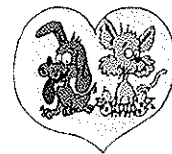




# FAREHAM ACCESS GROUP

DISABILITY DOESN'T  
STOP US!

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER NEWSLETTER No. 78  
Tel: 023 9238 8049 Email: [lorraine@farehamaccess.org.uk](mailto:lorraine@farehamaccess.org.uk)



Wishing all our readers a very Happy Christmas, together we shall meet the access challenges of 2007

## EVERYONE MATTERS

Equality and Inclusion. The FBC Equality & Diversity Strategy is available on their website:

[www.fareham.gov.uk](http://www.fareham.gov.uk)

On the A – Z select the **E** for the **Equality and Inclusion** and the strategy is there. Click further information which displays many more options, including documents and action plans.

These are “living” documents which Fareham Access Group and others will continue to be involved in.

Every Council should have the Equality & Inclusion Strategy and information.

***“Nothing for us, without us”***

## TRANSPORT = BLUE BADGE HOLDERS

The Department for Transport DfT has produced the results on 19.10.06 of an annual survey showing badges issued at local authority level on the DfT Website:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/transtat/publictransport> Transport Statistics Website at:  
<http://www.dft.gov.uk/transtat>

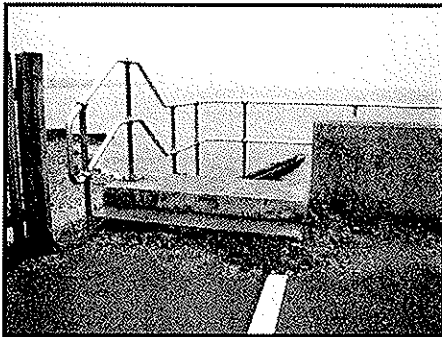
## The Fareham Easy Access Trail Project Cams Hall Estate, Portchester.

The Steering Group are busy completing the “Around the Solent Project” Proposal Form to meet the deadline of 17.12.2006. Apparently our project will fit well within the aims of the Solent Forum which has received a Heritage Lottery Fund project planning grant to prepare a plan of action to improve access to the Solent and celebrate what makes our coast special. If we are successful it should contribute some grant funding towards the overall estimated cost of the Fareham easy access trail = FEAT



## CASTLE STREET CENTRE in Portchester ADULT DAY CARE PROVISION Enjoy a change with a day

packed with care & companionship, good food, a variety of activities, visiting entertainers, or just sit, relax and chat. Our minibuses can collect you from home and return you around 3pm. Outside visits are planned including Christmas dinner. For the day charges, all inclusive, transport, lunch and refreshments and other information please contact Mrs Bonnie Alker, Centre Manager Tel: 023 9222 1165. There is also an accessible Parker Bath to be booked at £3.00 per hour.



**Meon Shore (by Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve) - Access for All**

Another successful result by Fareham Access Group who in liaison with HCC Coastal Department and the Environment Agency (Richard Roland), opened up this path for everyone to enjoy. It all began in 2001 with a request from a FAG member, a local resident who wanted the same access as everyone else. Over time a raised section Photo No.1 was removed as shown in photo No.2 and passing bays plus a new hand rail was installed all along the path, see Photo No.3.



Another site visit took place on 9<sup>th</sup> when two Fareham residents, Mr Sosse happened to be walking agreed to take part in our photo

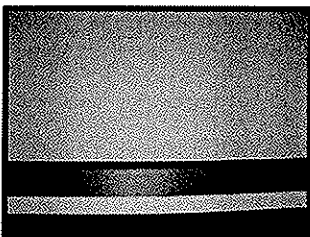
October 2006 Roy & Mrs Jean there and kindly shoot.

**Share the good news!**

HCC Executive member for Adult Services Cllr Patricia Banks has halted the Formal Eligibility Consultation on the proposal to change the level at which they provide automatic care from social services; 'from substantial' and 'critical' to 'critical' only. You are encouraged to send in their ideas to reduce spending in the department.



**A VIEW OF THE APOLLO CINEMA SCREEN 1 FROM THE WHEEL-CHAIR ACCESSIBLE SEATING AREA.**



On 18.11.2006 some FAG members met with Neil Munroe, the Manager to look at all the screens and discuss trying to improve the access there for wheelchair users. No easy solutions; but some ideas are coming ..... watch this space!

**Fareham Shopping Centre has improved access in the lifts near Bhs**

The mirrors in our lifts near Bhs have been installed following friendly comments from FAG that is important for independent wheelchair and scooter users that we all need to know who is behind us, especially when getting out of lifts.

