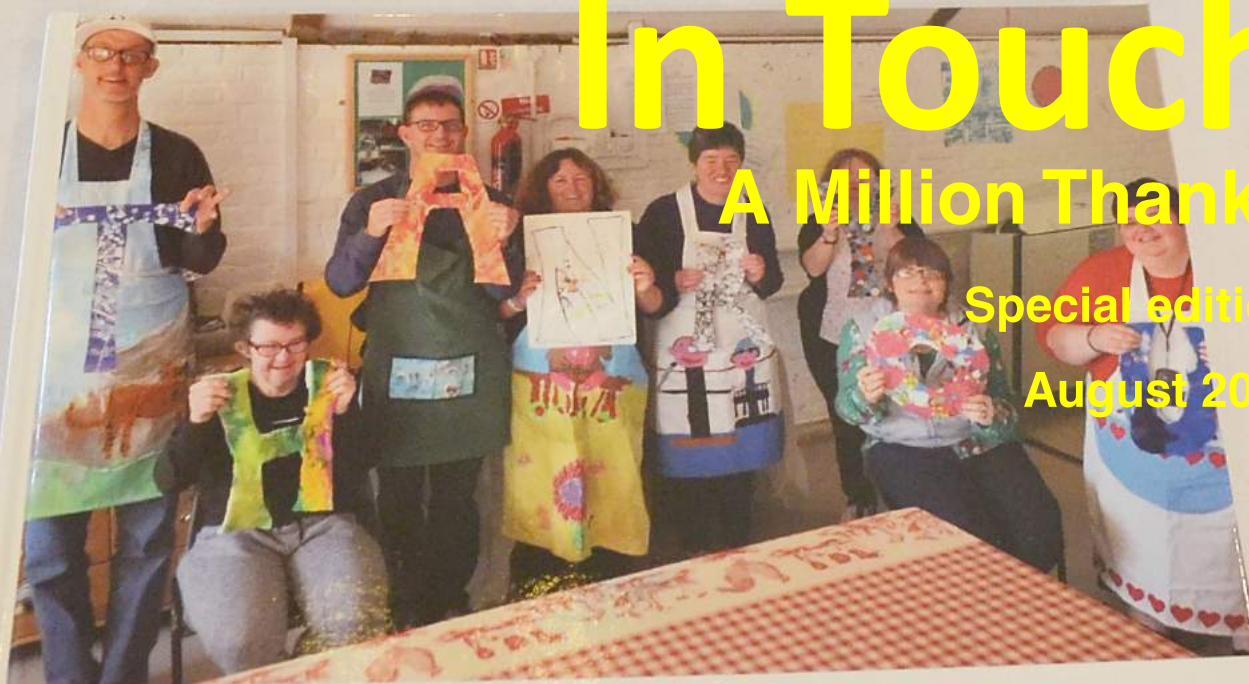


# In Touch

A Million Thanks

Special edition

August 2017



A "Million Thanks"  
from all of us at Canterbury Oast Trust



## Welcome to this very special edition of In Touch...

There is hardly a charity in the world that isn't trying to achieve the same magic trick: how to make a *big* difference with a *small* budget. At Canterbury Oast Trust, though, we are blessed with something that most charities can only dream of. We have Hitrade.

We have the benefit of their hard work, their dedication and their support. Most of all, we benefit from their ability to do magic of their own - namely turning unwanted items into gold! Whenever we find ourselves in need of that extra something to make our service users' lives a little more special, we turn to Hitrade. Over the years, the requests have been many and varied... but always they have made the funds appear. Indeed, every COT resident, tenant or student has benefitted - either directly or indirectly - from the help of Hitrade at some point during their time with the Trust.

### ***And now The Charity Shop has reached the £1m milestone: a truly magical feat!***

The day we spent celebrating that achievement was one of the most uplifting in memory for COT. We hope this special edition of In Touch will give a flavour of the event for those who weren't able to join us and will provide a fond keepsake for those who were.

**Joanne Creighton, Chief Executive, COT**

We would like to say a BIG "thank you" to all the staff and residents for the wonderful day you gave us at the Farm on June 15th—celebrating us reaching our first million last December 16!

The lunch was excellent - prepared by the residents and staff. The cake Sarah Ford made in the shape of a bed with a fancy quilt was stunning. Such a shame to cut it but we all enjoyed it!

