



FAREHAM ACCESS GROUP

DISABILITY DOESN'T
STOP US!



MARCH / APRIL 2006 NEWSLETTER No. 74
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Disability Rights Commission consults on independent living bill for Lord Ashley

Lord Ashley will be introducing a bill on independent living for disabled people into the House of Lords in May. The DRC is helping him write the bill and want to hear your views.

The bill will include rights to self-directed assessment, independent advocacy, communication support and lots more. It aims to end the disgrace of disabled people and those with long-term health conditions being denied support to participate in everyday activities like work, education or community life and to bolster rights to family life. It will be a key tool for building pressure for future legislative reforms that

deliver real choice, control, dignity and freedom. DRC briefing from the Parliamentary Affairs team contact: independentlivingbill@drc-gb.org or Tel Rebecca: 020 7543 7049 or Fax: 020 7543 7001.

**Please get a copy and get involved
This is important**

Source:- DRC email bulletin March 06

Disabled Persons Parking Bays near Fareham Shopping Centre

There will be two Blue Badge Holder bays in Palmeston Avenue CP and Ferneham Hall upper CP in April.



DWP updated estimate of the numbers of disabled people with limiting long standing illnesses and their associated spending power for 2003-04

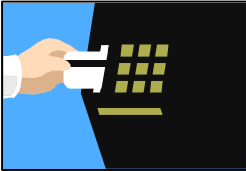
The Department for Work and Pensions show there are over 10 million disabled people in Britain of which, 4.6 million are over State Pension Age and 700,000 are children. The annual spending power of disabled adults is still around £80 billion.

Source:- DWP Website 09.02.06

Find out about the work of The Office for Disability Issues at: www.officefordisability.gov.uk



RADAR - The government's incapacity benefit reforms. If these new reforms are successful, there should be no need to sanction disabled people for non-attendance. Disabled people want to work. No one should be excluded from the opportunity to receive support and advice about accessing the world of work. Old-fashioned medical distinctions about who "can" and "cannot" work no longer have any place in our society. All disabled people have a contribution to make to society whether it is through full-time, part-time, paid or voluntary work. Source:- RADAR Kate Nash, chief executive (part of her response)



Chip and Pin

Cards were introduced across the country on 14.02.06. Some disabled people and those with long term health conditions could find these cards difficult or impossible to use. The DRC are concerned about the confusion - inconsistent information from bank and retail staff. The Disability Discrimination Act means that retailers and banks have to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people who are unable to use PIN cards or find it physically difficult to key in their numbers.

Adjustments could be accepting a chip and signature card instead of a chip and PIN card or adapting the service area so that customers with visual or mobility impairments can easily use the PIN machines. In refusing to make changes, retailers and banks could be breaking the law and may face court action if they don't accept alternative methods of payment. We are currently investigating a number of cases of potential discrimination and will not hesitate to pursue legal proceedings if we believe companies are in breach of the law. This could result in legal penalties of up to £50,000.

Source:- DRC email bulletin No. 45 February 06

SUCCESS



SUCCESS

WEST STREET PORTCHESTER

Before



and

After



A really good result for easy "Access for All" and to improve the environment due to consultation and co-operation

between Fareham Access Group and Fareham Borough Council.

User-friendly websites for all Authoritative guidance on how to develop a website which is user-friendly for disabled people was launched on March 8th.



Following an investigation by the DRC which revealed that 81 per cent of British websites are inaccessible, the guidance document, Publicly Available Specification (PAS) 78, was developed by the British Standards Institution (BSI) and sponsored by the DRC. The

PAS 78 guide to good practice in commissioning accessible websites is applicable to all organisations. Since October 1999, website owners have had a legal duty under the DDA to ensure that services provided via the web are accessible to disabled people. To order the guides please visit the [BSI website](#)

Source:- DRC Email Bulletin No. 46 March 06

The next Fareham Access Group is Wednesday 3rd May 2006 at the Portchester Parish Hall at 12noon for a 12.15pm start & finishing at 1.50pm.

