

# KINGSTON MENCAP Newsletter

The Voice of Learning Disability



## Trustee Committee 2011/2012

**Chair:** Gill Wood **Secretary:** Sue Baker **Treasurer:** Mary McDonald

**General Trustees:** Heather Notermans; John Phillips; Glenna McCulloch; Sandy Yorke-Mitchell; **L.D. Rep:** Kim Bright

# 60th Anniversary

## Dates for 2012 Diary



Country & Western  
31st March 2012  
SELL OUT

AGM  
27th April

Mini Olympics  
9th June

Railway Visit  
17th June

Boat Disco  
14th July

60th Celebration Ball  
7th December

Dear Members, Friends and Supporters,

This being our **60th Anniversary** year the Trustees have been working hard, planning, talking to members and agreeing the year's activities - see page 3 for more details.

With Spring and Easter just around the corner, as ever there seems to be so much going on!

Fast on the heels of the Causeway closure we are immersed in yet more paperwork and the **Learning Disability Review**. I have been overwhelmed with the amount of support and comments members have been making in this first part of the review.

This time of year our treasurer Mary has been working not stop preparing the Kingston Mencap accounts ready for the auditor along with all the club treasurers who have been so supportive in getting their accounts to me on time. This leads me on to the date set for the **2012 AGM on 27th April** and our guest speaker Lord Rix who has very kindly agreed to come along to talk about his experience and life over the past 60 years....

The Kingston Mencap Trustee Committee are always looking for new trustees so if you are interested in getting involved and would like to chat about what is expected please give me a ring as we will be voting in the 2012/13 trustee committee on this day.

Many thanks to all the members who have paid their £5 subscription and the wonderful donations but we still have a number of members who still need to renew!

Happy Easter to all  
Gill Wood (0208540 1399)



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## AGM Friday 27th April 2012

**We give formal notice that the AGM has been set for 27th April at Dysart School at 7pm**

**We have invited Mencap's Lord Rix to talk about his experience and life over the past 60 years and Simon Pearce will give an update on the Kingston Learning Disability Service in Kingston and hopefully the result of the recent Review.**

*If this is the first time you have seen the newsletter and/or would like to receive your own copy please do let me know so I can send you details on how to join - just £5 per year. We want to reach as many people as possible by email, to save time and money and to make sure news gets to you quicker and easier, but we can also send by post. If you no longer want to receive news please let me know so I can take your name and address off the circulation list. Email: [gillcwood@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:gillcwood@blueyonder.co.uk) or telephone 0208540 1399*

## VOLUNTEERS PARTY

This party kick started out 60th Anniversary celebrations and over 30 volunteers joined us at the Royal Oak in New Malden for a night of games, quiz and get together and of course food and drinks.

We had a large cake to thank our volunteers and lots of photos! (still waiting for John's)

It is about 5 years since we held the last Volunteers Party to thank all our very hard working volunteers, who turn out each week to support our clubs and projects and in this our 60th Anniversary year we felt it was time to show how grateful we are!

We would like all current volunteers to sign the 'Volunteers 60th Book' to record how they first got involved with Kingston Mencap and what they still get out of volunteering.....



## HOLIDAY HOUSE IN Christchurch Dorset

Holiday house bookings keep coming in but we do have some weeks still available especially during April, May and June if you want to book a week! It can be really nice in Mudeford and the surrounding New Forest area, less crowded and very pleasant for walking during the early summer months. The house is approximately 20 minutes walk to Mudeford Quay and similar to Christchurch town centre, with easy access to Bournemouth by car or bus and there are local shops and supermarkets nearby.

**2012 Members Price: 1 Week £440 OR Mid week or Weekend £275**

If you are interested in making a booking or want me to send a brochure

Contact: Gill 0208540 1399 or email [gillcwood@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:gillcwood@blueyonder.co.uk)



## KINGSTON MENCAP CARERS GROUP

The Carers group meets up on the first Wednesday of the month at Home Farm Trust (HFT) Springfield Place, New Malden at 7.30pm. Mary Macan facilitates this group and all members are welcome.....

In January we talked about the government discussion document "Fulfilling Potential" with Lis Robertson who came along to explain and take back ideas and suggestions to the Office of Disability Issues. All feedback must be sent in by 9th March

At the February meeting we talked about the Learning Disability Review - families are of course concerned that RBK might stop providing services and commission out - a great worry for all!

**During Carers Week 18th - 24th June it has been suggested we go out for dinner so if you are interested in joining us please let me know. Venue and cost still to be decided but would expect around £20 per head for a 3 course meal at a local restaurant.**

### Meeting dates for 2012

6th March; 4th April; 2nd May; 6th June; 4th July; NO AUGUST MEETING- BREAK FOR HOLIDAYS;

5th September; 3rd October; 7th November; NO DECEMBER MEETING - out for Xmas dinner.

