

Seashell Matters

Spring/Summer 2023



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Hello & welcome

to the spring/summer '23 edition of Seashell Matters

As we say goodbye to the colder months and welcome the spring, we are gearing up for an exciting year of celebrations and monumental milestones.

2023 is and will always be a very special year for Seashell as we celebrate the opening of our world class facility, The Moulding Foundation Building, new home to Royal School Manchester.

We embarked on this crucial stage in the transformation of our Cheadle Hulme campus back in 2017 and to see the students transitioning so effortlessly to their new school building some six years later - a building expertly designed to support their needs - is a very proud moment in the history of Seashell.

And by very happy coincidence this year we celebrate our Bicentenary. 200 years of the charity supporting some of the most vulnerable young people in society, from humble beginnings in rented accommodation in Salford in 1823!

Events are planned throughout the year to celebrate our 200th anniversary and I do hope you will be able to join us.

In our official birthday month of June we're kicking off with Seashell Shine - a community summer fair at our campus. We'll be joined by the Worker Bee Market and there will be plenty of stalls and exciting activities for all the family, including funfair rides, live entertainment and some amazing performances by our residents, supporters and friends.

We have even more reason to celebrate this spring with the news that 3 of the six regulated services we provide have been awarded the rating of OUTSTANDING. Recent inspection of our Short Breaks and Health Service as well as Royal School Manchester have concluded that our delivery is to the highest possible standards. A fantastic result and very much down to the hard work of all at Seashell.

Thank you for all you do to support us whether that's through giving your time or through your generous donations. Your support enables 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

Celebrating
Seashell 200
—1823-2023—
our Bicentenary

Seashell is 200!

As we look forward to the year ahead we have even more reason to celebrate as this year marks the 200th anniversary of our charity.

2023 will be a year showcasing the very best of Seashell. We have an exciting calendar of events and activities providing opportunities for our staff, students and community to be part of our Bicentenary celebrations, including a special event - **Seashell Shine** - in June, the month in which, 200 years ago, our charity was founded.

Read more on page 8!

Introducing our Seashell Student Ambassadors

We are excited to introduce you to our new Student Ambassador programme!



Like all young adults, Seashell learners have their own, individual interests, desires and ambitions. Over the years, Seashell has developed a successful Careers and Work Experience programme, which enables students to learn about the world of work and experience a variety of workplace options. This has seen students 'out and about' visiting local organisations to discover the range of skills, knowledge and behaviours needed in working life.

Seashell's Student Ambassadors will work a little closer to home, with most responsibilities being on campus, in school, college and in collaboration with Seashell support services. Confidence, collaboration and representation are key skills that the students will develop, along with a

better understanding of being a role model for other children and young adults both at Seashell and in the SEND community.

So far, the programme has seen Ambassadors represent the student body at a number of events, including the official opening of The Bradbury Cycling Centre, which involved meeting, greeting and signing in attendees, plus a well-received interview with Chair of Sport England and Olympic champion, Chris Boardman MBE, who came to open the facility.

Our ambition is for the programme to progress and encourage students to collaborate across campus, mixing with other like-minded young adults with a desire to have their voices heard.



Meet Mollie...

The first Student Ambassador that we would like you to meet is Mollie Murphy, a final year student at Royal College Manchester. You may recognise Mollie if you happen to visit Seashell on a Friday morning, while she is on shift for her work experience with the Reception team.

As one of Seashell's first Student Ambassadors, Mollie has been at the forefront of helping shape the programme, and has already built a fantastic reputation for her eagerness to help represent the student body positively. So much so, that she has taken on a new work placement with our Fundraising team, where she will be able to further build her confidence and skills.

Fundraising Manager, Dianne Gill said: "Many of our supporters provide valuable work placements and professional opportunities for



our students, so we as a team were delighted to be able to do the same! Mollie has already proved to be an amazing asset to the team. She thoroughly enjoyed her first day with us, where she spent the afternoon ordering art supplies which will be used to make thank you cards to send to our donors. So be warned if you make a donation to Seashell, Mollie ordered confetti, so you better get your Hoover at the ready!"

When asked about her placement, Mollie said "I feel very happy and amazed that I am part of the Fundraising team. I am so excited to get started and feel like a good representative for all the students at Seashell."

Student Ambassador





After much anticipation, the time has finally come for students and staff to make the move into The Moulding Foundation Building, the new home to Royal School Manchester.

