

28th February 2018

FEBRUARY BRACKNELL MAILING

Dear Member,

Data Protection

Help Wokingham, Bracknell & Districts Mencap keep in touch with you. Please read the attached letter and return it to us with your answers via email or post as soon as possible. Please remember to include your name. ***It is important that you respond to allow us to continue to contact you.***

Membership

We would like to remind members that membership fees for 2018 are now due. Paying the membership allows you to continue as a member of our organisation and to continue to have access to our services. The membership fee is £15 for the year and can be paid by cash or cheque or into our bank account. Cheques should be made payable to Wokingham, Bracknell & Districts Mencap and **sent to our new office address**. Our bank details are:

Name of Account: Wokingham, Bracknell & Districts Mencap Ltd
Account Code: 03839646
Sort Code: 30-91-11
Bank: Lloyds, High Street, Bracknell RG12 1BT

Thank you to those members who have already paid their fees for 2018.

AGM – Save the Date

Our Annual General Meeting will take place at Easthampstead Park Conference Centre on **Thursday 5th July**. Further information about this event will be sent out in a few months' time, but PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

20th Anniversary Ball

Our **Anniversary Ball** has been arranged for **Saturday 5th May 2018** at Hilton St. Anne's Manor, Wokingham. The money raised at the Ball will go towards keeping our social groups for adults running. Why not get together with friends and buy a table for 10 people or just buy tickets for yourself and we can seat you on one of the tables. This will be a great night out and a chance to dress up in your posh frocks. Tickets are **£55** per person and will include:

- A glass of sparkly on arrival while you are dazzled by the close up magic of Kerry Scoriah
- A delicious 4-course meal with half a bottle of wine each
- Auctions – live and silent
- A great raffle
- Live music from 'Flashback' who recapture all the excitement of the golden age of Swing and Rock'n'Roll featuring the iconic hits of the 1940s and 1950s.

The evening will be compered by Rainer Hersch, the hilarious international Comic Conductor. **Please add this event to your Facebook/twitter/LinkedIn and help us publicise it and sell as many tickets as possible.**

Wokingham, Bracknell & Districts
Mencap

The Court House
Broadway
Town Square
Bracknell
Berkshire RG12 1AE
Tel: 0300 777 8539

admin@wokinghammencap.org
www.wokinghambracknellmencap.org

Interim Chair
Ray Clarke

Joint Chief Executives
Mary Durman
Heather Young

**Celebrating our 20th
Anniversary**

**A Local Charity
supporting
Local People to
be included in their
Local
Communities**

Affiliated to but not funded by
Royal Mencap Society



Do you have family or friends who work for a company that would give us a prize e.g. Dinner for 2 at a restaurant or pub, a game of Golf, oven cleaning, baby sitting, a manicure, a hairdressing voucher, a Spa session etc. that we can use either as an auction prize – live or silent, or a raffle prize? Please help us if you can. The more prizes we get, the more money we can raise on the night.

Job Vacancies

We have a number of vacancies at the current time including one for an Office Co-ordinator. We also have vacancies for a Bookkeeper and for a Co-ordinator for our Gateway group. Further details are included below.

OFFICE CO-ORDINATOR

20 hours per week - £18,200 pro rata (based on 35 hr wk)

To provide administrative support to enable the day to day functioning of the Wokingham, Bracknell & Districts Mencap office and to assist on other projects as required

BOOKKEEPER

5 hours per week - £21,840 pro rata (based on 35 hr wk)

To maintain the accounts on Sage and be responsible for the financial accounts of Wokingham, Bracknell & Districts Mencap and its projects.

GATEWAY AWARD PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR - Bracknell

Average 10-12 hours per week - £11 per hour

The Gateway Award Project is a life-skills programme (similar to the Duke of Edinburgh Award) working with adults with learning disabilities and/or autism. The project takes place at workshops on Monday and Thursday evenings in Bracknell, the office (for admin for the project) and at other venues as required. We have a vacancy for a Co-ordinator to supervise staff and volunteers and promote and facilitate the Mencap Gateway Award including supporting adults to enrol on the Award and verify evidence collected by individuals to send for external verification. To lead in providing activities at the workshops and organising trips off-site to meet the requirements of the Gateway Award. To attend training, meetings, outings and special activities as required.

**Closing date for applications for these vacancies is Friday 16th March.
Interviews will be held during the week beginning Monday 26th March 2018**

Could YOU be a trustee?

