



...and maybe a little money, food, clothing or furniture too? Please.



Tel: 0161 228 7331 [mustardtree.org.uk](http://mustardtree.org.uk)

Creating choice and opportunity for people who are homeless and marginalised

eNewsletter February 2014 No.10

Soup Run - Chinese New Year



KUNG HEI FAY CHOY!

Friday 7th February saw our annual Soup Run celebration of the Chinese New Year. 101 guests enjoyed an awesome night filled with numerous tasty dishes donated by various local restaurants and takeaways; served with smiles and understanding from the Chinese Community Centre. The decoration included a 'money tree', which had Red packets of well wishes attached. The evening was buzzing with different faces and languages. Entertainment was varied with singing and dances. And, of course New Year would be nothing without the the iconic Lion Dance.

The Empty Shop



Mustard Tree worked in partnership with Clark Gough and Manchester Arndale to bring The Empty Shop to the UK for the first time. Through this innovative project, we received 7,550 items of pre-loved clothing from 265 Manchester shoppers in just ten days! Our very own Soraya said, "I was overwhelmed with the response we had from it and am humbled at Manchester's generosity! I had such a brilliant time as I got to speak to people about the great work we do and reach people we wouldn't normally have reached." To find out more about the project, read our [blog](#).

Euan's Story



Freedom Project Graduate, Euan describes the impact of being part of Mustard Tree has had on his future; 'The Project gave me confidence to step out of my comfort zone. I was able to change my attitude from negative to positive and was helped to take steps towards my goals. I'm now working on the trains with First TransPennine Express. I'm using all the customer service skills I learned at Mustard Tree: being eager to learn and providing a great service! I've learned to respect myself and others, and keep focused on what I want to achieve in life. I'm now planning to save money for my own flat and take my driving test. Before, I thought I would never get back into work. Now I plan to work until retirement on the trains!'

James Hardy Music Studio



The James Hardy Project is our brand-new music-centred venture. The project is currently running its first 10-week music production course, led by Geoff McGuire, aka deep house artist Stonedove. The group aims to have written and produced a new electronic music track by the end of the course. The project is named in memory of a young man who was a regular visitor to Mustard Tree's art studio – a talented guitarist and also the victim of drug addiction and mental illness. James' family and friends generously donated money to be used for the benefit of Mustard Tree's service users through the medium of music. It is envisaged that the studio will eventually be in daily use and for hire by bands and artists. It is hoped that the studio will benefit many of Mustard Tree's clients, helping them to build their confidence, develop their talents and to find acceptance in a community of music-lovers.

Save the Date: Thursday 27 March, 19:00 for the James Hardy Music Studio Launch.

StandFirm's New Roof!



We are very pleased to say that the Roof works carried out by the HCA contractors are all completed now. It means that we can now fully resume our work in the Recycling Centre. This is useful timing indeed as we are about to embark on an exciting project with the support of WRAP to offer local residents and businesses an electrical repair service, this has been made possible because of a partnership with Axion Consulting. We shall very soon be producing a leaflet to go out to homes as well as into shops, EPD schemes, and also in Northwards Housing offices. We are very thankful to the workmen who did the roof replacement as by and large the weather was awful and replacing the 'old' asbestos sheets was a difficult task.

Eccles Food Bank



In recent months we have seen the need for food parcels triple in our Eccles branch. Sadly across Salford we are seeing more families being referred to us by local agencies due to the ever increasing cost of living. These are not only families out of work but also families in work struggling to cope. We are only dealing with this increase because of the help from local churches and the good people of Salford donating food. Just last week, Rev Charles VanDenBroeder from the Monton Unitarian Church dropped off their monthly donation. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who donates food to us. We couldn't do what we do without these partnerships.

"The one thing they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor" Gal 2:10

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