

10th Edition

November

2013

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The Service Team provide advice and guidance on all disability related queries you can contact us on 0191 2840480 or serviceteam@disabilitynorth.org.uk

We are happy to help.



International Day of Disabled People December 3rd 2013 We are pleased to announce that we will be working with The Sage Gateshead to present a regional celebration of the International Day of Disabled People. Held at the Sage we will host a series of workshops and talks around the theme of inclusion.

We are delighted to confirm the following speakers for this event:

- Alan Roulstone, Professor of Disability & Inclusion at Northumbria University
- Tyneside Cinema
- The Twisting Ducks Theatre Group
- Percy Hedley CreateABILITY
- Becoming Visible
- Newcastle College
- English Federation of Disability Sport
- Equality and Human Rights Commission

Evening Event

Why not join us after the afternoon's workshops for an evening of performances by disabled people and inclusive groups from around the region featuring song, dance, music, drama and film. For more information or to book either the afternoon or evening events go to

<http://disabilitynorth.org.uk/InternationalDay.html>

Or call Kievah or Kevin on 0191 2840480

Service Team News

Keeping you in the know.

Dates For Your Diary

Service User Group

11:00am-
1:00pm

11/2/14

Using Personal Assistants Workshops

For Parents

10:00-2:30

2/12/14

12/3/14

For Adults

10:00- 2:30

12/12/13

26/2/13

First UK Beach Wheelchair Race is a Winner! The first ever UK beach wheelchair race, hosted by Dolphin Stairlifts and Shape Adaptations on Longsands Beach, Tynemouth in September has been deemed a massive success. The event, which aimed to raise awareness of beach accessibility for wheelchair users went ahead unhitched and created a great day for all attendees.

The Longsands Beach Challenge, was the first event of its kind and gave disabled people the chance to try all-terrain wheelchairs, giving some participants access to the beach for the first time in their lives.

The event was organised by the owner of Shape Adaptations, Stephen Smith. Inspired by his thrill seeking son James (16) who has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, Stephen understands that beach access is difficult for those without an all-terrain wheelchair so decided to host the event to give people with impairments a chance to experience the sand and sea and a great competition.

The Longsands Beach Challenge which took place on Saturday the 7th of September, encouraged participants to go head-to-head in wheelchair races, it saw a great turn out with the general public who were also keen to give the powerchairs a try.

The event also gained some excellent coverage from both regional and national press including The Guardian, ITV and Sky Tyne and Wear, who were onboard to help Dolphin Lifts and Mobility and Shape Adaptations raise awareness of beach accessibility. Both companies own Independent Living Showroom based in Kingston Park. This is the largest and most varied showroom of its kind and provides a caring and interactive environment for those in need of mobility help.



Michael Sharples loved the day his mum said "It gave him a new lease of life"

Disability North

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Registered Charity No 514733

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Improving Customer Service in the North East. In March 2013 Disability North was awarded funding from the Office of Disability Issues to work with adult Service Users from the Percy Hedley Foundation (PHF). The project involved mentoring a group of disabled people to develop and deliver a training package on good customer service towards disabled people with a large emphasis being placed on communication difficulties. The group were supported by Carolyn Forster (Disability North) and Jayne Taylor (Better Lives Project Worker) Along with other Service Users from the Foundation, the group participated in filming their shared experiences under the skilled direction of Bryan Dixon (Amber Films) and Kevin Taylor (Karten Media, PHF).

Feedback from employers reiterated that it made a big difference hearing about disabled people's experiences first hand and that the films reinforced the different needs and expectations of individual disabled people.

The participants themselves have also benefited from being involved as their confidence and aspirations have grown. When asked about whether they wanted to keep providing the training, one of the Service Users, Richard, said

“bring it on!”

The aims of the project included raising employers' awareness of the importance of good customer service for their disabled customers, demonstrating the skills and abilities of the group participants and recognising the added value of having disabled people delivering disability related training. It is hoped that future sessions will be paid for by employers in order that the group can look into setting up a social enterprise.



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Upcoming Events

21/11 Taste of Christmas

23/11 Meat the Blues

Irwin Mitchell Legal surgeries

5/12/13

21/1/14

26/2/14

You can follow us on twitter @Service_Team1

Or visit our Disability North facebook page



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A Taste of Christmas 21st November 6:30pm Biscuit Factory

Get this Christmas off to a great start! Join us for an evening of festive fun. Sample a range of festive tipples such as Port and Madeira from PortoVino Wines alongside tasty nibbles from The Factory Kitchen.

There will also be a chance to do some Christmas shopping and sample sweet treats, cheese and bread from The French Oven, Northumberland Cheese Company & North Chocolates.

Tickets are £20 each or 2 for £35

Meat the Blues – 23rd November 7:00pm Park View Suite, Newcastle Racecourse.

Join us for a show where all your rock n' roll dreams will come true, featuring all the hits of rock legend Meatloaf and also tunes from the fabulous Blues Brothers show.

Meat The Blues is a superb tribute show from Mark Taylor who has performed as Meatloaf for over 15 years.

Tickets are only £6.50 each proceeds going to Disability North.

Both event tickets can be purchased via the Events page of the Disability North Website or from reception at Disability North

<http://disabilitynorth.org.uk/disabilitynorthevents.html>

Jack Lynn 1926-2013 Disability North would like to pay tribute to Jack Lynn, who passed away in October aged 86. Jack was a defining figure of post-war British architecture. A valued friend of the architect, author and disability rights campaigner Selwyn Goldsmith, they shared and developed ideas promoting inclusion, independence and choice which were ground-breaking for the time, and which Jack Lynn then utilised in his design work for Calvert Trust, Kielder and for our very own Dene Centre here in Newcastle.

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