

Peterborough Disability Forum

NewsLink March 2017

Will you be attending the region's biggest Disability and Community Awareness event in March?



Want to find out what's happening in the city? Friday 3rd March sees the launch of Disability Peterborough's first ever Disability and Community Awareness Month courtesy of David Wait and his team at the Serpentine Green Shopping Centre in Hampton.

It will be a unique chance for local organisations and groups to come together during March, to highlight the services and support available in Peterborough. Thousands of visitors pass through the centre each day, so it will be a perfect opportunity for groups to promote their good work.

Sally Booth, co-organiser said "We have over 150 stalls during the month. We have organisations exhibiting as diverse as Inspire Peterborough, City College, Cross Keys Homes and even a Ready Steady Cook Food Waste event with Foodcycle and the WI, supported by Tesco supplying the food which would otherwise get thrown away!

At 12pm the Mayor, Cllr David Sanders and Deputy Mayor Cllr Keith Sharp will be opening the proceedings. We are delighted to have the children's choir from Hampton Primary School, accessible sporting activities and wellbeing workshops for everyone to participate in. Peterborough Community Radio will be interviewing guests and visitors for future broadcasting."

First week: Friday 3rd March - Thursday 9th - Sports and Leisure activities.

Second week: Friday 10th - Thursday 16th - Health and Wellbeing.

Third week: Friday 17th - Thursday 23rd - Environment, Healthy Eating and Learning.

Forth week: Friday 24th - Thursday 30th - Safer and Stronger Communities.

Like us on Facebook for information of daily stallholders. PeterboroughDCAM

A fantastic year for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Peterborough



What a great team the Mayor, David Sanders and Deputy Mayor Keith Sharp have made this past year. Not only have they raised funds for the Mayors Charities but they have also attended hundreds of official meetings, raising the profile of Peterborough.

On Friday 3rd March both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be guests of Disability Peterborough, and in their official capacity, opening the Disability and Community Awareness Month at Serpentine Green. Co-Organiser Sally Booth said "the Mayor and Deputy Mayor have been brilliant guests on the Inspiring Peterborough Radio Show recently and it's fantastic they can join us for the opening of our event. It's a sport themed first week and I'm hoping we can get our esteemed guests on a rower or adapted cycle or take part in the indoor archery or curling. Its open to everyone and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will open our event at 12pm, please join us!"

Our parking leaflets doing the trick!



Little did we realise the impact our campaign to reduce Blue Badge parking bay misuse would have when we launched it back in October. Gyms, schools shopkeepers and even Councillors have been "ticketing" able bodied drivers abusing disabled bays.

Barry Plumb, from the Disability Forum said "it's good to know our campaign is getting such strong support across the community, but it's sad that we have to take these measures. Most disabled drivers would happily give up their Blue Badge if they could have their mobility back. All we ask is, if you don't need a disabled bay or have the authority to use one, please don't, as there are lots of people out there that do need bays close to services!"

Well done Serpentine Green



David Wait manager of Serpentine Green and his colleague Steve Coulson at the Hampton shopping Centre are the latest representatives from big organisations to get involved in the clampdown on disabled bay misuse. Steve says" it's annoying when you see perfectly fit and healthy people parking in bays that are there for people that need them. We want to make Serpentine Green

accessible for everybody and we will stamp down on Blue Badge bay abuses!"

Inspire Peterborough shine at the Rise4Disability event

Nikki Griffiths and Gail Howard from Inspire Peterborough had a fruitful



time at the Rise4Disability event which was held at the Showground on Wednesday 22nd February. Over 90 exhibitors were on hand to talk to visitors about a whole range of issues, services and products. Nikki said "these events are great for seeing what other organisations

offer, networking and meeting members of the public. Well done Jade and Nicky for putting it together. Peterborough leading the way again in disability related events and activities!"

Not even the storms deter our hardy walkers!



Not even the recent storms and flooding could put off our intrepid Walks on Wednesday group, as can be seen from some of the walkers getting wrapped up! If you fancy a nice amble through the beautiful Ferry Meadows Country Park meet at the Visitors centre cafe at 10.15 and ask for Linda.

PAB

**Peterborough Association
for the Blind**

Training opportunity!

In Peterborough alone there are more than four thousand people living with serious sight loss. Peterborough Association for the Blind (PAB) are a local charity who help and support local blind and partially sighted people and their families to maintain quality of life and independence.

