

Spelthorne Committee

Access

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www.spelthorneaccess.org.uk

Newsletters 2022-2023

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30th Anniversary

Edition 2

April 2022



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SCAN's 30th Anniversary – Note from The Editor

Our Anniversary celebrations ramped up a few notches in February when we heard that an application to **The National Lottery Community Fund** had been approved to support the printing and distribution costs of our newsletters.

The monthly special Anniversary issues of SCAN's newsletter in the original large booklet format are being printed by local printing franchise 'Kall Kwik' and will be distributed to the Borough's libraries, Community Centres and other local organisations to support disabled residents who do not have access to or are unable to use computers or electronic devices

I have been reviewing the archive of newsletters covering the last 30 years, looking at the organisations, campaigns and people that have featured in SCAN's newsletters. Some organisations and campaigns no longer seem to exist, but others have evolved into new organisations or have merged with other likeminded groups. The research has also uncovered new projects and campaigns. Space in each of the paper issues of the newsletters is naturally going to be limited, but we will be trying to secure additional funding for a new newsletter project to run from April 2023. Our web site will cover anything that could not be included in the printed newsletters.

Anyone who has a connection with disability is welcome to send in your comments on any of the articles published or to send details of your own experiences of access to services and premises. If preferred, I can anonymise any stories. Either email me on info@spelthorneaccess.org.uk or visit our web page www.spelthorneaccess.org.uk/ and fill in the '**Contact SCAN**' form on the page.



How It All Began - Elisabeth Berrisford, 'Lis'. *Edited from original 'Remembrance of Lis' written by former Chair of SCAN, Wyn Pockett*

Lis was known to many people in Spelthorne for her dedication to campaigning and working in a practical way to develop local services to improve the life of disabled people and their Carers.

Starting with the Carers, she discovered a national organisation called Crossroads, and in 1982 she started to lobby people for support and funds. In 1984 a Working Group was set up and finally in 1988 Spelthorne Crossroads was officially formed.

Lis did not make New Year resolutions, she made Plans and during the 1990's she planned and worked to develop;

1. An organisation to improve Access to Amenities in Spelthorne for people with disabilities. This became SCAN.

2. Then from within SCAN the second organisation was developed, following a Report commissioned by SCAN that established the need for accessible transport in Spelthorne and a Dial-a-Ride scheme was started in 1993.
3. Finally, a natural progression from this was a Shopmobility Scheme. This was officially opened in 1998.

Lis was nominated for and awarded a Spelthorne Civic Award in 1999, an honour well deserved and especially pleasing for Lis as her father had been one of the first recipients of such an award.

Lis had developed polio at the age of 6 and had used a wheelchair for personal mobility since her early teens. She worked full time for Surrey County Council, Education Department until ill health forced her to retire in early 1992. But she did not stop working!

She continued to work part time for the Education Department and prepared herself with evening classes for her next project, to start up a business offering Disability Awareness Training. Whilst working on these plans she also completed her BA degree with the Open University, obtaining her degree in 1996.

In 1998 she moved to Poole, a town much loved by her for many years. She continued to identify gaps in their local provision and was making plans to fill these gaps by contacting local people with a view to establishing an Access group. She also successfully applied for the post of Direct Payments Officer in Bournemouth.

Whilst working there Lis realised a long held ambition, of having a dog. She was very pleased to have been accepted by 'Canine Pets for Independence' to receive one of their well trained dogs and she never ceased to sing the praises of her 'Janie'.

Both whilst living in Shepperton and in Poole Lis needed help with some of the tasks of daily living and with characteristic determination she set about arranging for that help. It is a tribute to her personality that those people who entered her house to work with her, left knowing that they had made a friend on whom they could rely. A comment made by one of those friends was, *'whatever you went into her house to do or to give, you came out with more than you went in with'*.

Lis died suddenly in March 2003 and SCAN's Access Guides that were produced and distributed in 2004 were dedicated to her.



Sight for Surrey Celebrates Centenary! – Edited from <https://sightforsurrey.org.uk/news>

Helyn Clack, Chair of Surrey County Council, along with HM Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey, Michael More-Molyneux and Bob Hughes, Chief Executive of Sight for Surrey unveiled a special Braille commemorative

plaque to mark 100 years of providing essential support to people in Surrey who are blind, vision impaired, Deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind.