Source:- Pam Gillard Fareham Shopping Centre manager 06.11.2006

**The 2007 Fareham Access Group Meetings are changing.**

You know that at the moment we are very rushed to fit in all we want to do and report about at our bi-monthly group meetings on the first Wednesdays from 12 noon - 2pm at the Portchester Parish Hall. The actual time for the meeting is only 1 hour and 35 minutes and that includes 20 minutes for the free light lunch! Trying to arrange other times/days has not been easy as the hall is always so fully booked.



Starting from January 2007 the group meetings will be **on a Tuesday AND** will give us more time from 11.00am for an 11.15am start and finishing at 1.45pm including lunch.

Please write the dates in your 2007 dairy **NOW**. The yearly dates are:

DATE	DAY	MONTH	TIME	WHERE
16 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	January	11.am – 2.pm	Portchester Parish Hall
07 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	March	To b confirmed	Ferneham Hall, 10 <sup>th</sup> AGM
15 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	May	11.am – 2.pm	Portchester Parish Hall
11 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	July	11.am – 2.pm	Portchester Parish Hall
11 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	September	11.am – 2.pm	Portchester Parish Hall
13 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	November	11.am – 2.pm	Portchester Parish Hall

Richard, the FAG Treasurer will be pleased to receive the member's annual £3.00 subscription at the January meeting.

At this meeting Marcos Frangos and the HCC Access Team will talk to us about the new Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) advisory visits to Hampshire Schools and include an update on the Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Act. Members will hopefully find this of value if you are partnering us on a number of these DDA advisory visits to schools.

**WHAT STARS WE ARE !**

Members designed group Polo shirts with the Fareham Access Group and Disability Doesn't Stop us, printed on either a red or blue colour. Can the members who have purchased one please wear it at the January meeting for a photo shoot. More orders can be taken at any time!

In 2007 the Fareham Access Group will be celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The group was constituted on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1996 but moved the AGM one year from winter to spring; now FAG is one year out! The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) in March will be held in the Octagon Room at Ferneham Hall and all will be welcome.

**Fareham & Gosport Borough Access Officer**

Fareham Access Group (FAG) welcomes Richard Sturgess moving from Havant Borough Council into his new post here on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2006.

## BBC releases accessible Dr Who DVD

The box set of the second series will have an audio navigation built into the standard release of the DVD so that visually impaired people can access all the content independently.



<http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/tvradio/drwho.shtml>

Source:- BBC OUCH Website 05.11.06

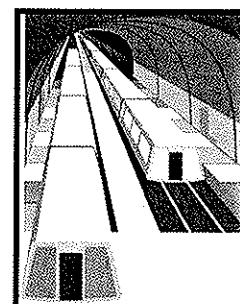
## Google heading towards improved accessibility

Sometimes small changes can have a dramatic effect. Google has changed the coding on the page that displays the results for a search. They have introduced heading tags to each of the links. Screen reader users can jump from one heading to another. They have also produced an **Accessible Search tool**. When a company of the stature of Google starts becoming aware of accessibility, it raises the profile of the issues. **This is something that many companies still need to be made aware of.**

Source:- BBC OUCH Website Paul Crichton. 16.11.06

## RNIB London Underground Tactile & Large Print maps 04.10.2006

Blind and partially sighted people will be able to feel their way around some of London's busiest Underground stations for the first time - thanks to a new initiative launched today by London Underground (LU), the Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB) and Describe Online. Station layout, including the location of the ticket office, manual gate, platforms, stairs, escalators, lifts and exits are all detailed. Books of tactile and large print station maps can be borrowed from RNIB: 0845 702 3153 and NLB: 0161 406 2525, viewed at the station, or obtained free of charge from London Underground's Customer Service Centre: 0845 330 9880. They have been designed to complement detailed online station descriptions at **www.describe-online.com**. Passengers get most benefit if studied before travel.



## Hampshire Primary Care Trust (HPCT)

The HPCT Board papers and directions to the venue will be available shortly on Website: <http://www.hampshirepct.nhs.uk/index/documents/papers.htm> The HQ of HPCT Tel: 023 8062 7444 or Email: [enquiries@hampshirepct.nhs.uk](mailto:enquiries@hampshirepct.nhs.uk)

**This Newsletter** is available in large print and other formats on request



to Lorraine Tel: 023 9238 8049. It comes as part of the Fareham Access Group Membership or; order your own copy for just £3.00 per annum. Pleased to receive your views on any access issues! Contact 023 9238 8049