



Imagine Act Succeed



EDITION 22

IAS NEWSLETTER

And a good time was had by all.....

IAS 21 Years Celebration

Friday 20th November was a memorable evening that will go down in IAS history. Around 800 people got together to celebrate IAS's 21st birthday. It really was an evening of celebration, with entertainment and music from Moveable Feast and MIXIT, lots of dancing, drinking and eating, and general partying!

IAS 21st birthday was a milestone worth celebrating. We have much to be proud of and occasionally it is good to stop and reflect on all that has been achieved. We now offer support to approximately 400 people and their families. The event was a great opportunity for everyone we support, friends and colleagues to celebrate the journey so far. It's important to celebrate people's achievements and the changes and developments that have led to people having more say and control in their lives. It was also an opportunity to acknowledge the commitment of people, their families, IAS staff and commissioners who have worked in partnership to develop services which promote the needs and aspirations of people with a learning disability.

Networks were able to show a display of the work they do and have planned. There was also a graphical history of IAS, and the new website www.iasservices.info was available to look at.

See the centre pages for photos of the event.....



ANDREW AND JONATHON'S MOVE

Back in November 2008 IAS were asked to come and support my son Andrew for six hours a week. I met with Barbara and Liz from IAS and Andrew's social worker to discuss how they could support Andrew and what this would look like. I was really impressed to learn that I could be involved with the recruitment of staff and what I felt was taken into consideration. Andrew lives with autism and had not been out of the house for several years only to go to college and ride his bike up and down the street. As you can imagine I wanted a lot more for my child and it hurt to see him not do the things other people do. I was really worried and anxious about staff coming in and thinking Andrew was a real handful as this was what he had always been described as, and within time got a real negative reputation where no one wanted to work with Andrew. Liz and Barbara really reassured me saying that this would not be the case with IAS and that they would work with Andrew to support him to become part of his community. Within a couple of weeks staff were introduced to Andrew and started to work with him. Before I knew it Andrew was going out again. I can not tell you how I felt at this time I

was so pleased and so confident with the staff that support Andrew. As my confidence grew with IAS and my son began to have a life we all sat down and talked about Andrew moving out when he reached eighteen. This was a massive decision for me but something I knew I needed to happen, but because of IAS, I knew he would be supported well and be able to do all the things an eighteen year old man would do. After several meetings and long discussions a house was found and even another young man was identified to move in with Andrew. For a couple of months it has been really hectic worrying and exciting at the same time. On the 5th October my son moved into his own tenancy with another young man and even now I know there will be ups and downs but my son has achieved the same as other eighteen year old men do the only difference is that Andrew has a support team that support and guide him to make him become part of his community and live a life that he really enjoys.

Mrs Critchley



Joanne Brierley and Zoe Bridgewater

PRIDE IN DIVERSITY

We both share a flat at Oxford Street. We both decided to volunteer for the Diversity Festival this year. We had to attend many events, and give out leaflets, and encourage people to join in the celebrations. One of these events was the Pride March. It went round Oldham town center, and ended up at Oldham Park. There was a show on, as well as various stalls, and we could all have something to eat. We really enjoyed the afternoon. Here we are with the 'strong arm of the law', and again giving out the leaflets

“My Review”

Mum and I were recently asked to join in my sister Jane’s “My Review” which we readily accepted. This proved to be an interesting and enlightening couple of hours.

Helene (Team Leader) and Susan (Support Worker) took us through the review and discussed the many and varied aspects of Jane’s needs and her care. It was excellent to see mum being able to contribute suggestions on different aspects of Jane’s support and lifestyle.

I was really impressed by the level of attention to detail that goes into supporting Jane. The various plans and notes including communication, family details and dietary issues are comprehensive and clear. Seeing these shows the attention put in by the IAS team to ensure that Jane gets the best possible support at all times.

Without participating in the review we would not have understood how all this back up information is compiled and made available to the team. It was a real eye opener and I would recommend that anyone participates in the “My Reviews” for their loved ones.

*Mark Rawson
(Jane Rawson’s brother)*

INI THE NEW BOND GIRL

In June this year Lesley and Yvonne accompanied me to the New Bond Hotel in Lytham St. Anne’s the hotel had all the mod cons including and up to date restaurant and a heated hydro therapy pool.

Every night there was great entertainment and we had a brilliant time. One of the best things for me was the hydro therapy pool, I felt very relaxed and as this is something you book as a private activity I was free to express myself and enjoy the freedom of the pool without any distractions I would recommend taking the “plunge” to anyone as I found it thoroughly liberating experience.

