



Autism Initiatives Newsletter

September 2010

JIM MURRAY RETIRES

Jim Murray retired as Chief Executive of the Autism Initiatives group of charities on 31st July 2010 after nearly 24 years of committed service.

Jim Murray qualified as a Registered Mental Nurse in the 1960s and also holds a qualification in Residential Child Care (from Leicester University). He was Manager of an Assessment Unit for people with learning disabilities before moving into the third sector and becoming an Area Manager with responsibility for fourteen homes caring for the elderly, people with learning difficulties and people with Alzheimer's disease.

Jim was appointed as the Principal of Petersfield Adult Residential Service in 1986 when our Charity was still little more than a small local provider. Two years later he was given executive responsibility as Director of Adult Services and in 1991 was appointed Chief Executive of 'The Liverpool and Lancashire Autistic Society' (as Autism Initiatives was then called).

His commitment was recognised by many Local Authorities who had come to realise their responsibility to support children and adults with autism, through the provision of the specialised services they needed.

Jim also worked to develop practical and co-operative relationships with other small local charities and groups. He helped to establish the Merseyside Autistic Children's Society in 1992 and in 1998, with the Chief Executives of three other charities, formed the Autism Alliance, which today represents many of the leading national and regional autism charities in Great Britain.

Autism Initiatives became a member of Autism Europe in 1994 and Jim has served as the UK representative on the Council of Administration for the last 16 years. He developed excellent personal and working relationships with key people across the Continent and helped Autism Europe to provide help to fledgling organisations in Greece, Belgium, Hungary and Bulgaria. Jim will remain as a member of the Council of Administration - in a personal capacity - for the next four years.

Jim worked tirelessly to ensure that the person with autism is at the very centre of the support we provide. This person-centered approach continues to focus on achieving positive outcomes and facilitates involvement at a level where our service users can make informed choices and experience success.

Now, nearly 25 years on, Autism Initiatives employs over 1200 people in England, Scotland, Isle of Man, Wales, Northern Ireland and Ireland.

At a presentation at Pat Minshull House Andrew Grainger, Chief Executive designate, applauded Jim's achievements over the years and presented him with a gift of a high-tech camera, to which colleagues from across the organisation had contributed.

Jim, typically, responded that the achievements and successes belonged to everyone working for the organisation and thanked all staff for their invaluable contributions over the years.

For many of our readers our new Chief Executive, Andy Grainger, will need no introduction. Andy started his career with Autism Initiatives as a Support Worker in Bedford Road, after leaving University in 1992. He has held many positions within the organisation, most recently as National Director. He has been at the forefront of many of our developments and supported both our growth and our practice. Andy says "I would like to acknowledge the support and mentoring Jim has provided over the years and I am looking forward to leading the organisation and moving it forward to ensure that we continue to provide the best quality services to people with autism."



Andrew and Rachel Grainger, Brian and Kath Williams, Jim and Gret Murray, Mr Ronald Muirhead and The Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, Dame Lorna Muirhead DBE at Jim's retirement dinner.



ALSO IN THIS EDITION



CHRISTCHURCH ART EXHIBITION

Service users of Crosby and Cedar House day services once again provided a selection of creative art works for the annual Christchurch Art Exhibition in Waterloo.

The exhibition, held in mid July, attracts work from artists from across Merseyside including several professional painters and work in a range of media was exhibited by seventeen service users.

For the first time our display included a 'comment tree' and we invited visitors to put their thoughts and feelings about the work on a piece of coloured card.

Shaun

Has been painting for approximately three years and paints with a high degree of independence. He chose vibrant colours for his exhibit – as shown in the photograph below.



Tracy

Most of the objects in the boxes have had or still do have significance for Tracy. Jigsaw pieces are important to her and putting them together is an activity in which she becomes absorbed. All aspects of the work are completed by Tracy.