PAB are offering free training sessions for anyone who wants to learn more about sight loss and are considering volunteering with us to help us to improve people's lives. The three hour session will cover

- Some of the myths around sight loss
- The main eye conditions and the difficulties associated with them
- How to greet, introduce yourself and help a visually impaired person, including the basics of guiding
- Learn about PAB and the services we provide
- How you can make use of your skills

The next sessions will be on Tuesday 4th April from 10 am to 1 pm and Saturday 8th April from 10 am to 1 pm.

Please contact the office for further details and to book a place on a course: 01733 344 844 or email info@mypab.org.uk

How bad can bus services get?



Judging by recent reports and correspondence received by the Disability Forum, confidence in bus services have hit an all-time low amongst disabled travellers.

One passenger has told how she boarded a Stagecoach bus recently, walking stick in hand, the driver drove off at speed before she had chance to sit. The passenger fell into other travellers and hurt her wrist. The driver neither stopped nor apologised.

A blind bus user travelling with his assistance dog had a similar experience and ended up in the footwell! A wheelchair user was left abandoned in no man's land when the driver stopped in the middle of the road, well away from a dropped kerb. Another wheelchair user had an almost empty bus drive straight past, the driver shrugging and smiling.

Stagecoach has not returned phone calls from the Disability Forum.

Wheelchair user hits out at bus driver who 'refused her a space' even though a mother with a pushchair was happy to move just days after a landmark Supreme Court victory on the issue

A wheelchair user has spoken after a bus driver refused her a space on the bus because a pushchair was on board just days after a Supreme Court ruled on the issue. The woman was told by the driver that she could not get on despite there being enough room. The pushchair owner even moved it out the way to make sure the wheelchair space was accessible.

Kirsty Shepherd said the driver refused to let her on the bus and at one point threatened to terminate the service. 'It was absolutely awful and it has made me not want to get on a bus again,' said 34-year-old Ms Shepherd. 'There was plenty of room. The woman even overheard and she was fine about moving it, but the driver would still not let me on. Ms Shepherd, who struggles to walk due to the effects of Lyme disease from a tick bite said: 'It was one of the worst moments of my life''



The Inspiring Peterborough Radio Show goes FM

Keep your eyes peeled for the official press release and don't tell anyone you read it here first!

But on Friday 14th April, Peterborough Community Radio goes FM.

This means you can now listen to the Inspiring Peterborough Radio Show on all formats.

More news to follow



Hi, I'm Samantha and I am the new Children & Family Benefits Advice Worker. This role was a change of career for me; however I am amazed how much of my knowledge I have been able to

put to good use to support the families I have worked with so far. I previously managed a Private Day Nursery for the last 16 years, which has given great experience in supporting families and working with the children to improve their outcomes. In my previous role I trained as the Equalities Co-ordinator, SEN co-ordinator and Lead Safeguarding Officer.

I am really enjoying working for Disability Peterborough, I work with a friendly and supportive team and I am now putting my past and new training to good use. I have supported a wide range of families in the Peterborough area with DLA, PIP & Funding forms, also benefit checks and signposting them to other services that they may find helpful. It is heart-warming to be appreciated by these families too, as they are all so grateful for the support and advice I give. If you have a child with a disability and need my support please get in touch. 01733 265551

All in a good cause!

The Mayors charities this year are RAF Benevolent Fund, Salvation Army Good Neighbours Scheme and Motor Neurone Disease Association.



**Royal Air Force
Benevolent Fund**

Peterborough has a proud association with the RAF. Wittering has played a prominent part in military operations since 1916. Whatever their need, the RAF family can rely on the RAF Association every step of the way to give practical assistance, expert advice and support.

The Good Neighbours Scheme has been working in the city for the last 13 years. It responds to the needs of the most vulnerable. Their approach is holistic, engaging with people's physical, emotional and spiritual needs.



The MNDA is the only national charity in England, Wales and Northern Ireland focused on MND care, research and campaigning. They are an organisation with over 9,000 members forming a powerful national and local network that provides information and support alongside fighting for improved services. There are over 7,000 active volunteers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and around 170 paid staff.



George's Community Hydrotherapy Pool

Do you suffer from a long-term health condition or disability?

Are you rehabilitating from an operation or injury?

Would you like to relax in a warm, friendly pool to help relieve stress?

WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP

What we offer:

- Open to the public Monday – Saturday
- Aquatic physiotherapy sessions
- 36°C heated pool and spa
- Aquatic fitness classes
- Self-referral

01733 453583

www.hydrotherapypeterborough.com

For more information or to book an induction please contact us or drop in. 367 Dogsthorpe Road, Peterborough PE1 3RE



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**