

# NewsLink

News, news and information from Peterborough Disability Forum

**May 2018**

## **Rise4Disability**



Inspire Peterborough has been given a very exciting opportunity - to run a Sporting Saturday style event at the RISE 4 Disability Exhibition at The Peterborough Arena on Thursday 12 July.

See <http://www.rise4disability.com/venues/Peterborough.html>

Whilst this is a week day and school day, the event is aimed at professionals and parents too. Plus some schools do also visit. Furthermore, Disability Peterborough is the chosen charity partner for the event. Nikki Griffiths, Inspire Peterborough manager said "We can have a stage area and The Atrium which we think is larger than the Main Hall at The Cresset. We can also set up activities outside the venue such as archery, running or cycle track etc. Information stands are available but these would be chargeable as they are in the main auditorium area. Please contact the Organisers directly and quote Inspire Peterborough. There will further paperwork associated with the event to follow i.e. risk assessments but people give me an indication if you might be interested to run an activity and/or performance on stage by 30 April that would be great" [Nikki@inspirepeterborough.com](mailto:Nikki@inspirepeterborough.com)

## **Special Disability Forum Meeting**



A packed Sovereign Room at the Cresset was the location for a recent Special Disability Forum. Clients were asked to get involved in planning the future services provided by Disability Peterborough. More in next month's NewsLink.

## **Deafblind UK celebrates its 90<sup>th</sup> year**

Jo Smith from Deafblind UK joined presenter Bryan Tyler on the Talking Disability radio show recently. Jo has asked people to get involved in the celebrations as well as those for other milestones: 15 years of the Deafblind centre and 21 years of the Information and Advice line. Jo invites you and your family to the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration in June on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup>. "This is a fun day out for all the family, with blind driving, blind archery, a fairground and much more. Members will be arriving at 11am until 1pm then the venue and attractions will be open to members of the public." [jo.smith@deafblind.org.uk](mailto:jo.smith@deafblind.org.uk)

## Aspiring writer Kelly interviews the Mayor



Inspire Peterborough volunteer Kelly King spent almost two hours in the company of Mayor and Mayoress, Cllrs John and Judy Fox recently. Kelly, who hopes to work in journalism after college, quizzed two of Peterborough's favourite Councillors on a whole range of topics including supporting disabled people through their work with Shopmobility, Rudolf Fund and the Disability Forum. Kelly said afterwards, "I was so nervous going in to the Mayors Parlour but the Mayor and

Mayoress were fantastic and made me feel welcome straightaway.

**You can read Kelly's interview in next month's NewsLink.**

## Barry's monthly moan-Supermarket car parks



"Enforcement deters abuse of supermarket disabled parking bays" says Disability Forum vice chairman Barry Plumb. "But how many supermarkets actually bother with clamping down on the misuse of Disabled Bays? Certainly not Sainsbury's in Oxney Road, I have witnessed on numerous occasions able bodied motorists abandoning their vehicles in the disabled bays and running into the store to buy a few lunch items. I have asked Sainsbury's for a meeting to discuss the problem but still waiting for a response."

## How accessible is your favourite coffee shop?



It has been reported that cafes will outnumber pubs in major cities and towns in the very near future. But how "disabled friendly" are the coffee shops in Peterborough? Barry Plumb and Bryan Tyler from the Disability Forum will be out and about over the summer months to see how good, bad or indifferent the city's watering holes really are.

Barry said "Access in Peterborough city centre has really improved over recent years, thanks largely to the Disability Forum and partners. Lots more disabled parking spaces, a Changing Places toilet, reduced street clutter and the one level shared space makes it so much more enjoyable for most shoppers with disabilities, however! I frequent several of the coffee shops in town and to be frank, they are rubbish for access. Counters are too high, toilets not accessible and staff members have very little disability awareness training. We don't want to be antagonising or upsetting proprietors but we do want to bring any shortcomings to their attention."

### **Amazing what a bit of teamwork can achieve**



Dogsthorpe resident "Shirley" was at her wits end, she had tried everywhere to get a dropped kerb put somewhere near her adapted bungalow but was getting nowhere, fast! Shirley, who has MS, was becoming increasingly isolated as her mobility worsened. Her bungalow was at the end of a cul de sac and without a dropped kerb Shirley couldn't get out of her home. The Disability Forum teamed up with PCVS and Care and Repair to help resolve Shirley's problem and eventually her Housing Association agreed to fit a dropped kerb outside the bungalow.

### **National Charities no longer trusted?**



Baroness Stowell of Beeston said charities were 'no longer trusted automatically by the public' Charities are no more trusted than the average stranger on the street, according to the new boss of the sector's regulator. In her first major speech since she was appointed Charity Commission chairman earlier this year, Baroness Stowell of Beeston said charities were 'no longer trusted automatically by the public'.

After a series of scandals in the sector, people are no longer willing to give them the benefit of the doubt, she said. She told delegates at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations' annual conference in London that the public 'now trust charities no more than they trust the average stranger they meet on the street'.

Baroness Stowell indicated that her views were based on the commission's own research, with the final results due to be published later this year. She said scandals such as the sexual harassment of staff by Save the Children executives, Oxfam aid workers using prostitutes in Haiti, and the harassment of hostesses at the Presidents Club's fundraising events had contributed to public scepticism about charities.

### **Next Disability Forum**



Centre 68 in Westgate (behind the church) is the venue for the next Disability Forum. The meeting starts at 10am on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May. As usual, lots of guests and interesting topics and an update on the future direction of Disability Peterborough.

## Inspire Peterborough smashes Sport England targets



The region's leading accessible sports provider has done it again. Following on from record breaking numbers taking part in Walks on Wednesdays, Inclusive Sport, Special Olympics, Sporting Saturday, it can now be revealed that Inspire Peterborough has helped 3,276 people (target 1,799) people register with programme to become more active. These people have taken part in an activity 28,435 times (target 19,120).

