

Meet the manager.

Beth Rosser is area manager for “A New Lease of Life” in Pentrebach and “The Den” in Roseheyworth.

What things make you happy in life?
The simple things, my faith, family, friends, pets and an empty washing basket.

What was the most challenging part of lockdown for you?
The first lockdown when I couldn't see my parents and having to explain that to my 4 year old daughter. She took it in her stride.

Her understanding was that there are nasty germs about, but the men in white body suits will wash them into the sea where the sharks will then eat the germs (the news was showing Italy disinfecting the streets at the time).

What has lockdown taught you?
This is so cheesy but.... I've learned that worrying does not add to your life but instead robs you of it. So, I've tried to not let things get to me, that a new day comes everyday.



Our latest store, *The Den*, just outside Aberdare, is now open. It's doing well and getting a lot of donations but could do with more volunteers. If you know anybody in that area tell them about it! The official launch is planned for 5th August.



Helping other charites from page one.

Rewild Play coordinator Sian Lewis-Evans explained how the i-pads make a big difference to their children.

“Many of the children we work with suffer from a range of emotional and mental health problems; from ADHD to acute anxiety.

“For them, direct eye contact can cause a sensory overload and actually aggravate their condition.

Agnita who helped refurbish the ONS i-pads.

“The iPad allows them to communicate without eye contact and will undoubtedly help with their communication skills and confidence generally.”

Wastesavers has since reached agreement with the ONS to process their old IT from their large offices in London and Titchfield, (Hampshire).



What would your super power be?
Super speed – so I can keep up with my daughter and clean the house faster than she can trash it.

What is your guiltiest pleasure?
White chocolate & cheesy music.

What would your “last supper” consist of?
Chicken curry, egg fried rice and chips

from the local Chinese. Followed by a raspberry roulade or mint choc chip ice cream.

Have you ever had a near death experience and what was it?
Near death experience – every time I eat my own cooking!

How do you relax?
I used to enjoy baking, but I don't find it so relaxing when my very enthusiastic daughter wants to help.

So now I would opt for a spa day or just pamper myself a bit; even if it's just a facemask at home.

What is your favourite item of clothing?
Scarves! I love them, I own far too many.

I think they feel like a comfort blanket for me. Some are large enough to be blankets.

HOW SUPPORTING OUR SHOPS CAN CHANGE LIVES

**“It's the single mother and child sharing a mattress on the floor for a bed ...
the family with no cooker who can only make hot food that requires hot water from a kettle ...
the family with no wardrobe or chest of drawers so clothes are stored in black bags on the floor ...
the family where there is no table for children to eat from or do their homework.
When there isn't enough money for fuel or food, where does the money for furniture and appliances come from?”**

Our reuse shops serve some of the most deprived communities in the UK, often where child poverty levels exceed 40%.

According to the Children's Society a child is living in poverty when they are in a family with an income below 60% of the UK's average.

But there's more to our shops than just providing affordable furniture.

The collection and processing of donations, creates both paid jobs and volunteering opportunities.

More than one third of the 30 paid staff in our shops were previously volunteers with us.

We have more than 100 regular volunteers. For some it reduces social insolation; for others it's a way back to work, or a small way of helping save the planet.

These items would have either gone to landfill or incineration

And finally; these shops are self financing.

The Income they generate helps pay for these new jobs and our social programmes.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Wastesavers Charity SUMMER 2021

CHARITY CHAIR REVEALS ALL EXCLUSIVE



We have teamed up with the Office for National Statistics to find homes for 135 pieces of their old IT equipment - with many more to follow.

The ONS wanted a more sustainable way to dispose of its old IT when upgrading staff computers.

With the help of our IT volunteers we refurbished and distributed 135 of their i-pads to local charities this spring – and we hope many more will come down the same pipeline.

One of the first groups to sign up was the Raven House Trust food bank.

Peter Hill (pictured), a driver for the Trust, said the ONS donated iPad had already made a huge difference.

“Part of our problem is our location in an old shop” he explained.

Our stock is spread over two levels in a section of the building that only has one electric socket!

“We were using sheets of paper to keep track of stock, but as our operation grew this was becoming more difficult.

“We've seen a 320% rise in demand over the last year alone.

“Our volunteers can now keep track of stock in a clear and simple way. No more lost bits of paper!

“Having the iPad has also enabled us to be able to take card payments. Before we could only take cash

“I would say the i-pad from ONS has been a real game changer”

Another Newport charity, Rewild Play, runs a community forest school project.

continued on back



IT'S A CRACKING TEAM UP HERE!

Eileen was very keen to make sure we told the world what a cracking team it is up at the *Treherbert Shed*.

“I would say this place has really done me good, and if anybody is nervous about becoming a volunteer I say just give it a go.” *continued.*



We've all got knowledge



REUSE CENTRE ON THE MOVE



MEET THE MANAGER



LIGHTBULB MOMENT

CREDIT UNIONS. YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE

"It's a cracking team up here" from page 1



There's tidy ...

Eileen's husband passed away a couple of years ago and she found herself staying indoors more.

"My daughter Mel and I became regular customers here. She started volunteering and I thought that would be fun."

"I was very aware about stepping on her toes but it's actually worked out really well for both of us."

"Most of the time I'm happy just being out the back, sorting but I also love making things look good in the shop."

"In many ways this

doesn't look like a charity shop; I think that's important."

"Don't get me wrong," she quickly adds, "I like a good rummage but I think people generally buy more if they can see it properly."

That urge for good presentation shows itself best with how the Shed displays its curtains and soft furnishings.

Everything is neatly tied and labeled - no need to "rummage" around.

"Yes, this place has really bought me out of myself."

WE'VE ALL GOT KNOWLEDGE

Ann has been volunteering at "A New Lease of Life" since it first opened a few months ago.

