

# 1Voice Newsletter

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



**Spring is Sprung,  
It's getting warmer  
and Easter is  
nearly with us**



Our New Community Video is available on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/RYqbyhpNMXc>

## SAVE THE DATE

National Weekend  
Yorkshire and North  
East Event  
Lakes & Bay Event

## BRANCHES RELAUNCH

New focus on the  
Branches

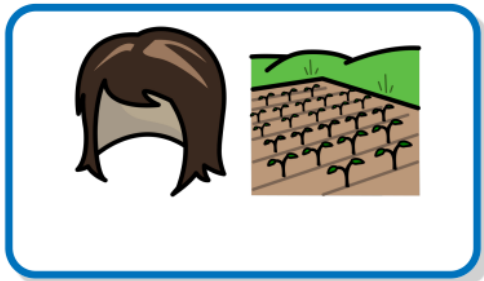
## CHRISTMAS EVENT

What happened at our  
Christmas Event

# Online Christmas Party

Sunday 4th December 2022

It was really nice to see everyone at this year's online Christmas party. Over 25 individuals/families joined us for the event. For some, this was their first 1Voice event and we hope they felt welcome.



Created in WidgeOnline.com for 1Voice

Widge Symbols © Widge Software Ltd 2002 - 2022

**Can you guess the song?  
Saturday night by  
Whigfield!!**

The event began with a game of Christmas party Rock n' Roll bingo to get everyone in the party spirit.

As well as playing the music tracks, we created a visual presentation of Widge symbols to help people identify the track and artist. Some of these were good fun!

We then split into groups based on broad geographical location. This gave people an opportunity to chat and discuss what they would like from local branches / events in the New Year.

We then came back together for a Christmas dance led by our role model, Jodie. The event ended with a Christmas disco by everyone's favourite DJ - DJ Oli.

People attended from across the UK, and this map shows where many of us dialled in from:



## Regional Branch Relaunch

Connecting AAC users and their families in a supportive network is at the heart of what 1Voice do. This year we want to focus on building up local networks, whether that be local meet-ups or establishing regional branches, so as to connect with more families and offer members more opportunities to get together.

Members who came to the online Christmas event, got together in smaller groups according to their geographical location. They shared ideas about activities and places to meet. This helped us identify regions with both strong demand and people who can sustain and enable local events.

Feedback and interest has led us to focus initially on restarting get-togethers at 1Voice Lakes and Bay, 1Voice Yorkshire and North East, 1Voice North West, 1Voice London and South East, and 1Voice South West.

### 1VOICE LAKES & BAY

Thursday 13 April

Lakeland Visitor Centre

11am

Please book in advance



### 1VOICE YORKSHIRE & NORTH EAST

Saturday 20 May

Cafe in York Leisure  
Centre

2pm

The group that became 1Voice Lakes and Bay started before social media or even 1Voice itself, so unless you happened to live near someone or bumped into them somewhere it was unlikely that you would meet any other AAC users. That was the reason Lakes and Bay started in 1996. Apart from a hiatus for Covid they have been meeting up at least 3 times a year since then, doing various things such as a boat trip on Windermere, visits to a Car Museum, and a Christmas party. Funnily enough many of their events involve food and their first post covid event is planned to be an informal café based meet up. At this, apart from eating and catching up, we will also think about what we want to do for the rest of the year. Contact [events@1voice.info](mailto:events@1voice.info) or

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/113788328727795/> - Lakes and Bays

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/963220251706653/> - Yorkshire & NE

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1155287811834092/> - North West

## Regional Branch Relaunch

We are really keen to hear from anybody who could support local branches.

If you're keen to be part of a regional branch or network, particularly in those 5 areas we hope to kickstart initially, do get in touch.

If you're prepared to volunteer at an event, would like to suggest locations or great ideas for activities, are happy to share information locally or if you can think of any other ways you could help, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Maybe you are an AAC user who is keen to support others, a parent-carer who is keen to connect with other families in a similar situation or maybe you are an SALT or someone who is passionate about AAC.

Events can be as frequent as you like, maybe once or twice a year or as often as monthly.

1Voice will work alongside local volunteers to support and enable the events, whether that is admin support, funding or promotion.

We'd love to hear from you and build a stronger branch network, so do get in touch.

## Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)



13 books for young children that feature protagonists of colour

<https://www.insider.com/guides/parenting/kids-books-about-diversity-and-acceptance>

This year we have introduced a new item to the trustee meeting agenda which is Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). EDI ensures fair treatment and opportunity for all, regardless of their background, identity, or experience, which is really important for us at 1Voice. To break this down a little bit more, we are focused on removing barriers, recognising the benefits of different values, abilities, and perspectives, and celebrating people's differences. We are promoting an environment that welcomes and values diverse backgrounds, thinking, skills and experiences. We want every member of 1Voice to feel valued, accepted and to share their voice. Francesca Sephton is one of the 1Voice trustees that is focusing on this area so please get in touch if you have any further ideas!

## Good to Know

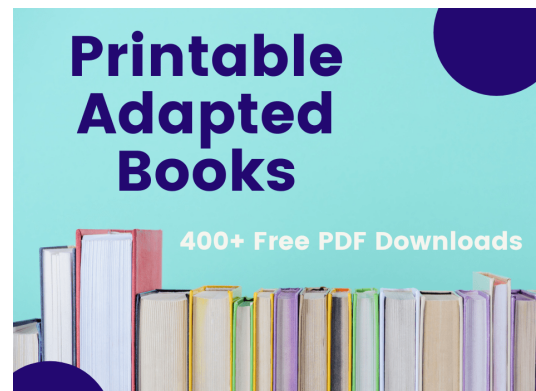
Links and information that we have discovered.



We know all too well how challenging a full-time caring role can be, so a few days away with a partner or a friend can work wonders. Carefree is a new initiative that seeks to provide accommodation so that unpaid carers can take a break.

The Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities at Rhode Island College have 400+ pre adapted board maker books available for download.

<https://w3.ric.edu/sherlockcenter/wwslist.html>



### Parents Coffee Mornings

Seven parents joined us for our first virtual coffee morning of 2023. It was a lovely opportunity to chat with other parents. We covered a range of topics including PAs, blue badge parking, schools and encouraging independence. We look forward to seeing you at the next one.

Friday 5 May

Friday 7 July

Friday 15 September

Friday 10 November

Comment on the Facebook posts or email [1voice-admin@1voice.info](mailto:1voice-admin@1voice.info) for the meeting links.

# National Weekend 2023

Save the Date : Saturday 19 - Monday 21 August

1 VOICE NATIONAL  
WEEKEND 2023

19TH TO 21ST  
AUGUST

SAVE THE DATE

Treloar's  
Alton - Hampshire

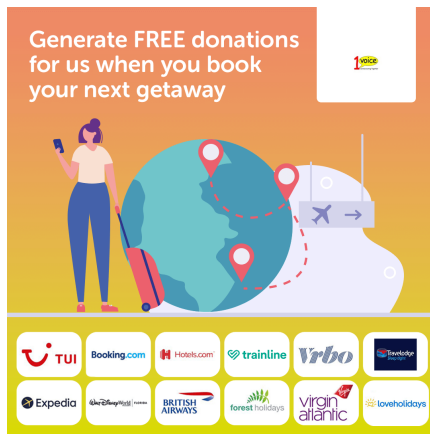
Pending  
Funding  
confirmation

More Details  
Soon!



## Support us with Give as you Live

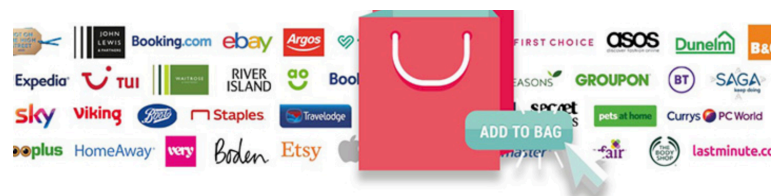
Shop online with Give as you Live Online and raise a money for 1VOICE - COMMUNICATING TOGETHER the simple way.



Planning a dream getaway or thinking about a quick city break? No matter where you go, there are bumper FREE donations to be raised for us when you visit @GiveasyouLive Online before you book!

Our supporters have raised over £670 to date just by shopping online. Sign up for FREE and select 1Voice - Communicating Together as your chosen charity. When you shop, use Give as you Live Online to visit your chosen retailer. Your purchases will generate FREE donations for us! It really is that simple.

Also, if you do a regular food shop online, then Tesco, Sainsbury's, Waitrose, Iceland, Ocado, Co-op and Wiltshire Farm Foods all offer donations when you shop online.



<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/1voice-ct>



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Cheshire WA13 0QW  
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Charity Number: 1141886