



Reach Annual Family Weekend

Friday 25– Sunday 27 October 2024



Portsmouth Marriott Hotel
Southampton Rd, Cosham,
Portsmouth PO6 4SH

Welcome to REACH ANNUAL FAMILY WEEKEND (AFW) 2024:



On behalf of the Staff and Trustees of Reach, it gives me huge pleasure to welcome you and your family to the Reach Annual Family Weekend for 2024.

This year we have been discussing change for the organisation and its members. Our existing constitution only allows us to provide support to children up to the age of 18. We have had a series of very productive consultative meetings with all our Branch Coordinators to plan and deliver the changes needed for us to maintain support services to our members after the age of 18. I'm sure you will agree that these years are very formative years for all our children and that at this stage in the development of Reach, we should extend support to our young adults.

We will be asking you for your ideas at this Annual Family Weekend. Please feel free to participate in the discussion by using the "Idea's Wall", to have your say by leaving a Video Diary entry or by dropping a postcard to us in the AFW Post-box. Above all, don't forget to give us your vote to modernise the Articles of Association/Constitution so that we may be permitted to extend the support of Reach Charity to adults as well as children. It is most important to our children who have now passed the age of 18 that they can continue to support each other on their life's journey and that they enthusiastically "give back" to the children of Reach on their individual journeys.

Christopher Creamer, REACH Chair

Ground Floor



**AFW 2024 -
Portsmouth Marriott
EVENT MAP**

The AFW EVENT SCHEDULE at-a-glance

DAY 1 - Friday 25 October 2024 Hotel Check-in from 3pm

4.30pm: Reach Reception opens in the Cast Iron Bar at the Portsmouth Marriott. Come and meet the team, register for the weekend, and drop off any prizes you want to donate to Saturday's raffle.

The Reach shop will open for the Welcome Reception

6-8pm Welcome Reception in the Cast Iron Bar, Mary Rose & Chichester Suites – Come and meet the Reach Trustees, some of our Ambassadors, Branch Coordinators, and Exhibitors and maybe a guest speaker or two! and we are to be serenaded by musician and Reach member, Sarah Chaplin.

DAY 2 – Saturday 26 October 2024

Breakfast served in the Cast Iron Grill from **6.30am!** Breakfast baps, pastries & fruit available from **8am** in the Chichester Suite for later risers'

The REACH Conference **9.30am-4pm**
(Annual General Meeting: **11.40am**)

18-25 Workshop **10-11.30am** - help us shape the future of Reach...coffee-cake-creativity promised and a drinks voucher for later!!

Meet the Exhibitors **4-6pm** We have 9 Exhibitors with us this year - cutting edge Prosthetics Makers, Charities, Foundations and Organisations enriching/extending the experience of people with upper limb difference.

Children's Creche and Young People's Workshops **9am-4pm & 6-9.30pm**
(lunch included)

Children & Young Peoples Tea: **5-6pm**

The REACH GALA DINNER **7pm-1am**

The REACH FAMILY SUPPER CLUB **6.30pm-9.30pm**

DAY 3 – Sunday 27 October 2024

Join Emma, British Triathlon Pathway Coach and Claire Cashmore MBE for some Paratriathlon related fun in the Heritage Suite **10-11.30am**

Meet the Branch Coordinators – these are the people all over the UK volunteering their time to run branch events and keep us connected at a local level **11.30am-12.30pm** in the **Heritage Suite**

Location for Sunday workshops may change to the Mary Rose Suite - we will let you know on Sunday morning where we are!!

The Reach Annual Family Weekend 2024

Programme of Events

Friday 25 October 2024

4.30pm:	Reach Reception, Shop & Swop Shop opens in the Cast Iron Bar
6.-8pm	Welcome buffet in the Mary Rose & Chichester Suites - come and have a bite to eat, meet the Reach Trustees, Ambassadors, Guest Speakers, and Branch Coordinators.
6-8pm	Also, with us for the Welcome Reception, Pianist Sarah Chaplin & Face painter, Marshie Sparkles NB: The Reach Shop is our designated Meeting Point for the Event.

