

AAC Awards 2019

Friday 11 October
at the University of Leeds, 6pm – late

A night to support and celebrate all forms of communication, the people who use them, the professionals and families that support them and the companies that provide them



2019

AAC
Awards

#AACawards19

Welcome!

Communication Matters is delighted to welcome you to the inaugural AAC Awards Ceremony at the University of Leeds.

October is AAC Awareness month around the world and so it is fitting that we are here to celebrate the achievements of those who use AAC and the people who support them.

The main aim of this evening is to raise the profile of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) and the power it has to allow those who use it to take part in all aspects of life. The recipients of these awards will demonstrate this power by showing us all they have achieved.

6.45 Welcome

6.55 Message from Meredith Allan - President of ISAAC

7.00 Presenting first five awards

Setting of the year
Alan Martin Award
Innovation Award
Research Award
Student Award

8.00 Sign Out Loud (Starter being served)

8.10 Gala Dinner

9.30 Presenting next three awards

Outstanding Community Inclusion
Jamie Munro Award
Rising Star Award

10.00 Lee Ridley

10.30 Lifetime Achievement Award

10.45 Farewell from the CM Chair

Should you need access to wifi during this evening text **Awards** to **+447860039833** and you will receive a return sms containing your personal user name and password. Select the **Eduroam Wi-Fi** network on your device.

We look forward to a memorable evening.

With all our best wishes, **Vicky Healy** and **Helen Whittle**
On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Communication Matters

The Judges



Janet Scott (Chair of the Judging Panel)

Former Chair of CM and Previous Winner of Jamie Munro Award



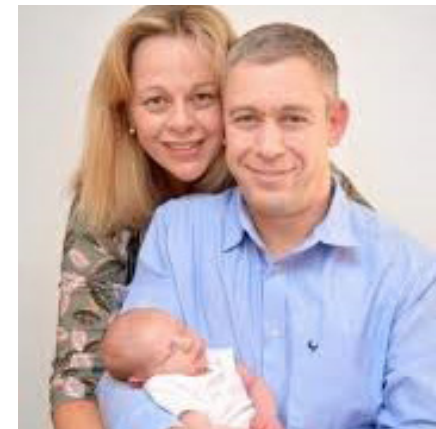
Annalu Waller

Professor of Computing & Chair of Human Communication Technologies
University of Dundee



Vicky Healy

Deputy Chair Communication Matters



Martin Pistorius

AAC User and CM Patron



Mark Street

AAC Supplier and CM Trustee



Anna Reeves

CEO Ace Centre



Julie Atkinson

Chair of AAC Advisory Group (England)



Sam Knapp

AAC User and previous winner of Alan Martin Award

About the Presenters



Setting of the Year HM Vice Lord-Lieutenant of West Yorkshire Tim Hare

Tim was a trustee of Martin House Children's Hospice, 2007-10. He was High Sheriff of West Yorkshire 2005-6 and became a Deputy Lieutenant in 2007 and Vice Lord-Lieutenant in 2012.



Innovation Award Toby Hewson

Toby is an immediate past Co-Chair of Communication Matters. Toby has served on the Board of CM for over ten years. He is the founder of the Charity Just Different.



Student Award Professor Tom Ward

Tom is the Deputy Vice Chancellor at the University of Leeds, where he leads on education strategy, ensuring the University attracts students from a wide range of backgrounds.



Alan Martin Award Professor Janice Murray

Janice is a Speech and Language Therapist and Professor at Manchester Metropolitan University, specialising in Augmentative and Alternative Communication. She is a former Chair of Communication Matters and of the ISAAC Council.