Gill Wood 0208540 1399

## NORMANSFIELD THEATRE - 17th March

We have booked tickets for the Paper Moon Theatre Company production of "Magnificent Music Hall" at the Normansfield Theatre, Langdon Down Centre, 2a Langdon Park, Teddington TW11 9PS

**On Saturday 17th March at 7.30pm - Tickets £15**

We have few tickets available so if you are interested in joining us please contact Gill 0208540 1399

**Two hours of glorious, rich entertainment - carefree, cheerful and of course, uniquely British - UNMISSABLE**



## Forthcoming 60th Anniversary Events.....

The Trustees have set up a number of extra special events to celebrate Kingston Mencap's 60th Anniversary and have booked various venues so we do hope you will be able to join us on at least one occasion!

Some of the ticket price events have been subsidised for members, particularly for those with a learning disability who need 1 to 1 carer support. We hope you will support these events and book tickets asap with the organiser of each event. At this stage we need to know NAMES and NUMBERS and payment can be made at a later date!

### MINI OLYMPICS - Fun Day 9th June

As part of our 60th Anniversary and also to celebrate the Olympic Year we have planned a Mini Olympics and Fun day on Saturday 9th June from 12 to 4pm

We have been invited by the McCormack family to hold this event at their Robin Hood Farm in Kingston Vale - more details nearer the time.....

Entry ticket £2 which will include parking space

Each sporting event will cost £1 to enter with either a medal for the winner and certificates for the runner ups and all participants

There will be a BBQ, Live band and lots of sporting things to get involved with.....

We are still in the early planning stages but would welcome any support or help if you have any ideas or want to get involved please contact Heather 0208549 7450



### THAMES BOAT TRIP DISCO 14th July

Many members ask us each year when we are going to organise another boat trip? So this year we have booked the Clifton Castle on Saturday 14th June with a Disco and Karaoke singer 7-11pm and fish and chip supper

Subsidised Tickets for L.D. Members and paid carers £15

Members Tickets £15

Full price tickets £20 for non members

Pat Cox is taking bookings and ticket monies so if you want to book a place Tel 0208977 9021



### 60th ANNIVERSARY BALL - 7th December

This will be held at Glenmore House in Surbiton and will give everyone a chance to really dress up and have a ball!

This is a magnificent house and we have booked the whole ground floor for Kingston Mencap members and friends.

There will be pre-dinner reception with drinks; 3 course dinner and live music and raffle Round tables will be arranged for up to 10 people and we can take bookings for 120 people and there is good access for wheelchairs.

Tickets £20 for people with learning disability and paid support staff

Tickets £30 for members Ticket £40 non members

To book tickets contact Gill 0208540 1399





# SATURDAY DROP IN

Saturday Drop-In

The Drop-In is held at the Searchlight Community Centre, Kingston Road, New Malden, KT3 3RX each Saturday from 12 noon to 3pm - except Easter, Christmas and New Year weekends.....

Michelle and Zerrin, our 2 experienced leaders take it in turn each Saturday, supported by our fantastic volunteers who turn up faithfully each week. They all make it a very welcoming, friendly place to drop by at the weekend.

The Christmas party held on Saturday the 17th December was well received with tickets at only £3 included a light lunch, free raffle and a small gift, chance to make chocolate crispy cakes, a card or calendar for someone special, dancing to disco music; and games - LOTS FOR JUST £3



**EASTER PARTY will be held on Saturday 31st March**

**This year's party will be held on Saturday 31st March**

**Tickets £5 to include Lunch, Easter egg hunt, Raffle and Lots more. See poster for full details.....**



**Gill Wood 0208540 1399**



## HAMLET at the Rose Theatre



Blue Apple Theatre is delighted to announce that the Arts Council is supporting their forthcoming tour of HAMLET starring six actors with learning disabilities which will visit theatres and arts centres across the south of England.

Blue Apple Theatre's touring company of 6 actors will re-invent the world's most famous play in a fresh, funny and fearless expression of their lives... with learning disability and tour their production to mainstream theatres and arts centres in a professionally designed and directed production.

The actors have been examining the text and are now in rehearsal.

We feel this is an extremely significant and important project for raising awareness of what people CAN do when offered opportunities. Performers with learning disabilities are being invited into theatres as professionals and we hope audiences will come to see the potential for people with learning disabilities in a new way; will appreciate their talents, see the play in a new light, have an entertaining and enjoyable evening out and come away determined that more people with learning disabilities should be given chances and opportunities.

Hamlet is the culmination of several years work in which our performers have been growing their skills and confidence through putting on shows to the public. Their skill and aptitude for learning lines, dance routines and directions is amazing. I am sure we are improving not just their physical health but also their mental well-being and their independence. I hope this project will inspire more people to offer such chances so that we see such amazing changes in the lives of people with learning disabilities.

**They will be at the Rose Theatre on July 4th and it is hoped that members will support this performance and purchase tickets from the box office.....**



## SEEKERS CLUB

Seekers started 2012 with a bang!

