



## Theatre Arts for Children with Learning Difficulties

Bamboozle, a theatre company in Leicester, provides opportunities for young people with a range of learning difficulties to reach their potential using access to theatre arts. They work with schools and family groups, by delivering workshops of 2/3 days at theatre venues.

During these projects, Bamboozle set up an environment with a design theme. In the past they have used 'the farmyard' theme which involved bales of hay and different sensory elements. Bamboozle gives the parents and carers of children with learning difficulties the time to notice the responses, because the students do respond but not in an obvious way.

Bamboozle's methodology is quite unique in that it's been developed over a period of time and draws upon a variety of elements.

'Creating an amazing multisensory environment (for the students) is a big part of what we do, and at the

end of the week this can have a really positive effect on a student's self confidence.' At the end of each week's work, parents, teachers and other students are invited to 'a sharing' to show the work they have produced.

A monthly newsletter called 'Bamboozle Bites' can be found on their website. Sign up for free at [www.bamboozletheatre.co.uk](http://www.bamboozletheatre.co.uk)

Bamboozle Theatre Company,  
Unit 10 St Mary's Works, 115 Burnmoor Street, Leicester LE2 7JL

Tel 0116 255 2065 Mobile 07789 157764



## Fantastic Launch to the Games

The Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics will be held at Leicester City Football Club's Walkers Stadium at 6.30pm on Saturday 25th July 2009. The ceremony will be a fantastic launch to the Games. Highlights of the night include the parade of the 2,700 athletes competing in the Games, and the

Special Olympics torch lighting the flame to mark the Games. Tickets are limited so buy your ticket now and you will be able to say you were there! It will be an unforgettable evening. Tickets have been priced accordingly to ensure the local community can attend and enjoy the celebrations. Adults: £5 Children: £1 Concessions: £3. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased in person from the Leicester City Football Club or by telephone 0844 8155000 email [ticket.sales@lfc.co.uk](mailto:ticket.sales@lfc.co.uk). More details on [www.sol2009.com](http://www.sol2009.com)

## ASDA to sell disability living aids



Supermarket chain ASDA has become the first in the UK to sell living aids aimed at disabled and older people in April 2009.

75 ASDA stores are now stocking 15 products including mobility aids such as folding wheelchairs and walking sticks, as well as urine bottles, tap turners and easy handle pans.

The disability living aids products will be sold under the brand Mobilease, developed by businessman Dermot McLaughlin.

This new move will be welcomed by a vast number of disabled and older people, as a part of the solution to living safely and independently at home.

Pamela Martin, senior buyer for ASDA, said such products "are incredibly important for a large number of our customers."

ASDA currently have 17 million customers a week

## Job club to help deaf people



It is already hard enough finding a job during the recession - but imagine if you were deaf.

A deaf job club has been established at Apex, 74 – 76 Charles Street, Leicester which runs every Wednesday from 1.30pm to 4.30pm.

Some deaf people face difficulties in looking for training and employment, because their literacy may not be equivalent to hearing peers, and Apex is able to provide this extra support.

Marilyn Haywood, a part time assistant at Apex & also a BSL interpreter, said: "We have a team at Apex who specialise in supporting deaf people with their CVs and job applications and we also offer interview practice and job searches."

**There are more than 19,000 people out of work in the county. Deaf people are twice as likely to be unemployed according to DWP.**



## Do you qualify for Attendance Allowance benefit?

People aged 65 or over are being urged to find out if they can claim Attendance Allowance. Age Concern Leicestershire & Rutland has joined forces with Leicestershire County Council, to reach out to help elderly people find out if they are eligible for the benefit.

Attendance Allowance is a tax-free benefit for people aged 65 or over who need help with personal care because they are physically or mentally disabled. The current rate for Attendance Allowance is £47 (lower rate) or £70 (high rate) per week.

