



Birmingham Disability Resource Centre



NEWSLETTER

New Year 2007

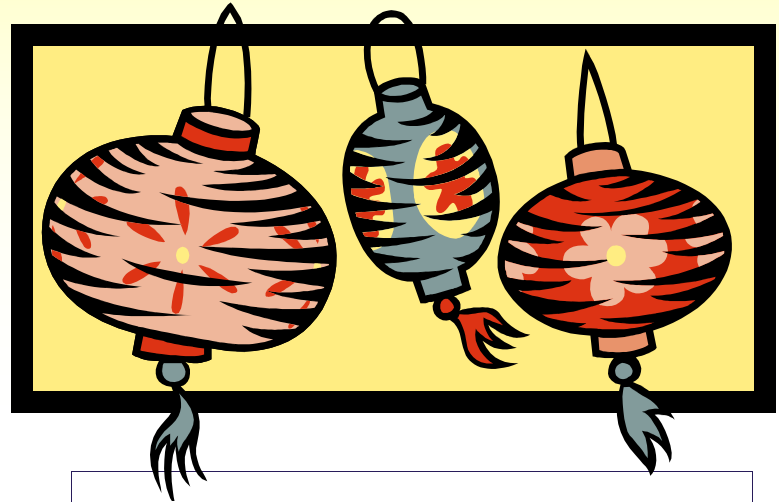
Welcome

Hello and welcome to the New Year edition of the BDRC's Newsletter. Can you believe we are already in the year 2007 — the start of the new Millennium seems like only yesterday! Well we really hope it is a great and successful year for all Newsletter readers, there's certainly plenty going on at the Birmingham Disability Resource Centre so why not make it your New Year's resolution to get more involved?

If you live or work in either the north or south sides of the city, please come along to one of our Outreach Information Days in the spring, one in Perry Barr and the second in Frankley. The first event is at the Broadway Community Centre near the UCE on 13th February and the second event is at Frankley Community Centre on the 6th March.

More details follow on this page or call us on 0121 789 7365

Happy New Year 2007



Disability Information Days

All disabled people, their families, carers and health professionals are welcome to our free events this spring. At each event you can access free advice and information on a range of issues such as employment and voluntary work, education and training, social and support groups and much more. So make sure you put these dates in your diary and come along to see what help is available:

Tuesday 13th February

10 a.m—4 p.m.

Broadway Community Centre
Perry Barr

Tuesday 6th March

10 a.m—4 p.m.

Frankley Community Centre
New Street, Frankley

Room Hire At The BDRC

Need an accessible venue for your meeting or conference? Then book our facilities at the Birmingham Disability Resource Centre.

Rooms from 10 to 50 people
Catering can be provided

For booking form and menu, contact:
Barbara Danckert on 0121 789 7365

January Employers Day A Huge Success

Birmingham Disability Resource Centre recently held a successful day of training and information for employers on the 9th of January 2007. The response from the attendees was extremely positive and everybody felt it had been worth coming. It also helped us link in with other voluntary sector organisations.

We intend to run more of these events and have already had organisations asking when these will be. During the day we gave free advice on how the Disability Discrimination Act affects employers, as well as equality issues, and effective ways of encouraging equality in an organisation.

Further dates for these events will be announced in the near future. To be informed of further events as they become available please mail: jbrown@disability.co.uk

International Day of Disabled People

Thank you all for helping make the International Day of Disabled People a huge success. The International Day of Disabled People took Place on Friday the 1st of December 2006 at the Centennial Centre in Edgbaston.

For the first time Birmingham Disability Resource Centre in partnership with People First were asked by Birmingham City Council to organise this day that gives all disabled people of the city the opportunity to come together in celebration. This year the emphasis was on ensuring that everyone

attending got the chance to get involved in the day, so to make the day interactive there were a variety of activities, amongst which was a make a 'Greetings Card' session, an interactive short Play and the chance to get involved in some gentle exercises. For those feeling a little more adventurous there was an opportunity to contribute to the Picture Pathway Scheme.