Saturday 26 October

REACH Conference & AGM in The Mary Rose Suite

TIME	GUEST SPEAKER	PRESENTATION THEME
9am	Conference doors open	Come and meet the Exhibitors in the Cast Iron Bar on your way into conference - they will be there all day, and later you can meet them with your children.
9.30am – 12.45pm AFW 24 Conference Morning Session	MC Alastair Greener & Reach Ambassador Melissa Johns	Welcome to AFW 24 at the Portsmouth Marriott
	Elmarie O'brien	Reach Adventurer
	Lucy Sherrington	Studying Medicine with a Limb Difference
	Charlotte Fielder MBE	From Border Force to Battersea
	Time to grab of coffee and come back for...	
	Briony May Williams	Coffee & cake with mum on the sofa
	Chair Chris Creamer	REACH AGM
12.45-1.45pm	LUNCH Buffet Style in the Cast Iron Grill	Last call to let know Sabrina where you want to sit for the Gala Dinner – she's been roped in to do the seating plan!

1.45-4pm AFW 24 Conference Afternoon Session	MC Alastair Greener & Reach Ambassador Frank Letch Welcome back	
	Paul Carter BBC Click Reporter	Accessible Gaming
	Max Swinhoe Within Reach Editor	The Layers of Life...So far!
	James Thompson	From Airline Pilot to Salesman and back again
	Its ability not Disability that Matters, Young athlete Meghan Willis shares her story with us and Claire Cashmore MBE	
Reality TV Stars Jay Howard & Mollie Pearce on the Sofa with Alastair G Living with a limb difference		
4PM	CRECHE CLOSSES	Please remember to pick up your child!

Saturday 26 October in the Havant Suite

10-11.30am	18-25 Workshop with Mentor Tony A, adventurer Elmarie O'Brien and Founder of The Craftivist Collective, Sarah Corbett.	Incentive: Chats, creative bits, coffee & cake + a drinks voucher for the Gala Dinner!
11.40am	Come and Vote in the AGM	Incentive: Look after Reach & Lunch!

Saturday 26 October in the Cast Iron Bar

4-6pm	Meet the Exhibitors	Once you are reunited with your children come and meet the exhibitors - see Page 13 to see who is coming
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Saturday 26 October

Children & Young Peoples Activity & Workshop Schedule-Daytime

NB Only children and young people registered to the creche, and activities can attend.

TIME	LOCATION/MENTORS	ACTIVITY	NEED TO KNOW
9am-4pm	Age band: 3 and over Heritage Suite (Near entrance to hotel, on the left-hand side if you were leaving see site map Page 2) Age band: 0-2 Arundel Southsea & Hurst Suite Registration table opposite the Victory Suite (please see Floor Plan P2) Your RAW Mentors Liam, Ethan, Fran, Izi and the Nipperbout Team	<u>Nipperbout</u> Creche Spy Academy –Nipperabout Creche Spy Academy – Treasure hunts, laser courses, build a spy HQ and lots more! See a full description on P.13	You need to register with Nipperbout pre-event. + BOLDkids need consent pre-event also. Ashley will provide a creche kit list with joining information.

TIME	LOCATION/MENTORS	ACTIVITY	NEED TO KNOW
8.45am	Near the Portsmouth Marriott Reception Desk. (Near entrance to hotel, on the right-hand side if you were leaving – see site map (page 1) Your Mentors: Chris, Chris K, Gemma, Tom S, Bonnie, Justin & Jess from Hillside	<u>Fort Purbrook Activity Centre</u> Meet up with your Mentors and get on the coach Young people aged 8-17 (72 places only)	*Wear comfy clothes you can move around in easily and sturdy trainers you don't mind getting dirty. Layer up in case it gets cold and bring a light raincoat. You don't need lunch with you, Fort Purbrook providing.
9am	Coach to Fort Purbrook.	Young people aged 8-17 + Mentors travel from the Portsmouth Marriott short distance to Fort Purbrook.	Returning for afternoon activities at the hotel at 1.15pm
9.30am-1.15pm	Fort Purbrook Activity Centre Your Mentor team for the morning: Chris F, Esther, Chris K, Gemma, and Tom S all Reach Volunteers and Bonnie, Justin & Jess from Hillside Youth Club who will be with you in the evening too.	Activities include: Lazer Quest, Initiative Test (think Chrystal Maze), String trail, Rifle, Archery & Arts & Crafts	*As above
		Mini Olympics with Paralympian Claire Cashmore	
		Lunch and Medal Ceremony at Fort Purbrook	
1.00-1.15pm	Coach back to hotel	Young people aged 8-17 + Mentors travel back from Fort Purbrook to the Portsmouth Marriott	Ready for the afternoon activity programme beginning at 1.30pm

PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Please remember children and young people are the responsibility of their parents and carers when not participating in Saturdays Activity Workshop programme.

NB: If you are breastfeeding and would prefer a quiet space to feed your baby, we have a Green room for the AFW Event Team, Guest Speakers etc and we are all happy for you to have use of this space – It's called the Victory Suite – detailed on event map P2. Just let SJ or Ashley know and we can arrange it.

