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Blind Man Blocked From Taxi With His Guide Dog

<https://metro.co.uk/2022/10/25/guide-dogs-launches-campaign-against-illegal-access-refusals-17587628/>

After guide dog owner Brian Lawson visited the bedside of dying relative, he attempted to make his journey home via taxi. But despite having pre-booked – and confirming he had a guide dog – he was still refused by the driver. ‘It is upsetting and makes me feel rejected and worried about making future plans,’ said Brian.

Shockingly, Brian’s experience is not unique. Worryingly 81% of guide dog owners have experienced an access refusal and almost three in four (73%) had experienced one in the past 12 months. This is despite the fact that it’s against the law to tell a guide dog owner they can’t enter a business, access a service, or challenge them about their entry because they have their guide dog with them.

Now, to raise awareness of the issue, Guide Dogs UK, the charity for the blind and the partially sighted, is launching a new free of charge access app to empower guide dog owners to report businesses that refuse them entry.

As part of their campaign, ‘Open Doors’, six guide dog owners (alongside their dogs) have gathered to showcase the impact access refusals have on their lives.

<https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/how-you-can-help/campaigning/our-current-campaigns/open-doors/>

A staggering 47% of retail staff and 19% of hospitality staff were unaware that refusing a guide dog is illegal, and one in two said they would struggle to identify a guide dog or assistance dog from a pet dog.

Blanche Shackleton, Head of Policy, Public Affairs and Campaigns at Guide Dogs, said: ‘Guide dog owners deserve to be able to live their lives the way they want and feel confident, independent and supported in the world. The law is clear, and yet guide dog owners continue to experience access refusals, which are almost always illegal. ‘Businesses and services need to do more to ensure they have open doors to guide dog owners.



Taxi Driver’s Parking Ticket For Helping Blind

Passenger <https://metro.co.uk/2022/10/29/taxi-driver-receivd-parking-ticket-while-helping-blind-passenger-17662344/>

Gary Fox has been a cab driver for 15 years said he helped his regular disabled customer Lenny Nicholson to get a prescription. He was then ‘shocked’ to see a traffic warden slapping a parking ticket onto his screen as he did not have a blue badge. His appeals against the fine have all been unsuccessful.

However the taxi driver does not regret his actions and would readily help Mr Nicholson again. He said: 'My job is to assist elderly and disabled people when I take them in my taxi, I've never encountered anything like this before. I'm disgusted and disappointed. 'What happens next time? Do I say "you have to make your own way because I can't stop here?" 'I would feel very nervous but I'd still do the exact same thing again. I would not let the passenger down, especially if they were disabled.'

Rochdale council said: 'People without disabilities who park in disabled bays take spaces away from the people who really need them. This can mean people with mobility problems having to walk longer distances or even being unable to reach their destination. All drivers, but especially professional drivers like Mr Fox, should be aware that it is a legal requirement to display a blue badge while parking in a disabled bay and not having one can lead to a penalty charge notice being issued.

It should be noted that whether or not you drive a vehicle, disabled people are eligible to apply for a Blue Badge for use as a passenger.'

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/parking/blue-badge/apply-or-renew>



Southend's Jill Allen-King OBE - Pride of Britain

<https://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/23077813.southends-jill-allen-king-obe-meets-stars-pride-britain-award/>

Blind activist, Jill Allen-King OBE, from Westcliff, who won the life time achievement award recently, has brought in major changes for the blind and visually impaired such as braille on bus buttons and textured paving at pedestrian crossings and train stations. Mrs Allen-King's guide dog, Jagger, proved a huge hit with the celebs and was even given his own miniature Pride of Britain Award by Paul O'Grady.

Born sighted in 1940, a bout of measles meant Mrs Allen-King had to have one of her eyes removed as a baby. Then aged 24, she lost her sight completely because of glaucoma - unrelated to her childhood illness.

In 1972 she got her first guide dog, Topsy and joined the National Federation of the Blind. Since then, she has been working to improve the lives of blind and partially sighted people. Appalled at how few places allowed guide dogs - including one instance where she was denied entry to a public library - Jill began campaigning for better access to public spaces for the vital support animals.

Today, they are allowed in many more places including shops, restaurants, cinemas and the House of Commons. She also

initiated tactile paving at pedestrian crossings, earning her an MBE in 1983 - although at the time her guide dog was not allowed to accompany her to the ceremony. Jill went on to be awarded an OBE in 2011 and continues to campaign for better access to fair benefits and financial support.

