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30th Anniversary Edition 9 - November 2022

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Warning Over Scam Energy Bill Support

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-62967556
The government announced that a £400 energy bill discount will be available to all households. This discount is being administered by the energy companies and will be automatic there is no need to apply for the discount. Ofgem has asked energy suppliers to be clearer on potential customer fraud on their websites.

The SCAM messages invite people to apply for the £400 "non-repayable discount" and instruct the recipient to follow a link to a fake Ofgem website to then provide personal details. It then encourages people to set up a direct debit to receive the money. An Ofgem spokesperson said protecting consumers is their top priority: "It is alarming that vulnerable customers are being preyed upon in this way when people are already struggling so much. On top of issuing our own warnings and advice, we have asked all energy suppliers to ensure clear and up-to-date information on scams is easily accessible on their websites. We take these attempts to exploit consumers very seriously."

How to protect yourself

The fraud protection service, Cifas, is also warning the public to stay vigilant, and has identified several scams specifically targeting consumers as a result of the cost-of-living crisis.

Amber Burridge, Head of Intelligence for Cifas, said: "Criminals are using a variety of ways to target unsuspecting victims in order to steal money and personal information that can be used to commit fraud. "Remember that no matter how an offer comes to your attention, there are very few occasions where there is a legitimate need to hand over your bank details."

- If you have any doubts about a message, contact the organisation directly
- Don't use the numbers or address in the message, use the details from their official website
- Your bank or any other official source will never ask you to supply personal information via email
- If you have received an email which you're not quite sure about, forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk

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Kate Garraway - Caring for Derek - *Edited from MailOnline*

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-11300633/Kate-Garraway-details-frustrating-reality-caring-husband-Derek-Draper-candid-post.html
Kate Garraway has revealed she often feels 'frustrated, depressed and emotional' as she opened up about caring for her husband Derek Draper. The Good Morning Britain host, 55, made the revelation on World Mental Health Day, as she paid her respects to

other carers.

Derek is one of the UK's longest-suffering patients of Covid after being admitted to hospital with the virus in March 2020, only returning to the family's London home in April 2021, where he receives round-the-clock care. The TV personality said: 'In the documentary [Caring For Derek] you saw me frustrated, depressed, emotional, and I've been all of those and more in recent weeks and months and more'. 'Because that's the thing with caring, you want it to carry on because you want the person to be surviving and still with you, so that you CAN care for them, but there isn't an end point and it doesn't get any easier.'

@carersfirst have done some research & the economic crisis has left many feeling suicidal, hundreds of thousands with mental health issues & more than 93 percent say they can't sleep because they are so terrified about the future'. On #worldmentalhealthday I have been thinking about what so many are going through. If you haven't seen #caringforderek it is still on the @itv hub.

Kate shares her two children - William, 13, and Darcey, 16 - with her husband and juggles raising her kids with looking after Derek and hosting Good Morning Britain.

In August, the presenter told how she is spending 'pretty much all my time in hospital' as she shared a brief update on husband Derek who was rushed to hospital with 'life-threatening sepsis' in July during his ongoing recovery from Covid. 'Unfortunately, his kidneys were really badly infected, blocked. The challenge now is to save them. So that's where we've been for the last three weeks.'

She added: 'Thanks to the amazing nhs teams & his own extraordinary life force & spirit Derek - please god - is back on the right side of it now. Kate previously admitted she was taking things 'day by day' after Derek was re-admitted to hospital, 'Hopefully he'll come out again.

* * *

John Bishop & Son Explore Deafness Diagnosis – *edited from Guardian September 2022*

https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2022/sep/22/john-and-joe-bishop-life-after-deaf-review-the-comic-should-be-proud-of-this-uplifting-documentary

John Bishop is a loving father to three sons, and the stand-up comic is no stranger to expressing how proud of them he is. You would never know there was anything amiss. 27 year old Joe caught a virus aged 15 and developed Cogan’s syndrome. It’s an autoimmune disease that attacks ear tissue. Joe lost a substantial part of his hearing overnight. The disease is progressive and it is likely that he will become completely deaf soon. He also suffers from tinnitus. “It’s loud at the moment,” he says during his first appearance on camera, “because I’m nervous.”

