

# KINGSTON MENCAP Newsletter

The Voice of Learning Disability



## Trustee Committee 2011/2012

**Chair:** Gill Wood **Vice Chair:** Peter Hodges **Minute Secretary:** Sandy York-Mitchell **Treasurer:** Mary McDonald  
**General Trustees:** Heather Notermans; John Phillips; Daniel Sheridan

### Dates 2013 Diary



**Annual Subscription due**  
1st January

**Country & Western**  
2nd March

**AGM**  
26th April

**Railway Outing**

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Dear Members, Friends and Supporters,

It seems a bit late too say 'Happy New Year'

I have been trying to send this newsletter out since mid February but something always came up to delay the finish!

We said goodbye to Glen Mills at the end of February and so began the various changes to affect the **Kingston Learning Disability Service** with no L.D. Commissioner

The proposal is to move the learning disability service to a social enterprise model in line with RBK's non commissioning stance. This is happening all over the country as per the government directive...

There has also been work taking place to review the various care packages of support, particularly those living out of borough which sounds worrying, although I am sure saving £s is top priority, it is also about improving services for the individual and making sure of good outcomes and value for money. (see page 14)

This weekend we hold the annual **Country and Western** at Dysart School - many thanks go to Iris and Tony Todd for organising for our members - update and photos in next issue....

Next for Kingston Mencap will be the **Annual General Meeting** on Friday 26th April at HFT. The Annual Report and Agenda will be going out soon but please do make a note in your diary now and join us to hear how we celebrated 2012 - our 60th Anniversary Year - and see the photographic film show we are putting together to showcase our year! (see page 2)

We have received many welcome **Subscription Renewals** and donations but there are still a number outstanding so if you think you have not paid yet or just want to check please ring Jenny today who will check the records for you Tel: 0208816 7500.  
**We don't want to lose you!**

Easter is just around the corner so let's hope for some warmer weather - **Happy Easter to all** Gill Wood (0208540 1399)

### KINGSTON MENCAP WEBSITE

Take a look at our brand new website [www.kingstonmencap.co.uk](http://www.kingstonmencap.co.uk). Along with lots of information, there's a photo album, details about all of our clubs and upcoming events, as well as membership and volunteer forms. We would appreciate your feedback and are happy to post your photos to the website. Email [jenny@kingstonmencap.co.uk](mailto:jenny@kingstonmencap.co.uk)

Look for Kingston Mencap on '**FACEBOOK**' AND 'click' LIKE - share in our latest information, news and photos - Tell us what you think.....

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN KINGSTON MENCAP?

*If this is the first time you have seen the newsletter and/or would like to receive your own copy please do let us know so we 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 copies by post.*  
**TO FIND OUT MORE - Contact: Jenny 0208816 7500 or Email: [jenny@kingstonmencap.co.uk](mailto:jenny@kingstonmencap.co.uk)**

## AGM - 26th April at HFT 7pm

**The AGM is booked for Friday the 26th April 2013 and will be held this year at: HFT Springfield Place New Malden KT3 3LJ at 7pm**

The AGM is a very important event for Kingston Mencap and an opportunity for members to hear what has been happening the past year and to receive and agree the 2012 official report & accounts and to vote in the new Trustee committee. This is a time for members to come forward to stand for the Trustee Committee so please let me know if you are interested so I can discuss what is involved and answer any questions.

Simon Peace will be our guest speaker and will give an update on RBK services, particular relevant in view of the recent changes and other plans due to come in to force this year.

Fiona Connolly - the new joint commissioner of older people and learning disability services will be with us to meet members and answer questions.

We are planning to have a slide show of 'Photographs' to showcase our 60th Anniversary year so come along and see what events we held in 2012 and how much fun members had?

### ON A PERSONAL NOTE

I have been Chair for the past nine years, and as announced at last years AGM, I will be standing down at the AGM. I feel we have achieved a lot over this time with a wonderful group of supportive trustees but the time has come to step down to make room for fresh blood, with new ideas for the future success of Kingston Mencap.

It has been a very happy 9 years and I have met some amazing people and it will be a sad time for me but the time has come when I need to concentrate more on my family and to let another set of eyes see where Kingston Mencap's future is heading!

I have agreed to stay on the trustee committee for one more year to ensure a successful handover to the new Chair and will continue to manage the holiday house until a decision has been made about its future, to manage the Drop-In in the short term and will of course still be around to help out at fundraisers and events, but I just need to reduce my work load.....

We now have Jenny - admin worker in place - who during the past year has been working closely with me and has become an integral part of the Kingston Mencap team.

Jenny is gradually getting to grips with the many queries that come up and now manages membership, the website and bit by bit has been taking over as many admin. duties she can manage in her allotted 15 hours each week.

