

NewsLink

News, news and information from Peterborough Disability Forum

December 2017

It's agreed! Something needs to be done about access into the city.

Something has to change - that was the message from key decision makers in Peterborough after discovering first-hand the difficulties of reaching the city centre from the train station if you have a disability.



Joel Lamy, reporter with the PT gets to grips with using a wheelchair

The Peterborough Disability Forum organised a trip out in wheelchairs for some of the city's leaders including the Mayor and the Chair of the Chamber of Commerce.

Spending a morning in a wheelchair navigating the ramps, lifts, slopes and crossings which make shopping here so difficult for so many proved to be an eye opening experience for executives at two of the city's biggest shopping centres- Dave Wait from Serpentine Green and Mark Broadhead from Queensgate.

The trip saw the group attempt to navigate three routes into the city centre, either using a wheelchair or glasses that replicated the limited visibility of people with impaired vision. The first was up a ramp and into the lift in the Yellow Car Park near the station, before going across the footbridge into Queensgate. The second involved going through the pedestrian crossings on Bourges Boulevard and the third was through the subway towards Cowgate which has a steep slope at the end. For users of the second option, the route into Queensgate would involve going to Westgate, as the entrance via Bourges Boulevard requires going up stairs.

Simon Machen, the council's director for growth and regeneration, said the authority will consider different options alongside Queensgate for the Bourges Boulevard entrance, including the possibility of a lift.

Cllr John Fox said improvements had been made recently with more drop kerbs, disabled bays and tougher enforcement on blue badge abuse. But added: "We want visitors coming to Peterborough. We need to make it easier to get off the train and into the city centre. People have seen for themselves the difficulty. If they can't see it's got to change, are they doing their job? It's clearly a problem and we have to find a solution."

Sporting Saturday-Book now

Accessible sport activities for people of all ages and ability to try!

As you may be aware-Sporting Saturday is back for its 5th year! You will be able to talk to sports coaches and health and fitness experts, and in many instances, join up with the clubs and organisations taking part.

If you own/manage or are involved in a sport or health and fitness club/activity that supports people with disabilities or health conditions and want a Stand or Display space on Saturday 24th February-Follow the link below-**ITS FREE AND SO IS ENTRY ON THE DAY!!**



To book for Sporting Saturday

visit: <http://www.bookwhen.com/sportingsaturday>

International lunch to celebrate the work of Disability Peterborough and Inspire Peterborough goes down a treat!



PCC CEO Gillian Beasley talking to guests

The work of the local disability charities was recognised with a fantastic Community lunch provided by the Meet and Eat team at City College Peterborough and colleagues at the City Council - Mayor and Mayoress John Fox and Judy Fox and the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress as well as the CEO and Leader of the Council and Cllr Irene Walsh and lots of other guests attended. But a very special well done Bernadetta Omondi, Perri Luparia, Jawaid Khan and all the countless and unsung heroes who provided a fantastic International lunch for over 120 members and friends of the Disability Forum. A real team effort!



The Mayor, Cllr Fox and Co-Founder of Inspire Peterborough, Cllr Irene Walsh address the 120 plus diners

The food was donated by partners of the Meet and Eat programme

Inspire Peterborough exercise classes go from strength to strength



What a fantastic turnout for the weekly exercise classes run by Sonia from WOW Fitness. These are just some of the regulars at a recent Thursday morning class. One of the regulars, Phil Thatcher said "it's brilliant, I, and my wife Sally, go to the new Amilly

Fitness Centre with Samia on Mondays, the Walks on Wednesdays at Ferry Meadows and the session with Sonia on Thursdays.

Well done Inspire Peterborough and everyone who makes these activities available, you all deserve medals!"

Getting fitter with Samia at Amilly Fitness Centre



Former Mayor and Mayoress George and Sylvia Simons popped in to the Amilly Fitness Centre recently to talk to Samia and the team. George said "I'm very impressed, I have known David Watling from Mobility Aids Centre for many years and if he is involved then you know it's going to

be good. I think Inspire Peterborough do such a brilliant job to help disabled people get a little fitter. Keep up the good work!"

Walks on Wednesday group, most successful sessions yet!



A few of the regulars

Well done Linda, Maggie, Colin and all the rest of the volunteers and walkers for continuously breaking records. It's amazing to think the sessions were only due to last for 6 weeks when first launched, and that was six years ago.

Volunteer Maggie Lane says it's all down to everyone mucking in. "There are no set rules or routes, because of health issues many of our group don't know how far they can go until they get here, so we make sure that someone is always there to support the last walker. And to be honest, it's the social element as much as the walk itself. For some of our guys who struggle to get out and about, Walks on Wednesdays are a really good way of making friends and getting out of the house for a few hours."

Amazing what a bit of teamwork can do!



It was a bit of a long shot when a Peterborough based Social Worker contacted the Disability Forum asking if members knew of a mountain bike going cheaply to a good home. A young man with health problems wanted to get fitter but couldn't afford a new bike. A couple of emails and within an hour, David Wait from Serpentine Green Shopping Centre had offered the man his old, but in good working order, bicycle. Well done Mr Wait!

Are new developments no-go areas for wheelchair users?



Barry Plumb and Bryan Tyler from the Disability Forum met with residents of the Vista development recently to discuss the parking problems on the new estate. Residents, visitors and commuters are parking on pavements and verges making it almost impossible for wheelchair users and parents with buggies and prams to navigate the streets safely. The Forum has contacted the Council for updates. Keep you posted!

