

Scottish Autism News

Leave a Lasting Legacy

Scottish
autism
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

As we celebrate our 50th anniversary year, we continue to strive towards improving the everyday experiences of autistic people as well as ensuring they have the opportunity to live full and enriched lives.

Some supporters, after they have met the needs of their family, leave a gift in their Will so we can continue supporting autistic people in the future. We can use these gifts to enhance and extend the opportunities we offer to autistic individuals and their families. This can be through support and advice from an Autism Advisor on our Advice Line, or access to our Right Click programme. Right Click is a five week online support programme that provides vital support and information to the parents and carers of autistic individuals.

The aim of the programme is to enable parents and carers to develop skills and strategies to support their son or daughter. The content provided in Right Click covers a wide range of information and resources on topics such as health and wellbeing as well as practical issues.

Damian Reilly (pictured right) whose son Niall is autistic, says: "Scottish Autism's Right Click programme provided me with a platform to deepen my understanding of my son's autism. The course fitted in with my lifestyle; I could watch the content online when I wanted. Right Click helped to ease my fears about my child's future."

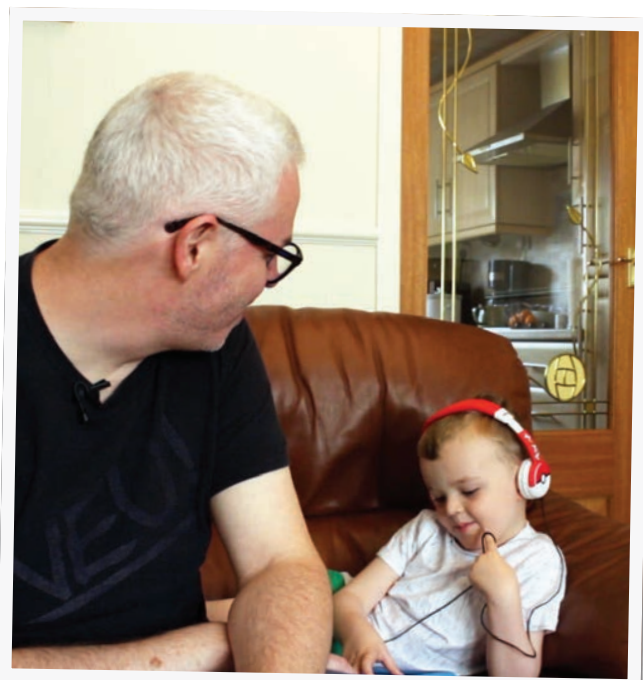
Gifts in Wills can also help to create sensory rooms and outdoor gyms within our services which have a great impact on the lives of the individuals we support. These valuable resources help individuals to de-stress and can reduce anxiety levels, all taking place within a safe environment.

If we did not receive such generous support, these activities would simply not be possible.

We are extremely sympathetic regarding how your gift will be used. If you would like your gift to be used for a specific purpose or in a certain area please let us know and where possible we will ensure your wishes are carried out.

Visit our website to find out how you can leave a gift to us when creating your Will: <http://bit.ly/SAGiftinwill> or contact us directly today by emailing fundraising@scottishautism.org or by calling 01259 720044

Thank you!



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Scottish Autism News is produced twice a year.

If you would like to unsubscribe, please contact us on 01259 720044 or email marketing@scottishautism.org

Success for Makers at Clacks Business Awards

On 30th August, Makers Cafe and Community Hub won 'Best Not-For-Profit Organisation' at the Clacks 2018 Business awards.

The Clacks 2018 Business Awards recognises the efforts of the people and companies who drive our local economy.

Our Makers team attended the awards evening and were thrilled to be selected as the recipients of this award. We're so pleased that the team's hard work, motivation and dedication has been recognised within our community. We would also like to say a huge thank you to all of the amazing customers who support the cafe!

Find out more about Makers at www.makersalloa.org



Founders House Opens in Alloa



From left to right: Jackie Latto, Director of Autism Services, founding parents Jessie Milligan and Olga Fraser, and Felicity Lister, Regional Manager

In July we were delighted to launch our new residential service in Alloa, Founders House. The name of this service was chosen to honour the parents who founded Scottish Autism in 1968. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary year, we were fortunate to have two of our founding parents, Jessie Milligan and Olga Fraser in attendance to officially open the service and cut the ribbon. All of our supported individuals at Founders have settled in to their flats extremely well and some have also gained back more independence which is fantastic.

Thank you to all our generous funders who donated to this new service including; Alloa & District Round Table, Ceteris, Inglewood House & Spa, Rangers Charity Foundation and SG Pro Cleaning Ltd.

