

Spring  
2012

# SPEAK UP

Newsletter from Manchester People First

## Drama Group



The first performance from  
The Edge Expressive Theatre  
Company was a big  
success – see page 8  
for the full story!



People First's Got Talent



See page 3

*The Voice of the Learning Disabled*

## What we do

Manchester People First is run by and for learning disabled adults and is independent of all services.

We give training, support and advice to learning disabled adults and professionals and campaign for disabled peoples rights.

## Contact us

Manchester People First  
3 Broughton Street  
Cheetham Hill  
Manchester  
M8 8RF

Phone or Fax (0161) 839-3700

Email: [mcrpeoplefirst@googlemail.com](mailto:mcrpeoplefirst@googlemail.com)

Website: [www.manpf.org](http://www.manpf.org)

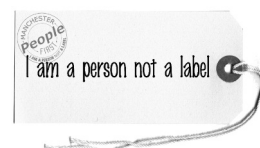
## Our directors

Louisa Burton  
Edward Kane  
Shirley Ryder



## Staff

Stephen Hughes  
Andy Needle  
David Dunnico  
Kath Carey  
Derek Owen  
Barry Hills  
Jodie Deegan  
Stephen Blake  
Louise Crowley  
Rosie Cairns  
Christopher Kenny  
Nora Gardner  
Louise Wilson  
Delroy Sterling  
John Bee



Manchester People First is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, number 6339300. We are a registered charity, number 1124426.

## We've got talent show



People First, Opal and the Shaw Centre proved they had the 'X-Factor' when we held our 'People First's Got Talent' show on 16 February. Nearly 20 acts got up in front of the tough judges from Venture Arts and the Edge. Six finalists went through to a second round. Runners Up were Michael from Venture Arts who sang Shane Ward's "That's My Goal" and Paul Brannick with Irene Cara's "Flashdance". But there could only be one winner and that was Melissa Ward who wowed the audience with "Shout" by Lulu. The judges gave a special award to the Shaw Centre's Abba tribute. **A big thank you to the Royal Exchange Theatre Company for their kind donation of 4 tickets for 'Lady Windermere's Fan for the winner and runner up.**

### Janet Wyatt

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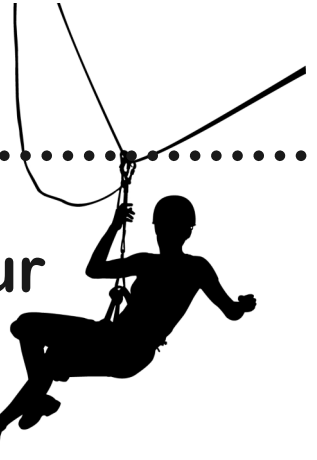


We are sorry to have to tell you that Janet Wyatt passed away on 19 December.

She was born on 30 July 1956 and was a member of Manchester People First, Opal and The Shaw Centre. She will be sadly missed by all our members and staff.



# Notice Board



## Social Football



Come along and have a game of football, every Friday night from 4.30 until 6pm.

Wear suitable clothing; warm clothes if its cold, sporty trainers, no jeans etc. Football trainers are preferred but moulded boots are OK.  
£2 per person including drink.

Nicholls Campus  
Hyde Road  
Ardwick  
Manchester  
M12 6BA

If you are coming, call before your first session to keep things nice and organised.

Ring Martin on his mobile:

**0785 553 0197**

Leave a message if no answer.



Wednesday  
28 March Pub Lunch  
25 April Bus Museum  
30 May 10 Pin Bowling

## Sponsor our adventure day

We are spending the day with Adventures Are Us on the zip wire and orienteering to raise money. Please give whatever you can. We need to raise £150 each to take part.