As well as the live music throughout the day there were also Workshops being delivered on issues such as 'accessing health & social care services', 'the barriers disabled people face gaining employment' and what an awareness session on Asperger's Syndrome.

A Chill Out and Quiet Zone where people could receive free Reiki and Aromatherapy treatments or just sit quietly was also provided. On the day there were representatives from the Emergency Planning Community, the Disability Employees Network, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Disability Rights Commission and the Head of Equality and Diversity, Dr Mashug Ally and Sue Hawkins the Disability Employment Services Manager at Birmingham City Council, who answered questions on the services they offer.

With the additional help of alternative comic Paul Betney (Abnormally Funny People) to compare the proceedings, the day went exceedingly well, so well in fact that the word is that's next year event will be on a bigger scale, so keep watching this space for details.

Finally all that remains is to thank you

all for attending this event and a big thank you to all those who took part for all their hard work.

Mistletoe and Wine

It was fantastic to meet all the BDRC service users who attended our recent Christmas Party in December. We all had a wonderful time at the party, there were a lot of new faces this year and everyone seemed to enjoy the occasion. In fact, people have commented that they are already looking forward to the party next year. Bring it on!



A Penny For Your Thoughts

Here at the BDRC we are preparing a funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to run an oral history project about the lives and experiences of disabled people in the West Midlands. If the funding application is successful we will call the project *A Penny For Your Thoughts*. If you would be interested in participating in this project please get in contact with Pete on 0121 789 7365.

If you belong to a local disability group and you are interested in running your own heritage project, why not go along to a funding information event being run by the Heritage Lottery Fund at the Botanical Gardens in Edgbaston on 28th March. The event is aimed at promoting the small grants programme to disability charities and organisations in the voluntary & community sector of the West Midlands. Contact Michelle Christy for more details on 0121 616 6878.

Thanks to MPs and Councillors



BDRC Volunteer John Doherty (right) would like to thank all Birmingham MPs, Councillors and MEPs for their very positive response to his recent letter informing them about the services that the BDRC provide and looks forward to working with them in the near future.

Employment and Training Services

In the first 6 months of the Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) Projects, our Employment and Training Services team had supported over 150 disabled people. Beneficiaries benefited from in-depth IAG support. Customised training was provided in Interview preparation, job search skills, stress and time management and confidence building.

20 beneficiaries were supported in accessing training, 8 were successful in gaining employment, and a further 20 were referred to voluntary placements.

We provide one-to-one job-matching support during weekly job club sessions on Monday morning between 10.00 – 12.00 and Thursday afternoons between 12.00 – 2.00. If you are interested in our employment and training services please contact any of our team on 0121 789 7465.

Funded by Birmingham City Council
and the European Social Fund



Who's Who at the BDRC? Staff, Volunteers and Board of Directors 2007

Staff Team

Chief Executive

Louise Simmons

Central Services Department

Barbara Dankert

Syed Shah

Bernie Fogarty

Penny Hughes

Information Department

John Boular

Toni Cuddihy

Counsellor

Julie Carnell

Employment & Training Projects &
Action Research

Mohammed Vaseem

Hayley Ridewood

Patricia Penado

John Ellis

Peter Millington

Connexions PA

Katie Webb

Business Development, Training &
Access Auditing

James Brown

Elaine Watson

Pamela Woodward

Board of Directors

Chairperson **Tim Phillips**

Vice Chairperson **Andy Beaton**

Treasurer **Cora Jones**

Director **Tony Davis**

Director **Dave Nichols**

Director **Irene Wright**

Volunteers

David Hammerton

John Doherty

Nuala Ryan

Dave Robinson

Julie Bentley

New Board Member

The BDRC is looking to recruit 2 professional and forward thinking individuals to serve on its Board of Directors. If you have skills in the areas of law; media & public relations; fundraising or campaigning and/or you are able to represent the interests of black and minority ethnic disabled people then we would love to hear from you. Further details, together with application packs are available from our Chief Executive, Louise Simmons.

See the contact details below

Birmingham Disability Resource Centre

Bierton Road

Yardley

Birmingham

B25 8PQ

Tel: 0121 789 7365

Fax: 0121 785 0104

www.disability.co.uk

