

*Enabling people to reach their full potential*

Hello everyone, hope you are all well. Welcome to our Jan to March 2021 newsletter. Looking back over the last twelve months, what a year we have all gone through. The difficulties of three lots of lockdowns, self-isolating and shielding, for some they are still shielding. When Covid 19 restrictions started in March last year, it was difficult to envision of where we would be today, but here we all are, remaining positive and carrying on.

Hoping with the vaccination roll out, and gradual easing on current restrictions, we can all soon resume some sort of normal activity. We are especially looking forward to the future.

In the meantime, continue to stay safe and keep well.

Please read on for news and updates for STEPScic, and do not forget to check out our updated website, see below. If you wish to receive a copy of this newsletter via email, please drop me a message to [jayne@stepsic.co.uk](mailto:jayne@stepsic.co.uk) and I will forward a copy. You can then click on the link below.

We have recently updated our website at [www.Stepsic.co.uk](http://www.Stepsic.co.uk). Please check out the new site. All our newsletters and updated information can be found there.



## Happy 10th Birthday STEPScic

February 25, 2021

February 2021 marked 10 years since STEPScic was founded by Director Terry Mann. Ten years ago, Terry had a vision to provide opportunities for adults with learning disabilities which would enable individuals to learn new skills in a simulated work setting. With his knowledge, experience, and ethical values this vision was realised and STEPScic became the first of its kind to be set up in the borough of Wigan. Starting with one wood workshop and one attendee, Terry has developed STEPScic into a leading provider of day opportunities with strong connections to the community and SEN schools. STEPScic has grown to offer a wide range of opportunities, facilities, expertise, and resources which have enabled many individuals to achieve progression and success. All staff at STEPScic would like to thank all attendees, parents/carers, other professionals, and friends for their continued support as we look forward to the next ten years.



I think if we have a rundown of the positives over the last twelve months, it only confirms what we already knew. That is, all our attendees have shown great resilience and have adapted and managed the changes during this pandemic very well. All facing personal difficulties, but with the support from parents, carers and professionals alike they have adapted well and managed admirably. We are immensely proud of each one.

As part of the positives, our attendees have achieved their nationally recognised qualifications through Open Awards in 'Skills for Further Learning and Employment' in the areas of Hairdressing, Building and Construction, Vehicle Cleaning and Food and Drink Preparation. Our attendees have also achieved nationally recognised qualifications in 'Independent Living'. Chosen by the attendee these qualifications enable them to progress towards their primary goal or aspiration whether that be work or independent living and we are again immensely proud of their efforts and achievements.

Please note some of the images were taken prior to Covid-19.

We were unable to hold our annual award ceremony due to the restrictions, but that did not stop us organising a socially distanced celebration for our attendees. Everyone received their award certification, and a congratulatory video was made from staff and sports personalities alike. All congratulating them on their achievement. Messages came from Wigan Warriors RLFC, Liverpool Football Club, Professional Jockey Harrison Shaw and friends of STEPScic, all of which the attendees were delighted to receive. You can view the video on our social media page.

We have just commenced this year's Open awards in Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing. This will include Health and Hygiene and Stress Management Techniques. These sessions are already proving extremely popular and attendees are enjoying and benefitting already.



Above are just a few of our attendees participating in the open award sessions that they successfully passed.

As some of you already know, development of our new workshop is currently taking place at the side of our base at Ashland house, Ince. This will provide a huge extension to our already spacious base and will increase the opportunities available to STEPScic attendees. The new roof looks fantastic and with internal works now well underway, we are excited for the upcoming completion. We would like to thank our landlords Think Ahead for their continued support. You can check our website for regular updates, and we will update again in our next newsletter. Watch this space.



July last year, 2020, we started working on another exciting development, our new garden area. As the grounds were being cleared at Ashland House and plans coming together for our new outdoor space, some of our attendees, supported by our experienced, qualified joiner produced the planters in our wood workshop, whilst others filled them with soil and finally our gardening enthusiasts planted them with a range of plants and deep root vegetables ready for the harvest. It was fantastic to see each individual contributing to the larger project which created meaningful outcomes for all involved. Here is the progress in pictures.









It is fantastic to see our attendees benefitting from the new garden and patio area, complete with polytunnel and raised beds, that we have created at our Ashland House base in Ince. The investment we have made has ensured that even with the restrictions imposed by Covid-19, we are able to continue to provide gardening and outdoor social activities in a safe, secure and socially distanced manner. We want to thank local business owner Lee Jukes and his team for their hard work in transforming this area.



It has been a great success for all involved and it will surely give much reward and sense of accomplishment to now enjoy and watch our garden grow, including shrubs, flowers, vegetables, berries, etc. There is no stopping our attendees out in our gardening area, they have just recently been working on the wildlife pond with viewing platform and are already planning a bee and insect house. These will be right by the fairy garden.