Saturday 31 March  
Meet at 10am at  
Burbage Bridge Car park  
Ringinglow Road,  
North Derbyshire, S11 7TS  
(2 miles up the road  
west of The Norfolk Arms)



**Become a FaceBook fan of Manchester People First**



**'Communarty' Arts Exhibition**

See our member's project work  
9 February to 4 April  
Nexus Arts Cafe  
Dale Street  
Manchester  
M1 1JW

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# Lounge@3

**Over 50?**

Monday evenings 5pm – 9pm

Contact us to find out more

0161 839 3700

[www.loungeat3.wordpress.com](http://www.loungeat3.wordpress.com)



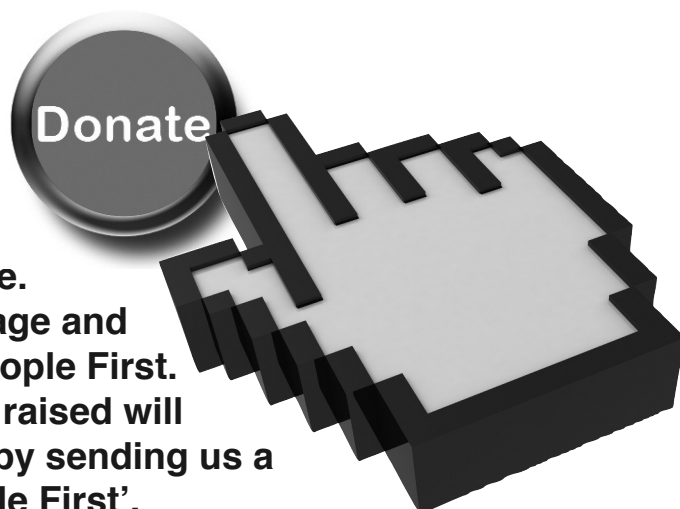
[www.clubat3.wordpress.com](http://www.clubat3.wordpress.com)

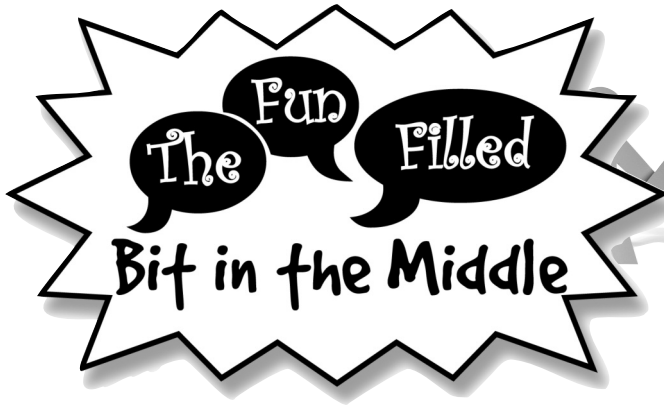


You can download our annual report from our web site, or get in touch if you want a print copy.

## Can you help us?

We have added a new feature to our website. Click on the 'Donate' button on our homepage and you can make a donation to Manchester People First. We are a registered charity and any money raised will go towards our work. You can also donate by sending us a cheque made payable to 'Manchester People First'.





## Louise's Top 5 Gigs

1. Avril Lavigne
2. Linkin Park
3. JLS
4. Melanie C
5. Jamiroquai

## What in Manchester is this building?



**Afleck's Palace**

## Name the logo



**Android phones**

## Chris's Top 5 Drinks

1. Guinness
2. Lemonade
3. Wine
4. Tea
5. Smoothies





**This year is our 20th anniversary.**  
**Since 1992 Manchester People First have been at the heart of self advocacy.**  
**See the back page and join in with our celebrations.**

## Our new 20th anniversary logo

We are keeping our round MPF logo, but this year we will also be using a special logo to celebrate 20 years.

Committee members looked at three different designs and picked the 'hand tree' logo. We hope you like it.



### Steve's Top 5 Gadgets

1. iPhone
2. iPad
3. Nintendo DS
4. MacBook
5. Xbox





# New Drama Group tell us about their passions



**Thanks to Joel Fildes for all the brilliant photographs**

Over 90 people came in February to see our new drama group perform “Passion to Passion” which was about what we enjoyed doing most in our lives. Manchester People First, Opal and The Shaw Centre have been working since September with Jenny and Simon from The Edge.