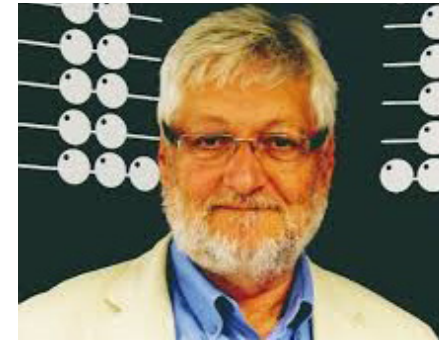
Research Award Robert McLaren

Robert manages the strategic direction of the Industry Technology and Innovation team at Policy Connect. He previously worked within the assistive technology sector providing technology training and study skills tuition to disabled people in universities and the workplace.



Outstanding Community Inclusion Eileen Taylor

Eileen is a councillor for Chapel Allerton and is the 126th, and first black, Lord Mayor of Leeds. She previously worked in the NHS in the field of Learning Disability and Mental Health.



Jamie Munro Inspiration Award Martin Littler

Martin is the Executive Chairman of Inclusive Technology and a Board Director at ATIA (Assistive Technology Industry Association).



Rising Star Award Lee Ridley

Lee is a stand-up comedian. He is the first stand-up comedian in Britain to use a communication aid in his routines, performing under the stage name of Lost Voice Guy. Lee won Britain's Got Talent in 2018 and is a Patron of Communication Matters.



Life Time Achievement Award Martin Pistorius

Martin is a freelance web designer, developer and author, possibly best known for his 2011 book Ghost Boy, in which he describes living with locked-in syndrome. Martin is a Patron of Communication Matters.



#AACawards19

Nominations

Setting of the Year



1Voice

Nominated by: Amanda Hynan, Senior lecturer Leeds Beckett University and 1Voice volunteer

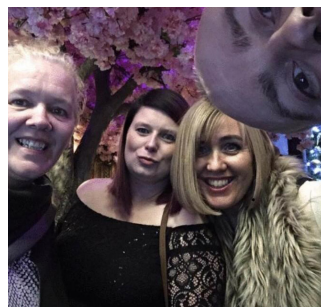
1Voice Communicating Together is an organisation that has shown exceptional awareness and support for people who use AAC and their families. Providing strong community resources, the charity has grown from a small family fun weekend to celebrating its 20th Anniversary with a network of local branches across England.



Ace Centre

Nominated by: Terry Waller, Ace Centre Trustee

For 35 years the Ace Centre has developed and maintained an innovative approach to supporting children, young people and adults with severe communication difficulties. It is a recognised leader in assessment, provision, training and support in the use of assistive technology.



SCTCI

Nominated by: Janet Scott, past Head of SCTCI

In recognition of their hard work, dedication and commitment to providing AAC Services across Scotland, in particularly during a period of significant change over the past year when resources and staffing have been stretched to the limit.

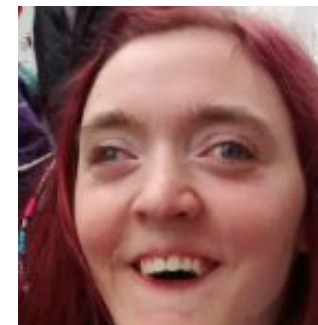
Alan Martin Award



Oli Cunningham

Nominated by: Lois Thomson, Specialist SLT

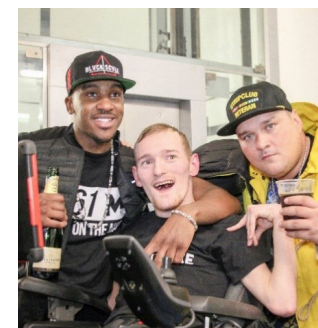
Oli is a proficient eye gaze user and has a keen interest in becoming a DJ! Oli and his dad have worked together to develop a bespoke DJ software package on Grid 3 to enable Oli to carry out his role as a DJ. Oli's passion for music and innovative ideas have inspired other AAC users and individuals to think 'outside the box' when using access technology. Oli has his own equipment and DJ set-up and has provided entertainment and music on many occasions.



Jodie Turner

Nominated by: Gregor Gilmour and 1-Voice Trustees

Jodie's commitment and dedication to dance is very inspiring. Jodie has overcome many barriers which have tried to hold her back from dancing, but she always fights back and finds a way. Jodie's infectious personality and positive attitude make her a great teacher.



