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National Weekend 2020

POSTPONED

Friday 31 July to 2 August 2020

Portland College, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire
NG18 4TJ

We had a fantastic response to the weekend and registrations were almost full. Unfortunately, due to the current coronavirus pandemic, the weekend will now not be taking place at the end of July. At the current time we do not have an alternative date however, we are in discussions with the College. Those registered for the weekend will be informed as plans develop. The trustees are looking into whether they can run some online activities at some point over the weekend.



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Fundraising Curry Night

A fantastic sum of £806 was raised at the charity fundraiser curry night held at the Cuisine of India in Leicester. The event was organised by Mary Bancroft and supported by the volunteers, customers and friends of Glen Hills Library and café. Thank you to everyone involved.



Happy 20th Birthday 1Voice!

Back in 1997, Katie Clarke, the parent of a young AAC User and Tamsin Crothers, a speech and language therapist, met at the Communication Matters Conference. Tamsin was sharing



her experiences of going to Camp Chatterbox in the USA. Her presentation showed how the camp brought young AAC users together from across the country during the summer holidays for activities and an AAC learning experience for all the family. After many meetings, and thanks to a larger group of committed people who shared their enthusiasm, the first 1Voice weekend was held in 2000 at the Norbreck Castle in Blackpool. 20 years of events later and 1Voice continues to grow and support those who use AAC.



Sadly, one of our young 1Voice members, Ruby, recently passed away. Our thoughts are with her family at this time. Ruby attended many national residential weekends over the years and will always be remembered for her sense of fun and outgoing personality. Ruby will be greatly missed at our future 1Voice events.



The 1Voice parents Facebook Group is a great way to keep in touch and get ongoing support. **Coming soon...** a closed group for 1Voice Teens.



Our Wedding

1Voice trustee, Helen Hewson, tells us about her wedding to Toby, 1Voice volunteer and former trustee.

I had always dreamed of having a big wedding and walking down the aisle with my dad. I have to confess though I had begun to believe it was never going to happen to me. That was until Toby came along and we fell in love at the 1 Voice weekend 2017.

With a big wedding comes a lot of planning. Our wedding was arranged for July 2019, in my home, town of Birmingham. In February 2019 we began to prepare for the wedding. We went on a wedding preparation course at my local church. I found a dress I really liked that they were able to alter to the right length so it would work with my wheelchair. We found wedding rings. We finalised the guest list and sent out the invitations. I was so happy and thrilled to get so many lovely replies and responses from some old friends and people that I hadn't seen in years.

In May we had a joint Hen and Stag party with all our West Sussex friends and all our support workers. In June I had another Hen party organised by my sister Louise, for my family and Birmingham friends.

On the Wednesday before our wedding day, we drove up to Birmingham. We had so much stuff to take up with us, packing was like a military operation. We were both very excited. In the afternoon we did our rehearsal at the church. I was worried because one section of my vows wasn't programmed into my Allora quite right so I had to go home and change it quickly. On that night we went out for a meal with my friend Lucy and my old personal assistant Jo, and it was great to see them again. On Thursday we had lunch at Mums with Toby's parents. Mum and Louise went off to decorate the church for the next day. That evening we had dinner with all of Toby's family and friends. After which I went home to Mum's to stay for the night before our wedding, I actually managed to sleep quite well and woke very excited and saw the sun shining through my curtains.

Toby had sent me over a beautiful necklace to wear on my wedding day. I then got into my dress and felt so wonderful and excited. It was just manic now and we were racing to be ready on time. My car was all decorated with wedding ribbons, Dad and I held hands all the way to the church and cuddled, this was a very emotional journey for us both and one that we had never expected to take together.

We arrived at the church and had some photos. The bridal march started to play, Dad took my arm and we started walking up the aisle very slowly. I looked up the church to my darling Toby and joined him at the altar and the service started. I felt very nervous when it came to saying our vows. We were set with a very interesting problem when saying our vows as we had to face each other, hold hands and speak our vows at the same time. Our second interesting challenge was when we went to sign the register as we actually had to write our own names with help, as our marriage would not be legal otherwise. Toby and I then became husband and wife. We walked out of church and everyone was throwing confetti and coming up to hug and congratulate us, including Toby's Mum who hugged me and said hello Mrs. Hewson.

We had lots of photographs taken during the day. At the reception Toby and I both made speeches to each other and everyone and there was a lot of laughter. Although we were both quite nervous during making our speeches, it all went off really well. The food was absolutely beautiful and perfect. In the evening, the band started and the whole day and night was just wonderful.

On Saturday afternoon We left for our first mini honeymoon which was a surprise for me from Toby. We drove to Warwick and stayed at a beautiful hotel, had lots of nice meals in nice restaurants, had a nice and relaxing massage, and went to the theatre. I was very spoilt all week.

Our main honeymoon was in October, when we spent a fortnight in a villa in Fuerteventura. The weather was lovely. We had our own heated pool, were close to the beach, and Toby and I were able to get out on our own any time we wanted. It was the best honeymoon a couple could ask for.