

# SATURDAY 2ND MARCH 2024

*With Lavinia Donling*

## CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

Last weekend, John and I did a whistle stop tour down to Hampshire to meet up with one of our NEDs (Non Executive Directors), Ron. It has been 18 months since Ron and I last met up at another charity he supports with military veterans. Ron came with his wife, Teresa. I personally have known Ron since my days living in Hythe in the New Forest. We met through our interests in gardening, and, naturally, our affiliations with the military. The event on Saturday was a 3 course dinner with a Murder Mystery play running through the dining, which you could play detective as much or as little as you wanted. This meant



that we had the opportunity to talk about TMW cic, but also put our heads together as to what we saw and heard from our seats. Given we were sitting at a round table, this meant we each saw and heard things differently. Despite our best efforts, we did not get who had done the murder, and John kicked himself for not taking more seriously the fact he had witnessed the murder holding 2 different guns at 2 different parts of the evening. We all enjoyed the evening immensely, but it was just so lovely to catch up with Ron in person, rather than over zoom. Ron is our longest serving NED, a couple of days ahead of Ginny. Given that the average time a Volunteer remains with a charity or business is 9 months, you can imagine our delight that Ron is now beginning his 5th year with us! Thank you, Ron, for your hard work, all your fundraising that you do for TMW, and for your continuing support. We absolutely loved every minute spoiling you on Saturday.

## BIRTHDAY!

It was Ellie's Birthday on Wednesday. Ellie is quite shy, but she works hard, is passionate about her work, and committed to people she cares about and works with. TMW cic provides all staff annual leave on their Birthdays - a small way to say thank you for all their hard work. We sent her some gifts, which, thankfully, did turn up on her special day.



By all accounts, Ellie did manage to celebrate her special day with a friend and, of course, her children later in the day. Happy Birthday, Ellie! Despite Ellie not working in the day, she still squeezed some time into her late evening to do some work for us, bless her.

#### NEW WEBSITE

Last week I reminded you of our new website that Yasmin designed. Some of you have personally complimented her - she can be very bashful at times - but Yasmin has loved the feedback. There is something very exciting when clients are now able to contact us directly through the website asking for more information. We also now have a donation button, which we know works, as well as a shop where you can buy a bear as a way of helping us fundraise. There is also a photo gallery of all things purchased that has helped us raise money through Easy Fundraising. I would, naturally, encourage you to consider have a nosey in the hope you might be tempted to help us continue with our fundraising. This money sits in a pot, and when an application is made to the NEDs, I am given (usually) authorization to withdraw money to support a family in need. I am not sure why, but for the last 2 consecutive Januarys, there has been a flurry of applications - all of which we were able to support. This reiterates the need for continuing to fundraise to support our families who would otherwise not be able to access our help.

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We are into March! I wonder how many of you noticed we had an extra day in February (the 29th) and acknowledging this is our 'leap year'! We have another road trip coming up (March 14-17) where we are heading southwest. We will, naturally, do a pit stop to catch up with Ellie face to face, but, if people would like to meet with me in person, rather than over zoom, or you wish me to provide a talk to your group - please can you liaise with John. It is always lovely to meet with people face to face.

So, have a good week everyone!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lavinia". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping initial 'L'.