We need trustees to run this amazing charity that provides support to children and adults with a learning disability/autism spectrum condition, their carers and families across the Boroughs of Wokingham and Bracknell. We cannot run this organisation without trustees. We are looking to appoint trustees to strengthen the expertise of our board and to help meet the challenges of delivering its strategy of growth. Of particular value would be expertise in one or more of the following fields:

- Marketing
- Project Management
- IT
- Fundraising
- HR

Understanding of legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship of a charity would be an advantage, but training will be provided. In accordance with the Charity Commissioner's regulations, no remuneration is payable for these positions, but expenses will be reimbursed. If you can commit to up to 6 evenings and a few days per year to keeping this vibrant organisation running, please contact the Chief Executives at admin@wokinghammencap.org attaching a full CV or telephone Heather or Mary on 0300 777 8539 for an informal chat.

NEWS AND EVENTS FOR CARERS

Carers Lunch

The next carers' meeting will be a lunch on **Thursday 15th March** from 12.15pm to 2.00pm at the New Priestwood Community Centre. Sarah McGowan and Sam Smith, the Community Connectors from Bracknell Forest Council will be coming along to talk about their work. Please see attached flyer for further details and how to book your lunch.

Thinking Ahead Workshop – Tuesday 17th April

Our fourth 'Thinking Ahead' workshop is taking place on Tuesday 17th April from 9.45am. Speakers will include Boyes Turner who will talk about Wills & Trusts and Malcolm Phillips the Fraud Victim Support Officer Please note the venue for this event will be The Bradbury Centre, Rose St., Wokingham. Contact the office on 0300 777 8539 to book your place for this event.

NEWS AND EVENTS FOR CHILDREN

Smiles for Sibs Club

The **Smiles for Sibs Club** runs weekly during term time on **Thursday evenings from 4.30pm-6.15pm** at Braybooke Community Centre and costs just £1 a session. The last session before the Easter holidays will be on Thursday 29th March. There are spaces at the group for new children. Lynn Nicholas runs this group and can be contacted on 07929 114324 or contact the office on 0300 777 8539.

Siblings Trips

We are organising 2 trips for siblings: **Wednesday 4th April** - a trip to **Chessington World of Adventures** and **Saturday 14th April** - a trip to see **Madagascar** at South Hill Park. See attached flyer for further details and how to book a place.

NEWS AND EVENTS FOR ADULTS

Bracknell Social Group

This group meets in different venues in the Bracknell Borough every Tuesday and is open to anyone over the age of 18 with a learning disability.

The activities in March will include:

- **Tuesday 6th March – a visit to Tang’s Restaurant, The Lexicon.** Bring £15 for food and money for drinks
- **Tuesday 13th March – Sister Act, the Musical at South Hill Park.** £16 per ticket.
- **Tuesday 20th March – Swimming at Coral Reef.** £4.50 for swimming plus £1 locker fee.
- **Tuesday 27th March – Bingo at The Bridge.** £6 per person for the buffet.

Chris Ward runs this group and can be contacted on 07557 231360 or by email at chris@bracknellmencap.org. *Please remember that all activities **must be booked in advance** and there may be limited availability.* **Please note that there is a £3 a week charge to attend this group which is invoiced quarterly. This charge helps to fund staffing for the group.**

TGIF/Friday Alternative

This social group is for adults aged 16+ with Aspergers Syndrome/high functioning autism. It meets 3 times a month. In March the next meetings are:

- **Wednesday 14th March – Gravity Force.** £11.00 + £2.00 for socks. Train fare £4.60 from Wokingham
- **Friday 23rd March The Olde Leathern Bottel, Wokingham.** £15.00-£25.00
- **Wednesday 28th March – a meal at Calzone Pizza Restaurant.** £18.00-£20.00

(Please note that dinner at the Olde leathern Bottel will be on the third Friday of the month in March)

Ruth Hatch runs the group and can be contacted by email at autism@bracknellmencap.org, or phone/text 07929 114179. ***Please note that there is an annual charge of £60 to attend TGIF/Friday Alternative. This can be paid in 2 instalments. This fee helps to cover the cost of staffing the group.***

Friday Alternative visit to Oxford & Pitt Rivers Museum

Ruth has organised a visit to Oxford and the Pitt Rivers Museum on **Saturday 17th March** travelling by train from Wokingham to Oxford. The cost will be approx. £25 for travel plus extra money for food etc. Meet at Wokingham Station at 9.30am. *If you would like to go we need to know by Wednesday 14th March.* Ruth will send out further details to Friday Alternative members.

