



FAREHAM ACCESS GROUP

DISABILITY DOESN'T
STOP US!



SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2006 NEWSLETTER No. 77
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New measures to tackle abuse of the Blue Badge Scheme come into force

from 29.09.2006 under section 94 of the Traffic Management Act 2004.

The police, traffic wardens, local authority parking attendants and civil enforcement officers will be able to inspect blue badges as part of their other parking enforcement functions.

It will be an offence if a person refuses, without reasonable excuse, to produce a badge for inspection - punishable on conviction by a fine of up to £1,000. Public Enquiries: 020 7944 8300 or Dept for Transport

Website: <http://www.dft.gov.uk>

Source:- Transport Minister Gillian Merron

The Easy Access Path Project Cams Hall Estate, Portchester in Fareham

In January 2004 the steering group were forced to pause with this challenging project of providing an



“Access for All” circular route of the un spoilt rural heritage of the trail and its harbour views, because, though it had been walked for well over 35

years it was just a permissive path and it offered no access for people with physical and/or sensory disabilities.



After prolonged effort over 2½ years Fareham Access Group assisted by local Councillors and HCC Countryside to keep this project alive it was finally brought to a successful completion of a formal designation of a right of way (RoW) on 21.04.2006.

The steering group restarted on 1st June for the detailed work, to draw up the costing/contracts/funding etc. An estimated cost for an all weather sustainable path over an approx path length of 2 miles is £200,000. WOW! FAG would need to raise a quarter of this amount, a mere £50,000! Barrie Hill represents Shopmobility and hopefully more community/voluntary groups will get involved. Please contact Lorraine on: 023 9238 8049 or email

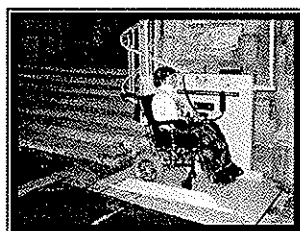
lorraine@farehamaccess.org.uk



A visit to Gloucester Cathedral

This had two other higher levels with a flight of around 10 stone steps between each, but it was accessible to wheelchair users and others with

mobility problems because, surprise surprise, there are two platform stair lifts. Admittedly tricky to operate but we got there!



Lorraine on the platform lifts in Gloucester Cathedral
22.09.06

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

Another successful result by Fareham Access Group who by actively campaigning with HCC Costal Department and the Environment Agency to open up this path for everyone to enjoy. A site visit will take place there on 9th October at 10am with the people involved and the press as part of a Public Relations exercise. Do come along and join in!

Source:- Lorraine & Richard Herrington FAG Management Team Leaders 27.09.2006



Positive Images of Disability

A new website, www.imagesofdisability.gov.uk/ which contains guidance about portraying disabled people in communications materials, was launched by Anne McGuire, Minister for Disabled People. Public enquiries: 020 7712 2171

Source:- <http://www.drc-uk.org> on 07.08.06



A visit to St Peter and St Paul's church in Fareham

Richard and Lorraine were kindly invited to attend the FBC Annual Mayor Civic Service on 24.09.2006. Only a side entrance was ramped over two stone steps whereas this could have been done at the front entrance so that we could enter the church in the same manner as everyone else. Light refreshment was served after the service in the adjoining church hall, up two steps and then down 1 step; neither of which was ramped!



Then horror of horrors; no wheelchair accessible toilet! How is that for discrimination? For everyone else the facilities are available. I spoke with The Rev Dr Tony Marks the Vicar and apparently there are plans for a wheelchair accessible toilet in process BUT the delay is disgusting when in 2006 people with a disability are still being treated unfairly.

Equality and Diversity

Lorraine and Richard of FAG



Strategy Meetings

representatives have attended these joint meetings this year with representatives from Gosport and Havant Access Groups and Fareham Active Blind to work in partnership with the East Hants and Fareham & Gosport Primary Care Trust (PCT). We value this opportunity to work together and share our perspective as users for greater understanding amoung us all. From 01.10.2006 the 7 PCT's dissolve to form the new Hampshire PCT.

RADAR publishes new guide to buying a powered wheelchair or scooter.

'Get Mobile' has been produced by RADAR with support from the Motability Tenth Anniversary Trust. For a copy phone RADAR: 020 7250 3222 Minicom: 020 7250 4119. A download PDF of the guide available at: www.radar.org.uk.

