

THE Ring

ISSUE ONE - 2020

All the news and achievements
from MacIntyre



MacIntyre

Providing support...your way



IN THIS ISSUE:

OUR LATEST NEWS

A positive Ofsted inspection, growth for our Great Communities Project and two awards to celebrate!

AN UPDATE ON OUR WORK WITH FAMILIES

We catch up with Family Engagement Consultant Nicola Payne to find out how we are working with the families of the people we support in 2020.

CONQUERING YOUR FEARS: JACK'S STORY

We share the story of Jack, an inspiring gentleman who faced his fears with the support of Darren from Hampshire.

Welcome

from Sarah Burslem

Leaving the European Union on the 31 January 2020 coincided with a two-day event hosted by five charities, including MacIntyre.

The purpose of the event was to explore ways that we could combine our talents, experiences and resources to help shape local communities to become more inclusive, nurturing and ambitious places for disabled people.

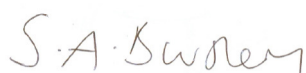
A number of the delegates attending the event shared their views on how, as a disabled person, they sometimes feel unsafe within the neighbourhoods where they live and how excluded they are from employment, social and leisure opportunities.

With emotions running high across the country and with some challenging times across the education and social care sectors, the motivation to change things for the better on all fronts is high.

MacIntyre has a 'welcome all' policy, with regards to the people we support and our workforce. Not only this, but our secondary purpose of contributing to local communities is well established.

We are proud of the rich diversity in ethnicity, needs and experiences that exists across the groups of people we support and our workforce and of the added value that we bring, over and above our contractual responsibilities, to the communities where we work.

As we start a new year, I welcome the opportunity to reinforce these values that are so important to us, to celebrate all that we achieve and to thank everyone for their continued support and kindness.



Sarah Burslem, Chief Executive Officer



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Have a story to share?

Do you have a story to share about someone supported by MacIntyre? Perhaps someone we support has achieved one of their goals, grown in confidence, or dared to try something new?

If so, we would love to hear from you.

Contact the Editor:

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Our Vision

For all people with a learning disability to live a life that makes sense to them.

Our Mission

We will support a sense of wellbeing through a celebration of each person's unique gifts, talents and contributions, the quality of our relationships and ensuring the promotion of real opportunities to connect with others.

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Our latest news



Positive Ofsted Inspection

In January, MacIntyre School was delighted to share it has been rated 'Good' by Ofsted with 'Outstanding' for Personal Development following an inspection of its education provision.

In the report, Ofsted stated that: "Adults never stop wanting the best for pupils. They see what each pupil might be capable of and work patiently and determinedly towards it. This is a school of aspiration and positivity."

Rachelle Russell, MacIntyre's Education Director, said:

"I'm so proud of all that the team has achieved, and incredibly grateful for their unwavering commitment to the school community."



Great Communities News

Since 2017, our Great Communities Project has supported people with learning disabilities and/or autism to use their knowledge and gifts to enhance their own lives and futures, whilst contributing to their community.

Now the project has expanded to Worcestershire, by Jade O'Connor (pictured centre) to help people with a learning disability and/or autism in the area who may need support applying their skills.

You can follow the project's progress via @WorcsGrCo on Twitter.



Two awards to celebrate!

In November Agnieszka Rokita and Claire Kennedy from our Marketing Team, accompanied by our website designers Grandad Digital, attended the 'The Good Web Guide Awards' at The Royal Institution in London. The team were thrilled to take home 'The Good Web Guide: Charity Website' award on behalf of MacIntyre.

We are also proud of our Events and Corporate Fundraiser, Lorraine Devereux, who was named the Institute of Fundraising Chilterns' 'Rising Star' of 2019 in December

You can read the full articles on our website.

Around MacIntyre...

What have the people we support, our staff, families and specialist teams been up to across the country? Find out...



Don't Give Up!

"Look what your amazing staff and our amazing son did today. We're so chuffed!"

This was the response that our team in Wrexham received from Keith's mum, a young man who is supported by MacIntyre after she received photographs of Keith shopping, a moment that was seven years in the making.

The first time the team supported Keith to go to the shops, he found it incredibly difficult. Now following years of support from our team, Keith enjoys making his own choices when out shopping.

MK Lifelong Learning's Big Win

In December, for the second year running Milton Keynes Lifelong Learning and MacIntyre's Corporate Partner Willmott Dixon won Honour Goodsite's Big Build Competition.

After a successful submission in 2018, the team knew they had to come back with a bang...and what better way to do that than to build a giant Kinder Surprise?

Working alongside the team at Willmott Dixon, the Tuesday Art Club used a combination of papier-mâché and Modroc, using their skills to paint the finer details of the recognisable chocolate brand.

The team also used their artistic abilities to honour the 50th anniversary of Neil Armstrong landing on the moon, producing a space ship 'toy' to feature in the 'egg'.

