

# Deafblind International

## Outdoor Network

### Newsletter No. 1



Welcome to the first newsletter from the DbI Outdoor Network!

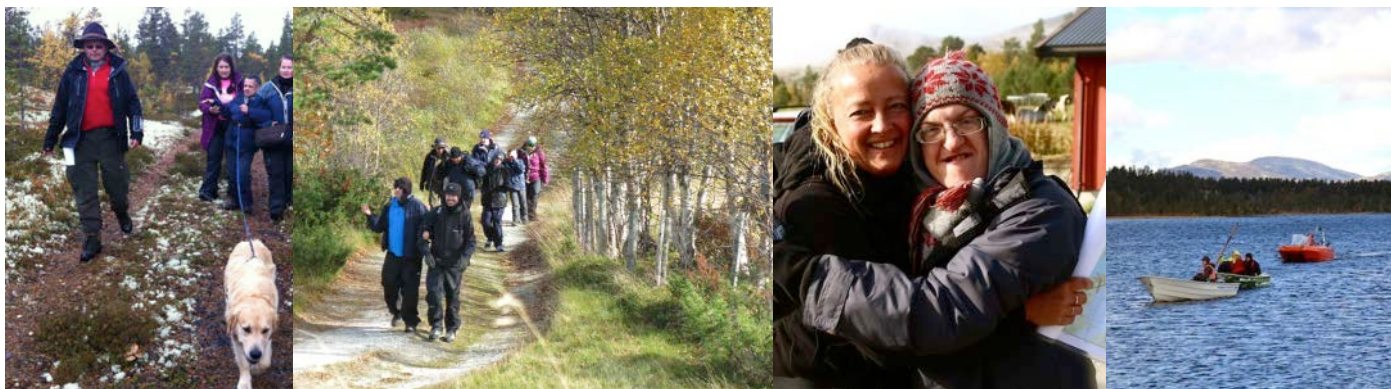
The Outdoor Network is for all people who enjoy or use the outdoor environment. It is open to people whose deafblindness is either acquired or congenital as well as to support staff and families. We currently have one annual event, the Outdoor Network Week where people who are deafblind and their support workers meet to explore the nature, share experiences and get inspired.

I am hoping that soon we will have some dedicated web space to share news, ideas and to advertise events. Until then I will try and send out a newsletter to keep everyone updated. If you have any stories about your work in the outdoors you wish to share, or links to research or video's please let me know and I will add them to the next newsletter!

#### **DbI European Conference Lille, France 2013**

At the DbI conference held in Lille in France in 2013 the Outdoor Network presented during the network day for the first time. We showed a video from the 2012 Outdoor Network week ([DbI Outdoor Network 2012 video](#)). We also discussed the future direction of the network.





### **Outdoor network week 2013.**

In September Outdoor Network week was held in Sømådalen in Norway. Nine participants with deafblindness from three different countries and sixteen support workers explored and enjoyed the Norwegian mountains together. The week was spent outdoor hiking in the mountains, rowing in the windy weather, fishing in the lake, picking potatoes in the field, cooking at the fireplace and falling asleep on a reindeer skin next to the fire. See the movie from the Sømådalen week [here](#).

### **The outdoor network week September 2014**

In 2014 the next Outdoor Network week will be held in Denmark during week 38 (15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> September 2014). The week is open for people who are deafblind and workers who are interested in the outdoors. For more information please contact Peter Mathiasen [pema@rn.dk](mailto:pema@rn.dk)

### **The outdoors as a part of everyday life.**

Participating in the September outdoor weeks is one week of the year. The nature is outside your window everyday and there are many ways to enjoy and use the nature. Only your imagination is the limit. For some ideas see the [Accessible Outdoors](#) blog, aimed at teachers working in special schools. It offers ideas of ways of taking the classroom outside and using the natural environment to help in the learning process. If you have any ideas or techniques you would be willing to share on the blog please let me know!

If you no longer wish to be on the Dbl Outdoor Network mailing list or have received this newsletter from someone else and would like to be added please send a message to Joe Gibson at [jgibson@sensescotland.org.uk](mailto:jgibson@sensescotland.org.uk)