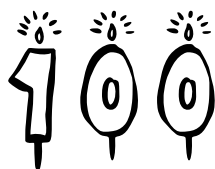




Hextol



happenings

Issue 100!

13th August 2025



FOR WORKING OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOME TO THE 100TH EDITION!

Hi folks – welcome to the 100th edition of *happenings* 🎂🎉🥳. It launched on 1 April 2020 when we were still locked down by COVID and wanted to keep in touch with you all. After we all got back to working normally we kept it going for much the same reason – to make sure you all feel included, know what is going on and let you know how some of your colleagues are doing.

I'm delighted that, for this special edition, we have a message from the person who started *happenings*, Nicky Edwards. Many of you will remember Nicky and it's great to know that, although she now lives in Scotland, she keeps in touch with what we are doing by reading *happenings*. Beth is now the person in charge of *happenings* and does a great job. Thanks for putting this edition together Beth.

For the 100th *happenings* we've asked some of the people who were in the early editions to tell us a bit more about themselves and what Hextol means to them. It makes great reading – hope you enjoy it. Good to see so many of are still enjoying Hextol too.

I ended my intro to the first *happenings* by staying “stay safe” and although that probably meant more during COVID it is still important so enjoy this special edition, and the rest of the summer and Stay safe - Bruce

A MESSAGE FROM NICKY!

I couldn't quite believe it when I saw that the 99th edition of Hextol Happenings had just been published, and here we are now at Number 100... quite a milestone! Hextol Happenings originally started as a way of keeping in touch with everyone during that first COVID lockdown over 5 years ago. It's kept going ever since, and I can see that it's become a vital way of keeping everyone in touch with what's happening at Hextol.

I always look forward to reading each issue when it comes out. It's such a great way of keeping a connection to the Hextol team now that I've moved to Scotland. (My whole family still has a go at answering John's Tricky Quiz Questions.)

I've particularly enjoyed reading about everyone's success with the training courses that Hextol are offering people... first aid, food hygiene, manual handling, kitchen cleaning, ASDAN, dementia awareness... so many opportunities!

It's great to see that Hextol continues to go from strength to strength in everything it does, from gardening to post and packing to warehouse to catering, including of course, The Tans.



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The Hextol Foundation
The Hextol Tans

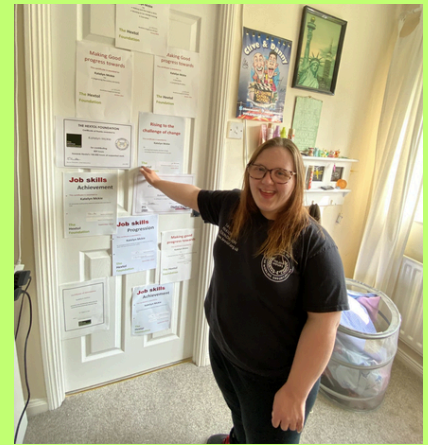


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WHAT HEXTOL MEANS TO ME: BY KATELYN

Hextol means the world to me. I enjoy being a part of the Hextol team. I love my jobs there. They give me confidence and independence. I do lots of training on different courses there. I've worked at Hextol for over 10 years now.

I enjoy all of my jobs with Hextol I do lots of events at the tans. Like making cakes for the Forum Cinema and for a GOlocal events.



We do loads of social events too. This keeps me busy and gives me something to look forward to. Hextol are also open during the summer and winter months including holidays. Sometimes we are open during Halloween 🎃 spooks night. Now I'm so proud to be involved with the 100th edition of Hextol Happenings.

Thank you Hextol.

Written by Katelyn, a Hextol volunteer who works in the Tans (front of house and kitchen!) and Greenbox.

A CHECK IN WITH OLIVIA!

Olivia was the first volunteer at Hextol (who still attends Hextol) to be in an edition of Hextol happenings - all the way back in edition number two! We asked Olivia if she would like to write something for the 100th edition, and this is what she wrote:

I love working here with lovely people and seeing what events we are doing. I am happy to come here every Tuesday afternoon. I am glad to work here.

AUGUST 2025



APRIL 2020 ✨ ✨ ✨

NOW AND THEN!