Jill has given hundreds of talks to schoolchildren, raised thousands of pounds for blind charities and became the first female president of the National Federation of the Blind UK. And she shows no signs of slowing down. She says: "I want to sit back and relax, but there is still so much to campaign for. The rights of blind people are continuing not to be considered, so I will keep working to fight that."



Blind People Who Use Bat-Like Clicks To Sense Their Surroundings – *Edited from Independent 2018*

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/blind-people-bat-sonar-clicks-echolocators-surroundings-sound-senses-sight-a8231181.html>

Human echolocation is a remarkable skill similar to the technique used by bats and whales to hunt prey. It has drawn comparisons with sonar, as practitioners use reflected sound waves to build mental maps of the world around them.

Echolocators can find their way around by making noises – for example clicking their mouths – and then listening for the echoes from nearby objects. American echolocation expert Daniel Kish has developed particularly advanced abilities.

A team of researchers led by psychologist Dr Lore Thaler at Durham University set out to understand this ability in greater detail.

Specifically, the researchers wanted to find out how echolocators adjust their clicks in response to variations in their surroundings to create complex "mental maps".

They enlisted eight blind expert echolocators to have their abilities put to the test.

By understanding the nuances of echolocation, the scientists hope to use the information to help other blind people learn to echolocate.

Analysis of the expert echolocators in full flow revealed they dynamically adjust the loudness and number of clicks they make in order to detect objects in different positions around them.

The researchers used dinner plate-sized targets to assess this. The only position at which the echolocators found it difficult to assess the location of an object accurately was when it was placed directly behind them.

While many learn to echolocate by themselves, it is also seen as an important skill that can be taught to blind people. With his organisation World Access for the Blind, Mr Kish has taught hundreds of children to echolocate.

“Echolocation is a useful skill – but it’s a tool that goes together with other tools like guide dogs and canes. Not everyone will become like Daniel Kish, but obviously people can get really good at this.



UK's First Blind, Female, Black Barrister

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-11370575/Truly-remarkable-woman-23-UKs-blind-Black-barrister.html>

Jessikah Inaba, 23, has smashed through the 'triple-glazed glass ceiling' to become Britain's first blind and black barrister, She completed her entire course using Braille and credits her friends and tutors for helping to fill in the gaps. She qualified in October after studying for five years at university in London.

'I know I can do this job really well, and the more people like me who go through training the easier it will become. 'It's a really good feeling, I know I'm giving hope to others in similar situations to mine. 'I'm not the most common gender or colour, and I have a disability, but by pushing through I'm easing the burden on the next person like me.'

Jess had to use Braille throughout her time at the University of Law - London Bloomsbury. She started her accelerated law degree in September 2017 before starting a masters two years later alongside a professional training course.

Braille can be read on a special screen that usually gives one line at a time, or from specially printed books. But Jess claims it took seven months for her university to obtain one of her two key study texts so she could read on her computer, and five months for the other. And, because of pictures and tables in the books, her Braille screen missed huge chunks of material. She says she got through most of her studies by making her own Braille materials from her lecture notes, or from friends reading books to her.

In court, Jess uses a tiny Brailnote Apex electronic machine with a Braille keyboard which has one key for each dot and a small screen where symbols pop up. It means she can keep her ears free to listen and can read and edit easily just using her hands.

Jess’s eye condition is called Bilateral microphthalmia, where babies are born with smaller than usual eyes. She went to local mainstream schools, and secondary school in Surrey, all of which had units to support pupils with visual impairment.

Jess and her family and friends celebrated her achievement with a huge boat party after her ceremony. She said: 'I'm very proud but

I do wish it had all gone smoothly. 'I feel because of disabled access problems my results aren't a true reflection of my ability. 'Before I can see a client I have to prove I'm a lawyer and justify my need for my specialist equipment.

The University of Law said: 'Jess is the first black and blind student to study at The University of Law. As a university we were able to provide additional support to ensure Jess was able to succeed on the courses. There were challenges with sourcing materials in braille but we were pleased to be able to provide these eventually.

A Bar Standards Board spokesperson said: 'We are delighted to hear that Jessikah has been called to the Bar and we send her our congratulations.' And Mrs Justice McGowan DBE, Treasurer, the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, said: 'Being called to the Bar is a remarkable achievement; being called to the Bar as a blind person is truly remarkable.



