

A New Service for Central!



We are pleased to announce that we will be opening a new community hub in Alloa which will provide day and outreach opportunities for the individuals that we support. The service, which will be known as 'Makers', will house a community cafe with a garden, shop and gallery as well as space to accommodate events and workshops.

Makers will provide the individuals we support with opportunities for personal growth through the offer of placements, which will enable them to build relationships and connections within the local community.

Jill Ferguson, Services Manager, said: "There will be placements that enable individuals to develop skills in catering and food preparation, in hospitality and front of house, as retail or gallery assistants, and in maintaining the kitchen garden. The individuals would be supported to build individualised CVs and skills portfolios to evidence those skills, outcomes and achievements."

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 and showcase the work of our local vocational day service Gartniny Nurseries, which offers horticultural therapy to adults with autism. The onsite shop and gallery space will be used to showcase the artwork of the individuals supported within our local Art Opportunities service too.

A Star in the Making!

One of the individuals we support in Central, 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.



Pittenweem Arts Festival



At Art Opportunities, we had a new platform to share our artwork with a wider audience this year after attending the Pittenweem Arts Festival for the first time! The festival sees a variety of spaces including people's own houses, garages and community spaces opening their doors to host artist's work. We showcased our unique artwork, all handmade by the individuals we support, during the festival and we got excellent feedback on what we produced. In fact – we sold out of pieces at points and had to send more! The work displayed followed on from our Fairy Tale and Fantasy, and Wizard of Oz themes, which proved to be really popular. We made around £650 which we will use towards resources for further art projects. We hope to be there next year again.

Gartinnies Update



Thank you to everyone who supported us over the summer season, both at the nursery at our community events. The pop up shop we held in Alloa in July was a great success!

We are now looking forward to a busy winter period. Work will begin on our holly wreath orders soon, with the individuals we support designing and creating wreaths for sale, both at Gartinnies and by our partners.

To keep up to date with all the news from the nursery and details of our pop up shops then please follow us on Facebook. Just search for Gartinnies Nurseries.

Welcome Back Vicky

In August, we welcomed Vicky McMillan back to the Central manager's team. Vicky is a familiar face to many of the individuals we support, their families and staff teams as she recently celebrated 20 years of service with Scottish Autism. Having built up a wealth of practice experience working in Central Services, Vicky has spent the last few years as our area Learning and Development Partner. Vicky is returning as a Services Manager, splitting her time between Central and Lothian areas. Welcome back Vicky!



For more information about our Central Area Services, please contact 0845 300 9271 or email central@scottishautism.org