



FAREHAM ACCESS GROUP

DISABILITY DOESN'T
STOP US!



SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2005 NEWSLETTER
Tel: 023 9238 8049 Email: lorraine@farehamaccess.org.uk

PORTCHESTER HALIFAX

Independent wheelchair users have never been able to access these premises due to a step at the entrance. FAG members actively campaigned to have the physical



barrier removed.

The ramp was installed in August.

What a difference a law makes!

Improving Access in Portchester

Automatic doors have been installed in Portchester Library and in Somerfield Store, plus an Induction Loop in each. Are there any improvements to assist people with disabilities where you live? Let's spread the good news, contact Lorraine: 023 9238 8049

Employment & spending

When the government recently announced that the UK 10 million disabled people have a combined spending power of £80bn, many people were surprised at how large the figure was and wondered whether businesses were making

the most of their opportunity to get a slice of the cake. The message for business is difficult to ignore.

Business Opportunity out there...if you're trying to make a good living and decent profits, can you afford to ignore between 15 and 20% of the population? The CBI agrees that £80bn is too great an opportunity to miss. Everybody has a responsibility to challenge prejudices, to raise understanding and systematically to knock down barriers which disabled people face.

Highland Road Regeneration



All the shop doorway steps have been removed to give flush access due in part to Fareham Access Group (FAG) raising the access problem in consultation with Fareham Borough Council (FBC). It should be completed in early September with two new disabled persons parking bays and planting. Let Lorraine know how you find things now, 023 9238 8049.

*Source:-FBC Officer, Greg Murton
Assistant Engineer*

Oops!

The website address for cheering yourself up and spreading your wings in the July/August edition should read: googleearth sorry!

Source: Editor's mistake!

Risk is a four letter word

The perfect excuse? Risk in one form or another underpins almost every area of disadvantage in disabled people's lives, with serious ramifications for independence and equality. 'Risk is used to discriminate'.



Health and Safety?

A common case made to refuse wheelchair users, people with mobility impairments and blind and partially sighted people access to buildings is that they present a 'fire hazard'. During the British fire fighters' strike of 2002 a significant number of building managers blocked disabled people's access to workplaces and other venues on grounds that they believed the fire service to be wholly responsible for their evacuation – not only discriminatory but a thorough derogation of responsibility which should be a concern to everyone. If disabled people are to become equal citizens, then the damage being done in all areas of life by the issue of 'risk' must be challenged.

This is a small extract from the DRC Discussion Paper 'Whose Risk is it Anyway' Join the debate by email: risk@disabilitydebate.org Or phone: 0845 330 0303 (low rate number) Text message: 07797 882 888 (SMS registration number).

WEST DEAN GARDENS

Health and Safety risk given as a reason by a staff member for only three wheel-chair users to be in the Restaurant/Gift Shop during a group visit on 22.06.05!

Disability Debate – shaping the future of equality

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. People with a disability and anyone who is interested in disability issues can contribute in different ways. To read the paper, please visit the interactive website: www.disabilitydebate.org or phone: 0845 333 0303 (low rate number) to listen to a summary version of the paper, and to leave a message with your views and comments, or write or send a tape with your comments to The Disability Debate, Disability Rights Commission, 3rd Floor, Fox Court, London WC1 8HN

Source:- DRC email bulletin July 05

The next Fareham Access Group Meeting is Wednesday is 2nd November from 12 for 12.15pm start to 2pm at the Portchester Parish Hall. Come along, or get in touch with Lorraine: 023 9238 8049 Get involved! An opportunity to have your say, and, a free light lunch!



Don't forget to bring your own plate and cup and to request accessible transport from Lorraine at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting date.

Apologies that the photographs were rather small in the last edition. So many good things for improving life to report within the group!



The group has recently completed their successful Lottery grant project for £5,000. It was well spent! The new equipment, trainings and power point presentations have enabled many members to achieve the 'feel good factor'. The Awards for All is seeking more applications, particularly from the regional focus groups identified on their website: www.awardsforall.org.uk Or Tel: 01483 462 943 or Text: 01483 568 764

CHIP & PIN

If you have trouble remembering or physically entering your pin number in one of those machines that now inhabit everywhere, there is a solution. Go into your bank and ask to change to the CHIP & SIGNATURE bank card. This still has the security chip but allows you to sign instead of entering a PIN number. If you want to withdraw from a cash machine, you would need to use your PIN number then. The editor has changed to CHIP & Sign, and is much happier.

Fareham Borough Council Civic Offices reception refurbishment.

Fareham Access Group were consulted on the original plans and many changes were made, (ie position of automatic door, colour & signage), to name a few, to improve access for people with disabilities. Alan, Lorraine & Richard, and Jenny by phone, all members of FAG and Linda from FAAB did a follow-up site visit 21.09.05. *Quite exiting having to wear hard hats & luminous jackets!*



RED LION HOTEL – East Street, Fareham

Planning application submitted 04.08.05. Disabled alterations to Public House to include installation of lift and new disabled (accessible) toilet. Green King Pub Company. Consent given. *A year since 1st October 04 and easier access at last!*
Source:- FBC Planning Applications 05.09.05?

A MORE POSITIVE WAY OF THINKING

Wheelchair users are not wheelchair bound. They are wheelchair freed!
Source:- 08.09.05 OUCH Website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/newsletter/>

EASY ACCESS PATH

Don't get too excited - **BUT** – FAG is pleased to report.....The wording of the Deed of Dedication has been agreed, with numerous amendments to it over a considerable period of time. I have prepared a fresh copy for final checking by the other legal people involved. Once they have confirmed that they are entirely happy, I'll be able to supply final copies of the Deed for all the seven separate parties to sign, or seal. It could take a little while for the documents to be circulated. As soon as all parties have signed/sealed the Deed then it can be dated. *Source:- Margaret Gray, HCC Legal Practice dated 27.09.05*



Anne McGuire MP has been appointed as the new Minister for Disabled People, who can be contacted by Tel: 01789 446 515 or email: mcguirea@parliament.uk
Source :DirectNewsletter for Direct Payments Users June 05

FREE Hampshire County Council (HCC) GUIDE – CARE AT HOME

For people who want to continue to live in their own home: a list of organisations, information on claiming benefits, equipment, home alterations, travel & holidays and help for carers. Available from Social Services freephone: 0800 028 0888 and at: www.hants.gov.uk/socservs/domcare

Source:- Communique (CommunityAction Hampshire) June 2005

Did you know St. Giles is the patron Saint of Disabled people?

To find out more: http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/closeup/qa_stgiles.shtml



PORTSMOUTH SHOPMOBILITY

Now up and running in Arundel Street. Telephone: 023 9281 6973.
Source:- Lynne Rigby, Co-ordinator, Portsmouth Disability Forum (PDF)

South West Train Service - - - - If you contact the Assistive Travel Helpline on: 0800 528 2100, 24hours before you plan to travel they will give you assistance at all stages of your journey. Tried and tested by a FAG member with a train journey to and from Brighton. "Good News, it works really well".

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome A new NHS Clinic in Southampton to offer care for people across the county. One of 50 new centres being set up throughout the country by the government. A referral from a GP is needed to access the clinic.
Source:- The F & G News 09.09.05

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