John Larkins

Nominated by: Emily Gabrielle, Liberator

John Larkins (or Larko as he is known on the grime scene) has been producing music for around 3 years now. With the help of vocalists who spit the lyrics for him he continues with his quest to become big on the grime scene. John shows a younger generation of AAC users that there really are no limits to what you can achieve if you believe in yourself, stay strong through the highs and the lows and dream big.

Nominations

Innovation Award



Talking Mats

Nominated by: Ann Smaill and Sally Kedge, TalkLink Trust and Talking Trouble, New Zealand

The effort of Founder, Dr Joan Murphy and Director Lois Cameron and their colleagues has seen the development of the Talking Mats framework over many years. It is now a well-respected, well-researched communication framework with a world-wide reputation, which supports the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities guiding principle of individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices. The wide range of contexts and professionals using Talking Mats around the world is enormous.



Debbie Jans

Nominated by: Mark Scott, SCTCI

In recognition of the development of the CODES framework. CODES helps people to think about the components of language, and the different skills that you have to develop to communicate effectively and functionally. It's also a great memory prompt; you don't have to remember everything when it's all there in one quick glance sheet.

Research Award



I-ASC Project

under the leadership of Professor Janice Murray

Nominated by: Gregor Gilmour

This research will help to shape the future of how AAC assessments are carried out. AAC Users and their families have been included throughout and this inclusion of the AAC User has highlighted factors that may have been overlooked.



Oliver Wendt

Nominated by: Chad Nye, Researcher at University of Central Florida

Oliver specializes in efficacy research on AAC interventions for minimally-verbal individuals with autism; his research addresses a critical gap in our clinical knowledge on the efficacy of AAC interventions and mobile technologies through pioneering, groundbreaking work. Individuals with autism who are minimally-verbal are studied much less and often poorly understood.



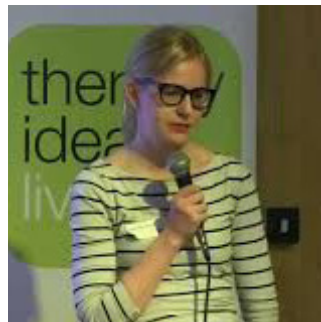
Professor Janice Murray

Nominated by: Martine Smith, Associate Professor, Trinity College, Dublin

Janice has published in highly regarded journals in the fields of language, disability, and AAC, and her presentations in international conferences always draw a large audience, indicating that her research is of good quality, scientifically topical, creative, and well-presented. She has created versatile national and international networks as a researcher and expert, and has been repeatedly invited as a keynote speaker or a researcher to different countries in Europe and outside.

Nominations

Student Award



Helen Paterson

Nominated by: Mark Jayes, Research Fellow, Manchester Metropolitan University

Helen's innovative doctoral research aims to develop novel and much needed training to support healthcare staff to work more effectively with people who use AAC in long-term care settings.



AT Therapy Mentors Team

Nominated by: Andrew Shevlin, Teaching Assistant, Castle Hill High School

The team at AT Mentors is a dedicated team of individuals, who are themselves AAC Users. Collectively they have years of experience and competence in using their devices. They are all older teens with daily commitments of their own such as college and family life.

Outstanding Community Award



Sign Out Loud

Nominated by: Janine Conroy

Sign Out Loud provides a vital service that not only enriches the lives of young adults and children with communication needs but makes Makaton an accessible and fun pastime for the Lancaster community in general.



CALL Scotland & Scottish Book Trust Partnership

Nominated by: Paul Nisbet, Senior Research Fellow, CALL Centre

In recognition of the work CALL Scotland does with the Scottish Book Trust to create accessible digital versions of the Bookbug Family Bag. Three books are gifted to EVERY Primary 1 child (Five year old) in Scotland.