Jenny has a dedicated phone line 0208816 7500

Email : [jenny@kingstonmencap.co.uk](mailto:jenny@kingstonmencap.co.uk)

Gill Wood

## FLAG AWARENESS DAY

In the last newsletter we informed you that Pat Cox was retiring as Flag Day organiser. Pat has been an inspiration and created so much awareness locally, not only with the general public but also precious links with various schools - the pupils who may be the support workers of the future supporting our family member - and with local businesses whilst raising an enormous amount of funds for Kingston Mencap!



It will be such a shame to lose this momentum, after so much work and commitment and we want to keep the links and contacts that have been made and especially our band of individuals who volunteer and support us each year, that we really must find another Organiser asap

Pat will be happy to show you the ropes so if you want to find out more please get in touch.....

The Trustees just cannot take on this extra work, but will support and endeavour to keep the annual presence in Kingston for our Flag Awareness day in October but WE DO NEED YOUR HELP!

## Drop-In

The Drop-In is held every Saturday at the Searchlight Youth & Community Centre in Kingston Road, New Malden, KT3 3RX from 12 noon to 3pm for those 18+

**Saturday Drop-In**

We not make a charge for the Drop-in BUT is funded by Kingston Mencap but we have managed to secure some match funding from RBK learning disability leisure fund.



Michelle and Zerrin take it in turns to co-ordinate each week with help and support of volunteers and have created a welcome place for people to drop by at the weekend for a cup of coffee and/or to meet up with friends.....

There are various options on offer each week and we are always open to new suggestions and have just recently been enjoying 'dancing the Zumba' with Emma who has been getting us energised and warmed up!



We have a Boccia coach coming on the 13th April and are just waiting for the Badminton coach date - so there is lots going on each week but if you want a quieter time you can just sit and chat or do a puzzle or make a picture for the 'Picture Board' really whatever takes your fancy..... everyone is welcome



We have plans for an Easter Party on 23rd March with Hot lunch, Easter Egg Hunt, Raffle, Cake making, Biscuit making with dancing, games and lots more.

If you want to join us tickets £5.00 on the door

(If support workers want to join us for lunch tickets £2)

Ring Gill 0208540 1399 or on the day 0775 936 3747 for more information



For more information contact Gill 0775 936 3747 or

Email: [jenny@kingstonmencap.co.uk](mailto:jenny@kingstonmencap.co.uk)

## Barclays Bank match funding

Following the suggestion made by the Mayor Councillor Mary Heathcote, when she came to visit Stud Farm during the summer, I made contact with Barclays Bank to ask for community funding in our 60th Anniversary Year.

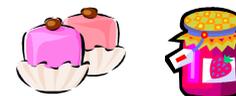
It could not have turned out better and we have now received the Barclays match funding for both the Christmas Raffle/Food sales on the day for £ 1457.53

If that was not enough they also agreed to match fund the Diamond Ball raffle - all the prizes were donated by members, friends and volunteers and raised £338.00 on the night and we now have that Barclays funding on top!

Many thanks to Katy and Liz - Barclay employees who supported the applications

## SURBITON FARMERS MARKET

Following our very successful first attempt at running a market stall at Christmas we have been invited back to man another stall on Saturday 20th July - so we must have done okay! Last time we had little time to prepare but this time we have plenty so wondered if we have any cake makers or jam or pickle makers or sweet makers who can help us stock our stall? Anything homemade.....



If you can help us by donating any items we would be so grateful but please let us know what you can make so we can have a variety of goods on sale.



Heather & Gill

## MENCAP PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

For the past few years we have signed up to agreements with Royal Mencap as part of our affiliation. This year there is a new Partnership Agreement which sets out quite clearly a partnership plan which relates to joint working and will be reviewed annually. The trustees have attended meeting and discussed at great length and have decided it is in our best interest at this time to sign up.

# SEEKERS CLUB

A Big Burlington Hello from Seekers Club!!

Our Seekers family has moved to a fabulous huge new venue at Burlington Junior School .....going back to our New Malden roots.

It is great to see so many members sporting their Christmas present - T. shirts branding our Seekers logo proudly, I am so pleased the presents were well received!



The new venue means that as a club our members have far more room, a lovely large main hall for our discos and a large cosy tea room for our coffee breaks and gossip.

This also means that once again Seekers is opening the door to new members and bringing back old favourites that we had been restricted by space from doing - line dancing and live entertainers, bands and performance artists.....

This along with all our usual favourites, bingo; Seekers has Talent; monthly themed birthday discos....it's no wonder our club has been going strong for over 50 years and maintains its crown as the biggest and most well attended LD Club in the Kingston borough for adults... YAY!

Our Committee members are keeping me very busy with exciting plans for the coming year of day trips and calendar events. Our bowling trip last October proved so popular we are aiming for 3-4 trips a years as a club - next one is on the 4th March so practice those TURKEYS's guys!

This year the members have asked for two days trips, one in May and one in July, a zoo visit and a seaside trip are being organised so watch this space.....