We caught up with her as we were looking for stories to promote volunteering in Volunteers Week (June).

Ann's energy is infectious and she is clearly up for a laugh.

When we said pick a prop for the photo she went straight for an oversized boom box.

"I've worked in charity shops before but this has been a real eye-opener," she said. "I'm absolutely amazed at what people throw away, items that are still in their wrappings!"

"I've always been interested in the charity side of things. I've volunteered in other charity shops but this is on



a different scale and I love meeting new people when I'm here. "I meet a lot of people who would like to help but think they have no knowledge or the right skills. But I tell them

they have. Some customers, for example, come in for a chat as much as to buy stuff. So just saying hi, and helping them find what they are looking for - that's knowledge, and

that's helping." "Creating bedroom or living rooms displays is another part of this work I really like. I like moving things around. I do it at home and I do the same thing

here. Deciding what goes where in a display makes a real difference. I think if I'd made it to college I might have been an interior designer!"

REUSE CENTRE MOVES



The signage comes down



Alin & Dave moved hundreds of bits of it.



Nicola testing a sofa.



The Dream Team (left to right) Raymond, Ann; Nicola; Alin; Shaun; Gavin.



Raymond gives the new office space a final clean.



Albert moves yet another load

A huge thanks to all the volunteers who helped us move to our new high street location! 138-142 Chepstow Rd, NP19 8EG

LIGHTBULB MOMENT LEADS TO TIP SHOP



We bumped into Stacey on what just happened to be her first day as a volunteer.

It may have been day one but she clearly

knew her way around the place.

That's because she has been a regular customer here for some time.

"I always enjoyed having a bit of banter with the staff when I came here as a customer," she explains.

"When I found I had some spare time on my hands I decided this would be a good place to volunteer one day a week."

When asked what made her start come down to the Tip Shop in the first place she recalled: "A couple of years ago I had a bit of a light bulb moment,"

"I was driving past a large rubbish tip in Avonmouth and I decided there and

then that I had to reduce my own carbon footprint.

"It was simply the size of that pile of waste. I felt I had to do something for the environment and try to live more sustainably."

As part of that life style change she decided to do up an old bus to live in and kit it out with items that would have gone to landfill

And living just outside Newport that is how she came across the Tip Shop

The rest is history.

CHARITY BOARD'S No.1 REVEALS ALL!

David Mayer is chair of our board of Trustees. He is also one of the original founders of Wastesavers.

What makes you happy?

Spending time with my children and my grandson.

Playing and watching football (Wales, Newport and Liverpool).

Singing and playing guitar.

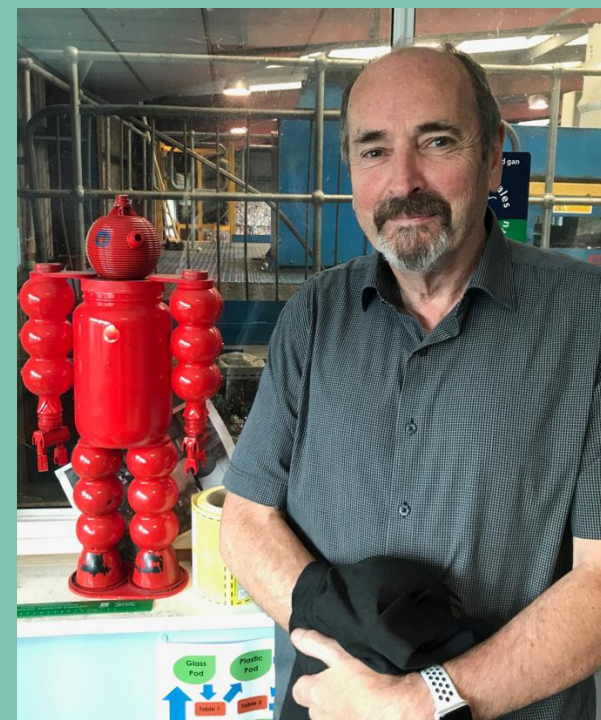
Travelling to cities to sample the food, art and architecture.

Researching local history, Chartism, Celts, Romans. industrial heritage, local artists. What have you learned since lock down?

That I miss people. I miss work colleagues, friends and family and people I play football with (did I mention that I like football?)

I also learned how wonderful people are in a crisis.

Whilst I was moaning about being locked up, all the front line workers like our recycling crews, refuse collectors, social services and NHS staff etc were getting on with their jobs. All we could do was praise them on social media and applaud them on our doorsteps. But that is what we did. We wore our masks and kept our distances so we could protect those brave and selfless people who kept the



world turning.

What would your super power be?

To nullify all weapons.

What is your guiltiest pleasure?

Sipping the rare and expensive Cuban Rum my son bought for my birthday. Other than that I don't think you should feel guilty about anything that gives pleasure.

What would your "last supper" consist of?

Spare Ribs flown in from Lem's BBQ House in Chicago.

Have you ever had a near death experience and what was it?

I have almost killed myself three times from electricity. The first time I was glued to a ceiling light by the current. The second time I tried to light my friend's cigarette from a two bar electric fire using the paper and

silver foil from inside the fag packet. And the third time I held both ends of cooker hob connectors and was thrown 3 feet against the wall. Oh and when I was twelve I was bitten by a bat.

How do you relax?

Watching sci-fi or comedy. There is just too much brilliant comedy from stand up and movies. Comedians Getting Coffee in Cars with Jerry Seinfeld for example.

What is your favourite item of clothing & why?

My Wales Veterans track suit. I wore it in 2017 when we played the inaugural , Dermot Gallagher Trophy, Wales V England over 65s at Dragon Park, Home of the Welsh FA. Did I mention that I love playing football?