

# NewsLink

News, news and information from Peterborough Disability Forum

October 2017

## Peterborough Disability Forum members honoured with lunch with the Mayor



On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November between 12 and 3pm in the Reception Room of the Town Hall Mayor of Peterborough, Cllr John Fox will be hosting a Meet and Eat International Buffet Lunch for members of the Disability Forum, family members, carers, associates and colleagues.

**What is Meet and Eat?** Here is Perri Luparia from City College Peterborough to explain. "The benefit of CommUNITY Meet & Eat project is to support Peterborough and its wide ranging and diverse city communities in reducing social isolation, increasing wellbeing whilst supporting integration and community cohesion. The project lends itself to supporting and upskilling and offering additional wraparound services such as Public Health and IAG at our events. We offer a 3-course healthy, imaginative meal with a restaurant experience at very little or no cost."

Mayor of Peterborough Cllr John Fox added "this is an opportunity for us to say thank you for the fantastic work the Disability Forum does to improve the lives of disabled people in our city." Spaces are limited. To register Email: [eat@citycollegepeterborough.ac.uk](mailto:eat@citycollegepeterborough.ac.uk) or call 01733 761361 ext. 810

## A pat on the back for Peterborough Train Station

A regular user of Peterborough Train Station contacted the Disability Forum recently reporting that in certain parts of the station the hearing loop couldn't be picked up. Disability Form Manager Bryan Tyler contacted Station Manager Jodie Slater who has added the hearing loop to a list of issues to be addressed in the upcoming Lobby upgrade.

## Walks on Wednesday back for winter



After a short break for the Walk Leaders, volunteers and walkers to catch their breath, the ever and increasingly popular Inspire Peterborough Walks on Wednesday at Ferry Meadows return on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October. Meet at 10.15am at the Visitor Centre Cafe and ask for Linda, Maggie or Colin. Have a leisurely stroll, meet new friends and enjoy complimentary coffee and cake

## Where would we be without volunteers!



A three-day 'Ground Force' event to dig up the car park at St George's Hydrotherapy Pool proved so popular that the volunteers ran out of skips a day early. Such was the speed which the volunteers worked with that the two 40 foot skips were full up by the end of Saturday, meaning an unexpected rest day on the Sunday.

The good news, though, was that the ripping up of the car park in Dogsthorpe Road was by then nearly complete, allowing builders to come in and finish the job before relaying a new surface. The overall saving from the good work of the volunteers is expected to be between £15,000 and £20,000, a large amount considering Peterborough City Council has spent £45,000 to fix leaks, remove asbestos and carry out other minor refurbishments at the pool, which will re-open this month. One of the volunteers was Cllr Irene Walsh, council cabinet member for communities. She said: "We were astounded by the amount of support we received. We filled two skips with rubble and made great progress, ready for the resurfacing works. This will result in users being able to access the pool more easily. "I would like to thank all those who pledged their time, digging, shovelling and providing refreshments. "Special thanks needs to be made to the Friends of St George's Community Hydrotherapy Pool and RAF Wittering, who provided volunteers, and Serpentine Green who provided volunteers, paid for the skips, provided food for those helping and new signage for the pool."

## Disability Forums move to new venue proves a winner



It has to be said, it's not easy to find an accessible venue in the heart of the city centre but it looks like the Disability Forum has found a permanent new home for its meetings. Centre 68 in Westgate is convenient for the Bus and Train Stations as well as Queensgate Shopping Centre car parks. Barry Plumb, who co chairs the meetings said "it's a great venue, easy to reach for most people and it's also very easy to use facilities". The first Disability Forum in the new venue took place on September 14<sup>th</sup> with a full agenda of guest speakers from a wide variety of organisations. Barry added "we wanted to show people that these Forums are the perfect settings for disabled people to find out the news, views and information from our city that effects their lives."

**Next Disability Forum is Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 10am**

## Horner Foundation support for Special Olympics Peterborough



Inspire Peterborough is delighted to announce that we have been awarded funding from the Horner Foundation for the next two years to support and develop Special Olympics Peterborough to offer every young person age 12 to 25 years with a learning disability in Peterborough the following:-

- Opportunity to take part in fun and safe sport and leisure activity to improve their own health and wellbeing
- Provide more choice about which sport and leisure activity, where they can undertake it at a cost which is affordable
- Be inclusive so the whole family and carers can take part in the sport and activity to improve social skills
- Offer volunteering opportunities and our EQUIP sports coaching courses in partnership with the YMCA to provide new skills, improving independence and qualifications for life

The Special Olympics athlete's oath is: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

Sandie Burns CEO of Disability Peterborough said "I am delighted with the news that the Horner Foundation has chosen to fund Inspire Peterborough and Special Olympics Peterborough.