It is unusual for Tracy to separate and compartmentalise objects in this way. For her, this process of putting things in boxes seems more haphazard as objects are first jumbled up in one large box, or placed in many different locations, before being selected for inclusion in the 'artwork' or for another activity.

Thanks to Ian Pettifer for the photos & copy. Autism Initiatives UK would like to thank the 'Friends of Old Christchurch' for their continuing support and to Linda Gibbs for her invaluable liaison work.



Our service users and Support Workers are beginning preparations for the 2011 Narnia Project at St George's Hall in the early Spring, hosted by 'In Another Place'.

PRESENTATION TO AUTISM CYMRU

Autism Cymru held a two day conference in June geared to issues relating to adults and older people with Autism.

The event was held in Aberystwyth, where both Autism Cymru and Autism Initiatives have their National Head Offices, and there were many speakers and presentations over the Thursday and Friday regarding service provision in Wales and the All Wales Autism Strategy.

We were invited to do a 'Lunch and Learn' session on the second day. Aled James, Autism Initiatives Cymru Development Manager, spoke about our history, ethos and philosophy which was followed by service user Val talking about her experiences within our services.

Val's presentation included her thoughts on partnership and team work, with some valuable lessons about listening properly to be learned by us all. Speaking of the importance of planning Val said "When I make a plan with staff I write it down as this helps me remember what has been said and what is going to happen. This helps because it stops me worrying or getting confused because I know what is happening, a good plan helps me to stay focused and this helps me stay patient".

The conference was also attended by our new Chief Executive, Andrew Grainger, Cairi McKenzie (Autism Practice Co-ordinator) and Cari Owen (our Wales National Office Administrator).

The photograph shows our delegates with Hugh Morgan Chief Executive of Autism Cymru (second from the right).



Cruisin' on Moonwind II

Kevin and Gary, service users from Norma Road, had a great trip on a bright day earlier in the summer when they went cruising down the River Weaver.



The trip was planned by John Kiggins, a member of staff at Norma Road and, handily enough, the owner of Moonwind II.



The Captain and crew had a hearty picnic lunch during a fairly full day on the river and thoroughly enjoyed the outing.



John (right) is planning more days-out for the service users at Norma Road.

Write up thanks to Paula Thomas

Social Enterprise

The Gallery on the Corner

Autism Initiatives Scotland - First Social Enterprise

'The gallery on the corner', an inclusive art gallery and the first social enterprise from Autism Ventures Scotland, has opened to the Edinburgh public. It provides a platform for artists, who have a disadvantaged background, disability or mental health problem, to exhibit and sell their work in a high profile location at the heart of the city's gallery district. The gallery sells work created by a number of established and emerging artists.

The concept behind the gallery was to build on the model of 'art as support' with an 'art as sustainable business' approach. The social enterprise model will help to ensure sustainability of the project whilst giving a number of young people a positive first step into the world of work in an Autism positive setting.

'the gallery on the corner' offers apprenticeships and other opportunities in retail and art to 16-25 year olds with an Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC). Apprenticeships involve on-the-job and vocational training and result in a recognised qualification.

In the months before opening, a lot of work was put into sourcing art, making contacts within the 'inclusive arts' world, designing apprenticeship structures and overseeing the building work. The premises were transformed in just sixteen weeks from a dark, damp basement property to a bright, airy and welcoming gallery space.

Autism Ventures Scotland was established, following discussions between a number of ASC service providers, to create employment opportunities and experiences for young people in Scotland with an ASC, who want to be economically productive and make a valued contribution to society.

For more information about the gallery, please contact Manager Susie Anderson on 0131 557 8969 or go to www.thegalleryonthecorner.org.uk

And finally, 'the gallery on the corner' would not have been possible were it not for the generous backing of the BIG Lottery (which is providing support over five years), the Baily Thomas Charitable Fund, Foundation for Sports and the Arts, Wolfson Foundation, Beatrice Laing Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, Lynn Foundation, The MacRobert Trust and The Russell Foundation. Many thanks for your support.



