

Lancashire pub landlord wins PM award for record breaking virtual pub quiz

Press release

Lancashire man who set up online charity pub quiz awarded the Prime Minister's daily Points of Light award.



A Lancashire man who set up an online charity pub quiz which raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for charity has been awarded the Prime Minister's daily Points of Light award.

Jay Flynn, a former pub landlord from Darwen, set up 'The Virtual Pub Quiz' as a way to lift the spirits of residents near his local pub expecting 30 or 40 participants. However, after a Facebook post publishing it went viral, the quiz attracted hundreds of thousands of people and earned the Guinness World Record for most viewers of a quiz YouTube live stream.

He has now raised over £160,000 for NHS Charities Together and over £150,000 for Alzheimer's Research UK.

Writing to Jay ahead of last night's quiz, the Prime Minister said:

On behalf of the whole country, and thousands of your participants stretching right across the globe, thank you for lifting our spirits at this time. And I wish you – and everyone taking part online – another fantastic Virtual Pub Quiz tonight!

Reacting to the Prime Minister's announcement, Jay said:

Something that started as a local quiz for local people in these strange times has received so much support and I am honoured to receive this award!

The Prime Minister's UK daily Points of Light award was first launched in April 2014 to recognise outstanding individuals making a difference where they live. Jay is the 1372nd person to be recognised. As Britain unites to fight the spread of coronavirus, the award is focusing exclusively on people serving their community through the pandemic.

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[Overview of scientific information on coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[unable to retrieve full-text content]The Department for Education's response to issues raised regarding the science on coronavirus (COVID-19).

[Launch of LGBT+ Group Network – be yourself and be proud](#)

The network's mission is to advance the safety, equality and wellbeing of the LGBT+ community across the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) group and to support people who are in a minority sexual orientation or gender identity.

Recent times have understandably taken their toll on all of us in different ways. So the help and support of our family, friends, work colleagues and other organisations is particularly important right now.

This Sunday is the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) with the theme 'Breaking the Silence'.

We are marking the day by raising visibility and awareness, while encouraging people to join our LGBT+ Group Network. We want to ensure that we can all be ourselves at home and at work, while also enjoying the strong support being part of a network can bring – as well as the positive mental health benefits.

Membership of the network is open to both members and allies of the LGBT+ community. As a member you will be invited to attend various events throughout the year, with access to research publications, workshops, webinars and opportunities to build your network and friendships across the group.

Ryan Maxwell, PA to the Group Chief Financial Officer and Lucie Brown, Communications Assistant, are joint chairs of the steering group.

Ryan said:

Our One NDA vision states that we are 'creating great places to work and taking pride in what we do', so help us to continue creating a safe and inclusive place to work – while taking pride in how we do it. Everyone deserves to feel safe and accepted for who they are – both in and out of the workplace – regardless of our individual differences.

Craig Calvin, one of the co-chairs of the Sellafield Ltd network said:

Our aim is to support and make sure all LGBT+ workers are comfortable, included, valued and have the opportunity to thrive within our business.

Statistics show businesses with a diverse workforce that are valued are more successful, so we want to do our bit to help this through our growing network. I'd encourage any Sellafield Ltd employees who are interested in joining to get in touch.

Ross Gardner, Sellafield Ltd network member said:

It's great to finally see and be involved in the launch of both the Sellafield Ltd and One NDA LGBT+ networks. Both networks have a part to play in helping us drive closer to becoming a more inclusive and open-minded work place, not only for our current employees, but also for our future workforce.

Everyone deserves to work in an environment in which they feel respected and valued, no matter what their differences.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the network and would like to find out more, please email: onelgbt@sellafieldsites.com.

The introduction of One NDA has helped all businesses across the group to think and act collaboratively. We have made some real progress in transforming how we manage some of our businesses, and it's essential that our thinking should also continue to transform.

There are a number of resources that are available if you need some support or just need someone to talk to:

[LGBT Switchboard and Helpline](#) can be contacted for any reason, such as confidential support or just for someone to talk to when self-isolating.

[Rethink](#) are a mental health support organisation who have a phone line, email address and online communication service for anyone that needs advice or support, and they have some great informative resources online too.

Mind is another mental health charity who have specific LGBT+ support services which can be found [here](#).

[Mind Out](#) are an LGBT+ specific mental health service and they have an online messaging service for urgent support, as well as an open email for any advice or information.

[eAlert: 15 May 2020 – working hard to provide our services](#)

[unable to retrieve full-text content]This eAlert details our operational response to coronavirus, the extension to the annual claim deadline, support for Urban Tree Challenge Fund applications and tree health surveillance flights.

[Funding supports North Ayrshire community work](#)

News story

Magnox and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority have announced a £25,000 cash boost to help support vulnerable groups in North Ayrshire.



Volunteers from the North Ayrshire foodbank

The money has been granted to North Ayrshire Council to support the community during the coronavirus pandemic.

The council plans to invest the money into both North Ayrshire and Largs foodbanks towards food stock, PPE for volunteers and delivery costs.

The funding forms part of the 12 grants, worth £300,000 in total, Magnox has made available to local authorities or charities where a Magnox site is located.

Gwen Parry-Jones, Magnox Chief Executive, said:

Many community groups are carrying out positive work, supporting the most vulnerable in their areas. This work is vital, and a key part of Magnox's response to COVID-19 is to help other organisations deal with the pandemic wherever we can.

In this time of national crisis, Magnox has agreed with the NDA that we should make available up to £25,000 at each site from the Magnox Socio-economic Scheme for use by local community groups on COVID-19 related activities. Magnox is committed to assisting the communities surrounding our sites, as our communities have supported us for over 50 years, and we hope this funding will go some way to supporting the essential work being delivered.

Councillor Louise McPhater, North Ayrshire Council's Cabinet Member for Communities, said: "On behalf of everyone at North Ayrshire Council, I would like to whole-heartedly thank Magnox for their generous donation. "We have arrangements in place in every locality to ensure emergency community food provision is available – free of charge – for those who need it.

"This significant Magnox donation will go some way in ensuring that we have sufficient foodbank stock ready as we continue to keep our volunteers, foodbank and community hub staff safe as they continue to provide a lifeline service to some of the most vulnerable residents in our communities.

"I have seen first-hand the work carried out by the foodbank and their volunteers over the last few weeks who are doing such a fantastic job in very challenging circumstances and I can't praise them highly enough."

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