Seekers Club is often referred to as home from home, this is because our members have been coming for years and our dedicated volunteers have also been loyal and consistent for just as many years. Seekers is where members feel safe, where they meet up with their friends, where couples are made and where stories are shared. We not only celebrate everyone's birthday but also any achievements, photographs and exciting news..... Let me know if there is any particular happy news you would like to share with the club, our fab projector screen makes a great slide show for sharing memories.



We have now entered into our third years of affiliation with Kingston Grammar school, our loyal and dedicated students have grown up within the club and the few that are now over 18 have stayed on as volunteers in their own right, proving that Seekers is a club that nobody wants to leave!

We all wish out volunteer Pam Jarvis a speedy recovery after a spate of illness and hope she returns to us soon.

We welcome new driver Duncan Stone and it is worth mentioning that I am always looking for new volunteer drivers/escorts to keep our transport facility going. This is a lifeline for our members who live at home and who could not otherwise come to the club, so if you are interested or know anyone who is interested in spending a few worthwhile hours supporting our club, please do let me know... the rewards are immense as everyone is so happy and have a great time!!

I am also looking for people with particular talents that would offer a workshop session for us....Topics of interest would be - music; teaching an instrument; art; singing; IT; photography; sensory stories; holistic therapy; magic shows; comedy. If you have a talent please share it with us???



A huge thanks you to all my lovely volunteers who have rolled with the changes and made the new venue such an easy transition, you really are the backbone of the club.....let's make this year the best yet!

Zerrin xx

If you want to learn more and get involved with Seekers please contact me on 077523 969 855 or email [zed333@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:zed333@hotmail.co.uk)



## FUTURE FRIENDS



The 3rd Christmas Show performed by members of Future Friends at the Corner House theatre and directed by Kirsty Fraser was a great success and ticket sales, refreshments and a raffle managed to boost Future Friends funds.



Kirsty has been leader for the past 16 months and has recently graduated, started a new job and just moved house so understandably stepped down as leader at Christmas!

Future Friends returned to Searchlight on Thursday 10th January and the newly appointed leader Ryan Karter led his first session but sadly will not be staying. Back in the Autumn he applied for a job at Essex Council Youth Dept., never expecting to be successful - sad loss for us but we wish him well for the future.....

Danielle Bastille came a close second in the interviews and we were delighted when she agreed to step in at very short notice and will become the new Future Friends leader as of 28th February and will bring much enthusiasm, passion and practical understanding to take Future Friends forward in 2013.



As always new members and volunteers are always welcome so please contact the leader if you know someone who would like to come and try Future Friends - a trial session can be arranged or if you would like to be a volunteer.....

Future Friends is open to 18-35 year olds and you need to be a member of Kingston Mencap or willing to join. We meet up every other Thursday evening from 7.30 to 9.30pm and provide an events calendar with activities chosen by members.

For more information contact Danielle Bastille **07746 341 014**  
or **Email: [futurefriendskingston@gmail.com](mailto:futurefriendskingston@gmail.com)**

If you use social networking sites and like to keep in touch with all that's going on, then go to the new Future Friends 'facebook' page and click 'Like'

All you need to do is search for Future Friends Kingston and the page will come up. Please let us know about the activities you like best with the club and we will keep you posted on all our latest news.

## XPRESSION YOUTH PROJECT



Xpression youth project meets on a Tuesday evening from 7 - 9pm at the Searchlight Youth club in New Malden

If you are interested or know someone aged between 12 - 18 years who may like to join us, please contact me at:

[Xpressionyouthproject@gmail.com](mailto:Xpressionyouthproject@gmail.com)

Dave Cafferty Xpression Youth Project Leader 07749 275 425



## HOLIDAY HOUSE

We have had slightly less bookings this past year and although we still make a profit the Trustees are now reviewing whether to retain the house. We have been fortunate that we have not had to pay management charges for bookings, which would have cancelled out most of the profit and we have held steady the rent for the past couple of years, but the time has come when we have to look at costs and any work that will need to take place to refurbish and update.

It can be really nice in Mudeford and the surrounding New Forest area, less crowded and very pleasant for walking during the spring and autumn as well as the summer months.

The house, just 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, pubs and supermarkets nearby.

If you are interested in making a booking or to view a brochure contact:  
Gill 0208540 1399 or email [gillwood@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:gillwood@blueyonder.co.uk)



## CARERS

We started back on 2nd January at the new venue:

**Age Concern, Raleigh House, 14 Nelson Road, New Malden KT3 5EA**

At the February meeting we invited Colin Morris, an officer from DWP to explain and answer questions about Personal Independence Payment (P.I.P.) coming in for new claimants as from April 2013 which will be replacing DLA

We have information that can be sent via email if you want to know more.....

We are planning, on alternative months, to invite a different 'speaker' to talk on various topics of interest and on 3rd April meeting we have invited the Community Learning Disability Health team and on 5th June Wills & Trust evening with Daniel Sheridan.