Our Chocolate Business

Autism Initiatives in Northern Ireland has been successful in an application for funding support to the Rural Development Programme for the development of a chocolate business in Moneyreagh. A new company called 'Autism Work Ventures' has been created to bring this social enterprise to life. Fional McGarry, our Social Enterprise Co-ordinator says "We were delighted to find out we were to receive financial support for developing the chocolate business. This is a really exciting time for the organisation"

The funding has enabled us to complete renovations to the site and will enable the purchase of essential equipment such as chocolate tempering machines, a stainless steel kitchen and much more. 'Autism Work Ventures' has also had success with an application to



the 'Innovation Voucher Fund' at Invest Northern Ireland, which allows social enterprises to access specialist knowledge and skills.

In our case, Loughry Campus, part of CAFRE (College for Agriculture, Food and Nutrition) has proved the perfect match to help in the development of the chocolate making processes, management skills and in meeting the needs of the trainees with autism and Asperger syndrome.

Anna McAllister is the Project Manager/Food Technologist. She has extensive experience in catering and has been working with Loughry on the development of the product. Anna says "Meeting the service users and showing them how to make chocolate has been the highlight so far. We are working on some really exciting flavours, which will be revealed very soon". Anna, together with Fional McGarry, has also been working with Paper Jam Designs to develop company branding.

The business will be called 'Chocolate Memories'.

Fiona and Anna (pictured above) wish to thank everyone who took part in the market research, which will lead to our own special brand of chocolates, and to everyone who took part in the competition to name the enterprise. Nathalie won the competition and wins a 'chocolate workshop' for four people and a chocolate hamper.

For more information, please look at the website www.ai-ni.co.uk or email Fiona at fiona@ai-ni.co.uk or Anna at anna@ai-ni.co.uk.



New Enterprise Manager

We are pleased to announce the recent appointment of Jon Gordon as Enterprise Manager.

Jon joined us in July and will be based at Head Office in Crosby. He has amassed broad commercial and business experience over a twenty year career. During this time he has run his own graphic design, printing and stationary business and been a Director of a medium sized office supplies company employing over 40 staff. He has also been a charity trustee adviser, Chairman and Director of a charity trading company and is a qualified financial adviser and project manager.

This new role has been created to generate meaningful work opportunities for school leavers and adults with autism using our services. Jon says "work will be generated

through a mix of employment and self employment, with the appropriate support, as well as through the creation of social enterprises." A social enterprise is a business that has social, ethical or environmental objectives at its heart rather than profits for its shareholders.

During the first weeks of his new role within Autism Initiatives, Jon has been visiting many of our houses and day services, meeting staff and listening to their ideas and concerns. He says "I am very impressed so far. I have a huge amount of respect and admiration for the skill that some of our staff display and for the achievements of our service users."

Jon is really looking forward to the challenges ahead and is convinced that his experience will help Autism Initiatives to become even more successful in the future.



Jon can be contacted on jon.gordon@autisminitiatives.org, or by phone on 0151 203 2356 or 07730 526229

The Bike Workshop

The Bike Workshop at Cedar House has long provided the valuable service of keeping bicycles on the road through effective repair and maintenance.

Jon Gordon has been working alongside Peter Williams and Brad Griffin at Cedar House to develop the activity.

Jon says, "This project makes sense both economically and environmentally. Our aim is to expand the Workshop and be able to sell roadworthy bikes to the public."

Peter added, "The refurbishment is being undertaken by service users who, whilst being fully supported by our staff, will also have the opportunity to gain recognised vocational qualifications."

Please help, you can:

1. Donate an unwanted bike to be refurbished and used by service users, or sold, or have the parts recycled and minimise landfill
2. Give your bike a new lease of life and have it serviced/repaired by us. For a small charge we will bring it back to full working order make sure that it is safe to use
3. Buy a bike that has been fully refurbished by our workshop, had worn parts replaced and received a full safety check

All profits are re-invested back in the Bike Workshop.