The speeches before the meal brought tears to our eyes and made all our work worthwhile.

Later we split up into groups to visit either the Market Garden at Plants and Produce, Gallery or a trip around the farm to see the animals.

Some of the ladies had never been to the farm before and they thought the whole idea of it was wonderful. One of the ladies (Debbie) said she will be back with her two year old nephew as soon as he is old enough to appreciate it.

Lastly we visited two of the houses, Farmhouse and Rosemary Cottage. In Rosemary Cottage we saw the Bathroom we raised the money for with all the special equipment which must make so much difference to those who use it—and of course the staff. We had more tea and cakes and a chat with staff and residents before we headed home—such a happy atmosphere there.

On the way home we had time to look at the beautiful books we were given. The wooden plaque made at Poulton Wood for us sits proudly on our wall near the desk. Thank you all so very much.

In shop news—we have recently changed over to our summer stock at the shop and the colourful summer wear has given the shop a fresh look.

Lastly we would like to congratulate Kevin Gallagher (John and Phyllis' son), Andy Hoffman and Tim Collins who took part in the 5th Prudential Ride, London to Surrey 100 mile event on the 30th July to raise funds for COT.

**Barbara and Phyllis—and all of the Hitrade shop volunteers**









**Joanne Creighton, CEO:** “It’s a really special day for everyone at COT – for us to tell you all how much we appreciate all you do for us. People in COT want to tell you what your support means to them and we were overwhelmed by the number of people who wanted to be involved. I really hope you take away from today a sense of belonging and of being valued by us all.

**Russell Walters, Chair of Trustees:** “We’re celebrating a milestone of £1 million! Little did anyone begin to think that from just one little shop – such an amount like this would be possible!



**Catherine Henwood, Tenant of COT:** “As a tenant of COT I wanted to say something about COT and Hitrade. When I first moved to COT I was nervous about moving. But also excited about living more independently. I first lived at The Rise, then Holly, Ivy, Rock Cottage and now Ellis Drive. COT is heaven! I love my house. It’s quiet, it’s not on a busy road, we have friendly neighbours. I have everything I need. I don’t always need to rely on staff to take me out but sometimes for football and Zumba. I like walking to the shops. I love being outdoors and meeting new people and being part of a team. I work in horticulture, the Butterfly Tunnel and Craft. I really enjoyed the Hitrade discos; the food, the atmosphere, the raffle and having a good dance with everyone.”





**Ben Hillman, Tenant of COT: “Let’s hear it for Hitrade!**

They are very special people. About 15 years ago on one of our wish lists to Hitrade, I put my very first DVD player. As everyone who knows me knows—I love everything Victoriana and steam driven – so Hitrade helped me move, slightly, into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century!”



**Annie Coombes, Home Manager (Old School House) & Neil Calveley, Resident of COT: “I’d like to mention our new kitchen!**

We have lovely new units and an island and it’s just perfect. Thank you for donating it to us. Everyone knows I love a charity shop! I’ve been to the shop and I just don’t know how you raise so much – it’s a tardis! We all loved going to the Hitrade fish and chips supper events – and your raffle! It went on forever! So you also have given us a great time and memories too!”



**Fran Swain, Home Manager (Ivy&Holly) & Ian Rootes, Resident of COT: “Three cheers for Hitrade!**

I support some of our older residents in their later years to support them in retaining skills and to have a happy retirement. Hitrade has really helped us to adapt the houses – and most recently providing new chairs for Ivy Cottage.”



**Fiona Dodge, Head of Care:** “When I first joined the Trust as a young mum I was aware of the Bexley Coterie as Bea Hockey, Mother of Leigh, would always be full of stories of the many jumble sales etc that she and Leigh had helped with and how much the Coterie had raised again for COT.

A copy of our accounts in '87 shows an entry for Bexley Coterie raising £500 – and here we are, nearly 30 years later and you've reached £1 million! I've been privileged to see the difference your work has made to enhance the lives of the people in COT. There's one word that sums up COT and that's—family.

I found a quote that I believe defines Hitrade's support: Family isn't always blood; it's the people in your life who want you in theirs; the ones that accept you for who you are; the ones that would do anything to see you smile.”



