



April 2018 Newsletter

Goosecroft Centre Activities



All the activities are well attended and we have just published the dates for the Drop-in and activities from 18th April until 18th July 2018. If you want a list please have a look at our website: www.northallertonmencap.org.uk or our facebook page for more information. You can also get a list on request from the Mencap office 01609 778894.

New developments are planned in April to include an extra cookery course to run on Mondays from 1pm to 3pm. The Tuesday course continues to be very popular with places full for the next course starting in April. This course is from 10am to 12pm, if you are interested to know more contact the Mencap Office. Watch out for the Goosecroft Bakery coming soon.

If you are interested in the Ipad Club which runs on Friday mornings from 10am to 12pm we are taking bookings for the next course beginning on 20th April 2018.



Annual General Meeting

Northallerton and the Dales Mencap Society will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Monday 21st May 2018 at the Goosecroft Centre, Goosecroft Lane, Northallerton. Refreshments will be served from 7pm for a prompt start at 7.30pm. Please come along and hear about the work of the local society and find out what we have been doing since we moved back into the newly extended and refurbished building last May. After the business meeting there will be a presentation about the new Royal Mencap campaign called 'Treat Me Well' which is about improving treatment in hospitals for people who have a learning disability. We feel that it important to support this campaign locally and we want to make sure that our health colleagues work in partnership with us to assure the best quality care possible.



Website: Find useful information on the Northallerton Mencap website: www.northallertonmencap.org.uk such as the 'Preparing for Adulthood' information booklet from North Yorkshire County Council. Let us know what you think.



Mencap Campaign – Sleep in Crisis

The sleep-ins crisis, what this means for Mencap and other care providers and the potential impact on people with a learning disability

What's the problem?

The Government set out guidelines for how people should be paid. It said that people should be paid a flat rate for a sleep-in. Recently, a number of support workers have taken their employers to employment tribunals to challenge how they are paid for sleep-in shifts.

The tribunals ruled that support workers should be paid the hourly minimum wage for these shifts, with **up to 6 years back pay**.

This is good news for our support workers, but has created a problem for Mencap and other organisations because they weren't given the money to pay them.

Therefore, since 1 April 2017, Mencap has ensured that all sleep-in staff are paid **at least** the National Minimum Wage, for the vital work they do. But Mencap and other providers think the Government should pay for the 6 years back pay, because Mencap and other care providers weren't given the money and can't afford it.

Why Mencap is campaigning

To be really clear, this is not because Mencap and other care providers don't want to pay our hardworking carers. Mencap currently pays its entire staff at least the National Minimum Wage, including sleep-ins, and is committed to paying that in future.

This problem is the 6 years back pay.

This will cost care organisations around £400 million. The bill for Mencap alone is around £20 million.

This will mean that some care providers will go bust, with people losing their jobs or care. For charities like Mencap, it will mean that they won't be able to provide all the other services like employment support or help for families.

We think this is unfair. If the Government doesn't pay for this, people with a learning disability will be badly affected.

What can you do about it? Sign Mencap's petition:

<http://e-activist.com/eaaction/action?ea.client.id=78&ea.campaign.id=74791&ea.tracking.id=web>

Mencap has created a [petition](#) to protect vital support for thousands of disabled people, sign the petition today to help us keep vulnerable people safe.

The petition aims to **#StopSleepInCrisis** by calling on the Government to fix the problem that they have caused.

Hambleton Boccia Club

Hambleton Boccia club travelled to Gateshead leisure centre on the 11th of March to compete in the national Heathcoat cup Boccia competition.

13 Hambleton Boccia club members took part in the competition, some of which had never played competitive Boccia before. All participants did remarkably well.

6 participants qualified to the quarter finals from their group games, which meant that they had the highest point scores in the groups that they were competing in, which allowed them to qualify.

4 of the participants unfortunately didn't qualify for the semi-finals, but all gave a very good account of themselves in the quarter final matches in which they played, the majority narrowly missing out on advancing further in the competition.

2 of our club players made it to the semi-final in the BC6 category (for people with a physical impairment)

Unfortunately they both had to play against one another in the semi-final, a very good game was played between the two, with Joe McKechnie running out the eventual winner, with the final score of 4-3.

Joe advanced to the Final where he was given a great game, he lost his first end 5-0, in the second end pulled the score back to 5-4, in the 3rd end he took the lead 5-9, in the last end it looked like he had given away 5 points, but the referee claimed that the opponent had only won by 4 balls, which was a huge relief, meaning the 4th end was tied at 9-9. A tie breaker was needed to break the draw and Joe managed to win the tie breaker by 1 sole point.

Joe has now booked his place to compete in London at the national Boccia finals against the best Boccia players in the UK for 2018.

This is Joe with his gold medal. Joe does a great job of supporting people with disabilities to access a range of sporting opportunities.



website and Facebook:

We have a facebook page and a website.
Have a look and let us know what you think.

Find us on: www.northallertonmencap.org.uk or search on [facebook](#)

From the Chairman Frits Rab:

The Mencap Big Tea Party was a great success. Through it we raised a splendid £700. It was great that so many people came including our local MP Rishi Sunak and his wife Akshata, two Councillors Mrs Caroline Dickinson and Mrs Isabel Sanderson and the Mayor of Northallerton Mr John Forrest. The enthusiasm of the Hands and Voices choir added enormously to the occasion and the teas went down a treat. All in all, a splendid occasion which would not have been possible without all the voluntary help we received and the many contributions towards the tombola prizes and other stalls. Your support is very much appreciated; thank you on behalf of all our beneficiaries.



Photographs:

The queue for the café.

Neil with his Easter chicks.

Debbie with her attractive stall of homemade Easter items.