Taxpayers Revolt As Councils Push Cashless Car Parks

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/tax/news/taxpayers-revolt-councils-push-cashless-car-parks/>

Many local authorities have rolled out pay-by-phone systems at car parks. One of the most common car parking apps, RingGo, is now used by over 150 councils in the UK. But charities have warned the elderly, disabled and digitally excluded have been left struggling to access shops and services because they are unable to park nearby.

Phillip Vincent of Action with Communities in Rural England, a charity, said the launch of cashless systems in car parks had also become an issue in rural communities where mobile phone coverage is patchy. As much as 8% of England does not have a reliable 4G service, according to communications watchdog Ofcom.

Some drivers have been hit by fines after struggling to pay for parking on their phones. Armas Best, 75, from Lancashire, was fined £60 because he took too long to pay on the app at a car park in Southwold, Suffolk. "As I didn't have my cards with me I was unable to register. I tried with my wife's card, but this wouldn't work on my mobile," he said.

Mr Vincent said councils and businesses that force drivers to pay using their phone at car parks were at risk of excluding citizens. "Whilst accepting that change is inevitable, we'd urge service providers to think twice before completely withdrawing opportunities for in-person transactions," he said.

Councils rolling out cashless initiatives argue notes and coins are on the way out. But Caroline Abrahams of charity Age UK said public bodies and businesses running car parks must recognise

that society is still “light years away” from a world where all citizens can use pay-by-phone services. “The fact is that not all older people have a smartphone or a credit card and so car parks that don't take cash are no use to them at all,” she said.

“Operators may save some money by not processing cash, but it’s the digitally excluded in their communities, many of them older people, who are left paying the price.”



Toilets For Disabled Are Not Just For Wheelchair Users

Edited from <http://metro.co.uk/2016/06/21/invisible-disabilities-at-gigs-why-cant-i-use-the-disabled-loos-in-peace-5956806/>

Sam Cleasby is a writer, blogger and health activist, she campaigns to raise awareness of IBD and invisible disabilities and promotes body confidence for all.

Sam is a big music fan and likes to go to music gigs with her family and friends. But, yet again, disability ignorance struck when she needed to use the toilet for her ostomy bag.

This is a medical device worn to collect waste from the body through a stoma, which is part of the intestine showing through a surgical hole in the abdomen. It needs to be emptied regularly and can require changing out in public if it leaks.

People with an ostomy bag can use accessible toilets if they require them, and many have Radar keys and Can't Wait cards.

I was having an amazing time, till I need to head off to the toilets. Unfortunately, I forgotten my Radar key, so I asked a staff member if I could use the accessible toilets. I would have happily explained my needs but she immediately shut me down. She looked me up and down and told me that the toilets were only for people in a wheelchair.

I told her accessible toilets are for anyone who has extra needs, I was embarrassed to have to tell her that I had an ostomy bag, but even this wouldn't sway her decision. She refused me access to the toilet.

I spoke to another guard, asking for access to the toilets, he asked what my needs were and I told him. He immediately took me through, telling me it was no problem. I was so relieved. We would have had to leave and head home, ruining our day and costing us so much money.

Things are getting better, people are educating themselves more and businesses are learning that they need to train staff on accessibility and disability, but all too often, those of us with invisible disabilities are ignored, abused and denied support. Just a little understanding can go a very long way.



My Déjà Vu Is So Extreme I Can't Tell What's Real Any More – www.independent.co.uk/news/long_reads/d-j-vu-extreme-memory-brain-health-biology-personal-experience-a7769741.html

When a brain tumour left Pat Long with persistent déjà vu, he began to question the very nature of reality. Here, he tells his story for the first time.

“I was lounging under a tree in a packed east-London park when I experienced a sudden feeling of vertigo, followed immediately by an overwhelming and intense sense of familiarity. The people around me vanished and I found myself lying on a tartan picnic blanket amid a field of high golden wheat.

The memory was rich and detailed. I could hear the sway of the wheat ears as a gentle breeze brushed through them. I felt warm sunlight on the back of my neck and watched as birds wheeled and floated above me. It was a pleasant and extremely vivid recollection. The problem was that it never actually happened.

What I was experiencing was an extreme form of a very common mental illusion: déjà vu. “Before my diagnosis I appeared fit and healthy until, that is, the afternoon that I woke up on the kitchen floor with two black eyes after suffering my first recorded seizure. I don’t remember déjà vu happening with any kind of regularity before the onset of my epilepsy.

