

# Martha NEWS



Autumn 2022



**Residents are bowled over...**

by our new Rainbow Table



35 years of Martha



Fundraising fun



Thank you all!



In the 13 years since I joined Martha Trust, I have seen the organisation grow, both in terms of the number of residential placements available to people with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) and the size of the staff teams.

Underpinning this expansion has been the commitment to Martha's values, which include the need to treat everyone with respect, dignity and compassion and to always be supportive and encouraging.

Values-based recruitment has enabled us to create a workforce of highly committed

individuals who have the wellbeing and happiness of the people they support at the forefront of everything they do.

At the same time, we strive to improve the quality of the lives of everyone who lives at our homes in Deal and Hastings, by introducing innovative activities and the latest communication technology. The kind donations of our supporters help us to open up new opportunities for them to have fun and, importantly, to make choices about their everyday lives. The Rainbow Table featured in this issue is a perfect example.

As we celebrate our 35th anniversary I am immensely proud of what Martha Trust has achieved and the number of individuals we have supported. During my tenure as Chief Executive, I look forward to seeing the organisation go from strength to strength as we continue on our journey to be the very best we can be.

Julie Gayler  
CEO Martha Trust

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# Interactive Rainbow Table brings fun to everyone at Martha

This year we have been fundraising for two Rainbow Tables. To date our appeal has successfully raised enough to purchase one table and we have secured some funding towards a second.

The Rainbow Table is a 40-inch interactive touch screen where our residents can access various sensory programs and apps to suit individual needs. The Rainbow Table can be used alone, but it can also be used in pairs or groups. It is fully electric so can go up and down to suit the individual user, it can be

laid flat or can be turned round on its side depending what game or app you are using. It provides many hours of fun here at Martha, with all residents being able to use it.

One of the big hits on the table is the bowling app, where our residents can play each other. This is so lovely to watch and the smiles from our residents tell us that they love it too. We have also set up the Rainbow Table to be able to use Skype, so our residents can Skype their families and see them on a 40-inch screen!!





# CEO Julie Gayler celebrates 35 years of Martha Trust

**This is a challenging, but exciting time to be working at Martha Trust; 35 years is a wonderful milestone and we can be proud of our achievements**

In the beginning... 1983... a small group of Christians from Deal felt there had to be a better alternative to the NHS longstay mental health hospitals and institutions where people with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) were being placed.

They believed those with profound disabilities should be able to live life to the full and get the most out of each and every day. They were right. Their vision, combined with a lot of hard work, determination and support from the local community culminated in Princess Alexandra officially opening the first of Martha's homes at Deal in April 1987.

Since then we have added a second home at Deal and one at Hastings, increasing the number of residential placements we can offer to 38. We are proud to have welcomed HRH the Princess Royal and HRH the Countess of Wessex to open new facilities over the years, as well as enlisting the help of another familiar face, Charlie Dimmock and



her Groundforce team to make over the Deal garden in the year 2000.

Adults with PMLD need a huge amount of support with the many functions of life that most of us take for granted. Most are unable



to communicate verbally, or able to stand or walk unaided. And a range of complex health needs often require round-the-clock nursing. Martha



offers a home for life in purpose-built, welcoming accommodation with an individually-tailored and continuous programme of activities and therapies.

Both Martha sites offer exceptional facilities, including fully equipped sensory rooms, state-of-the-art hydrotherapy pools and beautifully landscaped sensory gardens for residents and their families to enjoy together. And of course, highly trained and dedicated staff teams, who work tirelessly to deliver our vision for everyone with profound disabilities to be given the very best opportunities in life, enabling them to engage in the world around them and achieve their individual potential.

We have many members of staff in both the care and support teams who have shown great loyalty to Martha Trust over many years. One of those is Alfred, a nurse at Martha House, who only last year celebrated his own anniversary of working at Martha for 20 years! This is an amazing achievement.

Alfred says of his time at Martha Trust: "I feel



honoured and privileged to work for Martha Trust. It's a wonderful organisation committed to supporting all who live and work here and doing so in an environment that feels safe, kind, supportive and caring. After 21 years of service I do remain committed to embracing Martha Trust values of being: respectful, dignified and compassionate. As a Nurse I do share skills, knowledge and experience for the benefit of the residents receiving care, support staff and the nursing team."

