

Peterborough Disability Forum

NewsLink February 2017

Are you booked for the region's biggest community event?



The Serpentine Green shopping centre is playing host to the very first Disability Peterborough Disability and Community Awareness Month during March. Over

140 stands are booked representing many of the area's leading charities, disability groups and community based associations. Sally Booth, one of the organisers said "David Wait and his colleagues from Serpentine Green have been brilliant. They have gone out of their way to make the event successful. This is an opportunity for the many disability and community groups to promote themselves and the good work they do in the city"

The month has been split into 4 groups. Week one is Sport and Leisure, Week two, Health and Wellbeing, Week three is Environment and Learning and finally, Week four is Safer Communities. Closing date for booking a stand is Friday 3rd February. The event is free to all stand exhibitors and stall holders. As well as meeting the groups, visitors can also take part in competitions, hear speakers, watch theatre, listen to music and make a guest appearance on Peterborough Community Radio

Where would we be without our volunteers?



Can you spare a few hours to support the organisers of the Disability and Community Awareness Month? Are you fit and active and enjoy meeting and helping other people?

Why not join us at Serpentine Green during the month of March! Disability Peterborough, the Disability Forum, Inspire Peterborough and Shopmobility are looking for volunteers during the event-Training will be given and lunch will be provided. Contact Sally; Radio@inspirepeterborough.com for more details.

Serpentine Green mobility assistance.

At the time of writing, due to vandalism, one of the lifts into Serpentine Green is out of order and awaiting a component.

The centre is doing all they can to get the lift working. In the event that it is out of commission during the Disability and Community Awareness Month, the centre will provide assistance for those that need it.

If you need assistance between 10-4pm call 01733 564734

CEO of Disability Peterborough answers listener's questions



Sandie Burns, CEO of Disability Peterborough answers questions from listeners of the Inspiring Peterborough on Friday 27th January.

Sandie will talk about a whole range of disability related issues including Blue Badge fraud, Personal Independence Payments, Access to buildings and services, the range of services Disability Peterborough offers disabled people in the city and the benefits of volunteering.

Sandie will be back on the show in April.

If you have a question for Sandie: radio@inspirepeterborough.com

Walks on Wednesday resume after a winter break



Walks on Wednesdays at Ferry Meadows return after the winter break. Walks are at your own pace. A leisurely amble around the beautiful surrounds of the park with a friendly group of walkers and volunteers and enjoy a complimentary coffee and slice of cake in the cafe afterwards.

Guide dogs are welcome. Unfortunately no pets on the Walks. Meet at 10.15am at the Visitors Centre, ask for Linda

PAB AGM invitation



Peterborough Association for the Blind (PAB) are inviting interested parties to their AGM.

The meeting is at St Peter & All Souls

Church hall, Fitzwilliam Street on Wednesday 8 February 10.30-noon.

Contact Barbara: info@mypab.org.uk

Table cricket festival comes to Peterborough



Table Cricket is a sport originally created for people with severe physical impairments but open to all.

Inspire Peterborough and Vivacity are holding table cricket festivals from 10am-2pm on Thursday 26 January and Thursday 30 March at Hampton Library and Leisure Centre, PE7 8GL.

Contact@inspirepeterborough.com for more information.

Wheelchair issue still not resolved



Disability campaigners have welcomed a Supreme Court ruling that bus drivers may have to do more to accommodate wheelchair users. The case was brought by Doug Paulley, who said he was "absolutely delighted" after "a long fight" and that the judgment marked "a significant cultural change". Mr Paulley argued against FirstGroup's policy of "requesting but not requiring" non-disabled passengers, including those with buggies, to vacate a space if it is needed by a wheelchair user.

Lord Neuberger, said the policy of simply "requesting" was unjustified. He said if a bus driver believes a person's refusal to give up a space is unreasonable they should consider steps to pressurise the traveller. Those steps could, in appropriate cases, include "a refusal to drive on". Disability groups have been battling to get priority use for wheelchairs on buses and the ruling has been called a "partial victory".

Mr Paulley, brought legal action after he tried unsuccessfully to board a FirstGroup bus which had a sign saying: "Please give up this space if needed for a wheelchair user." The driver asked a woman with a sleeping baby in a pushchair to move out of the designated area - but she refused, saying the buggy would not fold and Mr Paulley was left at the bus stop.