**Lynn Cooke, Life Skills Manager, Poulton Wood:** “Over the years you've put a roof over our heads, clothes on our backs, gloves on our hands, put equipment in our sheds and without that we simply wouldn't be the project we are—or be able to provide the facilities we offer – or be who we are. Every time our project is overstretched we turn to you and you never let us down.

Everything we do has been underpinned by you. Thank you, wholeheartedly, from all of us at Poulton Wood.”







**Jerry Kenward, Head of Property and Infrastructure:** “Do you like my tie? It came from Hitrade. All the ties in Hitrade are £1- but they did me a special deal - £2! We’ve heard a lot of words today to describe Hitrade but I’d like to add one and that’s - responsible. I hold you all personally responsible for making it easy for this Trust to be amazing!

I don’t know a single area of this charity that hasn’t benefited in some way from the efforts of these fine people – who are our friends.

I’ve seen so many smiles as a direct result of your work – you’ve made people comfortable and to have the best possible care. It’s the difference between us and other charities – who haven’t got you supporting them.

I really am so thankful to Hitrade.”

**Davy McCollm, Farm Manager:** “The diversity of things you have funded is amazing but I bet you never imagined that you’d be funding goat houses!

Your donation of £40,000 (this donation took Hitrade over the £1 million) will be used for our Children’s Barn, which has remained unchanged for over 25 years. This work will help us take the Rare Breeds Centre forward for the next 25 years and this will make a huge difference to the funds raised for COT. So thank you for all you’ve done—in the past, now and everything we’re sure you’ll do in the future.”



**Martin Bieri, Parent and Trustee:** “I’ve been involved with the Trust for many years – my son has lived with COT for over 25 years. I have, myself been involved in fundraising. For Hitrade to have sustained yourselves for so long—and I know for some of you, you’ve been there since the beginning – it’s amazing. I’ve visited every area of the charity and everywhere you look you see Hitrade – and it’s just amazing. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”



**Maria Davies, Hitrade volunteer:**

**“I feel quite overwhelmed** by the praise you’ve given us!

I thought it might be interesting for you to hear something about how Hitrade started. A group of people, including myself and Sylvia Boyne, way, way back – got together to set up a new charity to provide homes, support and employment opportunities for people with learning difficulties. That created a huge amount of work and we needed a lot of money. We knew about this amazing group of fundraisers in the Bexley area led by Barbara and Don Cordell, Doreen and Peter Williams and Joyce and Roy Richards. In 1985 we approached them to ask them to focus on COT – thankfully they agreed! Sylvia and I joined this dedicated hardworking group of friends. We did all sorts of bring & buy sales, cake stalls, bric-a-brac, jumble sales and had large pitches at Blackheath and Danson Park. And sponsored events – like knitting! Then in 1991 came the idea of opening a charity shop – and that’s when things really began to take off! We started in a tiny little shop in



Sidcup Hill then expanded into a bigger shop that you all know now. It’s right to say thank you to our landlord Roger who’s been a tremendous help over the years. So here we are now 26 years later having raised over £1 million!

It’s all thanks to the volunteers. People take laundry home, price everything, man the tills, drag bags in and out of the garage!

The shop is always busy and we have a real community in Sidcup. After only some small expenses, all of the money raised comes here – it’s impossible to list everything we’ve funded! None of us get paid – we all do it for COT. So on behalf of the committee I want to thank all of our volunteers for all your hard work – **it’s what makes Hitrade what it is.”**



**Presentation of a photobook which is a snapshot of COT today—its diversity, its vibrancy and togetherness and a small way of giving thanks to Hitrade for being part of our charity's journey.**



**.....and a bouquet to celebrate Fran's Birthday!**





....and there's no celebration without cake! A "Million Thanks" cake!





Our food for the day was a joint effort of many people and many kitchens...we had cheese scones made by Old School House, pasta salads from Rosemary Cottage, home grown salad from Plants and Produce, home made sausage rolls and fairy cakes from Ivy and Holly Cottages, nibbles donated by COT tenants —our catering students pulled it all together with their quiches, potato salad and coleslaw made in the Granary. We hope everyone enjoyed our cooking!





After lunch—fun with the birds of prey with our bird experts—Falconer Colin and Millie his volunteer....





Afternoon tours, tea and cake and a fond farewell....













