

# Seashell Matters

Autumn/Winter 2022



**Summer at Seashell** - read more on page 8

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## We were deeply saddened by the passing of our Patron Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

It was The Late Queen's great great grandmother, Queen Victoria, the second longest serving British Monarch who originally bestowed Royal Patronage on our charity during her Diamond Jubilee in 1897.

Reflecting on Queen Elizabeth II's incredible 70-year Reign, and her close work with charities across the country, Seashell was honoured to have been contacted by BBC Radio Manchester and ITV Granada Reports, to share our experience of Royal Patronage and Her Majesty's visit to our campus in 2004.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has been remembered fondly by Seashell and those who met her as she carried out her Royal Tour, many of whom say she left a lasting impression.

# Hello & welcome

to the autumn/winter edition of Seashell Matters

I am thrilled to be taking on the role of Chief Executive and delighted to have the opportunity to help shape the future of Seashell Trust.

I am passionate about the extraordinary work Seashell does, having been involved with the charity for many years. I'm particularly looking forward to building on the important work that has been achieved already to make Seashell an even better place to learn and work as we press forward on our ambitions.

What an incredible year it's been! Our fantastic, inclusive cycling facility is now complete and is already being enjoyed by our students. The official opening of the Learn to Ride track and wider cycle trails will officially open in November as the Bradbury Cycling Centre.

Summer 2022 was a time of celebration. We welcomed the return of the hugely-popular, annual intercollege sports day, organised by Seashell in partnership with Natspec. Our college leavers prom was back on the social calendar, with students and staff glammed-up for the occasion and whisked off in a Rolls Royce or a Bentley to celebrate their incredible achievements. The campus was busy as ever through July and August with an all-new, fun-filled summer CADS programme enjoyed by over 200 children and young people. New and returning students joined school and college for the 2022-23 academic year and we proudly published our first book, titled 'A Beacon of Hope'.

Fantastic progress is being made on the transformation of our campus, with a new world class facility that will soon be home to Royal School Manchester and will also offer a brand-new swimming pool and shared school and college dining space. Work on the development, to be named the Moulding Foundation Building will complete by the end of the year.

As we look forward to welcoming in 2023 we have even more reason to celebrate as it's the 200th anniversary of our charity! I do hope that you'll be able to celebrate with us. I would like to take this opportunity to show my appreciation for all that you do to support us. Your generous donations enable us to continue our exceptional work supporting children and young adults with the most complex needs to live their best lives.

## Brandon Leigh

Chief Executive, Seashell





# Embracing change

## as Seashell continues to transform

There's no doubt that the last couple of years have made us adapt our ways of working, but despite the challenges we have faced, we have seen lots of positive changes too and our Seashell community has never been stronger.

As well as new working processes, Seashell is also changing physically and the excitement is building for the completion and opening of our new school in the coming months. We had the pleasure of welcoming Jodie Moulding and Angela Richards,



both trustees from the Moulding Foundation to preview the new School building, which will be named the Moulding Foundation Building and will house Seashell Royal School Manchester. The building will also be home to UK leading facilities, not only for the benefit of the students in our school and college, but for our staff and the SEND community.

We can't wait to welcome more of you on site to see for yourselves this amazing new addition to our campus. From the bespoke designed swimming pool with adaptable floor, to purpose built corridors to streamline travel across the building for wheelchair users, to the striking copper Tecu cladding, which will weather from its current shiny, copper colour to a beautiful, bronze hue.

# Celebrating our bicentenary!

We are proud to have been providing education and care for children and young adults with additional needs for 200 years as of June 2023.

In order to move forward, we have to acknowledge our past, and Trustee Ed Baines has done just that. His recently published book 'A Beacon of Hope' tells our story from humble beginnings in rented accommodation in Salford to present day. It follows the significant changes in our charity over the years and features a message from Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, written just months before she died.

It was a momentous occasion as the books arrived on campus, and Ed was invited to open the first box and unveil his new book, marking the beginning of our Bicentenary celebrations.