*Joanne Spivey
Lilford (Wigan South)*



LILFORD STAR MEETS HOLLYWOOD STAR!

On my recent holiday to Blackpool in September Yvonne and Dianne accompanied me to a lovely guest house where the owners and guests were great, the food was excellent and the atmosphere was relaxed and cosy. Whilst in Blackpool I went to a couple of shows, the first one was the Legends show where I saw Elvis Presley and Rod Stewart, Elton John and Ronan Keating to name but a few. I could go on but I am not one for name dropping. The atmosphere was electric and I had a brilliant time.

The second show I went to see was Joe Longthorne where I flirted with the stars I had a great time and enjoyed every minute of it as you can see from my pictures. I was really popular so much so the star wanted their photographs taken with me.

Here I am posing for the camera with Bobby Ball and David Guest.

*Kathryn Day
Lilford (Wigan South)*





"Congratulations to IAS for their anniversary. So much hard work commitment and dedication has gone into seeing that over the 20 years people have a better quality of life"

"It made me think of the extended family of IAS who feel people are important whether they are part of the present organisation or have now moved on"



"It was fabulous to see so many people and the commitment of support."



"It was a fantastic night and great to get to see everyone from your network that you may only meet at training. Everyone is so different at a social event and that's really good to see."

"It was lovely everyone coming together and really enjoyed the night, the venue and the food and the atmosphere were fabulous"



What struck me in particular was the happy full of fun involvement by so many people with learning disabilities, whether it was on the stage, on the dance floor or more ordinarily sat at tables or in the queues for the food. It was a lovely privilege to observe at the event people with learning disabilities enjoying relating together and with others familiar to them, highlighting may I say something fundamentally important to us all, the freedom to enjoy relating together. The celebration evening was brilliant!



"It was so important to have a celebration as it clearly meant so much to everyone"



"It was lovely to meet up with people that I had not met for years and sit and share stories"



To see more pictures from our 21 year celebration please visit our new website www.iasservices.info or visit www.iasphotos.shutterfly.com

My Confirmation

I'm Max and I would like to tell you about a very special day I had recently.

After attending Sunday worship for several years and also helping clean St. Michael's Church in Flixton, I was offered the opportunity to become a confirmed member of the congregation.

Along with 11 others it was to be a special service. It was taken by Bishop Christopher Edmundson of Bolton. The service involved both single and group activities in front of the congregation, all involving our commitment to the church. At the end of the service I was entitled to take communion for the first time.

It was a lovely service and afterwards lots of people congratulated me and welcomed me into the church

officially. I also got to spend a few minutes with the Bishop afterwards and have my photo taken with him.

It's really nice to feel, and be, a part of something and I will attend church with a greater feeling of belonging.

Maxwell Shore



Hello my name is Ruth Lewis, and I live at Oxford Street. I enjoy peace and quiet and like going out to peaceful country places. I try to avoid town centres, with all the people and noisy traffic. When I started to use a

wheel chair, I thought that I would not be able to get out and about. Staff did take me to the Alexandra Park in Oldham, but we had to go in a taxi. Using a taxi meant that I could not travel far afield.

This has now all changed, as I have got my own car. I'm really pleased with it as I can sit quite secure, and see everything around me. I have a special badge, and can always park close to where I am visiting. I listen to some quiet music, and sit back for my journey. Now I can go out for lunch, to a nearby restaurant, or of to country parks, and festivals. I have also joined the National Trust, and they have sent me a book, full of lovely places to visit. I am over the moon. Here is a photo of me just getting ready for one of my trips out.... The world really is my oyster

Ruth Lewis



A SHORT BREAK WITH MY FAMILY

Hi my name is Sylvia Barnes; I am supported in my own home at Almond Brook in Standish. I have just had a lovely two night break with my two nieces and a great niece at the Grand hotel in Blackpool. This was made possible with the help of my support worker Glenda Rutter. While there I made friends with a lovely lady called Marion. Marion keeps in touch and rings to ask when I will be going back as she would love to see me again for a fun weekend.

I know for many people a short break away with family may seem like a very ordinary thing to do, but for me this was a big deal as I haven't had much contact with my family in recent years and have never done a holiday with them before now. The holiday turned out to be a huge success; I have reunited with my family and also made a great new friend. I can't wait to do it all over again!

EDINBURGH WITH A BANG

Hello!