1.30-4pm	Portsmouth Marriott Your Mentor team for the afternoon: Chris F, Fran, Chris K, Colm, Izi, Charlotte, Gemma, Will & Sarah, Bonnie, Jess & Justin from Hillside.	Young Peoples Afternoon Activity Programme For young people aged 8-17	
	Havant & Chichester Suites with Gaming Influencer, Jesse Velosa in the house	Gaming with Player Ready 2 Hero Zone VR Mobile Gaming Arenas + Minecraft.	Capacity 12 in each workshop: 6 playing and 6 watching/playing Minecraft.
	Cast Iron Grill	The Splats Circus Juggling, spinning, ribbon & poi – It's all going on!	Capacity: 12 Wear comfy clothing you can move in
	Dance Studio	Passing the baton to the next generation of DJ's... DJ Masterclass with DJ Matt Howes	Capacity: 12 X2 workshops Lots of watching, learning, some opportunity to try out the decks
	Bosham Suite	Games Maker Workshop with Tom Gillo, Chief Creative Officer at nDreams, whose recent hits include the VR games, Phantom: Covert Ops, Ghostbusters: Rise of the Ghost Lord and Synapse & Portsmouth Uni Graduate, Aurora Nicholas. Sharing insight into joining the games design industry in 2024.	
	The Porchester Suite, 7th Floor	Yoga sessions with Koalaa	Yoga session with Koalaa need to know: Wear comfy clothing you can stretch in. Let Ashley know before if you want to try out a Nicola Pro at the Yoga session.
4pm	Time to pick up/meet up with your child/young person.	Creche and Young Peoples Activities finish for the afternoon	Back at 6pm!
4-6pm	The Bar Mentors off getting ready for the Gala Dinner!!	Meet the Exhibitors + Splats - fun for all the family!!	All Welcome!
5-6pm	Cast Iron Grill with parents and carers	Warm Buffet for children and young people going to creche/evening activities.	We have the menu so please let Ashley know if you want to see it beforehand.

Saturday 26 October - Evening Schedule

TIME	LOCATION/MENTORS	ACTIVITY	NEED TO KNOW
6pm-9.30pm	Children 3-10: The Heritage Suite Children 0-2: Hurst, Arundel & Southsea (see Floor Plan P2)	Creche reopens for children age 0-10	
6pm	Near the Portsmouth Marriott Reception Desk. (Near entrance to hotel, on the right-hand side if you were leaving – see site map (page 2) Check-in with the Bonnie & Jess and Justin & Jo from Hillside Youth Centre.	Young people 11+ First Stop: Hillside Youth Club and then it's on to Playzone for an exclusive session!	Wear comfy trainers and layers – we're walking everywhere!! Dress code: Long trousers, long tops and socks. No shorts, short skirts, crop tops or short tops. No sharp jewellery or long necklaces.
6-7pm	Mary Rose Foyer & Chichester Suite	Gala Dinner Pre-drinks with a Saxophonist and everyfink!!	Get your glad rags on! Dress Code: No Jeans or Trainers otherwise it's up to you!
6.30pm	Cast Iron Grill	Family Supper Club Mealtime A chance to eat all together with your children and other Reach families.	Menu available - please preorder.
7pm	The Mary Rose Suite	Doors open for the AFW 2024 Gala Dinner!	Doors open for the AFW 2024 Gala Dinner!
7.30-9.30pm	Chichester Suite	Family Supper Club Playtime Time to relax with your family and other Reach families in a quieter space where you can chat. The Splats Circus will be with you and your children for your amusement.	There will be a bar open in Mary Rose Foyer... where you can get drinks
7.15pm	The Mary Rose Suite	Master of Ceremonies, Alastair Greener and Ambassador, Melissa Johns welcome you to the Gala Dinner	Warning: Party games might be involved!!
7.30pm	The Mary Rose Suite	Dinner is Served	

TIME	LOCATION/MENTORS	ACTIVITY	NEED TO KNOW
8.45-9.30pm	The Mary Rose Suite	The REACH AUCTION with Melissa Johns in the Auctioneer Hot Seat	
9.30pm	Teenagers return from Playzone NIPPERBOUT CRECHE CLOSES		
9.30pm-1AM	GALA DINNER LATE NIGHT SESSION: Young people returning from Playzone and Family Supper Club families welcome but... Maximum capacity: 230. You need to have booked on with Ashley		
At some point between 10.00-11pm:	The Mary Rose Suite	Live Band AND Mr Alex Brooker LIVE ON STAGE!	Theme – adult - disability - no holds barred!!
11pm-1am	The Mary Rose Suite	DJ Matt Howes takes to the decks	
1am	Time for bed		

