

A fantastic 100 Voices

A large number of people we support across all areas from Cornwall to Hereford, gathered in North Somerset to take part in, and run this year's 100 Voices conference.

It was a fantastic, fun-filled day in Congresbury with lots of important discussions around the topics of friendships, love and relationships, decision-making, and meaningful activities.

The day included some really powerful presentations from all the areas with staff and people we support using drama, film, songs, flags and banners to get across key messages and themes.



Organiser Jill Corbyn, Brandon's Head of Involvement, said: "Thank you to all the people who made 100 Voices happen; we couldn't have done it without you."



"We know that lots of staff spent time and energy supporting people to have their say and to get involved in the presentations before the event, and on the day."

100 Voices was filmed and this is being shared across Brandon so more people can see the event and have their say on the key questions that were asked on the day.

The conference feedback helps Brandon Trust decide what work to do in the future and shapes content for the organisation's next five-year strategy, which is due to begin in April 2016.

For more information on 100 Voices visit www.brandontrust.org/get-involved/our-events/100-voices/ or to watch this year's video of the event visit [//youtu.be/ssBqXlhVek](https://youtu.be/ssBqXlhVek)

Ben's brilliant Benidorm break

Meet Ben, who we support in Cheltenham.

He wants to share his holiday snap after recently coming back from a brilliant break in Benidorm.

Being a big fan of the ITV series of the same name, it was his big ambition to go to all the places where it is filmed in the Spanish resort.

So, after saving up his money, Ben finally fulfilled this dream with his support worker Ian and 'had a fantastic time and was over the moon!'

Ben said the best part of his holiday was going to the hotel, pool, and bar where the programme is filmed.

Thanks for sharing your story Ben. The pictures look great.



New Grounds & Gardens website goes live!

We're pleased to announce the launch of our first social enterprise website – Grounds & Gardens – our competitively priced gardening and grounds maintenance service covering the Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset regions.

Do please check it out, let us know what you think. Feel free to share with anyone who might benefit from their highly recommended work. Visit www.groundsandgardens.org



Darren's delight in London

Darren enjoyed a holiday to remember in Windsor and London - here's one of his favourite snaps from the Shrek Experience!

He worked with his support team in Cornwall to find a holiday which met all his needs. He has a range of sensory disabilities and required accommodation which allowed him to be calm and relaxed.

Brandon Trust Locality Manager Mark Burtwell said: "Darren loves 'B' words and all things beginning with the letter B, so where else to find these things but in the centre of London; BIG BEN, BUSES, BRIDGES and BUILDINGS!"



"Darren, at times, has high anxieties around noise, but when he is in London, the over-alerting and visual stimulation overrides his anxieties and he has a wonderful time.

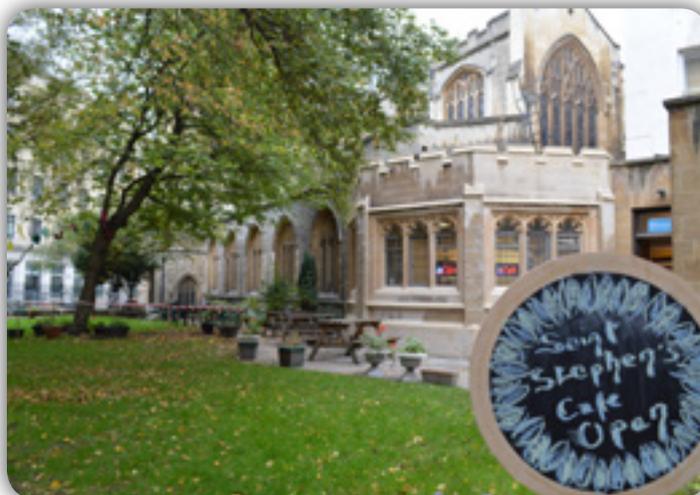
"This year whilst planning his London trip, Darren, with his support team, found the Shrek Experience along the embankment. He absolutely loved it; it was a very sensory experience which involved having a magical 3D bus ride and meeting Shrek!"

The trip also included a visit to St Paul's Cathedral, National Trust properties, and countryside walks. "A most successful, enjoyable holiday tailored to Darren's needs," added Mark.

Brandon opens new city centre cafe

Brandon Trust has reopened the café at Saint Stephen's Church in the heart of Bristol city centre and is now busy developing it into a new social enterprise.