The new service will deliver an increase in the number of young people with Learning Disabilities becoming involved in the Special Olympics.

Disability (DIAL) Peterborough has been established as an information, advice and guidance charity for disabled people for over 30 years.



The opportunity to develop our sporting and leisure activities arose around 5 years ago as Inspire Peterborough became part of our service delivery.

We look forward to seeing the Special Olympics grow in Peterborough and

welcome more disabled people having the opportunity to become involved in sport"

To celebrate medals success at the National Games in August 2017, the athletes representing Peterborough and the Eastern Region were recently invited for tea with the Mayor in his Parlour!

## Queensgate get into the festive spirit



The Disability Forum have been working with Queensgate Shopping Centre to make shopping a more accessible experience for disabled shoppers and their families. Here's Carol Wakelin, Environmental Manager to explain. "We are excited to announce that for the first year Queensgate will be hosting a shopping event designed to create an enjoyable shopping experience for those who don't usually find Queensgate an accessible retail destination.

As part of late night Christmas trading hours, Thursday December 7<sup>th</sup> (4pm – 8pm) will see Queensgate adapt its environment and facilities for those less able, living within our community. There are around 35,000 disabled people in Peterborough, with many having never visited Queensgate due to the perception of its inaccessibility, for example; busy environment, bright lighting and noisy surroundings. In the pipeline... Queensgate will be turning down the lighting and music to create a comfortable environment within the mall and various meet and greet points will be located around the centre to welcome shoppers to the event. They will be given welcome refreshments and a complimentary gift bag as well as an opportunity to discuss their needs for the evening with volunteers from local care agencies who will also be on hand to accompany them on their shopping journey. Pianist, Nigel Hammond will be playing soft music from the link bridge near M&S, which will create a soothing environment. Reducing store music would allow us to create a calm, enjoyable shopping experience

Shopmobility will be providing free equipment on the night for all of those who require these facilities. A sensory room will be created in a vacant unit down Westgate Arcade, which will be used as a hub for those who may need a break from the shopping experience.

**For more details contact: [carol.wakelin@queensgatecm.co.uk](mailto:carol.wakelin@queensgatecm.co.uk)**

### **Cut business rates for premises offering toilet access, says MP**

Restaurants, cafes and hotels should be given discounts on their business rates if they allow people "in urgent need" to use their toilets, an MP has said. Madeleine Moon told the Commons the cutback in toilets in public spaces meant alternative options were needed for those with continence issues. An estimated 14 million people lived with bladder dysfunction, she said, including many women after childbirth. Public toilets have traditionally been liable for business rates in the same way as non-domestic premises such as shops and offices

## **When does the Blue Badge abuse stop?**

**Not until the courts hand out meaningful sentences!**



A businessman was caught using a photocopy of his mother's disabled permit so that he could park his £35,000 car on double yellow lines.

Errol Lipman, 58, used the crude copy of his elderly mother's Blue Badge in a bid to park the Mercedes E-Class where he pleased. However the property developer was finally caught out after a warden raised concerns over the poor imitation in his car window. Executive director of Safeland, the father of three was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £1,000 court costs and a £100 victim surcharge. His lawyer Maria Stevens said her client was late for an appointment!

### **Vicar stole blue badge of a dead parishioner so he could park for free.**

Bill Haymaker, 64, claimed the woman had handed him the badge to give back to the Council before she died but that he forgot. But the vicar was caught red-handed by a traffic warden parking in a disabled bay.

He later described it as one of those "oh shoot" moments and an honest mistake and claimed he was telling the "gospel truth."

A court ordered Fr Haymaker, who was ordained in 1984, to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work and to pay £3,700 in court costs. The dad-of-two had claimed he was providing pastoral care for terminally ill and poorly parishioners, necessitating the badge. But a jury took just 45 minutes to unanimously find him guilty of possessing an article for use in a fraud. After his conviction Fr Haymaker said he had made an "honest mistake"

## **Disability assessors 'lack right skills'**

A report from a UN committee has criticised the UK government for its treatment of disabled people, saying it needs to do much more to protect the rights of the disabled. The UK is required to



regularly report to the UN on how it is honouring the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. Anastasia Tempest has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair. She told 5 Live Tony Livesey: "Social care managers are not equipped, and lack skill, in knowing how to assess people with disabilities." She said she was asked "quite ridiculous" questions in her assessment, including "who does your eye shadow?" and "do you put your own earrings in?" A government spokesman said: "We're disappointed that this report does not accurately reflect the evidence we gave to the UN, and fails to recognise all the progress we've made to empower disabled people." He said the UK spent a record £50bn a year to support disabled people and those with health conditions - the second highest amount in the G7.