Well done to the Tuesday Art Group and the team at Willmott Dixon.



A holly jolly party in Shropshire

In December, the people we support and staff in Shropshire were thrilled to hold their very own Christmas Party, whilst fundraising for MacIntyre.

People we support took part in a number of activities; getting creative by decorating cupcakes and making festive decorations.

Not only this, but the group were delighted to welcome photographer Deborah Crump who kindly donated her time to record the celebrations.

Speaking about the event, Deborah said: "Thank you all so much for asking me to come along to your event. It was a fantastic night!"



Learning in the Hydro-pool

Learning can take place in so many different environments, not just in a classroom. At MacIntyre School, our team are always on the lookout for exciting and inspiring ways to engage the students, turning to the student's favourite place to learn... MacIntyre School's hydrotherapy pool.

Speaking about the facilities, Louise a teacher at MacIntyre School said:

"We are very fortunate to have our own hydrotherapy pool onsite, which offers a wonderful sensory experience for our students at MacIntyre School and students from the MacIntyre No Limits programme on a weekly basis."

The onsite pool offers students the opportunity to develop their communication, confidence, social and play skills in a safe space.

Students also have access to the local pool in the community, supporting them to become confident swimmers and develop skills including travelling, using money to pay and being part of the community.



Fundraising in Chester

Recently, our fantastic team and a gentleman we support in Chester managed to raise over £200 at their local Morrisons.

These funds will go directly to supporting the refurbishment of a patio area, which will be enjoyed in the coming summer months.

Well done to the team!

Have a story to share from your area? Get in touch!

E: marketing@macintyrecharity.org

Spare room in your home? Spare room in your heart?

Make a difference by becoming a full time or respite MacIntyre Shared Lives Carer this new year, by sharing your life with someone who has a learning disability in Bedfordshire, Warrington or Essex.

"I love my job and I love having Danny here. I think he's a smashing lad." - Graham, a MacIntyre Shared Lives Carer.

To find out more contact:

E: careers@macintyrecharity.org

T: 01908 357016





Conquering your fears: Jack's Story

When we first met Jack, he struggled to control his crippling anxiety. As a result of refusing support for several years, Jack no longer took care of himself and his relationships with his family were deteriorating at an alarming rate. But when Jack met Darren, a Support Worker from MacIntyre in Hampshire, things began to change.

Getting to know Jack, Darren spent time identifying what made him anxious. It was here that Darren realised the true scale of these anxieties and the impact it was having not only on Jack's life but those around him too. Enter: 'wins'. Thinking on his feet, Darren introduced the concept of 'wins'; a creative way to support Jack to reach small goals in his day.

Darren said: "Wins' are anything that goes above and beyond the average day for Jack. For example, Jack runs his own bath, Jack washes himself, Jack drinks a smoothie that I make. 'Wins' were exactly what Jack needed. He thrived on them."

After establishing a routine, Jack's health began to improve and Jack was taking pride in his appearance for the first time in years. Darren and Jack also worked together to introduce healthy eating and take on Jack's smoking habit. Using wins and other rewards, Jack went from smoking 20 cigarettes a day to using a vape instead; a vast improvement.

Using the concept of wins, Jack overcame his emotions and anxieties and agreed to go on a holiday to Devon, supported by Darren. Once again, he achieved so much more than he ever thought he would. Time, consistency and patience proved a perfect combination for Jack as he agreed to go on holiday several more times, even taking on a camping trip, despite feeling terrified by the idea at first.

But the ultimate 'win' for Jack? Taking public transport....alone. After repeatedly sharing he wanted to go to the Bournemouth Air Show, when the morning of the show came Jack found himself unable to go. Overcome with anxiety, Jack opted to stay home, leaving Darren to travel on his own.

Moments into the journey, Darren received a phone call...it was Jack. Frustrated with himself for not coming, he announced he had changed his mind. But it was too late, Darren had already boarded the train and was heading straight to Bournemouth.

Armed with encouraging words from Darren, Jack took the biggest leap of faith in his life so far; he made the journey on the train to Bournemouth and down to the beach for the air show...alone. This was a first for Jack and something he would have never had enough confidence to do beforehand.

Speaking about Jack's journey, Darren added: "This was a man who had not had any support for years and could not even talk about trains and buses without getting anxious. In the space of 6 months, he had not only conquered his fear of busy places, but built up the courage to travel on a busy train and a crowded bus. What a fantastic achievement!"



Working with Families: An Update from Nicola Payne

It has been a busy start to 2020: I have been meeting with families, MacIntyre teams and other similar organisations to consider our new family strategy.

There are great things happening across all of MacIntyre which involve and empower families; my role is to make sure that there is a consistency across the country with MacIntyre's approach and that everyone feels supported, valued and heard.