We kicked off with our New Years resolutions and wish lists for the year ahead, during Seekers and in our home lives to plan and prepare for a fun filled 2012.....

We encouraged a good old fashioned wardrobe clean out and hosted a clothes swap evening, no money was needed as the idea was to bring in what you didn't want and swap it for something you did....all left over items went to Cancer research.

In an attempt to keep the club fresh and diverse we introduced some new activities to our Calendar.

March will see our first interactive sensory story, and a live circus act, as well as a whole rock themed choir in April.

We have kept the old favorites such as Seekers got talent, karaoke and craft.

At Seekers we acknowledge the cultural Calendar and this is reflected in our craft themes ie. Chinese New Year, St Patrick's day and our favorite love celebration...Valentines day...this year as well as wearing red and playing love songs we introduced a love heart token scheme where everybody was given a heart to then give to one person they would LOVE to dance with.....we had a fantastic evening with lots of dancing and hopefully no broken hearts.

Our birthday themed discos are still as popular as ever and this monthly event never fails to be a fun packed evening. A special thank you to St Ann's lodge who make an extra special effort and acknowledge our themed evenings making sure that their clients are dressed to impress!

We have introduced another new theme to the birthday disco and I am hoping the forthcoming pajama party will be as fun as it will be snug and cosy!

A very important part of Seekers club is how we plan and prepare our Calendars and this involves input and direction from our members committee.

Our committee meets once every six weeks and will make important decisions about the club from the information we gather from all members. Our committee needs to be the voice of ALL members so it is important that they are effective and represent what members want. This week we had a very democratic vote for our new committee, and I am pleased to introduce this years committee: John Diamond, Warami Tuoyo, Helen Lay, Kim Bright and Robert Johnston.....Congratulations to all who were elected!

As you may be aware Kingston Mencap celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, this actually is a double celebration as Seekers club celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in June, so a lot of planning and preparation is going into making this year spectacular with some forthcoming huge parties. We are proud to confirm that our 50<sup>th</sup> celebration will be in association with Kingston Grammar school and will be hosted at the school in June..... date to be confirmed.....very exciting!

Lastly Seekers would like to welcome new members, there is no waiting list and we are pleased to introduce our new members (three since January) into the Seekers family.....

If you want to learn more and get involved with Seekers please contact me on 077523 969 855 or 0203583 1731

PLEASE NOTE SEEKERS CLUB IS RUN FOR MEMBERS OF KINGSTON MENCAP, SO IF YOU ARE NOT YET A MEMBER LET ME KNOW AND I WILL SEND YOU AN APPLICATION - ONLY £5 per year



**Zerrin Izli**

## FUTURE FRIENDS

Future Friends

Hello from Future Friends!

It's been a busy few months since we last wrote to Kingston MENCAP....

December was packed with Christmas festivities, not to mention working really hard to prepare our second annual Christmas show.

**Christmas with Future Friends** was a great success, the cast and crew performed so well and we raised £128 for club activities. Huge thank you must go to all involved, those who donated gifts for the raffle, the parents and friends of Future Friends who came to help on the night and everyone who came to support us. We hope to see you again next year!

We also had a fantastic night out at the Bishop out of Residence pub in Kingston where members and volunteers stuffed themselves with yummy Christmas meals and hot chocolate!

We have had a great 2012 so far, meeting at Searchlight for some really fun activities as well as visiting our regular haunt, Kingston Ten Pin for some fierce bowling!

Our competitive sides really came out when we played football at Searchlight, I haven't had so much exercise in years!

I'm very excited to be heading to Future Friends this evening for Future Friends Next Top Model where we will be trying our hands at being models, make up artists and photographers. Beautiful pictures coming soon!



If you are aged between 19 and 35 years old and would like to become a member of Future Friends or come along as a volunteer.

Drop us an email at [futurefriendskingston@gmail.com](mailto:futurefriendskingston@gmail.com)



Call me on 07725562434.



Kirsty Fraser

## DISPLAY at Kingston Library

We have booked space at Kingston Library in June to display some of Kingston Mencap's 60 years - accumulated photographs papers and books but would welcome more from members!

If you have any items that we could use please do get in touch and maybe even share your memories with us....

We will also be making recordings of members thoughts and old memories to highlight the changes that have taken place over the past sixty years within Mencap and in Kingston....

Glenna McCulloch is leading on this and would welcome any items for the display which we hope may do the rounds to other libraries in New Malden and Surbiton during the summer.

Contact Glenna 0208891 3529 or email [glennamcculloch@idnet.com](mailto:glennamcculloch@idnet.com)





# XPRESSION YOUTH PROJECT



A big hello from everyone at Xpression!

It's been a top notch year for us at the club, with our move to Searchlight Youth Centre in Kingston, new and better activities since we now have access to better facilities, and our annual weekend away!

Since moving, we now have capacity for more members to join us for our impressive range of activities. For the uninitiated, every Tuesday night (from 7 until 9) in School Term Time, we run up to 4 scheduled activities that members are free to choose from.