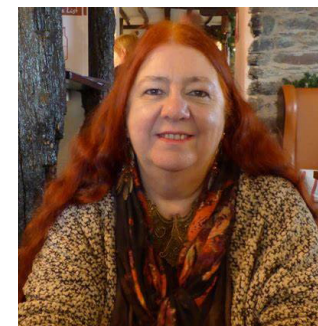
Jamie Munro Award



Anna Reeves

Nominated by: John Bercow M.P.

Anna was an invaluable partner in the investigation of the provision of AAC services, which helped lay the foundations for the national network of AAC Specialised Services. Anna inspires others in the field of AAC by driving positive change, not only through her leadership of the Ace Centre but also by bringing the important message of AAC to policy makers. Anna is a founding member of the advisory board of the all-party parliamentary group for assistive technology. Anna combines a deep commitment to the principle of equality of esteem with the practical and sustained pursuit to turn that commitment into a reality.



Marion Stanton

Nominated by: Phillipa Blackbourn, CandLE

Marion works endlessly to ensure the students that CandLE support across schools and colleges are offered the best quality assessments, advice, support and intervention to allow them to access their curriculum and communication optimally. Marion has instigated a national working group looking at exam access. Marion never tires of researching new theories, interventions and models of delivery, so that she can provide reasoning for all of her decision making. Marion also works with the ethos that one must never underestimate the learning capabilities of students using AAC enabling them to make significant progress with their communication and educational targets.

Nominations

Rising Star Award



Amy Hanschell

Nominated by: Laorag Hunter, SLT Lead, NHS Tayside

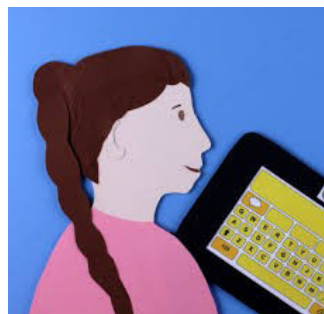
AAC has been one of Amy's passions and she is always happy to share her knowledge and experience with colleagues and patients. Amy has participated in research, training and implementation of AAC both locally in Dundee and nationally across Scotland. Her innovative practice is inclusive of all team members including her patients and she is always keen to learn from others.



Laith Ritchie

Nominated by: Francesca Sephton, SLT, ATtherapy

Laith Ritchie is a highly inspirational, 16-year-old AAC user who over the past year has made a significant impact on the lives of many AAC users. In September 2018, Laith attended the Communication Matters conference where he listened to the ATmentor team share information about their role. Immediately after this, Laith registered interest in working as an ATmentor and by October 2018 was working with the team on a voluntary basis. Laith demonstrates consistent hard-work, commitment and eagerness to learn.



Jemima Hughes

Nominated by: Lois Thomson, Specialist SLT, 1Voice Trustee

Jemima is an AAC user and deaf filmmaker. Her most recent work "How to speak when you don't have a voice" has not only been publicised on BBC Ideas but has been shared amongst many social media platforms to reach out and raise AAC awareness. The impact of this has been huge across a wide audience.

Lifetime Achievement Award

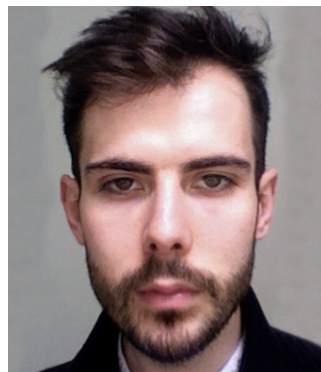


No awards event would be complete without a Lifetime Achievement Award and tonight is no exception.....

This award is presented to a dedicated individual who has made an outstanding and continued contribution to the AAC community.

Tonight's LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD is presented to someone who has been part of assistive technology and the AAC community for over 40 years. This person has probably seen rather a lot of change during that time – technology, funding, research.... And yet the drive to develop better ways of supporting, developing and celebrating AAC still remains – as has been seen here tonight.