Sunday Morning - 27 October - Schedule

TIME	LOCATION/MENTORS	ACTIVITY	NEED TO KNOW
7.30-10.30	Cast Iron Grill & Bar	Breakfast!!	Much needed!!
10-11.15am	Chichester Suite	Branch Coordinator Fundraising Workshop	With coffee and cake, we promise!
10-11.30am	Heritage Suite or Marie Rose Suite TBC - we will let you know on the day!	Time to shake it off with Emma & Tom, Triathlon Pathway Coaches Family Session & maybe if we're lucky a visit from Paralympian Claire Cashmore MBE. '+ BOLDKids Problem Solving Challenge for children age 5-7'	Wear comfy clothes, and trainers, this is a fun session, nothing too gruelling!
11.30am-12.30pm	Mary Rose Suite	Meet the Branch Coordinators Sit and have a chat with our Branch Coordinators and hear what's happening across the UK	With well earned coffee and cake!
12.30pm	Delta at Marriott, Portsmouth	Time to say bye-bye until next year	AFW 2025:Swansea Marriott 17-19 October 2025



Our MC:

We're delighted to welcome back Alastair Greener as our MC, a role he first took on for us in 2014. As well as an accomplished event host, master of ceremonies and moderator Alastair is a TV presenter with over 25 years' experience. He is also a communications expert, working with corporate clients while delivering keynote speeches specialising in generational communication. With his training company, Present Yourself, Alastair helps people communicate more effectively online, on stage and on camera.

"I love coming to the family weekends and feel grateful to everyone over the years for making me feel welcome in this special family."

Our Guest Speakers AFW 2024:



Melissa Johns

Welcome to AFW 2024
Melissa opens the AFW 24 Conference & is our Auctioneer at the AFW 24 Gala Dinner. As an actor Melissa is on our screens a lot! Roles include Hannah Taylor in Mike Bartlett's BBC

One drama LIFE, Imogen in Coronation Street and now Miss Scott in ITV drama, Grantchester. Melissa is also a writer, producer and community builder as founder of Bafta winning Triple C which this year launched a free accessible Youth Theatre and DANC, The Disabled Artists Networking Community, making change and challenging inequality in the arts. We are honoured to have Melissa with us at this crucial time as we look to widen our scope as a charity – thank you Melissa! [@melissa_johns_1](#)



Elmarie O'Brien

The Adventures of Elmarie O'Brien: This year Elmarie took to the water in a canoe and paddled and/or walked her way around New Zealand - hear her

story... "The AGM weekend feels like coming home, there's so much love and support from everyone at Reach."



Lucy Sherrington

Studying Medicine with a Limb Difference

I am so excited to attend my first Reach family weekend this year. I remember my time at Reach meet ups

throughout my childhood very fondly and was lucky enough to attend one last summer too. I am looking forward to the opportunity to meet so many more people just like me, as well as hearing from the other speakers. I've just completed my first year studying Graduate Entry Medicine in London. I'll be discussing why I wanted to study medicine, any particular barriers I found while applying and any I have found so far during my studies, as well as what it has been like studying medicine with a limb difference, including the adjustments that have been made for me.



Charlotte Fielder MBE

From Border force to Battersea I have been part of the Reach family for many years.

I will be remembered by some members as the researcher and author of Shared Experiences, which was published at the Reach Family Weekend, in Dublin in October 2009. Of course, Reach has many new members since then, so I am delighted to be joining the AFW in October 2024 to talk about my experiences of limb difference in the workplace. I will share some learned experiences about challenges and highlight the benefits of having honest conversations about reasonable adjustments. For example, when I moved into Border Force, I had to learn a one-handed technique for putting on handcuffs! In 2013, I changed career and consequently I had to pass the practical element of my 'Safety Around Dogs' training at Battersea Dogs & Cats Home. I prefer to say that I'm informed by my limb difference, and not defined by it – this has meant that my life, career, and voluntary work have benefited from the insights that living with limb difference has given me. I have used those insights to support and encourage others on their journey. @charlottefielder



Briony May Williams

Coffee & cake with mum on the sofa...we are so looking forward to attending the Reach Family Weekend.

