



News

Annual General Meeting

On Monday 14th March we held our Annual General Meeting at The Hive. It was not as well attended as we would have hoped, however it was a chance to look back at all that we have achieved over the past year.

We also took the opportunity to say thank you to Jim Mansfield who left the Management Committee after 40 years, the last 25 years as our Appeals Officer. Samantha Morris, Head of Volunteering at Mencap, came with a long-service certificate and a letter of thanks from Mark Goldring, Mencap Chief Executive. Jim was presented with an engraved pen and Dolores, his wife, with a bouquet of flowers. Both Jim and Dolores have worked extremely hard for Avon-North Mencap over the years, organising Appeals Week each year and raising a large amount of money in the process. Thank you to both of them for all that they have done.

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Staff

Many of you will know Janine Banks who runs the Monday and Wednesday afternoon sessions at The Hive and the Friday Fun Club at Alveston.

Sadly for us Janine will be leaving in the middle of May; however it is good news for her, her husband and son as they welcome their adopted daughter into the family. We wish Janine and her family all the very best and thank Janine for all the hard work and extra time she has put into making the club and The Hive a success.

In the short term other staff will be covering Janine's hours until the positions can be advertised.

The Hive

We are very pleased with the way that The Hive is expanding with new members constantly joining and now current members renewing their membership. We have held our annual membership prices at £20. If you are a Hive member you will receive a letter when your renewal is due.

In January we started opening on a Tuesday afternoon, from 12.30-4 with the sessions run by Anna Lichtensteiger. These sessions are building up nicely and we are considering expanding our hours further by opening on a Thursday. Enclosed is a slip which we would be grateful if you could return to let us know if you would be interested in attending on a Thursday and if you have a preference for a morning or afternoon session. We will only run these extra sessions if there is enough support for them as we need to be able to cover our costs.

Christmas Party

On 19th December we held our Christmas party in The Hive. It was a lovely event with everyone bringing contributions of food to share and a lot of singing and dancing! It was a great way to start off the Christmas celebrations. Thank you to everyone who helped at the party.

Clubs

Our social clubs are also going from strength to strength.

We run three evening social clubs for people with learning disabilities aged 18+.

We run the Friday Fun Club on a Friday evening in Alveston. The club meets weekly from 7 - 9pm at Marlwood School. On the first Friday of the month the group goes out for a meal, bowling or picnics in the summer. We are grateful to Marlwood School for their continued support of our club.

The Harbour Club meets on a Tuesday evening from 7 - 9pm at St Mary's on the Quay church hall in central Bristol during the term time.

Our Wednesday evening club at 'The Hive' in Kingswood. The club runs from 7.30 - 9.30pm.

Last July we started a Youth Club for children with a learning disability aged 13 - 18 years. This runs from 7 - 9pm on a Tuesday evening at 'The Hive'. We have recently changed the age range to include 11 and 12 year olds.

We are currently running a drama club on a Wednesday morning, 10.30-12, at The Hive. There are still some places available if you know anyone who is interested.

If you are interested in any of these clubs please email club@avonnorthmencap.org.uk

Mencap news

Learning Disability Week

Learning Disability Week 2011 is from **Monday 20 to Sunday 26 June**, when Mencap will launch a 3-year campaign against **hate crime**, Stand by me.

Stand by me will challenge the police, the criminal justice system and the courts to end hate crime against people with a learning disability within a generation.

People will be able to get involved in a range of activities and events to support the campaign. Please keep checking www.mencap.org.uk for further information and to find out how you can take part.

Mencap would like to build up a more accurate picture of hate crime in the UK. If you or someone you know has been a victim of hate crime they would like to hear from you.

If you have a story you would be happy to share contact:

Brenda Shalvey

Telephone: 020 7696 5568

Email brenda.shalvey@mencap.org.uk

Fundraising

We are very pleased that DHL, based at Emerald Park in Emersons Green, have chosen Avon-North Mencap and The Hive as one of its four charities of the year. They have already held a very successful quiz night to raise money for the charities. Our share of which was £325! They have other events planned throughout the year.

