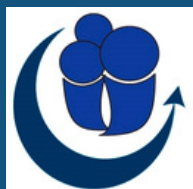


2024/6



NEWSLETTER

Maidstone Community Support Centre



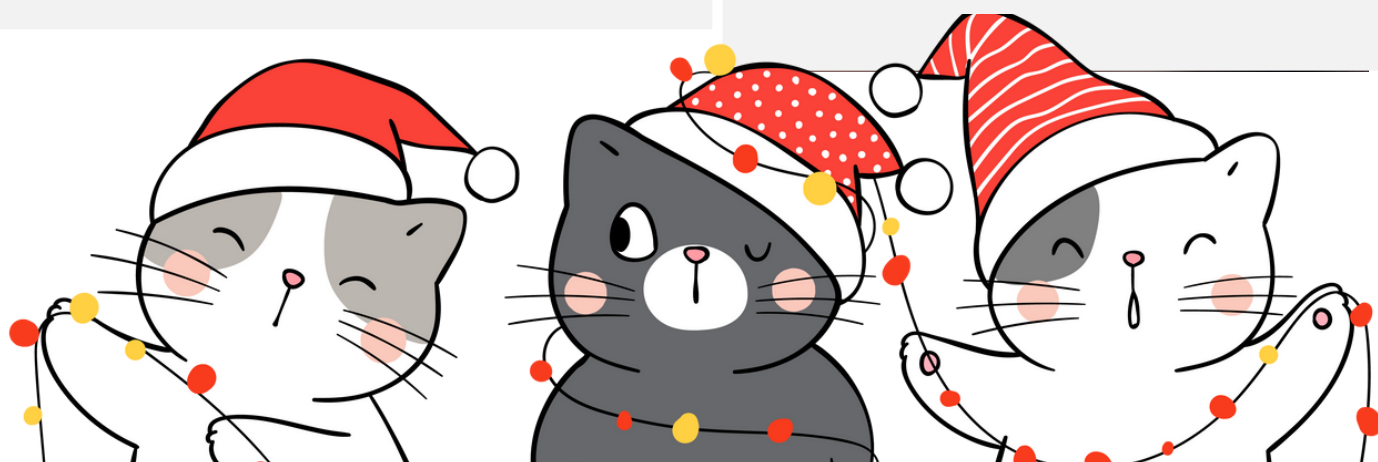
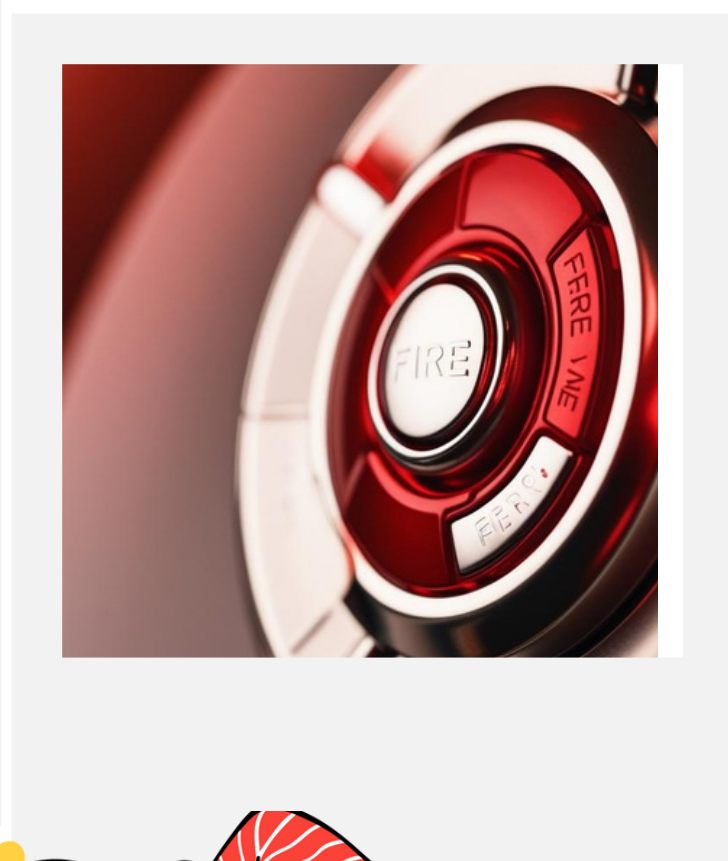
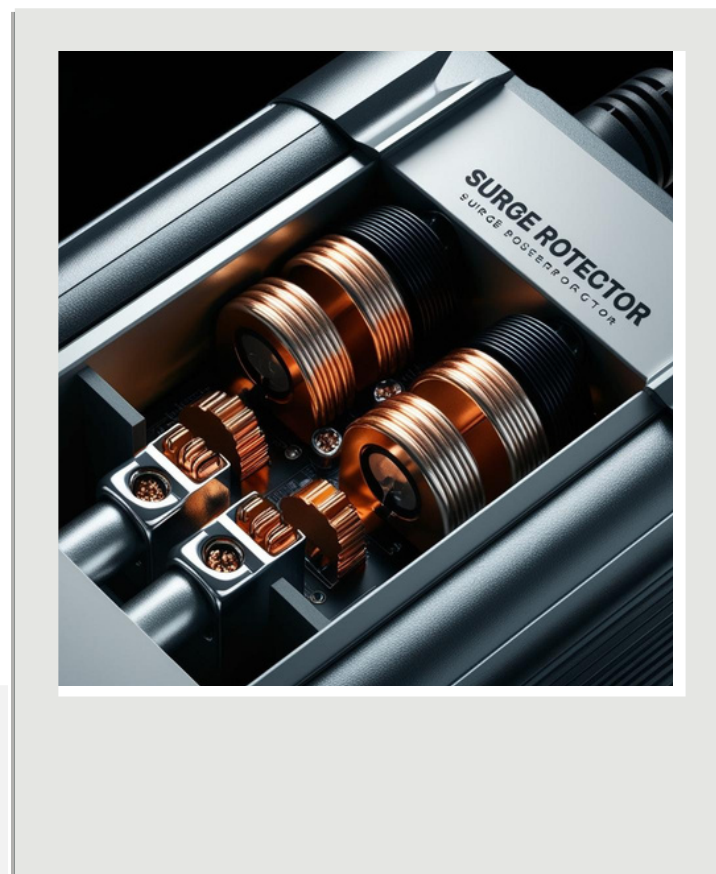
Christmas Opening Hours

