

NEWS UPDATE

GDF Meeting ORRFC Saturday 8th May

Present:

Apologies: Alan Finney – GLS Chairman; Colin Parry – GLS & Yercombe Lodge
Kate Fenwick – SENSE; David Bennett – Cobalt Unit Appeal Fund; Diggory Seacome – CBC Cclr; Sue Blakeley –
Glos City C Cclr; Sally Middleton – Inclusion officer Library Service

Speaker: Jane Griffith Coordinator – The PhD Forum & Access Auditor – GCC

The PhD Forum

This forum provides Lifelong Learning for people with physical disabilities in Gloucestershire. It is not registered as a charity but that may come. It is a funded organisation with strategic partners funded through E. U. funding & Learning Skills Council. It aims to encourage and enable people to access training, education and employment and shares the same problems with so many others namely transport. It was set up as a result of a two-year survey by Learning Partnership, which identified a shortfall of people with physical disabilities in work and focussed on addressing that imbalance. It has finance to help with transport and offers taster sessions to get used to a working situation. They have quarterly meetings in the City Works, Gloucester.

Quick Designs is an example of a mini enterprise by four members to offer Desk Top Publishing facilities to community groups for a small charge. It runs out of the Hesters Way Neighbourhood Project. The operators have a small training allowance and all receipts for work are ploughed back into the business. The project is also looking to establishing a ground floor area for a 'Drop In' centre for accessible computers able to facilitate most disabilities with Learning Skills Council money.

Plans are being made for a Disability Awareness Roadshow to travel the county with the theme 'Never Mind the Disability, See the Person'. Twelve members meet on Fridays to train for this and dates are being planned for the tour.

Cambridge Training & Development are creating a Website and Community Notice Board. Funded again by the Learning Skills Council, the site is intended to be accessible to all and host board where questions can be posed and answered by visitors to the site www.phdforum.org. The site will be monitored and controlled. There will be open training available on how to administer and maintain a website.

Finally, a Transport Seminar will be held at City Works, Gloucester 10am – 2pm on June 18th 04. It will look at burning transport issues including taxis, Stagecoach bus services and mini bus brokerage.

Questions followed from which evolved a need to link with other organisation's databases in the county to make information easier to find.

Quick Design produce a quarterly Newsletter which could be distributed via the GDF mail out. Groups can assist each other in the distribution of information.

Through her role as an Access Auditor for the County Council, Jane spoke of an event to take place at Maisemore Village Hall 1pm - 4.30pm Friday June 11th. 'The Event' as it has been named will have workshops, performances, displays and information dedicated to raising awareness about opportunities and services available to people with a disability in the County. It is organised by the Disability Involvement Group DIG.

South West Disability Equality Network (SWDEN)

A report from Ken Shaw. The Network was launched in Torquay and will be staging meetings through out the region quarterly. Venues will include Exeter, Plymouth, Bristol and Taunton. Disability groups are encouraged to join on the database and get involved. At the moment the county forum has sent representative after a poor response to the election. It is hoped that with more groups getting involved the next election will be from a wider base throughout the county. It is intended to set up an advice and self help database facility and a body to reflect regional opinions towards future Government legislation and proposals around disability. Contact Ken Shaw 01452-616135 or Imogen Bunting 0117 947 0521 to register with the Network.

Representative Required

The forum needs a representative for the Access & Inclusion Committee for the County Strategic Planning. Our present rep is unable to continue. Contact Sue McClung via Gloucestershire Lifestyles 01452-530184 if you are willing to take over the role.

RADAR Publications at Discount Prices

RADAR have offered County Forum members discounts on certain publications ordered via the GDF. Books include 'If Only I Knew That A Year Ago' a guide for newly disabled people and their friends and family, Accessible Days Out, Holidays and the Key Scheme Directory. For the forms contact Bharti Patel on 01452-530184.

Guild for Disabled Homeworkers

The group is looking for more people to join their '500'club and also volunteers to work in their shop in Nailsworth.

Training with FOLDA

Managing and Supporting Volunteers	Cirencester
Easy Fundraising	Tewkesbury & Dursley
First Aid for Appointed Persons	Cheltenham & Gloucester
Alternative Fundraising	Cinderford
Marketing on a Shoestring	Gloucester
Equal Ops. Policies into Action	Cheltenham
Financial Management for Non Financial Managers	Gloucester

Contact FOLDA for more information @ Gloucester CVS 01452-332424

E-mail admin@gloucestercv.org.uk Website: www.gloucestercv.org.uk

Dial-a-Ride Gloucester Malcolm Dunn is trying to get the best service he can, provided by the group. To this end he is putting out an open survey to seek the needs of the Gloucester citizens.

ACCESS Information

All the information gathered for the county by Gloucestershire Lifestyles is to be going on to their website quite soon and will link up with other sites. New access report cards are available from GLS – Ring 01452-530184. It is becoming very clear that there is a reluctance to adapt properties for easy access until forced to by litigation.

Parkinson's Support Group

An art exhibition is to be staged in October 04 details to follow

One Vision

GL1 Gloucester 10th May stages an exhibition. More information from Artshape 01452-307684.

Resource Centre @ City Works Gloucester

Good place for odds and ends and artistic needs.

CRB Checks

Can be arranged for only an administration charge of £15 from Advocacy Care Trust 01452-332414

Access in Gloucester

Gerald Tween reported that the road from Megabowl estate over the bridge to Sainsbury's in Barnwood is to be re-surfaced. There are issues over disability parking spaces in Gloucester that are the subject of heated debate with the Gloucester Disability Equality Forum.

Voting for those with a Learning Disability

Tony Burton voiced concern that this group of people were being denied their right to vote while in sheltered accommodation and that in response to his letter this is being addressed by the National Valuing People Support Team based in Bristol.

Commission for Patient & Public Involvement in Health Patient Forums

More representatives are needed to sit on local forums. Applications from: 0845 120 7111
HQ Birmingham: 0121 345 6100 SW Region Exeter: 0139 233 2100

A list of public meetings through May and June was listed and encouragement to go to all public meetings of local Primary Care Trusts to voice opinions.

Meeting closed 12:30pm

Next Meeting August 21st 9-30am same venue.

NEWS ITEM: IT FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE

Do you have a visual impairment? Ever wanted to use a computer or surf the internet? Gloucestershire Libraries & Information Service is celebrating the National Library for the Blind's "Make A Noise in Libraries" week, July 19 – 25, by launching our fully accessible UK On Line computers in 6 libraries across the county. Please come and have a taster IT session!

In 6 libraries (Gloucester, Cheltenham, Cirencester, Moreton in Marsh, Tewkesbury and Fairford) we are currently installing Supernova assistive technology on selected PC's. This state-of-the-art software programme enables customers with visual impairments to access the full range of IT applications, using on-screen magnifiers, screen readers and voice synthesisers.

Why not come along and make some noise in your library? To mark the occasion we are having some live music, aromatherapy sessions and other activities at the 6 libraries listed above. If you are interested in attending any of these events please call the following for the latest information:

Sally Middleton – 01452 425010 or Jill Barker – 01452 425373