



# Caerphilly People First *Newsletter - Summer 2013*

## *Ebenezer Players*



The Ebenezer Players are a group of people from Ebenezer Resource Base who perform singing and dancing shows twice a year.

This year, the Ebenezer Players' summer show was performed in partnership with pupils aged 7 to 11, from Trelyn School, Pengam. The show was a great success, with the students and people from Ebenezer working together perfectly to create a truly memorable show. Cyril Luke, Adviser of Caerphilly People First,

said, 'in 20 years of working with people with learning disabilities, this is the best case of integration working I have ever seen. Everyone was an equal, and the students worked brilliantly with the people from Ebenezer to put on a magnificent show to a packed audience. It brought tears to the eyes of many of the people attending the show'.



Caerphilly People First thinks that the achievement of the Ebenezer Players and the students is so great that we have dedicated most of our newsletter to them. We are proud to report on their great success and we look forward to the next show by the Ebenezer Players, coming in December.

Here are some comments from the students who worked with the Ebenezer Players. The words brought tears to the eyes of many reading them and show what the experience meant to everyone.



*'The show was great, we thought you all sang and danced brilliantly; there was not a dry eye in the house. It was an amazing experience, one we will never forget, and we wish we could do it all over again' – Lauren and Morgan.*

*'Thank you for giving us the experience of a lifetime in working with you all' – Ryan and Rhys.*

*'We will always remember you, you were like family to us' – Timothy and George.*

*'Even though we haven't known you for long, it feels like you've been in our hearts forever. We are dreading not seeing you again, but we will always be ready to boogie with the Ebenezer Players!' – Holly and Amy.*





*'We love you all and it was an amazing time working with you' – Charley and Shakira.*

*'We will miss you deeply, and honestly wish that we could be with you every day. You will be in our hearts forever and we are really devastated that we have to leave*

*you. It has been one of the best times of our lives' – Erin and Lauren.*

*'Thank you for all the memories you have given us. We truly enjoyed our memorable moments with you. We had a superb time and laughed so much' – Bleddyn and Jonathan.*

*'You were all fabulous. Thank you for giving us the wonderful opportunity to discover all your great personalities. We really love you and it's hard to say goodbye' – Morgan and Rebecca.*

*'All the Ebenezer Players are talented and you are all stars! We loved dancing and singing with you, it brought joy to our hearts. We wish we could take you all with us and we will miss you so much' – Aimee and Alisha.*



# Louise Price

Our Vice-Chairperson, Louise Price, has had a busy couple of months. In August she attended and completed two training courses. The first training course was for the Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering. Louise was successful in passing the course, and completed a programme of training and an assessment at the end of the course. The second training event was a Dementia Care Awareness course run by GAVO. To complete the course, Louise had to show an understanding of dementia, identify the symptoms, and consider practical ways of helping those with dementia.

At the end of August Louise took part in the 2013 Special Olympics Great Britain event in Bath, England. Representing Wales in the ten-pin bowling event, Louise came first in her category and won a gold medal. The Special Olympics was a massive success, with 1,700 athletes from Wales, England, and Scotland competing in 12 events.





# Community Voices

Caerphilly People First has been successful in our bid to the Community Voice programme, funded by the Big Lottery. The project we have been funded to deliver, in partnership with Blaenau Gwent People First, is called 'Experts through Experience'. Our aim is to involve people with learning disabilities in each process of the services they receive. This includes planning, monitoring (checking to see that services are working) and evaluating (deciding if services have been delivered successfully).

We will establish a group of 'Experts through Experience' who will be the voice of others with learning disabilities. People with learning disabilities are the only people who know what it feels like to receive learning disability services and so are the best people to offer opinions on how services can be improved. The project aims to identify people who are not currently involved in public debate, and give them the skills and confidence to enter the debate about services and their local community.

In the past, people with learning disabilities have had to rely on parents or professionals to speak on their behalf because of communication difficulties and the expectation that they will not be listened to when they do speak up. The project aims to enable people with learning disabilities to overcome these barriers so they can have a meaningful voice in the things that affect their lives. By the end of the project we hope that the experts through experience will have the opportunity and skills to engage in other areas like health, housing and education. We are currently in the process of looking for a project worker who will lead the project, and a co-worker, a person with a learning disability who will be working in a paid role.





## Future Events



**24th September 2013:**

Pan Gwent People First Meeting

**9th October 2013:**

Learning Disability Awareness Training Course

**14th October 2013:**

30 Years of the All Wales Strategy Celebration

**15th October 2013:**

All Wales People First AGM

**19th October 2013:**

One Beat Voluntary Sector Awareness Day

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