Staff Achieve EFQM Assessor Certificates

A drive for continuous improvement is embedded in the culture at Scottish Autism as we strive for excellence both as an employer and in the services we provide to autistic people across Scotland. We drive improvement through the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) Excellence Model, a comprehensive business framework designed to help organisations strive towards excellence.

Scottish Autism began its journey to excellence when we achieved the Committed to Excellence Award in June 2013. This was followed by the Recognised for Excellence 3 star Award in June 2015 and the Recognised for Excellence 4 Star award in June 2017.

We are delighted to reach the next step of our journey as six of our Scottish Autism staff members have successfully completed their EFQM Assessor Training and can now become official EFQM Assessors.

To gain the certificate, the group undertook a two-day course which provided participants with theoretical and practical in-depth experience of assessing an organisation with the EFQM Excellence Model. During group exercises, a case study was used that mirrored a real Recognised for Excellence submission document to simulate real-life assessing conditions.

We would like to thank Angela Howarth (Head of Membership Services) and Fiona Liddell (Account Director) from Quality Scotland for delivering the assessment process.



Exploring African Art

Art Opportunities, our vocational day service in Alloa, held their African Art exhibition on the 24th April which was a huge success. The talented artists within Art Opportunities created unique pieces inspired by an African theme. The artworks included coloured animals and African inspired masks.

Each piece was created from a variety of mediums including fused glass, acrylic paints, oil pastels, textiles and hamma beads. The artists enjoyed exploring a variety of techniques including balloon popping and bubble blowing to create abstract backgrounds on some of the colourful paintings.

This African theme also inspired our Central Area Service Musical Theatre Group, who held an amazing performance based on The Lion King on the 30th May at New Struan School which was a big hit with families and the public. The performance was captured on film by The Untold Motion Picture Company which was a bonus as we have been able to watch this back. The show was outstanding and each performer got an opportunity to show off their individual talents. This year's show, which featured a much larger script, was well received by the audience who gave the group a well-deserved standing ovation! The costumes, props, set and supporting artwork were all uniquely created by the artists within Art Opportunities and the night was a huge success for all involved!



Fife Celebrates Scottish Autism's 50 Years

On August 16th, our Fife service held a celebration event to commemorate fifty years since the founding of Scottish Autism. Our celebration was held at Pittencrieff Park in Dunfermline. The Glen Pavilion at the park was beautifully decorated. Some of our supported individuals creatively displayed their photos on mobiles made out of CD's (pictured below). Our guests particularly enjoyed the delicious buffet and had lots of fun in the photo booth. Derek did a fantastic job of calling the raffle and the DJ played some great music that had everyone up dancing!



A Big Performance for Jaqui



One of our supported individuals in West of Scotland, Jaqui, performed in George Square as part of the Glasgow 2018 European Championships. Jaqui performed as part of a band, which was set up by Dave McClusky at Touch Base. Jaqui along with peers, all attend Sensatronic music sessions at Touch Base in Kinning Park.

Making Music in Tayside

"I recently supported a lady to attend a music class in a local church. The group was quite big and the supported individuals seemed to enjoy the class very much. I thought there would be a few other supported individuals who would enjoy this class, however they could not attend due to access issues.

I spoke to my Service Manager, Gillian McCrae who said there was fundraising money we could use to help pay for the cost of having our own music class at North Lindsay Street. I was able to organise with Kenny (the class' music teacher) to come along to North Lindsay Street and have a trial session for our supported individuals and see if they would like to attend a more regular class.

The class was enjoyed by all but as numbers were high we had to divide the session into two half an hour sessions- this way more people were able to enjoy the class.

Our supported individuals have been learning lots of new songs, using African inspired instrument, drums and shakers, as well as learning to use their own bodies for percussion, such as clapping and tapping. Kenny is great with getting everyone involved- staff and our supported individuals are all having fun with the class. So far the class has been a success and we have completed two 12 week blocks and have been able to book in our third."

Submitted by Lynsay Cameron, Autism Practitioner



Having Fun at Lendrick Muir

In June, staff and pupils from New Struan School returned to Lendrick Muir for their annual residential summer trip, where they enjoyed a range of outdoor activities in the sun.

Some of the activities included archery, canoeing, nature trails, biking and crazy golf, as well as more adventurous activities including the leap of faith (which involved climbing up a huge ladder and jumping off the top!) The favourite activity among the group however was once again the King Swing. This activity consists of a giant swing that two people go on while the rest of the group pulls them up really high before they are released and swing forward! Everyone also enjoyed making a campfire and roasting marshmallows!