We would welcome suggestions or ideas from members for September and November

Everyone welcome but if you want more information contact: Gill Wood 0208540 1399

## CARERS UK

Census data has revealed that between 2001 and 2011 the number of Carers in England and Wales has increased to 5.8 billion and the biggest increase has been in those caring for more than 20 hours per week.

**CARERS UK**  
the voice of carers

Carers UK has launched the Caring and Family Finances Inquiry at:

[http://www.carersuk.org/get-involved/finances-inquiry?dm\\_i=74C,19UVS,Q76EA,4BDPU,1](http://www.carersuk.org/get-involved/finances-inquiry?dm_i=74C,19UVS,Q76EA,4BDPU,1)

to provide a definitive study of the financial impact of caring, with carers' voices at its heart. It comes amid rising anxiety from carers that the Governments current welfare reforms could have potential disastrous consequences for their families.

To kick-start the inquiry we want carers to tell us about the impact caring has on their lives by completing our State of Caring 2013 survey - go to:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/stateofcaring2013?dm\\_i=74C,19UVS,Q76EA,4BE6F,1](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/stateofcaring2013?dm_i=74C,19UVS,Q76EA,4BE6F,1)

Can you help us spread the word?

Carers who are concerned about the impact of welfare reform can read our frequently asked questions about what these changes will mean to them - go to:

[http://www.carersuk.org/help-and-advice/focus-on/item/2479-welfare-reform-your-questions-answered?dm\\_i=74C,19UVS,Q76EA,4BDPU,1](http://www.carersuk.org/help-and-advice/focus-on/item/2479-welfare-reform-your-questions-answered?dm_i=74C,19UVS,Q76EA,4BDPU,1)

## Hft important update.....

Hft have been working to ensure they remain in a strong position to support people with learning disabilities despite the difficult funding circumstances that we face. We not only want to provide high quality, person centred support for those we already support but also grow our services and include those with multiple and more complex needs.



We have been looking proactively for opportunities to grow and are now in detailed discussions with another smaller learning disability charity about the possibility of joining forces. The discussions are still in the early stages and nothing is yet confirmed but they are significant enough to inform family carer members.

The organisation is a charity called Self-Unlimited and they have a similar history to HFT and are passionate about developing services and to enable people to live in the community wherever possible. There will be minimum disruption and families will be kept fully informed of any significant changes and kept to a minimum.

The review of both organisations is hoped to be completed by the Spring and families will be written to again after this time but if you have questions these must be directed at the Area Manager

In Kingston this would be Tracy Lazell - Email: [tracy.lazell@hft.org.uk](mailto:tracy.lazell@hft.org.uk)

## Other Hft news

### ACTIVITY SESSIONS LIST 2013

There is now an up to date comprehensive list of activities available that will run each day at HFT and these will start after Easter in April .

All 'attendees' will be asked and encouraged to try new out the new sessions and to change activities at the end of each programme. In many cases people need to have the flexibility of being able to change activities every few weeks and Melissa assures us she will do her best to accommodate this!

It is often the case that people get in a rut and carry on going to a particular session without any real enjoyment, getting bored as that is the routine!

This sounds like a really good idea and something similar that used to happen at the Causeway to ensure everyone gets a chance to try something new.... Melissa has not mentioned cost for some of the activities in the list but I am sure she will send you the complete list if you let her know.

**Next Sunday lunch club with Duncan** is on Sunday 24th March 12.30pm at the Watchman Pub in New Malden



**Drama Workshops** at HFT with students from Kingston University free on Wednesday evenings



After Easter the **Wednesday Ramble** will go back to a whole day activity from 10.30 to 2.30



**Melissa Hulbert 0208942 9769 or mobile 07947 423 083**

**or email [melissa.hulbert@hft.org](mailto:melissa.hulbert@hft.org)**

# CHILDREN



## Kingston TRANSITION Fair

The Transition Fair is for young people with additional needs between the ages of 13 and 25 years and their families and carers.

The event has been organised and funded by the Children and Young People's Development Service & Adult Social Care. It will be held at the :



- Moor Lane Centre, Moor Lane, Chessington, KT9 2AA
- Saturday 16th March 2013 10am - 2pm
- Come and get information and advice about....

Health	College	Work	Money
Housing	Leisure	Relationships	Travel

Come and enjoy Refreshments; Chill out area; The Playground; Meet friends  
 For more information : **Joy Iruo 02085476216 j.iruo@rbk.kingston.gov.uk**

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

Sunday fun sessions are held each month for children with autism at:  
 Warren Park, National Children's home, Kingston Hill, Kingston

If you want to find out the 2013 dates or how to join SWAPS and to receive up to date news and dates for talks please contact Sian Palin:  
**Email: [swapskingston@googlemail.com](mailto:swapskingston@googlemail.com)**



The Lyceum Theatre is offering an 'autism friendly' performance of the Lion King on

**Sunday 14 April 2013 at 1.30pm**  
 To book visit: [www.atgtickets.com](http://www.atgtickets.com)

Booking for Special Access Requirements for Autism friend performance  
 Call 020 7420 8114 or e-mail:



## SENSORY SATURDAYS for young people

EnhanceAble is in the process of setting up a "Sensory Saturdays" service. This will be a short-breaks resources for young people aged 18 – 25 on the Autistic Spectrum. It will particularly focus upon providing a service to young people at the severe end of the spectrum or those with autism and multiple disabilities.