Supporting Roles



Artistic Director

Brett Walsh

I am an artist and writer who lives and works in London. I studied Fine Art at Leeds College of Art and just completed my MA in Critical Writing at the Royal College of Art. Alongside my studies I worked at the University of Leeds for around 5 years and in my time there I was lucky enough to collaborate with the fantastic Communication Matters team. I helped deliver their annual conference and saw the fantastic work they do first-hand. I am delighted to be helping out again on this new project!



Sound Engineer

Will Davies

I'm a musician and sound designer currently based in Edinburgh. Studying for my MSc in Sound Design, having completing my undergraduate in Creative Music Technology at the University of Salford in 2018. I joined the Meet in Leeds team in the summer of 2016 as a conference assistant. The CM team have become a firm favourite of mine in the conference calendar, and I'm delighted to continue working with them.



Photographer

Max Harrison

I'm a final year Digital Media student at the University of Leeds. I have a background in photography, film making, and graphics (both static and motion). I recently completed a year-long placement at the Facilities Directorate where I assumed the role of Digital Marketing Assistant. On this placement I assisted with the creation of marketing campaigns and technical support for various other operations. I was highly involved in content creation for web and social assets which were used campus wide.



Wonky Candles

Patrick Seaman

I am the proud owner of Wonky Candles which is a business that makes candles using eco-friendly soya wax. I have multiple disabilities which affect my hearing and sight (I'm registered blind). I have epilepsy and autism. Wonky Candles began in 2018 when friends told me they loved the candles I'd made as Christmas gifts and said they would pay for more. I am delighted to have been commissioned by Communication Matters to design and make the bespoke candles that are your table gifts tonight.

facebook.com/wonkycandles

Performers



Alistair Barrie (Compère)

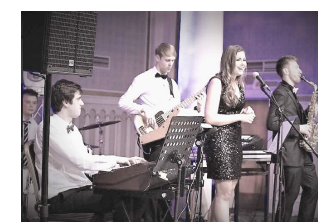
Alistair Barrie is one of the top headliners on the international comedy circuit. He has performed in over 40 countries including acclaimed performances in Australia, Cape Town, Mumbai and the legendary Comedy Cellar in New York. He is a regular at London's world-famous Comedy Store and a core member of their weekly topical 'Cutting Edge' team.



Lost Voice Guy (Comedian)

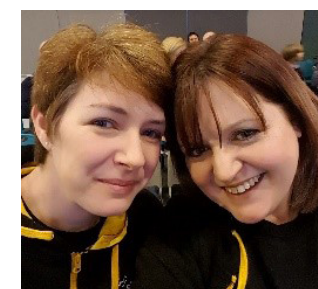
Lee Ridley AKA Lost Voice Guy may not be able to talk, but he definitely has something to say, and his comedy will leave you speechless. Since making his first stand up performance in February 2012, Ridley has gained quite the reputation for being both very funny and very unique.

In 2014 he won the BBC New Comedy Award and went on to become the winner of ITV's highest rated show, Britain's Got Talent, in 2018. He was the first comic ever to win the show, and when he took to the stage delivered one of the most hilarious stand-up routines the show has seen.



Pass The Hat

Pass The Hat is a jazz collective made up of alto sax, bass, drums and piano. Formed in 2016 and with over 50 years of collective experience, each member brings their own unique style to the band, resulting in new and exciting interpretations of jazz classics. A deep affinity with one another's playing, as well as the desire to have fun above all else, results in a dynamic, sometimes comedic, and always enjoyable experience. Tonight, Pass The Hat will be playing as a trio, welcoming you and setting the tone for a wonderful evening.



Sign Out Loud

Started in 2013, Sign Out Loud is an active and fun way of teaching Makaton through the use of popular music. Sign Out Loud continues to go from strength to strength and shows the positive impact Makaton can have on the lives of people who have difficulties with both using and understanding language. As well as their regular Sign Out Loud sessions at college, Kate and Sally have featured in a Makaton advent calendar, performed at the Accessible Festival and of course, are a regular feature at the CM annual conference. We hope you enjoy their performance tonight!

