

THE Ring

ISSUE ONE - 2021

All the news and achievements
from MacIntyre



MacIntyre

Providing support...your way



IN THIS ISSUE:

OUR LATEST NEWS

COVID-19 vaccinations are underway across MacIntyre, we've been selected as 'Charity of the Year' by Allica Bank and funding for our new project has been approved.

BIG GIVE, BIG IMPACT

We share how your support has been making a difference.

EARLY WARNING SIGNS OF DEMENTIA

Do you know the early warning signs of dementia? We hear from our Learning Disabilities Admiral Nurse, Jane Nickels.

Welcome

from Sarah Burslem

Thank you to everyone connected to MacIntyre for their support, resilience and compassion over the past year. The number of COVID-19 positive test results remain relatively low across the organisation. No new infections were reported at either MacIntyre, or MacIntyre Academies during the week of writing this introduction.



We are encouraging people to take the vaccination. We are of the view that the vaccination programme has such a large part to play in our ability to keep people safe and to confidently increase family, friend and social contact, all of which we know plays a large role in our sense of wellbeing.

As we plan for the future we will be mindful of all that we have learned about ourselves and each other. We will nurture the compassion, creativity and resilience shown and ensure that these qualities remain central to all that we do moving forward.

We will build on the huge advances that we have made in connecting and communicating virtually, advances that perhaps would have taken years without a pandemic. We will embrace all colleagues who have joined us from other professions, ensuring that they have the time and space to use their unique experiences, interests and skills when carrying out their roles.

MacIntyre has always been a compassionate, innovative and optimistic place to live, learn and work. While the pandemic has been profound for us all and devastating for some, I have real hope for the future. The learning and transformation necessitated by the virus will reinforce and enhance all that we know is so special about MacIntyre.

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:

Heidi Warnes

heidi.warnes@macintyrecharity.org

01908 230100

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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Registered Charity No. 250840

✉ hello@macintyrecharity.org

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🌐 macintyre

📷 @meetmacintyre



Latest News



COVID-19 vaccinations underway

COVID-19 vaccinations are underway across MacIntyre and we're incredibly proud of the people we support and of our frontline staff members who have received their first COVID-19 vaccinations.

So far, the people we support who fall into the top priority groups have received the first vaccine, as well as over 1,500 members of our frontline staff.

Many of our teams have been capturing the moments on camera, including our teams from Leicestershire and Buckinghamshire.



Allica Bank select Charity of the Year

Following nominations and votes from their staff, Allica Bank have confirmed that they have selected MacIntyre as their first Charity of the Year.

Lorraine Devereux, Corporate Fundraiser at MacIntyre said:

"We are really excited at the prospect of working with Allica over the coming year. We've already (virtually!) met a number of Allica colleagues and they have some amazing ideas about what they will do to raise funds and have fun together."



Funding for 'Dying to Talk' approved

In 2020 we were delighted to receive confirmation from the National Lottery Community Fund that our application for an 18 month project was successful and we are now ready to get started.

MacIntyre's 'Dying to Talk' pilot project will test solutions to break down the barriers people with a learning disability experience regarding end of life care, dying and death; promoting better understanding and individual choice.

Working with people with a learning disability, support workers, family members and the wider sector we will deliver workshops, provide information and create resources to find the best ways of actively promoting equality in all aspects of life, inclusion and best practice in respect of end of life planning.

The project started in March 2021.

Around MacIntyre...



Official Inclusion Ambassador

Oliver Thomason has been named as the Official Inclusion Ambassador for the Rugby League World Cup 2021.

Oliver is part of The MacIntyre Checkers, a group of people with learning disabilities who ensure all Easy Read material produced by MacIntyre are fit for purpose.

Oliver will be taking centre-stage for a brand new project between Community Integrated Care and the Rugby League World Cup, which will focus on inclusivity. This will take place in England in October 2021.

Shane's work of art

Before the most recent COVID-19 restrictions were introduced, Kaylee, a member of our team in Oxfordshire, found the perfect opportunity to support Shane and his love of drawing.

Armed with easels and art supplies, Shane and Kaylee found a spot outdoors in their local park and got to work. For Shane, his signature artwork always includes a drawing of himself with his support team and this session was no exception.



Tackling social isolation

Molly Kirby, who is supported by MacIntyre's Great Communities Project in Warrington, was named a leader in the Dimensions historic 'Coronavirus Learning Disability and Autism Leaders' List'.