Most of the time, memory systems run quietly in the background as we go about the business of everyday life. We take their efficiency for granted. Until, that is, they fail.

Taken from the French for “already seen”, déjà vu is one of a group of related quirks of memory. Research from 50 different surveys suggests that around two-thirds of healthy people have experienced déjà vu at one time or another.

For the majority, it is dismissed as a curiosity or a mildly interesting cognitive illusion.

Pat Said “The night before completing this piece I had another seizure. The deadline had clearly been on my mind, as I suddenly had an intense memory of sitting down to write these closing sentences.

When I regained my composure enough to read the finished article the next day, there was nothing here but blank space. It was another illusion.

Now I’m actually typing this conclusion. It is, to borrow a famous solecism, like déjà vu all over again.



You Don't Look Sick: 'Don't Ask Me If I Am Better Yet. Ménière's Is A Long Term Illness, Not A Cold'

<https://metro.co.uk/2019/09/15/you-dont-look-sick-dont-ask-me-if-i-am-better-yet-menieres-is-a-long-term-illness-not-a-cold-10741882/>

In 2019 there were 13.9 million disabled people in the UK – and many of them have an invisible illness. When you look at someone with a hidden condition, you would have no idea they are ill, but they suffer debilitating symptoms and can face judgement for using disabled facilities because they '**don't look sick**'.

Kelly Boyson, 32, from Wokingham, Berkshire, has Ménière's disease, a condition affecting the inner ear that causes sudden attacks of severe vertigo, tinnitus, pressure in the inner ear and hearing loss. She was diagnosed in March 2015 but had been experiencing symptoms for four months beforehand.

She explains: 'I remember sitting at my computer at work and everything started spinning. I went to the GP various times trying to figure out what was going on. I was told I had labyrinthitis then ear infections.' Kelly experienced more dizzy spells and kept going back to her doctor, who eventually suggested she could have Ménière's. She was referred to a specialist Ear, Nose and Throat Doctor for more tests.

After discussing her symptoms and checking for hearing loss, Kelly was told she had the condition, which affects around one in 1,000 people in the UK. Kelly was relieved to have a name for what was wrong. There is no cure or specific treatment for Ménière's but people with the illness are given a range of medication to control the symptoms.

She gets a few minutes warning where she starts to lose pressure in her ear and then severe tinnitus starts, followed closely by vertigo and nausea that makes her lose control of her body.

She explains: 'People don't understand if I need to sit down on public transport because I don't look ill. They say things like "you don't look sick" or "are you better yet?", like I have a cold. 'You have to laugh it off. It used to affect me more at the beginning, now I just see it as they don't understand. 'I think people with invisible illnesses can use this opportunity to educate and explain why they don't look sick.'



Giving Alzheimers A Nickname – Edited

www.independent.co.uk/news/long_reads/alzheimers-disease-living-with-dementia-changing-narrative-a8794856.html

Tom and Peggy are at home, talking about the children they adopted from overseas in the 1980s, when Tom, 64,

misremembers a major detail. “We got two kids out of India...” he says. Peggy, 59, chimes in. “Philippines.” “Oh yeah, Philippines,” says Tom, a retired CIA officer. He grins wryly at his wife. “That’s Ollie talking.”

Ollie is their nickname for Alzheimer’s, the disease Tom was diagnosed with in 2012. Ollie is a third presence in the house, one they never invited in. But since he’s here, they’re making room for him. And though it might seem counterintuitive, they are even trying to have fun with him.

That approach – giving the illness a nickname, smoothly zigging after hitting a zag – puts Tom and Peggy in a growing camp of people determined to approach dementia care differently, coming at it with a sense of openness, playfulness and even wonder.

Family members often try to nudge a loved one back towards getting facts right or remembering things correctly, but as the disease progresses this can turn their daily interactions into grim, and increasingly frustrating, battles.

Since his diagnosis, Tom and Peggy have made a point of trying to have fun together. Tom has taken up new activities such as darts and colouring books.

He’d never danced before; now, he and Peggy go square-dancing. He’d never played a musical instrument, but he took up the violin. And they joined the Forgetful Friends Chorus, for people with dementia and their friends and caregivers, though he had never sung before.

Keeping things loose and flowing is something Peggy does to make her own life easier. But it also puts Tom at ease. And it makes things more fun.