Please remember your plate and cup to enjoy the FREE light lunch. Enjoy a chat with other members and be involved with local access issues effecting people with disabilities. A short DVD called "The Appointment" produced by the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) will be shown and throws up some interesting pre-conceived ideas.



FAG is planning four Trips/Outings this year for Members (family & friends) kindly due to the enthusiasm of Eileen! Those with email will receive a copy and for others a hard copy is enclosed. Queries/questions and to book contact Eileen on: 023 9221 0336

West Dean Gardens ~ Following the visit there last June the Fareham Access Group has a continuing dialogue with the Trustees making them more aware that they should improve the facilities and the attitude of staff towards people with disabilities. The **Countryside Access** 'By all reasonable means: Inclusive access to the outdoors for disabled people'. Tel: 020 7932 5800 for a FREE hard copy or email: diversity@countryside.gov.uk or visit: www.countryside.gov.uk

REACH FOR THE SKY The web sight for flying scholarships for disabled people: www.toreachforthesky.org/what.htm well worth looking at if only to read the true life stories. *Source:- Derek, FAG member 18.03.06*

Highlands Road Refurbishment Photographs taken 26.03.2006
John, Fareham Access Group volunteer and member highlighted the lack of level access to most of the shops and the pedestrian crossing and in fact the whole area needed some TLC! Once Fareham Access Group heard that FBC were to refurbish the area a request was submitted for access to all the shops for wheelchair users, and everyone! Two disabled person's parking bays will be marked out next month. **What a success!**



Wheelchair Accessible Coaches!!

Two for hire from Emsworth & District Motor Services Ltd Tel: 01243 378 337 / 372 025 or www.emsworthanddistrict.co.uk Fitted with a wheelchair lift, a toilet.
Source:- Lynne Rigby, Secretary Portsmouth Disability Forum (PDF)

A FREE monthly Magazine

'Disability Link', Challenging disability – supporting Ability. Call: 0117 954 7374
Source:- *Disability Link March 2006*

CYCLONE WHEELCHAIRS

Tailor made maximum style and lightweight wheelchairs, Therapy Solutions, Fitness Equipment and All Terrain Equipment. For a **FREE** Catalogue Freephone: 0800 180 4850 or visit: www.cyclonmobility.com

Rebates and Discounts on Fuel Bills

If you are with British Gas or another Gas service provider there could be money back later this year if you are on certain benefits such as DLA, Carer's Allowance, Pension Credit (and others) as highlighted on TV. Phone British Gas Helpline: 0845 601 2006 or Home Heat Helpline: 0800 33 66 99 or visit: www.bbc.co.uk/workinglunch

Source:- *BBC 2 Working Lunch programme 15.03.06*



MULTIFUNCTIONAL MAGICPLUG BATH PLUG - It has a unique pressure release mechanism which prevents the bath from overflowing and has a green sensor pad which changes colour at 36 degrees C when the water may be too hot. Cost £7.99. Tel: 0845 606 0911

Source:- *Disabilitynow DN November 05*

Thoughts turn to holidays ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Contains 90 of the best travel sites:

<http://travel.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,20789-1508327,00.html>

Source:- *Radio Solent email 15.02.06*

Sailing ~ ~ ~

You may like to look at this: www.disabledsailing.org



Xplore – the new name for Countryside Mobility

Two trips a month and open to non-Shopmobility users too. For a leaflet and more info Tel: 01329 282 929 or email: bhill@farehamaction.org.uk

Source: *Barrie Hill, Centre Manager 23.03 06*

Congratulations to Shopmobility which celebrates it's 10th Birthday!

Winchester Group for Disabled People (WGDP)

On 31.03.06 the Executive Committee took the decision to close the group. Founded by Ena Byran in 1981, who sadly died 06.12.05. FAG works in liaison with other access and such like groups to promote disability/equality awareness.

Source:- *WGDP last Newsletter March 06*

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 any access issues! Contact 023 9238 8049