ENRICH Berkshire
Looking beyond disability

Newsletter

October 2026

What a summer it has been!

The hot and exceptionally dry weather has certainly brought its challenges, particularly for those who already experience mobility restrictions. Now that we are enjoying the cooler temperatures and first signs of autumn, we can take a moment to look back on some of the highlights of Enrych Berkshire's summer.

Before we do, we are sorry to say goodbye to June, one of our Trustees, who has decided to step down from her role and follow a new path. However, we are delighted that June will continue to be involved with the charity as a volunteer. She is matched with one of our members, and we hope they enjoy many happy visits together.

With that said, let's look back at some of the highlights from the summer…

At the end of June, we hired Hannah for a special day out for members and volunteers. The crew were fantastic, helping to make both trips thoroughly enjoyable. Thankfully, the weather was on our side, warm but not too hot, making it the perfect day to enjoy the beautiful views, great company and some lovely refreshments. Everybody had a fantastic time, and there were plenty of smiles throughout the day. A special thank you to Tesco for their generous contribution towards to the refreshments.



One of the highlights was the opportunity for members to have a go at steering the boat, which proved to be great fun!



It was a pleasure to be able to welcome members who require a wheelchair or struggle with steps. Hannah has a lift, making the boat completely accessible and ensuring that everyone could take part and enjoy the experience together.

It was wonderful to see everyone included and able to enjoy a memorable day.



Secondly, we took our first steps into the world of outdoor events with our brand new gazebo! We are now looking at opportunities to secure funding to develop equipment and resources we need to create a really welcoming and informative stand at future events.

Our first outing was to the Berkshire Motor Show at Prospect Park, a good opportunity to get out into the local community. Being visible within the community is an important part of helping people understand what we do. It is also a great way to meet new people and, hopefully, encourage more people to join our team of volunteers.

Sadly, we had to postpone both City Arts and Walk2Enrych this year. The timing proved difficult, with events clashing with a number of other local activities as well as the summer holiday period, which made it challenging to build the level of interest we had hoped for.

We felt it was better to postpone and take the opportunity to look at how we make these events even more successful in the future. We are looking forward to both events next year.

Kings Award for Voluntary Service 2026



We were incredibly honoured to be invited to be considered for the Kings Award for Voluntary Service 2026, and we are extremely grateful to the John Sykes Foundation, who put us forward for the prestigious award.

As part of the process, we welcomed a visit from two Deputy Lieutenants, who took time to learn more about Enrych Berkshire. Thank you to the members and volunteers who also joined the meeting. They looked closely at how we operate and the difference our volunteers make. Following this visit and process, we were delighted to be nominated for the award.



We were honoured to attend a prestigious presentation at Shaw House, where we received our certificate from the Lord Lieutenant.

We are now eagerly awaiting the announcement on the King's Birthday to find out whether we have been successful in receiving the full Kings Award for Voluntary Service. Whatever the outcome, being nominated is a tremendous honour and a wonderful recognition for the charity and the whole team.

100km Ultra Marathon

The biggest challenge undertaken for Enrych Berkshire so far is a 100km Ultra Marathon, taken on by Matt from Sorce Ltd, who have been fantastic supporters of Enrych Berkshire.



Matt took on a huge challenge to push both his mind and body to their limits. Starting on Saturday 12th September in the morning, finishing on the Sunday morning, he walked through daylight and darkness, facing tiredness, fatigue, pain and the inevitable mental challenges that come with such an incredible distance.



It took an enormous amount of grit, determination and motivation to keep going, particularly through the night when the challenge became even tougher. Throughout it all, Matt was raising funds for Enrych Berkshire, and we are absolutely delighted he has raised **£1260**.

We cannot thank Matt enough for taking on such an incredible challenge, and we would also like to thank Sorce Ltd for their continued support and encouragement.

We thought it would be nice to hear a few words from Matt about his Ultra Marathon journey…..



The donations kept me going through some of the toughest moments of the challenge! This challenged me like no other event I've done before. When the fatigue, weak legs, lack of energy and heavy eyelids really kicked in, I honestly thought I was done. 198 people did not finish the 100k which is not a surprise — it was brutal and painful — but I don't quit. Awake for 28hrs with 1 hour sleep was something I wasn't prepared for, but it was Friends/Family and Enrych themselves who supported me throughout the challenge.
It was tough, painful and definitely tested me, but crossing that finish line knowing we had raised over £1k for Enrych Berkshire made every painful step worth it.
Thank you again to everyone who supported, donated and kept me going, It's a pleasure to support such an amazing charity.

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