



# FAREHAM ACCESS GROUP

DISABILITY DOESN'T  
STOP US!

JULY / AUGUST 2005 NEWSLETTER

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Members want 'to action' improved access from service providers. With support from Fareham Access Group and the professional guidance from the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) will be empowered to gain their rights. Hopefully over the coming months we can report on successful results within Fareham Borough and the surrounding area.

## People with disabilities are faced by barriers, some visible and some not so.

A new club to be set up for people interested in photography advertised locally and in the F & G News monthly, in Room 9 Portchester Community Centre. As Team leader of Fareham Access Group Lorraine knows that the facilities at the Centre do not meet the DDA access requirements. Room 9 is upstairs, no loop system or an offer to get a portable one! Peter is keen for the club to be accessible to all and after the initial meeting will meet in the Portchester Community School which has full access facilities. If interested ring: 01329 319 814

## More discrimination - - - -

No wheelchair accessible toilets in some Pubs/restaurants. Lorraine knows of one in Stubbington and another near the jetty in Warsash. Contact Lorraine: 023 9238 8049 if

you can't use your favourite or local venue.

## And more discrimination - - -

A group outing to local Gardens with amazing sculptors in the grounds. Ten members with five wheelchair users all ready to enjoy a good day in beautiful weather. Receptionist seemed surprised when we arrived and while enjoying lunch in the Café/Licensed Restaurant said only three wheelchair users were allowed in there and the Gift shop at one time due to Health and Safety reasons. Nothing is stated in their leaflet.

## Cheer yourself up and spread your wings. See



the world from a different perspective from the comfort of your own home or local Library. Go online and type in [www.googleearth](http://www.googleearth)

Source:- Gill a member of FAG

## DRC Work Quiz

How much do you know about flexible working, inclusive recruitment and the scope of disability discrimination in the workplace? Find out by taking part in the DRC's new **work quiz**. Take a look at all the information on employment – the law and good practice - for employers and employees. Why not subscribe to this free service by following: <http://www.drc.org.uk/newsroom/ebulletin.asp>



## Take your part in developing an equal society

The Disability Rights Commission (DRC) aims to create a society where all disabled people can participate as equal citizens. This means that there should be no obstacles to disabled people's ability to contribute fully across a range of activities.

### **HALIFAX PLC in PORTCHESTER**

Independent wheelchair users have never been able to access these premises. This month a ramp has been installed. **What a difference a law makes!**



### **Equality Bill**

The Equality Bill establishing the new Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR) received its second reading in the House of Lords on 15 June.

Peers raised the need to ensure disabled people are fully consulted about the future of the CEHR's Disability Committee (up for review after five years) and for disability to be properly integrated into the CEHR's work on good community relations.

### **Disability Debate – shaping the future of equality**

The Disability Rights Commission has launched a major initiative - The Disability Debate. An opportunity for you to play an active role in shaping a new agenda for action to bring about a society in which disabled people can participate and contribute as equal citizens.

Over the summer the DRC will run a series of 'debating points' covering issues such as risk, welfare and work, the role of professionals in disabled people's lives, and whether it is right that some disabled people live, learn and work in places which separate them from the wider community. There will be opportunities for you to discuss the issues directly with people in positions to bring about change.

The DRC has published a discussion paper, 'Shaping the future of equality', which sets out the major issues facing disabled people in 2005 and some future challenges.

To read the paper, register to receive regular updates and take part in our discussion forum, please visit [www.disabilitydebate.org](http://www.disabilitydebate.org)

*Source: - DRC email bulletin July 05*

The next Fareham Access Group Meeting is Wednesday September 7<sup>th</sup> from 12 for 12.15pm start to 2pm at the Portchester Parish Hall. Members wanted meeting every two months, so that was put in place from July. Time ran out to view some of the Plans that FAG was consulted about but meetings held more regularly should resolve that. Minutes to follow. Come along, or get in touch with Lorraine: 023 9238 8049 and get involved! An opportunity to have your say, plus a free light lunch! **A new initiative: Please bring your own plate and cup.** Don't forget to request accessible transport from Lorraine at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting date.