Next Disability Forum

The first forum of 2018 will be held at Centre 68 in Westgate on Thursday 25th January between 10-12pm. All welcome

Pavement Parking-Is there a solution?



Included in the council's budget proposals is a commitment to spend £22k towards implementing a scheme to fine people for parking on pavements. Under the proposals there will be a citywide ban on parking on verges and pavements, but this will only be enforced in certain areas where local residents or the emergency services make a strong case action needs to be taken. The £22,000 will be spent on establishing the scheme, associated signage and on enforcement. Although the scheme will not start until the new financial year in April if the proposals are approved residents can contact the local councillors to suggest areas where the verge and pavement parking ban should be enforced.

If the council then decides to go to the next stage after initial conversations with the ward councillors it will hold an informal consultation with residents of the street or area that have asked for the scheme and possibly residents of the surrounding area as well. In the end the final decision on whether to push ahead with the ban in that area will be up to the council. When the council goes ahead with the ban signage will be put up in the affected area, and after two week warning period any vehicles found to be parked on verges or the pavement could be hit with a penalty charge notice.

Can you credit it?

BRITS have spent a whopping £6.5million ringing the Universal Credit helpline in just five months. Staggering figures reveal there were 4.2million calls to the Universal Credit helpline in just five months

The Government said that on average claimants spent 11 minutes 46 seconds on the phone – including 4 minutes waiting in a queue.

Campaigners claimed that with an average landline fee of up to 12p – phone companies have raked in around £6.5million from some of the poorest people in the country.

Lib Dem Work and Pensions spokesman Stephen Lloyd said: “These figures should shame the Government. “The Department is cashing in on its own failure. These charges cannot continue any longer.”

Pensions Secretary David Gauke last month vowed to scrap the charges by the end of November after an outcry over the fees. Mr Gauke at the time insisted the department wanted to make the process of contacting advisers as burden free as possible.

A Department of Work and Pensions spokeswoman insisted it was free for “many people” to ring the helpline as part of their telephone package. She was unable to estimate how many people escaped a charge in this way.

Blue Badge fiddler gets fined



A Yaxley woman who fraudulently used her dead mother's blue badge has been fined at court. Jean Bunten, 63, of Main Street in Yaxley, appeared at Peterborough Magistrates' Court recently and was found guilty under the Fraud Act 2006. She was ordered to pay a fine of £120, a £30 victim surcharge and £600 costs. The court heard that on Wednesday June 1 2016, Bunten was parked on double yellow lines in Viersen Platz with a blue badge on display. A civil enforcement officer was in the vicinity when Bunten returned to her car and asked to inspect her blue badge. The badge was then confiscated by the officer when it was found not to be in the name of Bunten or her passenger. A full investigation was undertaken and it was subsequently found that the blue badge had been issued to Bunten's mother who had passed away earlier in the year. There is more information on the blue badge scheme on the council's website, including how to report suspected misuse.

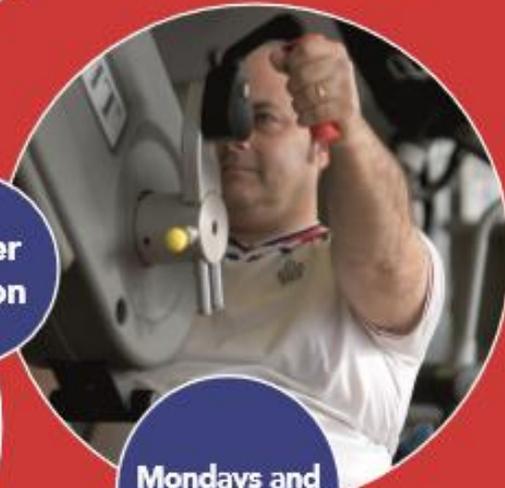
Amilly Fitness

Inclusive health and wellbeing centre

inspire
Peterborough
enhancing lives

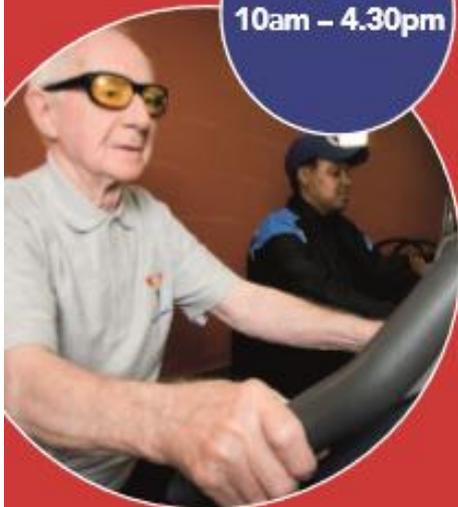


£2 per
session



Mondays and
Wednesdays

OPEN:
10am – 4.30pm



Inspire Peterborough have teamed up with Oak Activities to run an inclusive fitness centre for adults with a long term health condition, special need, physical, mental, sensory or learning disability.

Chair based exercise classes and open gym sessions

Booking essential via
www.bookwhen.com/amilly-fitness
or for group bookings please call 01733 330 815

Amilly House, 88 South Street, Stanground PE2 8EZ

Contact Inspire Peterborough for more information

www.inspirepeterborough.com | [/amilly-fitness](https://www.facebook.com/amilly-fitness)
T: 01733 330 815 | E: contact@inspirepeterborough.com

Disability Peterborough Project/Registered Charity Number: 1089250



And finally.....Some useful numbers

Age UK 01733 564185

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

Headway Cambridgeshire 01223 576550

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