

# RIVACRE HOUSE NEWSLETTER

## November 2023

### Welcome back to the Rivacre Newsletter!

My goodness have we got a lot to tell you all about. We've been off on lots of adventures and have made some new friends of the furred, feathered and scaled kind!

It's also been Awards Season here at Rivacre so read on to see what we've been up to!



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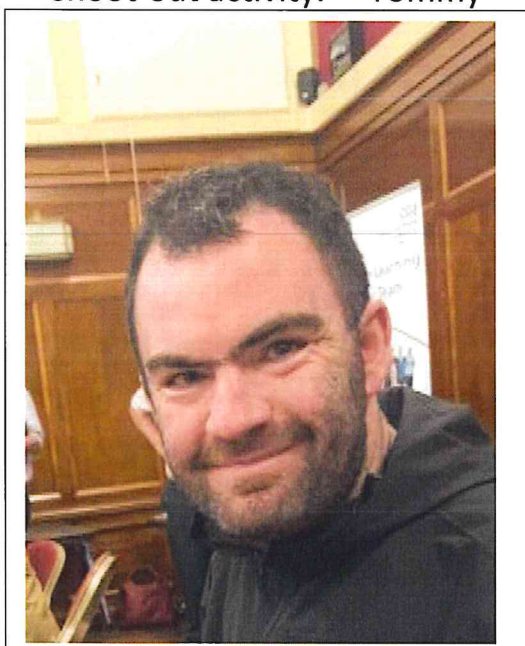
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## Activities: Learning Disability Conference 2023

Tommy went to the Learning Disability Conference at the Ellesmere Port Civic Hall in September. Tommy joined in on activities such as doing a penalty shootout and got to watch performances by Vivo's got talent winners.

Tommy said he really enjoyed going and he liked the buffet.

"I met lots of new people and had a good time. It was nice and I got to talk to different people. I won at the penalty shoot-out activity." - Tommy





## Making Space Zoofari Service User Awards 2023

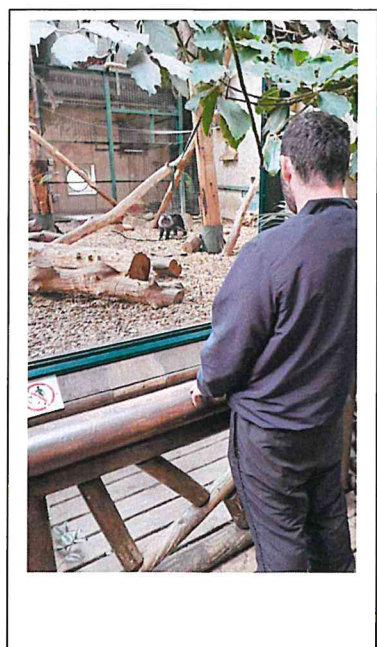
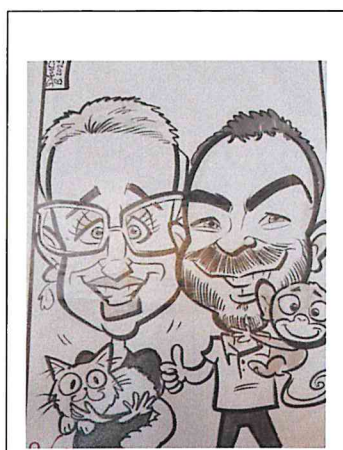
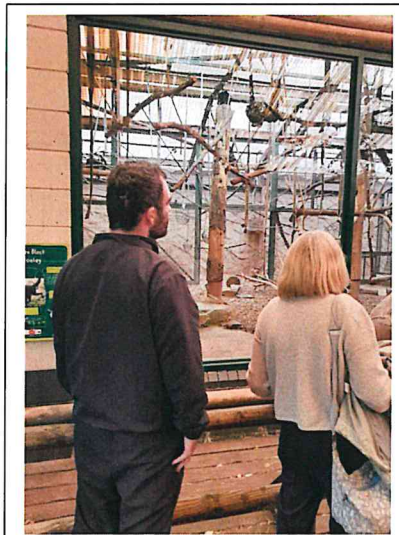
Tommy and Nigel were shortlisted for awards this year at the Making Space Service user awards! Tommy was nominated for The Determined Award and Nigel was nominated for the Involvement and Engagement Award.

