

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

Despite the challenges created by the pandemic, The Nicky Alliance Centre is working hard in preparation for a May reopening.

MICHELLE WISEMAN AND VOLUNTEERS READY TO REOPEN.



CREDIT: LAWRENCE PURCELL.

As The Nicky Alliance Centre gears up to reopen 10 months after being saved from closure by a 36-hour community crowdfunder which raised £500,000, the chief executive of the Manchester Jewish community care provider, Michelle Wiseman, is excited at the prospect of meeting members old and new. "Although we've maintained contact with our members throughout the pandemic we've missed the face-to-face contact, and I know they have too," she said. "We have completely refurbished and redecorated our premises, including the lounge, dining room and toilet facilities to make sure everything is COVID compliant and that our members will be able to enjoy themselves and participate in all our activities in a perfectly comfortable and safe environment."

Throughout the pandemic, Michelle, her staff and hard-working volunteers have kept in touch with the members and are routinely checking to ensure that they are all getting their vaccinations: "We are now preparing to visit all our members in their own homes as soon as it is safe to do so," she continued. "We have kept in touch over the past 12 months by telephone and online, providing many members with laptops and tablets, along with the required training to use them."

Prospective members will soon be welcome to visit to the centre and try a host of new activities for a day to see exactly what the Crumpsall care provider offers retired members of the community: "The centre is now taking shape and looks brighter and fresher and we hope to attract many new members too."

The Nicky's dedicated volunteers have been involved preparing the art studio, planning activities and delivering meals - the team having distributed an impressive 1,500 Meals on Wheels a month - and members are raring to return: "We are determined to keep going and we're nearly there thanks to the support of our dedicated team."

For more information on the reopening, call 0161 740 0111 or visit Mjcc.org.uk

A FEAST OF FUNDRAISING

Yavneh Girls cooked up a Passover recipe book to help raise vital funds for children's charity Camp Simcha.

Year 9 students at Yavneh Girls brought some Passover recipe inspiration to their fundraising efforts for Camp Simcha. The charity, which supports families with seriously ill children, is the chosen beneficiary of the fundraiser - and to date, students have sold hot chocolate; held a non-uniform day and organised a raffle led by pupils Miriam Melul and Tami Marshall, with prizes sourced collectively by the year group.

In the run up to Pesach, the students decided to create a Passover cookbook to raise even more money. With recipes contributed by the pupils, it was collated and designed by 14 year-old Rebecca Harris, and sold through the school community.

Teacher Esther Hoffner said the girls have been hugely enthusiastic and resourceful for

this year's charity project: "They held a vote and chose to support Camp Simcha's work. It has not been easy with all the restrictions and remote learning, but they have come up with some great ideas and done a fantastic job. They sourced some excellent prizes for the raffle and the cookbook is beautifully put together. It's been a wonderful effort so far and they are not finished yet!"

Camp Simcha chief executive, Neville Goldschneider, said: "We are so grateful to Yavneh Girls for choosing Camp Simcha and for the imaginative way they have fundraised. Their amazing efforts not only help us to maintain the vital practical and emotional support services we provide, but also help to raise awareness too. Thank you to all of them."



MANCHESTER'S GOLDEN GIRLS ENJOYED THEIR FIRST GET TOGETHER IN OVER A YEAR AT THE SEDGLEY PARK RUGBY CLUB...

30 Golden Girls were seated in tables of six in the glorious sunshine, with committee members Sandra Newgrosh, Joanne Lazarus, Ros Glazer, Sara Jaffe, Cynthia Cutler and Lillian Venet on-hand to serve the ladies tea and cake throughout the afternoon.

The Golden Girls have been meeting every Monday on Zoom, and have been treated to an array of singers, speakers, quizzes and chit chats, organised by event coordinator Joanne Lazarus: "Our last meeting was March 2020, so you can imagine how happy the ladies were to see each other," said Joanne. "We were delighted to be able to meet face-to-face in the sunshine by permission of Bury Council. All in all, the Golden Girls had a fabulous time, and look forward to their next meeting."

If you would like to join the Golden Girls, contact Joanne on 07513 127 839

