

Global celebration

3rd December is the International Day of Disabled People. Since 1992 the United Nations have marked this day, to mobilise support for the dignity, rights and well-being of disabled people.

DBU will be marking this day here in Hackney with an event at the Hackney Museum. The museum staff will give us a guided tour of the exhibitions and there will be an opportunity to get involved in some arts-based activities exploring identity and work in Hackney.



Please meet us in the reception of the museum at 4pm on Wednesday 3 December (the event will end by 6pm) at 1 Reading Lane, Hackney E8 1GQ. The museum is inside Hackney Service Centre (nearest station Hackney Central or buses 30, 48, 55, 106, 236, 254, 276, 277 or 394 stop nearby). If you have any questions or need any assistance to attend, please contact Helen on 0207 241 5902 or helen.w@disabilitybackup.org.uk

DBU will also be marking the global celebration at our Forum meeting, which takes place on Tuesday 2 December. We will have tea and festive treats. Please join us and bring along a dish if you can. Details in the box opposite.

Next DBU Forum meeting

The next Forum Meeting will be on Tuesday 2 December at 1pm.

Councillor Philip Glanville will attend to discuss housing issues for disabled people in Hackney.

We will also mark the International Day of Disabled People (see opposite for more info) and have a mince pie, to celebrate the holiday season. Please bring along something tasty for the group if you can.

Before the Forum, we will be holding a meeting about Direct Payments. This will start at 10:30am in the same venue. You are welcome to join us for both meetings. We will provide a light lunch in-between the meetings.

**Next DBU Forum meeting:
Tuesday 2 December
1pm (ending at 3pm)
ELISE Centre, 24-30 Dalston Lane,
Hackney E8 3AZ**

Dalston Junction station is 2 minute walk away. Dalston Kingsland station is a 5 minute walk. Buses 30,38, 56 and 277 stop nearby. A limited amount of parking available on request.

If you have a Freedom pass, Taxicard, use Dial-a-Ride, or you can make your own travel arrangements, that will be greatly appreciated. Otherwise, help with transport is available on request. Contact Helen on 0207 241 5902.

Ron Newman 1959-2014

DBU planning team member, Anthony Larvin, pays tribute to Ron Newman who sadly passed away on 22 August.



The passing of Ron Newman was very sad news and our thoughts are with his wife Miriam and their three daughters and

grandson. Ron was a valued member of DBU's planning team and was involved in many other groups over the years, campaigning on a wide spectrum of disability issues. Ron represented the London Deaf and Disabled Network as a Greater London Authority representative from 1999-2010, which heavily influenced policies for disabled people. He chaired Disability Hackney for many years, was involved in deafPlus and the Cre8 Lifestyle Centre.

From 2010 he was involved with the London Olympic and Paralympic games as the Disability Co-ordinator to help make it the most accessible games ever, later becoming a Team Leader for the Park. He also played a part in organisations such as Scope and RADAR and won the human rights award person of the year. He enjoyed the odd cheeky pint in his local, which he campaigned to be able to access! We remember Ron's enthusiasm and energy to tackle a vast array of issues, despite his complex health issues.

He suffered a series of strokes recently and despite these he continued his volunteer work. This relentless drive to help others before his own, he will always be remembered for.

On a family holiday a few years back he faced some difficulties with accessing all the facilities, so consequently the owner invited him back to improve these. Just one more example, so cheers to you Ron Newman.

Norris (Buzz) Johnson

DBU was sad to hear of the passing of Buzz Johnson, regular attendee of our Forum. Buzz was the founder of Karia Press, an African-Caribbean publishing initiative. He was a celebrated author, publishing a "landmark" book in 1984 'I Think of My Mother: Notes on the Life and Times of Claudia Jones' about the feminist black nationalist and 'mother' of the Notting Hill carnival. He was also an original member of the award-winning Ebony Steel Band. Buzz's community work included with the Hackney Black People's Association and he also set up the Claudia Jones Organisation in Stoke Newington to provide support for women and families of African-Caribbean heritage.