My initial priorities include:

- The development of a Family Charter with clear directions and decisions with involvement and contributions from families to ensure that this is useful and clear for everyone
- The creation of a series of short films to share personal experiences to help people understand the processes and emotions that families can go through. The film will be made up of real-life stories; if you are reading this and feel that you have a story to share with me please get in touch - I would love to hear from you
- The development of a training package for our staff to ensure that working with families is at the heart of the way we do things



Finally, a big thank you to those who have sent back the Family Questionnaire which has been sent out to most areas; if you haven't already returned yours it's not too late. Some areas are still in the process of receiving this so, if this is you, sit tight as it will be with you soon.

Get in touch: nicola.payne@macintyrecharity.org



Voting is now open!

Exciting news, our Great Holm Coffee Shop and MacIntyre Stony Coffee Shop are proud to have been nominated for the Milton Keynes Food And Leisure Awards in the category of 'Coffee Shop/Cafe of the Year' and voting is now open!

We'd love your support so please vote now at: <http://bit.ly/MKFoodAwards>



Finding home: Chloe's Journey

What is it like seeing someone we support flourish?
For Jane a Frontline Manager at MacIntyre in Birmingham, there's nothing quite like it.

Jane joined MacIntyre last March and in six months has seen first hand one young lady's incredible journey.

One month after starting with us, Jane was introduced to *Chloe, a young lady who was living in an Assessment and Treatment Unit (ATU) at the time. This was Jane's first experience of an ATU. Here, she spoke to Chloe for the first time, telling her about her previous roles, her children and her dog, Ben, which immediately got Chloe smiling.

Recalling the moment, Jane said:

"When I got a cheeky smile from Chloe, hidden under a blanket I knew then how much I was looking forward to supporting her to live a meaningful life."

Over the next few months, Jane and her team built a relationship with Chloe using the MacIntyre Promises and our award winning approach Great Interactions.

Despite a number of challenges in finding Chloe an appropriate place to live, the team eventually found the perfect house for her.

Chloe also played a huge part in recruiting her staff team, something Jane is incredibly proud of.

With her staff team in place, it wasn't long before Chloe began her transition out of hospital and into a home of her own. For Chloe, this was incredibly challenging. Having spent the last two years working on her mental health within the ATU, the concept of a new place was difficult to process.

Using all her strength, Chloe continued her journey, starting with overnight stays at her new home.

To help Chloe manage her anxieties, Jane thought back to their first meeting and had an idea.

"It was an extremely hard time for Chloe. Her anxieties were very high, but my dog Ben saved the day during transition visits, joining me and the team to help provide her with the courage and strength to visit the house and stay."

Since then, Chloe has continued to grow in confidence. She began making her house a home and owns several animals that provide her with comfort. Since then she has even taken a walk with Jane's dog, Ben.

Most recently, Jane accompanied Chloe to a local farm and reflected on Chloe's inspiring journey so far:

"Watching this incredible person cleaning out the animal houses, groom horses, covered in mud and engaging with myself and another member of her team, I felt a sense of pride."

Jane added:

"As a result of the positive relationships we have built, Chloe's trust in us, and a lot of teamwork, we were able to support her to attend the animal sanctuary early on in her journey. It's a huge milestone."

For now, Jane knows Chloe's journey is going to be full of highs and lows, but it's a ride she couldn't be more proud to be a part of.

*Names have been changed

What's On



27 February 2020

MK Memory Cafe

Take part in social activities, make new friends and enjoy fantastic cake!



27 February 2020

Autism Family Group Warrington

Support for family members of adults who have autism.



28 February 2020

Chesterfield Memory Cafe

Take part in social activities, make new friends and enjoy fantastic cake!



28 February 2020

Warrington Memory Cafe

Join us for cake and tea at our Memory Cafe in Warrington!



4 March 2020

Infinity at PJ's

A unique nightclub experience in Warrington!



26 April 2020

London Marathon

There's no race like the London Marathon!

What could you achieve with £50?

From 23 April to 18 June, there's a chance to enter a team from your business or workplace into the 'Franklins £50 Challenge 2020' to raise money for MacIntyre.

Franklins Solicitors will provide you with a £50 start-up investment and then it's over to you to invest and re-invest the £50 to raise as much as you can!

In 2019 over £6,000 was raised for the people we support. Turning £50 into just under £6,000 wasn't an easy task, but it was something all of our teams embraced head-on.

One of our teams from Marsh raised £1,063.66 as a team through office-based activities including a bake sales, a 5K run during their lunch break and an office-based auction of gifts bought in by staff.

To find out more or enter a team, please contact:
fund@macintyrecharity.org



A spotlight on.... Fabulous fundraisers!

Sarah Williams and friends

...who held a clothing auction in the name of MacIntyre, raising over £60 by bidding on each other's old or unworn clothes.

A big thank you to Sarah, Beatrice, Gitta, Wiebke and Ros.