The ostensible subject of the hour-long documentary John and Joe Bishop: Life After Deaf (ITV) is John’s decision to start learning British Sign Language (BSL) to perform a comedy gig to a Deaf audience about his experience of life as the parent of a Deaf son. The real subject is the evocation and the beginning of those experiences.

John and Joe’s first BSL lesson provides their first shared laugh. They are both embarrassed at the facial expressiveness required to accompany signing. But Joe is intrigued by the confident insouciance of their Deaf teacher, Bob. “He’s got a good vibe. It was nice to see. Because I’m not proud to not hear very well, to tell you the truth.” Standing a little behind him, John looks stricken. “Maybe,” he says later, without Joe, “if someone had given us a positive message earlier on we wouldn’t have done the things we’ve done … We can’t get those lost years back.”

As we watch Joe become involved via Bob and a Deaf pub night (“The image I’ve had of hearing loss is not people in a pub,” he says, looking round at all the young, signing people in wonderment) and a Deaf football team, the programme becomes a study not just of a family’s dynamic but of wider cultural attitudes, of how much of disability is socially constructed and how much power we have to embrace or reject different messages.

* * *

Virtuoso French Horn Player Born without Arms – *Edited from Classicfm.com.* https://www.classicfm.com/discover-music/felix-klieser-french-horn-left-foot/

In 2021, Felix Klieser took up the role of ‘artist in residence’ at the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, making his UK concerto debut with them in November 2021.

Born without arms, Klieser plays the French horn using his left foot to press the valves and relies mainly on the positioning of his lips to play the instrument. Klieser began playing the French horn aged four – but under a shadow of doubt from his prospective teachers, who at the outset suggested he might be better suited to the piano or a percussion instrument.

He said “It’s so nice to be part of the Orchestra family for the next few years. Because normally when you play with an orchestra, you travel to the orchestra for one rehearsal and only play one or two concerts, then you leave and do something different,” the hornist says. “And having a residency for the upcoming two years means you also have the possibility to get more in contact with the members of the orchestra and the audience to do projects and masterclasses off stage – and also to have the chance to play chamber music with members of the orchestra, you wouldn’t [normally] have the opportunity to do this.”

“The thing about the French horn is the fingering is not that important. It looks important, but you can also play without fingering a bit. And so, 85 percent of playing is about your lips, about the air stream, about controlling everything. This is the main thing in playing the French horn – and using the keys is not that difficult, I would say.”

When he was 17, Felix enrolled at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Hannover, and he has since gone on to develop an international career as a French horn soloist. In 2013, Felix released his debut album Reveries on Berlin Classics, and the following year he received the ECHO Klassik award for young artist of the year. In 2016, Felix received the prestigious Leonard Bernstein Award of the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival.

Paralympian Ellie Simmonds Smashes Prejudices About What A Dancer Can Be

Edited from Guardian Article by Cathy Reay, a disabled author who has dwarfism.

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/sep/27/ellie-simmonds-on-strictly-dancer

People like to play down the impact representation has, but for those whose body types are never shown in certain contexts, it can be incredibly powerful to see someone participating in something we might have otherwise deemed impossible, because there are no prior examples to draw from.

As the show blasted on to our screen with its familiar upbeat theme tune, my heart soared seeing Ellie Simmonds on screen for the first time, made up to the nines and looking absolutely incredible. The genetic makeup of Strictly Come Dancing is heavily rooted in the beauty of bodies and their movement, and she so seamlessly fitted in from the moment she appeared. It felt like a huge moment for people like us, who aren’t typically celebrated for being beautiful or rhythmic.

Already, Simmonds has said that she has received abuse on social media from naysayers who appear to feel threatened by her presence on the show and take umbrage that she should be allowed to participate in a national competition alongside people of average height. These people are missing the point. Yes, Strictly is a competition centred on how well you can dance according to a set of pre-existing rules and conditions, which by nature automatically excludes many disabled people simply because our bodies don’t work in the same way. But it is also – as dance should be – a celebration of the freedom of expression. Adapting dances for bigger bodies, disabled bodies and bodies that don’t move in the ways we expect them to is beautiful, meaningful and so impactful to those watching who may feel they don't fit the mould of how a dancer should look or perform.

