

# therendezvous



## Summer supporter Newsletter 2025

Dear Supporters and Friends of the Rendezvous

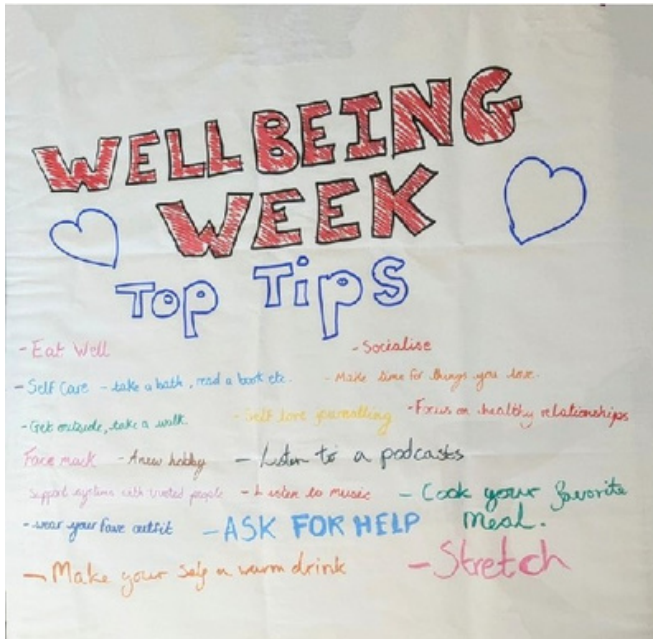
We're delighted to share with you our summer supporter newsletter. The past 6 months have been as busy as always. Demand continues to be high - learning referrals have tripled over three years, whilst requests for 1:1 mental health and wellbeing support have increased by 30% in two years with numbers only limited because of staff capacity.

Your support has directly contributed to the lives of over 170 young people, helping them feel more confident, hopeful, and better equipped for the future. A further 200 young people benefited from our small nurture groups and special projects.

The team is now off for a well-deserved summer break and will return in September. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy our charity update and do remember you can follow us on Facebook and find major news on our website – [www.therendezvous.org.uk](http://www.therendezvous.org.uk).

Best wishes,  
The Rendezvous Team

## Mental Health and Wellbeing



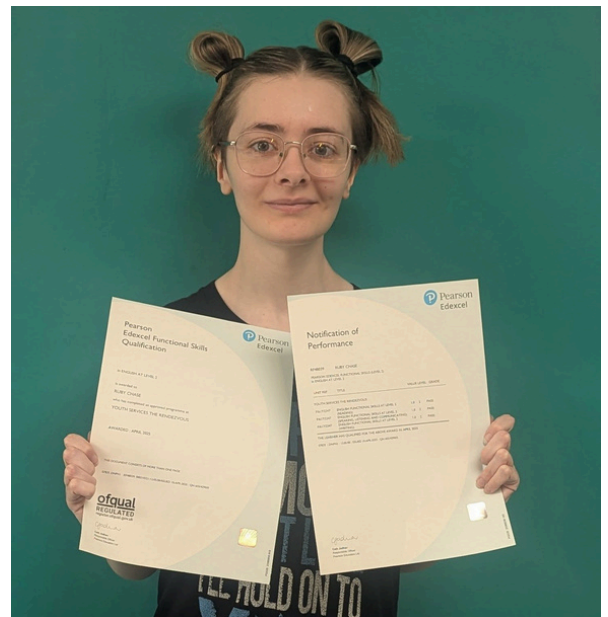
"When you started working with my daughter, she was not able to go to school due to her anxiety. She is now back in school full time and has got an amazing friendship group. Without the Rendezvous' help I don't know where we would be today." – Parent of a school-refusing young person.

Thanks to your support, the team led by Jemma Turner continue to fill the gaps left by overstretched statutory services. We keep our waiting lists low by using nurture groups where suitable and spacing appointments to reach more young people.

## Learning

"I never thought I'd see him pass any exams. I'm so pleased for him – and grateful to your tutors for their patient support." – Parent of young person, under 19

We continued to offer 1:1 tutoring in English and maths to help young people re-engage with education, gain qualifications, and take their next steps. Thanks to our incredible tutors – some supporting up to four young people – we've been able to offer **3,500 hours** of tutoring this year (equivalent to **7,000 hours** including planning and prep - five full-time teachers' worth).



