

Life lottery

» Community

Fortune favours the brave and the story behind Cirencester Lottery shows how we can boost our own luck with the right motivation.

This not-for-profit, volunteer-run event raises money for causes close to home and has been running for a year.

Each monthly winner – who has bought tickets at £1 each, and then hopes to be lucky at the end of each month when the raffle draw takes place – is awarded with a proportion of the winnings and gives the rest to the local charity of their choice.

October's winner pledged their sum to Corinium Radio and other charities which have benefited this year include Home Start Cirencester, The Scrubditch Care Farm, Lechlade Little Learners and more.

This simple community-minded idea is the brainwave of Matt Winter of Fairford, who has suffered from severe depression for some time and wanted to find a positive project to focus on.

Matt says: "Unfortunately I have suffered from severe depression and self harm for some time. Some days I was close to suicide before finally seeking medical help.

"I received fantastic support from my GP and attended a

programme of counselling. It was recommended by both that I try to find and focus on the positives in life.

"One of the joint suggestions was charity work, but I was still so ill that I lacked confidence to the extent that going out was difficult."

From the 'safety net' of his own home, Matt decided to put his great organisational skills to good use with a local lottery. "I'm not sure where it actually came from, but I thought about a local lottery, a lottery where only local charities were supported," adds Matt.

"I spent a long time talking to the Gaming Commission, learning all the regulations, licence details and just how to run a lottery.

"The Cirencester Lottery is slowly evolving; we have great support from the community and reach nearly 45,000 members every month."

● To play The Cirencester Lottery, visit www.ciren-lottery.wix.com/play

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