Tommy did brilliantly as a finalist and Nigel won the award he was shortlisted for. Tommy accepted the award on behalf of Nigel who won his award!

Tommy explored the activities that were put on, he tried out the VR games and had a portrait done by a caricature artist. We were treated to a lovely meal and got to explore the zoo afterwards.

Tommy: I liked playing on the VR headset and played a game called fruit ninja. I liked getting my portrait done by a caricature artist with Annie. I accepted the award on behalf on Nigel and congratulated him on his win.

Nigel: It felt amazing to win. I really didn't think I'd win at all. When I got the phone call from Annie I nearly wet my pants and I was in the middle of York! I spent my voucher from the award on posh food from Marks and Spencer's, it was very nice too!





### Trip to York! By Nigel

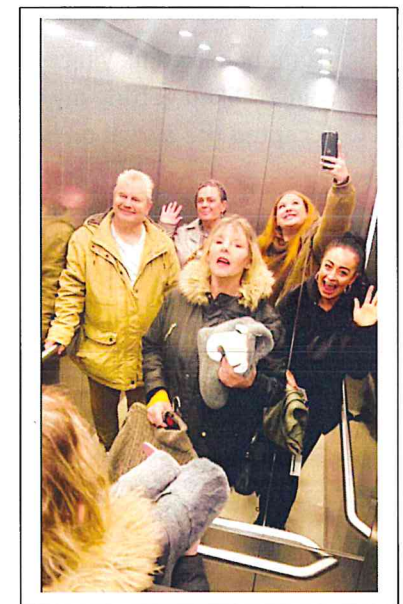
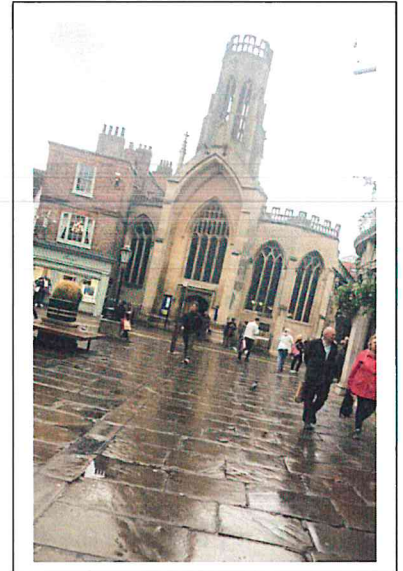
Hannah, Vicky, Catherine, Jackie and myself went to York for the day. It was cold and wet but we all had a lovely time. We went shopping and got lots of new things.

We enjoyed our day very much even though it rained and rained so we all got wet. What a lovely day!

Catherine: It was fun! The best bit was when it rained. I enjoyed going to Primarni. The Viking museum was really interesting!

Nigel: It was a wet but lovely day out! We did lots of walking so I was exhausted by the end of it!

Jackie: I went into lots of different jobs and enjoyed McDonald's for lunch.

