



# Shropshire Disability Network

Your Voice, Your Connections

[www.shropshire-disability.net](http://www.shropshire-disability.net)

Registered Charity Number 114825

Email: [secretary@shropshire-disability.net](mailto:secretary@shropshire-disability.net)

## **Minutes of SDN Quarterly Members meeting held on 9th June 2016 at University Centre, Frankwell, and Shrewsbury, commencing 11 am**

1 Introduction - Ruby Hartshorn took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting. In particular she mentioned Jo and Jess who had their second book with them Jess the Goth Fairy.

### **She raised the following points:**

There was no fire alarm planned and if anyone didn't want to be in photographs they should say.

The university had sponsored today's meeting and SDN are very grateful for their support.

Copies of an easy to read EU referendum booklet are available today.

**Present** – 25 – See attached list. **Apologies** – 18 – See attached list.

### **2 Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting on 10th March 2016 were reviewed.

The minutes were accepted. (Proposed: Philip Kent, seconded: Andrea Jones)

**3 Matters Arising:** The Hydrotherapy pool was raised with Jessica Lightwood, she stated that no progress had been made to date for Shrewsbury; Quarry users were waiting for survey results. She was talking to Severndale Academy about community use and would keep us advised.

### **4 Chairpersons' Report**

Ruby presented the following report: She was particularly proud that SDN had won another Mayors award this time Gold for its work in the community. Safe Places had also received a Gold award too & won the Community shield outright. Jill Buckley a member accompanied her to the award ceremony. The SDN website was posting around 10 new items a week, currently 3 consultations on



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there. There were ongoing problems with the Newsletter as our editor was still poorly. Ian our deputy Chair was trying to put one together but the Management Committee felt an editorial team would be best solution. Signposting was increasing and becoming more complicated especially when benefits concerned. Safe Places had signed up 2 new towns and have over 300 places including The Street Pastors. We are still involved with the Shropshire Inclusively Fit Project. 2 PRH awareness days had taken place and a coffee meeting in Oswestry and some talks.

We hosted the Boccia Bowls tournament at See and Hear Exhibition with lots of help from Shrewsbury College. We also had our own stand at this event. We have been working with CAB to help for people who have become very depressed as a result of Austerity & the impact it is having not only on their disability but impacting seriously in other ways.

Finally she thanked all Committee members for their help and all the volunteers that had helped. She appealed for new members for the Committee for the AGM.

## **5 Treasurers Report**

Ruby presented the attached report. She stated that our Treasurer Erica Staples would be able to join us from July after her retirement. She paid particular attention to Helen Freedman who had run the marathon in London on behalf of SDN.

## **6 Guest Speakers**

The first speaker was Katrina Gilman who is the Equality and Diversity officer for Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin & lead for Hate Crime. She talked about how difficult it was to get people to report it. There are many reasons for this, including the fact that some individuals do not see themselves as having a disability. Some victims of Hate Crime are unwilling to report as they fear repercussions, or they believe the police will do nothing. Hate Crime is one of Katrina's priorities.

She has found that the biggest emerging issue is dementia. An ageing population and better diagnosis is increasing the number of people living with dementia. Katrina is a Dementia Champion and is trained to deliver sessions in the area. The numbers of Hate Crimes reported are low especially regarding disability but the impact is high. It can affect an individual, a family and a community. She



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urged anyone witnessing a Hate Crime to report it and to encourage victims to come forward.

After an informative talk there was a lively question and answer section.

**Members broke for coffee and networking before the next speaker.**

The second speaker was Kerrie Berroyer who gave an emotional and informative talk about her experience with autism. She has a son, Jeorge, who has non-verbal communication problems. She has set up her own business to help others

She shared her experiences with the meeting. When Jeorge was born, she recognised the need to reach further into her hearts. Jeorge is autistic, non-verbal and incredibly sensitive to energy and stimulus of people, animals and environment.

Until then communicating with children has been second nature. Sharing a life with a non-verbal person meant she needed to learn a new language; his language.

Watching Jeorge engage with the world is intriguing and sometimes challenging. She decided to step into his world, supporting his sensory needs. This took time and a lot of patience, letting go of expectations she had once had.

Since doing this she have discovered skills and insights into a world that was once unknown to her.

The many behaviours of Jeorge have over the years become clear to her, as to why he holds his ears, stims (flaps) and sometimes walks in different ways. She has met many people on the spectrum over the last 10 years, all of whom were kind enough to teach her 'their' autism. Her intention is to share with everyone her personal experiences within the autism realm and share those that have been shown to her by others. Her website is [www.dazlious.com](http://www.dazlious.com)



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Ruby thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The raffle raised £27.00. Thank you to those who donated prizes.

**The next meeting is our AGM on: 22nd September 2016 at Oswestry Cricket Club, agenda to be circulated nearer the date.**

..... Approved

.....Prepared by

.....Date



THE place for information on disability throughout Shropshire.  
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