CEO, Brandon Leigh said: "It is amazing to reach this milestone in Project Transformation and see our new school so close to completion. This is a UK leading - if not world leading - facility, and will help build a new future for thousands of children and young people with special needs."

aspirational plan, for which funding still needs to be raised through fundraising activities, donations and sponsorship from individual donors, businesses and the community. Over the coming months, you will see the fundraising activity gather pace as the next phase of the transformation project starts to take shape.

The transformation of our site doesn't stop there, and we are already developing plans for the renovation of Seashell Royal College Manchester, our support offices and staff welfare facilities. It's an



We would like to thank the many individuals, companies, trusts and foundations, who have supported our site transformation project so far.



# The power of music

## for children and young people with complex needs

Music captures the attention and engagement of so many of Seashell's students with complex needs and gives them a unique opportunity for self-expression and emotional regulation.



instrumental music.

During the summer, the Hallé welcomed Seashell to their St. Peter's site for a relaxed concert – organised especially for Seashell students and their families and designed to be inclusive for everyone who attends. A whole host of melodies were played – all of which had been provided by the Hallé in advance, to give students chance to familiarise themselves with the harmonies before they heard the live performance.

Participation was encouraged for those in the audience who wished to take part, and several students enjoyed performing their favourite

Seashell's links with the Hallé Orchestra stretch back over 25 years, and many children and young adults have been able to benefit from this relationship and discover the wonders of

tunes. So much so, that the Hallé has since provided both group and individual music sessions for some students, who are now preparing for their second performance at the Hallé later this year.

Greg Davis, Music Co-ordinator at Seashell said: **“Communication and social barriers are broken down with music. This has been a tremendous opportunity for Seashell students to perform at the Hallé alongside some incredibly talented musicians. Chris, from the Hallé will be able to get a real sense of the journey the students have been on when we perform together at Christmas.”**



# Engaging with our community

Everything we do at Seashell is for the benefit of others, we provide and deliver services which aim to meet a need, make a difference and have a positive impact on lives.



In simple terms, community engagement seeks to better engage with the community to achieve long term and sustainable goals. At Seashell this includes developing relationships that lead to community participation in our services; making more informed decisions around future development and capacity building to enhance our offer.

A good example of how we use community engagement to inform decisions at Seashell is our new cycling facility – the Bradbury Cycling Centre. Through conversations and insight gained from parents and

carers of our students and residents at Seashell, as well as community users, we discovered the many barriers that exist for children and young adults with a disability to learn to ride a bike. Lack of inclusive provision available, costly specialist equipment and limited inclusive cycling venues created clear and physical barriers.

Our fundraising team utilised this insight to demonstrate the need for an inclusive cycling facility, which you can now see proudly on our site thanks to successful funding bids. Seashell's vision became a reality that many people from Stockport and further afield will benefit from.

Stephen Pearson, Community Engagement Officer said: **“We are a leader in the North West for creating this provision, and many people will learn to ride a bike, get ‘road ready’, build confidence, and importantly have fun enjoying the benefits of being active.”**



# Summer at Seashell

Life is a little different at Seashell during the summer as our school and college close for the summer break, and although there are less students around, our ever-changing site is home to a hive of activity.

Students who call Seashell their home have been enjoying spending time both on and off site, with trips to see family, lots of park visits, farmyard adventures, and crazy golf to name just a few! The sun has shone down on Sir Norman Stoller Way, and residents have been able to make the most of it in both their individual gardens and communal spaces.



Our Summer CADS programme has been a great success and has seen more children and young people from the community join us for a variety of fun filled activities. The Active team and CADS Crew have worked together to create a fantastic series of events from sensory walks and cycling/scooting on our newly opened Learn to Ride track and trails, music and performance sessions with Triple C, arts and crafts, swimming and mini Olympics on our 3G pitch.

