

**Welcome to our March 2026 newsletter**



Learning about different cultures and traditions has always been an important part of our educational timetable. Last month, members across all three of our centres enjoyed an engaging Chinese New Year workshop (see more below) which was fun for all, while celebrating diversity across our Teamwork Trust community. If you are part of our local community (Corby, Kettering, Wellingborough) and would like to share your own culture or traditions with our members, we would love to hear from you. Sessions last between 30 and 60 minutes, and all activities are fully accompanied and supported by our staff team. If you're interested, please email [enquiries@teamworktrust.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@teamworktrust.co.uk).

**Helen Burdett-Wright**  
Teamwork Trust CEO



**Personal progress is the key for our members**

Teamwork Trust places great importance on personal progression, ensuring members develop practical skills, greater confidence and clearer pathways towards independence. As an outcome-based service, we support members to grow both their educational and vocational abilities. Living skills areas within the centres play a key role in helping members build everyday practical skills alongside literacy and numeracy.

Head of Services & Operations Tom Davies is clear about our purpose. "Teamwork Trust is a progression service. People come here to develop skills and hopefully move on to a more independent future. One of the things that makes us unique is the idea our service users have genuine opportunities to progress from the day service setting into employment environments. The service we offer develops skills that go beyond the walls of our centres."

Enterprise and vocational activities within the centres help members gain workplace-style experience. For some, this leads to volunteering opportunities, with paid employment a longer-term goal. Members are also encouraged to take on responsibility. Some act as representatives to the Board of Trustees, join Health & Safety teams, or contribute to activity planning and timetable feedback.

Sessions are designed to be engaging while developing communication skills, confidence and independence - all part of Teamwork Trust's commitment to delivering meaningful outcomes for its members.

**Teamwork Trust news**



**Enjoying animal magic**

A key focus this year has been on broadening the learning experiences for our members. This has involved bringing in interesting new sessions and having visits from different organisations. One of these sessions has seen a wonderful company called

[Teaching Talons](#) visit our three centres. Describing themselves as providing 'edutainment', Teaching Talons deliver informative and interesting animal experiences - and our members have loved it.

Among the creatures we had the chance to interact with are a bearded dragon, an owl, an African hedgehog called Quilliam The Conker-er, guinea pigs and Chip the dog.

The sessions have been very rewarding and hugely popular.



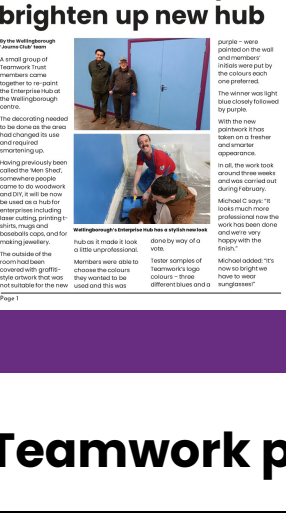
**Happy Chinese new year**

We celebrated Chinese New Year across our three centres with a wonderful Dance Workshop. Led by [Primary Workshops for Schools](#), our members took part in various dances, using traditional props to bring the movements to life.

The session was full of energy, colour and self-expression, with members developing coordination, confidence and performance skills while working together as a group. CEO Helen Burdett-Wright said: "It was such an inclusive, engaging session which everyone appeared to enjoy - certainly judging by the smiles and laughter."

It was fantastic way to mark Chinese New Year and we are very grateful to Primary Workshops for Schools for putting it on.

**Teamwork Times**



Our members take part in a monthly 'Journo Club' session in which they choose, discuss, create and write stories about the things happening at Teamwork Trust. This can be trips, projects or events - anything they want to focus on. We then include the stories in their very own newspaper, the Teamwork Times.

[Click on the image to read this month's edition created by our Wellingborough journalists!](#)

**Teamwork people**

A spotlight on the people who make Teamwork Trust such an amazing place

**John Akers**



Moving from school into adult life can feel daunting for any young person. For those with additional needs, that transition can be even more challenging. That's where John comes in.

John joined Teamwork Trust in 2016 and is our Transition Lead, a role introduced to help students in Special Schools develop workplace skills and prepare for life beyond 18. Working closely with partner schools, he supports selected students through weekly placements across our centres in Kettering, Corby and Wellingborough. Over the course of an academic year, more than 35 young people experience Teamwork - building confidence, independence and practical skills along the way.

"I take great pride and pleasure in seeing our young people develop in so many areas," he says.

A qualified teacher with a long career in special education, John has worked in mainstream and specialist settings, held senior leadership roles, and previously managed a Local Authority programme supporting vulnerable pupils across 20 schools. So what makes Teamwork's transition offer different?