Excitement was in the air, as the team closed the doors of their old school, known to many as 'Dockray', for the final time. Careful planning and appropriate measures put in place have ensured the smoothest of transitions for the students, particularly for those who find disruption to routine challenging.

Emma Houldcroft, Head of Royal School Manchester said:



"Thanks to the whole team and our students' families for preparing for this much-anticipated transition. We are so very grateful to all

who have generously supported Seashell in the development of such a fantastic facility that our students and residents need now, and for the future."

The completion of The Moulding Foundation building is an exciting time not only for the students and staff at Royal School Manchester but also for our college students and staff and our wider community



who will have access to the brand new facilities. From state of the art swimming and hydrotherapy pools to a specialist audiology suite, to the West Dining Hall, a shared space for all to enjoy meal times together.



What's next?

Securing the future of Seashell...

We are now diving straight into the next phase of our campus transformation with the development of a new Royal College Manchester.

The new building will comprise a College, Reception, Sports and Administration centre and will house a new Café, Activity Hall with extended climbing wall, Fitness Suite, Rebound Room, Sensory Integration Room and a suite of flexible multi-purpose rooms at ground floor level with contemporary office space above and associated external landscaping.

David Walker, Transformation Project Design Lead said: "Outline planning permission has already been granted for the development which aims to open at the end of summer

2025. The building will be similar in scale and appearance to the new Moulding Foundation Building and a similar palette of materials will help promote a sense of identity, unity and wellbeing."

The ambitious transformation of our campus is one of the largest in the UK and is only possible thanks to the generous support from individuals, companies, trusts and foundations, to whom we are incredibly grateful.

Clare's epic challenge!

Principal of Royal College Manchester, Clare Sefton is taking on not one, but two challenges this year, to raise funds for an immersive space in the new College building. Clare will be running the London Marathon in April and is currently fitting in as many training runs as possible ahead of the big day. Later in the year she will travel to India to take on the Dalai Lama Himalayan Trek. Clare will be joined by Seashell colleagues, Debbie and Claire, and will tackle 50 kilometres at 3000m of altitude!

Clare said: "The students at Seashell face adverse challenges on a daily basis and still achieve some amazing things. I want to push myself out of my comfort zone to show what we can achieve when we put our mind to it."

Support Clare's journey here: [justgiving.com/fundraising/clare-sefton](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/clare-sefton)



Celebrate our Bicentenary with us

We are proud to have been providing education and care for children and young adults with additional needs for 200 years!

To celebrate our Bicentenary, we have been delving into our extraordinary history to share stories and facts that have contributed to the amazing Trust that you see and know today.

Our story starts on 11th June 1823, when Robert Philips and William



Bateman, the founders of our original charity, opened their school for Deaf children. At that time, children who were Deaf were not able to access education and therefore faced incredible inequalities. Eight girls and six boys were given places, funded entirely by public subscriptions. Within four years, demand grew and a purpose-built school was needed.

After a successful start, the school grew and powerful partnerships with



As part of our Bicentenary celebrations, we are holding a special community summer fair – **Seashell Shine** – on **Saturday 17th June**...200 years and 6 days since our original charity was founded!

We will be having one big party at our campus for the community to enjoy between **12 noon & 4pm** - **entry is free**. Joining us is the Worker Bee Market as well as an exciting choice of family-friendly activities and events including a funfair, inflatables, live music, food stalls and a very special guest from Cbeebies.

Parking is limited, so please bare this in mind when planning your journey.



local businesses and individuals were formed. As times changed, and Deaf children were finally able to access public schooling, our charity changed too, and adapted to cater for the children who were unable to thrive in mainstream schools due to their additional and complex needs.

Seashell now is a specialist in supporting children and young adults with a range of disabilities. Currently, we educate 122 students in our school and college, 41 of whom live with us here on campus. 653 amazing, talented and caring people call Seashell their workplace, not to mention the 600+ volunteers who have donated their time to support

us over the last year. Our facilities and expert team are also crucial to many groups, individuals and organisations, both locally and nationally. Together, we make a difference, and Seashell holds a special place in the hearts of so many people. Our rich history fuels us to move forwards and we are constantly adapting, growing and developing to ensure we provide the very best for our students, their families and the SEND community.

As we take time to look back on all the amazing contributions that our charity has made over the last 200 years, not to mention the people who have paved the way, we can feel sure that we are doing all we can to continue that legacy.

