

"For deaf people, with deaf people, by deaf people."

DEAFvibe

Deafness = Equality & Access = Fairness STAFFORDSHIRE

Contact Us

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Issue 3, January 2012

Dates for your Diary

9th January – Basic Football Training every Monday at Port Vale Football Ground, 7.30pm – 9pm.

14th January – DEAFvibe Cafe.

17th January – Changes Wellbeing Event

19th January – Elite and Approach Event – Ageing Society Kingsgrove Town Hall

24th January – Changes Wellbeing Event

31st January – Changes Wellbeing Event

Good News for 2012

We begin 2012 with good news!

DEAFvibe has been successful in getting further funding from Give It Sum.

Thanks to Give it Sum, DEAFvibe café's future is secured for the next two years, meaning DEAFvibe members can continue to meet on the second Saturday of every month until at least January 2014.

With this funding, DEAFvibe will also be able to hold two Deaf Days over the next two years, which will be exhibitions of products and services available to Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in Staffordshire. Keep watching the newsletter and the website for dates and locations of when and where the events will be held.

We look forward to building on our successes of 2011 and working with our members and volunteers to create a better life for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in Staffordshire.



DEAFVibe would like to wish you Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you at café's and events in 2012.



LOTTERY FUNDED

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IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT DRIVING LICENCES

Make sure that your driving license is up-to-date. Your photograph on the driving license must be less than 10 years old. If your license is out of date, you could be fined up to £1000 by the DVLA. At the moment, there are at least 1.6 million people in Britain whose driving license is out of date. Make sure that you are not one of these people.

BASIC FOOTBALL TRAINING AT PORT VALE FC - PLAYERS NEEDED

Basic Football Training starts at Port Vale FC from Monday 9th January. The team is 'deaf-friendly' and new players are needed. Come along and join in to meet new people, get fit and improve your confidence. Shin Pads and Futsal trainers must be worn for health and safety. Bring a bottle of water too.

Venue: Port Vale FC, Community Building, Gate C, Hamil Road, Burslem, Stoke on Trent, ST6 1AW.

Time: Every Monday 7.30pm – 9pm.

Cost: £2 per session

Deaf and HOH People wanted for involvement in Disability Workshops

Elite and Approach have organised 4 events between January 2012 and April 2012 and would like Deaf and Hard of Hearing People to get involved in these events. The aim of these events is to find out what people's views are and what needs to be done to improve services. All the events will follow the Social Model of Disability theme.

- 19th January 2012 - 10am - 2pm at Borough Arms Hotel, Newcastle - "**The Ageing Society**"
- 24th February 2012 - 10am - 2pm at Kidsgrove Town Hall, Kidsgrove - "**Day Opportunities in the 21st Century**"
- 23th March 2012 - 10am - 2pm at Biddulph Town Hal, Biddulph - "**Social Integration**"
- April 2012 - 10am - 2pm date and venue to be confirmed - will be in Stoke on Trent - "**Caring for the Carer**"

Loop system and BSL interpreter available. Let us know if other communication needed.

Food will be provided on the day.

CHANGES WELLBEING COURSE – BSL ACCESSIBLE

Changes in Stoke are running some workshops on mental health and wellbeing. They are accessible to BSL Users. The workshops are listed below. They will be at **Changes Well Being Centre, Victoria Court, Booth St, Stoke ST4 4AL.**

- **Session 1- What is mental distress?** – 10am – 12.30pm Tuesday 17th January,
- **Session 2- Where do our thoughts come from?** - 10am-12.30pm Tuesday 24th January
- **Session 3- Unhealthy behaviours & Feelings** – 10am – 12.30pm Tuesday 31st January

For those wishing to take part in the DVD – Filming will take place on the afternoon of 31st January, after session 3, 1.30pm-4.30pm.

RAD WEBCAM LEGAL SERVICE

The Royal Association for Deaf People has obtained funding to set up a webcam Legal Service - this is a pilot project. RAD Legal Services is able to offer this unique service for Deaf BSL users in England and Wales (NOT Scotland). You must have access to a Webcam and fast Broadband.

RAD Caseworkers can only advise on the following areas:

- Welfare Benefits
- Employment
- Housing
- Debt

The caseworker will have to carry out a legal aid assessment to see whether you are eligible for funding from the government to receive legal advice. If you are eligible, then you will be able to make an appointment to receive specialist advice. If you are not eligible, please don't worry, as we will try and refer you to a different service that meets your needs.

KNIGHTS TAXI SERVICES – TEXT FOR A TAXI

DEAFvibe have worked with Knights Taxis to encourage them to have a text messaging service for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deafblind People and for those who have speech impairments.

Knights Taxis have a wheelchair adapted bus and also two taxis that can take all sorts of chairs and mobility scooters. They have one that can carry the manual chairs only (ramps). As well as regular cars, they have 8 seater minibuses.

The mobile number for texting is **07952 272521 (text only)** to book a taxi or if you have a query.

Every time you text for a taxi, put your **name, time and location** of where you want to be picked up, **where** you want to go and also state if **wheelchair accessible taxi needed**.

If you have a local taxi firm you would like to ask to provide a text message service, there is a letter on the back of this newsletter that you could copy and send to them.

DEAFvibe Café – Find Us

DEAFvibe Café is held on the 2nd Saturday of every month. £3 entrance fee (a free tea/coffee included). Venue is Newcastle Library Meeting Room in the basement. Lift and Stair access.

BSL Users: 9:30 – 12:00 noon. BSL Interpreter and Loop System provided.

Hard of Hearing Members: 1pm – 3pm. Electronic Notetaker and Loop System Provided.

Deaf Blind members are welcome to either café, let us know in advance if you need communication support.

If you are coming alone for the first time, we can meet you at the door. Text us the day before.



DEAFvibe
PO Box 3511
Stoke on Trent
ST6 9EF

Dear Sir / Madam

Have you realised you may be missing out on potential customers? Would you like to effortlessly increase your potential customer base and gain free advertising as a disability aware service?

I write to you on behalf of DEAFvibe, a voluntary organisation supporting deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind community in Staffordshire.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing people often have problems booking a taxi, especially when away from home without access to their own specialist telephone equipment. This makes shopping, nights out and journeys to appointments much harder, requiring pre-planning in order to make sure a taxi is booked and taking the spontaneity out of social events.

We would like to ask you to follow the example of a leading Newcastle-under-Lyme taxi service, which after consultation with DEAFvibe, has purchased a mobile phone that is used by the taxi firm's control room so that Deaf and Hard of Hearing people can send a text message to a dedicated number to book one of their taxis.

This number has been advertised via our website and the DEAFvibe Cafés as well as our Facebook pages and not only that, word of mouth within the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community is a rapid and free way of advertising your services.

Should you like to take the same opportunity to widen your customer base and gain recognition in the Deaf / Hard of Hearing Community as an accessible taxi firm, please contact DEAFvibe on the email address or mobile phone number (text message only) at the bottom of this letter. Don't forget to let us know the number of the mobile phone that you will dedicate to receiving text messages.

You may also contact us using the above address for further advice. We look forward to hearing from you.
Yours sincerely

DEAFvibe Member
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Winners of the Special Award for Outstanding Contribution to Volunteering & the Community 2011!