



Wirral Mencap Newsletter



Volume 11, Issue 4—August 2014
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Contact

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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 made by local people with a learning disability.

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



Welcome to the Summer edition of the Wirral Mencap Newsletter.....

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

Firstly, we would like to say a big thank you to the individuals that took part in the Wirral Mencap Skydive on Saturday 21st June. The six participants included new Trustee, Angela Hesketh, who joined our board at our last AGM in November 2013. Collectively the skydivers raised over £1000 for Wirral Mencap!



In this issue.....

- A report from this year's Gala Ball for Gateway Award participants
- Details of new services and events
- Fun activities for the summer
- Updates on the statementing process for children with special educational needs or disabilities, and other important issues.

New Volunteering Service at Wirral Mencap!

On 11th August we will be welcoming a new member of staff, Rose Paul, to the Wirral Mencap Team. Rose will be responsible for our volunteering project 'Volunteering for All'. The project supports people with a learning disability to volunteer in the community. The service provides volunteer buddies that can offer assistance and mentoring support to the person with a learning disability, making the placement more enjoyable and successful.



Rose will carefully match people to volunteering opportunities based on their interests and the skills they would like to develop.

If you would like to find out more about this service please call us on 666 1829 or see our website

<http://mencapwirral.org.uk/what-we-offer/volunteering-for-all/>

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.

Gateway Award participants collect awards at Gala Ball!



Volunteer Alan with Silver level participants Chris and Nat.

On Friday 20th June, our Gateway Award participants attended a black-tie Gala Ball with family and friends to collect an award for participating in this year's programme. Participants in their first year collected a bronze award, with some participants collecting a silver award for completing the second year of the Gateway Awards Programme. This year's accomplishments include; participating in a 26ft free-fall abseil, transforming a plot of land in Birkenhead Park, completing the Wirral Coastal Walk, learning basic first aid, improving fitness through sport and the gym, and much more.

The Gala Ball took place in the function suite of the Lauries Community Centre in Birkenhead. Participants and their guests enjoyed a 3-course meal, formal presentation and dance.

The event was funded by the participants' own fundraising efforts throughout the year, which amounted to an incredible £2019.52. They raised sponsorship through some of the activities outlined above and took part in fundraising activities such as supermarket bag packs.

Chair of Wirral Mencap, Gwen Seller, said "The Gala Ball is an incredibly important part of the Gateway Award's Programme as it formally recognises the achievements of local people with a learning disability. The majority have not had the opportunity to achieve any academic or professional qualifications and as such have never had the chance to celebrate their achievements. We would like to say a big 'Congratulations' to all of this year's participants, and to thank the staff, volunteers and of course funders, The Morgan Foundation and The John Moores Foundation, who make the programme possible."



Bronze participants Adam and Colin enjoying the evening with family and friends.

We are currently recruiting new participants to achieve an award this year. For more information call Stuart on 0151 666 1829.

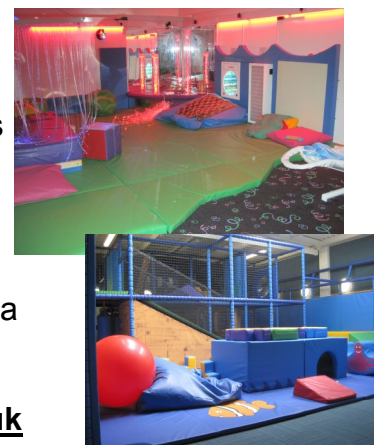
Update on Moreton Centre

For those of you that are not already aware, we are pleased to inform you that staff and students from Moreton Centre have now moved into their new building on the Oakenholt site. Steve McGreal and family, and other friends of Moreton Day Centre, have worked incredibly hard to get everything transferred in a very short space of time.

Without the hard work and dedication of parents and staff, the new Centre would not be a reality. We would like to acknowledge and congratulate everyone involved.

New Soft Play & Sensory Room

SenseAbility is a soft play and sensory area for disabled children and adults of any age. It opens at Europa Pools, Birkenhead in September 2014. To use the centre you need to become a member. If you would like a membership form or more information please email alexshears@wirral.gov.uk or call the Short Breaks Team on **666 4700**.



Fun Days out in Wirral this Summer

Here is a rundown of some of the things that are happening in Wirral this Summer

Sunday 10th August

Flower and vegetable show
Birkenhead Park
12pm - 5pm

Monday 25th August

RNLI Open Day
Hoylake Parade

Tuesday 26th August

Wirral Mencap Family Fun Day and
Leisure Fair
Birkenhead Park Rugby Club
11am - 4pm
Bring a along a picnic!!!



Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th September

Birkenhead Park Festival of Transport
Birkenhead Park
Wirral Mencap will be holding a stall.
Come down and say hello!

Activities at St James Centre!

The St James Centre, Birkenhead, offers a wide range of activities for children and adults, including:

- Art and Craft
- Courses (such as computer skills and cookery)
- Reading Groups

To find out more call the Centre on **0151 670 9974** or pick up a programme from The St James Centre reception.

Care Act 2014

The Care Act outlines how Local Authorities will have to work in future to support adults with social care needs and their carers. A series of factsheets are available for more information

www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-2014-part-1-factsheets

New system to support children with SEN

From 1 September 2014 there will be changes to the way children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities are supported. The changes are introduced in a new law called the Children and Families Act 2014.

Statements and Learning Difficulty Assessments will be replaced by Education Health and Care (EHC) plans. Like the statement, the EHC plan will be a legal document specifying the child's special educational needs, the special educational provision they will get and the school, college or other educational place they will go to. To find out more about these changes go to the Wirral Council website

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/childrens-services/education-and-learning/special-educational-needs/special-educational-needs-and-disability-reforms>

You can also get more information from Contact a Family's FREE helpline
0808 808 3555

Important Carers Meeting

(Concerning commissioning of carers services in future)

Carers and people who use services are invited to attend a consultation event on:

Thursday 7th August 2014
1.00 pm – 3.00pm
Wallasey Town Hall, Room 2

The event will focus on:

Adult Carers caring for a relative, partner or friend who is over 18 years (including older people) and who is ill, frail, disabled or has a mental health problem or substance misuse problem.

Event Objectives:

- Sharing commissioning ideas and intentions for the future
- Gathering your feedback

To book a place call **0151 666 4810** or email sophierobinson@wirral.gov.uk

Dates for your diary



Wirral Mencap's Family Fun Day and Leisure Fair

Tuesday 26th August
11am - 4pm
Birkenhead Park Rugby Club, Park Road North, CH41 8AA

Supermarket Collections:

West Kirby Morrisons
Saturday 13th September

New Brighton Morrisons
Sunday 19th October

Please let us know if you can spare an hour or two to help out at any of our upcoming collections.

New crafts in!

Meadowside School recently delivered a range of new crafts to sell in the Wirral Mencap shop, including:

- Aprons
- Crockery
- Housewares such as mirrors and jewellery boxes

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

Volunteer Spotlight



In this issue we would like to acknowledge Alan Miller, for the support he has provided Gateway Award Participants in achieving their awards this year. He has given his time on Wednesdays and Fridays every week to support the programme and taken part in sponsored events to raise funds for Wirral

Mencap. He is now embarking on a career in Occupational Therapy and we would like to wish him well and thank him for his time and commitment over the past year.

Volunteers needed

We are looking for volunteers to help us at occasional events such as collections, fete days and coffee mornings. You do not need to commit to a certain number of hours and can help as and when you are available.

We are also looking for volunteers to join our fundraising committee. This role involves attending meetings every 6 weeks to help us generate fundraising ideas.

Please call us on **666 1829** for more information or email info@mencapwirral.org.uk

Thank you

To the Wirral Archers for their donation of £100

To Mrs Randall for £100 towards the Crossbow Club

Condolences

To the friends and family of Philippa Allen who sadly passed away on the 23rd July.

To the friends and family of Alan Aspey who died earlier this year. We would also like to acknowledge the generous bequest Alan left to Wirral Mencap.

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