

NewsLink

News, news and information from Peterborough Disability Forum

March 2018

Sporting Saturday 2018



"I love this day" stated Leslie, one of the hundreds of participants at the recent "Sporting Saturday" event held at the Cresset in Bretton. "I see my friends; we take part in all the games and have a great time".

Nikki Griffiths, Development Manager of event organisers Inspire Peterborough, said at the close of the event "without a shadow of a doubt this has been our busiest ever Sporting Saturday, it's been brilliant. Normally we have quiet times but this year it's been constant. We have had over 40 activities and stands and they have all been permanently busy.

The Cresset management and staff have been wonderful and we had some fantastic support from Serpentine Green and BGL and of course the Mayor and Mayoress, Cllrs John and Judy Fox. But special praise should be made to our MC Chris Harper, our Activity Makers, volunteers, exhibitors and participants who make Sporting Saturday such a success. See you all in 2019"

Mayor, Mayoress and MP sing the praises of Sporting Saturday

Pictured with St Georges Hydrotherapy Pools Karen Oldale is Mayor and



Mayoress, Cllrs John and Judy Fox and Peterborough MP, Fiona Onasanya. Ms Onasanya tried many of the activities including the horse! "What a great event this is and so much to try. I've never seen darts played with a football before and I must admit to a slight trepidation before having a go on the horse! Well done Inspire Peterborough for organising such a fabulous event." Councillor

John Fox added "where would we be without "Sporting Saturday". I've said it a hundred times and I will keep saying it, where would we be without organisations like Disability Peterborough, Inspire Peterborough and the Disability Forum supporting disabled people in our city"?

Oxfam scandal highlights how out of touch big charities are says Disability Forum co-chair Barry Plumb



"If there was ever a news story that exposed the sheer avarice and arrogance of big "charities" the Oxfam outrage is it! Next time you go to give your hard earned cash to the Oxfam's of this world, ask how the money will be spent, who will benefit and how? Bet your bottom dollar the poor and the needy will be at the bottom of the pile! And yet, every day 100s of local charities throughout the UK go to the wall because of a lack of funding. Tiny organisations that provide so much help, hope and support for the homeless, the elderly, disabled and our ex forces who put their lives on the line, and now, because of no fault of their own, can't find a job or home and struggle with mental or physical health issues

These massive organisations are not Charities but Corporations benefiting from lucrative tax concessions and easier access to funding. It's about time some of the greedy self-servers in the Charity sector were unveiled as the institutional criminals and rogues they really are!

Next time you put your hand in your pocket to help those that need it, give it to local charities who are accountable and deliver much needed services, not to those wishing to benefit from the misfortune of others."

Disability Awareness Week begins March 19th



Following on from last year's Disability and Community Awareness event at Serpentine Green we are pleased to announce that Disability

Awareness Week (DAW) is back for 2018, this time organised by Disability Peterborough with the needs of disabled people at the forefront of the occasion and again hosted by David Wait and his colleagues from Serpentine Green Shopping Centre in Hampton



David Wait said "we want to offer all disabled people, their family members and carers the opportunity to talk to experts about questions they may have about disability related issues. Funding is being cut and voluntary

organisations are struggling to cope with the sheer numbers of people looking for information, advice and guidance but people still need help in accessing services and support, Disability Peterborough is perfectly placed to offer that help!"

Minister's advisers visit the City to meet Disability Peterborough



Inclusion and Access to services and businesses were the key themes for a recent meeting hosted by the Mayor of Peterborough, Cllr John Fox.

Disability Peterborough was asked by Advisers from the office of Disability Minister Sarah Newton MP about how to make services more inclusive and accessible for disabled people and their families and carers. Amongst the guests were Mayoress, Cllr Judy Fox, Sandie Burns, CEO of Disability Peterborough, Cllr Irene Walsh, Chamber of Commerce chair David Waits, David and Jason Watling from Mobility Aids Centre, Nikki Griffiths from Inspire Peterborough and Bryan Tyler from Disability Peterborough.

Cllr Fox said "it's deserved recognition for all the hard work of organisations like Disability Peterborough when Government Ministers want to consult. I have said for many years, access and accessibility in our city has improved exponentially since the Disability Forum began"

Defence chiefs secretly shut five mental health centres despite a wave of soldier suicides and rise in PTSD cases



In 2015, there were 16 specialist units, known as Departments of Community Mental Health run by the MODs Defence Medical Services. Now there are just 11. The closures, which were never announced by the Ministry of Defence, included the Army's busiest DCMH at Catterick, North Yorkshire. It provided support to an estimated 13,000 troops.

More than 400 serving personnel have committed suicide since 1995 and the number diagnosed with PTSD has doubled in the past ten years to 2,500. The doors of the DCMH at Leuchars were closed even though the base is intended to become the Army's main centre in Scotland.

Top brass also shut the DCMH in Cyprus, where 3,500 UK troops are based, including RAF pilots conducting air strikes against Islamic State in Syria and Iraq. DCMHs were also axed at RAF Marham in Norfolk and at the former RAF base at Kinloss in Scotland, which is now an Army base.

