



Photos to illustrate some of the achievements of beneficiaries during year 3 of the ASOSS project



Our team of Aphasia Ambassadors has grown with 15 people with aphasia now volunteering in this important awareness raising role. We have presented to 29 different organizations and groups this year. Audiences included Year 6 & 7 pupils of Bramley School, Walton on the Hill which led to fundraising support from the school.



We also marked Stroke Awareness month at Natwest Bank in Sutton where we explained about aphasia to staff & Aphasia ambassadors served coffee to customers

Other audiences Disability and a group of 15 Language promotional materials have helped ensure presentations and displays look professional.



included a Police awareness conference NHS Speech and Therapists. Upgraded



A group of 6 Aphasia Ambassadors travelled to Nottingham for the 2 day National Stroke Assembly where they took part in workshops and discussion sessions, and shared information about Dyscover. The group fed back to their peers on their return to Dyscover. This experience has helped two members of this group

who are involved as consultants in helping plan an international aphasia conference in London next year. We have found that participating in this way promotes increased confidence, improved communication skills and lifts mood. Volunteering gives a sense of purpose and value. This year 7 Dyscover members have signed up to a home visiting project led by 'Connect' acting as peer supporters to people with aphasia who might otherwise be isolated at home.



Two members who are further on in their recovery and more adjusted to their aphasia and have also provided valuable support to our newest group at Dyscover. These people are all of working age and have had strokes less than 3 years ago.



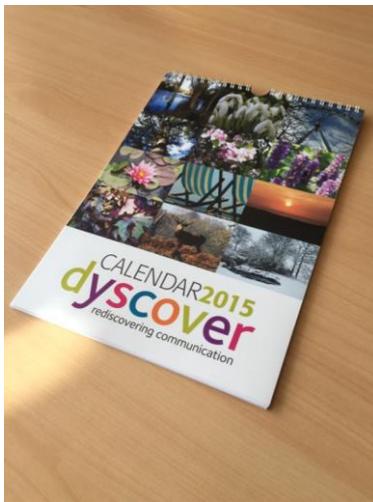
Our programme of extra activities – made possible by the BLF 'extras' budget has been designed to meet the needs and interests of our members, and this year has included more challenging activities which have appealed to our younger members

Partner organizations such as Companion Cycling and Salability have remained regular providers of accessible activities for our members new and old.





Creative activities such as art, singing and photography, have been provided by skilled external facilitators who bring quality teaching to our members. We train and support these people in order to ensure activities are always accessible and aphasia friendly.



Where possible we create opportunities for members to participate in an associated project - for example our photography course was co led by a member and a 2015 calendar was planned designed and marketed by a working group of members



Our new meeting place in the centre of Kingston has proved a more accessible, pleasant and flexible location, and is providing a morning and afternoon group each week to 20 people living

in and around Kingston, Twickenham, Chessington and New Malden. We have plans to expand and develop the services that we offer to members and relatives from this satellite.

This is just a small selection of activities and achievements made possible by the BLF grant this year. We look forward to building on this and developing the opportunities we can offer members as we move into year 4.

Rosemary Townsend , Manager of Professional Services 29.7.15