APRIL 2020



JULY 2025

Rebecca was also featured in one of the very first editions of Hextol Happenings - and she was featured making some biscuits!

All these years later, she's still making them in our catering kitchen for our From Hextol range (and also, of course, for volunteer breaks!). Here she is making some oat and raisin biscuits with the original photo for reference. Rebecca also works in the Tans cafe!

A MESSAGE FROM JONATHAN!

I love my job at Hextol.

I remember when there was only one business which was called Greenbox and there were about six of us working there. Now, Hextol is so much bigger and has work for many people. I love it when there is lots of work in packing and posting and I love working in my team.

I'm not really a gardener (ask my dad!) but I am enjoying going to Lowgate gardening project. It is something new for me, so it is a challenge.

Clare's lunches are great and it's fun to meet everyone at lunchtime.

Our social events are all special, I look forward to them. Being at Hextol makes me happy.

From, JP. *(One of Hextol's longest attending volunteers).*



REBECCA'S HEXTOL JOURNEY

Rebecca is one of our longest serving volunteers and has been with Hextol a very long time. Currently she does two catering shifts with us at the Tans. I managed to catch a moment with her and ask her a few questions for our 100th edition of Hextol Happenings.

How long have you been volunteering with Hextol?

I started in 2008. That's 17 years.

Can you remember all the jobs you've done here?

Yep. I started in packing. Then the kitchen, at Gilesgate.

Did you come to the Tans when it first opened?

Yes. I was the first volunteer at the Tans café and did the sandwich delivery van before the café.

What do you think has changed since you first started?

I'm not so shy. I'm more confident.

What is your favourite thing to do with Hextol?

Doing the cakes.

(Rebecca is very well known for making an excellent chocolate cake - but when I ask her what the secret is, she just shakes her head and tells me she doesn't know... a baker never tells!)

Finally, is there anything you want to say for the 100th edition?

I like working here.



The
chocolate
cake in
question!



AN INTERVIEW WITH TOM!

Tom has been a volunteer at Hextol since 2019 and was one of the very first volunteers featured in Hextol Happenings. We caught up with him, almost five years later, to have a chat about Hextol.

"I enjoy working at Hextol" he says, "I especially like covering shifts when people are off and just helping out".

Tom currently works front of house at the Tans - he tells us that he likes the new longer hours we are trialling for summer. He also works in both Greenbox and Gardening on a Friday. Greenbox is new for him, and he says he is 'enjoying learning the ropes', and he likes learning new skills.



At first, Tom explains, he worked in catering, then he tried warehouse and gardening. He was encouraged by our catering supervisors Claire and Alice, who he thanks, to try the Tans. Whilst he first went to work in the kitchen, he really found his place in front of house, which he loves.

"I like everything. In gardening, I like weeding and landscaping. Making a new thing. Taking weeds and making something bright and sparkling brand new." Tom tells the story of making a 'country garden path' with one of our gardening supervisors and can still explain step by step how this is done.

At the Tans, Tom says his favourite thing is "meeting new customers and taking their orders". He also likes to try all the different cakes we have - when we asked him his favourite, he had an immediate answer. Fritha's Chocolate Fudge Cake!

Tom has also helped out at our themed evenings, and accompanied Hextol staff to outside events to represent us as a Foundation, and did an incredible job.

As a final comment, and reflecting on one hundred Hextol happenings editions, Tom adds "it's been a long but fun ridealong!"

WHAT I DO AT HEXTOL: LAUREN

Hextol is a great place to work. You need to work hard for the customers you've been working for - packing, doing catering for a buffet, serving customers if you are in the Tans and gardening for a customer.

I like to serve customers and packing for customers and making the soup - any type of soup! I like to pack the leaflets in the envelopes and doing the cards.



I like to keep up to date with the diary to see if there are any absences and I update the workhours. I also check with staff to find out who was in if it has not been filled out and talk to people about what has been going on in Hextol through the last couple of months through the Quarterly Briefing, like what's been happening in the services and getting certificates at the end for the job skill we have been completing. I like to make the PowerPoint for this too.



The events - I like Ipots, the BBQ and bowling. I like to make a pot and I like the BBQ - playing games with smile through sport is my favourite part.

I enjoy reading the Hextol happenings and find it interesting. I would like to keep getting it every month!

