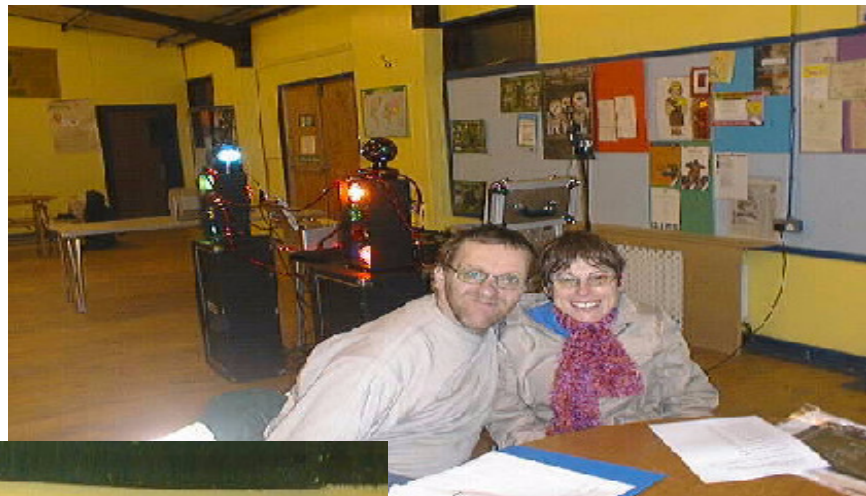


The G.T. Club

A social club for people with a learning difficulty that is run by people with a learning difficulty

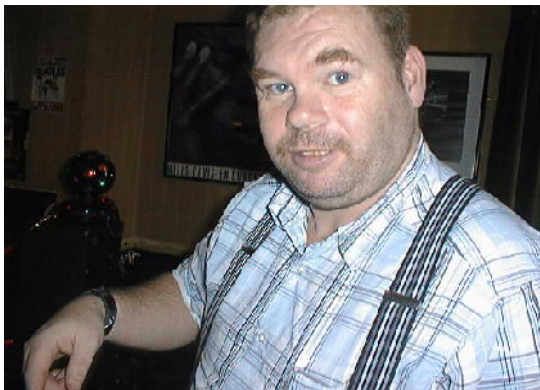


G.T. Club - Background

My name is Stephen Wilkinson and I am the Secretary of The G.T. Club. I also volunteer at *INTERACT* a charity that provides advocacy services for people with learning disabilities. I want to tell you about The G.T. Club, what we do there, and how it all started.



From September 1st 2008, we will have been running The G.T. Club for about 5 years. The club is based in the Scout Hut in Vale Park in Portslade.



We started the club when I had the idea. I thought it would be nice to have somewhere for people with learning disabilities to meet up.

G.T. Club - How it all started

I told Graham Lee (*INTERACT*) and Lizzie & Peter Cash (my mum and dad) about my idea to start the club. They thought it was a good idea.

It took about 6 meetings to plan and set up the club. When we first set up the club, I didn't know how much hard work it would be. If it wasn't for my mum and dad helping, the club would not have started.



When we first started the club, the Scarman Trust gave us some money. This continued for about 3 years.



We have also done a sponsored walk to raise money for the club from Hove Lagoon to the Peace Statue on Brighton sea front. The money was used for club activities. We also did a sponsored swim at Prince Regent to raise money for the club.

G.T. Club – What we do there

We have a lot of fun at the G.T. Club. Of an evening we have snacks, have a chat, and meet new friends.



We play pool, table tennis, have a raffle, sing karaoke, play games, pool and football.

We have Easter and Halloween parties at the Scout Hut and barbecues and discos. We have Christmas parties at the Portland Pub, the staff and land lady (Mary) are very friendly and helpful.

The club has also taken part in the Lions Club annual “Its a Knockout” several times and in 2005 we won! We also run training courses at the club for example First Aid.

G.T. Club – Days Out



As a group, the club members also have days out. We have been to Cadbury's Chocolate Factory, Monkey World and Drusillas Zoo Park. We also had days out in Horsham, Eastbourne and Hastings.



We have now also started organising our own days out, without the help of staff or carers. We had a day out bowling that was organised by myself and Sheryl Moore.

G.T. Club – Getting Involved

People can help out at the club if they want to. Sheryl Moore looks after the door, she registers people as they come into the club, they show their membership card and Sheryl collects the money, £1. Tony Balaz works in the club canteen. He serves teas, coffees, cold drinks and crisps. James Gregory does the raffle.



I am the dj and do the disco. I'm trying to train Sheryl so she can help me with this.

We are always looking to have new members at the club. We hope you will come along every other Tuesday. You can meet some new people and it is fun. You can also bring your friends to the club.

G.T. Club - Committee



When we started the club we had to write up a constitution (a set of rules) and set up a committee.



We had to have the constitution so we could get funding, for example from the Scarman Trust.

The committee run the club, we talk about what we want for the club, what we want to do for the year. One thing we would like to do is make a video about the club.

Although the committee has members with and without learning disabilities, only those with learning disabilities can vote.

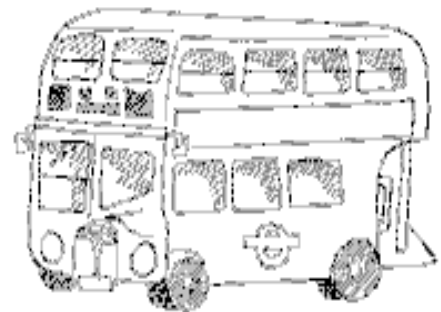
G.T. Club - Contact and venue

If you would like to join The G.T. Club, please call me, Stephen Wilkinson on 01273 422971 or 01273 439552.



The G.T. Club is held every other Tuesday in the Scout Hut in Vale Park, St. Andrews Road, Portslade. We start at 7.30pm and finish at 9.00pm.

You can get there on the Number 1 bus, and get off at St. Andrew's Road. You can also get the number 49 or 6 bus and get off on Boundary Road, and walk from there.



G.T. Club - Member's quotes

“I enjoy coming because I have met some new friends. I like supporting Stephen as I am his friend”
Sheryl Moore

“I enjoy coming because I know people and I have met new people and they have a canteen I like and they have a disco which is good. The good things are the music, singing, raffle, ping pong, pool table”
Diane Wyatt

“I like meeting people and listening to music. Friendly people” Nicola Fawbert

“Plenty of room to roam around, not too crowded”
Peter Fawbert

“I like having a drink and something to eat and listening to the music. Its in a good location, as I sometimes like to walk around the park too” Wayne Fitzpatrick

G.T. Club - Committee/Patrons

Committee Members

Stephen Wilkinson

Tony Dyson

Melanie Camero

Diane Wyatt

Sheryl Moore

Tony Balazs

Edwina Slinn

Andy Saunders

Maria Borrer

Debbie Tompsett

G.T. Club Patrons

The president of the club is Councillor Les Hamilton.
The vice president is Councillor Keith Taylor.

We are supported by the Co-op Community Dividend Fund and *INTERACT*. We are also supported by Norman Cook (fat boy slim) and Zoe Ball.