

Speak Out

National Event a Big Success

In July, 1Voice held another residential event. Based at the Hayes Conference Centre in Derbyshire, 1Voice members gathered for a weekend of fun, laughter and learning by participating in 'Once Upon A Holiday'.



Activities were themed on our dream holiday, real or imagined. Then of course we cannot forget the Saturday Night Disco—a firm favourite of all our participants.

1Voice AAC users 'performed' their stories to each other, families and friends.

accepting amazing belonging brilliant enjoyable essential excellent fab
fantastic friendly fun important inclusive
informative inspirational interesting loud
motivating pro-active relaxing social supportive tiring
wonderful

You could never tell what kind of story was going to emerge! The imaginations truly ran wild.

1Voice also paid a special tribute to Alan Martin. Known throughout the AAC community, Alan was a 1Voice Role Model and attended many events, nationally and with his local branch, to encourage and help newer, younger AAC users in their communication journey.

At the end of our time, we asked our participants for feedback. Check out our word bubble below! What stands out about 1Voice events: They are FUN for our AAC users.



Communicating Together

**1Voice -
Communicating
Together**

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Special points of interest:

- *This is a short version of our newsletter. Published 3 times a year, we aim to inform and educate readers to the world of 1Voice with augmentative and alternative communication.*

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Branching Out

1Voice wants to reach as many AAC users as possible. Through feedback by participants at our national events, we know its very important to be able to spend time with each other. Although 1Voice has been around since 2000, the idea of branches became a reality in 2008. We started with 1-2 branches. Over the last couple of years we have grown to six branches, dotted

around the country. Check out our current active branches at www.1voice.info/regional-branches.

Branches hold their own 1 day events or activities, 3-4 times each year.

We have many members who would like a branch in their area.

If you are interested in becoming

an organizational member for a branch, please check contact Julie on 07943 618525 or by email at info@1voice.info

Also, we need volunteers in each area to help make it a reality for our AAC users. If you can spare a few hours several times a year, or even for one event, please contact us at info@1voice.info

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Supporting the right to communicate

Darren goes the extra mile

Darren Glynn is always up for a challenge. He would be the first to admit he's not an excellent swimmer and, until recently, he hadn't sat on a bike in many years. But nevertheless, he decided a sponsored triathlon would be the ideal way to raise some valuable funds for 1Voice. Darren is the partner of Megan Hughes, one of our 1Voice trustees, so that may have influenced his decision!

"I class myself as reasonably fit and I've always been a good runner" he explains, "so I thought I could train myself up for a triathlon. My main concern was getting round all my friends to ask them to sponsor me and then collecting in the money afterwards."

*It was easy to set up my event
.....sponsorship started
flowing in really quickly*

"However, I discovered that it's simple to do these days. I logged onto Virgin Money Giving and it was easy to set up my event, with the money going direct to 1Voice. I then put up a message on my Facebook page telling everyone I was going to do the Cheshire Triathlon on 2nd June 2013.

"The sponsorship started flowing in really quick-

1Voice—Communicating Together is a Charity Registered in England and Wales—No 1141886..

1Voice began in 2000 as a support group for families with children who use Augmentative and Alternative Communication aids. From its humble beginnings to now, 1Voice continues to grow by supporting its members at local level in the form of branches and a national residential event.

In 2010 it became a Company Limited by Guarantee.—Company No. 07480160.

The company is run by volunteers and one paid part-time administration person.

ly – along with messages of good luck!"

But Darren needn't have worried... after a fairly intense swimming and cycling training regime he completed the 500m swim, 20k bike ride and 5k run in an hour and a half.



Megan said "Darren worked really hard to train for the event and I'm very proud of him. He raised a grand total of £471.25 (including Gift Aid) and nearly two-thirds of that came from online donations. And it meant that friends and relatives in Canada, Abu Dhabi and all over Britain were able to sponsor him as well, which made a big difference."

If you would like more information on other ways to fundraise for 1Voice, check out all the ways you can achieve this at www.1voice.info/fundraising