## **Betrayed by the banks**

A damning report has laid bare how banks are betraying disabled customers by closing branches and forcing them online. And many older people who do not feel safe using the internet are left unable to do their banking. Banks can be overwhelming the Financial Conduct Authority said recently and often noisy with no private areas to talk to staff.

The FCA also raised concerns that the reflective Perspex screens and stark lighting make it difficult for customers with bad eyesight to see properly and can disturb people with dementia. Elderly customers have described finding it difficult to do their banking on the internet Unfriendly and impatient staff can make customers feel rushed and there is often a lack of clear direction for customers on where they need to queue, it added.

Customers also reported difficulties when they tried to call their bank because there are too many options and they are not put through to someone local. Older customers say they are made to feel rushed and struggle to hear or understand the call handler. The FCA warned banks to improve their services for the elderly or face a crackdown.

Martyn James, a consumer campaigner, said: 'If we're not careful, we're in danger of sleepwalking into a society where older people are excluded from the dignity of managing their own finances by computers, call centres and a lack of humanity.' The FCA said staff should be trained to recognise when customers are having difficulties and offer better support to customers using new technology.

The number of bank branches in the UK has halved since 1989. Cash-strapped banks are pushing customers to bank online or via a mobile phone app. But many older customers are uncomfortable with these. The regulator also highlighted how disabled customers struggle when using cash machines because the instructions change too quickly.

It raised concerns that more than a third of customers aged 85 and over (37 per cent) had told a family member or friend their Pin or password so they could withdraw cash and do their shopping. But by doing this they are breaching their bank's terms and conditions so if they fall victim to fraud they will have difficulty getting their money back. By 2020 the number of consumers aged over 65 in the UK is expected to increase by 1.1million and by 2040 one in seven people will be over 75.

Banking industry trade body UK Finance said it would engage with the FCA on the issues raised in the report



Kenneth from Inspire Peterborough again! Welcome to the Inspire Peterborough & Sports section. If you want any information or anything posted on our social media then feel free to email me at [kenny@inspirepeterborough.com](mailto:kenny@inspirepeterborough.com)

- Inspire Peterborough is delighted to announce that we have been awarded funding from the Horner Foundation for the next two years to support and develop Special Olympics Peterborough to offer every young person age 12 to 25 years with a learning disability in Peterborough.
- With this in mind we'd like to welcome Kay to the team as our brand new Special Olympics Officer. Kay has been volunteering with us for the past two years, but now with new funding from the US-based Horner Foundation we are able to employ Kay for 10 hours week. She will be supporting existing Special Olympics clubs (swimming, horse-riding and athletics), whilst reinvigorating old ones (rhythmic gymnastics and ice skating) and start new ones. You can Contact Kay or welcome her to the team here: Email [kay@inspirepeterborough.com](mailto:kay@inspirepeterborough.com) or mobile 07712 427558.
- We missed out on the Mick George 'Pot of Gold' award, but you can put your coins in both Asda Rivergate and John Lewis cafe pots to ensure we get some additional funding to finish 2017 with a positive funding boost for the many ventures we have planned at Inspire.
- Our winner of the Fitbit Flex was Sammie Parfitt. She told Inspire she has been looking to motivate herself to exercise after giving up karate a few years ago. Winning this Fitbit, a water bottle and her YMCA Gym Membership will be "just the motivation she needs", she said. Well done Sammie! Enjoy your fitness journey and we're looking forward to following it. Could you be the winner of a future Inspire Peterborough competition?
- Our mental health sports ambassador Leon McKenzie lost a close fight to Peterborough's to Marcello Renda and has now retired from boxing. He will focus on his mental health work now. Yes, that means we might even get Leon more involved here at Inspire! Good luck, Leon!
- We're proud to unveil Amilly Fitness- Stanground's very own Inclusive Health and Wellbeing Centre run by Inspire Peterborough and Oak Activities. The gym is coming soon, so stay tuned to Inspire and Amilly Fitness' Facebook, and soon Disability Peterborough's (yes we'll be live on Facebook from October).

See you next month! Kenny

## **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](mailto:radio@inspirepeterborough.com)**