



# FAREHAM ACCESS GROUP

DISABILITY DOESN'T  
STOP US!

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER No. 84  
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## Queen Alexander Hospital – a patient's concern 21.02.07



In the Rehabilitation Department at Hydrotherapy:-



Claire Senior Physiotherapist and staff in this department want the barrier of the high reception desk removed as much as Lorraine & Richard.

**Another photo**, taken on 19.09.07 when Alan, Lorraine & Richard from Fareham Access Group, (yes



Lorraine is there with her husband Richard pushing the wheelchair), to attend a meeting at QA Hospital arranged by Vicky Halliday, PALS, Coordinator for Patient Advice and

Liaison Services for Portsmouth Hospitals. To put our main concern with the height of the reception desk to Graham Aubrey Director of Estates for Carillion, Glen Hewlett, Director of Estates for Portsmouth hospitals, Florise Elliott Equality Officer and Claire Jefferies Senior Physiotherapist.



The meeting seemed promising because to reduce the height of the desk to make it inclusive and welcoming to ALL was a relatively easy task. The top of the desk could be removed leaving little if any damage which could easily be disguised.

**BUT all has gone quiet since then which is always a worry.**

Apparently a meeting of the Equality & Diversity Group takes place on 29.11.07 (as we go to press) which will have an update of what is going to be happening.

The other concerns are; Doors; thickness and weight, vision panels, height of handles and no foot well for wheelchair footplates at reception desks or enough top width to enable a wheelchair user to easily reach things.

**So, watch this space!**

**Real Life for people with disabilities can be quite different though!**



## **CAR BOOT SALES and similar events.**

Have you ever noticed that at events where portable WC's are erected you rarely ever see portable accessible loos? I am thinking of car boot sales and the like held in fields throughout the summer months.

As all of these events have to be licensed by the local authority do you think it should be a condition of the licence that accessible loos are provided? Seems to me that if they are not provided it is a contravention of the DDA anyway.

Source:- concerned Fareham informant 19.11.07



### **Havant Solent Retail Park**

There are quite a few Disabled Persons Parking Bays in place **BUT** not the correct width or hatching. One example is 3 bays in a row but no hatching and not wider!

Source:- L & R Herrington, Fareham Access Group Management Team 25.11.07

***“Small businesses are not exempt from the law and disabled people have every right to be treated with dignity and respect.”***

The DRC website: [www.drc-gb.org](http://www.drc-gb.org) is no longer available but will still take you to the new EHRC website: [www.equalityhumanrights.com](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com)

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHCR)  
The Helpline is there to give information and guidance on discrimination and human rights issues. It champions' equality and human rights for all, working to eliminate discrimination, reduce inequality, protect human rights and to build good relations, ensuring that everyone has a fair chance to participate in society. Tel: 08457 622 633 Textphone: 08457 622 644 Fax: 08457 778 878 Available weekdays 9:00am - 5:00 pm & Wed 8:00 pm.



### **A new campaign to challenge and change attitudes towards disability.**

Based largely on the much loved Creature Comforts series but features the hallmark plasticine characters with disabilities, combined with real voices and experiences of disabled people. “Disabled people experience social barriers which are created largely through ignorance. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century it is unacceptable that such negative attitudes to disability still persist. Everyone has a part to play in creating a world in which disabled people are included in every aspect of life. “It seems that in order to view disabled people as human beings. the general public have to be first presented with us in plasticine animal form”.

Source:- OUCH Newsletter 15.11.07 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/> Leonard Cheshire 12.11.07.

The next Fareham Access Group Meeting is Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at the Portchester Parish Hall for an 11.15am start and finishing at 1.50pm. Do come and enjoy the FREE light lunch and chat with others.



Our Guest Speaker is Phil Rayner, FBC Head of Performance and Improvement and his new colleague Jenny Moses. The Disability Equality Duty became law in Dec 2006. An introduction of the scheme to explain what the council has done and proposing to do; followed by member's questions. The local authority must promote equality for disabled people. Lets find out what FBC is doing to action this strategy!