Reach was such an incredible support to my family when I was growing up so we can't wait to get to know the current members and their families. I will be sitting down with my mum, Colleen, to have an open and honest chat about raising a child with an upper limb difference. From birth to adulthood, we want to open up discussions about the struggles my mum has faced and overcome over the years as well as the joys and pride of everything we have accomplished. @brionymaybakes



Ambassador Frank Letch

Advocate, Teacher, Mayor, Councillor, Frank Letch is with us all weekend, and welcomes us to the AFW 24 Conference afternoon

session. Frank is expert in DLA (Disability Living Allowance) and has supported many Reach families over the years. Many moons ago it was Frank that hatched the plan for RAW (Reach Activity Week) - fast forward 20 years + and we're looking to do the same again for young adults 18-25! But it's the children and young people Frank wants to hear from this AFW. Look out for the Ideas Wall, the Post Box, and the Diary Room. Frank is also sharing his knowledge and skills as a community fundraiser at the Branch Coordinator Fundraising Workshop on the Sunday – thank you Frank for 'representing' across the weekend.



Paul Carter

Accessible Gaming.

Paul is a BBC presenter and reporter. He makes programmes about technology and travel

including TechXplore and BBC Click. He is lucky enough to travel all over the world looking at incredible things and meeting amazing people. Born with a limb difference in both arms and legs, Paul specialises in inclusive and adaptive technology, and is interested in how tech can make the world more accessible for everyone. @paulcarter

Max Swinhoe



The layers of life...so far! I'm Max. I don't have two arms, but I don't just have one. I'm shy but I'm confident. I'm brave but scared. I'm easy-going

and uptight. Optimistic but realistic. I am all of these things, all of the time, because I'm human and I don't fit in a box. And it's a combination of these ever-evolving characteristics and my upper limb difference that have been the reason for many of my life experiences so far... Max, 35, is a keen hiker, climber, cold-water-dipping Mountain Rescue volunteer, SARDA Wales volunteer and Reach Mentor. When she's not on a mountain or volunteering, she's a freelance copywriter and the proud editor of Within Reach Magazine.



James Thompson

From Airline Pilot to Salesman and back again

I'm really looking forward to seeing some familiar faces and meeting some new

ones this October in Portsmouth. I'm really fortunate to be back flying aircraft after a three-year hiatus and updating you all on my career journey. Reach has been a great support during my childhood, and I hope to inspire and motivate some of the current Reach children to want to be pilots in the future!

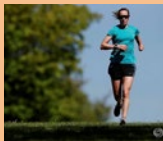


Meghan Willis

Hi, I am Meghan Willis, and I am a 16-year-old S9 para-swimmer from South Wales. I have been a member

of Reach for most of my life and have grown up, attending the Annual Family Weekends watching Reach members like Claire Cashmore and Holly Arnold share their successes in their sports and am looking forward to sharing my journey so far with Claire and everyone this year. I love the AFW!

I am a GBR para-swimmer on the World Class Pathway and was lucky enough to have represented Wales at the last Commonwealth Games as the youngest member of Team Wales. Having just passed my GCSE's I can't wait for what the future holds next.

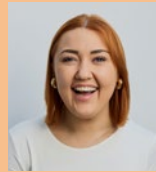


On the sofa with... Claire Cashmore MBE

Ambassador Claire Cashmore is with us

for the whole weekend (subject to races) Meghan has grown up watching Claire C on TV, at AFW events and now she's going to be on the sofa with Claire talking about being a world class athlete. Claire is also popping up to Fort Purbrook for a mini-Olympic medal ceremony and on Sunday is

joining the Triathlon Para Pathway team for a Reach Family Work Out – join them if you dare. Thank you, Claire, for 'representing'



Jay Howard & Mollie Pierce on the Sofa with Alastair G

Living with a limb difference. This is going to be a discussion with myself

and Mollie about what it was like growing up with a limb difference. We will be talking all things from being a child and similar experiences at school etc, to all experiences such as dating, friendships and how our families have helped in our older years. This will then end the conversation on how we've learnt to love and accept ourselves which has built our confidence up!

And finally, last but by no means least Live onstage at the Reach Gala Dinner:



Alex Brooker

TV presenter, sports journalist and inspiration, Alex's career spans from reporting and interviewing at the 2012 Summer Paralympics alongside co-hosting The Last

Leg, now in its 31st series. Most recently confronting his disability without jokes Alex's documentary My Disability and Me shares his journey. "For the audience to see someone like me, and not be staring at my hands and be listening to what I'm saying, is a big step forward. People aren't seeing it as defining me, it's just one aspect." And this year coming SECOND in The Masked Singer!! alex_brooker

A wonderful crew of guest speakers gifting their time to share their stories, journey, learning and experience with Reach families - thank you!!

