



# FAREHAM ACCESS GROUP

DISABILITY DOESN'T  
STOP US!

MAY / JUNE 2005 NEWSLETTER

Tel: 023 9238 8049 Email: [lorraine@farehamaccess.org.uk](mailto:lorraine@farehamaccess.org.uk)

## Time to provide access for disabled people.

## Time for a business opportunity.

**Making** your business accessible to disabled people is an important way to increase your customer base and put corporate social responsibility in action. According to government statistics there are 10 million disabled people in the UK spending 80 billion a year.

*Source - DN Extra May 05*

## **Fareham Access Group's Powerpoint presentation; 'Show you care – Be disability Aware' at the Fareham Community Action (FCA) Networking lunch on 13.0.2005 demonstrated a number of access improvements that Service Providers could have in place.**

If you missed the day but would like to view the Presentaion log onto:

[www.farehamaccess.org.uk](http://www.farehamaccess.org.uk)

Feedback is welcome on the presentation and/or the Website.

## **Disability Bill gets Royal Assent**

**A new law to promote the rights of disabled people has been enacted - honouring a 2001 manifesto pledge.**

Maria Eagle and Bert Massie chair Disability Rights Commission



(DRC) described it as "a major advance in civil rights". The 2005 act contains a number of new measures. These are just some, all are on DRC Website: [www.drc-gb.org.uk](http://www.drc-gb.org.uk)

Widening the definition of disability to include people with progressive conditions like MS, HIV and some cancers from the time they are diagnosed.

Improving access to transport by including transport operators in the requirement to make their services accessible, and by setting an end date of 2020 by which all "rail vehicles" will have to be disabled friendly.

Placing a duty on all public bodies to promote positive attitudes to disability.

Extending the protection given to people with mental health problems by removing the requirement that conditions should be "clinically well recognised".

Making disability rights legislation apply to private clubs with more than 25 members, including political parties.

Placing a duty on local authorities not to discriminate against disabled councillors.

As the legislation was going through the House of Commons, disability minister, Maria Eagle, said: "This is a bill of which we can all be proud."

*Source: - Geoff Adams-Spink BBC News website disability affairs correspondent April 05*

## **Fareham & Gosport NHS Primary Care Trust**

22.02.2005 **Equality and Diversity Steering Group Meeting.**

Since FAG assisted by FAAB did the Disability Friendly Access Audit of their department within Fareham Reach a representative is invited to these meetings. Encouragingly, there is now a Disabled Persons Parking Bay (DPPB) at the side (accessible) entrance. With FAG information they have added to their Agenda and end of Minutes; **Please inform us if you have any specific requirements regarding attendance at this meeting.**



## **Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service**

Can provide a **FREE home fire safety check**, fit smoke alarms where necessary and give advice. To arrange tel: 023 8062 6809. More information at: [community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk](mailto:community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk) or: [www.hantsfire.gov.uk](http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk)

## **ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

Government plans to give disabled people individual budgets to buy the services they need. A new green paper by The Dept of Health is now out for consultation until 28<sup>th</sup> July 2005. Complete the "independence", well-being and choice consultation at: [www.dh.gov.uk/socialcare](http://www.dh.gov.uk/socialcare) The Disability Rights Commission (DRC) said the paper contains the elements for a much needed transformation to a system of social care fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Source – DN EXTRA April 2005 See: [www.disabilitynow.org.uk](http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk)

## **Pay-on-foot with barriers at Osborn Road Multi-storey car park**

in Fareham was officially opened on 9<sup>th</sup> May. Credit must be given to FBC for the free parking concession kindly granted to Disabled Blue Badge Holders. Arnold is aware there may be individual Blue Badge Holders who have a disability which may prevent a motorist from inserting the permit at the entry barrier. These issues are being monitored to see what can be done to help. There is a delay with issuing the swipe cards because apparently over 1,700 people have applied!

There are an estimated two million disabled badge holders in the UK.



## **CAMS HALL *EASY ACCESS PATH***

With 'pushing' from FAG and support from others the end is in site for the official footpath dedication legal document to be completed.

The natural environment acts as a motivator to enjoy life and put life in perspective for everyone. Eventually people with disabilities will have access to the views of Fareham creek, trees, flowers, birds, butterflies be able to soak up the beauty and relax a little.



At the next Fareham Access Group Meeting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July from 12.15pm start to 2pm at Portchester Parish Hall. Some Plans will be available there and may be of particular interested to you:



- The refurbishment and improved access to shops in Highland Road
- Fareham Borough Council reception and ground floor area, new entrance and disabled person's parking bay provision
- Improved access to Meon Shore coastal path

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.