From the Archive - Whatever Happened To..... Invalid Carriages – *Originally featured on*

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/blogs-ouch-23061676>.

Back in the day, before people were jealous of the cars disabled people could have, they were often seen driving alone, in an unflattering yet classic and often remembered three-wheeled vehicle - the invalid carriage. But in 2003 that all changed.

After WW2 and in the caring rosy glow around the beginnings of the NHS, it was felt something was needed to get injured ex-servicemen and disabled people more mobile.

In 1946 the first accessible motor-driven trike was invented by engineer Bert Greeves for his paralysed cousin. Greeves then founded the Invacar company.

The Ministry of Health subsequently started a service where they supplied and repaired these motorised tricycles, giving them free

of charge to those who were eligible.

Sir Bert Massie, who was a governor for the modern day accessible car scheme Motability, explained "*The government didn't see these as cars... they saw them as a prosthetic. There was a strange logic to their thinking. They saw the role of the NHS as being there to get you mobile. If you were not disabled, you'd be doing that with your legs. So, if you were disabled, and couldn't do that, they gave you a one-person invalid carriage as a leg replacement to get you from A to B.*"

By the time they announced the closure of the scheme in 1976, there were 21,500 invalid carriages in use around the country. The scheme was meant to close totally in 1981 but some people really liked their invalid carriages and kept on using them until the outright ban in 2003.

Rather than providing free vehicles, cash schemes like the mobility allowance and Motability took over in the 1970s. By 2020 more than 640,000 people were using the Motability scheme and gained independence as a result.



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Quadruple Amputee Becomes The Youngest Person In The World To Have Microprocessor Hydraulic Knees

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11356245/Quadruple-amputee-youngest-person-world-microprocessor-hydraulic-knees.html>

At just ten months old, Harmonie, was struck down with a deadly strain of meningitis - just after she had started walking. She was given just a ten per cent chance of survival, but surgeons were able to save her life by amputating her arms above the elbow and her legs above the knees.

She was fitted with her first pair of specially-made prosthetics at Dorset Orthopaedic in 2017, when she was three. Her old prosthetics meant Harmonie had to swing her legs out to walk and throw herself back to sit down as they had a hinge but no resistance.

Mother Freya Hall, 28, said: 'The old legs were lovely because they were lightweight but when you put clothes on you could tell they were prosthetic. These ones move like a normal leg so you can't tell even with leggings on.

'She got to wear knee-high socks to school for the first time, and tights. She couldn't wear them with the old legs. 'They've opened up a lot of opportunities for Harmonie that we take for granted.'

To get used to her new legs -Ottobock Kenevo microprocessor knees (MPKs) she spent a week with the team at Dorset Orthopaedic trialling them. Her prosthetist Matthew Hughes, physio Mary Tebb and Ottobock's lead clinician Alan Gordon worked together for the intensive training.

Harmonie has a silicone liner fitted to her limbs to protect the delicate skin, and then a fibreglass socket with a pin that locks into the prosthetic, which has a carbon fibre chassis, hydraulic cylinder, tubes with sensors in it and a carbon fibre foot.

Mr Hughes said: 'Harmonie has been coming here for five years and she was doing really well on her straight legs, but they are also really limited and long term might not be good for the body.

The Kenevo ticks a lot of boxes in keeping her interested and motivated in prosthetics but also safe. She isn't going to grow out of it. She is the youngest person in the world to be fitted with that level of technology.

The week training was quite intense for an eight-year-old. There were tears and lots of bribing with ice creams, but we could quickly see she had the ability and her determination is a big part of this.

Alan Gordon said no other knee on the market at the moment is small enough to fit children and is the latest knee available. The clever bit of kit has several settings so the team can change how

the prosthetic works for Harmonie as she gets used to her new knees. It can be controlled by a computer or phone app and the knees have a lifespan of about six years so will grow and adapt with Harmonie as she needs.

Harmonie said: 'I love my new legs, they are my favourite so far. It makes me so happy because I did it all myself. 'The best thing is I can choose what shoes I want now, and I can go on the swing at school with my friends because my legs bend.'



Little Girl Born Without Forearm Gets Doll To Match,

<https://metro.co.uk/2022/09/11/little-girl-born-with-no-forearm-gets-doll-to-match-made-by-her-gran-17350807/>

Remi Blackburn, one, loves the doll her grandma made her. Not just because she appreciates a gift from her nan, but because the toy, named Dolly, is also missing her right forearm.

