



SEPTEMBER 2024 IN THIS ISSUE:

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REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE MAKE MEMORIES AT WEIRSIDE

The
Hedley Foundation
A Grant Giving Charity

This August, Toc H launched a brand-new residential holiday programme at Weirside for Ukrainian refugee children and their families.

Children and their parents were invited to Weirside to participate in exciting activities including canoeing and axe throwing, as well as reflective outdoor mindfulness and therapeutic sessions.

The trip offered a safe, nurturing and enriching holiday for refugee children, helping them integrate into their new communities, process their experiences and feel positive about the future.

We are currently seeking funding to host further outdoor holidays for disadvantaged groups at Weirside in 2025 and beyond.



‘For people like us, who saw the terror of war and especially for little children who saw how people are getting killed and the big city of Mariupol are destroyed by airplane bombs, visiting a place like this is priceless.

My son Mark, 11, was laughing, having fun with other kids, participating in all activities you kindly arranged for us and was not fearing each loud sound remembering all the terrible things he saw when we were attacked in our home town. Mark mentally and physically relaxed, he became more open and talkative, he started laughing more.

My family is extremely grateful for TOC H for your kindness and generosity’

LIGHTHOUSE HOMES STAFF VISIT WEIRSIDE

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A group from Lighthouse Homes Housing Association in Chesterfield recently enjoyed a team getaway at Weirside.

Group activities included hiking, wild swimming, canoeing, and cliff jumping.

The group also took part in outdoors life skills and team building sessions in Weirside's peaceful surroundings.



Stay at Weirside

Weirside is our recently renovated, 20-bed 'bunk-barn', located in the heart of the Lake District.

Surrounded by picturesque walking trails and stunning views, Weirside is an ideal base for holidays in the great outdoors.

To book, please visit our website or see our brand-new Booking.com or Vrbo.com listings:

<https://www.toch-uk.org.uk/weirside>

<https://www.booking.com/hotel/gb/weirside-ambleside.en-gb.html>

<https://www.vrbo.com/11618705ha>

All funds raised from the hire of Weirside are used to support the charitable work of Toc H.



FUNDING SUCCESS IN HIGH BROOMS AND NEWPORT

We are thrilled to share that we have secured funding to continue to develop our activities in Newport and High Brooms until 2026.



NEWPORT

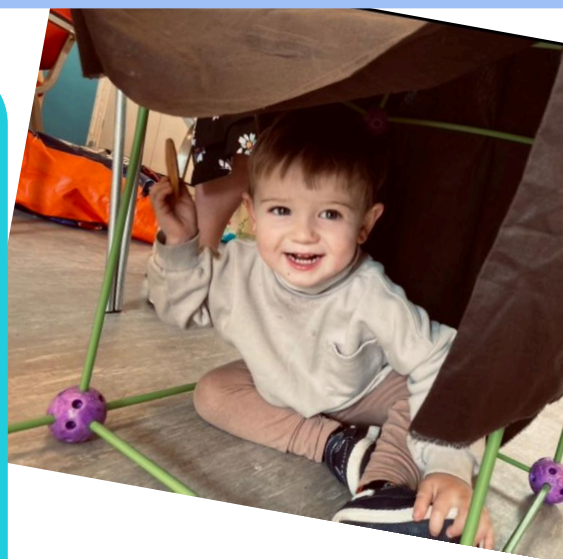
Funding from The National Lottery Community Fund and the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund will support us to continue offering local families Stay and Play and Family Hang Out provision until 2026.

This funding is also supporting us to develop and deliver new activities, including wellbeing groups for youth and seated exercise sessions for older adults.

HIGH BROOMS

Our popular Stay and Play and arts groups for children and families will continue until 2026, thanks to joint funding from the National Lottery Community Fund and the Gatwick Foundation Fund.

We have also received funding to develop new activities, including boxing sessions for youth and adults supported by Sport England.



Sincere thanks to all our funders who make our work possible:



Funded by
UK Government



COMMUNITY
FUND

The Gatwick
Foundation Fund

CELEBRATING OUR WORK IN BLACKPOOL

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Our work continues in Blackpool, where we support some of South Shore's most disadvantaged people find purpose, meaning and community at our Soul Food and That Friday Feeling groups at St Peter's Church.

'My anxiety and depression has been bad for so long, coming here I get a rest from it'

'Here I can forget my pain for a couple of hours'



'The energy and enthusiasm is always a joy and it's uplifting to hear the members reinforce my sentiments that 'there is no right and wrong' when creating.