These have included a vast range of sports, quizzes, computing, design, cooking skills, discussion workshops, team challenges, table tennis, table football, pool tournaments, an annual awards night, where we celebrate the members' achievements throughout the year.

That's just what we do in the building: We like to spring free regularly and access community based activities such as going bowling, getting down to the golf driving range, trips behind the scenes at the local cinema, and loads more.

Also, once a year we all go out on an adventure weekend away with our members and our team of volunteers to enjoy some rather exhilarating pastimes such as rock climbing, archery, team building exercises, and of course the obligatory sweet fuelled Saturday night party.

We have spaces available right now for new Members!!

So if you are 12-18 years old, and are looking for a great evening out on a Tuesday, then please get in touch!



You can contact me by email any time at:  
[xpressionyouthproject@gmail.com](mailto:xpressionyouthproject@gmail.com)



or you can leave a message on 07749 275 425 and I will call you back!



We look forward to seeing you!

Dave Cafferty

Xpression Youth Project Leader.



## CHESSINGTON ROCKS CLIMBING WALL - Free

FREE Wall Climbing 6 week course at Chessington Rocks Climbing Wall at Chessington Sports Centre, Garrison Lane, Chessington KT9 2JS

Time: 3.30 - 5pm

Maximum 10 people - first come first basis - YOU MUST BOOK

Contact Sue Johnson 0208547 5212 [sue.johnson@rbk.kingston.co.uk](mailto:sue.johnson@rbk.kingston.co.uk)



# CHILDREN



## YORDA ADVENTURES news

**Quiz Night:** 23rd March 7pm for 7.30pm start at Dysart School  
 Tickets £10 with fish and chips supper - Contact Laura 07939844978

**Easter Egg Hunt:** Saturday 21st April 9.30am to 1pm in the playground of  
 St Andrews and St. Marks School Playground, Maple Road, Surbiton  
 Find the tokens and win some chocolate!!!! £3 entry.

We will also be face painting;

All part of our a brilliant morning out with our friends the Surbiton Farmers Market



**Sky Dive:** 1st April

Fancy doing something exciting and getting sponsored to do it?

Raise £230 minimum this covers the cost of the jump and a donation to Yorda

Contact Helena for booking and more details 07553529309 / Helena@yordaadventures.co.uk

### RESULTS OF FUNDRAISING

**Race night:** Thursday 23rd February went really well and we raised £152.

Thanks to everyone who came along and thanks to the Slug and Lettuce Kingston

### **Monthly Draw:**

January's winners were Di and Stuart Lacey

February's Winners are Bill and Jean Eustace

### **PLAY PROJECTS**

**Easter Holidays:** Dates for children aged 5 to 11yrs: 3rd /5th /10th/ 12th April

Young People aged 12 to 19yrs: 2nd/4th/11th/13th April

Booking Deadline: 9th March - Booking contact Charlotte 07545 974734

**SATURDAY CLUB:** New dates Every Saturday afternoon from 28th April to 2nd June for 5yrs to 11yrs Booking Deadline: 9th March - Booking contact Charlotte 07545 974734

If you have a young person 12-19yrs who likes to go out on a weekend please let us know.

### **Saturday Swim mornings at Dysart:**

Contact Charlotte for bookings and dates: charlotte@yordaadventures.co.uk

**For more information contact: Laura Smyth Tel: 07939844978**

**laura@yordaadventures.co.uk**

## CRICKET - open to 11-18 year olds - FREE

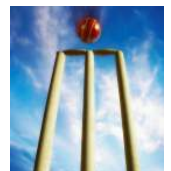


Free cricket - come and see if you can HIT THE TOP

Chessington Sports Centre, Garrison Lane, Chessington KT9 2JS

Wednesday 5.30 - 6.30pm

Coach Name: Alex Bassan 07840 144933



## TRANSITION FAIR - King Charles Centre on 26th March

A fair for young people with learning disabilities is being held to help with the transition into adulthood. The fair is open to all young people ages between 13 and 25, their parents and carers to meet and gain information and advice about the shift into adult life.

Workshops and stalls will be available with an array of information available.

Refreshments will be provided by Dysart & St Phillips schools as part of 'Enterprise Scheme'

Time 1pm to 5pm For more information contact Joy Iruo on 0208547 5004



## TRANSITION INFORMATION NETWORK

The Department for Education has commissioned a two year programme called Preparing for Adulthood. The programme will provide knowledge and support to local authorities and their partners, including families and young people, so they can ensure that disabled young people achieve paid work, independent living, good health and community inclusion as they move into adulthood.

The Council for Disabled Children, which hosts the Transition Information Network, will work in partnership with the National Development Team for inclusion (NDTi) and Helen Sanderson Associates to deliver the programme. NDTi are the lead on this programme, read more about their work on their **website**. The Council for Disabled Children is working as Strategic Partner for SEN and Disability to the Department for Education, read more on the **CDC website**.

