

Scottish Autism News

Makers – Our New Community Hub!

Scottish
autism

We are pleased to announce that we are launching a new community hub at Makers Village in Ludgate, near Alloa town centre. This service, to be known as 'Makers', will act as a base for delivering day and outreach opportunities for the individuals that we support. It will house a community cafe with a garden, shop and gallery, as well as space to accommodate events and workshops for community groups.

The previous 'Makers Gallery and Bistro' was run by the organisation 'Reachout with Arts in Mind' and became available after the group's five year funding for the project came to an end.

Our own Makers, due to open this winter, aims to provide the individuals we support within our services opportunities for personal growth through the offer of placements, which will enable them to create relationships and connections within the local community.

Felicity Lister, Regional Manager at Scottish Autism said: "We are delighted to announce this new service in Alloa, which will not only deliver some great benefits to the individuals we support but will also offer the local community a new cafe and gallery to visit.

"For the individuals we support, Makers will provide a wonderful opportunity to build their skills portfolios in a number of areas such as catering, hospitality and retail, which for some could lead to securing future employment. It will also act as a local hub for information sharing and help to bring different parts of the community together."

Within the service, a small outdoor space on the east of the building will be used as a garden to grow ingredients for the cafe. This will also showcase the work of our local vocational day service, Gartinny Nurseries in Coalsnaughton, which offers horticultural therapy to adults with autism. At Gartinny, individuals are supported to learn about growing different plants and develop social skills through customer service, which we hope can be replicated within the garden environment at Makers.

Additionally, the onsite shop and gallery space will be used to showcase and sell the hand crafted products and art work of the individuals supported within our Art Opportunities service in Alloa.

Keep up to date with progress on this project via our website at www.scottishautism.org/makers



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Scottish Autism News is produced three times a year. If you would like to unsubscribe, please contact us on 01259 720044 or email marketing@scottishautism.org

We are Rangers Charity Foundation's New National Charity Partner!

We're so excited to announce that we are Rangers Charity Foundation's new National Charity Partner for season 2017/18! Thank you so much to the Rangers Charity Foundation for supporting us - we're really looking forward to working together over the next year.

The Foundation has pledged to raise £20,000 to help pay for our advice line and to create a social area within our new residential service, Founders House.

Lee Wallace, Rangers Captain, commented: "It was a privilege to help launch the Foundation's National Charity partnership for the season. I learned that there is approximately the same number of people with autism in Scotland as it takes to fill Ibrox Stadium - which really gives you a sense of how many people's lives are impacted.

"The fans always get behind the Foundation and I know they will once again do everything they can to ensure this partnership makes a difference and is a huge success."



Success at the Scottish Awards for Business Excellence!

We are delighted to have received a suite of accolades at this year's Quality Scotland Awards for Business Excellence. We received a 4 Star Recognised for Excellence (R4E) Award in recognition of our commitment to achieving organisational excellence and dedication towards continuous improvements. We also picked up the Good Practice Award for Harnessing Creativity and Innovation, while our Quality and Risk Manager, David Harkins, received the Quality Scotland Ambassador for Excellence Award.

R4E is an award acknowledged all over Europe for organisations demonstrating high levels of performance against the nine criteria of the comprehensive European Foundation for Quality Management Excellence Model (EFQM). It is designed to embed a culture of excellence for organisations which are focused on achieving the highest standards in their commitment towards people, suppliers and their wider stakeholder community.

A Star in the Making!

One of the individuals we support in Central Area Services, Brett, has written, produced, directed, starred in and edited his very own movie! It is Brett's lifetime ambition to be able to perform in and create his own movie, so our practitioners thought it would be a good idea to encourage him to try making his own movie called 'A Day in the Life of Brett'.

With the support of staff member Claire, Brett spent two days filming his daily activities as well as script writing and recruiting willing people to act in the movie alongside him. Once everything was shot, Claire supported him to edit it all together.

After the movie was finished, Brett, his family and peers were invited to attend an Oscar-style award ceremony where Brett received awards for Best Director and Best Actor. Brett's acceptance speech was very fitting saying that it was his dream come true to have created the movie and win these awards. He hopes to make many more movies in future.

Rebound Therapy for Pupils

Over the summer, our school had a brand new piece of equipment installed – a large trampoline! This means that we are now able to offer Rebound Therapy sessions within the school, with the help of Callum from Forth Valley Rebound Therapy Service CIC.

Callum comes into school twice a week to offer sessions to pupils, as well as continuing to deliver evening sessions with some of our residential pupils that started earlier this year. For our pupils, Rebound Therapy is focused around the sensory and social outcomes, giving a safe space for them to experience the sensations that come with being on a trampoline and the chance to engage with Callum during the session. The benefits of the sessions extend beyond the trampoline though, with the time spent in Rebound Therapy having a calming effect which can help pupils throughout the day.

Different pupils will have the opportunity to attend Rebound Therapy sessions each term and by the end of this academic year, everyone will have had a turn taking part.



A New Look for Cafe Kudos

After being closed for refurbishment earlier this year, our vocational day service Cafe Kudos has reopened with a brand new look! We celebrated with an afternoon of food and drinks and the cafe was officially reopened by MSP Aileen Campbell.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our supporters who helped to raise £26,000 for the refurbishment. If you would like to pop in and visit, you can find us at 5 Union Street, Caruke. The cafe is open Monday – Saturday 10am – 3pm.



Fife Art Group

Our Fife Outreach Art Group recently displayed some of the artwork they have been creating over the past few months for our staff to come and admire. There was a lovely mix of paintings, drawings and some other items including decorated glasses and boxes. The group are hoping to have their first proper exhibition next year and so enjoyed doing this as a trial run to see how it could work.