Remi was born without part of her arm after the limb did not grow in the womb. Her family call it 'Remi's bubble' and prefer to 'celebrate rather than commiserate' her differences.

Her grandmother, Toni, 57, from Reading, Berkshire, knitted Remi a doll with an identical shorter arm in November 2021, to give the girl the representation she deserves. Remi and Dolly are now the best of friends and she 'takes her everywhere.'

Mum Sarah Blackburn, 29, a medical care assistant, from Reading, Berkshire, said: 'It has been great to see Remi have a toy that represents her. 'It's bespoke and very special as there's not a lot on the market here in the UK. 'Dolly comes with us to the supermarket, park and even her brother, Rory, likes to play with her – of course, that's when Remi lets him.'

Doctors told the parents that Remi's limb difference would not make any difference to her development. 'It was a relief to feel like she was just a normal baby, which she is,' said Sarah.

Dolly is a firm favourite with the tot and the couple couldn't imagine a better way to celebrate their daughters' differences. 'We'd been wanting to get her a toy that matched her limb difference for a while but all the dolls were from the US and they were never available,' Sarah said. 'That's when Jacks mum, Toni, thought of getting a standard doll from Argos and sewing the right arm up.

'Whilst is incredible sweet for Remi to have, I do wish there was more diversity in toys for babies and children.' Sarah has since set up an Instagram page to raise awareness for limb difference and document Remis early years.



#Toylikeme – Toys With Diff:abilities

<https://www.toylikeme.org/about-us/our-story/>

#Toylikeme was established in April 2015 after writer and journalist Rebecca Atkinson noticed the lack of positive disability representation in toys.

Rebecca had spent 20 years working in TV production and print journalism (including Children's BBC) and had always been interested in the way these industries represent disability and difference.

Rebecca called on some fellow parents, including writer Melissa Mostyn and former Ragdoll play consultant, Karen Newell whose son has a visual impairment.

Together they launched #ToyLikeMe to call on the global toy industry to start positively representing 150 million children worldwide and end cultural marginalization.

Going Viral

Rebecca and Karen began making over toys to give them disabilities and took high resolution images in collaboration with photographer Beth Moseley and children's author and illustrator Kate Read.

The results soon went viral and our story was shared on news outlets around the world including BBC, Mail, Guardian.

Going Viral Again!

In February 2016 we went viral again when we gave a batch of Tinkerbell dolls some hot pink cochlear implants and took some snaps.

These images were shared thousands of times and the story was covered by global press including Metro and The Mirror. We have even had support from comedy genius Stephen Merchant and Gruffelo author Julia Donaldson.

For kids with disabilities , growing up being the only one in your class to rock hearing aids or roll on wheels, and rarely seeing anyone like you positively reflected in toys, books, TV, films can lead to a sense of isolation and low self esteem.

Positive representation matters. To see yourself reflected by huge toy brands like Playmobil and Lego is about more than just a toy.

However, #ToyLikeMe doesn't advocate that toy companies should make disabled toys for disabled children per se.

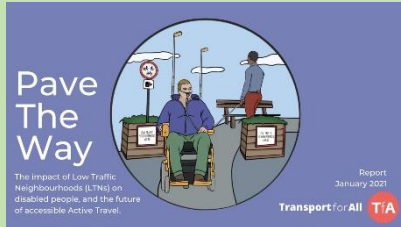
Academic research by Dr. Sian Jones at Queen Margaret's has found that after playing with disabled toys for just 3 minutes, children develop a more positive friendship attitude towards their peers with disabilities.

Nearly every toy wheelchair we have ever found has been part of a

hospital set, every glasses-wearing toy has been a geek or a nerd, every patch-wearer, a pirate. Where are the wizards with wheelchairs? Fairies with guide dogs? Princesses with diabetic lines?



The Pave The Way (PTW) Campaign www.transportxtra.com



Active travel should be accessible travel: impacts of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) on disabled people.

As the 'new normal' is being shaped, Transport for All asks that those designing our rapidly changing streetscapes commit to making these shared spaces a world-class example of equity, community and harmony. www.transportforall.org.uk/campaigns-and-research/pave-the-way/

The Pave The Way (PTW) report is research into the impacts of LTNs on disabled people. The report will present our findings from the qualitative interviews we've conducted with over 85 disabled participants from across the impairment groups, and will set out the landscape of street design, transport, and the rights of disabled people in the pandemic and beyond.