Early Closing 24th Dec

Reopen 8.30am 2nd Jan

2025





CEO UPDATE

As we fast approach Christmas, it's hard to believe that two months have already passed since our last newsletter. It has been a busy couple of months here at MCSC with several significant improvements to our building. These include a complete upgrade to our fire alarm system, new carpeting on the main stairs, and the installation of surge protection devices throughout the building. I appreciate your patience during this period of disruption.

We are still awaiting final confirmation on the solar panel installation, due to a few unexpected hurdles that we had to navigate.

We are still awaiting final confirmation on the solar panel installation, due to a few unexpected hurdles that we had to navigate.

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for 26th November at 1:30 PM. This formal meeting is a standard procedure for most charities. It would be greatly appreciated if the groups based in the building could attend. The AGM is an opportunity for MCSC to provide feedback regarding the previous financial year and for you to raise any questions to the Board of Trustees. I have also heard that there will be free cake!

As Christmas approaches, we aim to make the Centre as festive as possible. We will be organizing a lunchtime gathering for all the groups based here, with drinks, mince pies, and other festive treats. This will also be a great opportunity to meet and connect with other colleagues in the building.

On behalf of the entire team at MCSC, I would like to thank you for your support over the past year and wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Warm regards,

Tad CEO





In the spotlight....



Grow 19 College is a specialist college open to learners aged between 18 and 25 with an EHCP. The college is split over two sites, at The East Malling Centre and Maidstone Community Support Centre. The learners that attend the Maidstone Community Support Centre are working on a Skills for Working life programme which is designed to prepare them for the future. Our learners are completing a busy timetable of lessons, community projects, and work experience placements, focussing on independence, communication, life skills, and the community.

We are currently attending weekly group work experience at Maidstone hospital where we work to keep the communal spaces up to a high standard, learning lots of gardening skills such as weeding, pruning, and sweeping. Each week, we also use the skills learnt to help the local rugby club to keep the grounds fit for use and looking good.

We are involved in a community project at West Malling train station where we have adopted the grounds. Over the past month, we have tidied up the grass areas and borders and planted bulbs ready for the spring. Hopefully bringing some joy to people as they head out on their journeys. Our students participate in Enterprise projects where they have made a wonderful range of seasonal items which are being sold at the Maidstone Market every other Tuesday, and from a stall in the entrance of the Maidstone Community Support Centre. Please say hello if you see us out and about in the community or visit us at the market stall in Lock meadow.

*EHCP – An Education, Health and Care Plan



MCSC Tasters



Tads Taster

For this month's out-of-the-office event, I had the privilege of being invited to the Grand Opening of the Fawrient Express at Five Acre Wood School. This is a local school for pupils with special educational needs.

MCSC and Five Acre Wood School, along with their older pupils' project, Grow19, have collaborated closely over the past year. The school has taken on the radio studio based here at the Centre as a learning project for their students. Grow19 also has rooms in the Centre for students who are doing work experience in the community.