We could not continue this amazing programme without the support of our generous donors and volunteers. We would especially like to thank Stockport's Aiming High, The Russell Trust, The National Lottery Community

It has also been time to say 'Au Revoir' to some students as they leave Seashell for pastures new – each leaver received a memory book, to remind them of all their achievements over the years. While this is an emotional time for students and staff, it is also an exciting one, as individuals continue to progress and grow in their lives beyond Seashell. One family even kindly donated a tree to Seashell as a parting gift, which has been planted in the grounds.



A huge thank you to all our corporate volunteers who have braced the temperamental weather to maintain our grounds and gardens this summer!

Fund and the generous donation from an anonymous supporter.

Samantha Keane, CADS Crew member said: "Every day I am incredibly proud of the participants as I watch them overcome their fears and accomplish challenges, such as climbing for the first time and being in the swimming pool."



Seashell has also been delighted to play host to a Manchester United Foundation summer camp, that allowed young people of all abilities and ages to participate in activities.

The event was attended by a mix of Seashell residents, and students from Brentwood Academy, Chatsworth Multi Academy Trust, Inscape House, Kingfisher Primary and Pioneer House.

After a busy summer, we were excited to see all our students back on campus in September. As well as many familiar faces, we have welcomed 8 new students in Royal School Manchester and 22 students in Royal College Manchester for the start of term!

## Intercollege Sports Day

Now in its 11th year, Seashell

Intercollege Sports Day 2022 was delivered in partnership with Natspec, the voice for specialist further education. The day was a huge success and a fantastic experience for the young people who took part.

The event is the largest of its kind, and brought together 160 students from 15 different special needs colleges from across the North West for a day of sport including javelin, shot put, beanbag throwing and more!

Clare Sefton, Head of Royal College Manchester said: "The team go above and beyond to make events such as this wholly accessible for the students. They promote their adult status and encourage the students to be independent at every opportunity."



We would like to thank the Greater Manchester High Sheriff's Police Trust for supporting the Seashell Intercollege Sports Day.





# Danielle Demands Change!

Danielle Dolan, Senior Residential Support Worker at Seashell and UNISON Rep went above and beyond on behalf of her colleagues.

As a UNISON Representative, and on behalf of the Living Wage Foundation, Danielle approached the 10 Local Authorities in Greater Manchester and asked them to make a commitment to require the Foundation Living Wage as a minimum starting salary for all directly employed and commissioned care and support workers.

Danielle explained: *“We waited outside Town Halls during counsellor meetings, (often in the pouring rain!) to gather signatures for our petition. I am extremely proud of what we*

*have accomplished and hope this will have a positive impact on all Support Workers in Greater Manchester.”*

The group’s incredible achievement was recognised by the Living Wage Foundation, and Danielle was presented the ‘Campaign of the Year’ national award by Andy Burnham at a ceremony at the Guildhall in London.

Seashell are pleased to support the National Living Wage and are also part of Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter.



## Layla shows her appreciation to Seashell

Layla is the daughter of Seashell Night Support Worker, Becky. She decided to show her appreciation of her mum’s colleagues at work by going to school dressed as a Seashell Support Worker for a ‘Dress as Someone Who Helps People’ day.

Layla said: *“I chose to dress as someone from Seashell because everyone works really hard to look after the children and help them to be safe and have fun”*

# Seashell on tour

Seashell is a UK-leader in supporting children and young adults with complex difficulties, disabilities and additional communication needs.

Our team of experts actively work to contribute to research and development in the field in which we are specialists. This includes producing academic posters, delivering talks and workshops at conferences, contributing to news articles and conducting projects to discover new and better ways of working.

The last few months have seen Seashell on tour not only nationally, but internationally too, starting with Olly Elm-Robinson, Advanced Specialist Speech and Language Therapist, who attended the International Family-Centered Early Intervention for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing conference (FCEI Conference) in Austria. Olly delivered a presentation on how technology



can be used to support communication development in learners with multi-sensory impairment.

