

DEAFvibe

Deafness = Equality & Access = Fairness STAFFORDSHIRE



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Issue 32, June 2014

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

14th June DEAFvibe Café

Newcastle Library 11am-3pm

Topic: Breaking down communication barriers

20th June DEAFvibe HUB

Newcastle Civic Offices 10am-3pm

4th July DEAFvibe HUB

Newcastle Civic Offices 10am-3pm

12th July DEAFvibe Café

Newcastle Library 11am-3pm

Topic: Tom Kane and Hearing Dogs for the Deaf

ROYAL APPROVAL FOR DEAFVIBE

DEAFvibe is always waxing lyrical about its amazing team of dedicated volunteers, but now the charity has been awarded the highest accolade imaginable.

It is an honour to announce that DEAFvibe has been presented with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

This prestigious award, which is the equivalent to an MBE for volunteer groups, is a marvellous acknowledgement of the effort that not only the co-founders Alison France and Rowan Robinson have put into the creation of DEAFvibe, but also the dedication of the volunteers (including the trustees) who ensure that DEAFvibe continues to serve the people of Staffordshire.

The running of DEAFvibe is done on an entirely voluntary basis by people all striving for the same goal, for equality, fairness and access for people with all levels of hearing loss in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire.

The Chair's statement in relation to this award can be found on the following page.

QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE - DEAFVIBE CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT

On hearing DEAFvibe has been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, DEAFvibe Chair Julie Hart says: "...DEAFvibe is absolutely delighted to hear that we have been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service for our work with deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind people as well as their families, friends and carers in the Staffordshire area. Deafness can be very isolating and the volunteers of DEAFvibe offer accessible services that ensure that all deaf people are treated equally and with respect. We provide access, information and communication with full participation in the wider community. This award recognises the hard work that DEAFvibe has achieved since its launch in February 2010 and we feel very privileged to be selected as a winner of this prestigious award."

On June 10th, 4 representatives will attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace and in due course, we will be arranging a local celebration where the certificate and crystal for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service will be presented to DEAFvibe. There will be an update in next month's newsletter.

DEAFVIBE SCORES A DEAF DAY HAT-TRICK AT BRITANNIA STADIUM

DEAFvibe held it's 3rd successful See Me Hear Me Exhibition at Stoke City FC's Britannia Stadium on 9th May.

Visitors and exhibitors came from far and wide, from specialist deaf-led organisations such as SL First Magazine and Zebra-Uno to local emergency services such as Staffordshire Police and the Fire Service. Local councils and health schemes such as Breast Cancer Care and Healthwatch also had a presence.

A steady flow of visitors throughout the day kept DEAFvibe founder Alison France and the team of volunteers busy all day long. Visitors could relieve their stress by having an indulgent arm massage or a manicure from DEAFvibe volunteers or buy homemade cakes and jewellery. Some visitors took a BSL interpreted tour of Stoke City FC's dressing rooms and the football pitch.

DEAFvibe would like to say thank you to all of the exhibitors, visitors and volunteers. Also a big thank you goes to Britannia Stadium for their wonderful hospitality year after year.

Planning for Deaf Day 2015 is underway. If you have any suggestions for exhibitors you would like to see or if you would like to exhibit, display your crafts or hold a presentation / workshop, please contact DEAFvibe via the contact details above.



RECOGNISING THE 'HART' OF DEAFVIBE



The May DEAFvibe Café saw the first ever Hart Awards. The awards are named in honour of DEAFvibe Chair, Julie Hart who has kindly decided to sponsor these awards, which recognise the contribution of DEAFvibe Volunteers over the year.

Our volunteers are at the heart of DEAFvibe and all our of them are valuable to us. It took a lot of deliberation to pick our winners, who are listed below. Who knows, next year's winner could be you...



Outstanding Contribution to DEAFvibe – Charlotte Whittaker

Charlotte is a passionate and committed volunteer at DEAFvibe. Charlotte raised over £1000 for DEAFvibe by doing a tandem parachute jump in 2013. She is also frequently promotes DEAFvibe's philosophy of equality, access and fairness wherever she goes.



Volunteer of the Year – Naomi Webber

Naomi has made a fantastic contribution to DEAFvibe. A regular volunteer since the beginning, Naomi is a familiar face manning the doors and selling her crafts at the monthly café. Naomi is always willing to help out at events and her 'can-do' attitude is a real inspiration to all of us.



Chair's Special Recognition Award – Rosemary Le Marrec

Rosemary received a special Chair's Award in recognition of how far she has come since joining DEAFvibe after losing her hearing overnight. Rosemary's confidence has come on in leaps and bounds and she is now a trustee for DEAFvibe as well as volunteering at many fundraising events and being a representative at community and healthcare events.

NEW TRUSTEE APPOINTED

The Trustees of DEAFvibe are delighted to announce that Colin Ayres has been appointed as our new trustee. Colin has a solid business background as well as personal experience of deafness. Colin is a regular at the café and many of us will remember his interesting presentation on Deaf Awareness.

Colin brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience, which we know will be invaluable to DEAFvibe's future development and we look forward to working with him.

Disclaimer: whilst DEAFvibe endeavors to provide accurate and up to date information at all times, no responsibility nor liability will accepted for any information which may subsequently prove to be wrong or misleading.