The awareness she brings in being a dancer that requires adaptations is fantastic, and the inclusion she brings in being a person who is in her own right completely deserving of this space is long overdue.

Disabled Man's Food Delivery Cancelled On his Doorstep Without Proof of Age – *Edited from Metro.co.uk*

https://metro.co.uk/2022/10/04/middlesborough-man-37-denied-sainsburys-shop-because-he-had-no-id-17500302/

William Wilford, from Middlesborough, was left standing on his doorstep stunned when a Sainsbury's delivery driver asked him to provide ID. He even offered to show his birth certificate but the delivery driver said he would have to rearrange the order.

William, who has cystic fibrosis and diabetes, was relying on his food shop and said it had cost him the last of his cash. Although the supermarket eventually provided him with a refund, at the time he was told it would take days to process. This left him facing a 'dangerous' position of being both out of food and out of pocket.

William, who lives on his own and receives benefits due to his ill health, says 'I was like, there's no age-restricted items in there, no alcohol, no cigarettes or anything. The driver said it was policy and that he needs proof of photo ID. They said they couldn't make any compromise even though I explained to them, again, about my health. They said the best thing for them to do was to give a full refund, which I was fine with – I thought it meant I'd get the full refund straight away and I'd be able to go shop somewhere else.

I then received an email the next morning saying it would take three to five days to process my refund, which meant I was out of food and pretty much just living on scraps for a couple of days. The thing that saved me was the one-off payment from the government that they were giving out.'

William was forced to stay up into the night and wait for the government cash to come through so he could then order his food shop from Asda. He added: 'It was the last of my benefits money, so it's not like I could go out and get some odds and ends before the refund came through. I should not have been put in a situation where I had to rely on [the government] money.' The money has now been credited into his bank account.

Sainsbury's has launched an investigation into the case. A spokesperson said it is standard policy to only deliver to those aged 18 and over – but if customers look under 25, drivers can ask for ID. A statement reads: 'We are reaching out to Mr Wilford to apologise for his experience and to arrange a gesture of goodwill.'

What Is Parkinson's Mask? The Symptom That Led To Jeremy Paxman's Diagnosis

https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/reviews/paxman-putting-up-with-parkinsons-itv-university-challenge-b2191586.html

Jeremy Paxman is the latest public figure to speak of his diagnosis of Parkinson's disease. Sir Billy Connolly was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2013 and retired from live performances five years later. Then, the Black Sabbath frontman, Ozzy Osbourne went public with the news in 2019 but has been living with the disease for almost two decades.

In a recent documentary *Jeremy Paxman: Putting Up with Parkinson's,* Jeremy revealed he was diagnosed after collapsing while out walking his dog. Paxman said: "Well, it was completely out of the blue. There was ice around and I had the dog with me. "The first thing I knew was when somebody was sitting me on a bench. I'd fallen over and I made a terrible mess of my face. When I was in A&E, a doctor walked in and said 'I think you've got Parkinson's'. And it turned out that he had been watching University Challenge and had noticed that my face had acquired what's known as the Parkinson Mask."

Parkinson's Mask is a symptom of Parkinson's disease, also known as Hypomimia. A lack of dopamine can stop facial muscles performing as well as they should, leading to a loss or reduction of facial expression. Those with this symptom may find raising an eyebrow or smiling difficult. Those who suffer from a "Parkinson's Mask" may seem less animated, and may look "flat and sad", according to charity Parkinson's UK.

The charity said this lack of expression does not mean someone with Parkinson's is feeling low or depressed, "they just can't use their facial muscles to express themselves as easily anymore. However, many people with Parkinson's also report issues like apathy and problems with motivation, meaning they may not respond to emotions like they used to," the charity added.

Around 150,000 people in the UK suffer from Parkinson's disease, a condition in which parts of the brain become progressively damaged over the years. The three main symptoms of the condition are involuntary shaking of parts of the body, known as tremors, slow movement, and stiff and inflexible muscles.

According to the NHS, Parkinson's disease is caused by a loss of nerve cells in part of the brain called the substantia nigra. This leads to a reduction in a chemical called dopamine in the brain. Dopamine plays a vital role in regulating the movement of the body.