Here we are creating our viewing platform for the wildlife pond and the start of a bug house which feature alongside our bird tables and bird boxes and are wonderful additions to our outside space as they provide a safe haven for nature. A wide range of seeds have been sown which as they grow in the coming months will brighten up our beds and planters as well as attracting wildlife. Our additions will boost the eco system of our garden and we look forward to seeing what we attract over the coming months as the development continues.





Each week STEPScic attendees access a wide range of activities including sport and leisure, hair and beauty, art, gardening, floristry, photography, textiles, woodwork, cooking and baking. All activities are provided in-house by experienced and highly skilled staff. Talking off staff, we would like to introduce you to our two new members of staff, if you haven't already met. Both Andy and Louise joined us in January of this year.



### **Louise Mulvey**

As a Support Worker, Louise is responsible for providing support and assistance to those individuals who access STEPScic, she also assists the facilitation of Open Awards qualifications. Louise brings over 8 years Level 3 Teaching Assistant experience to the role and is keen to support individuals to achieve their potential. She has a passion for baking and is keen to develop the skills of our attendees in those sessions. Louise's passion for learning new skills engages and enthuses those who work with her. We are proud to be able to use Louise's knowledge, skills and experience at STEPScic.

### **Andy Sixsmith**

As a Support Worker, Andy is responsible for providing support and assistance to those individuals who access STEPScic. Andy brings over twenty years of social care experience to the role, including over thirteen years of horticultural experience in a social care setting. Andy is keen to enthuse our attendees and utilise his skills, knowledge and experience in our gardening and woodwork sessions. In his spare time Andy is a member of a local running club and is keen to promote physical activity to improve health and wellbeing. We are proud to be able to use Andy's skills, knowledge and experience within sessions at STEPScic.



As we all know, regular exercise is an important part of a healthy lifestyle and it is something that we promote daily at STEPScic. Our spacious facilities ensure that no matter what the weather structured sport and exercise sessions can take place which are hugely beneficial not just for physical health but also as a boost to mental wellbeing.



February, along with STEPSscic 10<sup>th</sup> year birthday celebrations we also celebrated Chinese New Year. Attendees had worked collaboratively developing their creative skills to produce a Chinese dragon as well as wall and table decorations which looked fantastic throughout the base. We have practiced the art of Tai Chi and enjoyed a delicious Chinese lunch of chicken curry and rice, chow main noodles, prawn crackers and duck and vegetable spring rolls which were delicious! Everyone had a great time celebrating Chinese New Year.







## *Last but by no means least,*

We would like to say a massive thank you to Tanya Jane Holden for what she has done for STEPScic. A member of the Ince community and impressed by the work that we do, Tanya decided to choose STEPScic as the beneficiary of her Just Giving page in which she pledged to shave her head for the funds that were raised. Initially, she hoped to achieve £300,

but Tanya went on to smash that target and raised over £1100. This is a fantastic achievement and we would like to extend our thanks to those who supported Tanya and made donations. The generosity of all concerned will have a direct impact on all those who attend STEPScic.



**We are located at:**  
Ashland House, Dobson Park Way, Ince, Wigan, WN2  
2DX

**and**  
Unit 12, Golborne Enterprise Park, Kid Glove Road,  
Golborne, WA3 3DP



*Stepscic would like to wish you all a happy easter, and hope you have a good holiday.*





01942 247891  
07722 584131



[www.stepscic.co.uk](http://www.stepscic.co.uk)




[terry@stepscic.co.uk](mailto:terry@stepscic.co.uk)



**Stepscic**

*Enabling people to reach their full potential*



STEPScic was established in 2011 and was the first of its kind to be set up in the borough of Wigan. We provide opportunities for both male and female adults with a learning disability.



Our site in Wigan is located at Ashland House and has good public transport links. Recently refurbished with a bright, modern interior, Ashland House has a spacious hallway that leads to a large kitchen and dining room, a social room with pool table, a fully equipped art room, a hairdressing salon and relaxation room.

Our site in Golborne is a fully equipped wood workshop that is located at Golborne Enterprise Park. We have created a work environment with all the facilities and equipment required to enable individuals to access a real life work experience. Individuals are able to develop practical woodwork skills as well as developing knowledge and understanding of health and safety.



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07722 584131



[www.stepscic.co.uk](http://www.stepscic.co.uk)



[terry@stepscic.co.uk](mailto:terry@stepscic.co.uk)

## What we offer

**Art & Design, Photography, Woodwork & Construction, Hair & Beauty, Car Wash & Valeting, Gardening, Independent Living Skills, Food & Nutrition, Sports and Leisure, Fishing, Textiles.**

**Our Ethos**  
We are a vibrant, professional and forward thinking service, where the achievement and personal development of each individual is recognised and celebrated. We believe that all of our attendees deserve the very best opportunities that enable them to reach their full potential.



**Contact us on:** 01942 247891 or 07722 584131  
Email - [terry@stepscic.co.uk](mailto:terry@stepscic.co.uk)  
**We are located at:**  
Ashland House, Dobson Park Way, Ince, Wigan, WN2 2DX  
and  
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**We are open Monday - Friday - 9:00am till 4:00pm**



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