

FAREHAM ACCESS GROUP

DISABILITY DOESN'T
STOP US!

January / February 2004 NEWSLETTER

Tel: 023 9238 8049 Website: www.farehamaccess.org.uk

John Rattle informed Lorraine that the Post Office in White Hart Lane, Portchester that he was taken to, is being considered for a low level counter.



Source - John Rattle, Stakeholder Manager Post Office Ltd. Email 20.01.04

White Hart Lane Post Office

This week Lorraine saw a pale grey box type object fitted to the front of one of the counter sections. It had a wheelchair symbol and states it is not a seat! The front section pulls down to form a 'table' for signing books etc. it is a bulky barrier to everyone else.

Source - L & R Herrington 28.01.2004

Hold on to Benefit Books.

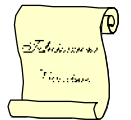
A Department for Works and Pensions = (DWP) spokes-woman confirmed that is planned to phase out all books by 2005, but said suitable alternatives would be in place by then for those who needed them. These 'exemption services' will include a cheque-based payment system for those who cannot access a card system she added.



Source - Disability Now = DN January 04

A DRAFT DISABILITY BILL

The DRC = Disability Rights Commission is delighted to welcome the publication of the draft Bill that will offer long awaited rights for Britain's 8.6 million disabled people.



A new Bill should offer long awaited right for disabled people to use public transport. And, it should deal with injustices caused to people with cancer, HIV and Multiple Sclerosis by providing protection from discrimination.

For the draft Bill see: www.parliament.uk
Source - Bert Massie, Chair, Disability Rights Commission = DRC RADAR Jan 2004

Maria Eagle MP for Disabled People told DN = Disability Now the government would try "very hard" to ensure the bill became law before the next General Election.

Source - Disability Now = DN January 2004

OT Direct - (Occupation Therapy).

A new Occupational Therapy Hotline 0845 600 4555 was launched by Hampshire County Council to help people live independently at home. To allow people to order household equipment, such as hand rails and bath seats from their home. Advisers can arrange home visits or an appointment at a local clinic.

Source - F & G News 07.0.04 & Glyn Jones, HCC Manager (Physical Disability) Social Services Department

Fareham Access Group.
We don't just talk, we get things done!



Lorraine has been advised by the Land Securities Trillium Technical Team that the existing disabled bay outside the Job Centre Plus in Fareham will be extended and repainted to conform with the DDA requirements before October of this year when it will be a legal requirement.

Source - Mike Farmer, Business Services Manager. Email 19.01.2004

Disability Information Website

Useful information consultation & campaigns run by Dept. of Work and Pensions: www.disability.gov.uk



Holidays and Travel News

Can be Done is run by a wheelchair user and offers holidays at home and abroad. Check Website: www.canbedone.co.uk

Creating Opportunities

Enrol or just Pop-in to The West End Centre, Neville Lovett Community School, St. Anne's Grove, Fareham. Call 01329 822 593 to ask advice. The Centre is fully accessible.

www.westendcentre.org.uk



Are you Open 4 All?

Welcoming Disabled Customers and Complying with the New Law

A Disability Rights Commission and

CBI (The voice of Business) Partnership Conference 19th February 2004 Centre Point, London. From 1st October 2004, **all service providers** for example, shops, pubs, restaurants, theatres and swimming pools will have to consider making 'reasonable adjustments' to physical features that make it difficult for disabled people to use their services.

See: www.open4all.org

MS new guidelines welcomed.

For treating people with Multiple sclerosis. Look at: www.nice.org.uk

Source - Disability Now January 2004

Care at Home Guide

The latest guide published from HCC Social Services is FREE.



It gives help, information and care in the community for everyone in Hampshire.

For your copy call Freephone: 08000 028 0888 or ask at the library, CAB or Social Services Offices.

Source - Petersfield Disability News Issue 03

A copy of your own?

Contact Lorraine on 023 9238 849 or Email: lorraine@farehamaccess.org.uk To arrange to have a copy delivered to you every other month at just £3.00 per annum.

There is the option to be a member of Fareham Access Group which includes the Newsletter or just to have the Newsletter.