The year of the volunteer. Just some of the lucky volunteers selected from Fareham Access Group for the Cream Tea at Ferneham Hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. From L to R are Gill, Richard, Lorraine and Joan with the Mayor of Fareham Cdr. Leslie Keeble and his wife and Fareham MP Mark Hoban.



14.06.2005 Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve

**What a difference a year makes!** On behalf of FAG Lorraine & Richard were kindly invited by Barry Duffin, Site Manager to the Official opening of the Suffern Hide. Lorraine enjoying the view! Following visits and suggestions last year from FAG Barry, was keen to improve the leisure venue, especially the rather out dated Suffern bird hide built in 1975. Lorraine, a petit wheelchair user could not see *anything* from the Knight's Bank Hide window on 15.08.04.



**There is still many improvements to be made before wheelchair users can gain the full package out of a visit as non-disabled people.**

## Meon Shore at Titchfield Haven

Fareham Access Group is campaigning for "Access for All" along the sea wall as requested. The photographs were taken on the first site visit in 2001 with Alan Inder, HCC Coastal Manager as there is £5,000 funding made available. Discussions and further visits have followed and again on 4<sup>th</sup> May with Richard Rowland and John O'Flynn from the Environment Agency. The original drawing with passing places and access at both ends for wheelchair users/people with restrictive mobility was realistically un-affordable.



An adapted drawing with a ramp at the two step end and a turning platform at the other bringing people back to the remarked Disabled Persons Parking Bays was more cost effective and safer. At the group meeting on 13.07.05 members voted unanimously to accept this option.

## EASY ACCESS PATH

Our access vision for Cams Hill will not go away! **We are still** waiting for the legal footpath dedication document to be completed. HCC, FBC and Councillors are working with us, **but** 18 months!!!!!!!



### IMPROVING ACCESS AT FBC CIVIC OFFICES RECEPTION AREA

This goes back to August 2003 when highlighted by Fareham Access Group members. The photo speaks for itself I think!

2005 Andy Morton, FBC Planning Dept contacted FAG

Management Team over the FBC Planning Application to refurbish the ground floor, change the entrance including new doors and canopy. Our local Cllr Roger Price managed to get the Planning Application moved to Committee and suggested a deputation could be made on behalf of the group. The position of the accessible door was the main concern and FBC decided to alter the design

as FAG recommended. 12.04.05 A phone call from FBC saying our reasons had been accepted! All credit to Graham Lloyd, FBC Estates manager for taking on board the views of FAG and acting on them.



You may like to know the Minister for Disabled People is Anne McGuire MP, and Bert Massie, Chairperson of the DRC.



**E H & F & G PCT** Board Meeting open to the Public Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September, Ballroom Thornegate Halls, Gosport at 10am. E H & F & G PCT AGM Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September, Meon Room, Ferneham Hall, Fareham at 7pm.

### Wheelchair Users Able2Wear Summer/Autumn 2005

Smart practical fashionable clothes for adults and children can be seen and ordered from their Catalogue. Phone: 0141 774 8000 Fax: 0141 774 9000 Email: [orders@able2wear.com](mailto:orders@able2wear.com) Web: [www.able2wear.com](http://www.able2wear.com)

### Do you enjoy Hampshire's Countryside?

Hampshire County Council is looking for volunteers – walkers, horse riders, cyclist, carriage drivers, **disabled people**, motorised vehicle users, landowners and farmers – to join local Working Groups to guide the process of producing



Countryside Access Plans for the Solent and Test & Itchen areas. You will be asked to attend up to 4 meetings over a period of 6 months.

Sorry, not enough leaflets for everyone so, for more info please contact Petronella: 01962 845 326 : [petronella.natrass@hants.gov.uk](mailto:petronella.natrass@hants.gov.uk)

**This Newsletter** is available in large print and other formats on request to Lorraine Tel: 023 9238 8049. Order your own copy for just £3.00 per annum. Your views on these or any other access issues please! Contact: 023 9238 8049