My name is John Carrick and I wanted to tell you about my fantastic holiday in the City of Edinburgh. Simon Carter, one of my Support Workers helped me plan and book this holiday. We stayed in a Novotel in the centre of Edinburgh which was near all the main tourist attractions. It took us four and a half hours to get there but I really enjoyed the drive because of the beautiful scenery.

We crammed a lot into five days. We took a sight seeing bus which took us to all the main attractions and this included Edinburgh Castle (the picture is me and Simon stood outside Edinburgh Castle). We even timed it right and saw the one o'clock gun going off. Apparently this is well known throughout the world! Unfortunately Simon was not ready for this and jumped out of his skin.

We went on a whisky tour, visited Holyrood Palace which is across from the Scottish parliament. We also visited the Royal Yacht Britannia, where we had lunch. On my final day we went to the zoo which was the perfect end to a perfect holiday.

There are lots of fantastic bars and restaurants and it's a very hospitable place. I would recommend it to anyone who wants a fun and packed holiday.

*John Carrick
Trafford*



CLAIR'S 21ST BIRTHDAY

Hi, my name is Clair. I just wanted to let everyone know about my fantastic 21st birthday party. I had different ideas about what I wanted for my 21st but just a week before I finally decided on a big party which all of my family and friends could enjoy with me. I had a DJ, a buffet, and an outfit to die for which staff helped me to choose so that I would look really classy and feel really special as it was a big birthday. Everyone who knows me only sees me in my sporty clothes so this was a change I really enjoyed for one night only!



Clair with her Mum and Gran

The DJ played all of my favourite songs and everyone danced all night long. All of the people I invited turned up so I was really happy. I got THREE bin bags full of presents! My birthday cake was massive and I had my picture taken as I blew out all the candles. I had lots to drink and all in all my 21st birthday was really special. I would like to thank all the staff at Rosehill for their help and support at making my 21st one to really remember.



PARTY TIME

Gaynor Clegg



Hello my name is Gaynor Clegg, and I live at Cambridge Street. I have been here, now, for over a year. I really enjoy living alone, with my cat Fluffy.

A short while ago it was my birthday. I mentioned having a party, and everyone thought it was a great idea. We got some party food, and set it all out on the table. We blew balloons up, and I put my best dress on. My family and friends were invited, and I was really excited. Some people came to help cook the food, before the party started. Then everyone started to arrive, my mum and sister, and some of my friends. They all brought presents and cards, and we all had a really good time. We even had a bit of a disco. Later everyone went home with a piece of birthday cake, and they told me that they had had a really great day. I cannot wait for next year. Here is a photo of me enjoying myself.

LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION



Hi my name is Charlotte and I live in Ashton in Makerfield. I have only lived here for the last 12 months and employ IAS to help me live independently. I have been learning to become more independent and make my own choices about my life and how I want to live it. So the time came for me to have my yearly review, it was explained to me how this happens and then I was asked if I would like to have my review filmed and that it would be put on a CD with clips of stories from other people so that this could be used to show others what IAS provides as a service as well as other things it would be used for. I said yes straight away and was quite excited about it all. I made all my invitations and sent them to everyone who I wanted to be at my review and put on them that it was being filmed. As the day got nearer I was really excited but also nervous. I wrote down all the things that I thought were good in my life, not so good in my life and what I wanted to change about it so I was ready for the day, my friends who I live with helped me with this.

On the day I got myself ready for the cameras and waited for everyone to come to my home, I was really nervous now!! The people who were filming me, Tracey and Trevor, explained everything to me about what would be filmed and made me feel okay. Now it was ready to start - ACTION!!! The cameras started rolling!!!

I introduced myself and thanked everyone for joining me today. Then everyone introduced themselves and told me what they liked and admired about me. I really liked this part it was nice to hear all the lovely things that everyone was saying about me - I even kept all the pages where this had been written so I can read it whenever I want to.

Next we all wrote our thoughts on to big pieces of paper on the walls - again this was filmed and I was feeling okay now and even forgot that the cameras were there.

As it got to the end of my review everyone told me what they had enjoyed about being involved with my review today - I had enjoyed everyone coming to help me with my life and what I want to do in the future, so there it was a day of filming me had come to an end ...or so I thought.

Trevor and Tracey asked if I wanted to do a bit more filming so we did ...

I even posed for some photographs before they left. I really enjoyed my day of being a super star and can't wait to see the finished CD. I have even asked for some copies so I can give them to my friends, not just because I'm on it but so they can show their families what IAS do. So that they can live independently too like me.