**To see if you qualify for Attendance Allowance, call Age Concern on 0116 299 2233 between 1.30pm - 4pm Monday to Friday for more information**



## Sight as well as Hearing loss

Sense is a national charity that supports and campaigns for children and adults who are deafblind. 'Deafblindness' is a combination of both sight and hearing difficulties. The Government recognizes that people with dual sensory impairment may not be able to benefit from mainstream services and require specialized consideration and support. Two Sense outreach workers operate in Leicestershire and are able to visit and support people who have been identified to them

as needing help because they are deafblind. There is a lack of awareness that older people with both sight and hearing loss are entitled to specialist support which can improve their quality of life. We can also support families who have a deafblind child, and young adults who are leaving school and moving on. We can also meet with groups or professionals who work with people who are deaf/blind in order to raise awareness of deafblindness. Contact [burt.mcneill@sense.org.uk](mailto:burt.mcneill@sense.org.uk) 07739084111 [anne.palmer@sense.org.uk](mailto:anne.palmer@sense.org.uk) 07847352327 or Sense in Leicestershire 0845 127 0060 email:[info@sense.org.uk](mailto:info@sense.org.uk)

**Need computer skills?** If you require additional support due to your disability, then why not sign up for a free computer training course at Leicestershire Centre for Integrated Living who offer:-

- Courses for 16 – 25 year olds
- Specialised software and equipment
- Work at your own pace
- As much support as you need

For further details please contact Geoff or Michelle at LCIL, 5-9 Upper Brown Street, Leicester, LE1 5TE  
Tel: 0116 222 5005 Fax: 0116 222 5008 Minicom 0116 222 5007 email: [admin@lcil.org.uk](mailto:admin@lcil.org.uk)

## Free Swimming

for under 16s and over 60s at any of the council's seven pools. For over 60s, the following activities are also free: aerobics, badminton, squash and gym sessions.

## The Card...Saving You Pounds

The 'Card' is a discount card operated by Leicester City Council offering savings on leisure activities across Leicester.

For more information check out

[www.leicester.gov.uk/sports](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/sports)

## Breaking down Technology Barriers

CareOnLine, provided by Leicestershire County Council, help older people, people with disabilities and carers benefit from using computers and the Internet. CareOnLine said

"With a computer you can find information without leaving home, communicate with family and friends or have shopping delivered to the door. We can provide advice on equipment, and help getting started. Training is available for people in the county who are unable to leave home. Our website is very easy to use and has been developed specially to meet the needs of older people, people with disabilities and carers. Our 'Grapevine' chatroom gives people the chance to contact each other, and talk about anything they like." Here is what some have to say about using their computers after receiving help from CareOnLine:

*"Thank you for getting me online - it's a lifeline!"*

*"Having the use of a computer has made an enormous difference to my life. My illness no longer prevents me from shopping as I can shop online."*

For more info telephone: 0116 305 7538

email: [leicestershirecareonline@leics.gov.uk](mailto:leicestershirecareonline@leics.gov.uk)

[www.leicscareonline.org.uk](http://www.leicscareonline.org.uk)



# deaf

## Deaf Festival

4th – 10th May 2009 is Deaf Awareness Week

throughout the UK, and to celebrate this Action Deafness is hosting a Deaf Festival at their centre in Leicester.

Action Deafness created the festival to celebrate Leicester's lively Deaf community and to raise awareness about deafness.

The event is aimed at deaf, deafened, hard of hearing and deafblind people in the area, as well as their friends and relatives.

Lauren at Action Deafness said "Action Deafness wanted an event that celebrated our Deaf community; an event where both Deaf people and hearing people interested in deafness could mix together, have fun and get useful information relevant to them". A variety of organisations have been invited to attend the event, such as Leicester City and County Councils, RNID, Leicester City PCT, Signature, NDCS, Leicestershire Constabulary, Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, The Ear Foundation, Hearing Concern Link and more!

There will also be refreshments, cake sale, fun games for all the family, signed singing performances and workshops.