Guide Dogs Scoot Aware Campaign *Edited from https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/how-you-can-help/campaigning/our-current-campaigns/transport/#e-scooters*

E-scooters are almost silent, which means that people with sight loss have little or no warning that they are approaching. Even a near miss with an e-scooter can rob people with vision impairment of the confidence to go out independently.

The Government have stated that they intend to legislate to legalise e-scooters imminently, however Guide Dogs' research shows that fast, heavy and powerful e-scooters are being ridden antisocially and already having a significant and detrimental impact on the lives of people with sight loss. Three quarters of people with sight loss who have encountered an e-scooter have already reported having a negative experience.

There is a lack of public understanding or adherence to the law around private e-scooters, which cannot be used legally on public land. There has been an explosion in the illegal use of these entirely unregulated private e-scooters.

The Department for Transport needs to work urgently across government to challenge illegal use and control the sales of privately owned e-scooters.

No decision should be made on the full legalisation of private e-scooter use without addressing the catalogue of serious problems that have emerged from their use.

Guide Dogs’ Scoot Aware campaign has worked to raise awareness of the key issues e-scooters pose for people who are blind or partially sighted and make recommendations to inform the Government’s future plans in this area. We have engaged with trial operators, police forces, local and national government, sector partners and the media on this issue to date.

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Spelthorne Para Sports Club - www.spelthorne.gov.uk/parasportsclub

Aimed at young people aged 5-25 and their siblings, Spelthorne Para Sports Club provides opportunities to play a wide range of sports as well as offering sport specific coaching for those interested in developing skills. All sessions are overseen by enthusiastic volunteers although parents/guardians are encouraged to stay on side during the sessions. No need to book - come and try - first session free!

Where - Spelthorne Leisure Centre, Knowle Green, Staines,
Cost - £3 a session (£2 for siblings) payable on the day.

When - 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month 10:15-11:45am (term time)

For more information please visit the council’s web site

Spelthorne Boccia Club - *www.spelthorne.gov.uk/boccia*

Boccia is a disability sport that is similar to bowls and petanque. The aim of the game is to propel leather balls, coloured red or blue, close to a white target ball (the jack).

It is played from a seated position and the ball can be moved with players' hands, feet or an assistive device eg a head or hand pointer.

Our club is aimed at people aged 16+ with disabilities (young people aged 14+ may join with an adult carer present)

Where - Spelthorne Leisure Centre, Knowle Green, Staines
When – Every Thursday 6pm - 6.55pm
Cost - £3 per week (no need to book, just turn up and join in)

For more information please visit the council’s web site

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Kew Gardens Walking Tours for People Living with Dementia, Sight Loss or Hearing Loss (incl. BSL)

Kew have started to run their walks around the beautiful setting of Kew Gardens that are designed to be accessible for people living with dementia, sight loss or hearing loss.

All walks start from Victoria Gate and last around 60 minutes. The walks are led by their volunteer walk leaders. Support workers, friends or family are very welcome and will also receive free entry to the Gardens. They plan to run the Monthly series of walks up to and inclusive of November 2022. Please Check with Kew for any changes to the schedules

Forthcoming BSL Tour Dates TBA – see Kew Website

https://www.kew.org/kew-gardens/whats-on/monthly-british-sign-language-tours

Forthcoming Dementia Friendly Tour Dates

9th November 11am – 12pm
https://www.kew.org/kew-gardens/whats-on/health-walks-for-people-living-with-dementia

Forthcoming Sensory Tour Dates TBA - see Kew Website

https://www.kew.org/kew-gardens/whats-on/sensory-guided-walking-tours-for-visitors-with-sight-loss-and-their-carers

Walking tours have a limit to the number people who can participate for any of their Events and Walking Tours so it is essential that you register in advance for ALL walks and events at Kew. Email discovery@kew.org or Telephone 07341 114533.

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stainesshopmo@gmail.com
www.stainesshopmobility.com
www.facebook.com/stainesshopmobility

Membership Charges

Membership is available on a daily or annual basis. Please contact manager for details

Holiday Hire

Wheelchair- Overnight, Weekend, Week, Fortnight - maximum hire period of 6 weeks.
A Cash Deposit Of £50 Is Required.