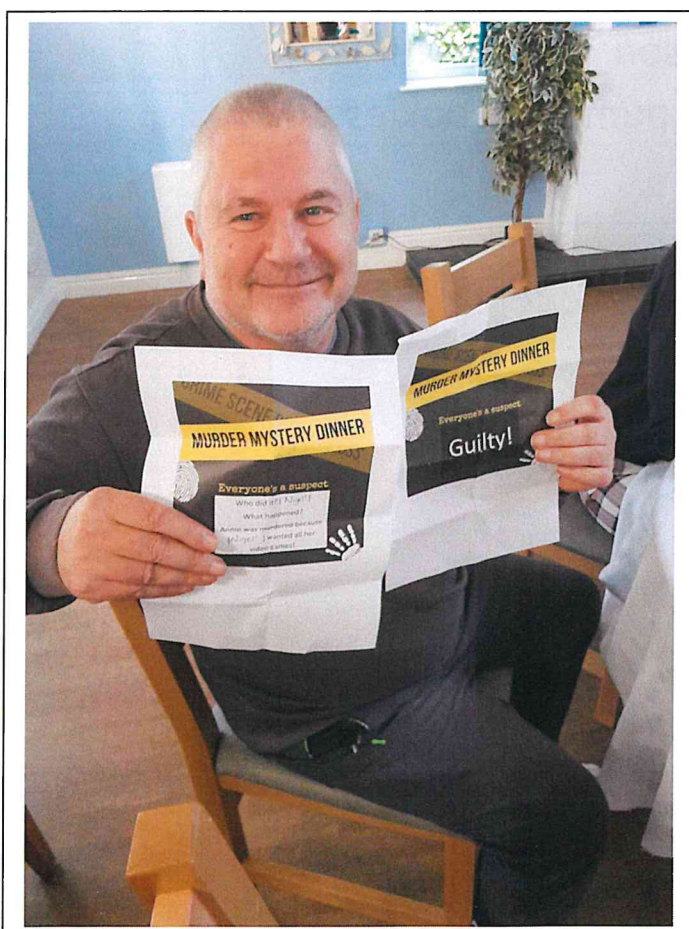




### Nigel's theme day

Nigel wrote a plot for his theme day and our residents had to guess who the murderer was! Nigel wrote that Annie's coffee had been poisoned and helped create 'evidence' that pointed to whether the suspects were guilty or innocent. Nigel really enjoyed setting Julie up so everyone thought she did it!

Nigel: It was the best afternoon ever! I really enjoyed how everyone asked questions to try and work out who did it. I definitely played the game and it was great when everyone read their suspect sheets then tried to convince us they weren't guilty!



### Ian's Birthday!

Ian celebrated his birthday with a chicken curry for tea and a lemon cheesecake. He enjoyed watching a bit of football.

## Halloween!

Jamal got dressed up in his Halloween outfit and our residents carved pumpkins to celebrate the spooky season. Our residents also baked some yummy pumpkin cookies.



### UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

- Ian - October
- Ann - November
- Alan – November
- Paula - December





## Activities: Trialling new board games at Rivacre

Part of the feedback we've had from Making it Real is that residents wanted to try some different board games. So we've tried a couple of new ones and thought we'd share what the residents thought about them.

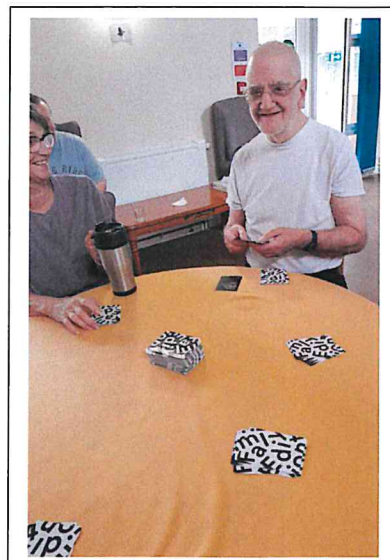
**Curling** – Steph brought in a curling game for residents to try. We really enjoyed trying to aim their disc in the centre of the ring and knock out their opponents!

"I liked playing the curling game and enjoyed winning!" - Tommy

**Bunny hop** – This is a guess the word game where one person holds up a word that they can't see and the other players have to try and describe it to them without saying the word.

**Cards against humanity: Family Edition** – Keeping it silly and fun with this version of the card game. Residents had to choose a silly way to end a sentence and the silliest won the point.