The £3.00 annual Membership is due in January please, so this will provide an opportunity to pay the treasurer. Others not able to attend please send a Cheque made payable to Fareham Access Group to the usual address. Contact Lorraine if required on: 023 9238 8049.



Apologies for Lorraine's number mistake on the Christmas lunch information.

### Fareham Access Group Tuesday Meeting dates for 2008

15.01.08	11.03.08 – AGM	20.05.08
08.07.08	09.09.08	11.11.08

Fareham Borough Council PLANNING applications.

#### **A TESCO STORE Planning application in Quay St. Fareham Town Centre.**

Look at this on the FBC website: [www.fareham.gov.uk](http://www.fareham.gov.uk) under Planning or phone FBC main number: 01329 236 100 and ask for the Planning Department.

**Coldeast Hospital Site at Sarisbury** the planned Community Hospital to be built at Coldeast by the end of 2010 & to conserve/enhance the rest of the site, a new use for the Mansion and delivering community uses, publicly accessible open space/recreation proposals. Consultations take place with the local community and other interested parties. View and submit your comments by filling in an online form at the following web page: -

<http://www.fareham.gov.uk/council/departments/planning/ldf/coldeast.asp>

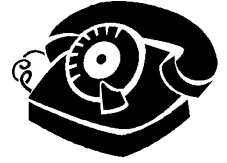
Or, to talk it over phone FBC on: 01329 824 351

Source:- FBC Local Development Framework Support Officer

Many shopping and leisure activities are the first to show the discrimination affecting people with disabilities. A Fareham resident visiting The Cormorant Pub in Castle St, Portchester. A step at the front entrance with no sign to inform a customer there is level access at the side and, no wheelchair accessible toilet.

**Community Education Adult Day Care in Portchester** Some elderly residents may like to attend but are unable to be supported by Adult Services. Enjoy a day of companionship, good food and a variety of activities and be collected and returned by mini bus. Phone Bonnie the manager on: 023 9222 1165. To check other areas ring Fareham Community Action: 01329 223 147.

A new number for Fareham/Gosport Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB) from 03.12.07. The two groups are teaming up to provide a better service to clients from Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm on: 08444 77 22 32  
 Source:- Fareham & Gosport News 23.11.07



A new number for Age Concern in Fareham 01329 223 147  
 Do give them a ring or leave a message on the answerphone for them to get back to you. Find out what support is available, maybe some Christmas food hampers!

A telephone number for a Carer or an older person living in Hampshire. A chance to talk over any concerns/problems, offload stress or ask for information with a friendly person who understands how you feel.  
 Available from 9am to 11pm 365 days per year on: 08000 3 23456  
 Source:- Carers Together summer 07



Two hundred pounds (£200) to beat the cold this winter.  
**The FREE Guide 'Keep Warm, Keep Well' is available from your surgery, pharmacy or CAB.** Were you 60 or over on or before 23.09.07? You could get a Winter Fuel Payment by Christmas. If you have not received a payment by then and think you should have, contact the office that normally pays your benefit/State Pension. Alternatively contact your Surgery, Pharmacy, CAB or: 0870 1555 455 or Winter Fuel Helpline: 0845 915 15 15 [www.direct.gov.uk/keepwarmkeepwell](http://www.direct.gov.uk/keepwarmkeepwell)



### CHRISTMAS WISH LIST IDEAS

The BigFone at £249 is simple to use with big buttons, a large display and an extra loud ring. There are no unnecessary gadgets – no music player, no internet access and not even a camera! It comes with a phone number assigned; a SIM card has £6 of credit pre loaded and a neck cord. To find out more call: 023 8029 4565 or [www.bigfone.co.uk](http://www.bigfone.co.uk)

Some new clothes perhaps?

Have a look at the WheelieChix website: [www.wheeliechix-chic.com](http://www.wheeliechix-chic.com) for more fashion minded ladies clothes. For young people and children try the website: [www.racketys.com](http://www.racketys.com) Tel: 01538 381 430

Source:- disability now November 07 [www.disabilitynow.org.uk](http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk)

**This Newsletter** is available electronically, hard copies in standard & 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 are welcome.