Thank You

Communication Matters would like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved in organising and supporting this wonderful evening. We are so grateful to all those who have helped us during "AAC Awareness Month" to hold this event to celebrate the achievements of those who use AAC and the people who support them.

Tonight would not have been possible without receiving some fantastic nominations for some truly inspirational people, thank you to those who took the time to send them in!

Our special thanks go to:

Our VIP guests - Tim Hare, Esq., Vice Lord-Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, Lord Mayor, Cllr Eileen Taylor, Professor Tom Ward, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Student Education and Robert McLaren, Policy Connect. Also our patrons author Martin Pistorius and comedian Lee Ridley - your attendance has made this evening even more special

Thank you to the Judging Panel who have had the most difficult job of all, your knowledge and expertise has been invaluable and to all those who agreed to present these important awards tonight.

Thank you to Beverley Kenny and the team from MEETinLEEDS who have been with us every step of the way. Your ideas and inspiration have helped us to realize this amazing evening.

Thank you also to The Refectory Catering Team especially Chris Smith (Refectory Manager) and Lisa Hall (Head Chef) together with all the Kitchen and Service team members.

Thank you to Brett Walsh (Artistic Director), Will Davies (Sound Engineer) and Max Harrison (Photographer). Brett and Will are both ex MeetinLeeds staff and they have tirelessly volunteered their time and skills to support Communication Matters, a charity who they have grown to love!

To our fabulous performers – Alistair Barrie, Pass The Hat, Sign Out Loud and Lost Voice Guy.

Thank you to Probos Promotions Ltd and Alexander Marketing for co-sponsorship of this evening's awards.

We must mention those companies who provided much-needed sponsorship and raffle prizes – AV&C, Smartbox, EyeControl, Smile Smart Technology, Tobii Dynavox, Liberator, MeetinLeeds, Print & Copy Bureau, Fast Lane Displays, Event Hire Bradford, Ibis Leeds Centre, DoubleTree Hilton, Tiffin Sandwiches, Artisan Cakes, Hebden & Poole Fine Foods, Alchemia Studio Jewellery, St Andrews and also Wonky Candles (Patrick Seaman) for making the lovely table gifts.

Last but by no means least, thank you to all those who bought tickets to attend tonight, it wouldn't have been possible without you!

Poem

Dave Young, The Shouting Mute, winner of the 2018 Alan Martin Award, presented the Plenary Address at this year's Communication Matters Conference. Ahead of the event, he invited CM members to send him 'one word' about what CM meant to them. From those words Dave created this wonderful poem.

Communication Matters

Communication Matters is roaring chatting connecting together.

Communication Matters is networking the companies with the service users.

Communication Matters is learning and chatting confidently about AAC.

Communication Matters is communication and technology coming together in one fantastic world. It's a mission and it's powerful.

Communication Matters is a place where people can express themselves properly without being judged.

It's people and technology.

Communication Matters means socialising with people like me.

It's people, it's expression, it's brilliant.

It is an amazing weekend where you are using communication and technology with empowerment, coming together to celebrate the brilliant work done by professionals and individuals who are AAC users and providers.

Communication Matters is a place to meet up with friends and have the opportunity to learn and share ideas.

It's amazing, it's friends, it's cake.

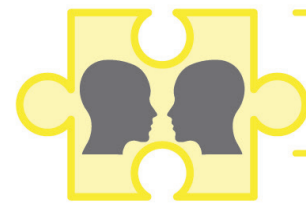
Communication Matters is where people can express themselves properly without being judged.

It's a place where I can socialise with people like me.

Communication Matters shows me you can get a job in AAC mentoring.

It's exploring, and sharing, and great.

Communication Matters is a kaleidoscope, bringing together professionals and AAC users in one gigantic melting pot of ideas.