Members want 'to action' improved access from service providers. The (DRC) Disability Rights Commission has offered guidelines and with support from Fareham Access Group members will be empowered to talk with the service provider. Courtesy and polite request will usually bring a more satisfactory result than aggression and confrontation.

**Fareham Access Group will be meeting bi-monthly as suggested by members. The revised dates form this year: 13<sup>th</sup> July, 7<sup>th</sup> September and 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Same time/place.**



### Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve

On behalf of FAG Lorraine & Richard visited last year and highlighted a number of things to bring about more inclusion for people with disabilities, older people and children. Barry Duffin, Site Manager was very keen to improve the already disability friendly leisure venue. One being to improve the rather out dated Suffern bird hide built in 1975. On 14<sup>th</sup> June we are kindly invited to the Official opening of Suffern Hide by Martin Terry, chair of the Gilkicker Point Bird Group. Report in the next edition.



**Meon Shore at Titchfield Haven** Fareham Access Group is campaigning for "Access for All" and another site visit took place on 4<sup>th</sup> May with Richard Rowland and John O'Flynn from the Environment Agency. The original drawings were adapted so the ramp will slope back alongside bringing people back to remarked Disabled persons parking bays.

### **Text message for the hard of hearing and the deaf**

The facility allows people to contact the fire service, police, ambulance and coastguard in a quick and easy way. Deaf and hard of hearing people can contact the emergency services by sending a text message on their mobile phone to 80999. If confirmation of the message is not received send it again.



Source:- F & G News 05.05.0



## FREE EVENTS IN JUNE & JULY

**8th June A FEAST OF THE SENSES** Sensory Garden Osborn Road at 5.30pm.

**16<sup>th</sup> June CARER'S EXHIBITION** (Portsmouth Branch contact: 023 9283 1229)

The Pyramids Southsea 10am – 5pm. Other useful info at: Dept for Work and Pensions DWP Disability and Carers Service Website: [www.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.dwp.gov.uk)

**18<sup>th</sup> June PORTCHESTER GALA** Carnival Parade from Westland Road about 11am through the streets finishing approximately 1.30pm at Portchester Castle.

**19<sup>th</sup> June 'TRAFALGAR BATTLE' Model Boats** Canoe Lake Southsea 2.30pm.

**28<sup>th</sup> June to 4th July International Festival Of the Sea & Trafalgar 200** To obtain a copy of the FREE SeaBritian Events leaflet contact Portsmouth City Council Tel: 023 9283 4116. This covers the whole year including Trafalgar 200.

**10<sup>th</sup> July VICTORIANA** Holly Hill Woodland Park Barnes Lane Sarisbury Green 2pm.

**16<sup>th</sup> July FAREHAM GALA DAY** Fareham Shopping Centre/West St.10–5pm.

**Countryside Mobility** may have some vacancies for trips, contact Shopmobility at: 01329 282 929 or Email: [shopmobility@farehamaction.org.uk](mailto:shopmobility@farehamaction.org.uk)

## Walking to Health in Fareham

In March Lorraine, a wheelchair user and Richard, her pusher decided to try out the "1 Boot" walk (they are graded) that was suitable for wheelchairs (users) and buggies. Lovely brisk air, social chit chat, interesting views round Fareham Creek with plenty of birdsong, etc. If you would like the Programme of walks contact Katie Rom at FBC: 01329 236 100 ext: 2463 or email: [krom@fareham.gov.uk](mailto:krom@fareham.gov.uk)



## Scooter travel card on trains

If you want to take a scooter on the South West Trains you need to apply for a South West scooter card. Contact Mr. John Horncastle, Mobility & Inclusion Manager, South West Trains Retail Services, Floor 5 Friars Bridge Court, 41 - 45 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NZ Tel: 020 7983 6093 Fax: 020 7983 5313 Email: [jhorncastle@swtrains.co.uk](mailto:jhorncastle@swtrains.co.uk)

## The Natural History Museum

In Cumberland Road, Southsea is closing due to being incompliant with the DDA. Portsmouth City Council is looking for a site in which to relocate. On a personal note, editor is pleased, as a wheelchair user it has **never** been accessible!

Source:- Portsmouth Disability Forum Access Working Group 07.03.05

**Advice for the day:** If you have a lot of tension and you get a headache, do what it says on the aspirin bottle: "Take two aspirin" and "Keep away from children."



**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