A judge at Leeds County Court then ruled the policy breached FirstGroup's duty under the Equality Act 2010 to make "reasonable adjustments" for disabled people. Recorder Paul Isaacs said the policy should have "required" the woman to move and the wheelchair user's right to priority should have been enforced.

But the judgment was overturned by the Court of Appeal, which ruled such a policy would not strike a fair balance between the needs of wheelchair users and the needs of other passengers who might be vulnerable. The policy would also be liable to give rise to confrontation and delayed journeys. Mr Paulley, in his late 30s, then continued his fight before seven justices at the UK's highest court.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission, which supported Mr Paulley said the Supreme Court decision was "a victory for disabled people's rights". And it said it was "a hugely important decision, which has helped clarify the current state of the law, and will give confidence to thousands of disabled people in Britain to use public transport".



Hi I'm Chrissie

I am the new Manager at Shopmobility Peterborough – very big shoes to fill considering my predecessor was John Fox!

I have previously been a Customer Service Manager for a Software Company and an Office Manager for a Construction Company, so I am hoping my experience and skills will enable me to fulfil this role. I also volunteered alongside John Fox as the Chairman of The Rudolf Fund Charity for special children which I enjoyed immensely for 18 years, so I had a little experience of working with volunteers.

Shopmobility runs perfectly well with the dedicated team of volunteers – they have all been very welcoming and shown me the ropes of how Shopmobility runs (like a well-oiled machine!) - so there is no need to make any major changes, we just need to raise our profile to make sure the public know we are there to help those people with limited mobility to be able to access the city centre. We are tucked away in the car park on the 11th floor and not visible to shoppers when they come to Queensgate.

We offer Wheelchairs, Powered Chairs and Scooters for use within the town six days a week, we now operate a members scheme which costs £10 per year which enables the member to use our service as often as they like – we have also introduced a daily membership for those customers who are only coming on a “one-off” visit to Peterborough which costs £5 per day. We still need donations to help us to maintain our vehicles and also sponsorships as we desperately need to replace some of the older ones before they completely give up!

If you can't trust Santa!



Unfortunately we lost one of our scooters on Christmas Eve as the person who borrowed it just abandoned it – but I have it on good authority that a very special person in a red suit and a white beard was caught on camera using it – I guess his reindeers must have been exhausted!!!

Armed Forces Community Drop In launches in Peterborough

Are you or do you know anyone who has served in the Armed Forces and in need of advice or information about housing, health, sport & leisure opportunities, education, volunteering and employment?

Why not pay a visit to the Armed Forces Community Drop-In. The sessions launched on Tuesday 10th January from 9-12pm in the Members Lounge at the Town Hall. Supporting Disabled Ex Forces are one of the groups involved in the Drop In. The service is also available to family members who are looking for help or advice. For more details contact Cllr John Fox on 07540 358396 or email: sdefpeterborough@mail.com

Paralympian forced to urinate in her clothes on train



Wheelchair-racer Anne Wafula Strike had been travelling home to Harlow in Essex from a UK Athletics board meeting in Coventry. The 42-year-old had to use the toilet but the accessible one was 'out of order' and her wheelchair could not fit down the aisles to get to another toilet on board. Anna, a disabilities campaigner, was left to urinate on herself on the train. The next stop was miles away. I couldn't wait any more, but I had to do go.

A Cross Country spokesman said: 'We are extremely sorry for the circumstances of Mrs Strike's recent journey with us. Our managing director has passed on our apologies to her along with an explanation of why it appears all our systems failed her on that day.'

Have you been a victim of hate crime?

Hate crime is not just attacking people for their race or religion. If you are attacked because of your disability, it is a hate crime. It could be a verbal or physical attack, or even graffiti or cyber bullying on social media. Whatever form it takes or whatever the reason for it, you should not tolerate it - and you do not have to tackle it alone.

