

Bristol Disability Equality Forum

E-Bulletin December 2019



Happy December!

How is it December already? Where has the time gone? I guess we haven't noticed here at the Forum because we have been incredibly busy with our project launch, training days and consultations we have been a part of this year. Please keep an eye on our social media and our website via the links below to keep up-to-date on everything we have been up to.

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

[BDEF Website](#)

Annual General Meeting

On 30th November we hosted our Annual General Meeting at the M Shed. Thank you to everyone who showed up in support and gave us their time, opinions and feelings about the upcoming year.

While there is still a lot to strive for in the city for Deaf and Disabled people, we believe that prioritising reaching out to younger people, as well as having new staff and new trustees will enable us to do even more work in the coming years.

Rowen Jade Award

We are delighted to announce this year's winner of the Rowen Jade award is Geraldine Cutler!

Rowen Jade Award 2019

Presented to

Geraldine Cutler

In recognition of an inspiring contribution to
inclusion of Disabled people in Bristol

Gordon Richardson

Treasurer

30/11/19

Date

Karen Passmore

Co-Chair

Geraldine was nominated for her many years' involvement in several Disabled people's groups, volunteering to do whatever was needed. Although she doesn't identify as an activist herself, she has been the enabler that has made other people's activism possible.

Two people received a commendation in recognition of their hard work advocating for disability equality and being role models of what Deaf and Disabled people can achieve: Julia Griffiths and Marie Mighty.

Julia was commended as a role model. She is a well-known and valued member of her local community who has also volunteered for a number of organisations. Most of her various volunteering roles has been within her local community, rather than Disabled people's groups. That said, she is a regular volunteer at our Open Forum meetings and public events.

Marie Mighty has been an active member, and chairperson, of the Council's Disabled staff group. In that role she has supported, and advocated on behalf of, Disabled colleagues through difficult times for the Council.

Congratulations to all three!

Forging Our Future Project Launch

Following our AGM, we announced the official launch of our project “Forging Our Future: Resistance, Change and Leadership in



Bristol’s Disability Movement”. This is a research and access project which will see multiple generations work together to:

- a. record the activities of Bristol’s Deaf and Disabled people’s movements between the 1970s and 2000s, and
- b. be trained in doing access appraisals of heritage sites and buildings throughout the city.

By the end of the project they will have produced two toolkits – one for secondary schools in Bristol, as well as public resources such as libraries, and the other will be for museums wanting to be more accessible to Deaf and Disabled people.

Sound interesting? Then get in touch! We are looking for two groups of people:

- Deaf and Disabled people between 16 and 25 years old, who will learn research skills and interviewing techniques, so they can record the history of the disability movement; and
- Deaf and Disabled people 25-125 years old, who will be trained in how to do a basic access appraisal of heritage buildings, and then become a Reference Group for heritage places wanting to be more accessible.

If you have any questions about the project or want to apply to be involved please contact Lori at ourhistory.bristoldef@outlook.com

“It is time that we take the opportunity to appreciate the activists before us, while passing over the torch to the future generations” - Winnie Wilkins

Welcome to our NEW Trustee!

Our recent round of trustee recruitment has resulted in our welcoming a new, co-opted trustee, Daisy Holder, who will be joining us in January 2020.

Our two existing trustees who are up for re-election have also been nominated. So, check your emails in January, when you will be receiving your voting forms for our trustee election and asking you to approve our accounts for 2018-19. We need you to do this so that we have enough trustees at every trustee meeting to be able to make decisions.

We still have places available on our trustee board if anyone would still be interested you would like to become a Forum trustee. We welcome applications from all people who identify as a Deaf or Disabled person.

This is a particularly exciting time to become a trustee as we are moving into a new phase with lots of opportunity to re-think and review what we do, and to develop new work.

Our trustees usually meet every 4-6 weeks at the moment, in St Pauls Learning Centre in Bristol. You will also need to occasionally be available to attend other events run by other organisations as a Forum representative, and to be involved in specific work/projects.

If you are interested in becoming a Forum trustee, we would love to hear from you!

Please contact us by email bristoldef@gmail.com or call the office on 0117 914 0528

Disabled and Older People Making Change Happen in Bristol

The Making Change Happen groups have still been running while we are recruiting a new development worker. The turnout is still a bit low, but this hasn't stopped there being some great conversations and discussions at meetings!



We are happy to report that interviews for the development worker job took place on Thursday 12th December, and someone has been offered the job. So by early January we should have a new friendly worker for you to engage in conversation with!

Next MCH groups' meeting

In December we will just have one big MCH meeting on Wednesday 18th December. If you haven't received an email about this and would like to join us, contact our office (see below). This will be the chance for everyone to come together and collectively listen to what has been discussed in individual groups, as well as making some big decisions about future MCH meetings.

Call: Tel. 0117 914 0528 or email: bristoldef@gmail.com before 3pm on Tuesday 17th December.

Another new development - BDEF Podcasts

As of 10th December, Laura (our Forum manager) and I (our admin and comms worker) have been taught the basics of podcasting, using the anchor FM website. Thanks to Lewis and his colleague at Knowle West Media Centre, we are now better able to do podcasts and are raring to go!

We would love to get some feedback on what you would like our podcasts to be about and whether you would be happy to be involved in one. We want our podcasts to be a space for Disabled people to have conversations where they share experiences and discuss the issues that most impact their lives.

Let us know your thoughts on this by emailing bristoldef@gmail.com

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.

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