

Speak Out

Save The Date Aug 8-10, 2014



Communicating Together

The Board is in pre-planning stages of the next National Event. There will be much buzz about an exciting new location for 2014!



The event is to be held at National Star College in Gloucestershire. The site is totally accessible. ALL rooms are accessible, many with additional features such as hoists and safety sides on beds.

The weekend will be all about

chilling out and enjoying the facilities of NSC. Sports hall, swimming pool, dance hall and —wait for it — something a little special for the parents —a golf course!

As well as fun and games (and communication) for the children, we plan to offer workshops for older teenagers and young adults, where some of our role models will help them to think about transition to adult life.

Look out for more information in the March 2014 newsletter. If you are not a member of 1 Voice, sign up now on our website. Membership is free, and members will receive booking details as soon as they are available. <http://www.1voice.info/membership-form>

1Voice -
Communicating
Together

Volume 3, Issue 2

November 2013

Special points of interest:

- *National Event date set*
- *1Voice to receive £300 from Lloyds Community Fund*
- *National Branch Meeting planned.*

Annual General Meeting

Any charity has a duty to fulfill its business responsibilities in a professional manner. Earlier this month, the Board and Members held the 1 Voice AGM in Manchester.

Some readers may wonder why this did not take place at out National

Event in July. Simply because the accounts and annual report of 1Voice were not audited and completed at



New Board and Company Secretary

that time.

The AGM is the meeting where the business and accounts are presented and accepted.

These are then filed with the appropriate regulatory bodies.

The AGM is also when we welcome new Trustees to the Board, and say goodbye to any that are leaving.

Inside this issue:

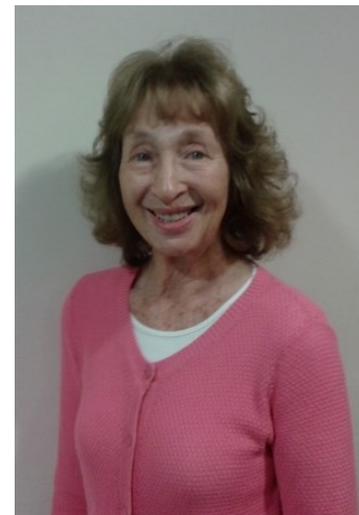
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... this is not goodbye.

At the AGM, Ann Morris finally hung up her hat as a Trustee of 1Voice, after 15 years of volunteering, helping set up and nurture the charity, Ann has been instrumental in the success of 1Voice. She specialised in fund-raising, particularly for the events and notably the Branches/Event Coordinator and staffing grant. In the early days she would raise £10,000 per event, and in recent years £15,000 per event. These

days it takes £20,000 (inflation for you!) So looking back over all the years Ann has written letters, made phone calls, called in favours and wooed funders, she has been worth hundreds of thousands to 1Voice. We will miss her enormously. She has offered to help with future funding/grant applications, so Admin will be hot on her trail. Ann enjoy your free time!

Thank You



Lloyds Community Fund

Members and friends of 1Voice recently participated in the voting frenzy of the Lloyds Community Fund., designed to award funds to local level charitable work. We successfully made it through the initial process and were chosen to be listed in the Coventry area (because of our Registered Office address).

There were four local charities for which customers and the general public could vote. We encouraged as many of you as possible to vote in a variety of

ways (SMS/text, online and in the Coventry branches of Lloyds Bank). The results were announced very recently. We came third and just missed the big prize of £3000 by 0.09% of votes!

The third prize is £300, which will be used for branches/local events. This was a stipulation of the LCF application—support local activity. Thank you to everyone who voted!

Hello from Helen—our new board member

Hi I'm Helen Quiller, I'm 40 and like to enjoy life to the full. My main aim is to lead an independent and fulfilled life as possible despite my physical disability, which is cerebral palsy. Let's tell you a bit about me, I enjoy a wide range of activities. There are several things and ambitions that I would like to achieve in my life.

I enjoy going to the Cinema and bowling, going shopping for clothes music and DVD films. I also like and enjoy going swimming, the water helps all my muscles to relax. I also enjoy going horse riding, when I get the chance and can ride un aided, with someone just walking next to me.

In the past I have enjoyed doing a wide range of college courses and have achieved several GCSE and NVQ qualifications at school and college. I currently work as a volunteer in a special

school as an adult role model, helping children with disabilities develop their communication skills.



I became a Role Model for 1Voice in 2008 and have enjoyed several weekends working with the young people and their families. I have done several different presentations about my life and what I have achieved: living independently and various voluntary work.