So, get out on the road, improve your health and fitness and remind yourself how much fun cycling can be ... and how viable recycling can be!

If you would like details of other bikes for sale or our repair price list, please contact Peter or Brad at the Workshop on 0151 920 5000 or at cedarhouse@autisminitiatives.org

The Workshop currently has for sale a children's 24" (age 7-9) MTB at £25 and an adult's bike (right) at £35.



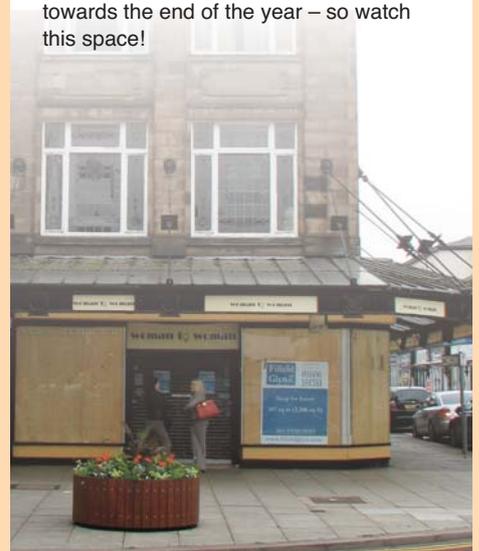
'The Place on the Corner'

We have also made great in-roads with our first major social enterprise in England - a café and art gallery in Southport - 'The Place on the Corner'.

The purpose of this exciting project is to provide opportunities in the café for meaningful employment and work based learning to people with ASC and to showcase and sell art produced by people with autism and other disabilities.

Additionally, through our links with local colleges, further opportunities will be created to learn transferrable skills and strategies relating to both the workplace in general and catering in particular.

There are still a few hurdles to jump but we do have high hopes of an opening towards the end of the year - so watch this space!



Outstanding Award for Yvette

The Isle of Man College has presented an Award to Yvette Michie for her Outstanding Contribution to service users at Autism Initiatives Isle of Man. Her Tutor, Sue Kennish, obviously took delight in highlighting Yvette's



passion, energy and consideration in the citation read in front of students, College staff and Members of the House of Keys at the annual Vocational Education and Training Awards evening.

The photograph shows Sue Kennish (right) presenting the Award at Yvette's workplace as she was unable to attend the Presentation Evening.



Vocational Education and Training Awards 2010

Presentation Evening 21st May 2010
at the Isle of Man College

As a health or social care professional, no amount of academic qualifications will ever surpass the innate qualities you need to be a truly special practitioner.

The NVQ in Health and Social Care course has highlighted this student's outstanding occupational competencies.

Her strengths lie in her absolute commitment and dedication in making a difference to the lives of every person she supports and she consistently demonstrates this with remarkable passion, energy and consideration for individual needs.

Initiating the successful Service Users' Social Group 8 years ago, has unquestionably enriched the lives of those involved with Autism Initiatives.

This award is in recognition of this student's invaluable contribution to the community and outstanding practice.

I am delighted to announce that the Outstanding Contribution Award goes to:

Yvette Michie

AUTISM CONGRESS IN HOLGUIN

In June this year, Liza Slater, Trustee and Chair of the Education Committee, headed back to Cuba for the Second International Congress on Autism. This time she was joined by Dawn Makinson from the OSSME Team.



Before the actual event they delivered 2 days of workshops on sensory processing differences and behaviour management in the classroom to interested professionals and parents of children with a diagnosis of an autistic spectrum condition.

The third day was the work of the Dora Alonso School, Havana, one of the only two autism specific schools in Cuba, delivered by the school's clinical psychiatrist.

Because of technical problems the presentations became talks but they were very well received. The exercises and role-play were a new experience for the Cuban participants but they rose to the challenge with much hilarity.