Low Traffic Neighbourhoods are a good example of a variable impact: they impact different people in different ways. Some disabled people welcome the changes, others feel negatively impacted.

This is the nuance and diversity of opinion that we have set out to capture in our research, and this is what we will be setting out in our report, alongside our suggestions for long-term solutions and drivers for systemic change.

Background

Transport for All says: *We are concerned about the pace of change of our streetscapes and the impact on disabled people.*

By 'streetscapes' we mean all the shared space that you walk, wheel, push, drive or cycle in – spaces that are seeing huge changes that impact accessibility including: widened pavements, low traffic zones, street clutter, and the introduction of e-scooters.

We fully support the fight for climate justice and understand the importance of introducing environmental initiatives that promote Active Travel, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, we maintain that environmental initiatives must not negatively impact disabled people.





Disability Rights UK (DRUK)

Disability Rights UK Helplines

Our helplines are operating as normal:

Personal Budgets Helpline

Opening hours: 9.30am-1.30pm on
Tuesdays and Thursdays

Telephone: 0330 995 0404 personalbudgets@disabilityrightsuk.org

Disabled Students Helpline

Opening hours: 11am-1pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Telephone: 0330 995 0414 students@disabilityrightsuk.org

Welfare Rights Helpline for Member Organisations

Opening hours: 10.30am-12.30pm Tuesdays and Thursdays

Telephone: 0203 687 0779 ken.butler@disabilityrightsuk.org

PLEASE NOTE – *The news Bulletins received from **Disability Rights (DRUK)** and the **Surrey Adult Social Care Information & Engagement Team** is now being distributed as enclosures with each monthly SCAN Newsletter.*

Please contact me if you wish to receive these enclosures by sending a text message (with your name and postal address) to 07859 639025.

If your preference is for an electronic copy then please email me on info@spelthorneaccess.org.uk or use the 'Contact SCAN' form on www.spelthorneaccess.org.uk/



North West Surrey Drop-In Hubs

Addlestone – 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each Month

KnapHill – Every Monday

Shepperton – 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each Month

Surrey Downs Hubs

Epsom - 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each Month

Hersham - 2nd and 4th Monday of each Month

Leatherhead – Every Friday

To contact Action for Carers Surrey, Telephone 0303 040 1234

Email CSAdmin@actionforcarers.org.uk Text 07723 486730

Web site www.actionforcarers.org.uk





Disability Empowerment Network – North Surrey & Surrey Wide

Administration and management of the North Surrey Disability Empowerment

Network (DEN) is arranged by the Surrey Coalition of Disabled People (SCDP) and covers the areas of Runnymede, Spelthorne, Woking & Surrey Heath.

Most Empowerment Meetings Are Still Being Held Via Zoom Only Unless Otherwise Stated. For more information, please contact: Involvement@surreycoalition.org.uk or Tel/SMS 07492 249 513



Do You Have Problems With Furniture Obstructing Pavements In Spelthorne? - Message from SCAN's Chairman
- For further guidance please contact info@spelthorneaccess.org.uk



Did you know that the licensing of outdoor seating, tables, barriers, umbrellas, and other paraphernalia on pavements and footways is the responsibility of Spelthorne Council?

Were you aware that a 'pavement licence' may be required?

The licensing process for permitting furniture to be placed on pavements and pedestrianised areas was streamlined in 2020 to enable food and drink premises to obtain a 'pavement licence' within 7 days. A licence is approved unless public consultation raises concerns.

SCAN Has Raised Legitimate Concerns In Many Cases

but has rarely been able to influence the Spelthorne Council's licensing team to request changes to layouts. A significant amount of furniture is now placed on our footways and pedestrianised areas daily, **creating obstruction and trip hazards**, apparently without inspection or enforcement. Some furniture has been deemed by the Council not to require a licence.

For many people outdoor eating and drinking areas create an obstruction and, in some cases, trips and falls. Disabled people, particularly wheelchair users and those with visual impairment, may have to avoid areas cluttered with furniture.

This Is An Unacceptable Situation.

SCAN continues to monitor applications. Many licence applications are renewals and are exactly the same as the previous submissions made during the 2020 Pandemic restrictions. However the Council approves all pavement license renewal applications since no complaints have been made on the numerous obstructions.

Why Hasn't The Council Received Complaints?