Preparing for Adulthood is part of the Government's programme to implement the Green Paper **Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability**, which set out proposals to reform the system of support for young people with SEN and disabilities and their families. You can read more about the green paper, including the response that TIN submitted earlier this year on **our website**.

Preparing for Adulthood is part of a range of contracts involving voluntary and community organisations which will help deliver key reforms to support children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities, and their parents. Read more on the **Department for Education's website**.

For more information about Preparing for Adulthood visit the website [www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk](http://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk).  
Tel: 020 7843 6006 Email: [tin@ncb.org.uk](mailto:tin@ncb.org.uk) Web: [www.transitioninfonetwork.org.uk](http://www.transitioninfonetwork.org.uk)

## AUTISM NEW RESEARCH - News from SWAPS

### Earlier signs of autism detected

Scientists have shown for the first time that measuring brain activity in infants as young as six months may help to predict the future development of autism symptoms.

Funded by the UK Medical Research Council and Autistica, the research was conducted at the Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development, Birkbeck, University of London and published in the 26 January issue of the Cell Press journal *Current Biology*.

In their first year of life, babies who will go on to develop autism already show different brain responses when someone looks at them or away. Although the researchers are careful to say that the study is only a first step toward earlier diagnosis, the findings do suggest that direct brain measures might help to predict the future development of autism symptoms in infants as young as six months.

"Our findings demonstrate for the first time that direct measures of brain functioning during the first year of life associate with a later diagnosis of autism - well before the emergence of behavioural symptoms," said Professor Mark Johnson, MRC Scientist and head of the Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development at Birkbeck, University of London.

The behaviour characteristic of autism emerge over the first few years of life and firm diagnoses are now made in children only after the age of two. As a result, the vast majority of research on autism has necessarily concentrated on children two and up, who have already been diagnosed. "We still know very little about the earliest appearing symptoms and warning signs," Professor Johnson said.

TO FIND OUT MORE AND READ FULL RESEARCH REPORT GO TO:

[www.autistica.org.uk](http://www.autistica.org.uk) and click on latest news

## AUTISM FRIENDLY FILMS - John Carter

Autism friendly screenings each month and this month it is John Carter on Sunday 11th March Sensory friendly screening for people with autism and learning disabilities every month at over 80 Odeon cinema's in UK - tickets available from 7th March -b Go to [www.odeon.co.uk](http://www.odeon.co.uk) or ring 0800 138 3315 to book seats



## SWAPS dates at Warren Park - 3 to 5pm

25th March; 29th April; 27th May; 24th June; 15th July; 9th September; 7th October; 4th November

## NEWS FROM ROYAL MENCAP.....

### ART SPIDER

Art Spider  
Newsletter



#### The children's face of Britain

The Face Britain project is for children and young people to create a self-portrait which will be part of a world record attempt and the biggest online gallery of self-portraits in the world.



#### Big Dance 2012

Join in with the world's largest dance festival, Big Dance Week 2012.



#### International Student Drama Festival

If you have a passion for drama and are aged between 16 and 25, you can enter a performance.

#### Shifting perspectives

The work of 12 photographers who have a personal connection with Down's Syndrome will be showcased in Doncaster.



#### Layered art exhibition

An exhibition in Manchester by learning disabled artists working with Venture Arts.

#### Postcards from Blackpool

The About Face theatre company will be touring with the play 'Postcards from Blackpool', in the Midlands and north-west England.



## ADVOCACY

Flexible and responsive advocacy support from Mencap

Mencap now provides advocacy services for people with a learning disability across England. If someone needs advocacy, we can provide quality support for them to have their voice heard. And the service is available as a one-off purchase.

#### **Flexible**

We can provide advocacy support at a time that fits with an individual's life and their day-to-day commitments.

#### **Responsive**

Our advocates can respond to requests for advocacy support at short notice. So they can support people with issues as they arise and before they escalate.

#### **Who can we support?**

##### **Individuals**

Mencap's one-to-one advocacy service supports people to get the information and support they need to make informed choices and express their views.

##### **Groups**

As well as facilitating existing groups, our advocates can help to establish new ones if several people have similar concerns and opinions. We help people to achieve common goals, and make sure that everyone in the group has the chance to speak up.

**Find out more:** [www.mencap.org.uk/empowerme](http://www.mencap.org.uk/empowerme) Call 0300 333 1111

## LOBBY MP ON 6th March in Westminster

Mencap is part of the Care and Support Alliance, who are organising a lobby about the government's plans to change social care.

A mass lobby of MP's is where as many people as possible go to Parliament to talk to their MP on the same thing..