Key to our success has been the generosity of our dedicated supporters in the local community and beyond, who have enabled us to develop and grow into a leading provider of

services for people with profound disabilities. Large building projects, the purchase of new adapted vehicles and equipment for the homes and residents simply would not have been possible without the many kind donations we have received in response to our fundraising appeals.

We thank you all for your support, past and present, and look forward to working together in the future to raise the profile of Martha Trust and further enhance the essential and specialist service we provide.

Our Fundraising and Marketing Team could be described as small, but perfectly formed! But during my time at Martha I have seen their expertise, determination and passion deliver projects and events that have made a significant difference to the lives of the people we support. They are truly inspiring.

The positive impact we have on the lives of our residents and their families is a source of great pride to everyone who works here. And over the next 35 years, we'll continue to ensure that we strive to make the lives of people who live at Martha happy and fulfilling.

## Christmas Raffle

**We are excited to have some amazing prizes this year**

With the nation facing the biggest cost of living crisis, we know that this Christmas will be hard for many, which makes us appreciate your support even more at this time.

Our top three prizes this year are all cash prizes, kindly donated by local businesses. What better way to show support of Martha this Christmas and you could be in with a chance of winning our top prize of £500!

**1st Prize £500 donated by NWR Ltd**

**2nd Prize £200 donated by Postage Supermarket**

**3rd Prize £100 donated by Town & Country Garden Services**



## Monte Carlo Madness

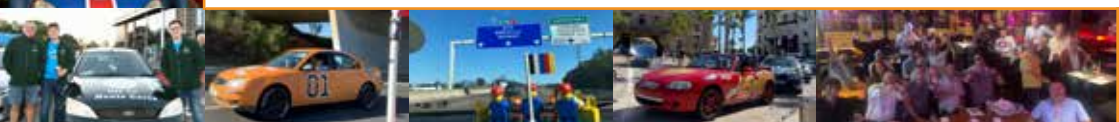
**Thirteen intrepid teams set off on our four day adventure across France to Monte Carlo**

The teams from all over Kent and Sussex drove 800 miles in cars worth no more than £200 and raised a staggering £50,000 in sponsorship! What an amazing adventure, lots of laughter, great memories and friendships made along the way.

Keith G Morrison from Solley's Kentish Ice Cream said of the trip "Solley's Farms Ice Cream were delighted and proud to be part of a great bunch who all travelled as part of Monte Carlo Madness. Not only is the cause an outstanding charity but we met some great people and the social life was brilliant – I would recommend it to any local business looking to combine fun and some worthwhile fundraising for the community. Brilliant."

A huge thank you to our generous main sponsors: CH Staffing Solutions Ltd, Eurotunnel Le Shuttle, Nick Cunningham Plumbing and Heating Engineers, R&R Environmental, Sota Solutions and Superior Healthcare, without whom this event would not be possible.

If you are interested in participating in our 2023 event – Bonkers in Barcelona – taking place in September 2023, you can find out more or register your interest at [www.marthatrust.org.uk/BIB](http://www.marthatrust.org.uk/BIB) or call us on 01304 610448 or email [fundraising@marthatrust.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@marthatrust.org.uk)



## Light up a Life

**Our Light up a Life appeal has raised over £10,000 in donations since we launched it back in 2010**

It is a great way to show your support of Martha and celebrate the life of someone close to you, or use it as an opportunity to say thank you. Whatever message you choose to make, we will personalise a star with it and hang it on one of our Christmas trees at Martha.

Why not make a donation to the Light Up A Life appeal in lieu of a gift or sending a card this Christmas?

Remember a loved one, celebrate family and friends, one of our amazing residents or a member of our incredible teams at Martha.

By supporting our Light up a Life appeal you will be helping us to transform the lives of people with profound disabilities.



## Music on the Farm

**– our most successful music event yet!**

**Thank you to everyone who was involved in making Music on the Farm our biggest and best music event!**

It was an amazing day, the sun was shining and you have helped raise a record-breaking £26,000 which will go towards transforming the lives of our residents at Martha.

