

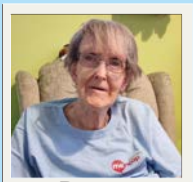
Spring Newsletter 2023

Easy
Read



Members Committee

Thanet



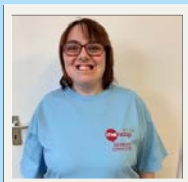
Pat

Housing



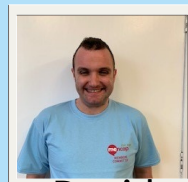
Natasha

Margate Hub



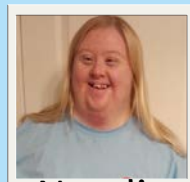
Amy

Margate Hub
and Community



David

Ramsgate Hub



Natalie

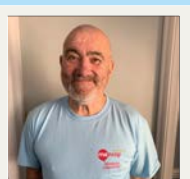
Ramsgate Hub

Herne Bay



Ellie

Hub



Paul

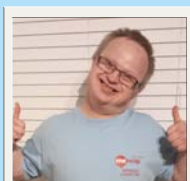
Housing and
Community

Swale



Laurie

Housing



Neil

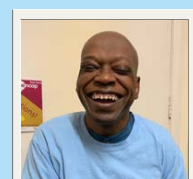
Housing



Ian

Hub

Deal



Stephen

Housing

GOLD



Ben



If you have something to share get in touch with a committee member or email memberscommittee@eastkentmencap.co.uk



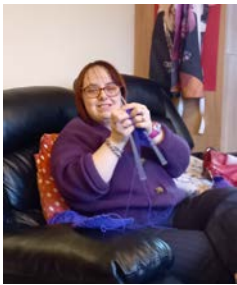
Hello from our CEO Jason Gerlack



Welcome to the new easy read Spring newsletter



2023 is East Kent Mencap's 75th anniversary. We have lots of activities planned throughout the year to celebrate



I am inspired by the amazing Spring Forward Challenges you have set for yourself



The new roof at Foresters Hall Ramsgate is complete. We are putting in new toilets next which will take up to 6 weeks. Thank you for your patience



We have received National Lottery funding to support a further three years of the GOLD project. Great news!



The last few weeks have been tough with COVID outbreaks and Hub closures but we got through it together



I am thrilled to hear about so many of your recent achievements. Read on to find out more



Wishing you all a very Happy Easter
Best wishes
Jason

Members Committee News



David: I joined as the representative for Thanet Hub Ramsgate



Members Committee Representatives Co-chair Tenant and Members meetings without staff from the service present



Natasha, Amy, and Ellie: We are very excited that supporter t-shirts are now available to buy featuring our three designs. We watched the t-shirts being printed. We have orders in already. If you would like to buy a t-shirt just ask us



We supported Kent County Council by completing surveys about the accessibility of the Adult Social Care webpages and the Kent Connect To Support website. We hope the feedback was helpful



We are working with NHS Kent on a project to support people's annual health checks. We mailed out a survey to over 400 members of East Kent Mencap



Following our request for new recycling systems in Ramsgate and Margate Hub these are now in place. We are now looking at ways to reduce printing



Natalie: The builder's van at Foresters Hall was blocking the dropped curb access. I reported it to staff. The builders apologised and parked elsewhere

Spring Forward Challenge



The Spring Forward Challenge has launched. It was originally inspired by Committee Representative Stephen



Look who has already signed up

Kathy - I am doing a walking challenge

Natasha and Lucy - We are doing a dance together

Kirk - I am doing a coastal walk around Thanet

Amy - I am knitting squares for a patchwork



Sam - I am making a pom-pom rug

Nicola - I am creating a tapestry

David - I have set myself a cycling goal



Paul - I am doing a sponsored chest wax

Pierre - I have already completed my first puzzle challenge



The challenge started on 1 April and runs for the whole month so there is still time to join us



Download your 'Taking Part' pack at www.eastkentmencap.co.uk/support/spring-forward-challenge-2023



Ask your Member Committee Representative or Support Worker for more details

Our stories



Ben: I represented East Kent Mencap at a Kent County Council meeting to request funding for our GOLD project



Tina: I went to the Charity Film Award ceremony on 21 March in London with Iona, Vicki, and Lisa. The East Kent Mencap Jubilee Celebration Film was a finalist in the awards. It was a fabulous evening. We didn't win but were very proud to attend



Natasha: I went with Fiona and Jane to Foreland Fields School What's Next transition event and talked to students, parents, and teachers about East Kent Mencap



Stephen: I went to Victoria Hospital in Deal to give feedback on its accessibility as part of a Health Watch and EK360 project. I was impressed with the service that they provided



Ian: Our Swale Community Engagement Group went to Bluewater to collect a gift card. It was given to us as part of their Christmas Appeal

Our stories



We liked having the virtual sessions when the Hubs were closed during the recent COVID outbreak. It was great to still see our friends



David: I wrote a letter to the Member of Parliament Roger Gale asking for disabled bus passes to start before 9.30am. We currently must pay if we travel before this time



Joyce: I have a new wet room and I am very happy with it. It is so much easier than having a bath. Thank you

Events



Thank you Tris for the fantastic virtual discos. We all really enjoy them. Join the Easter virtual disco on Friday 7 April from 6pm to 8pm. Email info@eastkentmencap.co.uk to receive a link



Paul W: I was the DJ with Tris at the recent Ashford discos. It was great fun. The next Ashford event is a Music Quiz on Friday 21 April from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at St Francis Hall



To celebrate the anniversary there will be a Fun Day on Thursday 3 August at Herne Bay Hub. More information will follow soon

EKM Photo Gallery



Email your photos to funds@eastkentmencap.co.uk for inclusion in our next newsletter



Get in touch



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