



DENFOLD NEWS

Winter Edition



Issue 13 January 2009



Happy New Year to all



Forum's Christmas Party

The 2008 Christmas party was another great success. A 3 course festive meal was served, while Father Christmas paid a visit along with his helpers, they handed out presents to everyone. A great time was had by all.



Kathryn Judge from Prestatyn won first prize in the raffle, a Tesco Finest hamper, everyone was delighted for her.

Christmas dinner was followed by a lively disco with DJ Dave in good form.



Many thanks to all who helped make this a wonderful night, and also to Friends of the Forum, Wilkinsons and the Pavilion Theatre for their vouchers and theatre tickets.

We have arranged a busy programme of events for this coming year, we hope you will join us!

Copies of Denfold News are now available in audio format, if you would like a disc, please contact Alan or Jackie at Forum office—01824 702441

A Newsletter for people with Learning Disabilities, their parents, carers and friends



Have your say

Naylor Leyland Centre, Well Street, Ruthin, LL15 1AF alan@dvsc.co.uk



Dear Forum

Me and my friends in my house would like a bus pass, so we can go out together. My key worker said that I've not been allowed one because someone said that I'm not ill enough.

One of the girls in my house has got one and she's like me. Can you help?

From Susan

Dear Susan

We are very concerned when someone with a disability is refused a bus pass and we are making enquiries as to why you were unable to receive a pass. As soon as we have the full information we will let you know and hopefully you will be able to reapply for your bus pass.

Forum - *If you have had any problems when applying for a bus pass please let us know*



Winter book review Post 16 Students at Ysgol Tir Morfa read 'A Child's Christmas in Wales' by Dylan Thomas at Christmas time and here are their reviews -

Ryan - 'He made everything sound bigger, he said wolves and polar bears and made it sound like good fun'.

Ceri Ann - 'I liked the way all the memories were mixed up, he said snakes and families and happy ladders, I think this is because once he starts remembering the memories come very fast'.

Charlotte - 'I liked hearing all about the sweets and the boys pretending to smoke and singing carols outside the old house'.

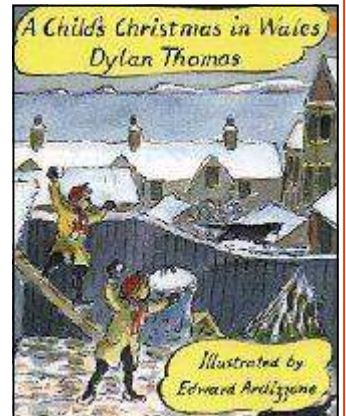
Sioned - I liked how they talked about the old aunts and uncles. The uncles smoked cigars and when they fell asleep the aunts drank sherry and parsnip wine.

Ryan - I liked his imagination he could see igloos and polar bears and said he could throw a hippo over the railings and make him wag his tail.

James - I like hearing about the olden days they didn't have all the good things we have now but they had lots of fun into time make play round.

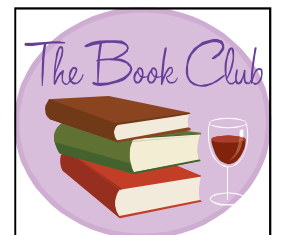
Arron - I like the descriptions of the boys being naughty. They were little terrors. They put snowballs through letter boxes and wrote rude messages in the snow. They took the mick out of people.

Eleri - I liked the ghost story at the end. They pretended to be brave but they all carried stones. When they heard singing through the door they ran like mad.



Many thanks to all who wrote their reviews.

Send your book or film reviews to the address at the top of the page



Transport

You may have seen a well publicised story in the local press regarding the difficulty of bus accessibility for disabled people. Forum is behind any improvements that will be made for people when using public transport. Would you like to highlight any transport issues that you may have had good or bad? If so, please contact Forum.