The group meet fortnightly to work on different art projects and to catch up with each other in a social environment. As well as offering the opportunity to get involved in creative projects, the art group gives individuals a feeling of being part of a community as they work together on their shared interest. Group members have also become very close over the time they have been meeting, strengthening this feeling of connection. They are also keen fundraisers and often take part in the Macmillan coffee mornings (or evenings, in their case) as well as celebrating other calendar holidays together. At their most recent coffee evening in September, the group were proud to raise £65 for Macmillan with their night of coffee, tea and yummy cakes!

Winter Raffle

Enter our raffle, sponsored by Inglewood House Hotel and Spa, to be in with a chance of winning an overnight stay for two in a woodland pod! Other prizes up for grabs are an afternoon tea for two and a Lotus Discovery Spa Package.



Raffle tickets cost just £1 each and can be purchased online by visiting our website at www.scottishautism.org/raffle. Alternatively, to receive your raffle tickets by post, send an email to fundraising@scottishautism.org or call **01259 720044** and give your full postal address and the number of books of tickets you would like to receive. Don't forget to ask friends and family if they would like to buy some too. Maximum purchase per person for the raffle is 100 tickets (£100).

Entries for the raffle should be returned with payment by Monday 1st January 2018, with the draw taking place on Friday 5th January 2018. Winners will be notified within 14 days. Please visit our website for full terms and conditions.

Corporate Giving

Thank you to:

- Staff from the Morrisons store in Baillieston for taking part in various fundraising activities including a Zipslide across the Clyde. They have already raised a wonderful **£3,563** so far
- BNP Paribas' staff in Glasgow for raising over **£1,380**
- Inglewood House Hotel in Alloa for the fantastic **£535** donation raised from a Ladies Day event



If you would like to get your business involved with Scottish Autism, from volunteering to fundraising, we can work with you to build an outstanding partnership while raising awareness of autism. Please contact us today at fundraising@scottishautism.org for more information about how we can support you.

What Your Support Means

We are delighted to be starting work on our new residential service over the coming months. As the individuals we support get older, their needs change over time and additional health and mobility issues add new challenges. We aim for this new residence to meet these specific care needs.

The new residence, to be known as 'Founders House', was named by staff to honour the parents who came together nearly 50 years ago and founded our organisation to ensure their children were supported and cared for through the whole life journey.

The needs of the individuals to be supported within the residence are being considered to tailor the design of the house. Angela Steele, Senior Autism Practitioner said: "One of the individuals benefiting from this new service has received support from Scottish Autism since her early teens and this move will further enhance her life giving her more independence."

Thank you for all of the fundraising support we have received for this project so far! You can make a donation online in our JustGiving campaign on <http://bit.ly/2iWWAKa> or text **SUPP17 £5 to 70070** to make a donation towards this project.



Leaving a Gift in Your Will

Some of our supporters choose to leave a gift to Scottish Autism in their will. We can use these gifts to enhance and extend the opportunities we offer to individuals and families living with autism. We are very sympathetic and understanding regarding how someone may wish for a gift to be used. If you would like to discuss how to leave a gift in your will to Scottish Autism, please contact us in the strictest confidence. Get in touch with our fundraising team at fundraising@scottishautism.org or call **01259 720044**.

Fundraising Highlights

Thank you to:

- All our supporters who took part in Tough Mudder Scotland, raising a phenomenal **£22,571** to date
- Scott Galbraith and John Page who trekked the West Highland Way, raising a fantastic **£3,300**
- Ian Murdoch for hosting a Golden Oldies Disco at CISWO in Glenrothes, raising a wonderful total of **£1,500**
- Crown Athletic who held a memorial football match and raised over **£1,300** towards providing an outdoor gym for our New Ridgemark transition service
- John Ralston for raising **£1,140** from his annual race night for our South West services
- Dunfermline Round Table for donating **£1,000** towards providing a garden sensory room at our service in Lochgelly



Relationships and Sexual Health Seminar



As part of our Knowledge Share seminar series, we will be in Fife and Orkney at the beginning of 2018 with our Relationships and Sexual Health seminar. The seminar will explore this most fundamental but highly challenging aspect of human development. We will present a variety of approaches and case studies which consider the key issues for individuals across the spectrum and at various ages and stages of development. Our aim is to provide a supportive environment where together we can explore and discuss this sensitive topic.

Places cost just £20 and each seminar runs from 9.30am – 12.30pm

Fife – 30 January 2018

Orkney – 27 February 2018

Book online now at: www.scottishautism.org/knowledgeshare

Professional Events at New Struan School

Education Network Days

Network Days at New Struan Day and Residential School provide a forum for staff working with young people on the spectrum to share ideas, resources and good practice, and to find out what is happening in local authorities across Scotland. Network Days run from 10am – 3pm and places are £60 each.

15 November 2017 • 21 February 2018 • 16 May 2018

Professional Open Mornings

Open mornings at New Struan School offer an opportunity for professionals to visit the school and learn more about our approach to supporting young people with autism to learn and develop. The mornings run from 9.30am – 12pm and are free to attend.

12 February 2018 • 21 May 2018

To book your place at a Network Day or Open Morning, visit: www.scottishautism.org/events

Get Involved

- Mens 10k, Edinburgh – 5 November 2017
- Golden Tinsel Mile Walks – 2 December 2017
- Loony Dook, South Queensferry – 1 January 2018
- MacTuff, Dunfermline – 7 January 2018
- Great Winter Run, Edinburgh – 13 January 2018

To celebrate all our supporters' fundraising, we're giving away a free mountain bike to the fundraiser who raises the most money in 2017! Our bike was generously donated by Brian Jukes from Business Fix and Mark Sheilds from Sheilds & Sheilds.



Inspired to organise your own fundraising event and need our help?

Please contact fundraising@scottishautism.org or call 01259 720044