The Congress proper was opened by the Project Leader Ana Karina Gutierrez Alvarez and a violin duet by local school children. The keynote speech, on the philosophy and vision of Autism Initiatives UK, was given by Liza and a DVD of work at Peterhouse, illustrating this in practice, was shown. The two days of the Congress had talks on the work of the Multi-disciplinary Team in Holguin, support workers who are working with children with a diagnosis of ASC, animal therapy with horses and a programme from Spain on the use of symbols which has been used in the Dora Alonso School for the previous 4 months.

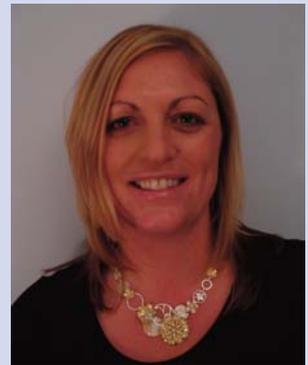


The Congress ended with great enthusiasm to learn more in order to support people with ASC in Cuba and recognition of how far we still have to go.

Written by Liza Slater

Lizzie Corrin - Assistant Director Isle of Man

In 2007 Autism Initiatives were instrumental in a ground breaking project on the Isle of Man. The Isle of Man has a total inclusion policy for educating children but in 2007 they requested a proposal from Autism Initiatives for a 24 hour residential service for a young person with severe autism who they felt they were unable to educate. The proposal also needed to include an educational element which is when I became involved with Autism Initiatives as I was appointed the teacher for this service.



The service was extremely successful and growth on the Island has continued rapidly during the past three years. Initially I qualified as a secondary school teacher of Special Educational Needs and Religious Education. I then became a SEN Co-ordinator and it was during this time I decided I wanted to specialise in autism. As opportunities to develop my knowledge and skills about autism on the Island were limited I resigned from my job and went to Australia and spent some time in specialist schools where I learnt a considerable amount. On my return to the UK I enrolled at Birmingham University to study for an MA in autism and joined Autism Initiatives.

Despite the current economic climate we continue to develop on the Isle of Man, providing much needed services for people with autism. One of the most exciting developments is Nunnery Howe, which when completed will provide residential facilities and workshop based activities for service users to access, it will be the only autism specific facility on the Island. We also run a Supported Employment Project which is in its 10th month and is proving very successful.

As Assistant Director on the Isle of Man my aims are to continue the development of services delivered by Autism Initiatives, ensure they are of the highest quality, and work with Government Departments to recognise the needs of children with autism so we can start to work proactively to ensure the best outcomes possible for the individuals we support.

Lizzie Corrin

ACTIVE WORKFORCE DAY

Autism Initiatives is an Active Workforce partner.

The scheme provided by Sefton MBC Leisure Services aims to provide opportunities for the staff of partner organisations to improve staff health and well being e.g. play sports, take part in fitness classes, learn to dance, have health checks, join weight management sessions and much more!

The programme was introduced at Pat Minshull House where staff were able to participate in Salsa and yoga classes, mini health assessments and lunch time walks.



Eighteen members of staff took up the health assessments, which included height, weight, body mass index, blood pressure check and waist measurements and advice on a healthy lifestyle.



NEW ASC SUPPORT CARD

Autism Initiatives UK has produced an update of the Support Card for people with an Autism Spectrum Condition.

The cards may be used by holders in any situation where they feel apprehensive – or in an emergency.

The card is available, on written request, to service users and to people with an ASC who are not currently supported by Autism Initiatives UK. People not currently supported will show only family or friends as contacts.

Please contact Keith Roberts
email: information.officer@autisminitiatives.org
tel: 0151 203 2321 for an application form.



SERVICE USER FORUMS

At the beginning of the year the Service User Consultative Committee was re-launched and re-named The Service User Forum.

With its own philosophy and its own logo the Forum informs and advises Autism Initiatives UK on issues relating to the needs of the people who access our services. At meetings which take place 6 times a year the group will, for example, review Policy and Procedure documents and health and safety and environmental issues.