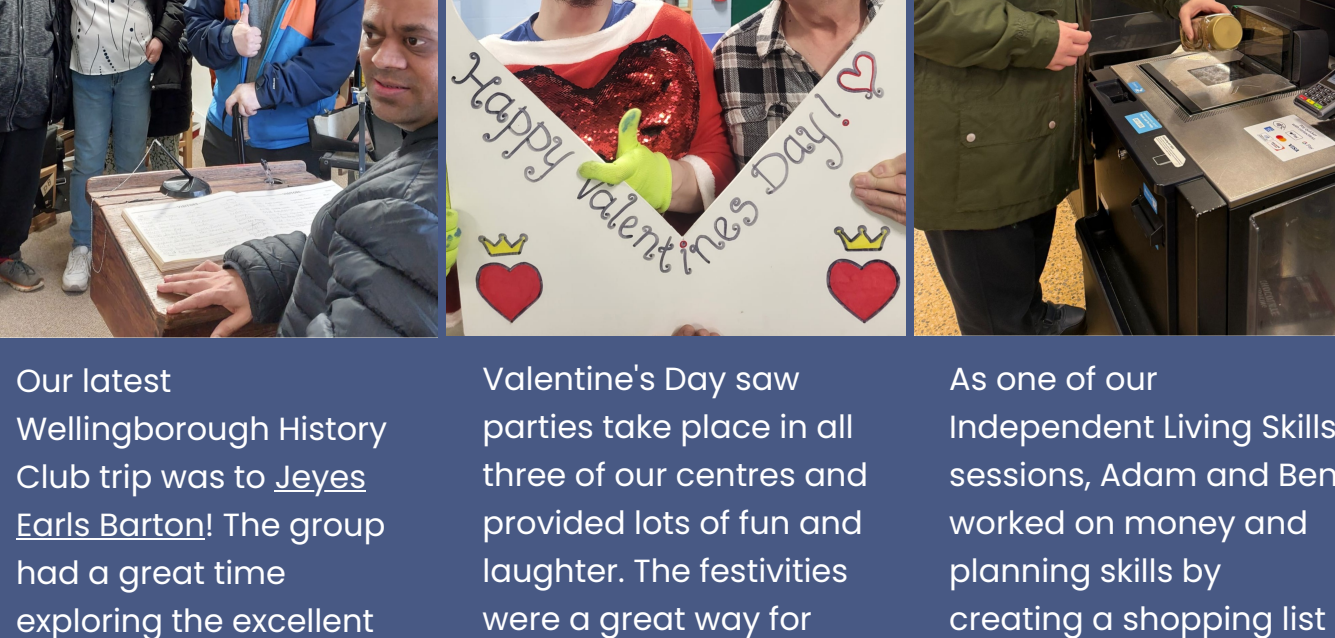
"The students attend once a week, spending the whole academic year with us. They interact and join in with activities with our members; they meet new people and experience different challenges; they see their former students and friends thriving and progressing socially. School staff see that Teamwork is a safe and friendly environment to send their students. For students placed with Teamwork, transition from school becomes less daunting and more manageable. They love spending time at our centres and feedback from the school staff is always very positive."

But that's far from where John's talents end. When it's time to celebrate, John swaps his Transition Lead hat for his DJ decks as 'DJ John Boy', bringing music, laughter and energy to Teamwork parties.

For families exploring post-school options, John's message is simple: "Parents and young people want a place that is safe, caring but challenging, where they feel valued, where they can make new friends. A place that is vibrant and exciting and where disabilities are not a barrier to learning. Teamwork is a place where students can develop confidence, self-esteem and learn new skills in an ever-changing world."

**Social media**

Here are a few of the activities and stories to recently feature on our social media



Our latest Wellingborough History Club trip was to [Jayes Earls Barton](#)! The group had a great time exploring the excellent heritage museum - after stopping for a drink in the café, of course!

Valentine's Day saw parties take place in all three of our centres and provided lots of fun and laughter. The festivities were a great way for everyone to celebrate friendship and connection.

As one of our Independent Living Skills sessions, Adam and Ben worked on money and planning skills by creating a shopping list and choosing items before heading to Aldi to do their shop.

[Click on the pictures to find out more](#)



**Teamwork testimonial**



**Teamwork Trust were paid a visit by IASS team members Caitlin, Terri and Emily who are pictured with service user Evelyn**

Our Kettering centre had the pleasure of welcoming Emily, Terri and Caitlin from the [North Northamptonshire SEND IASS](#) team.

IASS (Information Advice Support Service) provide free, confidential, and impartial advice, guidance and support to help empower children and young people from 0-25 with SEND. They help families to understand their rights, and young people to reach their potential and fulfil their aspirations.

They joined us in the centre to get an idea of what Teamwork offers and to learn how we design and deliver programmes in partnership with our service users. We hope to partner with them in the future to develop new opportunities that benefit the people we support.

After the visit Emily from SEND IASS said: "It was brilliant to see everything in action, and every member looked so happy and engaged. It is clear to see what a special and supportive place Teamwork Trust is and how dedicated your team is to the outcomes, wellbeing and personal growth of your members. The enthusiasm and commitment from everyone we met really shone through."