Every Friday we are sharing facts and stories on social media, so make sure you follow us and watch out for our **#Seashell200 #FactFriday** posts, and do get in touch if you have a story relating to Seashell over the years. **We would love to hear from you!**

Take a walk with Seashell...

Join us on **Saturday 17th June** for our **Shellebration Sponsored Walk!** The 8 mile (approx.) walk takes you on a route through spectacular Cheshire countryside, through the pretty village of Styal to the National Trust's Quarry Bank Mill, taking in the runway at Manchester Airport and the enchanting Styal woods. Head back to Seashell and join our big birthday bash at **Seashell Shine**, our community summer fair.

Entry for adults is **£15** with a minimum sponsorship ask of **£100**. Children and family tickets are also available. Contact fundraising@seashelltrust.org.uk for more information or to book your place.





We were delighted to welcome cycling royalty, Chris Boardman MBE to our campus for the official opening of The Bradbury Cycling Centre.

The Chair of Sport England and Olympic champion was supported by our students, key partners and organisations from the local area who will be using the centre.

“As both a cyclist and the chair of Sport England, I’m proud to be here today as part of the Uniting the Movement mission to break down the barriers that mean disabled children and adults are less active than other groups. The Bradbury Cycling Centre is a great example of what can be done when inclusion and meeting people where they are at, is prioritised.” - Chris Boardman MBE

Kyle Evans, the former European BMX Champion and current Junior Academy BMX Coach for the Great Britain Cycling Team, and Stacey Fisher, Great Britain mountain bike rider, were on hand to test out the wider trails, demonstrating their skills

to students and to give the facility the once-over.

The project has been made possible with thanks to grant funding support from the Bradbury Foundation and the Places to Ride programme, which is being delivered by British Cycling, Sport England & the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS).

Tasked with ensuring this fantastic facility is available and used by all is our new Inclusive Cycling Development Officer, Wes. Read on to find out more about Wes....



“ Hello!

My name is Wes, and I am the new Inclusive Cycling Development Officer at Seashell.

I will be developing use of The Bradbury Cycling Centre, building on local relationships to launch, embed and sustain inclusive cycling projects at Seashell, and in the local community.



I am looking forward to working with key partners to ensure Seashell becomes the regional hub for inclusive cycling. I will also

be working on promoting cycling opportunities to my colleagues across Seashell, offering support and guidance on how to make the most of pedal power!

Prior to becoming the Inclusive Cycle Development Officer, I worked in the Seashell Active team, and before that I worked in Royal College Manchester. Before life at Seashell, I volunteered as a community football coach, primarily in Pan-Disability football, where I received regional and national recognition for the work I was doing.

The benefits of cycling are endless;



from improved coordination, to cardiovascular fitness and muscle strengthening, not to mention the psychological benefits. When I think back to learning to ride myself, the one thing that sticks in my memory was the day my dad let go of the seat as he pushed me along in the park. I was riding along on my own and I felt amazing, a real sense of achievement! I truly believe that everyone, disability or not, should be able to experience this sense of freedom.

Part of my new role allows me to look at different types of cycles from standard trikes, hand bikes to wheelchair accessible cycles – I hope to have a large fleet of equipment that will make cycling at Seashell fully accessible and inclusive.

If I were to choose a superpower, it would be the power of TELEPORTATION! Life as a working parent is busy and hectic, with this power, I could save a lot of time and get more rest...and it would be better for the environment!

Do get in touch if you want to hear more about cycling at Seashell: wesley.ratcliffe@seashelltrust.org.uk



Collaboration in the community

Royal College Manchester students and Seashell staff have been working in partnership with the National Trust's Quarry Bank Mill to make the much loved site more accessible.

Connections with Seashell and the National Trust are well established, and many students have benefited from this relationship through both recreational trips and work experience in a variety of roles. Quarry Bank Mill in particular has welcomed students with open arms and is keen to develop a stronger appreciation of the challenges faced by those with disabilities and learning difficulties, particularly in order to better support visitors who may require additional help when navigating around the site.

To get the ball rolling, the Community Team at Quarry Bank Mill have offered Royal College Manchester student, John a consultancy role, where he has been offering advice on accesibility issues he has experienced first hand.

Using his Grid Pad communication aid, John produced a report, highlighting some areas of the park that required further attention to assist wheelchair users, and we are pleased to say this advise has already

been taken on board by Quarry Bank Mill, and is soon to be implemented.

As well as this, our Seashell Health Team have delivered disability awareness training to National Trust staff, and are also supporting the teams to improve the inclusivity of signage and publications created for use throughout the Trust through the use of inclusive language, signs and symbols.

