





### **GARDENING CLUB EXPANSION**

We are very excited to announce that we are expanding our Gardening Club by taking on a second allotment at the same site in mid March. This means lots of work but also more space for growing and more members will be able to join and benefit.

There are also three volunteering opportunities to work with us:

- 1. help us to clear the new site (short term).
- 2. if you are a practical type, your skills could be used to build new raised beds and accomplish the plans Maria is making with members for the new site (mid term volunteer).
- 3. if you have horticultural skills <u>and</u> can support people, you could have a role working alongside less skilled members (long term volunteer).

We are grateful to West End Parish Council for this opportunity to expand the service and bring the benefits of working outside and growing ones' own food to more people.

# Exploring Theatre Craft 4 THE PUPPET WORKSHOP Friday morning, February 24 2017



Want to find out the secrets of bringing puppets to life?

Come and try your hand at being a puppeteer, using beautiful puppets designed by Jimmy Grimes, Puppetry Director for War Horse. This is the fourth event in our year- long partnership with the Nuffield Theatre.

There are limited places so get in touch at once to book and pay. Deadline for payment is Feb 14. Tel 023 8048 3471

#### **Ted Baker**

03.03.1936 -12.01.2017

We were really sorry to hear of the death of Ted Baker in January this year.

Ted was a MENCAP Walking Group walk leader for many years and had helped run the
Basketball Club since it started, long before our society became involved.

He was also heavily involved with the QE2 Friday night Club and ran a long series of annual
group holidays to various places in Germany and nearer home with Helga, his wife.

Our condolences to Helga, Ellen, Monica and Caroline

## HERE I AM campaign

Royal MENCAP have launched a new public awareness campaign called Here I am. You may have seen some of the posters at bus stops around the county. They are certain eye catching and we have found that people have very different opinions about them. What do you think of their portrayal of people with a learning disability?

The campaign was designed according to Royal MENCAP "to make it impossible to ignore people with a learning disability, and to do that in a way that would challenge the assumptions a lot of people don't even know they have." The pictures were taken by well known fashion photographer, Rankin, who is skilled at bringing out individual personalities.

The campaign is a kind of update on what people in the UK think about learning disabilities and the people who have them. There are some really surprising statistics about what the public at large think. We would recommend having a look at Royal MENCAP's website and reading about the Here I am campaign, surprisingly the whole feature is rather tucked away on the site so you may have to search for it.

# **Exploring Theatre Craft 3**

Wedding of the year? Please note the bride's mother wiping away a tear from her beard!



Participants in our costume workshop in December 2016

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