

Enabling people to reach their full potential

2025 Happy New Year

Well, here we are, another year over with, and a new one beginning, many blank pages in the diary, so let's write a good one. We are looking forward to a new year of exciting opportunities and we hope you all have a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

As we look back over last year, we realize what an outstanding year it has been for STEPScic. There have been many successful achievements made in 2024, and we would like to take this opportunity to recognize the skills, hard work and commitment of our staff who have worked hard to enable our attendees to make steps towards their chosen goals and aspirations.

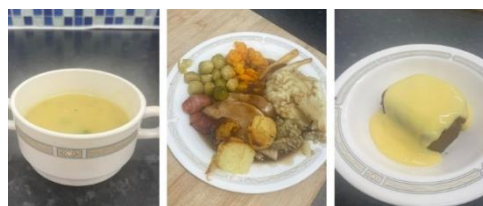
STEPScic attendees and family members ended the year with our annual Christmas party, this took place at St Williams club in Ince. With a welcome Bucks Fizz on arrival and a delicious hot buffet we were then treated to a fantastic night of music, dance and live entertainment. With Michaela entertaining us, Cassidy catering for providing the food and [St Williams Social Club Ince](#) for hosting the event. We thoroughly enjoyed our evening of festive fun.



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For a week in December, we thoroughly enjoyed our Christmas lunches week. With a delicious three course Christmas dinner provided on each day followed by a fun afternoon of prize bingo, karaoke, Christmas movies, tombola's and gameshows, we can certainly say we have had a fantastic week of festive fun.



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As part of our building up to December and Christmas theme, our art groups worked incredibly hard over a few weeks to create their animated 'Christmas Special'. They have collaborated to make their miniature figures, set, storyline and special effects before filming their short stop motion films. Please check our website link to view one group's film on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9qcaDuHaxA&t=2s>



In our last newsletter we informed you all that we had been nominated for a **Wigan Business Awards**, for 'Employer of the Year'. We were then shortlisted as a finalist for the award. Although we did not win the award, we still felt like winners and was very grateful for the nomination and was proud to be a finalist. We enjoyed a great evening at the ceremony, food, drink, live entertainment and we finished off the evening dancing the night away. Huge congratulations to all the winners on the evening.



Huge congratulations to STEPScic attendees as they completed their sponsored walk in September. Walking three Kilometers around the local area they smashed their steps count to raise money for the Ince War memorial that now stands on Smithy Green in the recently completed memorial garden. All those who took part received a small gift of recognition for their achievement. Our attendees raised a staggering £1150.00. Thank you to everyone that sponsored us.



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October 2024 marked the unveiling of the Ince War memorial at the memorial garden at Smithy Green, Ince. We were proud to be part of this event and were able to hand over the money raised from our sponsored walk. Thank you again to everyone that took part and those who sponsored us.



Community connection

After seeing a social media post that the 🐝 **Standish Busy Bees** 🐝 seed swap box had been vandalised, we happily volunteered to carry out the repairs. The works had been completed and it can once again take its place in the memorial garden to serve the members of the **Standish Community**.



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In October we were visited by Penguin, Custard, Marmalade and Curly Wurly Colin. They were the most amazing alpacas from [Poppywood Alpacas](#). This was a new experience for many of our attendees but was described as 'the best day' as we got to touch, stroke and feed the Alpacas whilst learning some interesting facts. We would like to take this opportunity to thank [Poppywood Alpacas](#) for a thoroughly enjoyable experience.



Nomad Rangers

We had to cancel our last trip to [Nomad Rangers](#) at Bispham Hall due to unforeseen circumstances. We are looking forward to rescheduling the trip as soon as possible. Our attendees will experience a range of outdoor activities including archery, axe throwing and den building. They will learn how to start a campfire on which they will cook lunch, and am sure they get to toast marshmallows to make smores.

