

News

Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Open Forum

Many thanks to all who attended our AGM and Open Forum. As well as going over the annual accounts, we looked at all the things the Forum has achieved over the past year and our plans for 2018. Our Guest Speaker was Bristol Mayor, Marvin Rees, who spoke about his plans for the city and discussed how he will ensure Deaf and Disabled people are at the heart of the decision-making process in Bristol.

A full report will be available in the New Year. If you would like notes from the event, please contact us at bristoldef@gmail.com

Rowen Jade Award Winner and Commendations

We are delighted to announce **Barrington Chambers** as the winner of the 2017 Rowen Jade award, in recognition of his campaigning work to challenge the barriers faced by blind and partially sighted people, his contribution to Disability Studies research at the University of Bristol and his work as a musician with the Bristol Reggae Orchestra.

Commendations, for their work promoting the rights of Disabled people also went to **Penny Germon**, and the much missed **Dr Sue Porter**.

Inclusion Southmead

In 2014 a group of Southmead residents worked on a project, supported by the Fourteen Fund, to complete a 'Southmead Survey'. Working with Ian Popperwell, a Disabled researcher, the group contacted over 900 residents, including many Disabled people, older people and people with mental health problems. The project's report highlighted a number of issues around access, inclusion and isolation.



Inclusion Southmead Logo

One of the report's recommendations was to set up a group to tackle these issues. The group includes Disabled and non-Disabled residents, who called themselves 'Inclusion Southmead.' They have also chosen Bristol Disability Equality Form and the Care Forum to work with them over the next year.

Inclusion Southmead have begun to promote the group in the local press, take part in training, and identify some key issues in Southmead. These include the lack of access to the post-office and shop at Arnside, and the local parks.

Inclusion Southmead also have a small amount of money to offer organisations for access improvements, disability equality training and for inclusive sport activities.

If you would like more information, please contact Inclusion Southmead, at the address above or by e-mailing mike.bristoldef@gmail.com

Independent Living Action Group

The Forum's 'Independent Living Action Group' is a place for Disabled people to share experiences, information and to campaigning for the right to live independently. The group's current focus is on adult social care.

The next meeting is on:

- **Friday 19th Jan 2018**
- **From 11am to 1pm**
- **At St Pauls Learning Centre**

Please let us know if you have any access needs.

If you would like to join us, or for more information, please e-mail: Mark Williams mwilliams65@blueyonder.co.uk

Bonus £2 Donations for the Forum This Christmas!

Did you know that if you shop online this Christmas using **Easyfundraising**, you can collect donations for the Forum at no extra cost to you? Find out how at: <http://bit.ly/2ix6HJO>

Plus, up until midnight Christmas Eve, the Forum will receive up to a £2 bonus donation if you register using the following link: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/1PG9XT/>

Please sign up today and you can help the Forum to continue improving the lives of Disabled people in Bristol.

Dates for the Diary

Biggerhouse Film Present 'Different Voices'

Friday 8th December, 7pm to 9pm

Come and watch the Different Voices project's. The project is an ongoing talent development and mentoring programme for emerging filmmakers and creatives from the Autistic and other Neuro-divergent communities, run by Bristol-based Biggerhouse Films. The event will take place at the **Arnolfini** and will be followed by a discussion about the next step for Neurodivergent filmmaking.

To book a place click here: <http://bit.ly/2BHEJT3>

Invisible Access Needs: Getting Noticed

Tuesday 12th December, 11am to 1pm

Do you have a long-term health condition but do not 'look disabled'? The Forum works hard to improve access and services for all Disabled people whatever our impairments or long-term health impairments.

There will be a workshop to discuss access issues for people with 'hidden impairments' **at St Pauls Learning Centre, Room LT1.**

To book a place click here: <http://bit.ly/2zVIF5P>

For more information email:

volunteering.bristoldef@gmail.com

BSL Tour of 'Reclaiming Bristol's Disability History' Exhibition

Saturday 16th December, 10am-11am

As part of UK Disability History Month, there will be a special event at the M-Shed. Explore Bristol's Disability Heritage with Honesty Willoughby who worked on the BSL (British Sign Language) for the exhibition.

The **free** tour will take place at **M Shed**. To book a place email: **grace.swordy@accentuateuk.org**

The exhibition takes a critical look at the history of the 'Guild of Brave Poor Things' in Bristol. There is also an opportunity to leave your own comments and thoughts about Deaf and Disabled people's rights and inclusion.

Find out more at:

www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/m-shed/whats-on/brave-poor-things/

Do You Want to Write for This e-bulletin?

Are there changes being made where you live that you think others should know about? Do you have any news or views that other members may like to hear about? This is your e-bulletin so please get us by email, phone or post with your ideas.

Bristol Disability Equality Forum

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