

**LiveNet LiveNet gets lively**



Since the project started, September 2009, staff have been busy delivering ICT fun sessions and ICT workshops across Northern Ireland.

More than 200 children, young people and adults with a learning disability and their carers took part in the LiveNet ICT fun sessions held in Belfast and Enniskillen. To view the ICT fun day photographs go to [www.mencap.org.uk/livenet](http://www.mencap.org.uk/livenet)

Everyone had a chance to play with the latest digital gadgets and equipment at different interactive areas and information stands.

IT Can Help volunteers got a big 'thank you' for being on-hand to offer ICT advice and assistance.

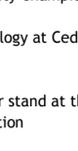
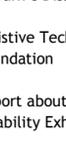
LiveNet is a joint initiative between Mencap, Citizens Online, BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT and the BCS - IT Can Help programme and is funded with a grant from the Big Lottery Fund's Live and Learn programme.

For more information on LiveNet: call Tracy Mearns on 028 9069 0185 email [livenet@mencap.org.uk](mailto:livenet@mencap.org.uk) visit [www.mencap.org.uk/livenet](http://www.mencap.org.uk/livenet) follow us on Twitter [www.twitter.com/LiveNetni](http://www.twitter.com/LiveNetni)

View the full report at : <http://www.itcanhelpni.org.uk/html/livenet.html>



Happy Times at the LiveNet Fun Session



**LOTTERY FUNDED**

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**IT Can Help and RNIB**

IT Can Help maintains contact with other voluntary organisations in order to help them, and the people they support, with computing.

In February 2009, IT Can Help team members met with Pat Kerr at the Royal National Institute for the Blind to explain the role and purpose of IT Can Help and to discuss how we might best support people with a visual impairment. It transpired that the need was not just for technical help with computers but for instruction to blind and partially sighted people on the use of computers. As a result of the meeting, one of our volunteers, Malcolm Lees, took up the challenge and has formed a very fruitful relationship with the RNIB.

To quote Malcolm, "This contact with RNIB has been a real pleasure for me and has, I think, furthered the aims of IT Can Help. I have met some marvellous people who are facing up to a difficult situation with courage, humour and a great zest for life and for learning. The technology is challenging, but it offers a real opportunity to broaden people's horizons and improve their quality of life. There is plenty of scope to build on what has been done so far and I look forward to developing the excellent relationship between IT Can Help and the RNIB in the future."



Robert Kerr and volunteer Malcolm Lees working together in the Internet Cafe area in the RNIB offices in Linenhall Street

View the full report at : <http://www.itcanhelpni.org.uk/html/rnib.html>

**Lisburn Actively Promotes Key Disability Issues**



The Mayor of Lisburn, Alderman Paul Porter and Councillor Margaret Tolerton, the Council's Disability Champion are pictured with representatives from the Mayor's Charity, the Carers Forum on Learning

View the full article at : [http://www.itcanhelpni.org.uk/html/lisburn\\_council.html](http://www.itcanhelpni.org.uk/html/lisburn_council.html)

Lisburn City Council is committed to ensuring that the needs of those with a mental or physical disability living in the Lisburn area, are addressed whether it be support or service related.

As part of its commitment, the Council has nominated two Disability Champions who are Councillors Margaret Tolerton and Stephen Malcolm, Equality Officer. The Disability Champions will work closely together to identify positive actions to be undertaken both across the Council and within the local community.

The Lisburn Assessment and Resource Centre contains a state of the art computer facility for use by the 120 Lisburn learning disabled residents. The software available is designed for educational use and is related to what the users can manage.

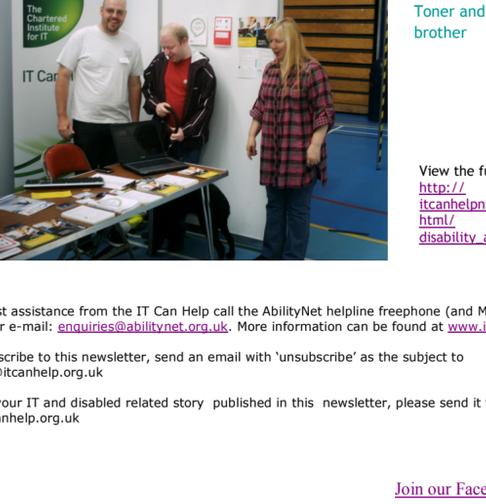
To find out more about the work being undertaken by the Council or for further information on the Council's Disability Champions please contact Stephen Malcolm, Equality Officer on 028 9250 9250 or by email to [stephen.malcolm@lisburn.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.malcolm@lisburn.gov.uk)

**The Cedar Foundation uses cutting edge Technology to help disabled people**

The Cedar Foundation has purchased a cutting edge Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) device known as the MyTobii Eyegaze P10 system. The system is a new assistive technology that enables users with severely limited motor skills to access a computer using their eyes, rather than using a mouse. The system seeks to allow people with disabilities to live more fulfilled integrated and independent lives.

23 year old Darren Wright who has Cerebral Palsy has benefitted from the technology in Cedar's Ballymena Training and Resource Centre. Using the My Tobii device to communicate his thoughts Darren said, "I can now explore the websites of my favourite football teams, Ballymena United and Man United myself- it's great!"

To find out more tel: 02890 666188 or log on to [www.cedar-foundation.org](http://www.cedar-foundation.org)



Darren Wright at the Cedar Foundation

View the full article at : [http://www.itcanhelpni.org.uk/html/cedar\\_foundation.html](http://www.itcanhelpni.org.uk/html/cedar_foundation.html)

**IT Can Help at the Disability Exhibition Lisburn Leisureplex Report by Cecil Taylor**

Friday morning around 10.00am Gary Wilson was there when I arrived and the public had started to come in. During the morning there was a steady interest in what we were about, with a lot of leaflets and cards being taken. We were getting a very positive feeling from the interest people were taking in our service. By mid-morning Barry Toner had joined us with his faithful companion Bliss. The steady interest continued through the day. Melvin Launder, a prospective volunteer, joined us for few hours and left with several leaflets to distribute at the Northern Regional College.

The whole experience was very positive, of course it remains to be seen if it was worthwhile. I think it lies with the IT CAN HELP team to follow up on these who showed interest and in particular those who asked for help. I enjoyed it and could not hesitate to do it again if the chance occurred.



IT Can Help volunteers at our stand: Chris Surgenor, Barry Toner and Avril Fairbrother

View the full report at : [http://www.itcanhelpni.org.uk/html/disability\\_action.html](http://www.itcanhelpni.org.uk/html/disability_action.html)

To request assistance from the IT Can Help call the AbilityNet helpline freephone (and Minicom) on: 0800 269545 or e-mail: [enquiries@abilitynet.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@abilitynet.org.uk). More information can be found at [www.itcanhelp.org.uk](http://www.itcanhelp.org.uk)

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