

Mag Pia

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MagPia is the quarterly newsletter of Pia, the UK's leading independent accessible media company

● Spring is here!

Spring has officially sprung and here in Wales we are all very pleased to finally see some daffodils! We hope you will find the articles in the newsletter interesting, informative and as always welcome any feedback you may have. Finally, as it is the season of new arrivals, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome Matthew to the Pia team.

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● Amendment to the Equality Bill

A major amendment to the Equality Bill, which is currently passing through Parliament, will greatly strengthen a disabled person's right to receive information in an accessible format.

Once the Equality Bill is enacted organisations will have to take reasonable steps to provide an accessible format to anyone who is print impaired. Therefore local authorities, health professionals and businesses corresponding directly with members of the public will need to make documents available in formats such as braille, audio, e-text and easy read.

The amendment was accepted by the government after cross-party consensus was reached and is intended to provide a robust basis for enforcement action by individuals and those who represent them.



braille ● large print ● audio ● moon

● Clear Print Mark

NCBI (National Council for the Blind of Ireland) Media Centre has launched its new clear print mark and advisory service. The aim of the quality mark is to acknowledge public and private organisations that use clear print design in their printed information. Clear print is a design principle that makes printed information easier to read for everyone, particularly for people with sight problems.

To achieve this quality mark, public and private organisations will submit documents to NCBI's Media Centre, who will advise on the accessibility of the document and recommend changes, which will make it easier to read. There is a charge for this service, but organisations that comply will be awarded the clear print quality mark.

For more information please contact the NCBI Media Centre on Tel: 00 353 1 8642266 or log onto www.ncbi.ie



Article supplied by the National Council for the Blind of Ireland.

● New Staff Member

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce Matthew Neves who has recently joined the Pia team. Matthew will be working as part of the origination team on existing contracts and will also be adding to our diagram building capacity. We very much hope that he will enjoy working with us.



● Pia Supports VI Athletes

Pia is proud to announce that we are supporting the 2010 Metro National Athletics Tournament for Visually Impaired Juniors and Seniors.

The event is due to be held in Waltham Forest in June 2010, with the aim of encouraging (VI) children from schools all over the country to compete. It is hoped that some of the best participants may ultimately represent their country at the 2012 Paralympics. We hope it will be a fun and rewarding experience for all those involved!

● Meeting the MEP ●

Sharon Williams, Pia's Managing Director, was recently invited to meet MEP David Vaughan at Chwarae Teg's offices in south Wales. Sharon was there to explain to David Vaughan how Chwarae Teg's European-funded Agile Nation Project is helping to make sure that women are given the opportunity to achieve their potential in Pia.



Sharon explained how Chwarae Teg had sought out Pia and how the project worked. She said that Pia had been very happy to take part. "Chwarae Teg works with individual women and encourages them to participate in development that they may not otherwise consider, which ultimately benefits Pia."

"The project also offers the employer fantastic advice on other aspects of

enabling women to offer more to employers. Identifying genuinely safe and secure methods of remote working is difficult for a small company, but remote working is a fantastic way of women working more hours at their convenience and for more money.

Smiles all round!"

Sharon hopes that her chat with David

Vaughan will help persuade David's

colleagues in Brussels that

the funding for the project is working to good effect. A project that helps businesses and helps people stay in work is certainly worth its weight in gold these days!



www.chwaraeteg.com

● Books For All ●

We are pleased to be able to share the news that 'Books for All', the UK's first e-library for educational texts has been launched online.

This website makes a wide range of textbooks available in electronic formats to teachers, students with a visual impairment and other students who are print disabled. Not only can these texts be instantly accessed using screen reading software but can also be used to easily and quickly create alternate formats such as braille or large print which meet the specific needs of the learner.

'Books for All' is a joint project between Seeing Ear and the University of Edinburgh. It allows authorised, registered individuals to access a catalogue of educational materials for free.

The website works by allowing teachers to upload accessible books which can then be freely downloaded by other users in formats such as plain text, Word or PDF. This will mean that a text once produced somewhere in the country will instantly be available to anyone anywhere.

<http://www.booksforall.org.uk/About/Background/>

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“my dealings with all staff at Pia have been more than satisfactory ... and the service is great.” **Richard, Maxearn Ltd.**