At Cross Keys Homes we believe everyone has the right to be treated with respect and dignity and to live in an environment free from harassment, hatred and abuse. That's why we have a dedicated Hate Crime Officer, Emma Elmett, to raise awareness of hate crime and to support victims to report the crime to the Police as well as putting you in touch with agencies that can help you get back on track. Emma also works with community groups to raise awareness of what hate crime is and to give individuals and groups the confidence to report it. Remember, no one should have to suffer abuse for who they are. You are not alone. Call

Emma today on 07795605954 or email
emma.elmett@crosskeyshomes.co.uk.

Blue badge abusers left unpunished by 40% of councils in UK



Drivers who misuse blue badges for the disabled are left unpunished by 40% of councils in England, according to the Department for Transport. Blue badges entitle drivers to free parking in pay and display bays and allow them to park in disabled zones. Analysis by the Press Association showed that 61 out of 152 local authorities do not have a penalty policy for the dishonest use of badges. The disability charity Scope said it was a "staggering" number.

The penalty for misuse of the badges is stiff, according to the RAC Foundation, with fines of up to £1,000. "But that is no deterrent if councils have no policies for prosecutions," the foundation's direction of motoring research Steve Gooding said. He added: "Abuse of the system creates huge levels of ill feeling and risks bringing into disrepute the whole scheme, which is invaluable for those who really need it."

In 2015, there were 2.39 million blue badge holders in England, official figures show. Councils in England took legal action against 896 people for abuse of blue badges in the year to the end of March 2016, according to the Department for Transport (DfT). Almost all of the cases involved drivers using another person's blue badge.

James Taylor, Scope's head of policy, said councils have a duty to disabled people and to taxpayers to tackle the issue. He said: "Many disabled people rely heavily on their blue badges to live independently and we need to crack down on misuse of the system wherever possible. "It appears that some councils take their work to weed out those who are not disabled more seriously than others."

Earlier this year, the Local Government Association (LGA) revealed that the number of blue badges stolen in England had trebled in three years.

The LGA said there were 2,056 cases of theft recorded in 2015 compared with 1,756 in 2014 and 656 in 2013. However, the LGA disputed the accuracy of the DfT's report on councils' lack of policies, saying that some councils listed as not having a policy for prosecuting abuse of the scheme do have reporting mechanisms for such incidents.

A spokesman for the LGA said: "Councils take blue badge fraud seriously and are working hard to combat it. Gathering evidence and mounting a

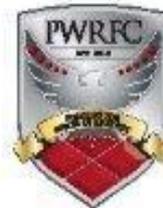
prosecution can be expensive, but councils know their areas and are best placed to decide the most effective way to tackle it."

Football Wellbeing and Recovery

Football can provide an essential element in the recovery and wellbeing of individuals with mental health conditions, their families and carers.

Each Wednesday from 2pm to 3pm we meet at Netherton 3G Astro-turf, The Grange, Mayors Walk, Peterborough, PE3 6HQ, to play 5 aside football.

We have both males and females participating and all levels of experience are welcome to just turn up and join us, and its only £2 per person.



Facebook /InspirePeterborough



Twitter @InspirePboro



01733 330 815

Register now at www.inspirepeterborough.com/register

contact@inspirepeterborough.com

A Disability Peterborough Project/ Registered Charity Number: 1089250

And finally.....Some useful numbers

Age UK 01733 564185

Benefits (housing and council tax) 01733 452241

Care and Repair 01733 863895

CareZone 01733 575083

Carers Trust Peterborough 01733 645234

City Care Clinic 01733 293800

Child Benefit 0845 302 1444

Department of Work and Pensions (new claims) 0800 055 6688

Disability Peterborough (DIAL) 01733 265551

Fire and Rescue Service 0800 917 9994

Housing Options 01733 864064

Inland Revenue – Tax Credits 0845 300 3900

Inspire Peterborough 01733 330815

Peterborough Association for the Blind 01733 344 844

Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme 0844 4994120

Peterborough Direct 01733 747474

Peterborough City Hospital 01733 678000

Peterborough Pensioners Association 01733 270528

Peterborough Police 101

Samaritans 08457 909090

Shopmobility 01733 313133

St Georges Hydrotherapy Pool 01733 453583

YMCA GYM 01733 313 085

**You can contact the Inspiring Peterborough Radio Show at PCR,
Herlington Centre. Peterborough, PE2 5PN.
radio@inspirepeterborough.com**