



disability network hounslow

hounslow's centre for independent living



Mayor's favourite
Charity 2008/09

شبكة الاتصالات للمعوقين في هونسلو  Réseau des Handicapés à Hounslow انجمن معزوراء هانسلو

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December 2009

Welcome to the SPECIAL AGM issue of Disability Digest from Disability Network Hounslow!

In this issue we look at the highlights over the last twelve months from our staff, an invitation to our AGM and to join our board, extracts from letters from our members and more!

Firstly and foremost, we'd like to invite all our members to our AGM at Brentford Free Church on Boston Manor Road, on Friday 11th December from 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Our special guest to this year's AGM is Elsie the Dalek who will be there to meet and greet guests to our event, plus one of Hounslow's finest opera singers, Sharon Selman, will be performing seasonal carols to help with the festive spirits.

We've had confirmation from various stand holders, including MERU, the Stroke Association, Pals (Patient Advice and Liaison Services) & Blood Pressure Association.

As always there will be refreshments and our annual raffle with excellent prizes donated by local businesses including a free lunch at Frangos, to a free hair cut from Super Cuts in Hounslow...plus there will be another opportunity to purchase clothing from DNH's own special stall.

On page 2 you'll find your personal invitation to our AGM, we hope you can make it. Do complete the RSVP part and return it to the office – it's FREEPOST so no stamp will be required and this will ensure we cater correctly for the event. Alternatively contact the office on (020) 8758 2048 (extension 8) to confirm your attendance. We look forward, as always, to seeing our members & supporters.

Hounslow's longest serving pan-disability organisation!

Mayor's Favourite charity
2008/09



disability network hounslow
hounslow's centre for independent living

You are cordially invited to attend
Disability Network Hounslow's AGM on
**Friday 11th December at the
Brentford Free Church, Boston Manor Road**
Doors open from 1.30-4.30pm

شبكة الاتصالات للمعوقين في هونسلو Réseau des Handicapés à Hounslow انجمن معزورال هانسلو



We have a special guest Elsie the Dalek (right), Opera by Selman & Saggese duo (left), hot drinks and refreshments, speakers, clothing sale, plus plenty of prizes to be won at our raffle donated by local businesses. Come and meet the staff and new Committee too, and find out what's new for the New Year



Patron: Michael Knowles

Company Limited by Guarantee 4542527 Registered Charity 1097010



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RSVP: please let us know if you can come & send along details of any special requirements you may have. We hope to see you there!

I Will be attending I will not be attending the AGM
membership number is: _____/09 – or I am not a member

Please return to (No stamp required): Disability Network
Hounslow, FREEPOST SEA 7536, 121 High Street, Brentford, TW8
8BR.

Disability Network Hounslow would like to acknowledge the following companies who have supported our AGM this year. They are:

- Selman & Segasse Duo
- Elsie the Dalek
- Supercuts in Hounslow
- La Rosetta Italian restaurant in Brentford High Street
- Osterley Village Store
- Sheek Hair Dressers
- Osterley Salon
- Frangos , Hounslow
- Individual cash donation from Doreen Archer

Thank you to all our funders for 2008/09 – London Borough of Hounslow, City Bridge, Awards for All.

شبكة الاتصالات للمعوقين في هونسلو  *Reseau des Handicapes à Hounslow* انجمن معزوراء هانسلو

Nominations for this year's committee 2009/10

- **Mary-Ellen Archer** – Last year's chair person and disabled person
- **Kim Walsh** – Leading HR expert for Western Money Union Transfer sharing her human resources experience with DNH
- **Debal Bagchi** – Independent professional photographer and lecturer
- **Sharon Selman** – Professional opera singer and carer of disabled child
- **Caroline Green** – Experience in campaigning as a disabled person



Hounslow's only independent pan-disability charity requires Trustees



It's not too late to place your nomination form to join our Management Committee. Disability Network Hounslow provides information, advice and support to disabled people, their carers and professionals.

We are looking for disabled people to give up their time to support the charity, to bring in fresh ideas, skills and to give something back to the wider disabled community in Hounslow.

Disability Network Hounslow have a proven record of success and if you can give us your time and expertise, you can make a real difference to the lives of disabled people across Hounslow.

Prospective trustees will be selected for their ability to make an effective contribution to Disability Network Hounslow as a charity, in terms of skills and experience. All applications are welcome and if you require more information contact 0208 758 2048 for a Candidate Briefing Pack or email Mary-Ellen Archer, Chair of DNH, Chair@disabilitynetworkhounslow.org



What we've achieved over the last 12 months....

For those of you who can't attend our AGM we've got a brief update of what we have achieved for our members during 2008/09.

Firstly we need to thank both the staff & volunteers who make Disability Network Hounslow operate throughout the year, without their commitment or support we could not provide the services we do. Also, a big thank you to the Management Committee for their time, support and vision for the future.

I am pleased to report that over the last 12 months we have had a busy and constructive year for our staff and members alike. We started the year with a new partnership with Middlesex Association for the Blind (MAB), which later has helped us to secure further funding in for the next financial year. The benefits partnership working brings means Disability Network Hounslow will look to forge closer partnerships in the future.

On the 18th February in conjunction with the Police we held our first community safety break. The Police Service presented their proposed changes to Police stations in Hounslow as well as to give out free items for personal security. In addition the Fire Service were on hand to give their talk about fire safety in the home. Over 60 members attended this event held at the Paul Robeson Theatre.

