



Wokingham, Bracknell & Districts Mencap

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30th May 2018

MAY WOKINGHAM MAILING

Dear Member,



AGM – Change of Date and venue and 20th Anniversary Party

Our Annual General Meeting will take place at Hilton St. Anne's Manor, London Road, Wokingham on **Monday 2nd July**. **This year as it's our 20th Anniversary year the AGM will be followed by a free party to celebrate. There will be music and dancing until late. Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be provided and there will be a grand raffle.** A flyer is attached with further details.

The AGM is a time for us to reflect on our achievements during 2017 and also look forward to the future. **We urgently need new Trustees including a Chair and a Treasurer or the Charity will have to close.** If you are interested or have skills such as accounting, HR, marketing, legal or caring and would like to know more please contact Heather or Mary at the office on 0300 777 8539.

Fundraising silent auction

We raised £185 from the 5 lots advertised in the April mailing – thank you to all those who sent in bids. The winning bidders have been informed.

Job Vacancies

We have 2 vacancies – one for a Support Worker for our '@ the Acorn' Social Group for adults with a learning disability in Wokingham – average. 2.5 hours per week, £8.50 per hour. The other is for a Playworker at Bracknell Smiles for Sibs for 2 hrs per week at £7 per hour. For further details and a job specification please contact the office on 0300 777 8539 or email: admin@wokinghammencap.org. References and an Enhanced DBS check will be carried out on the successful candidates.

Save your plastic milk bottle tops for us?

Wokingham Borough Council is collecting plastic milk bottle tops for recycling and we are the chosen charity to receive the funding from this Scheme. Can you collect your milk bottle tops for us? You can bring them to the coffee mornings/lunches and we will take them to the Council offices in Wokingham. The tops must have 2 or 4 written in the triangular recycling symbol

NEWS AND EVENTS FOR CARERS

Carers Coffee Morning

The next carers' coffee morning will be on **Tuesday 12th June** from 10.00am to 12.00pm at **Rose Street Methodist Church, Rose Street, Wokingham**. Please come along to chat to our staff and other carers.

NEWS AND EVENTS FOR CHILDREN

Smiles for Sibs Club

The **Smiles for Sibs Club** runs weekly during term time on **Monday evenings from 4.15pm-6.00pm** at Woodley Airfield Community Centre and costs just £1 a session. There are spaces at the group for new children. The Co-ordinator for this group is Debora Hughes. Debora can be contacted on 07584 582776 or contact the office on 0300 777 8539.

Youth Club @ Addington

The **Youth Club @ Addington School** runs **every Wednesday** during term-time from **7.00pm–9.00pm**. Young people with learning disabilities between the ages of 13 (year 9) and 19 are welcome to come along for a fun filled evening. Each week a variety of different activities are planned, including board games, sports, movie nights, pizza making, a tuck shop and more. There is currently a weekly charge of £5 (to be invoiced in advance). Bethanie Cook is the Co-ordinator for this group and can be contacted on 07551 159073 or phone the office on 0300 777 8539.

Although still partly funded by WBC until June, going forward this group will be funded by parental contributions through direct payments plus fundraising. Currently the actual cost of running this group is approximately £15 per young person per session based on 15 attending but we recognise that this will need to be subsidised with additional fundraising because not everyone will receive direct payments and so we have set the fee to £5 per session.

From April we have started to invoice in advance on a half-termly basis, but longer term if we do not get sufficient income from the fees the club may have to close.

NEWS AND EVENTS FOR ADULTS

Paul's Karaoke

Paul's Karaoke meets in the Rose Room at the Rose Street Methodist Church usually on the middle two Wednesdays of each month. In May they will meet on **Wednesday 12th and Wednesday 19th June**. The group is open to anyone over the age of 16 who has a learning disability. There is a small charge of £3 per session.

@The Acorn Social Group

@The Acorn is our weekly social club for adults 16+ with learning disabilities, including those with profound and multiple learning disabilities. The club runs every Tuesday evening from 7.00pm-9.00pm at the Acorn Community Centre, Woosehill. The activities in June include:

- **Tuesday 5th June – Games Night**
- **Tuesday 12th June – Father's day arts and crafts**
- **Tuesday 19th June – Movie night**
- **Tuesday 26th June – Bongos**

There is a small charge of £3 per person which includes drink, snacks and different activities every week. In light of current funding cuts, we are reviewing this weekly charge and may have to increase it.

Friday Alternative

This social group is for adults aged 16+ with Aspergers Syndrome/high functioning autism. Now that the TGIF and Friday Alternative groups have merged, they will meet twice a month from June. In June the next meetings are:

- **Wednesday 13th June – Meal at Sedero Lounge, Wokingham.** The table is booked for 7pm and the meal will cost between £15.00-£25.00.
- **Wednesday 29th June – Meal at The Olde Leathern Bottle, Wokingham.** The table is booked for 7pm and a meal will cost between £20.00-£25.00

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 Friday Alternative. This can be paid in 2 instalments. This fee helps to cover the cost of staffing the group.**

Gateway

Good news! The Gateway Award is back up and running starting on Thursday 7th June from 7-9pm at The Court House, Bracknell and costs £5 per session. The group is starting with the Thursday workshops, but the

Monday group will be coming back in September. We will be looking to complete the Adventure Challenge in the next 2 months so fingers crossed the weather stays beautiful for us.