Following this, Rachel Johnson,



Consultant Occupational Therapist had an academic poster presented at the International Sensory Integration Congress (ISIC) 2022 in California. Rachel’s poster detailed her exploration of achieving fidelity with adults with complex intellectual disabilities.

In addition, Verity Langlands, our Principle Audiologist and Veena Ramrakhiani, MSI Lead Practitioner, travelled to Frank Barnes School for the Deaf in London for the British Association for Teachers of the Deaf (BATOD) national conference.

We were also proud have two articles published in the BATOD members Magazine – ‘The Role of the MSI Intervenor’ by Veena and Michelle Jones, Head of Seashell Sensory and ‘Improving the Clinical Approach to Ear Health in a SEND Setting’ by Verity and Alivia Thomas, Therapy Assistant.

# Students experience work at the Garden House

We're delighted to be working in partnership with The Garden House Marple, where students have had the opportunity to gain valuable work experience, learning about the animals, and supporting with their care.

The Garden House provides a safe outdoor space for families, groups and local organisations to enjoy spending time in nature and learn about animals.

Teddy, Saskia, Dan and James have been getting their hands dirty and enjoy every aspect of working on a farm, completing tasks such as preparing food for the various animals. Animal welfare is very important on the farm, and there is no short supply of hungry mouths to feed. The farm is home to chickens, goats, alpacas, pigs and Shetland ponies, each with their own daily feeding and grooming routine. Students have been following these care plans, learning the responsibilities of each animal,



and improving their confidence and motor skills by using various tools.

Sean Penlington, Royal School Manchester Teacher said: "We have noticed a huge change in some of our students since volunteering on the farm, their confidence and independence has come on leaps and bounds and it's great to see them independently getting the tools out and remembering where they are kept. It has been so supportive to their careers, education, and community engagement."



## Donation form Autumn/Winter 2022

We are extremely grateful for your support and appreciate any amount you can donate at this time.

Please tear off and return your donation in the Freepost envelope provided or send to Seashell Trust, Stanley Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire, SK8 6RQ

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a donation of:  £20  £50  £100 Other amount: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque (please make payable to Seashell Trust)

I would like to donate by credit/debit card

Please leave a telephone number below and we will call you to take your donation, or call us on **0161 696 9384**.

Your contact telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

To provide ongoing support to Seashell I'd like to set up a regular gift - please send me a standing order form.

### How we communicate with you

We would like to keep you up to date with success stories, events & upcoming opportunities to support Seashell Trust.

I am happy for Seashell to contact me by email (please provide your email above).

You can change how we communicate with you at any time, please contact [fundraising@seashelltrust.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@seashelltrust.org.uk) or call **0161 696 9384**. To understand how Seashell looks after your data, please see our privacy policy at [www.seashelltrust.org.uk/privacy-promise](http://www.seashelltrust.org.uk/privacy-promise)

### If you are a UK taxpayer your donation will be worth 25% more!

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed as a current UK taxpayer. I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Seashell. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay the difference. (please tick box)

*giftaid it*

You can also donate online by clicking the 'Donate Now' button on the homepage of our website [www.seashelltrust.org.uk](http://www.seashelltrust.org.uk) or via our Facebook page.

# Thank you!



Many thanks to ALL of you - we have some amazing supporters who make such a difference to the children and young adults at Seashell.

Thank you to The Bhim Ruia Foundation and The Manchester Guardian Society Charitable Trust for you support this year.

A special thank you to Manchester Grammar School, and Tom Foran, Paul Seedhouse, Sam Crooks, Louie Adair for completing the Samworth Brothers Charity Challenge.

Thank you to Glancy Fawcett Limited, Tullis Russell, Laltex, Barclays, Eversheds, Willmott Dixon, Willis Towers Watson, Darren & Charlotte Heath and Seashell staff who joined

#TeamSeashell and took on the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge!

