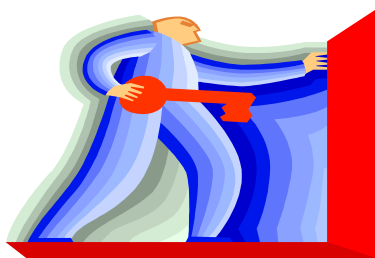


Somerset Access and
Inclusion Network
(of disabled people)

June 2005

The Board of Trustees

Cathy Magill - Chair
Judith Littleboy - Vice Chair
Hughie Bollan - Secretary
Joe Magill - Treasurer



Dave Abbot
Carolynne Beadman
John Beadman
Richard Lees

Welcome to the June edition of the "Networker". SAIN's main focus in the past couple of months has been the finalisation of the **Quality of Life Survey** (Please see below for excellent news concerning funding for this project), we would like to thank all those who have contributed to the development of the questionnaire and to all those who have offered their support in the production and distribution of the

survey. We hope that the findings from the survey can be shared to bring about positive change where needed.

Our aim is to have the questionnaire distributed in early July 2005. If you do not receive one please let Michelle know at the office and she will forward one to you. When you receive your questionnaire, please do not hesitate to call Michelle at the office if you need any assistance

with completing the survey. If you would like to complete it over the phone, please call the office and Michelle will call you back so as to minimise the cost to you. To ensure the success of this project it is vital that we receive as many completed surveys as possible, so **please get involved and have your say**

Regards Richard

Thanks to British Energy

Staff at Hinkley Point B power station nominated SAIN as their local charity for 2004 and through their fantastic efforts at their annual Fun Run raised £1500 for SAIN.

Gary Perrett, Fun Run organiser, from British Energy visited the SAIN offices recently to present the cheque to Cathy Magill, SAIN's Chair.

These funds will help SAIN complete it's "Quality of Life Survey". Our aim is to survey 5000 disabled people in Somerset. From the information received, we hope to be able to show how changes to the Disability Discrimination Act and County and District Council Policies affect your quality of life. Our aim is to carry out this survey every other year so

that we can map changes and pass our findings on to relevant bodies in order to effect positive change or protect important aspects of your life style. This survey will run parallel with Somerset County Council's Quality of

Life Survey, we will therefore be able to draw direct comparisons from the responses of disabled people compared to the rest of the population of Somerset. We hope to have the survey out in early July 2005.

Once again our sincere thanks to all at British Energy for their kind support



Pictured are Gary Perrett, British Energy. Cathy Magill, SAIN's Chair, Hughie Bollan, SAIN's Secretary, Joe Magill, SAIN's Treasurer and Richard Pitman, SAIN's Development Worker

New and improved website www.sain.org.uk

Please remember to let us know if you change address, telephone number or email so that we can stay in touch.

RNID Information Giving and Sharing Event Tuesday 26th July.

For RNID members and friends who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafened.
Yeovil Baptist Church, Petters Way, Yeovil.
10am-2pm

For more details please contact Libbie Sheppard or Janet Thomas on
Tel: Text: 01225 485765
Mobile for text message: 07811 104910
e-mail: libbie.sheppard@rnid.org.uk
or
e-mail: carinya@eastc.fslife.co.uk



New course brochure out now

Adult Learning & Leisure provide learning in local communities in a wide range of subjects. Computers, Languages, Arts and Crafts are all available in different venues around the county. It is easy to enrol on courses and to find the support you require. Brochures are being delivered to

existing learners in June and will be widely available from now on, check your local library, doctor's surgery and other neighbourhood centres.

The majority of venues used for our courses are easily accessible and many have loop systems installed. With notice, it is possible to provide further support as necessary. Additional support is provided according to your indi-

vidual requirements by Disability Project Workers (DPW) – Andy Norris, Fay Buckland and Penny Gibbons who will talk to you about your needs. Your local centre can advise you and contact the DPW on your behalf when you enrol.

For more details please call Adult Learning and Leisure on 0845 345 9133

New and improved SAIN Website.

Visit www.sain.org.uk

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new and improved SAIN website. Find out more about us, get some information on the Boards and panels where SAIN have a representative. Com-

plete an online membership application, read our current and back catalogue of "The Networker" and much more, including contact details and links to our Associate Members. If you have any comments or suggestions for the website then please give us a call.

Log on and check us out!



User Participation in Somerset seeks committed Trustees.

We are a county wide voluntary organisation, who works with the people in Somerset who use the secondary care mental health services to support them to have their voices heard. The project employs a project manager, four user participation workers and an administrator who all work part

time.

As a registered charity we are looking to strengthen our board of trustees.

This opportunity will enable the right people to get involved at the heart of an expanding service and will offer insight and experience in an area of social care that is high on the governments list of priorities.

As a member of the board you will support the staff team and will have the opportunity to take

on an area of specific responsibility depending on your interests. There is a time commitment which equates to a few hours a weeks and travel expenses will be paid.

