



Caerphilly People First

Newsletter - Autumn 2012 Edition

*Working to Protect the Rights of
People with Learning Disabilities*

Message from the Chair

Over the past few weeks, Caerphilly People First members have shown the Adviser of Blaenau Gwent People First around the various day opportunities centres in Caerphilly. These include the work projects in Woodfieldside and Windy Ridge, and Springfield. The Adviser stated that she was very impressed with the opportunities that people with learning disabilities have in Caerphilly. We think this is great news—a



Jamie Roberts - Chair

person who works outside Caerphilly has seen the good work that goes on here in comparison with Blaenau Gwent. I think it's brilliant that Caerphilly People First and Blaenau Gwent People First will be working together in partnership to give a voice to people with learning disabilities.

County Meeting Guest Speakers

At the most recent County Meeting, we were joined by two guest speakers.

Dion Tuck, Gwent Police

Dion talked about anti-social behaviour, which he said includes nuisance youth, people drinking, noisiness, and people causing general problems in their community. Dion also talked about cold-callers. He said that you should always ask for ID, and if you're in doubt, you should keep them out; if they're genuine, they won't mind you checking.



Harriet Johnson, Learning Disability Wales

Harriet talked about the Learning Disability Wales conference being held in November, based around the subject of accommodation. She asked if the group was willing to help plan the conference, answer a few questions about what they'd like to see included and which aspects of accommodation they'd like to learn more about. Harriet also said she would like to film people talking about where they live and what makes a good home.

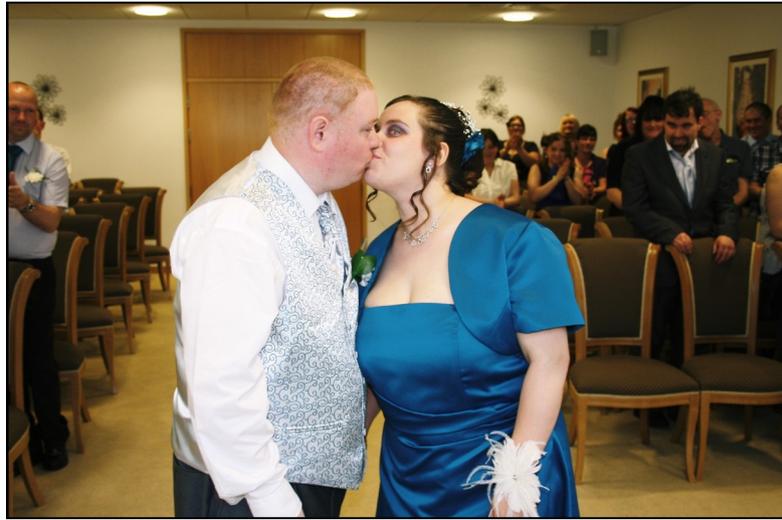
Wedding!

The following report is written by Sharon Cochrane (formerly Sharon Blow), who recently got married to Mark Cochrane.

On Sunday, 23rd May, me and Mark were married in Ystrad Mynach registry office. We have been together for 4 years, and living together for almost as long.

I started getting prepared for the wedding day at about 11am when Vicky came to my house to do my hair and make-up. Katrina picked me up to take me to the registry office for 3pm. Loads of people told me how pretty I looked in my wedding dress, but unfortunately my wedding shoes didn't show up in time and I had to wear old black ones!





Sharmilla, my cousin, was bridesmaid, David, another cousin, was the pageboy, and my dad walked me down the aisle. The wedding was really wonderful and many people were crying.

The wedding reception was held in Gilfach Workmen's Club. Everyone enjoyed the buffet but the wedding cake was a bit lopsided. We had a disco and two singers, and received many cards and presents from people, including gift cards which we used to buy things for the house.

For our honeymoon, we had a weekend away in Weston Super-Mare, staying in the Grand Hotel on the seafront. The wedding day was the best day of my life (it was also my birthday) and we were really lucky that the sun shone all day!



New Website

The new, improved version of the Caerphilly People First website is up and running. If you would like to keep up to date with what courses we have been running and attending, what meetings our members have attended, and any news relating to Caerphilly People First, you can log onto:

www.caerphillypeoplefirst.org.uk

Keep checking in with the site, because our members (who attended a training course on the subject) will be updating it regularly.

Thanks to James and Angharad from Communities 2.0 for setting the website up and showing us all how to manage it.

We are also on Facebook, and you can find the link to our Facebook page on our website.



Meet the Members

In this edition of the newsletter, and in all future editions, we will be running a feature called 'Meet the Members'. This will be a chance for readers to get to know the members who work so hard for Caerphilly People First.

Name: Hannah Thomas.

Age: 25.

Where do you live? Caerphilly.

Favourite T.V. Programme? The Real Housewives of New York.

Favourite Music? Bon Jovi, Donnie Osmond, Andy Gibb.

What do you like about Caerphilly People First? It gives me the chance to shine and gives me the chance to advocate for myself.



What do you do on the days you're not with Caerphilly People First? I go to Blackberry Catering, and Crafts.

What do you like to do in your spare time? I shop on the internet, go out with my mum and auntie, play with my 4 cats (Mollie, Angel, Harvey and Lola), and have naps in the afternoon.

What is your ambition for the future? To change people's perceptions about people with learning disabilities.

Do you have a message for our readers? You have the right to stand up for yourself so do it!

Ebenezer Players

The Ebenezer Players are a group of people from the Ebenezer Community Resource Base in Pengam who put on drama shows and musicals. They performed their latest production, 'Dream Coats and Petticoats', in June, to an audience of 150 people at their base in Ebenezer Church in Pengam. The audience was made up of staff, family, carers, the Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough Council, Councillor Gaynor Oliver, and Louise Price from Caerphilly People First, who said the show was brilliant. Also attending were pupils from Ysgol Gymraeg Trelyn, many of whom performed in the show with the Ebenezer Players.



Future Events



Monday 15th October

QA Meeting, Springfield

Wednesday 17th October

Pan Gwent Meeting

Thursday 25th October

GAVO AGM, Newport

Saturday 27th October

One Beat Day, Ty Penallta

Wednesday 31st October

Training at the University of Glamorgan

Thursday 8th November

County Representatives Meeting

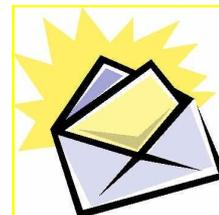
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