Notice to all Carers



A new **Carers Emergency Card** has been introduced which will ensure that should you suffer an accident or sudden illness the relevant person nominated by you will be notified. If you would like to register to receive a card, or for more information, contact Newcis in the first instance, they will then pass your details onto Careline. Newcis' telephone number is 01745 331181.

Finding the right support for parents with learning disabilities in Wales

In the last 3 years issues around being a parent with learning disabilities have gained prominence. 'Change', an organisation of people with learning disabilities in Leeds, has led the way. 'Finding the Right Support' research in 2006 by Norah Fry Research Centre showed that 50% of parents with learning disabilities were having their children removed across the UK.

Here in Wales the Welsh Assembly Government is keen to improve life for parents with learning disabilities. Before making plans, they want to know the scale of the problems. They have commissioned Learning Disability Wales to conduct a short research project, to scope the number of parents with learning disabilities in Wales, and to gain a rounded view of the lives and support needs of these parents, by interviewing the parents and those who immediately support them—professionals, family, neighbours and volunteers.

Joyce Howarth, who worked on 'Finding the Right Support', will be the researcher. The research will be carried out in two areas, in both North and South Wales. She will initially work with professional services and organisations, to ascertain the numbers of parents that services are currently supporting. She will then interview parents and their supporters. The project will run until June this year. If you would like further details please contact Joyce at joyce.howarth@tpfirst.org.uk (or contact Forum)

This article first appeared in the September 2008 issue of Llais Update



CYNNIG - Providers of care, support and training in the community

New Premises for Cynnig' - After almost ten years at its present location, Cynnig, a 'not for profit' company based in Denbigh, is about to move forward into a new office base and drop in centre. Cynnig has been supplying quality support staff for local adults with a learning disability since 1994, either within their place of work or whilst accessing various community facilities. Headed by four Directors in non-remunerative positions, who themselves have sons or daughters with a learning disability, Cynnig aims to provide a long serving staff team who take pride in ensuring that those whom we support are guided, assisted and encouraged to meet their needs and expectations. Starting with only a handful of support staff, Cynnig now employs almost thirty staff, some of whom have been in our employment for over ten years, with many others serving 5 years plus. Our staff team are well trained up to NVQ level 2 and 3 with many additional basic training courses undertaken aimed at complementing their required knowledge base. We were awarded the 'Employer of the Year' in 2007 by North Wales Training Agency for our commitment to staff training. Presently, the Cynnig staff team are busy supporting within the Denbighshire Work Opportunities Service, on a 1 to 1 basis for Denbighshire County Council and also individual clients in receipt of the ILF award. Our office move, which is scheduled for January, will provide us with the opportunity to offer local people with a learning disability a 'drop in centre' located next door to our new office on Trem y Dyffryn, Colomendy Industrial Estate in Denbigh. The unit will be multifunctional, used additionally as a meeting and training room. The 'drop in' will offer the following: art and craft, computing, photography, relaxation, games and a fully accessible kitchen. We will also be opening the facility to those who are not presently supported by Cynnig. To find out more about our facility/services or to pay us a visit at our new premises, please call Nathan on 01745 815588 or 07917062448. *Read how the move went in the next edition of the Denfold News.*

Details of N.E.W.S.A. Denbighshire Group meetings

Rhyl Group

Venue—Rhyl Fire Station

Meetings once a month on Monday nights at 7pm

Dates for 2009:

2 Feb, 2 March

6 April and 11 May

Denbigh Group

Venue—Eirianfa Community Centre, Factory Place, Denbigh, LL16 3TS

Meetings once a month on Wednesdays nights at 6.45pm

Dates for 2009:

11 Feb, 11 March

29 April and 20 May

(Photograph Sam Loughran with Danny, Ross and Chris)