**Karaoke machine** - We have a brand new karaoke machine! It has some brilliant lights on it and we sang belters such as Jackie's version of "Hopelessly Devoted to you", Paula gave us a cracker with "Material Girl" and Tommy gave us the classic "You'll never walk alone!"



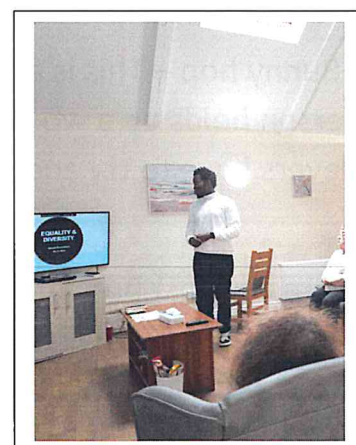
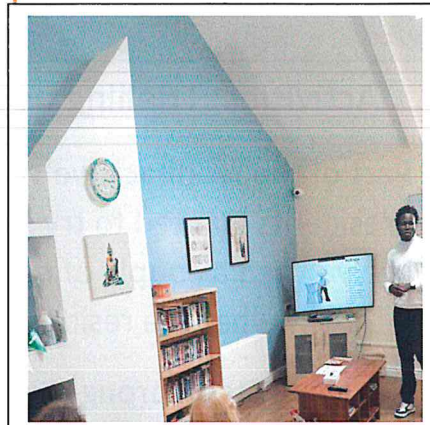
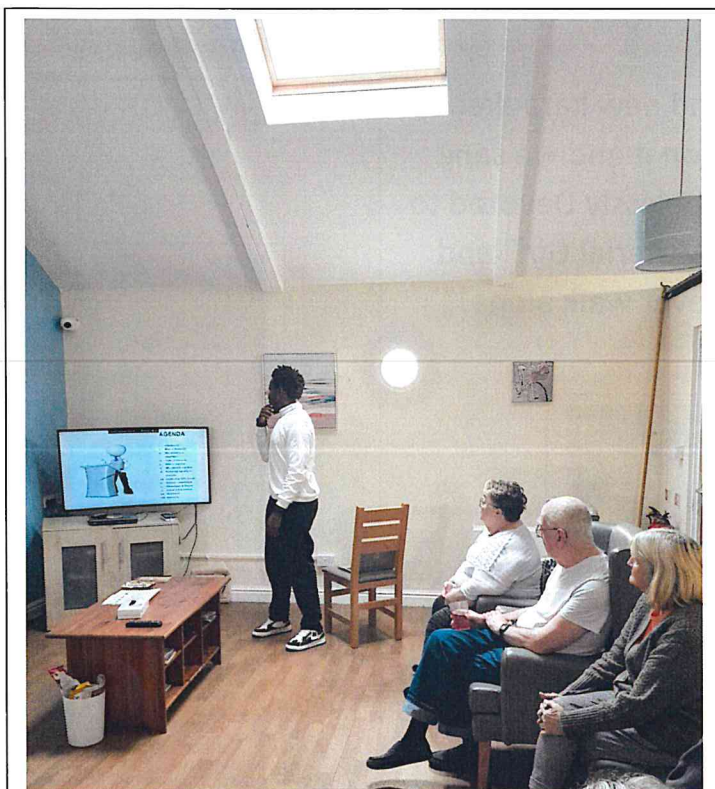
## Equality and Diversity Presentation from Nathan by Nigel

Our student social worker put together a presentation all about equality and diversity for our residents. He explained what each of the terms meant and put on a demonstration of this using fun activities.

Loretta: I quite enjoyed the sweets that Nathan handed out as part of his explanation about being fair to everyone

Paula: I sat in on a presentation made by our student Nathan. I liked the presentation, especially when the computer was misbehaving!

Alan: It was quite interesting at the time.





### ZootoU visit

We had a mobile zoo visit here at Rivacre! A variety of animals came to see us including Watson the Skunk, Drake the Snake, a tortoise, guinea pig and a beautiful owl.

Ann Marie: I really liked the owl. It's the closest I've ever been to a snake.