Winter Raffle

Enter our raffle, sponsored by Inglewood House, 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.

Raffle tickets are included with this newsletter. To purchase more tickets by post, send an email to fundraising@scottishautism.org or call **01259 720044** and we will send them out to you. Please 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, especially since this year's raffle is part of our 50th anniversary year. Please note: maximum purchase per person for the raffle is 100 tickets (£100).

Entries for the raffle should be returned with payment by Friday, 4th January 2019, with the draw taking place on Wednesday, January 9th 2019. Winners will be notified within 14 days. Please visit our website for full terms and conditions.

Firewalk – Edinburgh

The firewalk is an experience you will remember for the rest of your life, and for many people it is a moment of profound understanding of what living with a sensory challenge can feel like. Before you take on the red hot coals, you will spend the evening learning about a range of techniques and activities which will help you prepare for the challenge.

Interested? Our annual firewalk will be held at Holyrood Park and Education Centre, Edinburgh and will take place on November 25th 2018. If you'd like to register for this event or find out more, contact us by emailing: fundraising@scottishautism.org



Corporate Giving

Thank you to:

- The Morrisons Foundation who contributed a **£20,100** grant towards Makers, our new Cafe and Community Hub in Alloa.
- All of our attendees at our annual golf day. The day was kindly sponsored by SG PRO Cleaning Ltd. and raised. Over **£6,100** for Makers Cafe.
- Co-op Stores in Glasgow and the surrounding area who raised **£2,170** for our Advice Line and online support programme, Right Click.
- Clacks Business Week Lunch, in partnership with Ceteris Ltd. and Inglewood House & Spa over **£2,100** was raised for Founders House.



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.

Rangers Partnership

To mark the end of our year-long partnership with the Rangers Charity Foundation, we were presented with a **£20,000** cheque.

This huge contribution will allow us to continue to provide invaluable advice and support through our Advice Line and has helped us in sourcing furniture and equipment for our new residential service, Founders House, in Alloa.

Partnering with the Foundation has provided us with the opportunity to raise public awareness and understanding of autism. From their support during the making of our short film 'The Journey', which depicts 'the journey' to a football match for an autistic child and was shown at a Rangers match, to seeing the players in our Scottish Autism t-shirts, it is clear this partnership has been a huge success.

Thank you to the fans for their incredible support throughout this partnership, and to the Foundation.



Fundraising Highlights

Thank you to:

- All of our supporters who participated in our Glasgow and Edinburgh Walk for Autism challenges, raising a phenomenal **£27,362**.
- All of our amazing supporters who took part in the Edinburgh Marathon, Gung-Ho! and Tough Mudder Drumlanrig/Edinburgh City, raising **£17,147** to date.
- Clay and Drew, two of our supporters who organised a charity football match between Hearts FC and Rangers FC fans, raising over **£6,350**.
- Ken Hanley, who is in his fifth year of fundraising for us, has raised **£2,338** so far this year for our West of Scotland service.
- Hugh & Jinty Latta who took on one of this year's Kiltwalks and raised over **£1,239** for The Abbie Resource Day Service in our West of Scotland service.



Innovation in Autism Practice: The Future is Calling

In celebration of our 50th Anniversary we are holding a two-day conference on the 8th and 9th of November at the Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow. The conference aims to provide a platform for sharing visionary approaches to the development of autism practice.

Our programme will be influenced and informed by a contemporary view that embraces autism as a developmental difference and focuses on a capacity view of the individual. We are delighted to welcome autistic speakers such as Jon Adams as well as internationally acclaimed keynote speakers including Etienne Wenger-Trayner, Roy Richard Grinker and Peter Vermuelen.

Find out more and book your place at:
www.scottishautismconference.org



Professional Events at New Struan School

Education Network Days

Network Days at New Struan Independent Day and Residential School provide a forum for staff working with young autistic people 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 £65 each.

The Role of Relationships on the Lives of Autistic Individuals - 31 October 2018

Professional Open Sessions

Open sessions at New Struan School are free to attend and offer an opportunity for professionals to visit the school and learn more about our approach to supporting young autistic people with their learning and development.

22 October 2018, 10am – 12pm

4 March 2019, 3-5pm

20 May 2019, 10am – 12pm

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

Get Involved

- **Mens 10K, Edinburgh**
– 4 November 2018
- **Golden Tinsel Mile Walk**
– 1 December 2018
- **Santa Dash, Glasgow**
– 9 December 2018
- **Santa Run, Edinburgh**
– 9 December 2018
- **MacTuff, Dunfermline**
– 6 January 2019



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

Please contact fundraising@scottishautism.org
or call 01259 720044