

Chief Executive visits Northallerton:

We were pleased to welcome Jon Sparkes OBE, Chief Executive of Royal Mencap, to the Goosecroft Centre. Jon visited us on Thursday 23rd January and was pleased to meet a range of people from the area including Northallerton Mencap Trustees and staff, Simon from Northdale, Steve from Just the Job and a good number of people who access local services. Jon will also be visiting some of the local Mencap homes in the area.



Jon Sparkes with friends who benefit from local services.



Dean was very pleased to meet Jon Sparkes and told Jon all about what we do at the drop-in. Dean also explained about the therapy dogs who visit the drop-in on Wednesdays and how relaxing and encouraging it is for people to pat and speak to the dogs. Dean also explained about the Chinese New Year decorations ready for the next Monday Club meeting and took Jon outside to see the garden project. Dean represented Mencap very well. Thank you to Dean.



Jon Sparkes OBE, Mencap's new Chief Executive

Jon is an experienced leader in the charity sector, joining Mencap from his current role as Chief Executive of UNICEF UK, having previously worked as Chief Executive at Crisis UK and Scope. Jon said that since he started in post last June, he has visited several local societies and is keen to learn about what happens locally. He said that for Mencap 'choice and control' were a given. He also said that it was an honour to be working for Mencap. Jon spoke about his link to the area as his mother was from North Yorkshire.

News:

Dr Julian Whaley has worked as a doctor for 30 years. He has had a few different looks in that time!



Julian has been Consultant for Learning Disabilities in Northallerton for 17 years and is now retiring. There will be a gathering at The Mencap Centre on Thursday 20th March from 10am to 1pm for any clients and carers to meet for a chat and to say goodbye. All those who have benefited from Julian's care and professional help are invited to attend. I am sure that we all wish Julian a Very Happy Retirement.



Rock Your Socks 2025

- 1 March 2025 - 31 March 2025
- Rock your Socks for Mencap this March to support people with a learning disability
- To find out more look online.

The next Goosecroft Pickers litter pick will be on Saturday 15th February from 10.30 to 12.00
Soup and refreshments afterwards.

Have a look at our webpage and let us know what you think.

www.northallertonmencap

Contact us on:

admin@northallertonmencap.org.uk or on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/northallertonmencap) or Tel: 01609
778894



Trustees of the Northallerton and the Dales Mencap Society are seeking to appoint a part-time administrative assistant for 6 – 8 hours per week. The role will include responsibility for the management of the Society's finances as well as some tasks to ensure that the Centre is in good order.

Further details, a job description and application form can be obtained by contacting the Society on 01609 778894

by email on admin@northallertonmencap.org.uk

or by visiting the Centre in person.

Completed application forms and letters should be sent address to The Chairman by noon on Friday 14th February. Visits to the Centre, by appointment, can be arranged.



Monday Club

Monday club members have been very busy. In December each member was presented with a progression award from Adult Learning. Members learnt lots of new skills from party planning to teamwork and smoothie making.

This year we have new sessions with the Learning disability team around mental health. Sessions are on Monday afternoons 1pm-2pm. You do not need to be a Monday club member to attend. If you would like to come along or have any questions, please contact the office where you can get a copy of the full Monday club programme.