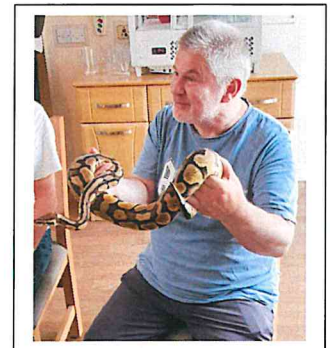
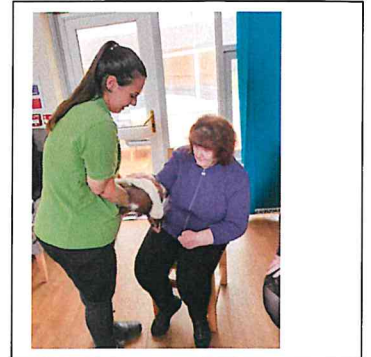
Nigel: Watson the skunk was my favourite!

Carmel: It was very good.

Catherine: I loved all of it. The owl was my favourite.

Loretta: I really liked the owl the best.

Alan: I enjoyed it.





### Activities: Cinema Trips

Catherine: I went to the cinema to see The Exorcist. It was interesting remake and it was a little bit scary!

Carmel: I went independently to see "The Creator". It wasn't my favourite movie but I did enjoy going independently.

Nigel and Alan are off to see The Marvel's next week with our new volunteer Paul so we're looking forward to hearing their review on that one!

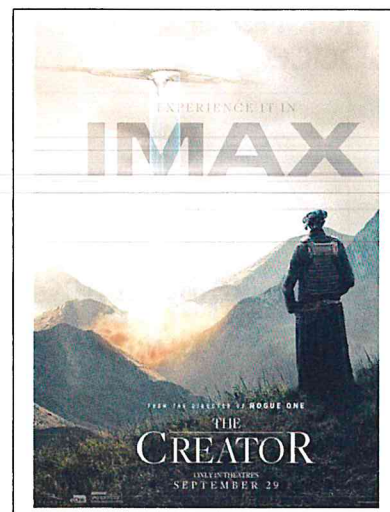
### Interview: Nathan – Social Worker Student Placement and Danielle Student nurse placement by Nigel

Nathan came for a while. He was on his first year at university and lives in Chester. He very much enjoyed his time at Rivacre. He said his best part was chatting to all of us and taking part in activities.

In his spare time he likes to play football and watch it. He loves music and movies. He said he also likes Nigerian food and coffee.

Danielle came to see us on a two week placement. She enjoys working with people with different support needs. She said the bit she enjoyed the most at Rivacre was getting to know everybody in the house.

In her spare time she likes to walk her dog and enjoys coffee.





### Spotlight on Staff: Annie by Nigel

Annie has worked at Rivacre for two years. She said her best time at Rivacre House was helping me put together the Murder Mystery.

Annie also cooks a big American meal for us at Thanksgiving and we all enjoy the food!

She likes in her free time to go to coffee shops and dye her hair all sorts of colours which is great! She says her daughter is her world and she loves her very much.

The thing she enjoys the most about Rivacre is sitting down with us and having a good chat. Annie brings a lot of love and joy to us all.



### Rivacre at the Great British Care Awards!

We are so proud to have been nominated for the Co-Production award two years in a row at the Great British Care Awards.

A huge, very special congratulations to Vicky for being nominated for Support Worker of the Year and for the Dignity in Care award!





### Visit from our local PCSO!

Our local PCSO came to visit our residents to talk about ways to keep safe when out and about. PCSO Sarah handed out bells for our residents to attach to their bags to help them be more aware if anyone tried to take their belongings.

Jackie said "Sarah was really nice and she asked us how we would keep safe, I said I take my mobile with me everywhere as it makes me feel safer."



### Staffing update

Welcome to Hannah O and Chioma who have joined us on a 20 hour support worker role.

Our waking nights team are settling in and our residents are now used to the change.