I have also been a member of the 1Voice West Midlands Committee since 2010, and helped organise events with them.

I feel that all the experiences that I have had with my own Disability and communication problems would be valuable to bring on to the board of Trustees at this point in my life.

How mouse scanning changed my life

I communicate with a Dynavox V Max, and since I was ten I have used scanning Picture Word Power with a voice activated throat switch. I'm going to explain how I use my switch to access the internet and other software on my Dynavox.

I'm now 22 and this is my third Dynavox. When the V Max came out, I was really excited because it was a computer too (and because it came in pink!) I really wanted to go online, but it took a very long time to find a way to do that with my switch. My Dynavox pages have an email browser and an e-book reader. They work fine with scanning but they are not very good programmes. The e-mail does not cope well with attachments and the e-book reader only really works with an old American format, so I couldn't read the books I wanted. I really wanted better computer access, especially for facebook. We tried and tried to find out how to do that with a switch. We went to a Communication Matters road show and talked to Debbie from

Dynavox, and in summer 2012 she came and showed us mouse scanning. I can't believe I didn't know about that sooner!

This is how it works: I can open my favourite websites with buttons we programme, or go to Google search. Then the Dynavox scans the 4 quarters of the screen, and I select with my switch. Then a horizontal line scans down and I stop it in the right place. Then a vertical line scans across. That's called x/y scanning. With that I can click anywhere on the screen. There is a little popup to choose different kinds of mouse click. I was so excited! That changed my life! I can do lots more things independently, and they are things I really wanted to do. I can write on the DynaVox, then insert text in to a open window, that is how I post and comment on Facebook or my blog. I can browse the Dr Who website and download pictures and put them on my desktop. I can catch up with programmes on BBC i-player and watch behind the scenes videos. I check my BT

e-mail and when my wireless connection does not work I can repair it myself. I can search on Google and shop on Amazon. I bought secret Christmas presents for my mum and dad and chose e-books and DVDs. I have Kindle for PC on my Dynavox, I use that with mouse scanning and it's brilliant for me because I can't hold paper books or turn the pages, but now I can see the screen and read independently. I'm starting to love reading now I have that.

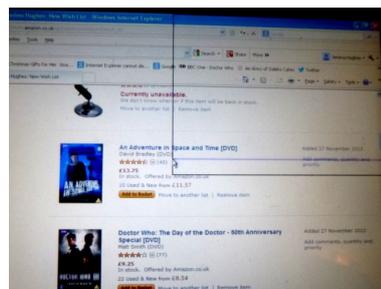
That's why mouse scanning has changed my life. Now I love my Dynavox a lot more. In future I want mouse scanning on a desktop computer, because I want to do video editing independently. That's one of my dreams.

Jemima Hughes

1Voice Role Model

<http://www.soundsigns.blogspot.co.uk>

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Branch Officers Meeting

As the charity has grown, the objectives of 1Voice have grown too. Since the inception of branches to hold local events and activities for AAC users, we have had mixed success. Last year was very busy with 17 branch events, but some branches badly need more volunteers to share the planning and organisation.

The Trustees are planning to get as many branch committee members as possible together in one place, to discuss local event successes and plans for the future and look for solutions to the things branches find difficult. It will be a collaborative

meeting to see how we can continue the success of the 2012-13 reporting year.

The meeting is expected to take place in Manchester sometime in February/March 2014. The Board would also like to thank the Branches for their hard work with a luncheon.

As 1Voice continues to develop and be the charity of choice for AAC users who want to get together at local level, the Board recognises the importance of branch officers and committee members making it happen and wants to find effective ways to support them.

1Voice - Communicating Together

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A world where the voice of every child and adult is listened to and heard, however they communicate

1Voice - Communicating Together does not endorse or recommend any particular equipment or service. Individuals should take professional advice in relation to their needs.

To:

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.

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.



Alan Martin was a 1Voice role model since the earliest events. As well as running dance workshops for us he was also a great role model to the children, young people and their families, as well as being an amazing teacher of professionals on what life is like for people who use AAC and a bringer of fun. Sadly Alan passed away in December 2012 but

Alan Martin Inspiration Award

leaves behind many good memories and the enthusiasm and inspiration he shared with us all. To honour Alan's memory 1Voice has announced the annual Alan Martin Inspiration Award. This is to be awarded to anyone who has provided inspiration to others in the field of AAC. It can be awarded to children, young people and adults who use AAC, family members, carers or professionals. Nominations for the award will begin in May 2014. The award will be made at the National 1Voice event but the recipient of the award does not need to attend.