



Our Mission

The purpose of the Old Saw Mill is to work for the benefit of the community of Congleton as a volunteer-led organisation which challenges social isolation, supports and enhances community cohesion and works to create a better, fairer and environmentally sustainable town.

What We Do

Our Café

We are open six days a week and all the food we serve is cooked on the premises by our cooks. The café is mainly managed by volunteers who just enjoy being there rather than being stuck at home. We provide opportunities for young people many of whom have special educational needs or disabilities. We are able to give them work experience opportunities through interacting with the customers and learning new skills. A number of our volunteers have gained the confidence to move on to employment opportunities elsewhere.

The Lunch Club

Every week we deliver over 90 meals to people who are isolated at home, whether they are lonely, elderly, suffer from illness or are disabled. All the food is cooked by our great cook Ruth with volunteer support. Another loyal team of volunteers, co-ordinated by the brilliant Alison, deliver the meals every Friday. Friendships have developed with the customers many of whom are lonely and isolated and look forward to their Friday visit. We are planning to increase this to 120 per week.

Space for groups to meet

Our meeting spaces are used by a range of different groups, some like the U3A pay a rental fee, other groups do not. We provide a free meeting room for BRO'S (men's mental health support), Women's health and wellbeing support group, the Repair Café, Ukrainian Support, Cheshire kids clothes swap shop, Antenatal classes, Knit and Natter and other craft groups.

Our local Police Community Support Officers hold a regular surgery and the local Credit Union has opened a branch on a Friday.

This winter we are a 'warm space' - offering opportunities for people to come to us to keep warm, play board games, chat or do craft activities.

Apple Juice and Cider

Congleton's award-winning apple juice, cider and apple cider vinegar is made on the premises. All the apples are donated by local residents from their gardens or orchards. These would otherwise be wasted. All money raised from sales of our delicious products helps to keep the place going. This year we produced well over 5000 bottles of juice and 800 litres of cider.

Benefits for you

Our sponsors get use of the meeting spaces in the Old Saw Mill included in their package. We have three meeting rooms

1. Presentation Room – can seat up to 40 people and has a projector and white wall for presentations
2. Large Meeting Room – can seat up to 8 people, boardroom style
3. Small Meeting Room – seats up to 4 people, with round table.

In addition the Old Saw Mill can provide tea/coffee and snacks, as well as a lunch service at extra cost, if required, served in your meeting or in the café downstairs.

You also get some free apple juice and your name/logo on Old Saw Mill publications and promotion.

But more than this - by becoming a sponsor, you are part of a place in the town which is having a real impact on people's lives. It makes a difference to so many people.

We are a Community Benefit Society

A community benefit society (CBS) is a form of co-operative whose purpose is designed to benefit the wider community. It is a limited company and must be registered with the Financial Conduct Authority rather than Companies House.

Anyone who subscribes to the objects of the society can become a member and is entitled to vote for the Board of Directors and may bring proposals to the annual general meeting in relation to the running of the CBS. Members can also stand for the Board of Directors. However, a CBS must not just serve its own direct community (i.e. their members) but also the wider community. CBSs are expected to ensure that any profits are used for the benefit of the community. There is thus no secondary purpose for the society.

As a CBS we have opted to have an 'asset lock'. This means that if the company ceases to exist, any assets will be distributed for the benefit of the wider community and will not be divided among the members.

Although a CBS is a registered company rather than a charity, it is in some ways closer to a charity than a business as it operates on a not-for-profit basis.

Business Sponsorship Offer

Golden Delicious Sponsor

£2000

- Your logo and declaration of support on all our communications
- Your logo and company information on our sponsors board displayed in the Old Saw Mill
- Opportunity to link with specific OSM initiatives such as Repair Shop or Community Meals
- Use of our meeting rooms up to four times per year
- A case of Apple Juice (12 bottles) for corporate use
- 10% discount card for your employees when using the café or buying apple juice.

Cox's Orange Pippin Sponsor

£1000

- Your logo and declaration of support on all our communications
- Your logo and company information on our sponsors board displayed in the Old Saw Mill
- Use of our meeting rooms twice a year, 10% discount thereafter
- Half a case of Apple Juice (6 bottles) for corporate use
- 10% discount card for your employees using the café or buying apple juice.

Russet Sponsor

£500

- Your logo and declaration of support on all communications
- Your logo and company information on our sponsors board displayed in the Old Saw Mill
- Use of a meeting room once a year, 10% discount thereafter
- 10% discount card for your employees using the café or buying apple juice.