In 2018 Molly launched the 'MacIntyre Great Communities Friendship Group' to tackle social isolation among people with learning disabilities and autism in Warrington. This year, more people than ever are at risk of feeling lonely and isolated due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To ensure that the group's meetings could

continue, Molly suggested the group hold their meetings online, which has been an incredible success.

Since then Molly has helped to connect a number of isolated people in the area looking for new friendships and the group has continued to grow in numbers due to Molly's quick thinking and innovative attitude. Well done Molly!

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

Photo Gallery



The team at MacIntyre School have been working with the young people we support to exercise, as well as discover local beauty spots.



We love this photo of Claire, who we support in Derbyshire, proudly showing her handmade plant pot.



Our team in Leicestershire and the people we support bravely had their first COVID-19 vaccinations recently!



A new chapter for Mark

We are delighted that we will be continuing support Mark*, a young man who is leaving MacIntyre School and Children's Homes this year. Now aged 18, Mark will be supported by our Adult Services Team and will take on a new chapter in his life.

Jennifer Marshall, Head of Care at MacIntyre School said:

"Mark has made incredible progress, particularly in his last year with us at MacIntyre School and Children's Homes. We are really pleased to be supporting Mark to transition into his Supported Living service. We will continue to support and watch Mark grow."

*Names changed

Praise for our Worcestershire Team

A MacIntyre staff team from Worcestershire have been praised by Worcestershire Royal Hospital for their dedication, citing their care for a gentleman supported by MacIntyre as "a benchmark for all carers to aspire to".

Robert from Worcestershire was admitted to the hospital for planned surgery, accompanied by a MacIntyre team consisting of Liz, Polly and Kirsty. The team demonstrated proficiency and the importance of person-centred support throughout Robert's time at the hospital, which did not go unnoticed.

In a letter, the team at Worcestershire Royal Hospital said:

"We have been very impressed by the care that Robert received and also the professionalism, compassion and dedication that Liz, Polly and Kirsty have shown. They are a credit to your services and a benchmark for all carers to aspire to."

Responding to this feedback, the Worcestershire Team said:

"How lovely of the team to take the time to send such brilliant feedback. They really were a great team to work with when planning Rob's care."



Refurbishment in St Albans

It's no secret 2020 was a challenging year, but thanks to a generous grant from The Morrisons Foundation the young people at our children's home in St Albans were still able to make incredible progress.

The Morrisons Foundation kindly donated over £30,000 to refurbish the home in 2019, permitting our team to build a sensory room for the young people to enjoy. The funds also enabled the team to purchase outdoor equipment, which was greatly appreciated during the summer months of 2020.

Luke Cunliff, Manager at the children's home said:

'The young people we support have made huge strides in their confidence and communication skills since the generous donation was made. The sensory room has also been an amazing area to access and has made an incredible difference to many of the young people we support in managing their complex sensory needs.'

Life in Lockdown

Zoom Activities

From story time sessions to singalongs, games of bingo to a book club, people we support have been taking part in a host of online activities to beat the lockdown lull.

While the recent news of the road map and the lifting of restrictions indicates there's light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel, we continue to find ways to ensure the people we support are able to engage in activities safely at home while other options remain limited.

Zoom Chair Exercises

Many of us are guilty of finding ourselves on the sofa, rather than hitting our daily step count in lockdown. To combat this, our teams have developed 'chair-based exercises' for people we support to encourage them to keep fit whilst at home.

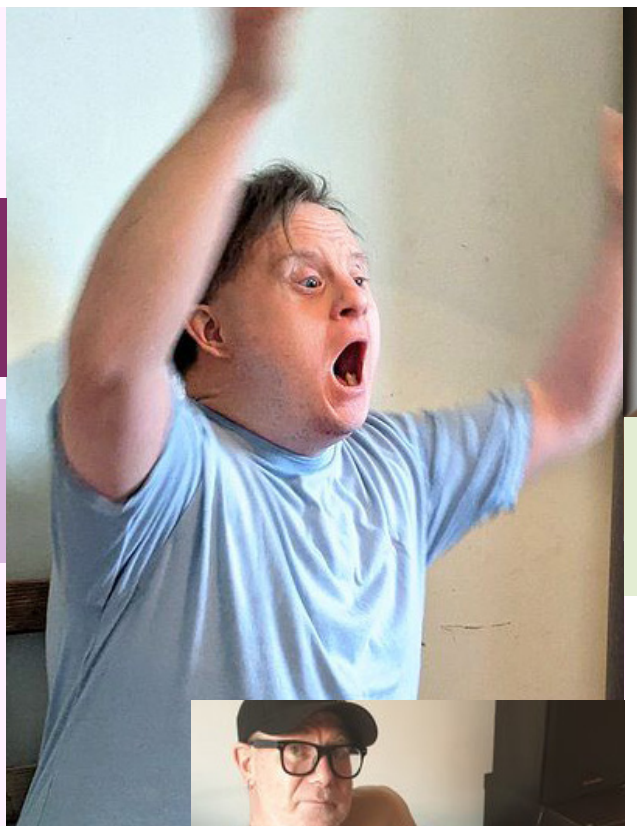
Tommy, who we support in Milton Keynes, recently enjoyed dancing to 'YMCA' during the session.