The Fawrient Express is an old railway carriage that Five Acre Wood acquired and converted into a coffee shop and café to enable students to gain skills in hospitality. The coffee shop is fully supported by Costa Coffee.

The Grand Opening was a heart-warming and inspiring event. Students from the school showcased their new skills, greeting guests and serving delicious beverages with bright smiles and professionalism. They proudly demonstrated their abilities in a real-world setting.

This project is more than just a café; it's a symbol of empowerment and opportunity. The hands-on experience it provides is invaluable, allowing students to develop not only hospitality skills but also confidence and independence. With support from Costa Coffee, the café ensures that students receive quality training and exposure to industry standards.

Visitors to the cafe and coffee shop, which is on the school grounds, can enjoy a variety of beverages and snacks in a unique setting, all while supporting a cause that makes a tangible difference in the lives of young people.

This project has created a bridge between education and real-world experiences, preparing students for a future where they can thrive. The collaboration between MCSC, Five Acre Wood School, and Grow19 exemplifies the power of partnership in fostering inclusive and supportive environments.

As the Fawrient Express embarks on this new journey, it promises to be a hub of learning for many more students to come. With each cup of coffee served, it reinforces the message that everyone deserves a chance to succeed and be celebrated for their unique contributions.

FAWrient Express social media pages on Facebook (FAWrient Express) and Instagram (@fawrient).

I also look forward to the opening of Radio FAW in the near future.

Tad

CEO





MCSC OPEN DAY

Maidstone Community Support Centre (MCSC) proudly hosted a successful open day on the 21st October, welcoming the Mayor of Maidstone and a diverse array of local groups and charities. The event was a vibrant showcase of community spirit, highlighting the valuable projects and services offered by both our Member organisations and external charities based in the Maidstone area.

The open day provided a unique opportunity for attendees to explore the various initiatives aimed at supporting local residents and fostering community engagement. The Mayor's attendance underscored the importance of collaboration within the community and recognized the hard work of the organisations dedicated to serving Maidstone.

"Today's event exemplifies the strength of our community," said Tad Taberer, the CEO of MCSC. "By bringing together local charities and groups, we're able to celebrate the incredible work being done and inspire further collaboration."

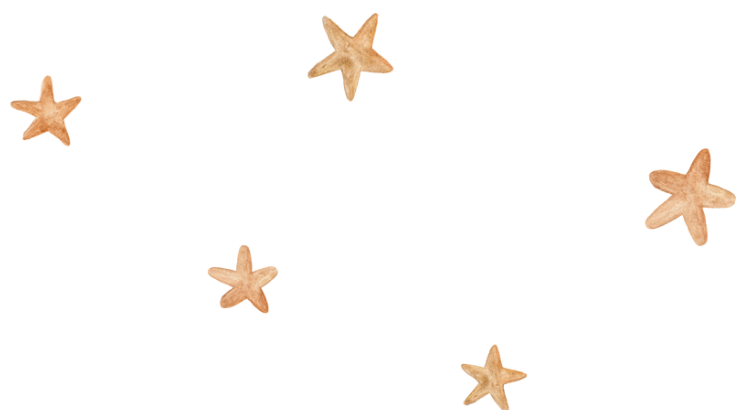
Guests were able to interact with representatives from various organisations, learn about their impactful projects, and discover how they can get involved. The atmosphere was filled with enthusiasm as community members connected over shared goals and aspirations.

The MCSC remains committed to serving as a hub for collaboration and support in Maidstone. The success of this open day demonstrates the Centre's dedication to fostering a strong sense of community and ensuring that the valuable services provided by local organizations continue to thrive.

For more information about the Maidstone Community Support Centre and its Member groups, please visit www.mcsc.org.uk or come and see us in Marsham Street, Maidstone.

Matt

Centre Manager





Walk Tall



- ✓ Performing Arts
- ✓ Choir
- ✓ All Age Low-Cost Counselling
- ✓ Yr 9 - 11 & Post 16 Education
- ✓ L2 - 6 Counsellor Training
- ✓ Other Therapeutic Activities

Walk Tall is an established Mental Health Charity supporting children, young people and adults of all ages. Located in Maidstone, Gravesend, Dartford & Swanscombe. Follow us on social media for ad-hoc groups and opportunities.



Contact us

01474 560834

www.walk-tall.org.uk

info@walk-tall.org.uk

*Merry Christmas
from Tad & the Team*



NEXT TIME -

SPRING OFFERS

**Spring offers
on sessional
room hire @
MCSC**



Thank you for reading! We hope you have enjoyed this edition of News from the Centre. If you have any comments or questions , Please let us know- we would love to hear from you-

Pip - administrator MCSC

Get In Touch
reception@mcsc.org.uk