Communication
Matters
more than just talking

International AAC Conference



13th - 15th
September 2020
at
University of Leeds

Don't miss out on the International Augmentative & Alternative Communication Conference which brings together AAC users, families, professionals, researchers and AAC suppliers

Members and non-members rates | Early bird discount available |
Exhibition only access rate | Online registration

A busy two and a half days covering a wide range of topics: practical solutions, personal experiences, latest research, plus clinical and technological developments in the field of AAC.

- plenary sessions
- presentations
- case studies
- workshops
- posters
- equipment exhibition
- entertainment
- networking
- Annual Meeting

Find out more at: www.communicationmatters.org.uk/page/conference

SUBSIDISED places are available for AAC users, their PAs & families.

- Fully wheelchair accessible site and accommodation.
- Registration includes lunch & refreshments.
- Residential places include breakfast & evening meals.



Book and pay before 17th July to claim
your **EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT**

Communication Matters is a UK charity which works for and brings together
everybody who has an interest in AAC
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Congratulations

To all of this evening's winners



The Smartbox team wishes everyone at the AAC Awards a wonderful evening.

Well done to all of the nominees and we hope you enjoy this special occasion! We are proud to be part of this extraordinary community and would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the support they give us every year.

thinkSmartbox.com

Congratulations to all those nominated in the AAC Awards for 2019
Delighted to support all at Communication Matters



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UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



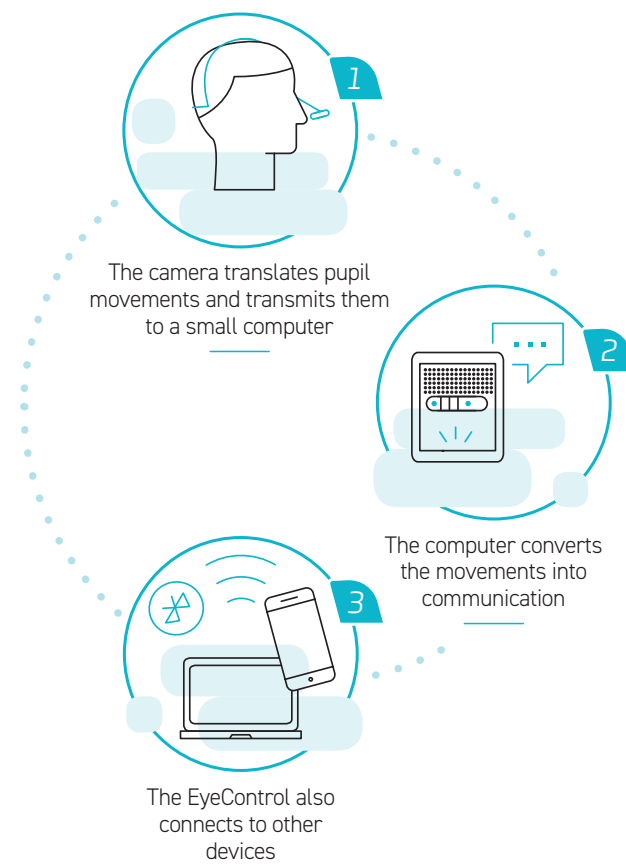
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MEET
INLEEDS
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UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

You don't have to shout
to be heard.



Many congratulations to all those nominated in the AAC Award
Categories for 2019, from your friends and colleagues here at
MEETinLEEDS the University of Leeds' conference and event team.

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Menu

Retro Salmon & Prawn Cocktail with Finger Toast

Roasted Beetroot and Wensleydale Cheese Panna Cotta with
Roasted Tomato and Olive Oil Dressing (v) *

* * * * *

Roast Rump of English Lamb with a Herb and Pinenut Crust,
Roasted Shallots, Fondant Potatoes and Red Wine Jus

Roasted Vegetable Pancake Gateaux (v) *

* * * * *

Tangy Lemon Tart, Lemon Curd Ice Cream and Raspberry
Confit (v)

* * * * *

Fairtrade Tea and Coffee served with Chocolate Truffles

Served with

Homeward Bound Chardonnay
Homeward Bound Shiraz
Sparkling Elderflower

* Pre-Orders Only

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