Virtual Family Fortunes

For Andy, who we support in Greater Manchester, using Zoom to take part in online activities such as 'Family Fortunes' has helped him to develop his digital skills.

Getting crafty online

For people who prefer to express themselves through art, our teams regularly deliver online craft sessions. These sessions have been a big hit with Debbie, who we support in Hampshire. Ahead of Valentine's Day, Debbie used the session to create a unique piece of art dedicated to her pet cat Lucky, as well as make a few new friends.



Monday morning is... changing the tune with Dianne

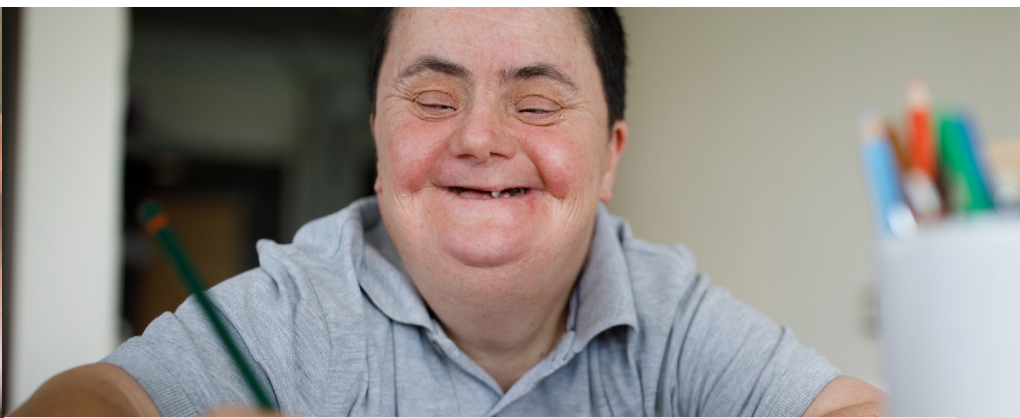
Your next career starts here:
macintyrecharity.org/careers/



MacIntyre

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Big Give, Big Impact

In December, we took part in The Big Give Christmas Challenge for the first time to tackle digital exclusion among the people we support. Following a week of virtual events, support from Love Actually and The Queen's Gambit star Thomas Brodie Sangster, our brilliant supporters and our Champion Funder The Reed Foundation, we were able to raise over £5,000.

This incredible total has already helped us to purchase a number of items for people we support to enjoy during these dark winter months. Some of the items purchased included video game consoles, iPads, cameras, smart speakers and TVs.

Using your generous donations, we were able to purchase a Nintendo Switch for the people we support in Oxfordshire. This has brought many hours of fun during what has been a difficult few months in lockdown.



Did you know that...



In 2020 we raised thousands for the people we support



Using your gifts, we purchased outdoor equipment, sensory equipment, technology and much more for the people we support