One member, so engrossed with painting, described the sessions as 'her therapy', needless to say, my heart was full.'

Our groups are stable, reliable, welcoming spaces for creativity and reflection. Attendees can access hot food and shelter, an alternative to engaging in destructive behaviours.

Friendships formed at groups improve confidence and self-esteem, facilitating a safe environment for attendees to reflect on their complex emotions and build a more positive future.

Thank you to Westhill Endowment for funding this work.

We are currently seeking funding to grow our offer in Blackpool South Shore, reaching more people who need our support. Watch this space.

Westhill
make things happen

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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By Paul Hackwood - Toc H Chief Executive

The last few weeks have seen some dramatic scenes on our streets across the country. Over 1000 police officers have been injured and millions of pounds of damage has been inflicted at the heart of local communities. A new and palpable fear now lives in the hearts of people who live in the neighbourhoods affected by the recent riots.

Toc H has always been about making sure everyone is treated as a valued human being – we can think back to those words over the door at Talbot House in Poperinge ‘All rank abandon, ye who enter here’. These words created an equality which has been a hallmark of the organisation since those early days. At the core of that was the idea that human beings carry an intrinsic shared dignity regardless of where we come from or who we are, the colour of our skin or any other ‘difference’ we may have.

There should be no place in our hearts for the kind of hate and violence we have seen recently. I used to say regularly in one of my previous roles that ‘God did not make any spare people’ -all of us are valued and treasured for who we are.

At Toc H we are exploring ways in which we can recapture that vision for our work over the next few years. We want to connect people together and encourage a much deeper sense of belonging as the core of life together in our communities and more widely. Our upcoming projects will reflect these values, applying them as we have always done into practical action to respond to conflict within communities.



Watch this space!



REMEMBERING GRETA CHESHIRE

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This issue we remember Greta Cheshire, a much-missed friend of Toc H who sadly passed on 27th February 2024. Greta Cheshire (then known as Greta Penness), previously served in Toc H's Women's Section as Overseas Secretary. After the Movements merged, Greta became International Secretary and moved to Wendover with other headquarters staff. She married Jackie Lynn in 1973, having met him at Prideaux House.

She is probably best remembered by today's members for the work she did with her great friend, Connie Pring. Together they ran the UK side of Friends of Talbot House for many years, and provided mulled wine and mince pies at the Carol Concert at All Hallows each December. As secretaries of the Friends they travelled to Talbot House regularly and Greta was very involved with the new youth group that was starting at that time.

She later moved to Northampton, where Jackie died. She later met and married Trevor Cheshire, though she sadly outlived him too.

Greta was much loved, and will be missed both in the UK and Belgium.



CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

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.

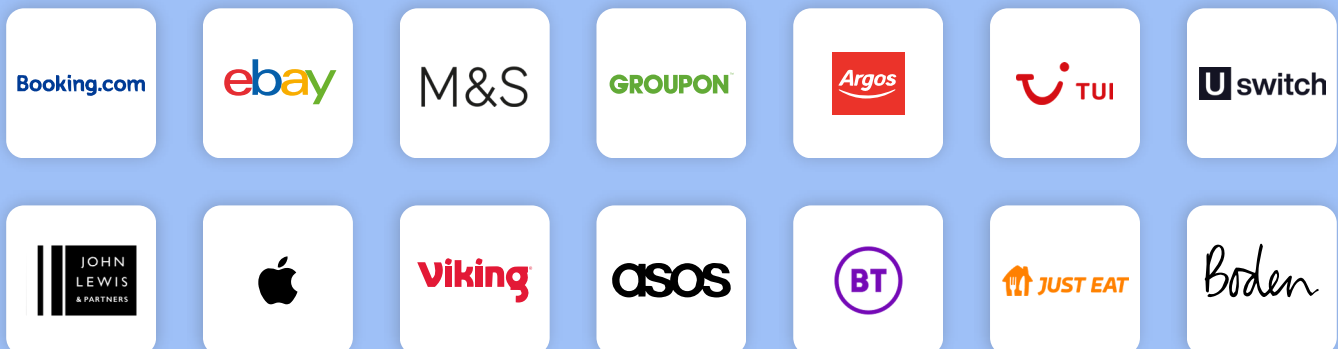
With Easyfundraising, brands will donate a percentage of your sale to Toc H - so, **for free**, you can make your shopping bargains go even further!

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:

Saturday 12th October- Toc H AGM

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