

therendezvous



Dear Supporters and Friends of the Rendezvous

We are pleased to share with you our winter newsletter. As we come to the end of the year we have seen many changes at the charity but one thing that never changes; our mission of helping young people take practical steps towards a brighter future by rebuilding confidence, improving mental health and providing accredited learning.

In the UK nearly 1 in 8 young people aged 16–24 (948,000)* are NEET – not in education, employment or training. Those without Level 2 English and Maths are 75% more likely to fall into this group and the longer a young person is NEET, the more their life chances shrink and their mental and physical health suffers. Our mental health and learning support offers these young people a lifeline, helping them rebuild confidence, gain qualifications, and move forward in life.

We are achieving a strong success rate. The fifty percent of young people who leave the Rendezvous after receiving our support have successfully gone on to college, apprenticeships, work, or were helped to stay in education. The remainder are still with us, working towards Level 2 qualifications and finding the coping strategies that work for them to engage in life.

We are so grateful to you all and we remain optimistic that, with your support, we will continue to thrive and make a real difference to the lives of young people and the communities in which they live.

Best wishes,
The Rendezvous Team

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Young people under 19 now make up 70% of our users. Anxiety and school based issues continue to be the number one reason young people seek our help. This is increasingly recognised nationally as Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA), which is often rooted in depression, trauma, bullying, academic pressure, or family problems. The numbers show no sign of abating – but with our support, young people rebuild confidence, gain qualifications, and take positive steps into college, apprenticeships, and work.

“I’ve been worrying less and less - and passed exams”

“I would still be in my room if it wasn’t for the Rendezvous.”

Celebrating 25 years of support for young parents

The Rendezvous has supported hundreds of young parents and their children through its Young Parents’ group. We’ve helped improve living circumstances by resolving housing problems, taught budgeting and money management, advocated on their behalf with professionals; and even assisted in cases of domestic violence, working alongside police and social workers to help keep parents and children safe. However, the needs of young parents are changing, as are the demands on our services, and we need to adapt accordingly.

Therefore, whilst our Young Parents’ group came to an end in August 2025, our support for all young people very much continues. We invite everybody under the age of 25, regardless of whether they are parents or not, to come to us for support, including advice on housing and benefits. Our door is open to any young person who needs help, whether that’s guidance, reassurance, or simply someone to listen to their concerns.

Learning

Learners, tutors and supporters of the Rendezvous came together to celebrate their achievements at our annual learner celebration on 17th October. The event was also an opportunity for our learners to publicly thank the tutors they’ve worked with over many months – and in some cases years! Patience, humour and care are all sentiments repeated again and again in the citations from learners to tutors which is always heart-warming to hear.

Already this term we have 73 young people actively learning with us and a waiting list too, so we’re already planning for next year!



Outstanding community support

The charity received a GOLD award from the Sherborne local business awards for Outstanding Community Support, sponsored by Purple Accountants and organised by Marketing West. Recognition of our work with young people in the community, through mental health and wellbeing support and one-to-one learning, means such a lot to our team and we are grateful for the nominations we received.



Looking ahead

We remain committed to providing a local solution to a national problem – tackling youth anxiety, isolation, and lack of opportunity. At present there are over 150 young people accessing our free, local and life changing one to one support. We are currently reviewing our work and developing a new three year plan that takes into consideration growing demand, staff capacity and significant funding challenges but remain optimistic that with the support our communities we will continue to thrive and make a real difference to young people's lives.

News snippets

In September the Rendezvous appointed a new Chair of Trustees. Paul Copp, who was born and raised in Long Street, Sherborne, and was officially welcomed during the charity's AGM on 22nd September.

Paul, who lives in Marston Magna, comes to the charity following a successful 30-year career in sales management with a global tailoring business. He has a lifelong passion for helping young people succeed through sports coaching and mentoring.



Fundraising in the Community

The jazz concerts have continued to be well supported with numbers of supporters increasing at every concert. These concerts help raise vital funds for the charity as well as providing world class jazz at Cheap Street Church in the heart of Sherborne. If you would like to find out more about these events please email Fiona: fiona.franklin@therendezvous.org.uk.

At the end of the summer Sherborne Bowls Club kindly held a 'Townies versus Villagers' event and raised an amazing £700 on a beautiful sunny summer day.

October found us at Hays travel Sherborne charity Quingo night where supporters enjoyed both games of bingo and a quiz. The branch raised a wonderful £500.



In November Fiona and her team of volunteers attended, helping to sell raffle tickets and hand out prizes, at the Communifit and Sit & Strengthen Christmas Party at Digby Hall. The hall was packed with people enjoying a fun afternoon of bingo and a massive raffle. So many local businesses support this event and helped make it the most successful one yet.

We are so grateful to Craig Hardacre and his family for organising the event and raising a fantastic £2689!

With grateful thanks to our funders

We thank all our funders for their support so far this year. Their generosity has enabled us to provide a wide range of services and keep waiting lists to a minimum. We've only mentioned a few fundraising success stories here but please visit our website and social media for regular updates.

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

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Charity no: 1162722 Company no:07592624

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