



# Wirral Mencap Newsletter



Volume 11, Issue 2—April 2014  
[www.mencapwirral.org.uk](http://www.mencapwirral.org.uk)  
[info@mencapwirral.org.uk](mailto:info@mencapwirral.org.uk)

## Contact

0151 666 1829  
Wirral Mencap  
The Lauries Centre  
136 Claughton Road  
Birkenhead  
CH41 6EY

## Office Hours

Mon: 9am—5pm  
Tues: 9am—5pm  
Weds: 9am—5pm  
Thurs: 9am—5pm  
Fri: 9am—5pm  
Sat: CLOSED  
Sun: CLOSED

The office is open for anyone requiring information or support.

The shop at the front of the office has a wide range of crafts, gifts and cards.

Including crafts by Heswall Day Centre, Moreton Day Centre, Foxfield School and Meadowside School.



## Disclaimer

This newsletter contains information about services provided by a range of organisations and individuals. Inclusion in our Newsletter is by no means an endorsement of the quality of the services provided. Wirral Mencap is acting as a distributor of information only; assessing the suitability of activities or services remains the responsibility of the individual/s.

## Welcome to the latest edition of the Wirral Mencap Newsletter.....

We hope you find it interesting and informative. If you have any comments please contact us.

## In this issue.....

You will find welfare reform updates and information about new services and opportunities.

We have also enclosed an evaluation form for you to fill in if you have used any of our services in the last year. We would really appreciate your feedback as we are always looking to improve what we do. Please return completed forms to the office address or you can request an email version of the form from [info@mencapwirral.org.uk](mailto:info@mencapwirral.org.uk)

## Next Members Meeting

The next members meeting will be held in the Wirral Mencap Office:  
**At 7:30pm**  
**On Thursday 1st May**

The topic is 'Experiences of transition into Supported Living or Residential Care'. A number of parent carers will be sharing their experiences so come along if you would like to find out more.

We want to make our members meetings as convenient as possible for those that would like to attend. If you have any comments about the timing or format of the members meetings please give us a call or send us an email to [info@mencapwirral.org.uk](mailto:info@mencapwirral.org.uk).

## Gateway Award participants take on an abseil challenge!

On Wednesday 2nd April, 20 Gateway Award participants and 14 staff/ volunteers from Wirral Mencap and Cambridge Road Day Centre are doing a sponsored abseil. They are raising money for the end of year Gala Ball, which is a celebratory event for all Gateway Award participants. Participants have been working really hard all year to achieve their Awards, taking part in a wide range of activities such as volunteering, courses and fitness activities. If you would like to sponsor our brave abseilers please go to

[www.virginmoneygiving.com/gatewayawardabseil](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/gatewayawardabseil)

## Update on the Closure of the Independent Living Fund

The government is to press ahead with the closure of the Independent Living Fund (ILF), despite losing a Court of Appeal battle over the plan. The Department for Work and Pensions originally planned to abolish the fund on 31 March 2015, but was forced to review the move after the Court of Appeal ruled that it had failed to comply with its legal duty to promote equality when making the decision. The fund provides cash payments to top-up local authority social care support to around 18,500 severely disabled people so they can live more independently. In a statement to Parliament, disability minister Mike Penning said the department carried out a new equality analysis following the court's verdict and that he recognised the concern users of the fund had about closing the ILF. "However," he said. "I do not believe that continuing a separate system of support, operating through a discretionary trust and outside the statutory mainstream adult social care system is the right approach." Penning said the choice and control the fund gave disabled people was now being offered through adult social care services and that a two-tier arrangement that only benefitted a "relatively small proportion of disabled people" was unjustifiable.

He said the government will now shut the fund on 30 June 2015 and that councils in England will take over responsibility for the care and support needs of those supported by the fund from that date.

You can access the official Government announcement at <http://tiny.cc/oz6lcx>

## Training sessions for Parents

Wired has teamed up with national charity, Contact a Family, to deliver the following training sessions for parents of disabled children:

**Monday 28th April** - Siblings: Managing the needs of the whole family

**Tuesday 6th May** - Benefits Information Session

**Wednesday 25th June** - Managing difficult behaviours

To find out more or to book a place on any of the above courses please contact Wired on **0151 670 0777** or [carersbreaks@wired.me.uk](mailto:carersbreaks@wired.me.uk)

## New PIP Factsheets

The Government has published new factsheets that tell you all you need to know about Personal Independence Payments (which will be replacing DLA). Download the factsheets by going to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-independence-payment-fact-sheets>

or give us a call on **666 1829** and we will print a copy and send it to you.

## Supporting People with a Learning Disability and their families in hospital - Jane Kearley



I retired from teaching at Easter 2013. During my teaching career, which began in the 1970s, I taught children with learning disabilities at Deeside School, Neston, Foxfield School, Moreton and Stanley School, Thingwall. Since my retirement I have trained as a befriender at Arrowe Park Hospital and I am keen to use my skills to support people with learning disabilities and their families when they are admitted to hospital. Do contact me if you know of someone with a learning disability who has been admitted or is about to be admitted to Arrowe Park Hospital and who might welcome my support.