This service will be based at the Geneva Road Centre and run from around 10am to 6pm on Saturdays and I will be likely to include some or all of the following:

**Sensory work ; Intensive interaction ; Highly structured centre based activities; Communication with PECS, technology and Makaton; Activities in the community, either individually with a one to one, or whatever support that young person needs, or in small groups.**

We are currently wishing to measure the likely demand for such a service and would appreciate you contact Julie with any feedback you may have or to register yourself on a mailing list so that we can keep you informed of developments.

Julie Hagarty & Jina Glashier Ring: 208547 3014 [julie.hagarty@enhanceable.org](mailto:julie.hagarty@enhanceable.org) [www.enhanceable.org](http://www.enhanceable.org)  
Address: 13 Geneva Road, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2TW

## White Spider Climbing

Whether you are an experienced climber or you are just beginning, the White Spider offers you a huge range of exhilarating climbing for all ages and abilities....

White Spider Climbing, 225 Hook Rise South, Surbiton, KT6 7LD  
Telephone 0208397 - 0390



## YORDA ADVENTURES update from Laura Smyth

**Easter** - we are not running any play schemes as we do not have any funding for this holiday and plan to use the time to paint and spruce up the Scout hut, so we can also offer places to those with a physical disability and also to give a well earned holiday to the staff who worked last year 48 out of the 52 weeks.

Wednesday 6th March 7.30pm Opera and Dinner at the French Table in Surbiton.  
Tickets £70 Contact the Mayors office on 0208 547 5027 for tickets



On Saturday 9th March - Rose Theatre Reptiles Night an evening of 60's 70's and 80's tunes  
Come and dance the night away - contact the Rose for tickets

Wednesday 20th March 7.30pm Fashion Show at Guildhall - local designers; canapés; champagne and kilts! Please contact the Mayors office on 0208 547 5027 for tickets

Email: [Laura@yordaadventures.co.uk](mailto:Laura@yordaadventures.co.uk) Tel: 07939844978 [www.yordaadventures.co.uk](http://www.yordaadventures.co.uk) Laura Smyth

## ACTIVE KINGSTON TEAM

The Active Kingston team has been awarded £130,00 from the London Marathon Charitable Trust to build a cycle track, subject to planning permission around the perimeter of Castle Hill Sports Field at the Moor Lane Disabled Children's Centre site, which is fantastic news!

The track will be on the 'flat' can be used for disabled children and adults and will be a legacy of the London 2012 Olympic Cycle road races and time trials that came through Kingston last year. It is hoped there will be all kinds of cycles available, similar to those used at Companion Cycling.



It is hope "Cycling Projects" will visit and train up some Instructors and provide various cycles for all ages, size and ability. Matthew Wing attended a recent CSPAN meeting and told us he has cycles waiting for us to use so lets hope the permission is given very soon so they can get going on building this new cycle track ready for the summer!

For further information contact: Sue Johnson 0208547 5212 or Email [sue.johnson@rbk.kingston.gov.uk](mailto:sue.johnson@rbk.kingston.gov.uk)

## NEWS FROM ROYAL MENCAP.....

### WINTERBOURNE VIEW prompts action

The final Winterbourne View report commits the government to moving people out of the long-stay units.

The Department of Health published its final report following the abuse of people with a learning disability at Winterbourne View assessment centre and treatment centre in December.

The report 'Transforming Care' commits the government to an 18-month programme of action, led by a national team to reduce the number of people in these kind of units and return them to their own communities where possible. The report states that by June 2014 all individuals should receive personalised care and support in 'appropriate' community settings.

Although 6 care workers were given prison sentences last October, Lord Rix speaking at the House of Lords in December "was astonished that the management and directors of Castlebeck Care which owned Winterbourne View, had not felt the 'full force of the law'



To read the full report go to: [www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/12/final-winterbourne](http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/12/final-winterbourne)

### BREAKING POINT

In 2003 Mencap launched the [Breaking Point report](#) and this showed that **8 out of 10** families surveyed had reached **crisis** through not getting enough short breaks.

In 2006, the follow up report, [Breaking Point - Families still need a break](#), found that **7 out of 10** families were still at, or being pushed to, breaking point.

