



Disability Backup

April 2012

Welcome to Disability Backup's Newsletter

Empowering, consulting and informing disabled people

Candoco Dance Company

A representative from Candoco Dance Company will be speaking at our April Forum.

Candoco Dance Company is a contemporary dance company of disabled and non-disabled dancers, founded in 1991 by Celeste Dandeker and Adam Benjamin. Dandeker, who had previously trained with The London Contemporary Dance Theatre suffered a fall whilst dancing on stage which resulted in a spinal injury that prevented her from dancing until choreographer Darshan Singh Buller persuaded her to dance again for the subsequently award-winning dance film *The Fall*. From this, Dandeker took inspiration to create Candoco, which, since its inception, has been creating an inclusive dance practice, and has subsequently won many awards.

At the heart of their work are national and international productions, created by experienced choreographers such as Rafeal Bonachela, Fin Walker, Siobhan Davies, Javier De Frutos, Stephen Petronio and Nigel Charnock amongst many others.

In 2008 Candoco took part in the Handover Ceremonies at the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games, representing Britain. It was the first time disabled artists

were present in both events in the history of the games. They are based at Aspire National training centre in Stanmore, North London.

Candoco recognises and celebrates the first-person experience of disability, not as a medical-model construct but as a social phenomenon, through artistic, literary, and other creative means.

Candoco are aware that there is significant unmet demand for arts activities for disabled people as we are often excluded from participating in every day life, particularly activities such as leisure facilities and the arts. Candoco challenges this and aims to make a difference. Through their work Candoco want to enhance the lives of disabled people and believe that with increased support they can raise the profile of disability.

Next Disability Backup Forum meeting

April 30th 2012 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Speakers

Representative — Candoco Dance Company

Representative — 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Unit

St Mathias Church Hall

Wordsworth Road,

London

N16 8DD

Buses: 149, 67, 243, 76,

Nearest Land Mark: Princess May School

Help with transport on request for people with mobility difficulties.

Promoting Independence

Everyone interested in the future of adult social care in Hackney is invited to the DBU workshop on 18th April at the Tab Centre (off Hackney Rd) from 1.30pm.

Senior managers and commissioners will be there to listen to your views on Hackney's priorities.

The Council aims to promote health and well being through the development of universal services, ensuring that it offers **'something for everyone,'** when needs do not meet the threshold for specialist care services.

It also plans to give priority in future service delivery to helping people recover, recuperate, and rehabilitate so that they are able to live as independently as possible.

Hackney expects to see a reduction in the number of people it is directly helping and an increase in the number of people being helped within their communities - with safeguarding arrangements as appropriate.

This means it expects more people to want to stay in their own homes living independently for longer, rather than entering residential care. Instead the Council hopes to see more people using personal budgets to meet their needs in the community. It is planning for more people to complete recovery and recuperation and using 'telecare' and other support to remain independent at home.

These are important changes. Come along and feed in your views on what you and your friends and family need !

Getting There

The DBU report on disabled people in Hackney and transport issues is now ready in draft form. The report, which is called '*Getting There,*' is based on the recent survey of members' experiences on issues such as pedestrian crossings, buses, street furniture, dial-a-ride and taxicard and so on. It has a long list of recommendations for changes to help disabled people get to where they want to go.

If you would like to comment on the report, so that changes are made before it is finalised, please let us know and we will let you have a copy of the draft.

Disabled People Against Cuts

On April 18th there will be an Action around benefit cuts, care funding and the loss of Remploy jobs.

Meet at 1.30 pm at McDonalds, Leicester Square. (Email your text contact details if definitely coming plus your access needs if any too.)

Contact mail@dpac.uk.net.
<http://www.dpac.uk.net/2012/03/april-18-1-30-london/>

2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

DBU member Ron Newman and project worker Carol Davis recently attended a consultation meeting with Helen Goodsell and Charlie Foreman from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Unit - Helen spoke at a recent meeting of the Forum.

