

SATURDAY 16TH MARCH 2024

With Lavinia Donling

WHERE HAS THE WEEK GONE

This week has gone so fast! We had the NEDs meeting on Tuesday. We have been revamping the business plan - something that has been discussed for some time. Whilst I say 'we', I mean the NEDs. Katy Fawcett and I had originally worked on it which covered the last couple of years, but things continue to evolve as we grow. Using what knowledge we had, allowed the NED's to consider the next 2-3 years long term as well as the next year short term. Given their length of service to TMW cic has meant they could relieve me of my duties to this, and take over. However, they are Volunteers, and busy people with their own work and family commitments. A huge thank you, to - Ron, Ginny, Katie and Wendy. It is such a weight off my shoulders knowing they support and guide TMW cic, allowing me to do the day to day commitments around the clinic, reports, and research. My understanding is that some of it will soon be uploaded to the website..

MEETING WITH OUR AMAZING NON EXECUTIVE TONIGHT



We are on our road trip! We drove to Gloucestershire on Friday to meet up with Ellie, our Education Consultant. We met over brunch and timed it right, as lots of people were leaving the restaurant to catch taxis or coaches to attend the races at Cheltenham race course. Ellie relayed how busy it gets, and that there is free parking in town on the race days to encourage people to go into town shopping. I digress! It is so hard to believe that Ellie only started working with us mid January, and here we are two months later! She has achieved so much in such a short space of time, and has brought considerable energy into her role. Ellie often is concerned as to whether she is getting it right, which is really tricky as she is defining a new role, so we are all learning through the process.



On Monday, we completed another program with Steve Bladon, with Ellie leading the “tough questions” to Steve who is a retired Head Teacher. This will soon be uploaded for you to view. Part 2 is due to be completed after the Easter holidays. What is clearly apparent is the need to have professionals with lived experience of neurodiversity, and the challenges around the educational system. Ellie has also been working on getting our first module verified for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) accreditation, and we should be successful in the next few weeks. Ellie and I are now working on our first newsletter that we plan to launch at the end of March. These news letters are designed to provide tips in helping parents, so this is very exciting.

ROAD TRIP

We are back in Plymouth staying at a hotel that is not only dog friendly, but also has resident deer! Yes, the deer are a considerable fascination to me, as indeed they are to Monty when he gets a whiff they have been around. That, and pheasants! Both Monty and Tye have been greeted enthusiastically with many people offering strokes, cuddles and the occasional biscuit treats too. I left John in the hotel bar to watch the 6 Nations rugby with Monty and Tye, whilst I investigated the free use of the swimming pool and Jacuzzi. I find it really hard to relax in the traditional sense but I understand that my ADHD brain does need to keep moving, so the swimming helped. My idea of relaxing, is, usually, spending time with family, pottering around in the garden, or walking the dogs.

CALENDAR DATES

Next week is Neurodiversity Celebration week. I have been invited to speak at an event with a few other neurodiverse entrepreneurs showcasing how being neurodiverse has helped me successfully! There are some interesting people to meet for sure. Even last night, talking with a couple about our respective jobs led us to talking about neurodiversity with parents not formally diagnosed, unlike their children, but having their suspicions and focusing on the child’s skills (e.g. phenomenal memory for regurgitating facts and figures, being an engineer). Love it! It would be great to hear how you are celebrating you and your child(ren)’s neurodiverse skill sets.

Tomorrow is St Patrick's Day! Well known for the Irish having a long weekend to celebrate with alcohol. Naturally, the 6 Nations is sponsored by Guinness, and Ireland did well to beat Scotland in their homeland, in the city of Dublin! Anyway, wherever you are, and whatever you are celebrating (or not) - enjoy. We will be heading back home tomorrow, making a stop to watch one of our grand-daughter's playing in her rugby match. We are all very excited that we will be in attendance to watch live!

Lavinia