**To find out more go to: [www.mencap.org.uk/carelobby](http://www.mencap.org.uk/carelobby)**

## Lee Hope - running to inspire others.....

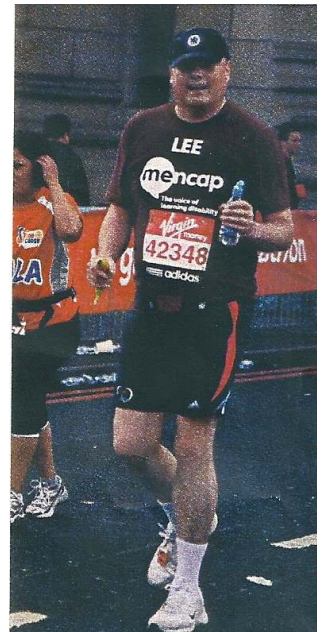
Even though Lee Hope has a learning disability he has run the London Marathon 13 times for Mencap - and it's so important for him to go back for the 14th in 2012

Lee has always enjoyed sport from a young age and after he left college he continued to take part in various sporting activities- even now at 44 Lee is always swimming, running or doing some kind of sport"

Lee has a learning disability and just over 15 years ago he joined a local group 'Kingston Mencap' and finding Mencap wanted to find people to take part in a run decided to jump straight in. Lee enjoyed it so much that he has gone on to run 13 marathons....

Lee's Mum Vicky is a great supporter of Kingston Mencap and to this day still sends out birthday cards to each member every month! What a great team they are!

Look out for Lee in April at the Virgin London Marathon



## FAILINGS IN CARE CONTRIBUTED TO DEATH

Mencap calls on health regulator to re-open the case of Kirsty Pearce who died at Basildon Hospital in Essex.

At the inquest into the death of the disabled teenager, a narrative verdict concluded that doctors had failed to recognise the serious condition she was in and that delays in her treatment had contributed to her death. Her father said it was hard to get the hospital staff to accept they had made mistakes.

## CQC find failings in learning disability services

Post-Winterbourne inspections reveal concerns about care.....

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published the first of its 150 inspections of care services for people with learning disability. The service which includes hospitals and care homes are being inspected following the abuse scandal at the privately run Winterbourne View residential home in Bristol. The abuse was highlighted in a BBC Panorama programme in 2011 which shocked us all!

The CQC inspections said that the findings of the reports and other inspections suggest that better staff training, increased focus on person centred care and stronger leadership are needed.

To read more go to: [www.cqc.org.uk](http://www.cqc.org.uk)

## Blowing the whistle....

**New support for staff who have concerns....**

The Whistleblowing Helpline for NHS staff was extended to social care from 1st January. The free independent and confidential service is now provided by Mencap. The helpline is operated on weekdays between 8am-6pm with an out-of-hours answering service available on weekends and public holidays.

Health and social care staff can contact the helpline if they have concerns or want advice on best practice

**Whistleblowing helpline no. 08000 724 725**

*Editor's note: It is up to everyone to 'alert' if they have any concerns or see bad practice*



## The Evening Club & the Putty Potters

The weekly club is held at the United Reform Church, Malden Road, New Malden, KT3 6DR (near the Fountain Pub & Roundabout)  
Wednesday evening from 6:30pm to 8:30pm  
This is a Social Evening to meet new friends or old; play a game of pool; socialise

The Next meeting dates are: **MARCH 7th (NOT 14th) 21st and 28th**

To check meeting dates and more information contact:  
**Edward Klepp 07877 715 701**



## FIRCROFT TRUST - Quiz night 16th March

We are planning a lovely evening at Fircroft Centre with a fun quiz night. Build a team and come along to join in the fun.

Tickets are £5 per head and will include a light supper half way through.  
Our Question Master will be Alan Ridley, retired teacher from Tolworth Girls School, and quiz master 'par excellence'.

It'll be a great evening – do join us.

For more information or for tickets, please contact me or Aine at  
[aine@thefircrofttrust.org](mailto:aine@thefircrofttrust.org)

Jill Fletcher Meloun  
PR & Fundraising Manager  
The Fircroft Trust 96 Ditton Road Surbiton KT6 6RH

0208 399 1772 [www.thefircrofttrust.org](http://www.thefircrofttrust.org)



## YOUR SPACE AT THE FOUNTAIN: Fountain Youth Centre., New Malden

There has been limited numbers attending 'Your Space' at the Fountain Youth Centre each week so if you don't want to lose the Drop- In  
Why not go and try out this week?

Drop In started in October and the aim was an alternative when the Causeway closed for those that can drop by with or without staff.

The cost is £3 per person per session (please come with your own support)

Monday 12 noon-8pm; Tuesday 9.30am-6pm; Fridays 9.30am-12.30pm; Sun 12 - 4pm  
Refreshments available; Computer Games; Play Pool; Table Tennis; Play DVD's  
Friday morning 10-12 midday ART SESSIONS £10 per person (including drop in fee)  
Monday afternoons 2-4pm XBOX ACTIVE SESSIONS £10 per person  
Coming soon... Karaoke on Tuesdays at 3pm.....