In 2020 we continued to see so many people we support develop their skills

How to support us in 2021

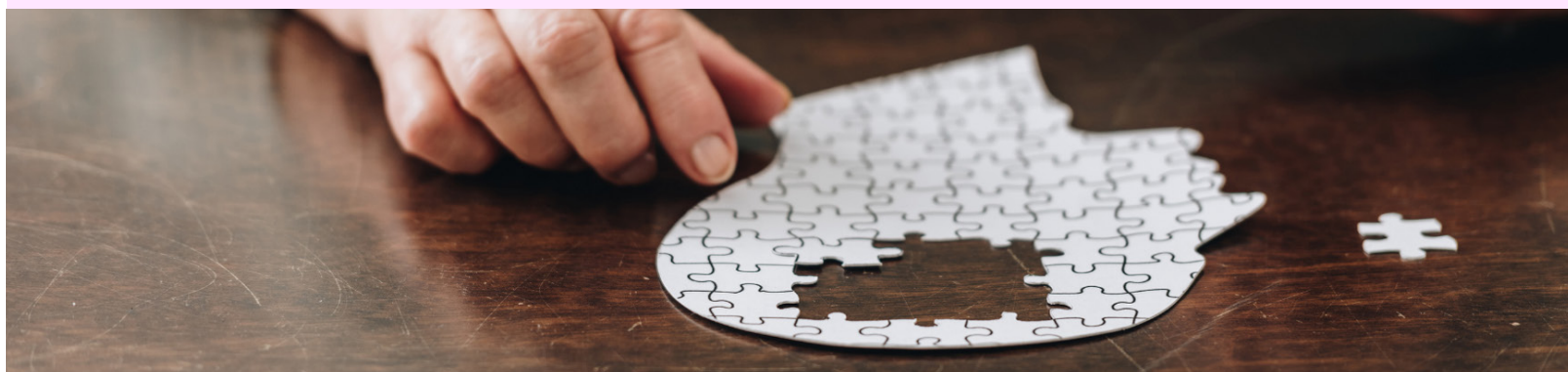
Interested in supporting us? Great news, there are plenty of ways to get involved! You could play our monthly MacIntyre Lottery, take part in one of our upcoming virtual events, or even set yourself a fundraising challenge.

Your support will help us to reach out to more people and empower them to gain independence, confidence and achieve beyond their expectations.

For more information on supporting us, you can get in touch with our Fundraising Team.

E: fund@macintyrecharity.org

Spotlight on our Specialists



Do you know the earliest signs of dementia?

Did you know that people with learning disabilities, particularly those with Down's Syndrome, are at increased risk of developing dementia?

Jane Nickels is MacIntyre's Learning Disabilities Admiral Nurse. Admiral Nurses provide specialist dementia support when people need advice, guidance and signposting.

Jane works alongside people supported by MacIntyre, their families and their wider circle of support, giving them expert guidance and practical solutions. Jane recently hosted a free virtual event sharing information on learning disabilities and dementia.

Is your loved one supported by MacIntyre? Do they have a diagnosis, or suspected diagnosis of dementia?

If you would like to receive advice, or discuss any issue concerning dementia and your loved one, you can complete the form below.

Some of the warning signs someone may be developing early onset dementia....

- loss of daily living skills
- short-term memory loss
- apathy and inactivity
- reduced sociability
- loss of interest in previously enjoyed hobbies
- lack of spontaneous communication
- disorientation and confusion
- poor comprehension
- difficulty with steps and curbs

To find out more information about dementia and to be contacted by Jane Nickels, MacIntyre's Learning Disabilities Admiral Nurse, please fill in this form.

How would you like to be contacted?

- ☐ By phone
- ☐ By email
- ☐ By post

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Spotlight on our Specialists

An update from Nicola Payne

We have all welcomed 2021 very differently from what we hoped it would look like. However, despite being in another lockdown, MacIntyre are going above and beyond to continue to keep your loved ones safe, supporting people to take part in fun and engaging activities at home.

As always, I like to share with you the work taking place at MacIntyre under Family Engagement. Since I last wrote to you, we have set up the 'Let's Come Together' group, which we are so proud of. It is proving to be a real success and a much-needed platform for families and circles of support to meet. We have held six meetings to date and each one has been so valuable. The agenda is created by the families of people we support and offers a place where we can share and learn from one another.



Nicola Payne
Family Engagement Consultant

If you would like to attend, you can sign up here: <https://www.macintyrecharity.org/events/lets-come-together/>

Let's talk podcasts! We now have ten episodes of the MacIntyre Families Podcast on our website. This allows people to listen at their leisure and choose an episode that interests them. Our plan moving forward is to have a library of different discussions with our families, circles of support, staff teams and external professionals.

To listen to the latest episode, visit: <https://www.macintyrecharity.org/our-approach/families/families-podcast/>

Remember, you can always follow @MacFamilies on Twitter. This will help us stay connected.

Stay safe,

Nicola Payne, MacIntyre's Family Engagement Consultant
E: nicola.payne@macintyrecharity.org

Careers at MacIntyre

Thinking of changing careers? We hear from Garry

We believe that experience in social care isn't essential for making a difference to someone's life, but personality and a passion to learn are. Many of our teams are made up of individuals with a variety of career backgrounds from lawyers to landscapers, chefs to mechanics, all looking for a change.