## The Future is Yours

Our dedicated volunteer tutors went over and above in February, as part of the National Interview Month 2025. Kate Reynolds and Helen Devonshire headed up a 4-week programme of sessions dedicated to preparing our young people for the world of work. The sessions were led by local businesses and offered our learners mock interview sessions, CV writing, workplace behaviour, and money management. The key to the success of the week was our volunteer tutor team who gave their time and expertise in supporting the sessions to help the participants build confidence and improve their communication and presentation skills. The 28 learners who came to the sessions said that they enjoyed the supportive environment and said that it gave them a focus on career readiness.

## Three Rivers and Rendezvous Partnership Gillingham

Earlier this year we recruited Sam Craig as our Youth Community Worker. She forms a vital link with us and the three Rivers Partnership to help us build on our successful media programme, Media Makers. Her first annual summer event which took place in July and was a great success with lots of engagement from local young people giving them a creative outlet in the town.



### The team Behind the work

**Staff Team** - Our team staff team remains stable and committed to delivering our services to the high standard that has achieved impressive results for so many young people.

**Volunteers** - We now have 61 volunteers, fulfilling 71 different roles, from tutoring and wellbeing support to admin and fundraising. Whilst this considerably increases the administrative workload without them, we would be unable to provide the services we do, and we are extremely grateful to them for their ongoing commitment to our young people and the charity.

### Looking Ahead

The AGM will be on **22<sup>nd</sup> September** time to be confirmed, we would be delighted to see as many of you as possible at the meeting so we can share with you all the work and changes that have been happening over the past 6 months. We know our work makes a difference – and our focus is to ensure we’re doing the right things, in the right way, in the right places, for the right young people balanced against long-term sustainability.

### News snippets

We’re proud to share that The Rendezvous has taken important steps to better identify and support hidden young carers. These are young people who quietly take on caring responsibilities at home – often without recognition or support. As a result, they struggle with their own mental health, academic achievement, and the ability to participate in community activities.

Thanks to funding from [Friends of the Yeatman Hospital](#), we partnered with [MyTime Young Carers](#) to deliver staff training, review and update our policies, and embed new systems for identifying young carers at the first point of contact.

As a result of this work, we are pleased to have been awarded the Young Carer Aware kitemark by MyTime—recognising our commitment to young carers as part of a long-term effort to build a Young Carer Friendly Community.

We know this is just the start but with staff and volunteers now trained and confident in identifying young carers and Holly Kretz appointed as our Young Carers Champion we are pleased to be able to continuing this work to support these incredible young people.

## Fundraising in the Community

The **jazz concerts** have continued to be well supported even in January when the great British weather decided to throw in a snowstorm on the night. Many resolute supporters still braved the icy roads to listen to the top-quality jazz that's played at Cheap Street Church. If you would like to find out more about these events please email Fiona: [fiona.franklin@therendezvous.org.uk](mailto:fiona.franklin@therendezvous.org.uk)

The monthly **community coffee mornings** on the third Monday of each month in Cheap Street Church have become a popular event. They are supported by the social prescribing team from Grove medical centre as well as the pharmacy team, Age UK, and Carer support Dorset. If you would like any advice or fancy getting a hot drink and sampling one of our homemade cakes do pop in. The mornings run from **10.30-12.30**.

Fiona has been busy attending all sort of events from attending quiz evenings to running a stand at Sherborne Country Fair. Building awareness of the charity in these challenging times is paramount to gaining support from individuals and business. Her calendar of events for the summer is still going strong and if you see her out and about wearing her bright orange charity t-shirt, please stop and say hello.



### Thanks to our funders

We would like to thank all our funders for their support so far this year. Their generosity has allowed us to provide the wide range of services we do and keep waiting lists to a manageable level.

### Donate to the Rendezvous

You can support us by scanning the QR code to donate by debit or credit card or through your own PayPal account if you have one. Your Support makes a huge difference – thank you!

Under Cheap Street Church, Cheap Street, Sherborne Dorset, DT9 3BJ  
[www.therendezvous.org.uk](http://www.therendezvous.org.uk) **01935 814496**

Charity no: 1162722 Company no:07592624

You are signed up to this newsletter because you have kindly been a supporter of the Rendezvous. If you would prefer not to receive it please contact me.