The café, located within the tranquil grounds of the church in St Stephen's Street, uses locally sourced ingredients and offers a variety of freshly cooked hot dishes, homemade soups and cakes plus vegetarian options, with an extensive lunch menu and refreshments available from 9.30am-3.30pm, Monday to Friday.



The joint aim of the church and charity is to develop the business into a community hub that will employ people with learning disabilities and autism while offering others supported by the charity the chance of work experience to learn skills to gain paid work. There will also be regular social events and exhibitions held at the venue, alongside concerts in the adjoining church.

Locality manager Jo Cullum said: "We're really excited about this partnership with the church. The opportunity to offer paid work to people with learning disabilities in a supported environment is so important to us as an organisation."

Our Christmas raffle - great prizes to be won

Thank you so much for being a part of something special here at Brandon Trust. We hope you have a wonderful Christmas and happy New Year.

One of the ways in which we're making the lives of people we support more magical this Christmas is via our 'Dream Fund'.

It's funded by the generosity of individuals and businesses and supports urgent requests for specialist equipment, home adaptations and once-in-a-lifetime breaks, to name but a few.

To help boost funds we're running a Christmas raffle. There are lots of amazing prizes to be won which have all been kindly donated to us.

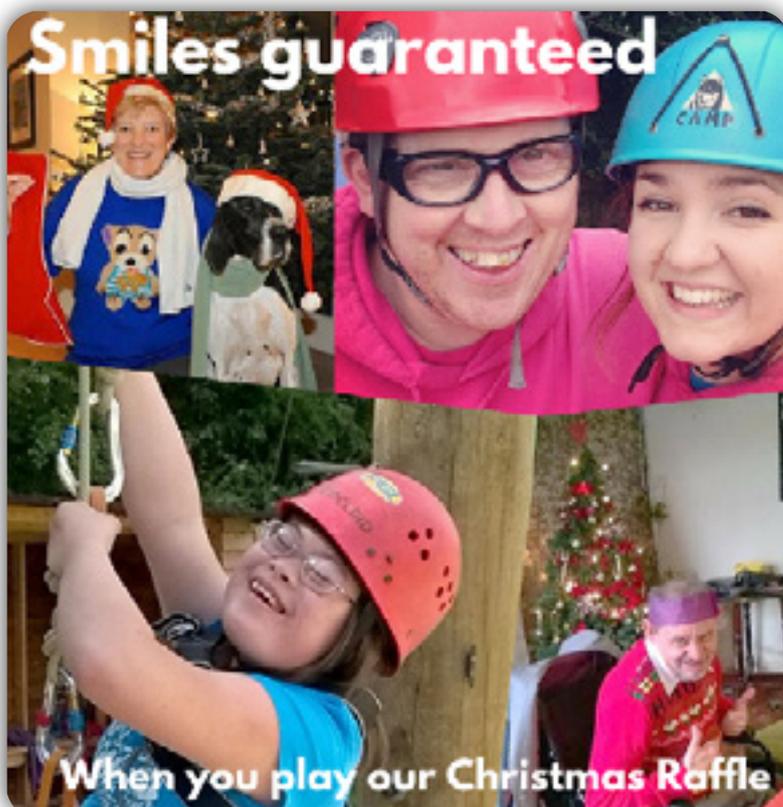
The raffle closes on 10 December, 2015, and winners will be drawn on 17 December. Tickets are £1 each. You must be over 16 and a UK resident to play. If you'd like to be in with the chance to win, it's really easy to enter online via www.brandontrust.org/christmas-raffle or by calling Simon on 0117 906 2906.

Full list of prizes

- 1st prize - Microsoft Surface Pro 3 with cover, mouse and wireless display adapter (worth £1,000)
- 2nd prize - iPad 2, 16GB
- 3rd prize - Luxury stay and three-course dinner at The Grand Hotel, Bristol
- 4th prize - Military driving experience with ACF
- 5th prize - Experience day for two at Yarak Birds of Prey
- 6th prize - One-night stay at Bristol Marriott Royal Hotel
- 7th prize - Family voucher for The Ultimate London Adventure, with London RIB Voyages
- 8th prize - Arrive and Drive vouchers for four at Teamworks Karting
- 9th prize - One-night stay and meal for two at The Inn at Redmarley, Gloucester
- 10th prize - 2x £50 One4all multi-retail gift cards

Are you online? To reduce our admin costs and deliver a better service, we'd love to send the new electronic version of this quarterly newsletter direct to your email rather than by post. To sign up, simply contact tim.gray@brandontrust.org or 0117 952 8210 or visit www.brandontrust.org/our-newsletter

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