Scooter - Overnight, Weekend, Week, Fortnight - maximum hire period of 4 weeks.
A Cash Deposit Of £100 Is Required.

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“You Don’t Look Sick” – Coping With An ‘Invisible’ Condition

– *Edited from https://metro.co.uk/2019/02/17/you-dont-look-sick-i-have-ms-but-i-get-told-to-give-up-my-train-seat-8356954/*

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’.**

You Don’t Look Sick was Metro’s weekly series about living with an invisible illness or hidden disability. They have spoken about living with their condition and the judgements they face because you can’t always see that something is wrong

Amelia, 24, from Plymouth, has Relapsing, Remitting, Multiple Sclerosis (MS), a condition that can affect the brain and/or spinal cord, causing a wide range of potential symptoms, including problems with vision, arm or leg movement, sensation or balance. Although some days, Amelia is barely able to move out of bed, she is often asked to move from priority seats on the train or challenged over using a disabled parking space because she doesn’t ‘look’ disabled. She explains: *‘I look ‘normal’ and find it incredibly frustrating that nobody can see my symptoms. ‘I’ve had my provisional license taken away due to the medication I started out on, so my mum drives me and we use my blue badge. Nearly every time we go to the supermarket people will look questioningly at me because I look ‘fine’*

Amelia was diagnosed in 2014 (aged 19), after almost a year of experiencing symptoms and she developed Trigeminal Neuralgia (facial nerve pain) and Graves’ Disease (a thyroid disorder) as a result of treatment. *‘The neurologist said he wanted to give me an aggressive form of chemo – the only question I asked was ‘will I lose my hair?’ The answer was luckily no. ‘My mum wanted me to think about it, but I said yes straight away so I couldn’t change my mind.*

As the immune system attacks the myelin sheath around the nerves of the central nervous system, chemotherapy drugs are used to kill white blood cells, which are part of this attack. This may slow down or stop disease activity in MS.

She says: *I’m not one to start an argument, but if someone questions me, I’m happy to tell them I’ve got MS. Just because many symptoms are invisible, it doesn’t mean someone isn’t struggling. I wish people weren’t so ignorant. If they were more open-minded they would start to understand that some disabilities mean you have invisible symptoms.*’

* * *

Creature Dis **Comforts –** *taken from Leonard Cheshire Disability website and still images by Aardman Animation*

In this newsletter the serialisation continues of extracts from the advertising campaign, on behalf of Leonard Cheshire Disability, that was launched on line at www.creaturediscomforts.org and in print in November 2007.

In January 2008 the campaign was launched on tv and radio with the intention of changing attitudes towards disability. The cast of Creatures was then extended later in 2008.

Based on the Aardman Animations‘ Creature Comforts series, the ‘**Creature** Dis **Comforts’** animations have the voices of disabled people describing, in their own words, the negative attitudes and barriers they experience.

Each animation ends with the message **“Change The Way You See Disability”**.

We have reached the final of the series of video ads and the final **two** ‘Creatures’ In each of these commercials there are animated ‘Creatures’ talking to camera. There is also a microphone slightly in frame which indicates that an interview is being conducted and they are being recorded.

TV Ad 8 - 'School - Lesson' Here are two animated animals with disabilities; a Sonny who is sitting in a wheelchair and Cath, curled up in a basket on top of a washing machine as the voice over talks about the exaggerated way in which people react to her deafness.

(Cath): *If I did mention to someone that I was hard of hearing, they would start mouthing and talking to me like I was stupid, 'a li-ttle-bit-like-this', you know, 'a-re y-ou o-k?'*

(Sonny): *Some people go, 'oh, look at that chair' and be all nice about it. But then I get these other people that go 'argh, look at that chair!' They need to be taught a lesson... a very big one.*

Cath is voiced by Debbie who lived in Blackburn and has a hearing impairment. She has two young daughters and runs the successful School of Sign Language. "*I had left school without any qualifications after a challenging educational experience, as I was hard of hearing and didn't receive any support.*

I didn't want to draw attention to myself and I didn't admit just how bad my hearing was until I was 21 and got my first hearing aid. As an adult it made me determined to help children and young adults who were experiencing the same social barriers. That's when I decided to contact a local deaf charity and enrol as a volunteer."