Garry recently joined our team in Wrexham, after working in the retail sector as a Driver Team Leader.

Could you introduce yourself?

"My name is Garry and I am 49 years old. I was previously a Warehouse Manager. I then took five years off to be at home after the birth of my son. After these five years passed, I then joined Tesco where I was a Driver Team Leader for eight years."

Why did you decide to change careers?

"I decided to change careers because I have always wished to join the care industry and during the COVID-19 pandemic,

I had time to reflect and decided that this was the ideal time to do it."

What interested you about joining MacIntyre?

"I did some research into various care companies and from the research and reviews I decided that MacIntyre was best and found out that they were starting a new team in Wrexham."

What would you say to others who are thinking of switching to care?

"I would say that if it is something which you have been thinking about, then don't just think about it. Do it."

To find out more about starting a career at MacIntyre, contact: careers@macintyrecharity.org or visit our current vacancies on our website.

A spotlight on.... our supporters

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.

We have been overwhelmed by the thoughtfulness and generosity of so many of our supporters over the past few months. Every single gift is already making a real difference to the people we support.

We'd like to say thank you to everyone, including:

Our business networking group MacIntyre's Meet Up, who raised over £600

The Warehouse Magna Park 3 Team from John Lewis and Partners who raised over £2,000

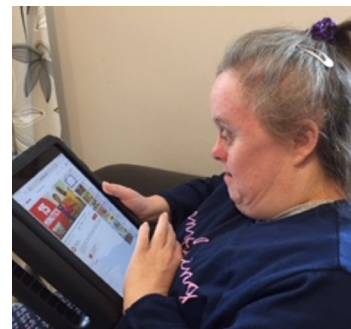


Pragmatiq Solutions for donating an Echo Dot speaker for our MacIntyre Coffee Shop Team

Elliotts Builder Merchants who donated some ornamental stones for people we support who were busy doing a garden makeover

The Compasses at Pattiswick for offering their venue free of charge for essential first aid training

The Tom Hall Charitable Trust for donating £100 to go towards activities for the people we support



The Alan Brentnall Charitable Trust for donating £10,000 for our Transforming Care work



The Fleece Pub in Oxfordshire for delivering cakes and a thoughtful card to our local team

The Oliver Ford Foundation for donating £15,000 as part of their COVID-19 relief programme

Dates for your diary: 2021

- MacIntyre Families Week – 26 April to 1 May
- Time for Tea – 21 to 27 June
- London Landmarks Half Marathon – 1 August
- Bedford Running Festival – 4 and 5 September
- Virtual London Marathon – 3 October
- 'Let's Come Together' event for families – The first Tuesday of each month



For more information contact: events@macintyrecharity.org
For families events, contact: nicola.payne@macintyrecharity.org

Congratulations

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

5 years

Joanne Hamer
Calley Charlton
Amanda Cassidy
Gary Strawson
Lauren Clarke
Bradd Coley
Catherine Black
Vivian Ibanga
Morenike Makinde
Magdalena Browarna
Barbara Burns
Jennifer Bridges
Morwenna Choak
Tracy Roberts
Katharine Ludlow
Kwabena Gyan
Monika Ko
Gemma Woodhall
Jane Gates
Jean Beliem
John Hydes
Melvene Sinclair
Janette Jansz
Elaine Barton

10 years

Sharron Goulbourn
Chloe Blackwell
Rosemond Osei-Agyemang
Cassandra-Rose Jones
Claire Arathoon
Khalida Khan
Jethro Harper
Matirida Figgitt
Shyster Chijota
Alex Osei
Steven Kay
Poppy Ives
Emma Brush
Andrea Bartram

20 years

Barbara Gandar
Ann Brown
Sarah Felger
Maria Smith
Keith Beevers

25 years

Kym Harris
Myfanwy McCormack
Sadie Bonillas
Linda Jackson



15 years

Jennifer Walker
Beverley Robinson
Alan Jones
Dawn Glen
Hannah Grimshaw

giftaid it

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!

☐

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

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



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Lottery

The latest winning numbers

October

First prize of £500: 59

Second prizes of £50: 100, 277

Third prizes of £25: 256, 399, 292, 136

November

First prize of £500: 499

Second prizes of £50: 161, 288

Third prizes of £25: 282, 383, 171, 466

December

First prize of £500: 399

Second prizes of £50: 449, 108

Third prizes of £25: 206, 344, 309, 346

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.



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Please send me more information about:

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

☐ Please do not send me further correspondence

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

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