If you want to contact Heather Ward her email address is: gateway@bracknellmencap.org or you can leave a message for her on the Gateway mobile: 07827 340407 or at the office on 0300 777 8539.

NEWS FROM OTHER GROUPS

Carers Week (11th - 17th Jun) – Healthy and Connected

Wokingham Outreach Service, Wokingham Borough Council and other organisations are working together to put on a number of events for carers during Carers Week. These include:

Monday 11th June, 11am-3.30pm - Pampering sessions and information stands at The Bradbury Centre, Wokingham

Tuesday 12th June, 10am-12 noon - Cookery session at Earley CResCent Resource Centre

Thursday 14th June, 1pm-3.30pm – Afternoon Cream Tea, Swallowfield Park

Places may be limited for some sessions. To book a place call 0118 32473333 or email: ask@berkshirecarershub.org.

Carers' Crafts

This is a drop-in craft group for carers run by carer Pat Regan. The group meets every month and does a variety of craft activities, drinks lots of tea and chats. The group runs from 10am to 12noon at Wokingham Fire Station, Easthampstead Road, Wokingham. Please note that there is no parking on site, but there is a public car park next door. If you intend to come along please bring a small sewing kit with you containing needle, thread, scissors, pencil and ruler. We do have a theme each month but also have cards available to decorate. Members are welcome to bring their own projects to finish and/or give ideas to others. No need to book a place now we have a new larger venue. The dates for future meetings are: **Thursday 21st June** and **Thursday 12th July**.

Care to Sing with us – Fun 2 Sing Carers Choir, Wokingham

All Wokingham area carers are invited to join this group for FREE weekly singing sessions on Tuesday afternoons from 1pm to 2.30pm at Wokingham Methodist Church, Rose Street, Wokingham, RG40 1XS. The group meets on Tuesday 5th June, 12th June, 19th June & 26th June. Contact Victoria at: info@voxscool.com or phone 07776 133507.

Three Frogs Club

ASD Family Help's Three Frogs group meets regularly, usually on the third Thursday of the month, at the Three Frogs Pub, 222 London Road, Wokingham. The next meeting is a meal on Thursday 21st June from 7pm to 10pm. For more information please contact: 3frogs@asdfamilyhelp.org or text/phone Jayne on 07733 601755

#differentworldfest

The Different World Festival will take place on **Saturday 4th August 2018** at Abbey Rugby Football club, Rose Hill, Peppard Rd, Reading RG4 8XA. It is a **fully inclusive music festival** and there will be bands, food and drink, stalls and daytime activities. Carers tickets are free. For more information and to book tickets go to: www.thelittleboxoffice.com/adwf or please visit www.adifferentworldfestival.co.uk

Berkshire Adult Sibling Workshops - Saturday 30th June 2018, Reading

The national organisation 'Sibs' has received funding to run a series of information and support workshops for adult siblings living in Berkshire, who have a brother or sister who have a lifelong learning disability and/or autism. These workshops will be an opportunity for you to meet siblings in similar situations and to gain more information on the practical and legal aspects of taking over the care and support role from your parent – you may already be doing this or thinking about the implications of this in the future. If you are an adult sibling living in Berkshire and are interested in attending the following workshops and having your questions answered, please visit their website (below) to register your interest:

Decision-making and the law, 9.30am-12pm - *My autistic sister is non-verbal – when she goes into hospital, who can consent to treatment on her behalf?*

Managing your brother or sister's finances, 1-4pm - *If we set up a trust fund for my brother, who has a learning disability, will it affect his benefits?*

Booking essential. Visit www.sibs.org.uk/support-foradult-siblings/berkshire-adult-sibling-project/
Funded by Berkshire Carers Service for adult siblings who live in Berkshire.

Do you know about the Local Offer?

The Local Offer is a resource for children and young people from birth

to 25 with special educational needs and disabilities and their families. It helps families find suitable support services, local groups and leisure activities. You can also keep up to date with the work Wokingham Borough Council are doing by visiting the termly SEND update web page.

The Local Offer is continually developing and recently a Local Offer guide for young people has been included on the Wokingham Borough's website. Here you will find videos, easy to read guides on available support, and how the Local Offer can help. Visit: www.wokingham.gov.uk/lo-yp

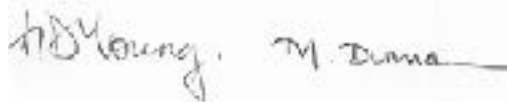
Young people, parents and carers can also give feedback on the Local Offer and local provision through our short online survey: www.wokingham.gov.uk/lo-survey

Young Carers

If you are a young carer and would like to join the Wokingham Young Carers project, or you would like to refer a young carer to the project please get in touch with us on 0118 324 7333 or you can email us ask@berkshirecarershub.org. During Carers Week the Wokingham Young Carers Team will be out and about holding pop ups all over the Wokingham Borough. The week will finish off with an event for young carers on Saturday 16th June, packed with sports, face paint, a few special guests, football players and topped off with an ice-cream van and food.

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

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**20th
ANNIVERSARY
PARTY**



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ANNIVERSARY
PARTY**

**Monday 2nd July
at 7.30pm
Hilton St. Anne's Manor
Wokingham**