After various volunteer and paid positions as a British Sign Language Interpreter, Debbie set up The School of Sign Language in 2006.

Sonny is voiced by Dean who was 23 and has spina bifida, and has been unable to use his legs since birth. He has lived at Leonard Cheshire Disability's Lavender Fields transition service in Hitchin for three years, using a wheelchair to get around. Dean is hoping to move out to his own place, but feels there is still a fair bit to learn first.

"*I've got to improve my ways. Like not spending so much money on things, so I can save. If I'm going to have bills to pay, I need to learn how to save my money!*" he explains "*and I need to learn how to cook!*"

Dean takes a very positive stance when dealing with people's attitudes, "*If people stare at me or give me funny looks, I just ignore them and get on with my life. People should get to know me rather than make assumptions about me because of my wheelchair.*"

Taxi Driver Took Away My Wheelchair After Dispute -

Ruth Madeley – July 2021 – *Edited from*
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-57838553

Actress Ruth Madeley wrote on Instagram about an incident with the taxi driver of the private hire taxi who told her that because of heavy traffic he couldn't get to the accessible entrance of (*Euston)* station. He said "*he had seen me stand & so 'knew I could walk*'".

Graham Robinson, TfL's general manager for taxi and private hire, said: "*We have contacted Ruth for more details so we can carry out a full and urgent investigation.*"

Ruth said *"When I told [the driver] that I can't manage stairs, he proceeded to tell me that it was MY problem not his,"* she explained. *"As if this wasn't traumatic enough, he demanded his fare even though the journey had been prepaid. When I tried explaining this on the street, he became very agitated &, in sheer frustration, HE TOOK MY WHEELCHAIR from behind me without warning & carried it away to the boot of his taxi, leaving me on the side of the road."*

The actress's mother managed to grab the wheelchair, although the driver "tried his best to stop her", Madeley said. Taxis and designated wheelchair-accessible private hire vehicles have a legal duty to carry wheelchair users in accordance with the Equality Act 2010. This includes a duty to provide mobility assistance without additional charge.

Ms Madeley said that when she tried to report the incident to the Metropolitan Police, she was told it was not a hate crime and that no criminal act had taken place. She added: *"I was shut down and made to feel as though I was making a fuss over nothing. After more fighting & asking for support, the police told me that nothing can be done. No warning to the taxi driver or the firm, no accountability, no consequences…*"

A Met spokesperson confirmed to the BBC that, while appreciating the upset caused, the force would not investigate because the incident is "not a criminal matter".

Disability charity Sense called for the force to investigate the "shocking" incident. *"Sadly, we hear far too often from disabled people that have experienced discrimination,"* its chief executive Richard Kramer said. *"We must commit as a society to tackling inequality and create a more inclusive society, removing the barriers that disabled people face."*

Ms Madeley said her experience reflected the discrimination experienced by disabled people "every single day" and was "clear proof that the fight for disability rights is far from over.

Archive of The Disabled People's Movement - History In The Making Thanks To Lotto Cash – *Edited from SCAN's Archive and https://gmcdp.com*

In the autumn of 2004, SCAN's newsletter reported the formation of a new Archive, recording the history of the disabled people's movement.

The Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP) won a £50,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund - to create what was thought to be the only cross-impairment archive run by disabled people in the UK.

After receiving the grant GMCDP undertook a one-year feasibility study into setting up a national Disabled People's Movement archive. The work for this began in partnership with the British Council of Disabled People and Birmingham Coalition of Disabled People. There was also strong support from local interests, such as the Greater Manchester County Records Office, and academics including Colin Barnes from the Centre for Disability Studies at the University of Leeds.

Part of the study involved in-depth contact with, and sending questionnaires to, disabled people's organisations (DPO's) and some individuals. As a result of this, although the project was not set up to collect material, a number of organisations and individuals sent their collections to GMCDP.

Some reasons given were groups folding, the fear of material being damaged while being stored in lofts or garages, and a concern that once a person had died their collection would be thrown away by relatives who did not understand its importance. As a result of this, 54 archive boxes were deposited in the Greater Manchester County Records Office for safe-keeping in 2006.

They have since been in 'deep storage' - an old mine in Derbyshire which has been converted to a climate-controlled vault.