**Fundraising news**



**Teamwork Trust are raising funds to buy a minibus**

We are pleased to announce the Just Giving Page to help fund our disability-accessible EV minibus is now live.

Safe, reliable transport is essential - for many, it's a lifeline! Your donation will help us empower people with learning disabilities to live full, meaningful lives through education, training and inclusive opportunities. An EV minibus will enable our service users to get to life-skills sessions, work experience, social activities, and community events.

We'd be most grateful if you could share this with your networks and if you would like to talk about sponsorship opportunities, please contact our fundraiser Judy at [judy@teamworktrust.co.uk](mailto:judy@teamworktrust.co.uk) or call 01536 511993. Thank you for your support.

**Opportunities & Learning Hub**

Thank you to those who have already enquired about utilising our Kettering centre Opportunities & Learning Hub. Please [click here](#) to get a flavour of what our hub offers. If you'd like to know more or arrange a visit, please contact [richard@teamworktrust.co.uk](mailto:richard@teamworktrust.co.uk).

**Wellbeing Walks**

Our first family and dog-friendly Wellbeing Walk is confirmed for Saturday 28th March (10am-1pm) at Irchester Country Park. It is free, but you can also [click here](#) to find out more.

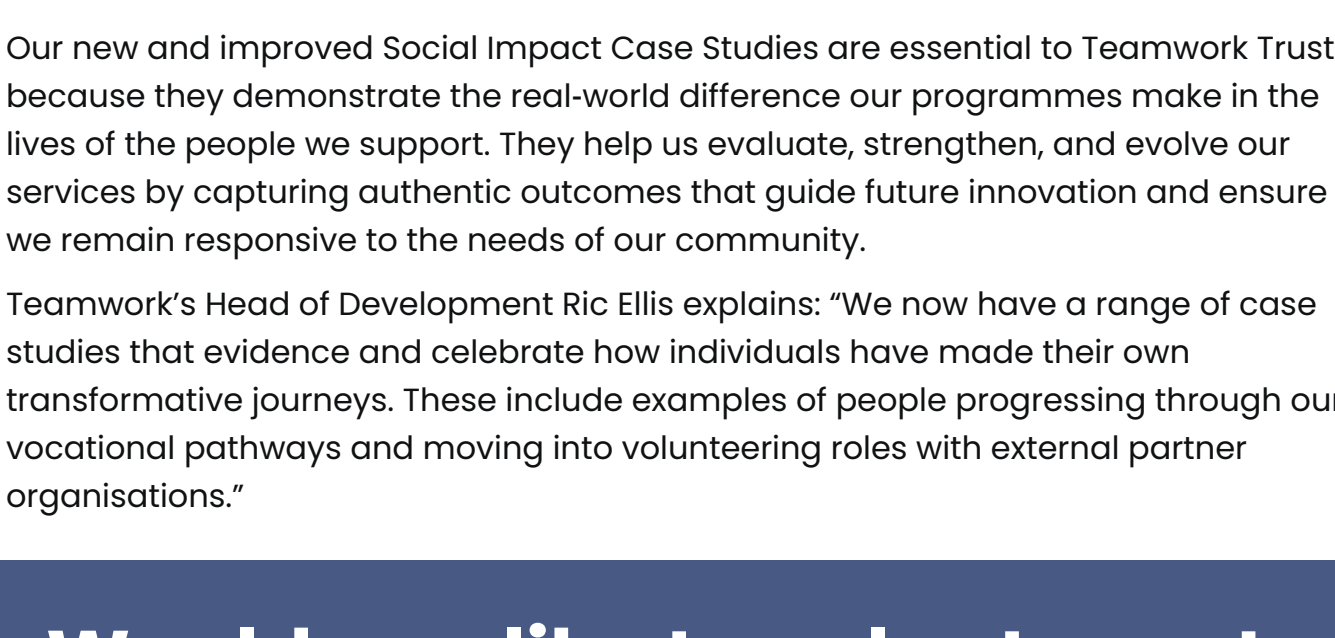
**Looking forward...**

After Easter, we are hoping to host another of our garden ornament auctions. More details will follow in the next newsletter.



**Our first Wellbeing Walk will take place at Irchester Country Park later this month**

**Teamwork enterprise**



**Members of Teamwork's enterprise team show off some of their fabulous work**

Our new and improved Social Impact Case Studies are essential to Teamwork Trust because they demonstrate the real-world difference our programmes make in the lives of the people we support. They help us evaluate, strengthen, and evolve our services by capturing authentic outcomes that guide future innovation and ensure we remain responsive to the needs of our community.

Teamwork's Head of Development Ric Ellis explains: "We now have a range of case studies that evidence and celebrate how individuals have made their own transformative journeys. These include examples of people progressing through our vocational pathways and moving into volunteering roles with external partner organisations."

**Would you like to volunteer at Teamwork Trust?**

[FIND OUT MORE OR FILL OUT A FORM HERE](#)