AFW 2024 Children & Young Peoples Workshop Providers

Nipperbout Creche:

Back by popular demand! The team at Nipperbout, last with us in Bristol, 2022 will be with us onsite on Saturday providing exciting and educational childcare during the day for children aged 0-7 and, in the evening, 0-11.

With 32 years of providing childcare to global events, leading exhibitions, conferences, meetings and world-renowned festivals, Nipperbout is a highly experienced Ofsted-accredited service skilled in caring for babies, looking after little ones and amusing young people.

Situated in the same venue, you will be able to drop your child with the Nipperbout team before enjoying all AFW has to offer knowing they are just a few minutes away, well cared for and entertained.

This year the theme for creche is Spy Academy ([Spy Theme Video here](#)). With age-appropriate entertainment, your little ones will tackle the Nipperbout laser course, train their senses, head out on a treasure hunt to forage for items of interest, mix their own mocktails, pit their wits in card games, build a spy HQ and more. All in addition to the usual Nipperbout activities of dress up, arts and crafts, quiet time, reading, dance and exercise classes, a huge variety of games, and nutritious food.

"My son loved his time at Nipperbout. He even asked for it as a birthday present!"

You can find out more about Nipperbout, their ethos, history, famed



'Purple People' team and all they offer the children in their care at nipperbout.com.

The main creche space is the Heritage Suite at the front of the building near the entrance on the left-hand side if you were leaving – please see event map page 1.

Please note only families who have booked on and registered with Nipperbout can use the creche.

Fort Purbrook Activity Centre



For young people 8 and over (Saturday morning 9am-1.30pm)

Your mission today...

You are off to the Fort that sits high on the hill above Portsmouth - as the crow flies its less than a mile from the hotel but its big and its forbearing! Once inside, are you getting out?

Activities include Laser, Initiative test, Archery, Arts & Crafts, String-trail, Rifle. Get through all of this and then it's time for a Mini Olympics followed by lunch and medal ceremony with Paralympian Claire Cashmore MBE (subject to races) Have Fun at the Fort!

Saturday Afternoon Workshops for young people aged 8 and over

Player Ready who operate Virtual Reality, Coding and Minecraft Clubs at 5 Venues across the Southeast are bringing 2 Hero Zone VR Mobile Gaming Arenas & 6 Minecraft stations to the hotel for your immersive pleasure. VR experiences include Cook'd-Up, Cyber Shock, Dead Ahead and Arrowsong. The arenas can cater for 6 at a time! So, you can play alongside friends, old and new!

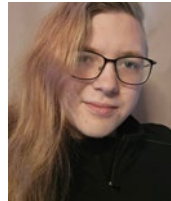
We are very excited that Content Creator and Gamer Extraordinaire, Jesse will be helping out in the Arenas on Saturday afternoon! + Reality TV Stars, Jay Howard & Mollie Pierce have also promised to visit!!

Games Maker Workshop with Tom Gillo & Aurora Nicholas



Tom Gillo is a veteran of the Video Games Industry, having worked for and with some of the most successful Platforms, Publishers and Developers

since the mid-1990s, including LEGO, PlayStation and Meta. He's witnessed the growth and evolution of the industry from a sometimes maligned and frowned-upon medium through to the enormous global phenomenon that it is today. Tom will share some of his personal journey and insights, talk about the cultural changes that have moved the industry towards a culturally diverse, inclusive and representative medium enjoyed by all.



"Hi, I'm Aurora, I have a degree in Computer Games Technology (BSc) from the University of Portsmouth, with a focus in VR/AR and generalist

programming. I've developed projects in Unity, Unreal Engine and GoDot, and got started with programming through creating Minecraft mods. My favourite games of all time must be Minecraft, Factorio, Cyberpunk and Life is Strange. I'm hoping to be able to share some insight into joining the games design industry in 2024, and the exciting advancements in recent years making games easier than ever to make."



Splats Circus Skills Workshop

"A brilliant way to bring the community together."

Are with us for the afternoon and evening on Saturday 26th October – see Workshop Schedule P4.

Join us for a bit of fun for all the family. we guessed there was room for a bit of juggling, diabolo, poi, plate spinning, pedal-go and stilts!



DJ Masterclass with Matt Howes **@matthowes**

"A lot has happened since my last appearance at a reach event - I have toured the world, had a national radio

show, set a world record & worked with platinum selling artists. Now in a different place in my career, I'm looking forward to passing the baton to the next generation of DJ's & am really excited to deliver a workshop masterclass to any aspiring reach DJs at this year's AFW." Matt is with us for the afternoon AND evening - LIVE ONSTAGE AT THE GALA DINNER!!