Each Area Manager has two service user representatives who contribute to the meetings, along with representatives from the Practice Support Team, the Estates Department, support staff and the Board of Trustees. Together they ensure that Autism Initiatives UK can respond accordingly to matters brought up on the agenda.

Service users wishing to join the Forum, put forward matters for discussion or raise issues, should e-mail Val at suf@autisminitiatives.org

Oonagh Hilton



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Autism Initiatives UK, having held the Investors in People Award for over 10 years, underwent a three year review in July. Of the 1083 people currently employed, within the scope of the review, 75 staff were chosen for interview. Thank you to all the staff interviewed. The organisation was assessed against the main Investors in People standards and two other areas which can impact on the recruitment and retention of staff, they are 'Leadership and Management Strategy' and 'Involvement and Empowerment'.

Having carried out the assessment process, the external Assessors were satisfied beyond any doubt that Autism Initiatives UK continues to meet the requirements of the Standard.

On behalf of Investors in People North West the Assessors congratulated Autism Initiatives on this achievement.

Joyce Davies
Director of Human Resources



ELECTRONIC PAY SLIPS

Since March, the Payroll team has been able to offer a more environmentally friendly option for payslips. This means much less paper, easier and instant distribution and a reduced carbon footprint. The option also provides the significant organisational benefit of being more cost effective.



Our 1,000 plus staff benefit from secure and instant notification – no delays by post or from non-collection - which often leads to requests for copies to be issued.

The new system puts a protected electronic payslip into staff member's specified and secure email inbox instantly – and up to 3 days before the pay date. Only they can open it with their exclusive password.

Travelling through Manchester Airport?

Travelling through airports can be a daunting experience for anyone but for some people with autism the prospect is enough to stop them travelling abroad, which is why Manchester Airport has produced a unique information guide to help passengers travelling with children with Autistic Spectrum Conditions know what to expect.

The free guide is called 'Airport Awareness' and uses airport images to show what to expect on the journey through Manchester Airport from arrival and check-in, through security to returning home. The guide is available from information desks in all three terminals and can be downloaded from the Manchester Airport website.



Fundraising Exploits

Many thanks to the twelve strong Hairy Haggis Team from Edinburgh's No. 6 One Stop Shop and Outreach services who successfully completed that city's Hairy Haggis Relay Marathon in Mediterranean heat.

Despite such impediments as minimal training and an excess of running kit (Stew completed his 8 mile section sensibly dressed in a full chicken suit, rubber mask and feet – you may be able to pick him out on the photo), the team raised over £2000 and inspired some of their service users to join them next year ...

... inspired by Eddie Izzard and all those marathons Dave Cordner thought that he would do one himself. Dave, and his mate Ali, ran the Lisburn half marathon and raised over £500 in online donations alone.

"Autism Initiatives has had such a positive effect on my brother that he is now volunteering to try and help other people that were in his position".

Richie Thomas cycled the length of the UK in June and raised over £600 for Autism Initiatives UK. He chose to support us because he understands how we can help to improve the quality of life for people with Asperger syndrome.

Mike Rhodes has raised around £250 so far as part of his forthcoming attempt on the High Peak 40 mile challenge, with colleagues from Sainsbury's in Southport. (Sponsorship is still open on the Just Giving website)

Aimee Johnson, Claire Russell and Rachel Squires have, so far, raised over £500 for Mere Brow supported living and Resource Centre service users following their thrilling skydive.

The trio, together with two colleagues from the houses, eventually made it into the air after several disappointing postponements due to the weather over north west Cumbria in the preceding weeks.

In the end the excitement of the challenge was only matched by the view from 13,000 ft and they were all thrilled by the descent under (in?) clear skies and proud of their achievement for themselves, the team and Mere Brow service users.

Service users and staff from our Mere Brow Resource Centre manned what proved 'The Best Charity Float' at the Southport Carnival, raised £120 and had a great day out.