Place fit for a King?

Anthony Larvin, DBU's lead on culture and leisure, reports on the accessibility of Kings Place.

Kings Place is an award winning arts centre that features exhibitions and performances from book readings to photography shows and a diverse program of music. It is located at 90 York Way, alongside the tracks of Kings Cross and Regents Canal. I recently visited for a performance of Dylan Howe's Subterranean and report my experience of accessibility at the venue.



This area is rapidly changing and currently transport direct to this venue will need a bit of planning, but it's well worth it! The number 30 bus from Hackney stops outside Kings Cross station (less than 5mins walk away). York Way is a one way road so taking the 259 bus for example, arriving at the venue would be via stop K on Caledonian Road which is a considerable distance, although technically behind the venue!



My top tip is if you are arriving by pavement rather than a taxi direct to the entrance, with Kings Cross behind you as you approach the corner of the building, leave the public pavement before it becomes divided by a barrier and go along the path directly alongside the building. Here it gradually slopes to the entrance rather than the longer double ramp by the canal side.

The facilities here are modern and staff, on the whole, are well trained and excellent. I did need to ensure my seating was suitable when I arrived to avoid disrupting the performance when it began. A senior member of staff was fairly blunt when assuring me I didn't need to.

Later on when I requested a radar key from the same member to use the accessible toilet, I was told I could only use it if I had brought my own key and to use the accessible cubicle in the general convenience. I welcome these inclusive cubicles, but this one did not have any roll down bars so I could not use it. So another top tip is not to forget your key or ask another staff member if you get a similar reply! I have been here a few times and although this remark was disappointing it was a very rare and isolated incident, I hope!

Upcoming events

Firework display

**Saturday 8 November, from 5pm,
Clissold Park, Stoke Newington**

Join the first public fireworks display in Clissold Park for 10 years! The display will be synchronized to music alongside illuminated stilt-walkers, an aerialist performing in an 11m-high installation, fire-walkers, plus food and drink stalls on this family-friendly bill. Tickets for Hackney residents cost £7.50 for adults and £2.50 for children (£8.50 and £3.50 for non-residents). Tickets available at the Hackney Empire box office on 020 8985 2424 or www.hackneyempire.co.uk. Please note, there are no parking facilities.



Best Poetry of London

Monday 1 December, 7pm, Kings Place

To mark the 25th anniversary of Poetry London magazine, this celebratory Launch Event and Fundraiser will include readings from distinguished contributors to the anthology. £6.50 at 90 York Way, Kings Cross (see article overleaf about Kings Place). Tickets at www.kingsplace.co.uk or call 020 7520 1490.

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And finally...

Help DBU win £500!

DBU has been shortlisted in the Nationwide Building Society's Community Match Scheme. We recently received a letter from Nationwide saying we had been shortlisted and a cheque for £100. We now have a chance to win a further £500.

DBU will be displayed in local Nationwide branches until the end of December 2014, and customers will have the chance to vote on which local cause they want Nationwide to make a further £500 donation to. If you are able to pop in to the Nationwide Building Society in Holloway, Hackney, Tottenham, Edmonton or Wood Green, please vote for us!

Local Nationwide branches are at:

- 374 Mare Street, Hackney, E8 1HS
- 491 High Road, Tottenham, N17 6QT
- 190 Fore Street, Edmonton, N18 2JA
- 25 High Road, Wood Green, N22 6BH
- 23 Seven Sisters Rd, Holloway, N7 6AW

Thank you for your support and fingers crossed!

Training for support workers

DBU planning team members Maureen Ford and John Thornton, as well as Joan Foley from POWHER (an organisation for people with learning impairments), have been asked to assist in the training of reablement support workers, who will be providing care at home to people after discharge from hospital. This three day training event will be piloted in November. It is hoped that, through involving service users in the training of support workers and their managers, that the service provided will be more person centred and based around the needs of the individual. We will report back in a future edition of the newsletter, once the training is rolled out.