

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

Promoting the Self Advocacy of  
People with Learning Difficulties  
In Wiltshire



**Autumn Newsletter  
2010**





## Welcome from the Editor's Group

"Welcome to our autumn newsletter.

Wiltshire People 1<sup>st</sup> is having a very busy few months so we have got lots to tell you about.

We hope you enjoy reading this. If you have any exciting news, thoughts or ideas please contact us."

## My Wedding Day!

Sam, one of our Development Workers got married in August and said: "My wedding day was one of the best days of my life. I got married at the registry office, then



we had a meal at the Black Horse. That evening was the party where we had speeches and cut the cake. Matthew and I then had our first dance together".



# Dates for your diary in 2011

## Speaking Up Group Meetings



until



***Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January***  
***Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February***  
***Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March***



Every month we have a **speaking up group** meeting.



At our meetings we meet up with friends. We have coffee and talk about things that are important to us.



Anyone with a learning disability who lives or works in Wiltshire can come along. We would love to see some new faces.

Meetings are held at the Independent Living Centre in Semington.



## Young Persons Group Meetings

***Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January***  
***Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February***  
***Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March***



This group is for young people with a learning disability aged between 16-25. We support young people to speak up about important issues. We also have lots of fun. We meet once a month on a Thursday evening from 7-9pm. It's free to join us!

# Recent Events

## Hospital reviews



In October members of WPF Management Committee took part in hospital reviews. This was to find out if hospitals in the South West know how to care for people with learning difficulties who need extra support. Hospitals in Bath, Swindon and Salisbury were visited.

## Speaking Up Group



Members have been sharing their news, playing Bingo and planning future meetings. We also talked about plans the council have for transport and libraries and gave them our views!



## Young Person's Group



At our last meeting we had a Leisure Consultation to find out how to improve and change things to make leisure facilities better. We also played some board games.



Niko said: "The group got people thinking about what they would like to do in their spare time. I chose to get into street dancing!"

At these groups we have had lots of fun making posters, going bowling and speaking up about important things.

## Summer Event



Wiltshire People 1<sup>st</sup>, SISAG and Open Minds held a Summer Event in



September to celebrate the work that the 3 groups do, and to have some fun.

We did Hat Making, Shaker Making and Spaghetti and Marshmallow Tower building! Wiltshire Dance also came and we all did some dancing.

“It was good! I really enjoyed the games and the barbeque!” Sandra – Management Committee.



## Staff News



**wiltshire**  
people 1st



### Rowan Fletcher

Rowan Fletcher left Wiltshire People 1<sup>st</sup> end of August to go to University.



### Hayley Marques

Hayley Marques, our Project Support Worker, returned to work in October, after being on maternity leave.



### Abbi Jones

We welcome a new staff member that joined our team in September. Her name is Abbi Jones and she is our Training Support Worker.

## Hate crime workshop



We ran a **Hate Crime Workshop** in October. Members from WPF, SISAG and Open Minds came and talked about keeping safe. We heard some real life stories and talked about how to report crime.



Inspector Ron Peach came to talk about the police and he answered our questions. At the end, some of our members talked about their visit to a magistrate's court. "The workshop was really interesting and now I feel more confident about reporting hate crime!"

## Hate Crime Poster Competition



Thank you for all your entries! The winner will be announced at our Big Meeting. The winning poster will be printed by Wiltshire Council and will then be displayed all around Wiltshire.



# SISAG and Open Minds



## SISAG News



SI.S.A.G. Had a good turn-out for their first-ever Conference. Everyone enjoyed listening to Jemima Milton and Scott Watkin. Workshops were run by members and it ended with some singing.



Our Young Adults section is now up and running. We are having stands at the Local Day Opportunities Fair and in the City Library for 'No Barriers' week.



SISAG members have decided to celebrate Christmas at a Nightclub this year. It will be a great evening and there will be a photo of it in the next issue. In the meantime, we all wish you a very Merry Christmas.



## Open Minds

Open Minds', is a speaking up group for adults with learning difficulties in the Kennet area. We meet on the first Monday of each month in Marlborough at The Conservative club from 7.30pm to 9pm. We talk about issues which are important to our members.

**Contact us at Voluntary Action Kennet Tel: 01672 564140**



## Contact Us



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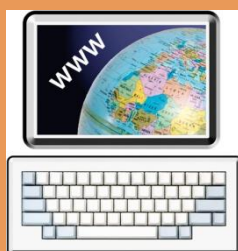
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