

# Wiltshire People 1<sup>st</sup>

Promoting the Self Advocacy of  
People with Learning Difficulties  
In Wiltshire



## Newsletter Issue 2 Summer 2014



Working together to promote the rights and inclusion of  
People with learning difficulties in Wiltshire



## A word from the Editors' Group ...



Welcome to our Summer Newsletter for 2014.

Wiltshire People 1<sup>st</sup> has been very busy since the last Newsletter, and we have lots of new things, and some changes to tell you about.

### Lacock Project – New!



Wiltshire People 1<sup>st</sup> has been invited to take part in the Lacock Unlocked Heritage Lottery funded project. Members will be taking photos of the abbey and village as well as learning more about Fox Talbot and his special camera. We will tell you more about this in the Autumn Newsletter.

### History Project: 'Our Lives, Our History' update



We are holding a Drop In session in the foyer at Bradford on Avon Library on **26 June, from 12 – 2pm.**

Members of the Steering Group will be on hand to greet visitors and show them our display. We hope lots of people will pop in to find out about our history project and how they can get involved. Please come along and tell your friends and family too!

## New: Easy-Read Training for Businesses!



In March Wiltshire People 1<sup>st</sup> held the first easy-read training workshop for businesses. This helps organisations who provide a service to the public, or work with people with learning disabilities and autism, to make their information easier to read. The course helps improve customer care and ensures businesses meet equality laws.



The training workshop was the final part of the 'Words and Pictures' project, funded by the Office of Disability Issues.



We also produced a DVD about making information into easy-read, available to buy or included in the cost of a communications training course.

Please contact us if you would like to know more about our services.

## Speaking Up Groups in 2014 so far...



As always we have covered a lot of interesting things at our monthly Speaking Up Groups – we took part in consultations, and did more fun things like arts and crafts, and exercises to music.



In March we talked about how things have changed for disabled people over time, and played Bingo; in April we talked about Benefits and made Easter Cards; and at our May meeting we looked at Wiltshire Council's Dementia Strategy.

## Partnership Board Consultation: 'Have Your Say about Support'



**Wiltshire Council**  
Where everybody matters



My Life  
My Choice  
My Health

As part of the next Have Your Say consultation, Wiltshire People 1<sup>st</sup> will be carrying out surveys and small group meetings on the subject of 'Choice and Control Over My Support' during the next few weeks.

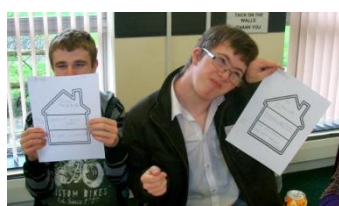
The survey will ask what support people have now, how satisfied they are with the services they get, do the services meet their needs and aspirations, and ask people for ideas about the type of support they would like to have in the future.

Please get involved and tell us your views!

The HYS consultation is happening at the same time as Wiltshire Council is reviewing its Supported Living Services, so we are including some questions around their Support Framework.

Your views are important, as they will help inform the range of services the council provides in the future.

## Young Person's Groups in 2014 so far...



At our Young Person's Group in April members talked about Housing, and the different living arrangements people might have. They thought about how they might like to live in the future, and the things they could do themselves in order to achieve this. The session finished with a game of Bingo which everyone enjoyed.



In May and June the group talked about managing their money and budgeting. They also completed the new Have Your Say survey on Support and played the 'My Life, My Budget' board game.

## Working with the University of Bath



David went to Bath University on 9<sup>th</sup> May to hear the students report back to their tutors about the Student Reviews project, and he was invited to stand up and tell everyone a little bit about his life so far and his experiences as a person with a learning difficulty.



Our members enjoyed having the students on placement with us and look forwards to working with another group next year.

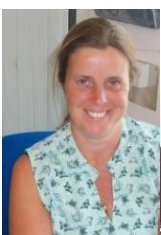
## Changes at Wiltshire People 1<sup>st</sup> : Management Committee News!



Wiltshire People 1<sup>st</sup> Management Committee held elections for Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons. The results are: Joint Chairs Niko Massouras and Symon Targett, and Joint Vice-Chairs Linda King and Nicky Poole.



Congratulations to everyone on their new roles, and many thanks to Sandra Wells and David Martin who have performed these roles for the last 3 years and have been great ambassadors for Wiltshire People 1<sup>st</sup>.



**Staff Changes:** We have also just recruited 2 new members of staff. Our new Advocacy Project Assistant is Angela Hulin and our new Office Team Leader is Jo Woodsford. Welcome to the team!

## Useful Contacts:



Police (non-emergency)

101

## News from the other Self Advocacy groups...

### Open Minds



Open Minds has spent the funding from Waitrose on a new camcorder, so are able to film our own events. We are working with a designer to develop our website and we hope to show our recently recorded puppet show.

We had a talk from the Bobby Van, and Zoe from WSUN has shown us the new leaflet that we helped design. We held a coffee morning to raise funds for Great Ormond Street Hospital and ran a trip to Swindon greyhound racing.

We are running a first aid workshop on 1<sup>st</sup> July, a computer skills workshop, and a workshop on self-image and communication. We have Wiltshire air ambulance coming, and are looking forward to our Summer Barbeque.

### SISAG



At our recent AGM Caroline was elected Chairman for another year and Gavin has taken over as Treasurer because Chris D has been in Hospital and is not his usual self.

We looked at Friendships and Relationships in our last three monthly workshops and we also reminded ourselves how to vote at a Polling Station for the European elections.



Caroline is starting a friendly Lunch Club in Salisbury and is hoping for good support. This August when there is no ordinary monthly meeting we are hoping to have a sociable Workshop to encourage new members.



**Your  
News  
and  
Ideas!**

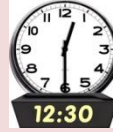
If you have any news or ideas you would like to share with Wiltshire People 1<sup>st</sup> members, please get in touch with us on 01380 871900.

## Wiltshire People First dates for Your Diary:

### Speaking Up Groups



10:30 am until



12:30 pm

at the Independent Living Centre,  
Semington

22<sup>nd</sup> July

No meeting in August

9<sup>th</sup> September

7<sup>th</sup> October

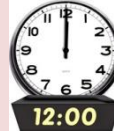
4<sup>th</sup> November

No meeting in December

### Young Person's Groups



10:30 am until



12:00 pm

at the Independent Living Centre,  
Semington

9<sup>th</sup> July

No meeting in August

10<sup>th</sup> September

### Other events in 2014...

Joint Advocacy Groups Summer Event

15<sup>th</sup> July at Trowbridge Rugby Club

Big Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> December Trowbridge  
Rugby Club



# Contact Us!



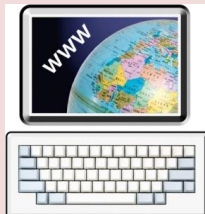
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Images used in this newsletter are a mixture of photos of members and local places, other pictures are from the Photosymbols databank



Wiltshire People 1<sup>st</sup> is supported by Wiltshire Council, and 'Our Lives, Our History' project is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund

