoods better places to live and flourish.

We offer various simple ways to become a member:

- Sign up online on www.toch-uk.org.uk,
- Contact us on 020 8057 4200 for a membership form
- Scan the QR code on the left and complete our short membership form