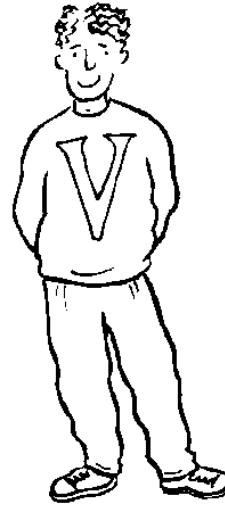
We have also received money from St Stephens Church Ladies Group, Christ the King Church, Arron Banks and the Jerusalem Chapter of the Freemasons so far this year to help us to buy new equipment for The Hive.

If you belong to a club, or work for an organisation that chooses specific charities to support, we would be very grateful if you would think of nominating us. We do not receive any money from national Mencap nor the local authorities we work in so have to rely on what we can fundraise ourselves. As our services grow obviously so do our costs. The amount of disposable equipment we use in The Hive and at our clubs is enormous and so we need the money to replace it. If you might be able to help but would like to know how, or what the money would be spent on, please contact Liz Cooke on 0117 9614372 for a chat.

Fundraising Events Committee

Niall Tomlins has recently started a Fundraising Events Committee which meets monthly at The Hive. The next meeting is on 16th May at 7pm. An events schedule has been drawn up with a quiz night planned on 18th June at Lincombe Barn in Downend (see enclosed sheet). Details of the planned events can be found on the noticeboard in The Hive. If you would be interested in joining the committee, or can help at any events please get in touch with the office.

Volunteers



We are continuing to recruit volunteers. Over the last few months we have 'lost' a few people who have moved or found employment, so it is important that we maintain the number of volunteers that we have.

Some of our volunteers give a couple of hours a week whilst others give up whole days. It is wonderful that we have such a range of people working with us.

Our volunteers support us in a number of ways:

- supporting people with a learning disability to access social activities on a one-to-one basis
- collecting money for us
- working in 'The Hive'
- helping at our evening social clubs

We still need more volunteers to help us. If you are interested in finding out more why not give us a ring in the office on 0117 9614372 and ask for Annie.

You can also email us at volunteers@avonnorthmencap.org.uk or call in to see us for a chat.

Other news

Table Top Sale

We will be holding a table top sale outside the entrance to The Hive on Saturday 7th May between 10am and 2pm. Why not pop by to pick up a bargain!

If you have anything that we could sell please drop it into the Hive a few days before.

Disco

We have held two discos so far this year. Both have been great successes. We have moved the discos to a larger venue and now hold them at Hanham Community Centre, High Street, Hanham. This means that more people can come and leaves much more room for dancing! We would like to thank Dave and Kirsty from D&K Disco for providing the music.

The next disco is planned for Friday 1st July. Tickets cost £5 on the door. Carers enter for free. We hope to see you there!

Annual membership

Thank you to all those people who have returned their membership. If you have not managed to do so yet it is not too late. Membership costs £6 for an individual and £10 for couples and can be sent to the office with your name and address. This is membership to Avon-North Mencap Society and NOT to The Hive.

AVON-NORTH MENCAP SOCIETY



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www.avonnorthmencap.org.uk

Charity no: 1126618
Company no: 6694738

Avon-North Mencap Society works in South Gloucestershire and Bristol with people with learning disabilities, their families and carers.

We can offer support and information on a range of issues by telephone, at the office or in your home.

Please contact our Project Director, Liz Cooke, for advice, information on services or a friendly chat!



Avon-North Mencap is listed on Everyclick.com the search engine that helps charity. Please go to www.everyclick.com/uk/avonnorthmencap to do all your searching. Don't forget to add it to your favourites so you can find it easily and you can make it your homepage. It does not cost us, or you, a penny – so it's a great way to support us everyday.



Help us!

Don't forget to visit our webshop:
www.buy.at/avonnorthmencap



Come and join us!

Avon-North Mencap meets on the second Monday of the month at 7.00pm at The Hive. If you would like to attend please come along, or phone us to let us know that you will be there.

Future meeting dates are:



11th April

9th May

13 June

Why not come along? It would be great to see you!



give with confidence

