

Publication of Jimmy McIntosh biography to be celebrated at event on Friday

A new book about the life of disability campaigner Jimmy McIntosh will be published on Friday 11 November, with warnings that it will prove a “shocking and harrowing” read.

Lesley Fox has written the first biography of a remarkable man who became a disability campaigner following his own experience of the care system in Scotland. The book, which has many black and white photos, is called *As Long as We've Got a Voice* and is published by [Thirsty Books](#).

On Friday 11 November there is an event at The City Chambers to celebrate the launch of the book. Tickets are free and those wishing to attend may register below.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-voice-of-jimmy-mcintosh-tickets-447609501067>

Jimmy was born with cerebral palsy in Kingussie in 1943 and then spent more than 40 years in institutional care – mostly in Gogarburn Hospital. His early years were spent on his grandfather's farm, and in Raigmore Hospital Inverness and East Park Home in Glasgow.

As Long as We've Got a Voice

The Life of Jimmy McIntosh



LESLEY FOX

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Jimmy said at the time: "The staff at Raigmore treated me like their own children. That made me happy. That's why I'm so strong today."

He left Gogarburn Hospital in 1983 and lived with his wife Elizabeth in Edinburgh until he died in 2014. He was awarded the MBE in 2006 to recognise his years of campaigning for people's rights and challenging discrimination.

Howard Mitchell, Chair, The Scottish Oral History Group said: "This skilful collation of Jimmy's recorded interviews, documentary research and reflection offers a rare insight into Institutional life in the 20th Century from a survivor's perspective and an inspiring narrative of subsequent accomplishments."

The publication is supported by Edinburgh Development Group,

The Action Group, The Thistle Foundation and People First (Scotland).



Receiving his MBE of which he was very proud at Holyrood Palace Edinburgh Courtesy EDG

As Long as We've Got a Voice

The Life of Jimmy McIntosh

This is the remarkable story of Jimmy McIntosh, a tireless campaigner for equality and disability rights, who spent over forty years in institutional care, most of it in Gogarburn Hospital on the outskirts of Edinburgh. Failed and abused by the system, his total lack of bitterness and forgiving nature made him a discerning advocate for disabled people like himself.

Involved in countless campaigns on issues such as voting rights for patients, cuts in social services, setting up advocacy services and hate crime strategies, Jimmy was awarded an MBE in 2006 in recognition of his tireless work over many years fighting for people's rights and challenging discrimination.

'The voice of Jimmy McIntosh is important to anybody concerned with a more tolerant and including society.'

Tom Frank, Former Social Worker, City of Edinburgh

'This skilful collation of Jimmy's recorded interviews, documentary research and reflection offers a rare insight into institutional life in the twentieth century from a survivor's perspective and an inspiring narrative of subsequent accomplishments.'

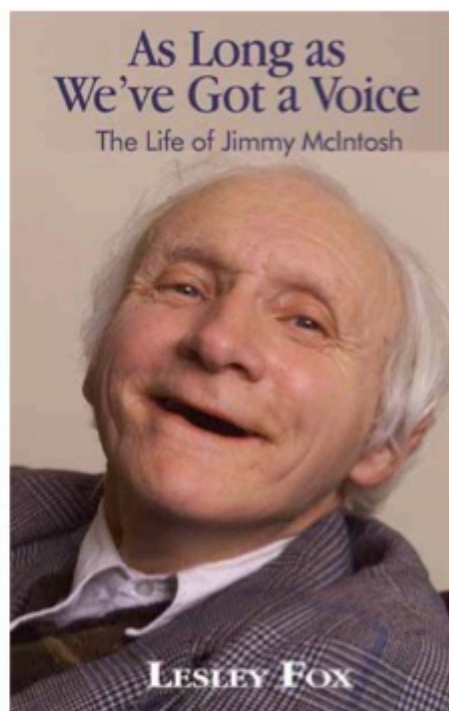
Howard Mitchell, Chair, Scottish Oral History Group

'This is both a moving personal story of how Jimmy overcame adversity to become one of Scotland's foremost disability activists and a social commentary on disabled people's move away from institutional living. It is a compelling read.'

Shirley Young, Parent Activist, Trainer and Author

'A man of enormous empathy... his legacy must be to keep moving forward towards a truly inclusive society where every contribution is cherished and valued in the certain knowledge that we are all the richer for that.'

Steve Coulson, Coach Consultant, Thistle Foundation



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The Life of Jimmy McIntosh
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size: 216 x 138mm

Book specifications

Hardback edition in blue Wibalín cloth, with pale blue endpapers, including colour head & tail bands and full colour jacket. Includes 16-page photo section. A handsome book.

Lesley Fox is a writer, early childhood teacher, yoga therapist, massage therapist, artist and dancer who had the honour of supporting Jimmy in his magnificent work from November 2007 until February 2010 when she left for Australia.



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