Organisations and individuals have continued to ask GMCDP to receive their precious collections of documents, magazines, posters and much more.

An independent assessment of the Disabled People's Archive in 2020 described the archive as being "the largest, most comprehensive archive of the lives and experience of disabled people, and the activism in England."

Some photographs in the archive show disabled people protesting and marching on the streets for rights and against discrimination in the 1970s, 80s, 90s and through to 2019.

Thanks to funding from the National Lottery Heritage COVID Emergency Fund, they are able to bring a flavour of the Disabled People's Archive to you through this website. This is only the start. They plan to add to this website regularly. *Once we have the* *funding to continue cataloguing the archive, we will bring you even more.* You can email contact the Disabled People's Archive team at archive@gmcdp.com Call or text 07897 930 450

“Autism-Friendly” Holiday Packages - *Edited From Independent February 2016*

www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/virgin-autism-friendly-holidays-richard-branson-atlantic-disability-jo-ann-dcosta-manuel-deborah-a7584521.html

Around 700,000 people in the UK – 1.1 per cent of the population – have a form of autism, a developmental disability which affects communication, social interaction and how someone experiences the world around them.

Richard Branson’s airline Virgin Atlantic invites families to visit their training rig, which resembles the interior of a real plane and a check-in area, so they can get used to the unfamiliar environments before they fly.

Jo-Ann D’Costa-Manuel, founder and director of charity Autism Parent Empower, said a “horrendous” experience on a flight when her son Jaden was very young had made her realise the difference staff training on different types of disability can make.

The seatbelt signs came on because there was turbulence. But he didn’t understand that, so he started furiously kicking the seat in front of him,” she said. “I called the stewardess over and said, ‘Excuse me, would you mind just letting the passengers know in front and behind that our son has autism?’

“She said no worries, and went to them and said, ‘Just to let you know, the passenger behind you has autism, and these children are really naughty’. Once he’d calmed down and fallen asleep, I called her back over and said, ‘He can’t speak, he doesn’t know what’s going on, it’s a new environment, but the last thing he’s being is naughty’.”

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 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/

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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.

Empowerment Meetings Are Starting to be Hybrid & In Person
North Surrey DEN meetings Monday 7th November 2022
Surrey Wide DEN meetings Monday 14th November

Please contact Yasmin Broome, Engagement Officer at Surrey Coalition email: Yasmin.Broome@surreycoalition.org.uk Telephone or SMS text 0745 5267424 for details of how to participate in meetings remotely.

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Drop-In Hubs

Addlestone – Second & Fourth Wednesday Every Month
KnapHill – Every Monday
Shepperton - First & Third Wednesday Every Month
Epsom - First & Third Tuesday Every Month
Hersham - Second & Fourth Monday Every 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

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. Send your news or reports to info@spelthorneaccess.org.uk or fill in the **'Contact SCAN'** form on our website pages at www.spelthorneaccess.org.uk/

Further details for Spelthorne's Physical, Sensory and Cognitive Disability forum are on SCAN's web site at www.spelthorneaccess.org.uk/news/scan-news/spscd-forum/

SCAN is registered with **easyfundraising**, which means you can help us for FREE. Over 7,000 brands will donate to

Spelthorne Committee for Access Now if you visit the easyfundraising to find your prefered website to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! All you need to do is sign up and remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online.

It's easy and completely FREE! These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/spelthorneaccessnow/?

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SCAN's AGM October 2022

Our 30th Anniversary presented the first opportunity for quite a few years to revert to a format of being able to invite the Mayor to attend as well as inviting guest speakers.

We are also trialling holding Hybrid meetings on a different day/time to see who could attend – in this instance it was a Friday afternoon rather than midday/midweek. I would welcome suggestions for other scheduling arrangements.

SCAN's meetings including the AGM's used to be held in the evenings but evolved over the last 15 years into daytime meetings when we linked up with the Spelthorne Disability forum who had their meetings mid-week and around midday or early afternoon.

The AGMs were then no longer held on separate days/times but were timed to precede the Autumn forum meetings.

The next Joint Meeting of SCAN and the Disability Forum will be potentially scheduled for January 2023 on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday at a time to be decided when we have had some feedback.