The meeting discussed ways in which Disability Backup members would like to be involved with the 2012 festivities, and to improve communication between the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Unit and DBU.

Helen invited DBU members, who had not yet registered to volunteer for the Olympics and were still interested, to do so by contacting her on 0208 356 3975 or helen.goodsell@hackney.gov.uk. But time is short now, so if you are interested, please contact Helen as soon as possible.

DBU members are also invited to become involved in The One Hackney Festival on July 21st. The One Hackney Festival 2012 will coincide with Relay, a borough wide carnival event to welcome the Olympic

Flame. The festival will include a musical street parade along the Torch route and will end with an event at Clissold Park in Stoke Newington.

Accompanying the parade, will be a festival fringe that will extend the celebrations to Hackney's town centres with food, performance and music. The whole day will be a Hackney celebration, but will include special guests from across London, the UK and the rest of the world.

DBU members also have the opportunity to share in the excitement of the final build up to the Games whilst enjoying the carnival atmosphere of the One Hackney Festival 2012.

At our April Forum meeting a representative from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Unit is coming to give more information about the festivities. In the meantime if members are interested in participating in the One Hackney Festival then please let Carol know by **contacting 020 7241 5908 or by email: caroldavis@ageukhackney.org.uk**

Inspiring Employment

It has been some months since Martyn Sibley spoke to DBU members about Webinars' which looked at independent living, finding accessible accommodation, receiving social care and how to enjoy leisure or travel anywhere and everywhere.

Martyn knows about the challenges, difficulties and complexities of life. Martyn's work is reaching more people than ever, Disability Horizons received a great write up in the Guardian, his Webinars' series is gathering momentum and he is now working on other exciting projects such as TV presenting and volunteering abroad. Martyn's latest project is about Inspiring

Employment – this is a free an innovative online project for disability issues. The course provides disabled people, their friends, family and professionals with positive and practical information on employment and disability. The course last for 7 weeks and guides you through video interviews with 13 global contributors, video introductions filmed on location around London, and a range of resources in the form of external websites. All of this is with the aim to inspire, inform and change people's perceptions of disability in the world of employment.

If you think this course may be of interest to you, please register interest by logging on to: <http://ecourses.martynsibley.com/ie/>

No Go Britain Transport Access for Disabled People

In the first of a series of special reports on No Go Britain, Channel 4 looks at a growing campaign by disabled passengers pushing for a better deal on public transport.

Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, a Paralympian who won 16 medals during her career, told Channel 4 News that only a few weeks ago she was left on a train at midnight and forced to "throw my chair off the train and then crawl off."

The Baroness's story is not a unique one as disabled people and charities describe the transport service around Great Britain as shocking.

The law says that transport companies must make their networks accessible so that disabled people aren't 'discriminated against or harassed in relation to the use of transport services.' In practice, that often doesn't happen, for a wide variety of reasons, from the cost of upgrading networks to bad driver training.

If you would like to know more about No Go Britain, more information is available on: <http://www.channel4.com/news/no-go-britain-disabled-passengers-stranded-and-lost>

Direct Payments Forum

**April 18th 2012
10.30am—12.30pm**

Speaker: to be confirmed

**Tab Centre
Austin Street
off Hackney
Hackney
E2 7NT**

**Transport available on
request
Cal**

DBU Website

Take a look at DBU's dynamic new website, which includes an archive of DBU's work. The website is still under development and will not show upon a google search yet. Please have a look and let us know what you would like to see on the site: <http://www.disabilitybackup.org.uk/index.php>

**Age UK Hackney
22 Dalston Lane, E8 3AZ**

Email: caroldavis@ageukhackney.org.uk

DBU days

Mon: 1.30pm—5.30pm

Wed: 9.30am—5.30pm

Thurs: 9.30am—5.30pm

Fri: 9.30am—5.30pm

