

# NEW PIONEERS NEWSLETTER

## WHERE TO FIND US

Website: <https://newpioneersproject.co.uk/>

Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1094210857963627>



# Greetings New Pioneers!



In this newsletter we recap on the events and developments that shaped our project during the month of August 2023. From community gatherings to positive news stories, here's a snapshot of what transpired.



- 2 Pioneers gained employment
- 9 Pioneers engaged in training and education.
- 4 Pioneers gained a qualification
- Over 30 pioneers and their families engaged in life skills events.



# Spotlight

You may recall Marcus Thomson from April's Newsletter. Marcus joined the New Pioneers Programme whilst on probation back in 2022. He went on to establish the very popular New Pioneers Mans Lab - held every Thursday at Heady Hill Community Centre.



Since April, Marcus has continued to work hard by returning to evening college and gaining valuable work experience through volunteering.

After months of hard work, Marcus has now been offered his very first full time job role at Heywood Distribution Centre.

**Well done Marcus, keep up the hard work.**

**MEN'S LAB**

WE MEET EVERY THURSDAY AFTERNOON  
BETWEEN 2PM - 4PM  
**AT HEADY HILL  
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

WE ARE A SUPPORT GROUP  
FOR MEN TO SOCIALISE  
AND GET SUPPORT.  
COME ALONG AND  
HAVE A BREW AND A CHAT.

#ITSOKAYNOTTOBEOKAY

FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE CONTACT:  
[info@mavericklab.org.uk](mailto:info@mavericklab.org.uk)

Marcus's Man's Lab is open to all male pioneers, their family and the wider community.

It is held every Thursday at Heady Hill Community Centre from 1pm.

For further information on our Man's Lab, please contact Broker, Mark on 07432 471668

# *From Struggle to Success: A Resilient Mother's Inspiring Journey.*



Meet Amy, a devoted single mother doing everything she could to provide a loving home for her 2 young children. Life threw its fair share of challenges her way, however, Amy remained to have a passion for the beauty industry with a keen interest in making people feel their best.

Amy joined the New Pioneers in 2022 not knowing how to explore the industry. With help from Amy's Broker, Aggy and the financial support of the Bursary, Amy enrolled onto a Level 2 Lash Technician course. Balancing her responsibilities as a mother with her studies, she worked tirelessly to master her craft. She passed the course successfully turning her dreams into reality.

Knowing the importance of stability, Amy wanted to seek further opportunities of employment whilst building up her clientele. With support from Aggy, she composed a CV, completed a personal specification, and was offered interview techniques. The NPP bursary funded some interview clothes and Amy went on to gain part time employment in a local school.

Through sheer determination and hard work, she now has a positive future. We look forward to seeing her continue to thrive, both as a mother and as a successful lash technician.



# **BOTM Communal Garden Project**



**A communal garden near the Back of The Moss in Heywood was once just waste ground used by dog walkers and youths .**

**In 2014, RBH agreed with the residents to gate the area to discourage antisocial behaviour, placing raised flowerbeds in the area for the residents to use and maintain. The garden was the centre of the community for the residences and enjoyed for many years.**

**However, by 2021 several of the residents had become immobile or too ill to continue to maintain the upkeep of the garden. The garden soon became weed ridden and lifeless with no real purpose.**

Then last year, a team of volunteers from The New Pioneers Programme contacted the residents to offer their help to make the garden beautiful, functional, and manageable again.

RBH paint shop donated paint to the volunteers and the New Pioneers bursary along with RBH funded some new garden equipment and plants. Work soon began clearing the ground weeds, painting and weeding the flower beds and planting perennials and vegetables.

The garden has been purposefully planned by the volunteering pioneers to be low maintenance yet functional with an abundance of fruit, vegetables and herbs which will be harvested each year and shared amongst the residence.

We would also like to thank Rochdale AFC Community Trust Traineeship learners who also volunteered in the garden as part of their work experienced for their Traineeship.

Also thanking the Engineering Apprentices from Rochdale Training Association who are currently up-cycling a BBQ for the residents to enjoy over summer months.

All the volunteers have commented that the project has given them a sense of purpose, benefiting from both the light physical activity and improved mental health.

One former economically inactive Pioneer is now exploring self employment as a free lance gardener with support by the programme.

The volunteers have been invited to the North West In Bloom Award Ceremony in October. They are hopeful that they will receive an award of recognition for all their hard work within the community.



**GOOD LUCK!**



If you would like to get involved with one of our garden projects, please speak to your Broker.

# Living life to the full

<https://lltff.com/>

Delivered by NPP Broker, Aggy, 20 participants were involved in our "Living Life to the Full" course held at Spotland Community Centre over 2 cohorts.

The "Living Life to the Full" course was funded by GMCA. It has been designed to empower participants with the tools and mindset needed to lead fulfilling lives.

Over the course of 6 weeks, the participants engaged in a series of workshops, discussions, and activities aimed at fostering personal growth, resilience, and happiness.

Participants learned mindfulness techniques that allowed them to regain control of their emotions and experience a sense of calm. Food was prepared on site and eaten together, helping them to adopt healthier eating habits.

The participants also learnt about the importance of physical health and about how to gain financial control.

The ripple effect of these individual transformations extended to their families, friends, and the community. They have become beacons of positivity and an inspiration for those around them.

Looking Ahead:

If you're interested in joining our next course or learning more about the programme, please contact your Broker or follow link:

<https://lltff.com/>



**GMCA** GREATER  
MANCHESTER  
COMBINED  
AUTHORITY

**Also in August.....**



## **Theatre Trip**

**On the 23rd August, The New Pioneers enjoyed a trip to Skylight Circus Arts. Here they watched the Royal Exchange Young Company presenting Laura Lomas's play 'Chaos'.**

**The play showed a series of characters who searched for meaning in a complicated and unstable world.**

**#royalexchangetheatre**



## **Womans Wellness Project**

**In August 3 sessions were delivered to local Refugees and Asylum Seekers.**

**Topics included:**

- **TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF**
- **PRACTICAL TIPS FOR EVERYDAY WELL-BEING.**
- **PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH**
- **RESILIENCE**



## **Urban Artisans**

**Celia from the UK Fashion and Textile Association visited the Woman from the Urban Artisans project to deliver Health and Safety Training on the sewing machines. The Urban Artisans are currently working on the 'Denim to Apron' initiative and are seeking any donated denim to repurpose in bespoke aprons.**



***If you have any denim you would like to donate, please contact your Broker***





# The NPP Mindfulness Book Club....

The structure typically involves selecting a book that aligns with the club's themes and goals. We are currently reading, GOOD VIBES, GOOD LIFE by Vex King.

Weekly meetings are held to read and discuss the book, share insights, and explore the ways in which its themes relate to personal experiences. These discussions often delve into emotions, values, and life lessons, fostering a deeper connection among our pioneers.

MEETING EVERY THURSDAY 10AM - 12PM AT THE BOTM COMMUNITY CENTRE.

**NEW PIONEERS** MAVERICK LAB **RBH** ALL TOGETHER BETTER LIVING ROCHDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

## New Pioneers Book Club

COME ALONG TO OUR DEDICATED SELF DEVELOPMENT BOOK CLUB

We are a friendly and welcoming group that meet to read mindful books, join us to learn new topics, practice your reading and language skills and share your perspectives and ideas.

**BOTM Community Centre, Heywood**  
Thursdays 10am

Join our WhatsApp group  
Find out more about the club, the book we are currently reading and our next meeting, hope to see you there!



**If you have would like your own Pioneering Journey featured in our newsletter, please contact your Broker.**