If you do find outdoor pavement seating and associated street furniture to be an obstruction, hazard or even just a nuisance, please complain to **Spelthorne Council Licensing team**, using their contact information, below.

Unless You Complain The Situation Will Get Worse.

E-mail: licensing@spelthorne.gov.uk Telephone: 01784 444295

Please send a copy of your complaint to SCAN.

info@spelthorneaccess.org.uk



SCAN and Spelthorne Physical, Sensory & Cognitive Disabilities Forum (SPSCDF)



The meetings bring together service providers and users to influence the solutions to any problems or access issues

encountered by people with physical, sensory and cognitive disabilities.

We receive reports from a number of local groups and service providers. Fill in the '**Contact SCAN**' form on our website pages at www.spelthorneaccess.org.uk/ or send your news or reports to info@spelthorneaccess.org.uk

We started to hold Hybrid meetings during 2022 and the Goddard Room has been booked for the Joint Meetings of SCAN and the Disability Forum. The first meeting of 2023 will be on **Wednesday 18th January 2023** beginning at 12 Noon. Please RSVP before Monday 19th December 2022. This meeting will be in the usual format, opening the Agenda with the Forum Reports from Service providers to the disabled community and finishing with updates of SCAN's operations.

Further details for email info@spelthorneaccess.org.uk or fill in the '**Contact SCAN**' form on www.spelthorneaccess.org.uk/.

Spelthorne's Physical, Sensory and Cognitive Disability forum details are also on SCAN's web site at

www.spelthorneaccess.org.uk/news/scan-news/spscd-forum/,



30th Anniversary For SCAN

The review of the archive of newsletters has uncovered a number of new projects and campaigns that have more than made up for anything in the archive that couldn't be traced.

Anyone who has a connection with disability is welcome to send me their comments on any of the articles published or to send me details of your own experiences.

Each year applications for the newsletter project costs are submitted to funding organisations, and each year the project costs continue to evolve.

The newsletters now have more pages and more copies are being distributed to public locations around the borough. We are also being approached by more local organisations to help with their publicity.

New submissions for entry to the newsletters must be received by the editor before the 24th of each month, - except 19th December 2022 because of the Holiday Break - and where possible information will be added to our web site within a few days of the paper newsletters being distributed.

We were very pleased that the Lottery funding came through very quickly in February 2022, although even in that short space of time the newsletter evolved as it was discovered that more people are taking away copies from the public locations that may once have been read 'on site' prior to 2020.

We invite you to join us and contribute positively to our organisation's work. Either fill in the '**Contact SCAN**' form on our web page www.spelthorneaccess.org.uk/ or email info@spelthorneaccess.org.uk for details of how to make direct donations.



EASYFUNDRAISING

Please remember to use Easyfundraising when you do your Christmas online shopping this year.



Over 7,000 brands including eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos and M&S will make FREE donations to **Spelthorne Committee for Access Now** when you use Easyfundraising to shop with them.



easyfundraising

This means you can raise donations for us when you buy anything from decorations and festive food shopping to gifts like toys, jewellery, tech, experiences and more!

These donations really help us and all you have to do is use Easyfundraising when you're ordering the things that you'll be buying anyway.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/spelthorneaccessnow/



SANTA

He comes in the night! He comes in the night!
He softly, silently comes;
While the little brown heads on the pillows so white
Are dreaming of bugles and drums.

He cuts through the snow like a ship through the foam,
While the white flakes around him whirl;
Who tells him I know not, but he finds the home
Of each good little boy and girl.

His sleigh it is long, and deep, and wide;
It will carry a host of things
While dozens of drums hang over the side,
With the sticks sticking under the strings.

And yet not the sound of a drum is heard,
Not a bugle blast is blown,
As he mounts to the chimney-top like a bird,
And drops to the hearth like a stone.

The little red stockings he silently fills,
Till the stockings will hold no more;
The bright little sleds for the great snow hills
Are quickly set down on the floor.

Then Santa Claus returns to the roof like a bird,
And glides to his seat in the sleigh;
Not a sound of a bugle or drum is heard
As he noiselessly gallops away.

He rides to the East, and he rides to the West,
Of his goodies he touches not one;
He eats the crumbs of the Christmas feast
When the dear little folks are done.

Old Santa Claus does all that he can;
This beautiful mission is his;
Then, children be good to the little old man,
When you find out who the little man is!!



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