A huge thank you to our hosts and long-term friends of Martha, the team at Solley's Kentish Ice Cream. And to our event sponsors Barclays, CH Staffing, Cook Fabrications, Jenkinson Estates, Postage Supermarket and Steve Manion Effective Training, as well as all the companies who gave gifts in kind to make the day such a success.

The day would not have been possible without our band of volunteers, musicians and security staff, who all gave their time in aid of Martha.

**Date for your Diary**  
**2023 Music on the Farm**  
**Sunday 25th June 2023**







# Partner with us in 2023!

At Martha we are extremely fortunate to partner with a number of local businesses. Their support is invaluable to us and makes a significant difference to what we are able to achieve each year.



Partnering with Martha, whether it is through sponsorship, employee engagement or making us your Charity of the Year, is a mutually beneficial relationship. For Martha it allows us to secure funding, support and increased visibility of profound disability and our work. And for your business, it creates good PR, brand building, and most importantly, a chance to make a real difference to some of the most vulnerable people in society.



With demands for our services on the increase, we are looking for more local organisations with shared values to get involved and help us to make a difference to the people we support at Martha, enabling them to live their lives to the full.

We are currently looking for main sponsors for our 2023 events, including our annual car challenge – Bonkers in Barcelona and Martha's Music on the Farm, held in the fields of Solley's Ice Cream in Ripple.

To find out more about the opportunities we have for you to get involved in 2023 contact us on 01304 610448 or email [fundraising@marthatrust.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@marthatrust.org.uk)

A special "Thank you" to all the local businesses that have supported us in 2022, be it through sponsorship, volunteering, fundraising, donating an auction or raffle prize or supplying an item for free

## Proudly supported by:

Agents Giving ❖ Anna's Face Candy  
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 Rayner Brown Construction ❖ Real Deal Coffee ❖ Reco Readymix  
 Rent A Bar ❖ R&R Environmental Services ❖ Sainsbury's  
 SAMS Ltd ❖ Sandwich Coop ❖ Sandwich Community Events  
 Sandwich Technology School ❖ Shepherd Neame ❖ SMET  
 Smye Rumsby ❖ Solley's Kentish ice cream ❖ Sota ❖ Soul Kitchen  
 Southern Care Maintenance ❖ Superior Healthcare Group  
 Swiss Re ❖ The 1:1 Diet by Cambridge Weight Plan  
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 Town and Country Garden Services ❖ Truecut Diamond Drilling Ltd  
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**Wow! What an amazing anniversary year it's been!**

**A huge thank you for all your support this year, with special thanks to:**

Waitrose in Ramsgate for £1,000 donation made through their Community Matters scheme

Hastings Winkle Club for their £200 donation

Rotary Club of Thanet for £500



Our three bungee jumpers who took on this adrenaline fuelled challenge in Hastings raising £787

Walmer Cricket Club for hosting our charity cricket match as part of Martha's Sporting Summer – the day raised £775!



Neil Pretty and his team for taking on our Golf Marathon4Martha challenge and raising an impressive £1186!

Rotary Club of Dover for hosting 'An evening with Bonkas' with BBC Antiques Roadshow's Andy McConnell. The night raised an incredible £6,000!



Our six marathon runners for taking on the TCS London Marathon and for their amazing fundraising



Dover Waterfront Health Club & Spa for hosting a Spinathon and raising £350 for Martha



Kent College Canterbury for their generous donation of £1,405



Deal Poets Society who have released their second anthology of poetry called 'Tide & Times' and are donating proceeds to Martha

To all our riders who took part in the KM Big Bike Ride raising £256!



Cantiacorum Foundation for the donation to our Rainbow Table appeal which paid for the first table in its entirety. And to the other trusts and foundations who have sent a grant in towards our second.

The wonderful teams at Mountfield British Gypsum Plant for choosing to support Martha in our 35th Anniversary year. And for all their incredible hard work in our gardens at Mary House.



Our volunteer groups from Swiss Re and Pfizer who have been in to help with our gardens at Deal



Tracy from our Care Team for completing her 1,000K Challenge for Martha – what an incredible achievement!



Solley's Ice Cream Parlour's classic car meet, fly and BBQ raising £504!





# Thank you for helping us make a difference in our 35th Anniversary year



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