A huge thank you to our corporate volunteers, Together Money, Shepherds Friendly, Bruntwood, Royal London, Astra Zeneca, DWF Law, Lookers and Manchester Airport who gave us 1645 volunteering hours over the summer!

And of course thank you to all our other supporters, both corporates and individuals who give generously throughout the year.

## Strictly Seashell is back for 2023

Our glitter ball is rolling again for our annual Strictly Seashell event, taking place on **Saturday 13th May 2023** at **The Emirates Old Trafford**.

We have an exciting line up of dancers and judges, which will be revealed closer to the event, so keep an eye on our social media channels! The night includes a drinks reception, 3 course meal and live entertainment. Tables of 10 are £1000 each and tickets are £100 per person...a big thank you to our headline sponsor, Together Money!

Please contact Lorna Thompson for more information on tables and individual bookings [lorna.thompson@seashelltrust.org.uk](mailto:lorna.thompson@seashelltrust.org.uk)



## Challenge yourself for Seashell!

Always fancied challenging yourself to a run, walk or hike? Why not join **#TeamSeashell** and give it a try, while raising money for a good cause.

Every day the children and young adults at Seashell face significant challenges. But thanks to our care, education, support and encouragement, our students and residents with complex learning difficulties are able to meet those challenges and overcome them. But, we can't do it alone, we rely on fundraising from people just like you.

### Need some inspiration...?

Harry Norton, whose two brothers attend Seashell, took part in a skydive along with his 3 friends Tristan, Josh



and Sam. Together, they have raised over £2000 which is just incredible!

Seashell challenge events went international at the end of September when 10 employees from our corporate partner Together Money took on Istrian Mountain Trail in Northern Croatia, They trekked 36.9 miles, climbed 7,792ft to raise an incredible £10,405 - thank you so much!

Fundraising challenges help raise money to enable the children and young adults at Seashell to access off-site activities, experience family support services and allow us to buy equipment that supports their independence.

### Are you looking for a challenge?

Get in touch with Lorna:  
[lorna.thompson@seashelltrust.org.uk](mailto:lorna.thompson@seashelltrust.org.uk)



# What's on

dates for the diary in 2022/23

Keep up to date with what's going on at Seashell by visiting our website, following us on social media, or signing up to our e-newsletter!

## Fundraising events

### Yorkshire 3 peaks challenge

Friday 24 March 2023

### Tour de Manc

Sunday 30 April 2023

### Strictly Seashell

Saturday 13 May 2023

### Charity Dragon Boat Challenge

Sunday 14 May 2023

### Great Manchester Run

Sunday 21 May 2023

**Shellebration Walk** - celebrating our bicentenary with a walk across Manchester  
June 2023

### Seashell Golf Day

Thursday 7 September 2023

### Sportive

Sunday 17 September 2023

### Seashell Santa Dash

December 2023



## Learn with Seashell

### Makaton Taster (morning session)

16 November 2022, 11am-12:30pm

**Makaton Level 3 & 4** (4 morning sessions) 2, 3, 9 & 10 November 2022, 9am-12:30pm

### MSI Intervenors (5 day course)

17, 18, 23, 24 & 25 November 2022

11, 12, 17, 18 & 19 May 2023

### Sleep Success (morning sessions)

15 November 2022, 26 January 2023, 7

March 2023, 10 May '23 & 4 July 2023

### Sleep Better (5 session course)

9, 16, 23, 30 Nov & 7 Dec 2022

17, 24, 31 Jan, 7 & 14 Feb 2023

2 Apr, 2, 9, 16 & 23 May 2023

### Me & My FASD (3 day course)

31 Jan - 2 Feb 2023

For more information contact

[outreach@seashelltrust.org.uk](mailto:outreach@seashelltrust.org.uk)

We have new **Signalong** and **BSL**

training sessions in January 2023,

contact [LandD@seashelltrust.org.uk](mailto:LandD@seashelltrust.org.uk)

for more information.