Now, 10 years on from *Breaking Point*, Mencap has released a follow-up report which finds that the situation has not improved: **8 out of 10 family carers have reached, or are close to reaching, breaking point as a result of not getting the help and support they need.** [Find out more about our latest report on short breaks](#)

#### What Mencap wants

- No family carer is left to reach breaking point.
- Every family that needs a short break receives one.
- Money intended for short breaks is spent on providing them.
- There is a more family-centred approach to planning and delivering short breaks provision.
- Services are person-centred and able to meet the differing care needs of the people who use them.
- Information about local need for short breaks is collected in a more consistent way and used to inform what services are offered and to whom.

#### What you can do

[Email your local council](#) and ask them what they are doing to protect short breaks services in the next financial year.

To read more go to: [www.mencap.co.uk](http://www.mencap.co.uk) and go to Campaigns and 'Breaking point'

**DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDERS (DNRS)** affect thousands of people, yet many are unaware of DNR decisions and how they are made and some people are not aware that a DNR is an option for anyone who has not explicitly requested one! It is something that is under discussion at present after the recent scandal exposed conflicting guidance around giving life-saving medical treatment depending on the hospital!

The DNR listed 'Downs syndrome' as one of the reasons to deny resuscitation which is upsetting to hear! Clear information is needed when medical treatment is withheld and this should be discussed with families and they should be kept informed. There needs to be the same approach and policy about making these crucial decisions across England and Wales - but until then the law remains uncertain....

## P.I.P. regulations announced

Mencap is concerned about people who have lower level needs as the government announced new PIP regulations on 13th December and presented Parliament with the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) [regulations](#) Under the Welfare Reform Act, PIP will [replace Disability Living Allowance](#) (DLA) next year.

The regulations set out that, by May 2018, 600,000 fewer people will be in receipt of PIP than would have been the case under DLA – 450,000 of these are of working age.

Disabled people's minister Esther McVey told the House of Commons: "By reforming the system, ensuring it is fit for the 21st century, we can use the money we spend on disabled people more efficiently and effectively to help those most in need." She added: "By October 2015 we will have reassessed 560,000 claimants. Of those, 160,000 will get a reduced award and 170,000 will get no award. However, 230,000 will get the same or more support." The reassessment timetable will also be slower than anticipated. New claims will be assessed for PIP from April 2013 (in controlled areas), with a national roll out for new claims taking place from June 2013. October 2013 will see the start of reassessment, but the peak period of reassessments will be October 2015. There will be an increase in numbers getting both the enhanced rates of mobility/daily living components, compared to high rate care/mobility for DLA.

Mencap welcomes some changes to the regulations, but remains concerned that the assessment criteria do not allow for the subtleties of someone's learning disability and the impact it has on the different aspects of their lives. While we welcome the fact that there will be an increase in the numbers of people getting both the enhanced rate of PIP for mobility and daily living, we are hugely concerned about those people who have lower level needs, but who will miss out on support altogether," says Jane Alltimes, Mencap's senior campaigns and policy officer. "Looking at the assessment criteria, we believe that some people with a learning disability will struggle to accumulate enough points to reach the threshold for eligibility. We remain disappointed that there has been no work carried out by the government to look at the impact the loss of this benefit will have on disabled individuals, or the knock-on impact to other services like the NHS."

The announcement on PIP follows the presentation of the draft regulations to support the introduction of Universal Credit, earlier in the week. [Read the regulations](#)

## Universal Credit

The Universal Credit is the biggest and most significant change to the benefit system and as the name suggests has been designed to offer people one single payment drawing in all the working-age benefits they would traditionally receive. It is for all eligible claimants regardless of whether they have a job and it is designed to help people move into work because claimants won't need to change to different benefits from different agencies like they do now.

Universal Credit will be introduced from October 2013 with a test launch being carried out for new claimants in April and for those with 'existing means tested benefits' between 2014 and 2017 and will replace:

- Housing Benefit
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income -based Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credits
- Child Tax Credits

**For more information go to: [www.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.dwp.gov.uk)**

## CRB now known as DBS

The CRB now known as DBS are making some important changes to criminal record checks this Spring and this will impact on all charities particularly those that employ a lot of volunteers.

The two main changes are as follows:

1. The DBS is going to limit the issue of paper Disclosure to the applicant only and the organisation will not longer receive a copy.
2. The DBS is going to make Disclosures more portable so they can be taken from 'job to job' and it is expected that DBS will provide this service free of charge to volunteers.

**Disclosure & Barring Service - Court of Appeal ruling: an update February 2013**

Last month, the Home Office was seeking leave to appeal a Court of Appeal judgment on the disclosure of old and minor convictions. The Court found the law which requires people to disclose all previous convictions and cautions to employers is a breach of human rights. It found the current system disproportionate in dealing with historic and minor spent convictions and cautions. The Home Secretary and Secretary of State for Justice have recently lodged an application to appeal against this judgment. Pending the Supreme Court's decision on permission, the Court of Appeal's judgment has been temporarily suspended. While this suspension is in force, it is business as usual for us. We will continue to issue Standard and Enhanced certificates and these show all convictions and cautions as normal. We will keep you updated with the latest information on this judgment via DBS News and [our website](#). **The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).**

Kingston Mencap is registered with Royal Mencap CRB service and we can assure you that all possible checks take place before we permanently accept any new employee or volunteer.....