But this exciting project doesn't stop there! The National Trust have made a commitment to continue to embed inclusivity across other local sites Tatton Park and Lyme Park with the help of Seashell. This may also result in more opportunities for student involvement for John once he graduates from Royal College Manchester this summer.



Donation form Spring/Summer 2023

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 regualr 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 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

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)

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You can also donate online by clicking the 'Donate Now' button on the homepage of our website www.seashelltrust.org.uk or via our Facebook page.

Thank YOU!

We have some amazing supporters who make such a difference to the lives of the children and young adults at Seashell.

So many kind and generous donations are made to the students

at Seashell. Thank you to Pulse media UK, Poynton male voice choir, 'Douglas Ford Williams' memorial donation, Bramhall Methodist Church and Church of St Francis Thorpe Willoughby. Thank you to Rob Tidy & friends, to Nainsi Parkinson, to Matthew & Suzanne Smith, Bridget & Brendon Loughran.

Thanks to Manchester Central FC, Sharp Business Systems, Fence Club Trust Fund and BDB, to Citation, Wilmslow Garden Centre and the The Manchester Guardian Society Charitable Trust too.

Thanks also to Shepherds Friendly and to Walkeze Doggy Daycare and to everyone who took part in our charity Golf Day.

We are privileged to work with

Have a celebration coming up? Why not ask for donations in lieu of gifts to be made to Seashell? Contact fundraising@seashelltrust.org.uk for more info.

some amazing individuals and organisations. Thank you to Stockport Business Awards for choosing Seashell as you nominated charity, to CMS Cameron McKenna Foundation, to Bloor Homes football tournament, and to Together Money who have extended our partnership for a second year.

A huge thank you to everyone who entered our Christmas raffle and to Amazon for supplying the cash prizes!

Some wonderful supporters take on epic challenges in order to raise funds for us - thanks to each and every one of you! We would also like to say thanks to our friends at Simpson Millar who climbed Scarfell Pike, to Tom Webb for cycling 968 miles from from Lands End to John O'Groats, to Simon Whitby for a sponsored head shave!

Thank you to all of our corporate and individual volunteers who's impact is invaluable.



It is with great delight that we can share that after a series of inspections from governing bodies, Ofsted and CQC, Seashell has maintained it's Outstanding rating in our School, Health and Wellbeing services and our Children's Short Breaks provision.

Seashell is dedicated to providing a creative, happy, and safe environment for children and young adults with complex learning disabilities and additional communication needs.

We know the children and young adults in our school, college and residential homes live happy, fulfilled lives as we have the privilege of seeing and working alongside them on a daily basis, but to be officially recognised by those who regulate our provision is extra special.

Emma Houldcroft, Head of Royal School Manchester said: "We see students with the most complex needs thrive in our surroundings, so to have our exceptional level of service

recognised in this way is wonderful."

Tamsin Rowbotham, Head of Health and Wellbeing at Seashell and Registered Manager for Seashell's Health Service said: "I am delighted with the outcome of our first inspection. It reflects the dedication and commitment of the whole team at Seashell who are extremely proud of the work they do to support the children and young adults in our care."

Read more of the reports on our website!



What's on

dates for the diary in 2023

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

Tour de Manc

Sunday 30 April

Charity Dragon Boat Challenge

Sunday 14 May

Great Manchester Run

Sunday 21 May

Shellebration Walk

Saturday 17 June

Snowdon at Sunset

Thursday 6th July

Seashell Golf Day

Thursday 7 September

Sportive

Sunday 17 September

Seashell Santa Dash

December

Community Events

Stockport Sensory Drop-in Session

17 May, 10am - 12pm

Seashell Shine Community Summer

Fair - Saturday 17 June

Learn with Seashell

Tactile Communication

21 April, 10am - 3:30pm

Makaton Level 1&2 (2 day course)

27 April & 4 May, 9am - 5pm

Positive Looking

28 April, 10am - 3:30pm

Sleep Success

10 May, 9:30am - 1:30pm

MSI Intervenors (5 day course)

11, 12, 17, 18 & 19 May

Makaton Taster

15 June 1pm - 2:30pm

Makaton Level 3&4 (4 day course)

21, 22, 28, 29 June, 9am - 12:30pm

For more information or for bespoke training and support requests contact outreach@seashelltrust.org.uk

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

seashelltrust.org.uk