Meliden Group

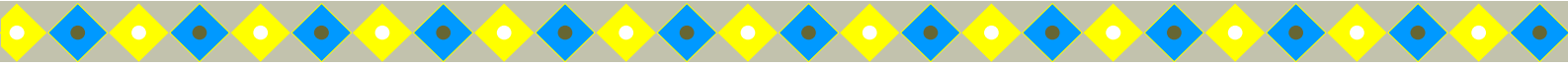
Venue—Meliden Community Centre, Ffordd Talargoch, Meliden

Meetings once a month on Thursday nights at 7pm

Dates for 2009:

26 Feb, 26 March, 23 April and 28 May

Any queries or enquires please contact:- Celia Lewis or Bernard Williams on 01352 700710



Forum Chair Steps Down

Jacqui Caldwell recently stepped down as Chair of Forum, but is still an active member on the Executive Committee.

Jacqui joined Forum Executive in 2004, and quickly became an active and valued member. During 2005 she was elected as Chair, where she was enthusiastic and determined in her leadership of Forum, tackling many issues of concern and vigorously representing Forum and its members at both a local and national level.

Jacqui has a particular interest in Children's Services and the Transition from school through to Further Education and onto Adult Services.

I'm sure that her enthusiasm is not diminished and that she will continue to fly the flag high for all people with a learning disability, their parents and carers.

Jacqui, we thank you for your enthusiasm, determination and selfless commitment to the cause of Learning Disabilities in Denbighshire.



New Chair of Forum

Forum has a new Chair following Jacqui's 'stepping down'. Lee joined Forum as a sibling carer. Lee's involvement in Learning Disabilities began when he spent a period of time on work experience in Ysgol Brondyffryn, Denbigh while at school, and then continued as a volunteer during the evenings. Lee then worked in a respite home in Denbigh with people with a wide range of learning disabilities and in a house within Care in the Community with people with challenging behaviours. He then worked for a period as a Projects Manager for Conwy County Borough Council, this covered learning disabilities, mental health, physical disability, sensory impairment and challenging behaviour.



Through Direct Payments Lee began work as a one to one support worker, through this he became interested in the work of Forum. Lee then suffered a spinal compression resulting in partial paralysis, this resulted in stopping his support role.

Lee decided to take on the role as Forum Chair to maintain his involvement in Learning Disability services.



Lee will be chairing the Direct Payments Forum and chairing the Social Services Adult Services Consultation Group, as well as attending many other meetings.



Emma says



Congratulations - Two of my best friends, Christine and Paul got engaged over the Christmas break. I went to a small family and friends party, to mark the occasion at Christine's home. Paul met Christine at one of Forum's disco's in Prestatyn. My dad introduced them. Good luck and God bless for the future together.



Hijinx Theatre -Have you heard of the Hijinx Theatre Company? The artists have special needs and tour the country performing at small theatres. During March they are presenting 'Miss Brown to You' at Theatr Clwyd, Mold. It sounds like an interesting play. I shall be going to see it. For more information see the enclosed flier or contact Jackie at Forum.

Panto - During the Christmas holidays, I went to see Sleeping Beauty at Rhyl Theatre. The stars were Sonia, Ruth Madoc, Rebecca. It was a very good production. After the show I went to the after show party where I met and chatted to the stars. It was a great evening.



X Factor - Thousands of people auditioned for X Factor as they think they have the X factor. The judges were Simon, Louis, Danni and Cheryl. They picked 12 'wannabees' to go through to the live shows. Every week someone was voted off. Alexandra and JLS were in the final. Alexandra won. I was disappointed that she won as I liked JLS. I would love to win the X Factor as I think I have the X Factor.

Changes - Emma says goodbye to my page in Denfold News. The next issue will see a change to the 'Emma Says' page. It will be open to all our members to take part, so please send in any comments, stories or pictures to Jackie at Denfold News. Thank you to all for reading my page in the past.



Forum wishes to thank Emma for all her hard work, and contribution made through out the resurrection of Denfold News. Emma will still remain an active member of Forum.