## TAG CLUB on a Friday night

This is a teenage activity group for those aged between 15 - 25 years and is held each Friday night from 7.30 to 9.30pm at the Devon Way Centre in Chessington.

The club treats all young people fairly and equally as individuals and aims to provide young people with a safe, caring, well equipped environment which is accessible to all young people who wish to attend.

For more information contact Giles Hobart 07950 411 743  
Email [tagyouth@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tagyouth@hotmail.co.uk)



## St Patricks Night Ceilidh - 16th March



Saturday 16th March 7.30 to 11pm at St Paul's Hall, Hook

Come and enjoy an evening of traditional music and Irish dancing (country-style dancing with a live band and caller)

**Tickets £15 per adult  
£10 children**

Includes a sausage and chips supper and you can order a vegetarian option



To book tickets or to find out more information contact:  
Fircroft Trust 0208399 1772  
Email:  
[aine@thefircrofttrust.org](mailto:aine@thefircrofttrust.org)

## STUD NURSERY update

Since Kingston Mencap match funded the £500 donated by Barclays Bank, work started on the new garden - this is being set up by Stud Farm project workers and the aim is to create a 'garden' just like a back garden...

This can be used as a training ground as workers will be expected to keep the grass cut, the edges neat and tidy and flower borders free from weeds - also to creosote the shed and fence - a real garden - just like mine or yours!

Support worker - Jeremy Osborn - has been organising and keeping on top of clearing the space with the guys but the weather has been against them over the winter - the ground either frozen and rock hard or wet, but with the recent spate of better weather things have got started again...

We hope by early summer we will see massive improvements and the garden can be viewed at the next Open Day....



Steven Close is so proud of this opportunity and never fails to mention every time I see him so if this proves to be successful it is hoped another patch can be started this summer!

**Jean Brooks - Team leader for Work Activities - is looking for new staff to join the RBK Care Bank Scheme to support people with learning disabilities.**

**If you have skills in Gardening; Woodwork; Catering; Transport; she would love to hear from you and can provide further information.**

**Contact Jean Brooks 0208547 6652 or email [jean.brooks@rbk.kingston.gov.uk](mailto:jean.brooks@rbk.kingston.gov.uk)**

## CANBURY GARDENS PAVILION

Canbury Pavilion Café runs an afternoon café in Canbury Gardens, run by people with learning disabilities and supporting staff.

**Join us in the park for tea and a big slice of homemade cake !**

Tuesday and Thursday 12.30 - 4.30pm

Wednesday and Friday 10.30 - 4.30pm



**Canbury Gardens Pavilion, Lower Ham Road, Kingston, KT2 5AX**

**If you would like a free trial working at the café or need any other information please contact : David Hooper 0208547 6658**

## BOOGIE NIGHTS - next one is Friday 12th April 2013

**DISCO**



**Boogie Nights**



Boogies nights are held at:  
Kingsmeadow from 7.30 to 11pm  
Tickets on the door £5 (carers FREE)  
For more information:  
**Melissa Hulbert 07947423083**

**Boogie Nights**  
are discos for adults  
with  
Learning Disabilities  
(over 18 years)

supported by



## Learning Disability PARLIAMENT

Kingston Learning Disability Parliament hold 'Open Meetings' every five weeks at Session House.

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 from



The next meeting dates: 19th March; 30th April; 7th June



Parliament office: 0208547 6645 or email [ldparliament@hotmail.com](mailto:ldparliament@hotmail.com)  
Sessions House, 17 Ewell Road, Surbiton, KT6 6AF

## Looking for better outcomes and efficiencies.....

Kingston Council, like others across the country, is facing big financial challenges. There is less money from central government and more people in the system needing support!

Since last year Anita Harris (seconded from Supporting People) has been reviewing a number of residential care placements to ensure they are high quality, meeting the needs and providing good outcomes for individuals but also value for money for the council. Anita has had some success in identifying some considerable savings whilst at the same time ensuring that the individual's quality of life continues to be good

To move this work on the Council is now working with an organisation called Newton Europe for the next 12 months, you may have read about recently in the press, they receive no fee but a 40% payment based on the savings they identify.

John McKenna is leading on this particular project and there will be a 12 week review period with 3 new social workers working closely with the Kingston Community Learning Disability Team. The first stage will involve around 50 people with learning disabilities living in residential care placements in and out of the borough and letters are now being sent out to clients, providers involved and the parents or family members to advise them of the process.

This work is being undertaken to ensure the Care Package Contracts are accurate and fair and to improve the lives and support for individuals. There are some historic contracts where the review has uncovered changes for the better and for others no change at all.