Phone **0151 625 0786** Email [janekearley@kedl.co.uk](mailto:janekearley@kedl.co.uk)

## Safe journey cards created for independent travel

First Group have created special journey cards to help you travel safely. They can help you tell the driver if you need extra help, in a private and discreet way. You can print a card which asks the driver to wait for you to sit down, or one which asks the driver to tell you when you reach a specific destination. To download the cards please go to



[http://www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/bristol\\_bath/bus\\_access/safe\\_journey\\_card/](http://www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/bristol_bath/bus_access/safe_journey_card/)

## Do you know a disabled child or adult that would enjoy riding a tandem?

Charlottes Tandems lends out tandems to disabled people who may benefit from riding one with their carers or parent.

The Charity owns nearly 100 tandems and Trailer Bikes, which are located all around the UK, including Neston & Chester.



Don't worry if you have never ridden a tandem before, most borrowers haven't. Brian Macdonald lives in Neston & can take you out beforehand and give you some guidance. If you wish to borrow one, then contact Charlottes Tandems via the website

[www.charlottestandems.co.uk](http://www.charlottestandems.co.uk)

or contact Brian directly on  
**07522 919 974** or  
[brian.2009@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.2009@btinternet.com)

## Update on Moreton Centre

As you may know, the parent campaigners of Moreton Centre fought to retain a smaller day service provision that will run from the Oakenholt building. Steve McGreal, parent campaigner, visited the new Moreton site on 20<sup>th</sup> March and has an update: "I was pleasantly surprised by the transformation since my last visit. Walls have been removed, new ceilings fitted, most doors widened, ramps, new toilets etc. The work is a third completed and is currently on target."

## New Wirral PA Register

Wired have launched a new Personal Assistant register to help you find suitable staff. Post your vacancy on the PA register for free to find PAs that meet your requirements.

For more information  
Call **0844880500**  
or email [contact@wired.me.uk](mailto:contact@wired.me.uk)

## Turn 2 us

Turn to us is a service that can help you maximise your income. It can help you check that you are receiving all the benefits you are entitled to, and it can help you access other financial help.

To find out more go to  
[www.turn2us.org.uk](http://www.turn2us.org.uk)  
or contact the confidential helpline on  
**0808 802 2000**

*"The financial support I have been given has been a great help, giving me peace of mind during a very difficult time."*

## Calling all ladies that like to have their hair and nails done

My name is Jen and I am a qualified hairdresser and nail technician, I am fully insured and have an up to date DBS (CRB) check. I can visit you at your home, in your day centre or care home.

I can offer you a wet/dry shampoo, cut and blow/set style and a manicure or pedicure for **£25** as a package and as an introductory offer I will give a full shellac finish nail colour.

Please call me on **07718610694** anytime to discuss and to book an appointment.

## Dates for your diary



### Next Members Meeting Thursday 1st May

7:30pm at Wirral Mencap  
Members will be sharing their experiences of supported living and residential care.

### Wirral Coastal Walk Sunday 11th May

If anyone would like to walk for Wirral Mencap please call Chloe on 666 1829

## Committee contacts

Gwen Seller (Chair) - Meols

Tel. 666 1829

Bernard Bryning (President) - Brom

Tel. 334 3480

Ros Turton (Vice Chair) - Heswall

Tel. 342 2701

Ken Corker (Crossbow Club) - Irby

Tel. 648 1092

Doreen Bryce - Moreton

Tel. 606 9624

## Volunteers needed in the Wirral Mencap Office

We are looking for some volunteer administrators to help with the running of the Wirral Mencap office. Tasks will include things like:

- Answering the phones and taking messages
- Serving customers
- Cashing up the till and going to the bank
- Responding to emails

We are looking for volunteers with good computer skills and a warm telephone manner.

Volunteers will have a full induction and training. They will also be required to undergo a criminal records check.

If you think you could help out in our office for a few hours a week, please contact Chloe on **666 1829**.

## Thank you

For further donations received in memory of Miss Denise Eyre Walker.

To the North Wirral Rotarians for inviting us to speak at their recent meeting and for their kind donation of £100.

To Lees Solicitors for their kind donation of £100.

To The Foresters for their kind donation of £300.

To members that have made direct donations via our website.

To all of the shops and clubs which have taken a Wirral Mencap Collection tin and returned it to us a little heavier!

## Condolences

To the family and friends of Joyce Jackson who sadly passed away on Sunday 16th February. Joyce was a long-standing member of Wirral Mencap as well as being actively involved in the Wirral Autistic Society for over 30 years.

We would also like to offer our condolences to the family and friends of Mrs Mary Deacon who also passed away recently.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Jane and Carol



Jane and Carol have been volunteering in our office for the last 6 months. They work very hard and help us keep the shop and office tidy, as well as doing some

office work. We would like to take this opportunity to say a big Thank you to them both.

### Please add me to the mailing list

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Please remove me from the mailing list

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Post to: Wirral Mencap, The Lauries Centre, 136 Claughton Road, Birkenhead, CH41 6EY