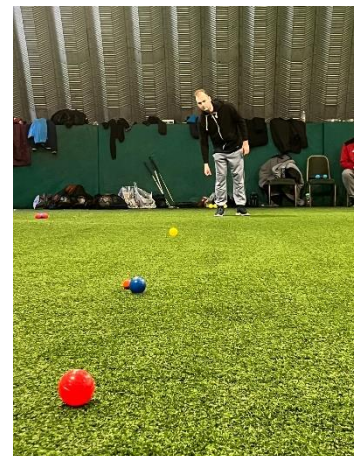
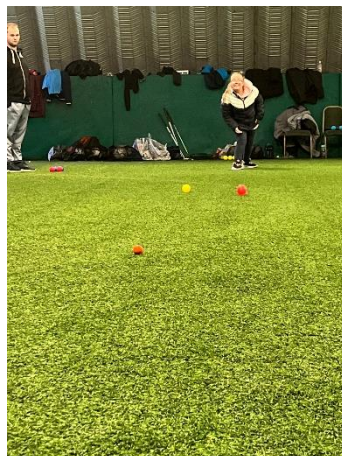
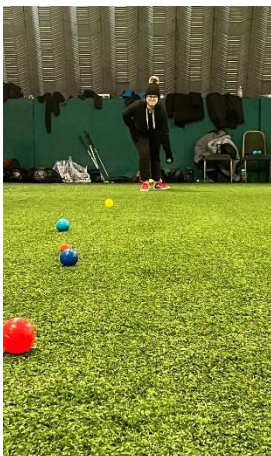
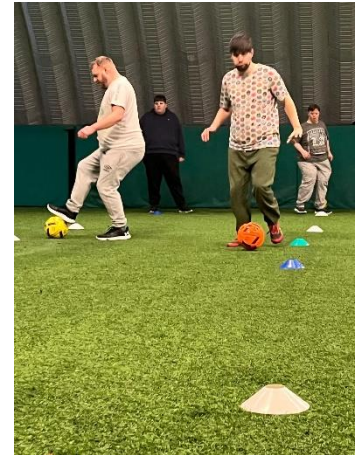


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At the start of the new year, we kickstarted 2025 with our sport sessions. A fantastic mood and motivation booster, we have thoroughly enjoyed getting active after the overindulgence of Christmas. Attendees are thoroughly enjoying their football training and for those who enjoy something less physical, flat green bowling is becoming a keen interest. The indoor sports dome at Rose Bridge Community Club is a fantastic space for us to use and ensures that whatever the weather sports activities can take place.



THANK YOU!

We would like to take this opportunity once again to thank an individual who would like to remain anonymous for their kind donation, which has made it possible for our attendees to continue with their squash lessons. In April STEPScic attendees were presented with a fantastic opportunity to learn Squash for a set number of lessons at Wigan Squash Club under the guidance of Lancashire Head Coach Julian Tomlinson. They started with no previous experience and over the course have made huge progress with one of our attendees developing this new interest by joining the club and attending in the evening. Our attendees have said that squash 'is fun and gets you moving', they 'like the competition' and friendly 'rivalry' and have 'learned a lot of new skills and game 'rules'. They enjoy 'the social side' and 'look forward to going'. The kind donation has ensured that these lessons can continue to have a positive impact, and we would once again like to thank our donor for their generosity.



Please check the following site to see a short video about what these sessions have given to our attendees. <https://www.facebook.com/share/18ZzEeFf3J/>



Nomad Rangers As stated earlier, we are planning our next event with the Nomad Rangers at Bispham Hall. Our attendees engage in outdoor learning experiences. These inspire and encourage participation, improves self-confidence, promotes well-being and unlocks potential.

Boxing For Better C.I.C Boxing For Better C.I.C. exists to give people opportunities to improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing through boxing. The sessions they provided last year proved to be very popular and we are looking to engage in their service again in the new year.

Ellesha Doubleday Wellbeing fitness instructor.

Ellesha will be facilitating wellbeing fitness classes, which can include Pilates, yoga, chair yoga, dance fitness, chair dance fitness sessions.

We look forward to a happy and healthy new year, and we wish you all the best.