For more information: Email Andrew Stride [andrew.stride@welmede.org.uk](mailto:andrew.stride@welmede.org.uk) or Tel: 01932 571444

## Happy birthday to WOODBURY

Woodbury is celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2012 - it seems to be a 'big anniversary year'  
It seems incredible that Woodbury was opened in 1972 - this followed the transfer of Kingston people from long stay institutions like Botley Park and St Ebbas hospitals.  
In 1982 flats were secured in Chamberlain way and then the opening of 17 Chamberlain Way for use for respite in 2003

Jane Wells seems to be have been there forever and I now know for 39 years and Manager for 28  
It sounds like another birthday celebration coming up soon !

## BOOGIE NIGHTS

### Next Boogie night 13th April

Boogie Nights are held at Kingsmeadow,:

Jack Goodchild Way, Kingston Road, Kingston KT1 3PB

Friday night 7.30pm - 11pm

**£5 on the door (carers go free) Contact Melissa 07947423083**

Find us in 'Groups' on Facebook: boogienights@groups.facebook.com



## HOME FARM TRUST

The 'Review Day' planned for January did not take place, instead to try and improve communications there will be an opportunity to meet up with Tracy Lazell by appointment one day a month at "Open Surgery"

20th March; 24th April; 3rd May; 22nd June; 30th July; 7th September;

2nd October; 7th November; 10th December

To book 45 minute slot ring and book on 0208 9429769

**ST PATRICK'S NIGHT March 17th 6.30-10.30pm**

Tickets £7 each Traditional Irish dinner and Disco

Tel Melissa for tickets 0208942 9769

James Bottiglia is the new receptionist at HFT

If you would like to receive the HFT Newsletter

Contact Chahnaz to add your name to the list 0208942 9769



## BOWLING at Charrington Bowl

Bowling each Thursday 2.30 - 3.30pm

(No bowling 1st Thursday in month)

Meet in the Charrington Bowl foyer

Cost per game £1.80 per person

At Charrington Bowl, Kingston Road, Tolworth, Surbiton, KT5 9PB

For more information please call 0208547 3227

OR Contact Andrew 07798 641 562



## DISCO - Friday 13th April

Welmede have organised this Disco at the Burview Hall, Queens Road, Walton on Thames KT12 5AB

Friday 13th April 7- 10pm

Tickets £3.00 (Carers free)

Limited transport available for those living in Kingston area £4 return

Contact Andrew to book tickets or to arrange transport 07798 641 562



## Learning Disability PARLIAMENT

Kingston Learning Disability Parliament hold 'open meetings' every five weeks. These meetings are a chance for people to meet their MPs and to find out what is important to people with learning disabilities.

All open meetings are held at Session House

Next meeting dates:

16th March; 17th April; 25th May

**Contact: [ldparliament@hotmail.com](mailto:ldparliament@hotmail.com)**

Marie at the Parliament office: 0208547 6645

Sessions House, 17 Ewell Road, Surbiton, KT6 6AF



## Learning Disability Review

The Council need to make savings of £750,00 over the next 3 years and need to know the service is well organised and good value for money and are looking at the way the whole service works, what RBK do well and what could be done better.

As you all know the council appointed Deloitte to review the learning disability service with the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities. They have started to review the service with the first stage AS/IS and looking at what works well and what could work better!

Meetings were arranged for people with learning disabilities, the Parliament and families and carers so they could all share their views and have their say.

Christine Towers of the Foundation led on this part of the consultation - Deloitte will have now written the first report on how the service is now and should have included all these comments made by users and families.

The report was presented to the Council last Friday and the Project Review Board will oversee the review and sign off the reports and their proposals at different stages during the process.....

## Stephen Sinclair

### NEW MEMBER - Stephen Sinclair shares some special news.....

For the past year Stephen, supported by Duncan, has been coming to the Saturday Drop In, sometimes with his Mum to spend some time....

Stephen works at the Poppy Factory in Richmond and was lucky enough to be invited and photographed at the November 2011 Remembrance Day service with Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth 2

(Stephen to left with spectacles and his Mum to his left)

Stephen tells me he enjoys his work at the Poppy factory, built in 1922, and has worked there for some time helping to assemble the artificial poppies that are exported to many commonwealth countries.

**Can you believe that in 2011: 130,00 wreaths and 49,000,000 poppies were made at the poppy factory?**

*Editor's note: Stephen thank you for sharing with us*





# SPOTLIGHT: Carers U.K.



## Carers UK. We help carers.

Carers UK is a charity set up to help the millions of people who care for family or friends. At some point in our lives every one of us will be involved in looking after an older relative, a sick friend or a disabled family member. Six million people in the UK are caring right now but whilst caring is part and parcel of life, without the right support the personal costs of caring can be high.

### GUIDE TO CARER'S RIGHTS

This new edition 2011/2012 "Looking After Someone" is now available and is invaluable as an essential guide to carer's rights.

This guide sets out carer's rights and how they can get financial help, practical help and how to combine work with caring.