Join Koalaa for an adaptive yoga session!

"There's an exciting opportunity to join us for an adaptive yoga session at this year's AFW! This unique session, hosted by limb different yoga teacher Kim Hughes, is designed to create a safe, welcoming space where you can experience the benefits of yoga.

During the session, you'll have the exciting opportunity to trial Koalaa's prosthetic tool designed for yoga. However, prosthetics are not essential - we encourage everyone to join! Can't wait to see you on the mat!"



All workshops finish and the creche closes at 4pm in time for you to pick your children up and come and meet the Exhibitors and The Splats Circus in the Cast Iron Bar **Nipperbout** creche reopens at 6pm for children and young people aged 0-10

Saturday evening session for young people aged 11 and over:

A drop in at Hillside with the Hillside Team and then...

An exclusive session at The Playzone

"A fantastic indoor play centre.

There are huge slides, rope walkways,



fireman's poles, tumble towers, up and over pads, bish-bash bags..... the list goes on and on!" and its ALL YOURS on SATURDAY NIGHT!!

And then...

Back to the hotel for a bop or bed!

All children and young people's activities finish and creche closes at 9.30pm on Saturday evening. Time for a bop, time for bed – the choice is yours!

Sunday morning - Fun for all the family!

You might be feeling a bit weary, your thoughts might be turning to the trip home but...

We have two more treats in store for you:



Join Emma Springham, British Triathlon Pathway Coach and Paralympian Claire Cashmore MBE for some Paratriathlon related fun in the Heritage Suite.



emma who runs British Triathlons national programme: Active Skills for ...fe inspiring

young people to Swim-Bike-Run will share some of their activities with us on Sunday morning. Self-proclaimed as 'bonkers' Emma has promised to keep it gentle... Ambassador, Claire C will be there to keep it real! subject to races

"Your children will remember it forever."

Our Exhibitors:

Our Exhibitors will be with us all day with a special dedicated family session 4-6pm on Saturday 26 October in The Cast Iron Bar.

KOALAA, on a mission to make prosthetics accessible, affordable and comfortable, for anyone on the planet.

Creators of soft Prosthetics KOALAA innovate to make bespoke tools to help children, young people and adults with upper limb differences do the things they want to do.

[Project Limitless](#), delivered in partnership with the Douglas Bader Foundation has provided over 300 children and young people in the UK with a prosthetic arm.

Koalaa have gone the extra mile over and over with Reach, coming along to help on branch events, making activities like climbing, surfing and at AFW 24, yoga accessible to all. Come and meet the team: "We will be bringing Koalaa prosthetics and [Nicole \(yoga\) tools](#) for anyone to 'try before you buy' with the opportunity to be fitted and purchase throughout the day.

THE BOLDKIDS TEAM is a unique collaboration between Professor Tamar Makin, an expert on brain plasticity at the University of Cambridge (MRC CBU), and Dr Dorothy Cowie, an expert on motor development at her Durham University Movement Lab.

Despite their missing limb(s), children with limb differences develop remarkable motor skills, making use of different body parts to independently explore the world. As a group, we are interested in how these unique motor skills and adaptations interface with brain plasticity (the brain's ability to change and adapt to our experiences in life) as the children develop.

We study everyday behaviour and brain development in children with limb differences, aiming to keep building a better understanding of the amazing ways in which these children develop to not only cope with, but thrive with, their limb differences. Your child can take part in one of our games while they are in the creche, or you can chat to us about our findings in The Cast Iron Bar.

We look forward to seeing you there!

EXPAND PROSTHETICS makes 3D printed prosthetics for kids that can grow with them! We make lightweight body powered prosthetics in exciting colours. Come and say hello at our stand and try one out for yourself.

OTTOBOCK is the world's leading manufacturer of prosthetic, orthotic and human mobility solutions

"Mobility is the key to living life on your own terms – for people in any age group. Our prosthetic solutions are designed to





keep you moving with the best possible quality of life” Ottobock is a long-term associate and supporter of Reach as a charity, we are honoured to have them with us at AFW 24.