Supporters of our Christmas Fair

Thank you to everyone who joined our Christmas Fair at Chicheley Hall in Buckinghamshire in December. We raised over £2,000 and have already planned to do it all again on **Sunday 6 December!**

Jocelyn Glinert

...who chose to ask for donations in place of birthday presents to support the Haddons in Milton Keynes where her lifelong friend's son is supported.

Jess Hiles and Jo Allmond

...who continue to make donations following sales of their series of Jess the Goth Fairy books.

Rosie Joustra

...who raised funds from a collection at her church.

Gifts in Memory

A number of individuals who made gifts in memory of loved ones and who made gifts following our last newsletter.

Kennington and District United Church Choirs

...who kindly raised £687.50 for MacIntyre in Oxford after selecting MacIntyre as the charity of choice for their concert in November.

The Gorman family from the Royal Oak pub at Presteigne

...who kindly raised a total of £165.75 as a result of a Sunday meat raffle at the pub. This will go towards the upcoming Shropshire Hub, a community space for the people we support in the area.

We really would not be where we are today, without the continued support of each and every one of our fundraisers, Corporate Partners and lifelong supporters.



Inspired?

At MacIntyre, we aim to support people with learning disabilities and/or autism to live a life that makes sense to them. Whilst we receive funding to provide for our core services, it is often the 'extras', which are brought to life by fundraising, that make a huge difference.

There are so many ways that you can get involved with MacIntyre; organising your own fundraising event or activity, attending one of our upcoming events, volunteering or playing our monthly MacIntyre Lottery.

Find out more: fund@macintyrecharity.org



Congratulations

...to all our colleagues that celebrated their MacIntyre anniversaries recently!

5 years

Ann-Marie Johansen
Ian Griffith
Jo-Anne Jones
Helen Singh
Richard Colbert
Remmie Dutton
Lee Duggan
Alison Thomas
Helen Lowery
Ese Buwa
Aled Jones
Adele Baker
Tara Moore
Michael Cooper
Godwin Izedonmwem
Margaret Stubbs
Jill Gregory

10 years

David Gulley
Ann-Marie Wales
Adam Durely Boot
Shirley Bentley
Carole Hodgson
Simon Dooley

20 years

John Bartley

25 years

Christine Barton
Shelley Igoe

15 years

Sharon Barlow
Gwenne McFadzean
Phil Wales



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☐

I am a UK taxpayer and want MacIntyre to treat all donations I have made for the last 4 years and all future donations as Gift Aid donations.

Signature

Date

Name

Address

Postcode

Increase the value of all your donations for the last 4 years by 25% by filling in this Gift Aid declaration which allows use to claim back all the tax at no extra cost to you!

You must pay income tax or capital gains tax at equal to the tax reclaimed from the HM Revenue & Customs by MacIntyre in the tax year. Please send your completed form to:

MacIntyre, FREEPOST RLXH-YZTA-ZGYB
602 South Seventh Street, Milton Keynes MK9 2JA



MacIntyre
Providing support...your way

Lottery

The latest winning numbers

October

First prize of £500: 73

Second prizes of £50: 359 and 121

Third prizes of £25: 100, 12, 484, 55

November

First prize of £500: 62

Second prizes of £50: 342 and 154

Third prizes of £25: 12, 67, 226, 39

December

First prize of £500: 2

Second prizes of £50: 396, 29

Third prizes of £25: 492, 303, 494, 353

Not signed up yet?

The MacIntyre Lottery costs just £5 a month per number. You can play as many numbers as you wish. Every penny raised from the MacIntyre Lottery goes directly to benefit the people we support. You can even nominate your favourite service to receive your donations.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Contact: **Claire Kennedy**

Tel: **01908 357012**

Email: **fund@macintyrecharity.org**

All winners will be contacted directly by the Fundraising Team. All winning numbers are published here in each issue of The Ring and on MacIntyre's website.

The MacIntyre Lottery is licensed by the Gambling Commission under the Gambling Act 2005. MacIntyre is committed to responsible gambling. It is an offence to gamble under the age of 16.



MacIntyre
Providing support...your way

I want to help make a difference to the lives of the children, young people and adults supported by MacIntyre

- ☐ I enclose my gift of.....
- ☐ I enclose my cheque made payable to MacIntyre
- ☐ I have completed the Gift Aid Declaration overleaf

Please send me more information about:

- ☐ MacIntyre Lottery
- ☐ Making a regular gift
- ☐ Fundraising events
- ☐ Fundraising ideas
- ☐ Volunteering
- ☐ Leaving a lasting gift
- ☐ Other (please specify)

☐ Please do not send me further correspondence

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Please send your completed form to:
MacIntyre, FREEPOST RLXH-YZTA-ZGYB
602 South Seventh Street, Milton Keynes MK9 2JA