This will be a worrying time for families, with all the other changes that have happened recently but I am told the main aim is to provide a care package that is up to date, accurately reflects the support needed and enables the individual to live safely and as independently as possible.

If you have questions or any concerns please contact Anita Harris 0208547 6007 in the Learning Disability Team Mon-Thursday 9am-5pm

**If you want to chat things over please do not hesitate to contact me Gill Wood 0208540 1399**

## Glen Mills has left.....

It was so very disappointing to hear that Glen Mills was leaving us after 9 years as Kingston's Learning Disability Commissioner. Glen was a well respected individual who always put those with a learning disability at the head of any thinking and both individuals and families/carers always felt their voice was heard and their problems were understood and he is a great loss to Kingston !

Kingston Mencap has worked closely over these 9 years and was instrumental in setting up and funded the Parliament for 3 years, as well as being co-partners of Stud Farm - something we continue to fund...

Glen was such a support when we decided to run the pilot Drop-In which continues to flourish after almost four years at Searchlight..... Glen has earned a good rest BUT not for too long!



# Spotlight: EASY NEWS



ISSUE 1 January

## **Easy News is the first newspaper designed to be accessible for people with learning disabilities.**

Politics and the news are often inaccessible to people with learning disabilities because of the use of jargon and difficult language.

There is a high demand for easy read information among people with learning disabilities. Over half of people with learning disabilities supported by United Response told us that they would like to read a newspaper with simple words and pictures.

The first edition of Easy News consists of a summary of some of the biggest news stories from 2012, with subsequent editions focusing on more topical issues. Easy News will be published every two months and will be available in print and online. An audio version will also be available on CD and online.

- United Response know s that people with learning disabilities can find it difficult to access news and information
- Most people said an easy read newspaper would help them understand the news and politics better

## **United Response is a national charity that supports people with a learning disability, mental health needs and physical disabilities to take control of their lives.**

We do this in many different ways – from supporting people to live as independently as possible in their own homes to helping them access their community, get training and seek work opportunities.

We also campaign with, and on behalf of, the people we support on the issues that affect their lives.

We believe that people with disabilities are equal participants in society and should have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else.

People can get a copy and sign up to receive editions from this website:

<http://www.unitedresponse.org.uk/press/campaigns/easy-news/>

# MEMBERS BIRTHDAY.....

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

**Happy Birthday to all in FEBRUARY:** Peter Privett; Michael Bassett; Georgina Wooderson; Robert Johnston; Ben Rogerson; Claire Smith; Angus Hall; Andrew Morgan; Andrew Brownrigg; Roger Varoujian; Sadick Muyingo; Rory McCall; Natasha Hopper; Sarah Page; Eona Fraser; Mitchell Gray; Helen Lay; Rodney Asling

**Happy Birthday to all in MARCH:** Bruce Read; Laurie Robson; Philip Hitchen; Natalie Francis; Una McCormack; Cherelle Govier; Sam Holness; Gillian Hacker; Julia Kelly; Claire Sheridan; Louise Monks; Richard Laslett; Lee Chung; Nicky Watkins; Roger Taylor; Michael Birch



**NB. Sorry if we have missed your birthday but please do tell us so we can put things right.....**

# Members News and others.....

We were so very sorry to hear the sad death of Ann Monks . Ann along with husband Peter were part of the Seekers club mini bus rota for a number of years. We send our sincere condolences to Peter, Louise and all the family at this very sad time.



## Stop Hate Crime

Stop Hate UK have launched a new Learning Disability Hate Crime help line  
<http://t.co/LOKJmR1a>  
 The number is 0808 802 1155 open 24hrs

**GET WELL WISHES to past and present volunteers who are poorly at present**

**Pam Jarvis**  
**Ethel Hitchin**  
**Kath Gilligan**



Congratulations to Diane Marlow named as an unsung hero by the Surrey Comet recently....

Diane works for Kingston Mencap Xpression youth project and turns up faithfully each week to drive club members to and from



There have been a number of members moving house and we hope they all settle in well to their new homes. Pat Gilligan, Peter Hearne, Suzy Skinner and Liz Hetherington

**And finally Colin Cushing is moving to a new flat at the Firs in Chessington very soon.**

**We wish them all every happiness in their new homes from all at Kingston Mencap**



**Thanks to everyone who has sent in old mobile phones and used stamps.**

**We particularly need foreign stamps**  
**Thanks to all who save for us.**

**KEEP THEM ALL COMING please .....**



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

**Email : [gillcwood@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:gillcwood@blueyonder.co.uk)**

Disclaimer:- as far as possible we make sure that articles and information are correct, but do point out that the information and views expressed by individuals or other organisations do not necessarily represent those held by Kingston Mencap. The Editor cannot accept responsibility for any goods or services mentioned in or enclosed in the newsletter.