FORUM NEWS

Denbighshire Learning Disability Forum Naylor Leyland Centre, Well Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire, LL15 1AF. 01824 702441. alan@dvsc.co.uk or jackie@dvsc.co.uk

CHEERING NEWS FOR CARERS AT LAST

'Yours' (magazine) has been campaigning for 3 years for carers over 60 to be paid a carers' expense allowance as well as their pensions. The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) Select Committee is recommending that carers who look after friends and relatives for more than 35 hours a week should be paid a new Carers Support Allowance salary of £60.50 a week (equivalent to Jobseeker's Allowance) as income replacement. They would also be allowed to earn up to £95 a week from paid work. Crucially the new deal, if it went ahead, would also include a second benefit— a new universal Caring Cost Payment (similar to Child Benefit) payable to anyone involved in caring for someone more than 35 hours a week. This would include carers over 60 and of pensionable age. The money is to compensate carers for the additional costs of caring and/or to enable them to buy in help, equipment or services to ease their caring situation. CCP would be set between £25 and £50 per week. The DWP Select Committee is asking the Government to replace the unfair Carer's Allowance (currently £50.55) and give urgent consideration to implementing the new system. It is also advocating new National Insurance pension credits be paid to carers who have devoted their working lives to caring so they are entitled to a full state pension on retirement.



Forum library - A DVD raising awareness of harm and abuse is available for loan from the library. It features a documentary about abuse (10 mins), then 5 different dramas to watch and interact with, each covering a different form of abuse. The dramas will allow you to make choices that affect the life of a character called Joe. It contains the contact details of POVA (Protection of Vulnerable Adults) Co-ordinators in Wales. They are the people you can phone about abuse, or if you are worried that someone is being abused.

A list of books, resources, tapes and DVD's available from Forum's library is enclosed with Denfold News, please contact Jackie if you would like to loan any items, this includes carers, service users, members or professionals.

Many thanks to Cynnig for their generous support in funding this edition of Denfold News. Two editions during 2008 were kindly sponsored by The Morgan Foundation.



Denfold News has grown, but does need support to continue, if you would like to sponsor a future edition, we would love to hear from you!



FORUM NEWS



Halloween party 2008

A successful Halloween disco was held at Denbigh rugby club. We saw some new faces, and hopefully more people will have the confidence to come along to our events this year! Many thanks to all who helped make this a great evening. Mel was unfortunately taken ill just before the event but still worked hard to make sure it went ahead as planned.



Mel would like to personally thank, Rowenna, Nan, Ena and Eleri. Jacqui C, Lee and Ray. Tony the DJ, Bobbie and staff at Denbigh Rugby Club for supplying the bar. People made a real effort and dressed in fancy dress costumes. The disco raised £207 towards future entertainment activities.

Forum's Executive Committee

Forum is delighted to welcome two new parent carers who have been elected on the Committee, Colin Leigh and Michelle Voyce. There are also two new co-opted members, service user Michael Byles, and parent carer June Hughes. As always, don't forget if you would like to join in with Forum please do not hesitate to contact us.

DIARY DATES

Forum Valentine's disco will be held at Denbigh Rugby Club on Wednesday 11 February, 7 -10pm. Disco and food will be available

Hijinx touring theatre—at Theatr Clwyd, Mold 'Miss Brown to You' Saturday 21 March, showing at 1.30 and 7.45pm. Box Office 0845 330 3565.

A further event to be held at the Denbigh Rugby Club will be the **May Fair disco**, 27 May, 7pm. Further details in April Denfold.

June Fun Day - further details in April Denfold

Forum discos are held on the last Saturday of each month at the Offa's Tavern, Prestatyn from 7pm to 11pm: **Future dates: Feb 28, March 28 and April 25.**

One of Forum's goals this year is to secure funding for a Learning Disability Children's Co-ordinator for a much needed Children's Forum. Forum will be approaching Education, Social Services and Health to try and obtain funding for this position.

If there are any other post's you feel Forum needs to consider, please send in your suggestions.

