



Hi folks - so much happening in the run in to Christmas it's difficult to know where to start! At the Tans we have hosted our final fundraising meal of the year which was a sell out and a lovely start to December's festivities. The next event - a Burns' Night Quiz in January - is already sold out as well. Our Christmas party was a massive success - I hope you were able to make it and enjoyed it! Our customers are also keeping us busy - across all our services! No letting up for Christmas just yet. Early in the New Year we are working with Tynedale Hospice at Home to collect Christmas trees again. A fun day out for anyone who's interested - if you are let Jo know. It's also a time to look back over the year - it's been another good one! Thanks everyone who has been a part of it. Have a great Christmas - you've all earned it. Merry Christmas from me and all the Team here - Bruce



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE TANS

As always, the festive season brings lots of activity at the Tans. We've had our Christmas fromHextol line on our shelves for a few months now and we're now fully decorated! Our Christmas raffle is almost ready to be drawn and Christmas cakes and bakes are being handed out ready for the big day.

We've also had our final fundraising meal of 2025! The Tans hosted a Christmas three course meal for the third year running - as usual, it was sold out! Volunteers and kitchen staff worked through the week to prepare as much as they could, and others joined us on the night to keep things running smoothly. Our guests enjoyed chestnut soup with homemade bread, a butternut wellington and a trio of desserts!

Thank you to all who came, and thank you to all who at some point helped us out at one of our events this year, we couldn't do it without you!



John's Tricky Quiz Question #49!

Q: The name of what sweet maker started in Forest Gate, London in 1906? One of the founders first name is the name of the company spelt backwards - a total coincidence!

Answer in the next edition of Hextol Happenings! Here's the answer to question #48:

Q: In 1911, the explorer Hiram Bingham was searching for the lost city's of Vitcos and Vilcabamba when an 11 year old boy took him somewhere else, but where?

A: Machu Picchu!

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WELCOMING NEW FACES

Before we head into this new year, we've got a new face around the Gilesgate office - you may already have met her. Grace has started as our new Fundraising Manager.

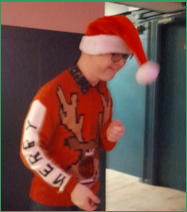
I asked Grace to share a fun fact about herself to help us get to know her, and learnt she has two guinea pigs called Plumpkin and Beansprout!

She also thanked everyone for being so welcoming already and that she's looking forward to meeting everyone else!



THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY!

As always, we rounded out the year with a Christmas Party. It's one of the most looked forward to events of the year - with some people practicing all year to wow us all on the karaoke machine or the dance floor!



It is always so lovely to get everyone together to celebrate the end of the year. These social events give us a chance to see others we might not see week to week on our shifts and have fun together with some good food and company. Some seriously impressive dance moves were on show, and plenty of festive cheer and good vibes to last us till the new year!

We hope everyone who came enjoyed themselves and we will see you at our next social event in the new year.



A POEM TO SUM US UP

When our Cycling Minds groups met up for a end of season chat, one of our cyclists shared a poem. We thought it would be nice to share it all with you here.

Today is the last day / Last meeting of the year
We're gathering together / To say what a year it's been
And what a great time for all / We'll meet to reminisce
Of rides on weeks gone past / Laughing, smiling, enjoying
Memories all together of / The miles we've covered
Up hills, along quiet roads / Overcoming punctures: Repairing
Finding cafesclosed, free down. / Large puddles, heavy rain falling.
But still, we persevere For Fun!!! / Also, all remembering our
a....b.....c.....d.....e

BY MAURICE ILEY



Cyclists Faye and Kevin with their end of year cycling certificates with ride leaders Jude and Martin!