Inspire Peterborough Programme Manager said " We would like to say a big thank you to our partners who have helped us deliver the target: Matt Taylor from Vivacity Disability Sports offering Archery, Cricket and Table Cricket, Handcycling, Rebound Therapy, Swimming, Live Sports and Sports Days, Julie Martin from YMCA Trinity Group for the GP Referral programme, Kay Greenaway, Johanna Roberts-Sydenham Smith and Ian Nolan from Special Olympics Swimming and Athletics, Maggie Lane, Linda Curtis and Colin Herbert for Walks on Wednesday, Helena del Pino for Healing Yoga, Andy Draco for Tai Chi, Sonia Cullington for Wow Seated Exercise, Chloe Wilmot for Dance and Dave Summers for Cricket with the Wednesday Phab Club, Karen and Rob Oldale at St Georges Hydrotherapy Pool and Tom Milner and Samia Melliti from Oak Activities for delivering the Outreach Exercise Programme and our own inclusive gym Amilly Fitness. Last but not least everyone who has taken part in the programme over the last 4 years."

Many of the above groups have either been sustainable or are able to continue with banked funds from the programme. The focus for the team now turns to identifying new funds for Inspire and Amilly Fitness to continue beyond the summer.

[justgiving.com/crowdfunding/standupfordisabilitysportinpeterborough](https://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/standupfordisabilitysportinpeterborough)

## Civic awards bonanza for Disability Peterborough colleagues

Among the worthy recipients of the Community Involvement Civic Award was David Wait, Centre Manager at Serpentine Green, David and Jason Watling from Mobility Aids Centre and Karen Oldale, without whom, there would be no St Georges Hydrotherapy Pool! And in the Sports Civic Awards section Kay Greenaway and the Special Olympics Team. All thoroughly deserved!

## **Man who went to court in wheelchair pretending he could not walk or talk is jailed**

A benefit cheat who went to court in a wheelchair pretending he could not walk or talk has been jailed. John Berry claimed to have motor neurone disease. The 53-year-old also forged medical documents to try to beat charges of perverting justice. Berry was due in court for falsely claiming that a woman had harassed him.

But he said he had amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a form of MND, and was too sick to attend. ALS affects all limbs and muscles used to chew, swallow and breathe. He later showed up in a wheelchair. Police arrested him driving a car in January. Berry was convicted of perverting justice and got three years in jail.

### **Fraudster who claimed £500,000 in benefits is jailed after being caught pushing his wife in a wheelchair**



Brian Matthews told officials he had no use of his arms and legs for 15 years - but was spotted pushing his wife around in her wheelchair. The 51-year-old admitted fraudulently claiming £250,000 in free handouts but with further charges left on file the total cost of the scam is around £500,000 investigators say. Matthews has now been sentenced three and a half years in jail.

He conned the authorities over a 15 year period into believing he had lost all feeling in all four limbs. Matthews fooled medical professionals with fake symptoms and was able to convince doctors to give him medical documents without examinations. At a previous hearing he admitted six counts of making a false representation and two counts of fraud by false representation over a 15 year period starting in 2001.

Several charges relating to the remaining funds were denied by Matthews and were left on file by the prosecution. Judge Robert Linford initially delayed sentencing so a medical report could be developed, but today jailed Matthews for 42.5 months.

Speaking at an earlier hearing, Jo Martin, for the Crown Prosecution Service, said: 'Mr Martin maintained for a long time that he was quadriplegic. Defending Matthews, Jim Tilbury said: 'Mr Matthews accepts that he is not quadriplegic. 'He presently understands it that he is unable to stand without aids, he accepts that hasn't always been the case.'

Speaking after the hearing, Dave Morris of the Department for Work and Pensions, said: 'It is a good result. Benefit relief should go to those people that need them. 'The total cost to the public purse is £509,000, the indictment today carried a number of offences.

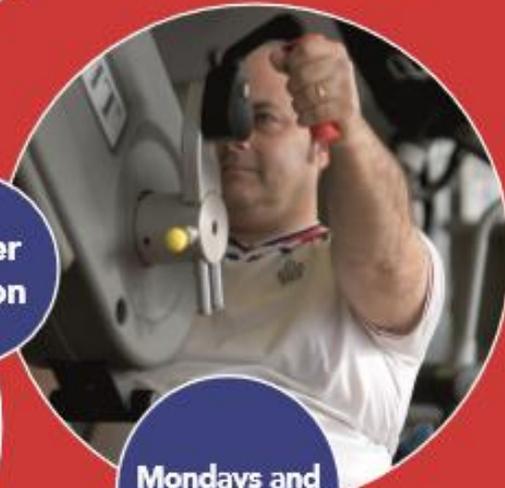
# Amilly Fitness

Inclusive health and wellbeing centre

inspire  
Peterborough  
enhancing lives

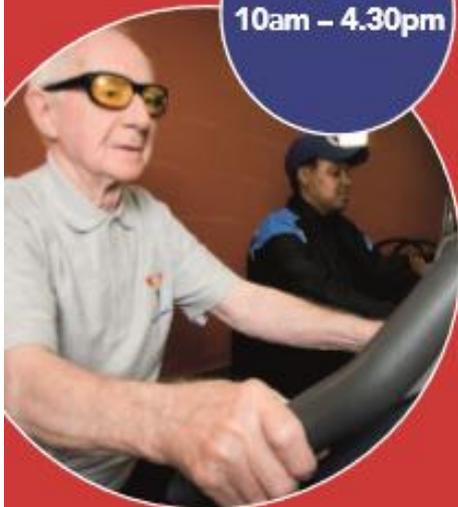


£2 per  
session



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