**The event is FREE and will be held from 1pm – 5pm on Saturday 9th May at Action Deafness, 135 Welford Road, Leicester. Come and join us!**

# festival

 vista



 mosaic:   
shaping disability services

## FORCE 4 CHANGE - OUR LIFE, OUR WAY

Force 4 Change was set up with aim to develop a social care user forum for disabled people, designed and led by disabled people. Three local disability organisations - Mosaic, Vista and Action Deafness have joined forces to encourage and support this innovative venture. The aim of the group is to provide an opportunity, for those that wish to identify the gaps in the services provided under the Adult Social Care Policy and make their opinions known. Meetings are held at Action Deafness, 135 Welford Rd, Leicester at 11am - 3pm. Lunch is provided. The venue is fully accessible and interpreters are available. The dates of the meetings are as follows: 30TH MAY, 27TH JUNE, 25TH JULY and 22ND AUG. Contact Liz Harrison for information Tel:07525233863 Email [force4change2008@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:force4change2008@yahoo.co.uk)

## Access and Enjoyment for all at Curve Theatre

The design team at the Curve have worked hard to combine enjoyment and involvement for the whole community. Time and effort has gone into making your visit one of just watching or getting involved in workshops offering the chance to perform, design or work with technicians, alongside the professionals.

The building is designed to include access for all. Those with wheelchairs have access to all floors. The ticket office, bar and food areas all have low level counters. Disabled visitors who bring helpers are allowed a free ticket and space for a guide dog. There is wheelchair space in all the auditoriums.

Visually impaired people can book free headsets for an 'audio described' performance. You can book in advance copies of the brochure in Braille or large print. Some performances have a 'Touch Tour' 90 minutes before the start where you can go on stage and touch the props and costume to get a feel for the performance.

Hearing impaired people are provided with signed and captioned performances. Induction loops are in the bar, ticket office and theatre areas. In the auditorium and studio there is an 'Infrared System' which uses a headset (free from the ticket office) to increase the volume levels. Tickets and information: [www.curveonline.co.uk](http://www.curveonline.co.uk) / 0116 242 3595.



Photographs: Will Pryce

### InfoXchange

- an independent information service

for parents/carers of children with special needs or a disability in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

The Database and Information Service provide information about various organisations and services relevant to disabled children and their families.

When you join the database you will receive an information pack and a regular newsletter.

Contact: Database and Information Service,  
Freepost MID30929, Leicester LE3 6ZJ  
Tel: 0116 223 2295 [www.infochange.org.uk](http://www.infochange.org.uk)

### Have you tried to claim Housing and Council Tax Benefit but find getting to Wellington House reception impossible?



The Housing Benefit team provide a Visiting Service if you are unable to get to a Council office to sort out your Housing Benefit. The Visits team, based at Wellington House, 22-30 Wellington Street, can complete Housing and Council Tax benefit forms and verify any supporting information from your own home.

The team is committed to arranging home visits within ten days of receiving your request.

If you have difficulty getting to Wellington House and need help to make a claim please contact the Visits Team by telephone on (0116) 238 5332

### Website Review

#### [www.suesdirectpayments.org.uk](http://www.suesdirectpayments.org.uk)

A very clear and informative site about how Sue became a Direct Payment recipient and by having control of her own money and the freedom to choose what to do, has really changed her life beyond recognition...

**What can I borrow? How do I join? How much will it cost?** Find out more at:-

**Central Lending** Belvoir Street (opposite Fenwicks) Tel: (0116) 299 5402

**Central Learning & Information (Reference)**

Bishop Street (Town Hall Sq) Tel: (0116) 299 5401

**Age Concern Library** Clarence House 46 Humberstone Gate Tel: (0116) 222 0580

**Leicester Libraries' Home Library Service** Telephone (0116) 299 5465

Enjoy  
Leicester  
Libraries

#### Next Issue: 1st July 2009

Contact: Dzine @ Citizens' Eye Community News Agency,  
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