This 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.

We are still on a steep learning curve with the technology, but we know we are NOT alone. We can review procedures as future Hybrid meetings occur. Please send your comments to info@spelthorneaccess.org.uk or fill in the **'Contact SCAN'** form on our website pages at www.spelthorneaccess.org.uk/

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. And in some cases has re-established contact with some of our former members. – See below for information about Jimmy Wright.

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, 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 to need more pages and more copies are being distributed as it now seems 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 me at info@spelthorneaccess.org.uk

From The Archive – Jimmy Wright, Film-Maker: *Edited Obituary originally written by Edward Bishop – Journalist & Author and published in The Independent March1993* *https://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/obituary-jimmy-wright-1499215.html*

'YOU can't talk to a Guinea-Pig without a pint' were Jimmy Wright's first words to [Edward Bishop] at Shepperton Studios where, in the early 1950s Jimmy launched his first film production company. Jimmy represented the essence of what was to become known as 'guinea-piggery'; when he was a patient of Sir Archibald McIndoe, the pioneering plastic surgeon, as one of his 'Guinea-Pigs' at the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead (known as the Sty) on and off between February 1944 & 1951.

There never was, and never will be, another ward like McIndoe's hutted Ward 111, where a barrel of beer was on tap day and night and the Guinea-Pig Club was founded by McIndoe over a bottle of sherry. But for the club, set up for the lifetime welfare of his patients, to care for its charges until rehabilitation and resettlement, Jimmy and hundreds of other British and Commonwealth wartime aircrew might have been institutionalised.

Commissioned into the RAF as a pilot officer in 1942, he was rejected for pilot training because his eyesight was considered inadequate but was accepted as an RAF Film Unit cameraman. Once 'in' he qualified as an air gunner to enable him to film operationally. He had already had two lucky escapes filming reconnaissance over heavily defended enemy targets for which he was awarded a DFC, before he was very badly burned in a Martin Marauder reconnaissance bomber that crashed on take-off at Taranto, Italy.

Jimmy’s father, James, a former Royal Flying Corps fighter pilot and newsreel war correspondent in WW One, had time to reach the hospital in time to save Jimmy and then accompanied his heavily bandaged son home on a cargo Liberator.

After leaving hospital, in 1952 Jimmy founded Anglo-Scottish Films at Shepperton Studios. He produced documentaries and shorts for the Central Office of Information and companies. In 1961 he launched Film City Productions. He made screen ads for cinema and, as independent television arrived, produced commercials.

Ever mindful of the debt he felt he owed to guinea-piggery and St Dunstan's, where he mastered braille, he worked enthusiastically for the Guinea-Pig Club fellow members and for the club's great benefactor, the RAF Benevolent Fund. He made training videos for the Braille Authority and quite extraordinarily for a blind man approaching 70, he para-scended the Channel from Ramsgate to Dunkirk. Jimmy remained at the helm of his most recent company, Cinexsa Productions, until he died.

Jimmy was appointed an OBE in 1980 in recognition of his numerous charitable activities, including committee work for the Julie Andrews Appeal to fight arterial disease, the Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead, and the Spelthorne Talking News.

In 1981 he received a Bafta for the series of films that he made/produced about various disabilities.

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Who were in the ‘Guinea Pig’ Club?

The Guinea Pig Club was formed in July 1941 to support aircrew who were undergoing reconstructive plastic surgery after receiving burn injuries in the Second World War. What began with 39 patients grew to 649 by the end of the war and included Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders as well as Americans, French, and Czechs and Poles.

Under the care of surgeon Sir Archibald McIndoe, pioneering plastic surgery techniques restored function and gave hope to these young men with life-changing disfigurements. With his encouragement, the Guinea Pigs did not hide away with their injuries, but instead led full, active lives. They challenged the existing perception that disabilities were life-limiting and went on to mentor new generations of burns victims, including Service personnel injured in the Falklands, Iraq, and Afghanistan conflicts.

Editor’s Note – My thanks to Jimmy’s widow for meeting me and showing me Jimmy’s Bafta, his Guinea Pig ‘lapel pin’ and some of her significant photographic archive that has documented Jimmy’s life and achievements, including the various stages of his treatment at East Grinstead.

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