Gateway

Unfortunately the Co-ordinator that we employed to run the Gateway project has had to resign for personal reasons. We are now re-advertising the post, but in the meantime we are really disappointed to have to continue suspending the group.

NEWS FROM OTHER GROUPS

Bracknell Parent Forum Meeting – Wednesday 14th March

Bracknell Parent Forum are holding a meeting for parents/carers unable to attend daytime meetings on Wednesday 14th March 2017 from 7.30pm – 9pm at the Great Hollands Community Centre, Great Hollands Square, Bracknell RG12 8UX. Frank Glennon, Principal Educational Psychologist / Head of SEN and Geoff King, SEN Consultant will be attending. This is your chance to get up to date with all things SEN related in Bracknell Forest, hear feedback on our meetings with the Local Authority, and ask questions. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be provided. Please let us know if you can attend via email: bracknellparentforum@virginmedia.com or phone/text: Admin: 07541 668115.

Bracknell Forest Carers Support Group

Bracknell Forest Carers Support Group runs two groups – one for carers including working carers and one for former carers.

The group for carers including working carers meets at South Hill Park Café, South Hill Park, South Hill Rd, Birch Hill, Bracknell RG12 7PA from 5.30pm-7.00pm. Future dates for meetings are: Tuesday 20th March, Tuesday 17th April, Tuesday 15th May, Tuesday 19th June

Former carers meet at The Refresh Café, Crownwood Community Centre, Opladen Way, Crownwood, Bracknell RG12 0PE from 10am-12 noon. Future dates for meetings are: Wednesday 14th March 2018, Wednesday 11th April, Wednesday 9th May, Wednesday 13th June

Bracknell Forest Help Yourself

Local community groups and voluntary organisations have joined with the council to create Bracknell Forest Help Yourself, an innovative community website that everyone can use to help them stay fit, healthy and connected to their community. This is not intended to be a council-run and managed resource, more for all Bracknell Forest residents and local community groups, the voluntary and private sector to provide or access information on services or activities in the borough.

Features include a community map so residents can find events and social groups available locally, a wellbeing planner to allow people to identify how they can improve their wellbeing and a search tool for those looking for a particular activity. We're adding our library volunteering opportunities, so look for those and more. Go to: helpyourself.bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Bracknell Forest Council Consultation on Draft Local Plan

Bracknell Forest Council is consulting on its draft local plan. The consultation runs from 10am on Thursday 8th February until 5pm on Monday 26th March 2018. The Council is reviewing its planning policies so that they reflect the latest government policy and guidance. This includes how the amount of new housing needed should be calculated. Various sites are also being proposed for development to meet future growth needs. Having up-to-date policies is important so that development doesn't happen in a piecemeal way without any proper planning. To access the event and comment, please use the following link and click on 'Draft Bracknell Forest Local Plan': <http://consult.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/portal/planning>. Documents can also be viewed at: www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/draftlocalplanconsultation. Copies of the document are also available at Time Square, the Libraries and Parish and Town Councils across the Borough.

Digital Resources from Carers UK

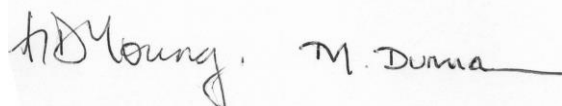
Bracknell Forest Council has joined forces with national charity Carers UK to offer support to carers via an online platform that can be accessed 24/7. At a click of a mouse carers in Bracknell Forest have free, 24/7 access to the Digital Resource for Carers, an online environment that hosts a range of resources to help carers manage care and caring. Go to: <https://www.signal4carers.org.uk/bfcarers/bfnoticeboard/39-digital-resources-from-carers-uk>

Dance for Adults (Elaine's Classes in Bracknell)

Fun and friendly dance classes are held weekly in Bracknell. Adult Tap classes for a range of abilities are held at Bullbrook Community Centre on Wednesday mornings and evenings and at Birch Hill Community Centre on Thursday mornings. Jazz and lyrical dance classes from the musicals are held on Wednesdays at Bullbrook Community Centre. For more information contact: 01344 484736 or dancenow9@aol.com

If you have any questions about anything in this mailing, please call the office on 0300 777 8539 or email admin@wokinghammencap.org.

Kind regards



Mary Durman and Heather Young
Joint Chief Executives

Encs

PS We need a kitchen wall cabinet to put up in our new office. If you have an old cabinet that you don't want, please let us know. It doesn't matter what colour it is!