The MoD admitted it had also been forced to 'fund treatment externally' after its mental health waiting times for troops seeking help fell behind those of the NHS. Defence sources added that the average waiting time for troops to be treated for PTSD and other conditions – based on figures up to September 2017 – was now 46 calendar days.



MPs demand action over public car scheme for the disabled which is hoarding £2.4billion and paying its boss £1.7million a year

MPs have demanded an inquiry into a public car scheme for the disabled that is hoarding £2.4billion. Motability had run up the huge surplus – and that its boss was on £1.7million a year, or 11 times the Prime Minister’s salary. Peers and MPs expressed astonishment at the massive pay, perks and luxury lifestyles of the charitable scheme’s chiefs. The DWP was accused of losing control over the non-profit firm, which arranges cars for wheelchair users and others in return for their disability allowances.

Meg Hillier, who chairs the Commons public accounts committee, has promised to summon the ministry’s top civil servant as soon as possible. The DWP, which pays around £2billion a year to Motability, is said to have been rocked by the revelations. ‘They were absolutely desperate to shift it away from them,’ a source claimed. ‘They went straight to the Charity Commission to say “You deal with this”.’ The Charity Commission later released a statement saying it had warned Motability about its finances.

CEO Mike Betts’s pay and perks have soared in his ten years at the helm. The 55-year-old owns a £5million apartment overlooking Tower Bridge and takes Caribbean holidays. Motability insists the £2.4billion surplus is a necessary buffer against risks such as changes in car prices. It says its executives are the best in the business and deserve their high pay, which consists mainly of bonuses for high performance.

Talking Disability-Peterborough



It was another packed programme on Friday 23rd February. Joining Bryan Tyler was Disability Peterborough CEO Sandie Burns answering listener’s questions. Nikki Griffiths was talking about “Sporting Saturday” and all the other events managed by the Inspire Peterborough team. This month’s very special guest was Council Leader Cllr John Holdich discussing his Stand up for Peterborough campaign and the impact on disability related services of the recent budget cuts.

Disability Forum



It was a packed agenda at the recent Disability Forum. The next meeting is at 10am on Thursday 26th April. Centre 68 in Westgate opposite the Bus Station is the venue. Expect another busy agenda.

Ferry Meadows Visitor with Necessary Companion Parking Membership Trial – Volunteers Wanted!

Following feedback from visitors, Nene Park Trust has been developing a new Parking Membership Scheme that will permit members who fit the criteria below, to park at Ferry Meadows in multiple vehicles that are owned by different individuals, such as carers or other family members, for the same flat rate that the current Parking Membership allows.

The way the existing parking membership works is that members are only able to register up to two vehicle registrations for parking at Ferry Meadows and these must be registered to the members' address.

The Trust is running a trial of a Visitor with Necessary Companion Parking Membership which has been designed to be more flexible. The aim is to find out how the new membership works in practise for those who it is designed for, through a small number of volunteers, to iron out any issues that may come to light before rolling out a new system to the public.

This membership is to be available to people with disabilities who:

- need a companion to accompany them in order to visit Ferry Meadows
- require the use of a car to get to Ferry Meadows
- do not drive
- are of driving age

We are offering the Visitor with Necessary Companion Parking Membership for a short period (duration to be agreed) **for free** on the condition that at the end of the period the user is happy to meet with the Trust to provide feedback on the system.

If you, or someone you know, fits the above criteria and may be interested in trialling the new system please contact Anne Mason on 01733 367570 or anne.mason@neneparktrust.org.uk for more details as this offer will be open to a limited number of volunteers only.

Aiming for the top-Serpentine Green boss looks forward to gruelling charitable challenges!



More details to follow but well done David Wait, Serpentine Green shopping centre manager and Chair of the Chamber of Commerce. David will be taking part in a series of daredevil activities over the next 12 months and raising funds for Deaf Blind UK and Disability Peterborough, both organisations very close to David's heart. More details next month

Amilly Fitness

Inclusive health and wellbeing centre

inspire
Peterborough
enhancing lives

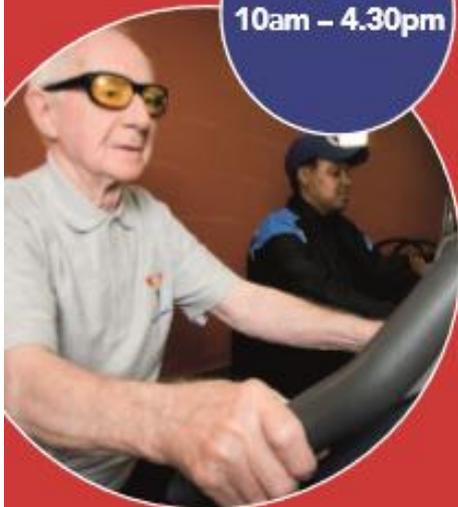


£2 per
session



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