Copies can be downloaded at:

[http://www.carersuk.org/media/k2/attachments/Looking\\_after\\_someone\\_a\\_guide\\_to\\_carers\\_rights\\_and\\_benefits.pdf](http://www.carersuk.org/media/k2/attachments/Looking_after_someone_a_guide_to_carers_rights_and_benefits.pdf)

If you need a PRINTED copy telephone Carers UK 0207378 4999

### CARERS BREAKS

The Government is introducing new moves to ensure that the funding for carer's breaks is spent by Primary Care Trusts. Over the past 3 years carers have been frustrated that the funding of £250 million passed to Primary Care Trusts for carers breaks has not been spent.

### CAMPAIGN WINS GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT ON FUTURE OF CARERS BENEFITS

Whilst expressing on going concerns about the Government's Welfare Reform Bill, Carers UK has welcomed an 'absolute assurance' from the Government this week, that the link between Carer's Allowance and Personal Independence Payment will be written into legislation.

### LOBBY MP's on 6th March

In April the Government will publish its plans for social care reform and we need to make sure the proposed changes cover the critical issues that we all want to see.

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012 there will be a joint lobby of Parliament to take the message to MPs across all parties. People from up and down the country will be travelling to the Houses of Parliament in London to present their concerns and lobby their MP.

We want to make sure that all 650 MPs are lobbied on that day. Don't worry though you only need to lobby the MP who represents your constituency....

Kingston Learning Disability Parliament, along with Kingston Mencap members with other Mencap groups will be joining up to press this message home.

### CARERS WEEKS 18th - 24th June

The theme this year is 'in sickness and in health'

There is vast amount of essential information for carers on the website and you can also subscribe to the monthly Newsletter.



**Quick Guide to Caring**

**Carer's Allowance**

**Find help where you live**

**How to get Care Support**

**Caring for a Disabled Child or Adult**

**The Advice line is 0808 808 7777**



# MEMBERS BIRTHDAY.....

**Happy Birthday to all in January:** Katy Rowland; Edward Maule; Karl Gibbins; Jamie Duncan; Lee Hope; Adam Burkeman; Sophie Harrison; Sally Piercy; Richard Broome; Emile Bezodis; Brian Boorman

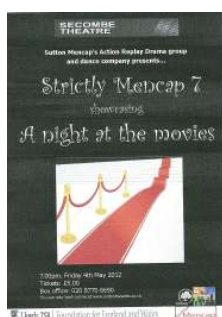
**Happy Birthday to all in February:** Peter Privett; Michael Basset; Georgina Wooderson; Robert Johnson; Claire Smith; Angus Hall; Andrew Morgan; Andrew Brownrigg; Roger Varoujian; Sadick Muyingo; Rory McCall; Natasha Hopper; Warren Day; Sarah Page; Eona Fraser; Mitchell Gray; Helen Lay; Rodney Asling;

**NB. Sorry if we have missed your birthday or got the wrong date - do tell us.....**

## Members News and others....

### Alex Lacey

Many apologies to Alex for mixing up his name with another! Di tells me this was always happening at Dysart too.....



Sutton Mencap 's Action Reply Drama group presents:  
**Strictly Mencap 7**  
showcasing  
A Night at the Movies  
Friday 4th May  
Tickets £5  
Box office 020 8770 6690

### WAITROSE

A huge THANK YOU to Kingston Waitrose for a donation of £543.00 from the Community Matters fund.



### Mac McIntosh

We were very sorry to hear of the sad passing of Mac back in November from his wife Pat, after a period of deteriorating ill health. Mac was actively involved with Kingston Mencap and was Chairman for a number of years and was part of the rota for the Botley Park bus run on a Sunday afternoon. We send our sincere condolences from all at K.M. who remembers and knew Mac.....

### MAYOR'S COMMUNITY AWARD

In this our 60th Anniversary year I was thrilled to learn I have been nominated to receive a Mayor's community award in recognition of outstanding work in the Community for learning disability. My husband Nick and I have been invited to the Mayor's 'At Home' reception on 8th March for the presentation of the certificate, along with other deserving nominees. These awards are given each year to a number of people within the Royal Borough in recognition of their outstanding work in the community. Needless to say I am thrilled!

**Gill Wood**

**Photo to follow in next edition....**

### CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW GRAND PARENTS

Cherie and Steve Furniaux  
and to Ella and baby Miley

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Stephen Sinclair  
Anette Langhave  
Peter Hodges

**Thanks to everyone who has sent in old mobile phones and used stamps**  
**We particularly want foreign stamps**  
**Thanks to all who save for us.....**



**Social Information on Disability (SID)**  
SID provides helpful advice on disability matters, or for buying or selling second hand equipment  
Tel 0800 0439395 or Go to: [www.asksid.org.uk](http://www.asksid.org.uk)

If you have any comments, ideas or suggestions to improve the newsletter or any news you wish to share with other members please let me know. We are always pleased to hear news from members, friends and supporters.  
Contact: Gill Wood 0208540 1399  
17 Oakway, London SW20 9JE  
[gillcwood@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:gillcwood@blueyonder.co.uk)

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