Thanks also to:

- Mark Watson who completed the London Marathon in a very respectable 4h 35m and raised over £150.
- Natalie Fisher from Dubford, who completed The Albert Bartlett Edinburgh half marathon and raised over £100.
- Shelagh Murray, a 'Friend of Autism Initiatives' who completed the Sefton Triathlon and raised some £125
- Service user Jon, who raised £65 for the sensory garden at his house

Our Parkbourn house had a visit from the Mayor of Maghull, Councillor Cliff Mainey, and his wife Sylvia following up on a presentation of £150, on behalf of the Mayor's fund, to assist in the purchase of an art cabinet.

The below photo shows Councillor and Mrs Mainey flanked by Jim Murray and Manager Lisa Hankin with some of the creative art work produced by service users at the house.



Fundraising Matters!

VIRGIN MONEY GIVING

Over the next couple of months we will be moving from Just Giving to Virgin Money Giving as our main 'sponsor' site. This will result in a significant cost saving as the Virgin Money Giving does not charge a monthly fee and has lower costs for processing donations.

If you want to organise an event, take up a personal challenge or if you want to support or celebrate someone special, this is where to go <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com>

Click on 'Start Fundraising' and you are on your way ... if you need a hand, please contact Keith or Sue from the Fundraising Team.

As with most of our fundraising activities, donors can ask that funds go to a specific service.

If you are involved with a fundraising project through Just Giving, don't worry, we will be keeping our subscription going for a few months yet.



MONEY FOR FREE? USE EVERYCLICK.COM



everyclick will pay Autism Initiatives UK every-time you click Search on your PC or laptop!

Full details will be sent to you soon on how you can raise money for the cause whilst doing what you do **every**-day. But **every**-one of us can get a head start by making **everyclick** your internet homepage straight away.

If you need some help contact Keith Roberts – see page 8 for details

If **every**-house, **every**-service and **every**-individual uses **everyclick** for their web-searches **every**-time, then it will turn into a very handy sum of money.

All houses, services and individuals who register as a supporter with **everyclick** will be entered into a draw and the winner will decide where the funds

MORE MONEY FOR FREE

easyfundraising
.org.uk

easyfundraising.org.uk is packed full of over 2000 brand name retailers – including all of your favourites!

**register
as a user**

Spend £50 at Tesco and your house will get a donation of £1.25; M&S also offers 2½% - take a look around, click 'Find a Cause', bring up Autism Initiatives UK and register.

There are loads of regularly changing promotions carrying special bonus donations which you may wish to take up.

Put **easyfundraising.org.uk** on your favourites bar so you don't forget to use it whenever you are making online purchases.

This site has the potential to provide significant funds for our Charity if we all use it for shopping online.

Do encourage your family and friends to sign up as well!

FUNDRAISING INFORMATION PACKS

Fundraising Packs are now available from Sue Murphy or Keith Roberts and are chock-full of useful tips, important details and fundraising documents, including:

- Authorisation and Sponsor Forms
- Fundraising tips and Legal issues

The packs have all the information you need to help you, or anyone else, with a fundraising activity.

Collection boxes now available.

Our offices in Crosby, Edinburgh, Belfast, Dundalk, Ramsey and Aberystwyth each has a stock of Collection Boxes in the Charity's dark blue.

Service users, staff or friends and stakeholders requiring a box for an activity or to place in a pub, club, café, shop or similar local point, should first contact Keith, Sue or their local co-ordinator.

All cash collected can be used by your house! Do keep us informed on the nice ways you spend it.



This Newsletter is edited and produced by Keith Roberts, Information Officer, for Autism Initiatives UK.

Keith would like to thank all of those people who contributed to this issue.

If you would like to know more about the stories in this edition, have news to tell or events to promote, please contact Keith on 0151 203 2321 or by mail to information.officer@autisminitiatives.org