The Co-op Financial Services had made a donation which helped us fund 3 taster drama workshops and the Edge from Chorlton funded another 10 weeks. We called our group “The Edge Expressive Theatre Company” or EETC for short.

Shirley said: “I enjoyed being part of the theatre company, I liked taking part in the show, it was good fun. I really liked dancing and acting. I want to do some more acting and comedy”. Melissa said she “liked acting in the play. I also liked performing in front of an audience”. We all enjoyed it so much we hope to start working again in April.





# Fashion Event

**Thursday 29 March  
1 to 3pm at our  
Cheetham Hill office**

We have been doing a 4 week fashion workshop, come and see us model our customised designs.

Tea, coffee and home made cake and biscuits.

## Come to our Disability Strategy Events

Tell the government what you think about their plans for a new disability strategy at our two meetings.

**Tuesday 28 February**

Harpurhey Neighbourhood Centre  
Carisbrook Street  
Manchester M9 5UX

**Monday 5 March**

Wythenshawe Community Church  
94 Crossacres Road  
Manchester M22 5BS

**Both from 10:30am to 2:30pm**

Free light lunch, make your own way there and back. Please ring us if you are coming: 0161 839 3700



Manchester

Learning Disability

Partnership Board

The January meeting of the Partnership Board did not go ahead as we there were problems with the heating . It will meet as usual in March.

**[www.partnershipboard.org](http://www.partnershipboard.org)**



# Young Peoples Parliament Transport Debate



The Young Peoples' Parliament continues to grow – On 24 January, we had a big meeting about transport. Many of our members use public transport and have told us some of the problems they have.



We invited a panel of people who are responsible for public transport in the region, including Councillor Chris Paul who sits on the Council's Transport Committee, Dave Partington from Transport for Greater Manchester, Peter Reid from Stagecoach buses, Chris Hagyard from Virgin Trains, Mark Barker from Northern Rail and Keith Fieldhouse and Stay Shaw from Arriva Buses. The MPs had put together questions and opinions at our meeting in October.

We asked the panel to answer our points.

One big concern was how some buses were only able to take one wheelchair user at a time, and drivers not giving enough time for users to secure their wheelchairs before setting off.

The panel said it can be a help if people plan their journeys in advance, using Travel Shops and information services such as phone lines and websites. Members said these were not always accessible. Members said they had sometimes found lifts at train stations not working and rail staff did not always seem to understand the needs of disabled travellers. Toilets on trains were not always accessible. It could be difficult to book Ring and Ride journeys. If people had any more concerns they should contact Transport for Greater Manchester or Councillor Paul.



## Xmas Cheer



Christmas seems a long time ago, but we still remember celebrating.

The Men's and Women's Groups joined together and went a meal at The Coachills restaurant in Bolton. We had a 3 course meal with entertainment afterwards from 2 entertainers called Slapdash.

Our Cheetham Hill office was the scene for our Christmas Lunch for 40 members served up by our staff. David's partner made us a Christmas cake. We started the morning with carols. In the afternoon we had a sing-a-long with Maggie and were joined by Mother Christmas in the afternoon who dished out presents for everyone.

Our big party had to be cancelled this year due to circumstances beyond our control – but Venture Arts kindly let us to come to theirs.



## Hello to Tracey Student placement



**Hello My name is Tracy Gororo. I am a second year student doing Learning Disability Studies at Manchester University. I am here on placement as part of my course from January to April. I will be meeting all the members and staff of Manchester People First and learning about Safeguarding Adults.**

**I like swimming, going to church on Sunday and watching X-Factor. Swimming is good for me because of bad arthritis in my knees.**

**I am a widow and have 4 grown up children, Richard and Rachel (twins), Clara, Wellington and have 3 grandchildren.**

# Manchester People First

# 20<sup>TH</sup> Birthday Party

1992 to 2012



**Thursday 21 June**  
**11:30am to 3:30pm**

**Free lunch**  
**Disco**  
**Bar**  
**Raffle**

**Band on the Wall**  
**The Northern Quarter**  
**25 Swan Street**  
**Manchester**  
**M4 5JZ**



**BAND ON  
THE WALL**