[LimbPower](#) support amputees, individuals with limb difference and their families to bridge the gap between hospital rehabilitation and community and school engagement to rebuild lives and improve physical, social and mental well-being. Each year LimbPower run events and programmes all over the UK to encourage and promote physical activity. They partner with Para Sports Bodies to enable participation. As members of the #LLLDAM collective we get to collaborate with LimbPower. This year we were invited to their Annual Family Fun Day at Stoke Mandeville and in November we are sharing a climbing event at Redpoint being mounted by the amazing James Rudge of [The Grit Collective](#). Come and meet the LimbPower team to find out what’s going on in your area, and how you can get involved.

Given the gaming theme for Saturday afternoon we are so pleased to have with us: [SPECIAL EFFECTS](#) Gaming Charity changing lives, putting fun and inclusion back into the lives of physically disabled people across the world.

“We’ve been helping gamers with physical challenges to play to the very best of their individual abilities since 2007, and our team of specialist occupational therapists and technologists have a huge amount of shared experience in looking beyond the technology and taking into account your very specific personal circumstances and physical abilities.”

We are honoured to have with us the [PARATRIATHLON PATHWAY TEAM](#). Their job is to deliver the paratriathlon programme which has identified and is developing athletes, with the potential to perform at a world class level like our very own Reach Ambassador Claire Cashmore. Their focus for the past few years has been the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, now they are looking to the future and want to meet you and your children to see whether they can spark an interest, that might grow into a life-time passion... Come and meet Tom and Emma to find out more.

[POLAND SYNDROME SUPPORT NETWORK \(PIP-UK\)](#)

There are many children born in the UK and across the world with a rare syndrome called [Poland Syndrome](#). Very little is known about Poland Syndrome and it’s hard to find the right people in the know in the medical community.



At PIP-UK we want to change this situation and make sure people get access to the right information for them, at the right time! Our blog has videos on all sorts of things like how to tie shoelaces. There are stories which demonstrate that Poland Syndrome should not hold you back from anything! We are honoured to have Kim Daybell, PIP-UK Ambassador as a Guest Speaker at this year's AFW conference.

OPCARE is the largest provider of prosthetic services to the NHS in the UK and also a major provider of orthotics, posture and mobility services.

Opcare services involve the assessment, design, manufacture and fitting of artificial limbs. Clinical Director of Opcare, Dominic Hannett is an old friend and advocate for Reach Charity and is usually with us for AFW but this year he's

taking his clinical team on an adventure challenge a long way from Portsmouth, luckily for us some of the Opcare Team are staying behind in the UK and are coming along to meet you.

IRWIN MITCHELL'S reputation for helping clients and their families with a wide range of personal legal issues is second to none. Our highly specialised team combines powerful legal knowledge and experience with care and consideration to ensure that clients receive the best possible support & guidance.

OVER THE WALL is a national charity that provides free residential and virtual activity camps for children and young people with health challenges, their siblings and families.

Our Supporters:

Big thanks to Ambassadors Alex Brooker, Briony May Williams & Claire Cashmore & all the Reach members and friends for donating fabulous auction lots and raffle prizes this year. Thank you to Twist Events and DJ Donovan for their support of Matts DJ workshop & Late Night Gala session.

A special thank you to The Events Team at Delta Hotels at the Marriott, Portsmouth (especially Mani) for their kindness, patience, and support in making the Reach Family Weekend 2024 the best that it can be – thank you!

We also want to thank and give credit to our Event Photographer, Phil Paxton who is gifting his time to document AFW 24 in pictures and film. We will share these pics and reels on social media from the event, and on our website after. Please make sure you have completed a photo consent form before the event and please tell us if you don't want pictures of your family sharing and provide us with a photo so we can

make sure we honour your wishes efficiently email: ashleyb@reach.org.uk

Thanks to AFW Producer James Jones, Virtual Studio Events, the event will also be live streamed to Reach members across the UK who want to be with us and can't join us in person, so again, if you don't wish to be filmed, please let us know.

And lastly, but my no means least, we want to say thank you to all of the volunteers are giving their time to make AFW 24 happen, thank you to the RAW Mentors and 18-25 Volunteers enabling the young people's activities, thank you to the Reach Team who are going above and beyond to pull all of this together, thank you to the Branch Coordinators and Reach Trustees helping backstage, onstage & front of house. Thank you Rita for running the shop (again) and to the wonderful Sian for being our AFW guru and Gala Dinner Guide (again) Thank you!!!!

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

AFW 2025 17-19 October 2025

The Delta Hotel Swansea

Watch out for our EARLY BIRD RATE, going live Christmas 24.

Three firsts for AFW:

We're coming to Wales

We're staying in a Beach Hotel

And it's all ours for the weekend



The Swansea Marriott Hotel

If you have any questions/queries re programme or have a safeguarding concern, please contact:

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