If you have empathy with mental health services users, a business or social care background, legal or financial acumen or just want to learn more about us. Please contact Krista Felek, Project Manager on 01278 423033

Inclusive Fitness Initiative Working Towards Inclusive Fitness

Recent research has identified that there is a lack of disability awareness among fitness staff and a lack of provision in fitness centres, also a lack of knowledge amongst disabled people of the benefits of exercise. A scheme has been put in place to address this problem... What is the Inclusive Fitness Initiative? It's aim is to ensure that disabled people can access inclusive equipment in a targeted number of local authority facilities, thereby significantly increasing opportunities for sports specific conditioning and train-

ing and improving general levels of health and fitness. The key elements of the project are to ensure that the gyms are equipped with pieces of accredited inclusive fitness equipment that will enable the majority of disabled people to achieve a full work out with the optimum of independence. To ensure fitness staff have training that includes disability awareness and communication. Improved marketing to ensure disabled people have awareness of the project and what it offers. Finally to promote pathways and opportunities for disabled people to access inclusive sporting and leisure opportunities within their local authority. There are currently three identified sports centres in Somerset. Castle sport Centre, Taunton

Sedgemoor Splash, Bridgwater Shepton Mallet Sports Centre, Shepton Mallet The centres are currently undergoing any necessary building work and the installation of the inclusive equipment The official launch of the project will take place at each of the centres in September. Should you require any further information please contact the project activator – Jenny Slade: e-mail jslade@somerset.gov.uk



Mobility Challenge

"The South Somerset Disability Forum are holding a Mobility Challenge on Saturday 30th July in the Quedam in Yeovil 10am - 3pm. David Laws will be opening the event and has accepted a challenge to negotiate a course of

everyday hazards using a wheelchair. Members of the public are also invited to accept this challenge. The aim of this event is to share some of the issues that people with disabilities, not just wheelchair users, face everyday. Everyone is welcome to come along

and find out more. SCOPE (who have helped with funding for this event) will be attending along with many other local organisations.

For more information contact Frances Peacey 01935 706766 or e-mail ssdf1@hotmail.com"

Give Us Back Our Pavements

I feel the need to write and inform both you and your readers of an epidemic sweeping Taunton's Pavements. I use a battery powered wheelchair to get about and it seems every time I go into town I experience this epidemic. That being vehicles parking on, or partly on, pavements or in front of dropped kerbs. It does not take a vivid imagination to realise that this practice is a

great inconvenience to disabled persons and young mothers pushing pushchairs. Upon confronting offenders I have been offered feeble excuses or just been ignored. I find this practice unlawful, anti-social and downright lazy and intend to start a campaign in the local media, with the police and local authority.

IT NEEDS TO STOP NOW BEFORE SOMEONE IS INJURED.

Please give us back our pavements and park on the road.

Please sign my petition if you see me in Taunton Town Centre.

For more details contact Mr R T Riley 07903924406

The views expressed in this article are those of the writer and are not, unless otherwise stated, the views of SAIN

The article was offered for inclusion by a member of SAIN, if you have an article that you would like included please feel free to contact Michelle in the office

Keeping Somerset on the move- Local Transport Plan 2006-2011

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) sets out Somerset County Council's proposals for spending on transport and roads over the next five years. It covers a wide range of issues, with an emphasis on reducing traffic congestion, pollution and improving safety. The plan also aims to make it easier for people to access essential services through a new process called accessibility planning.

Accessibility planning aims to promote social inclusion within both urban and rural communities and considers transport is-

ssues, location, design and delivery of key services and user perceptions.

Effective partnerships with a wide variety of agencies and authorities such as the health authority is crucial in making a real difference to peoples access to basic services and although the LTP leads on this process it is essential for a multi-agency approach.

A framework accessibility strategy will look at the problems across Somerset and offer some solutions and will be submitted as part of the LTP in July 2005. A completed accessibility strategy will then be submitted in March 2006.

If you would like more information on the Local Transport Plan, Accessibility or would like to comment on transport across Somerset please contact the Transport Policy team on 01823 355876, email ltp@somerset.gov.uk. or access www.somerset.gov.uk under 'Transport and Streets' for further information.



Patient and Public Involvement in Health Forums (PPI)

What can a PPI forum do?

- Encourage local people to get involved in health matters
- Find out what people really think about health care locally and take action
- Independently watch over the quality of local health care
- Monitor, visit and report on NHS services from a patients viewpoint
- Shape decisions which impact upon our health
- Work with local groups and developing partnerships to influence local and national health decisions.
- Make reports and recommendations about trust services, based on the views of patients and the community.

- Be a force for fairness and change
- Monitor the effectiveness of local patient advice and liaison services (PALS) and complaint support services such as ICAS

What can a PPI forum not do?

- Become involved in management or operation of trust activities
- Reveal commercially sensitive information about a trust.
- Breach the confidentiality of individual patient details
- Take up individual complaints
- Promote their own pecuniary interests

If you would like to know more then following is a list of public meetings where any member of the public can go along and raise any health related issue or concern with a member of the forum. Meeting are subject to change, if you have special needs for ac-

cessing a meeting please contact James or Luisa at the Health Advocacy Partnership on 0845 6015849

Somerset Coast PPI Forum Thursday 14th July 2005

Bridgwater & Albion Football Club Starting at 10.30am

Royal United Hospital, Bath PPI Tuesday 5th July 2005

New Oriel Hall, Larkhall, Bath Starting at : 1pm

Taunton & Somerset PPI Forum Tuesday 26th July 2005

Taunton Library Starting at : 12 noon

Mendip PPI Forum Wednesday 6th July 2005

Frome Library Starting at : 10.00am

East & South Somerset PPI Forum

Wednesday 13th July 2005

Adult Learning Centre, Illminster Starting at : 11am

• • • • • Other Formats available

• This publication available in other formats including Large Print, Tape and Braille. Please let us know if you would like to receive it in another format.

• • • • •