Through our community links with Hounslow's Sri Singh Sabha Gurdwara on Alice Way, Disability Network Hounslow were able to support disabled members of the Sikh community to participate in the Vaisakhi celebration held in spring. It is with many thanks to the Sri Singh Sabha Gurdwara for their donation towards the cost of drivers & transport for the event.

Disability Network Hounslow were also delighted to be nominated as one of the Mayor's Favourite charity for 2008/09. The Mayor generously organised several fund raising events over the course of the year some of which staff members attended.

Finally, Emma Garner resigned as Director after eight and half years service and the management wanted to extend a special thank you to Emma for all her dedication during this time.

Here in more details are updates from our main services

The Advice and Information project:

Since March 2008 to April 2009 the Advice and Information project has struggled to get funding and as a result there was a cut in number of staffing hours due to the budget constraints. Despite the difficulties, Disability Network Hounslow were able to keep the service open and extended the drop-in surgery hours from 4 hours to 7 hours per week for the public.

Disability Network Hounslow realise the importance of this service for those who use it, and in the last 12 months have raised in excess of £125,000 in back dated benefit awards to our clients living in Hounslow.

The part-time team, consisting of Ashi Dhillon (senior Advice Worker) & Christina Wadland (Information & Advice Worker) who work at total of 31.5 hours per week have managed to deal with over 400 telephone cases, 900 queries, and 500 pieces of casework.

One of members and former trustee wrote to Disability Network Hounslow to thank them for the service we had provided.

"I wanted to say what a good service DNH does, right from the start they were ready to help me. I had not realised when my settee would not fit in the inner and large firm where I bought it said I would not have any of my

money back. In the price range there was nothing else they had and my settee was in a sale. The advice I received from one organisations said it was up to the firm to give me my money back, So I went to another organisation and they didn't want to know either and I felt they were really abrupt. From the start DNH always filled me with hope and it too a while but we got there. I received a cheque the other day and I was so relieved and grateful to both Christina and Ashi who do such a good job. I owe this to Disability Network and I wanted to tell you how good the Drop in Service is" Margaret Krowicki – DNH member

Currently, the Advice & Information project offers drop-in surgeries and 2 outreach advice clinics. Please contact the office for more details.

The Deaf Community Project:

The Deaf Community Project, includes Disability Network Hounslow's Supporting People via BSL programme, with over 1,800 contacts with Deaf clients during April 2008 – March 2009.

The British Sign Language Classes continue to go well with 577 attendances by people to the classes. (Please note from January 2010 we have a new venue for our BSL classes – see events diary for more details).

In addition, Disability Network Hounslow held baby signing class in partnership with Tinytalk which is the UK's favourite baby signing classes. The aim of this class is to teach both; parents and babies up to the age of two to communicate through basic sign language.

We completed a year's long programme of Deaf Health Group meetings, where sign language users could get information in BSL on medical matters such a managing diabetes and how to prevent stroke. Groups like these are important for Deaf people and can prevent serious conditions from getting worsening by getting information into a format understood by BSL users. In total 88 Deaf people used this service.

We continue to offer a Support People Service (via BSL) to help Deaf people live at home and to manage their tennancies. This is a short programme of support teaching up to eight Deaf people at a time how to live independently in their homes.

Events Calendar - IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Our Events (for member's only):

For more details on members coffee break or outings please contact Christina on (020) 8758 2048.

Saturday 28th November 2009, **Coffee Morning** held at Heath Court Sheltered Accommodation, Blenheim Gardens, Hounslow

Disability Network Hounslow, Annual General Meeting, 11th December, 1.30 - 4.30pm, Venue: Brentford Free Church, Contact: 0208 758 2048 to confirm you attendance.

ALL NEW FROM JANUARY 2010:

ALL NEW VENUE for BSL classes at Kew Bridge Steam Museum from Monday 18th January from 12.30pm – 1.30pm.

ALL NEW Advice Surgeries from 5th January

Our drop-in surgeries will now be held at new locations across Hounslow – please see our January newsletter for further details.

The Gurdwara outreach clinic will restart on Friday's at Hounslow Gurdwara, Alice Way (off Hanworth Road) from 2 - 4.30pm, and the floating advice clinic for residents in Hounslow sheltered accommodation.

Deaf Drop in services will be restarting every Wednesday from 6th January – new venue to be confirmed in January's newsletter.

More details to follow about exciting changes to Disability Network Hounslow in the new Year!

Contact Us - (Please note we will have new contact details from January 2010)

Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm

Advice, Information, & Management Administration

✉ www.disabilitynetworkhounslow.org

✉ Centre for Inclusive Living, 121 High Street,
Brentford, TW8 8AT

✉ 020 8758 2048 voice
020 8758 2065 minicom
020 8758 2014 fax

Company Limited by Guarantee 4542527

Registered Charity 1097010

Patron: Michael Knowles

Disclaimer:

All information is carefully checked but DNH cannot accept legal liability for any inaccuracies or omissions. DNH does not recommend or endorse any products or services mentioned and the views in the articles do not necessarily represent those of the organisation.

Funders: DNH would like to thank the London Borough of Hounslow, City Trust Fund & Lloyds TSB for their continuing support and all our members and supporters as well as those who make donations to our work.

Other formats: If you require this newsletter in large print, Braille or alternative languages please contact the office.