

# THE CLOSE

Autumn Edition Jean Todd Close E-zine/News Letter

Issue Twenty Three Oct 2023



## Welcome to Autumn 2023

In this edition of The Close, we will be looking at what has been happening within Jean Todd Close since our last e-zine was published in June 2023. The editor is informed that Autumn is here and that we will now see the duration of daylight becoming noticeably shorter and the temperature cooling down considerably. One of its main features is the shedding of leaves from deciduous trees, color change in leaves occurs wherever deciduous trees are found. It is also the time of the year that we at Jean Todd Close take stock of what we have achieved over the summer months as well as looking forward to what is planned for the forthcoming months.

## Meet The Team

As in previous editions we will continue to meet some of the staff team



We would like to welcome and introduce Joanne Brown, who joined the team at Jean Todd Close in Aug 2023, in a support worker role.

Joanne states that working at JTC can present with different challenges, however the team are amazing and very supportive. I was made to feel very welcome from day one.



We would like to welcome and introduce you all to Margaret McCrum, who joined the team at Jean Todd Close in Aug 2023, in a support worker role.

# LD Pride—2023

The first Learning Disability Pride day was held in Northern Ireland in 2017, and since then all service users at JTC have been supported in attendance and or celebration on this day.

Learning Disability Pride is an opportunity for people from all backgrounds to get together and really fly the flag for learning disability, in a fun and celebratory atmosphere.

It is also an opportunity to continue to raise awareness and change attitudes towards learning disability. This year seen the service user and staff at JTC attend the annual parade at Carrickfergus.











# Cheque Presentation

Many of you will be aware as mentioned in the last news letter, that in April 2023, this service held a coffee morning to support and raise funds for Peace of Mind Counselling N.I . We are delighted to inform you all we were able to meet with and present a cheque for £378 to head counselor Carole Morgan

## JTC Staff Team Charity Cycle Event July 2023

In July 2023 JTC staff team also organised and completed a charity Cycle event, which involved a virtual Cycle from Belfast to Dublin. We were also joined on the day by Counselor Leah Smyth and the Antrim and Newtownabbey mayor Mark Cooper. This event was completed in just over 4 hours, every one enjoyed the day, buns and water supplied by friends on the day to keep the team going and in total they raised £7707.19. Well done to Donna for taking the lead in this challenge, and to all staff involved





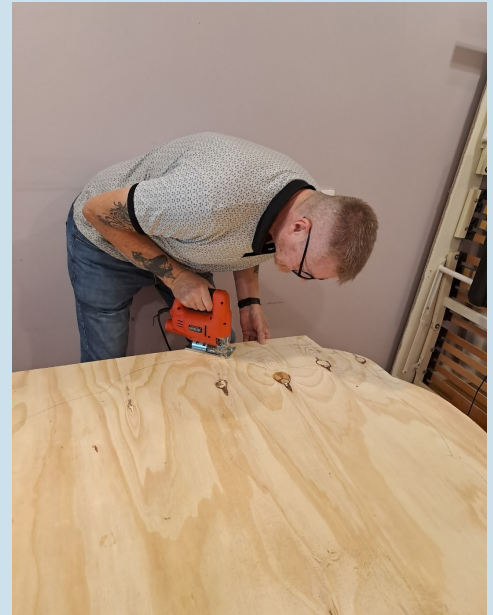
# Inspire Summerfest

In July service user from Jean Todd Close had the opportunity to attend the Inspire Summerfest in Gosford Park. As the picture below show a great day was had by all, with the opportunity and instructions on how to play the bongos and involvement in the use of the inflatable darts and basketball, as well as open air meditation, of course there was also burgers and ice cream to enjoy.



# Jean Todd Close Welcoming Tree

This year seen some of the staff at Jean Todd Close take the lead in organising and creating a new welcoming sign for Jean Todd Close. This involved as many of the service users living at Jean Todd Close as wished to be involved, with making, painting and decorating the Tree . Well done to Andrea and Adrian for taking the lead in this and to everyone that got involved.







# WE PUT THE FUN IN FUNDRAISING

## Jean Todd Close Fun Day

Pre COVID Pandemic Jean Todd Close would have hosted an annual family fun day. This year 2023, seen JTC staff put back in place this fantastic day, the first since 2019. This was yet another great day, well done to Michelle and her team for the work they put in to ensuring that this day was such a success.

JTC management team also use this day to raise the required funds that will be needed to ensure we as a service can maintain the communal garden area that the service users living at JTC enjoy so much.











# Life at Jean Todd Close & Within Our Local Community

Staff continue to ensure that where possible, all the everyday activities and full enjoyment of the local facilities and trips out are fully utilised in the support of the JTC service users within their local community and beyond. Staff at Jean Todd Close have been able to support some of the service users to get out and about more within their local community, away on day trips, holidays, attending Gateway, Party in The Park – Antrim Castle Gardens and enjoying what our local community has to offer, as well as lots of activities within their home and within JTC itself.













# Neighbourhood Policing Team

## Visit Jean Todd Close

The Neighbourhood Policing Team are an important community resource, who are active within our local area meeting residents and businesses, as well as being able to provide information and advice to deal with crimes and problems within our community.

All staff and service users here at JTC value this community service, and we had asked if our local team would be available to come to JTC meet the service users and staff and provide some information that would be of use for us.

Not only were the Neighbourhood Police officers able to provide information and give a talk to our service users and staff, but also had some time to let the service users have some enjoyment with their Police car.





# MP Visit to Jean Todd Close

## Paul Girvan MP

As has been stated within previous editions of this e-zine, here at JTC we value being able to call on our local elected representatives for support and inviting them to spend time with our service users and staff to find out what is important to them. Paul Girvan MP for south Antrim visited this service in September 2023 and spent some time with both service users and staff.



## Community Bingo Night

JTC has an ongoing connection with a local youth group, who have in the past arranged and hosted local bingo nights within JTC for our service users. They also hosted a tbus community bingo night within our local community in September 2023, inviting the service users and staff of JTC to come along. There were over 130 people from our community who joined in this night of enjoyment and community building, which also supported bringing members of our community together young, elderly, as well as individuals with an intellectual disability. This supports and helps to bring down barriers and challenge stereotypes.







## Looking Forward

- Visits/Interactions with Family and Friends
- Being out in our local community
- Family & Carers face to face meeting
- Halloween
- Service User Christmas Dinner/Party

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# Jean Todd Close

Jean Todd Close is a Supported Living Service, which also incorporates a Positive Behaviour Support Service, in four multiple occupancy homes and a number of single and double occupancy flats, houses and bungalows, which are situated within a modern, well planned and laid out site just minutes from Antrim town centre. It is operated by Inspire Intellectual and Autism Services which is the Intellectual and Autism services of Inspire Wellbeing. The service provides high quality care and support for individual members of the community on a 24 hours basis with Intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities, complex health and behaviour needs as assessed by their respective Trust. This service can also provide these services in other locations within the local community

## Contact Us

### Jean Todd Close

29 Randalstown Road Antrim,  
BT41 4LH

Office number—02894 464384