Source:- RADAR 02.06.2006

The next Fareham Access Group Meeting is Wednesday 1st November 2006 at the Portchester Parish Hall at 12noon for a 12.10pm

start and finishing at 1.50pm. Do come along and enjoy a free lunch!

Fareham Borough Council (FBC) plans a consultation shortly on the Disabled Persons Blue Badge (DPBB) with regard to the swipe card parking concession. A representative from FBC and Jean Frost from the Hampshire County Council (HCC) Blue Badge Department has kindly agreed to come along to give advice and answer questions. Jean says there are approximately 58,000 Blue Badge holders in Hampshire and Arnold Brown says there are approximately 4,500 swipe cards for Blue Badge holders for Fareham residents. The HCC Blue Badge Department Tel: 01962 847 134

**Online blue badge parking bay map launched 26.07.2006.**

A new interactive online service was launched today on:

www.direct.gov.uk which will make it much easier for disabled people to find Blue Badge scheme parking bays in 64 cities across the UK. Anne McGuire, Minister for Disabled People, speaking about the launch of the service, said: *For many disabled people who do drive or are a passenger, knowing where they will be able to park will enable them to take part in day to day activities that non-disabled people take for granted.* Directgov, which brings together a range of public service information and services online, hosts the Blue Badge map facility in its section for disabled people at: www.direct.gov.uk/disability The Blue Badge map can be viewed at: www.direct.gov.uk/bluebadgemap Fareham is not there yet but Portsmouth, Southampton and Winchester are.

Get involved as your view matters.

HCC) 12 week consultation (from 1st September to 27th November 2006) on the proposal to change the level at which they provide automatic care from social services from 'substantial' and 'critical' to 'critical' only.

Those who have Internet and Broadband can download the information, leaflet & questionnaire from:

www.hants.gov.uk/hcc/consult or it is available from the

Helpline: 01962 845 469 or

adult.services.feedback@hants.gov.uk The Executive member for Adult Services (was called Social Services) Patricia Banks will make her decision on 8th December 06. **This will have a far reaching effect on a huge amount of vulnerable people it is vital to give your views!**



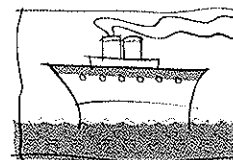
The Booklet is enclosed for FAG members without access to the internet.

Jobcentre Plus, Fareham

The Disabled Persons Parking Bay (DPPB) will be re-instated in the Jobcentre Plus car park in the next FBC financial year (April 2007) when the paving will be removed for the hatching area, thus bringing it in line with international legislation.

WIGHTlink Isle of Wight Ferries

If you are a Blue Badge Holder and would like to travel across the seas there are travel concessions available. For details Tel: 023 9281 2011 or www.wightlink.co.uk There are concessions available see: http://www.wightlink.co.uk/travel/disabled_travelscheme.htm



Source:- Lorraine & Richard Herrington August 2006

Commercial Linen (Hants) shop – The Disability Centre

A Local equipment store to assist people with a disability in their daily living at 46 Aston Road, Waterlooville (in the Industrial Park) for more information and/or to request a brochure Tel: 023 9224 0099



Emergency Dental Treatment

At weekends or night time from August 2006 this is the telephone number to ring: 020 8390 9991 for assistance.

Braille classes and touch typing classes

Begin from 02.10.06, 1.30pm-3.30pm. We have a very good tutor and volunteer. There are 4 learners listed but we need as least two more to run, so if you know anyone who may be interested please let me know.

Source:- Lisa Emmons ICT Tutor The West End Centre, Neville Lovett School St. Anne's Grove, Fareham PO14 1JJ Tel: 01329 822 593

Computer Problems?

If you are a voluntary/community group under Fareham Community Action (FCA) there is assistance available at a reduced cost from The Really Helpful IT Company = (TRHITC). Contact FCA on 01329 231 899 for more info. TRHITC Local Rate: 08456 033 356 helpme@trhitc.co.uk & www.trhitc.co.uk

FREE Lunch for Volunteers

New rules will mean people on benefits who volunteer will no longer have to bear the cost of their meals, announced Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, John Hutton today. In future, meals will be treated as an expense that volunteers can claim back. Every volunteer gives a unique gift of time and care and every one should be reimbursed for any costs they incur, including lunch. Public Enquires: 020 7712 2171 Textphone: 020 7238 0788. Source:- Dept of Work and Pensions Website: www.dwp.gov.uk 08.08.06



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