Bob Hughes, Chief Executive of Sight for Surrey said, *“from our humble beginnings supporting 496 people in Surrey to over 8,000 today, this celebration marks the wonderful work of our staff, volunteers, supporters and fundraisers. As we go forward into our second Centenary we will continue to evolve and grow and support many thousands more people with a sensory loss in Surrey.”*

Helyn Clack, Chair of Surrey County Council said, *“I am so pleased to be here to celebrate the Centenary of Sight for Surrey who are an important partner of Surrey County Council providing valuable support for vulnerable people with sight and hearing loss in Surrey. The charity has an amazing group of dedicated staff and volunteers and it is wonderful to see so many of them here today”*.

HM Lord Lieutenant Michael More-Molyneux and President of Sight for Surrey said, *“I am amazed that Sight for Surrey is 100 years old. When I first visited the charity I was so impressed by all the work they do in helping people with a sensory loss adapt.”*

Dame Judi Dench, CH, DBE, Sight for Surrey Patron - 2022.

Sight for Surrey supports and enables people in Surrey who are blind, vision impaired, Deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind to lead full and independent lives, a mission that Dame Judi Dench holds close to her heart, as in 2012, she was diagnosed with macular degeneration.

Dame Judi said, *“Sight for Surrey is a charity that I respect and support. I live with an eye condition and know first-hand how losing your sight can make even the most simplest tasks, like reading the newspaper, post or emails or a list of ingredients, a challenge!*

The work that this charity does in getting people set up and adjusted to life with a vision impairment is amazing and I am honoured to be their Patron in their Centenary year”.

The charity was established in 1922 when we first started assisting vision impaired soldiers returning from war and we have continued to help people in Surrey with a sight and/or hearing loss.



Former Members – Reached Joint 100 Years of Guide Dog Ownership in 2016 – from SCAN’s archive – the original article came from the Lancashire Telegraph 3 August 2016

In 2016 former SCAN Members Bill and Gail Guest reached a joint milestone of 100 years of guide dog ownership. The couple are very grateful to the Guide Dog’s charity that has provided them

with their dogs over the years that has enabled them to enjoy full careers and retirement.



Bill and Gail, formerly of Cadbury Road, Sunbury Cross, both worked in Spelthorne before moving to Lancashire when their grandchildren were born. The picture shows Gail with her dog Yasmin and Bill with his dog Roly. **Editor's Note**

– Yasmin and Roly have both since retired. Gail was able to train with a new dog in 2018. But Roly's retirement was scheduled for 2020 and although Bill went on the waiting list to train with a new dog a year before Roly's retirement, the pandemic affected the training of dogs and Bill is still waiting for a new dog.

Why Guide Dogs need your support

- Every hour, another person in the UK goes blind
- 180,000 people with sight loss rarely leave home alone
- Almost two million people in the UK are living with sight loss. By 2050, there could be nearly four million
- We rely on donations to continue our life-changing work. Every pound raised makes a difference to people in the UK living with sight loss

Ways to Support Guide Dogs

Guide Dogs-'Sponsor a Puppy' scheme,

www.guidedogs.org.uk/sponsor-a-puppy-today/

Guide Dogs 'Name a Puppy in Memory'

www.guidedogs.org.uk/how-you-can-help/fundraise/name-a-puppy/



Creature Dis Comforts – Extracts from Leonard Cheshire Disability web site with images by Aardman Animations

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. Then 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**". In each of these commercials there are animated 'Creatures' talking to camera. There is also a microphone slightly in frame that shows that an interview is being conducted and they are being recorded.

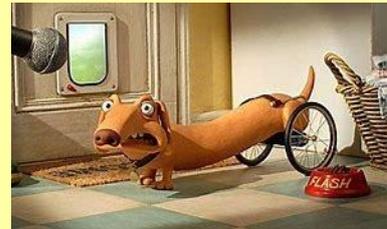
The characters in the first advert are Brian, an English bulldog and Flash, a 'sausage' dog.



TV Ad 1 - 'Watch me'. The first character, Brian, is on a bridge. In the background there are Lemmings wearing helmets doing bungee jumps from the bridge....

(Brian): ***"No I don't believe a word that anyone might say about, you can't do that because you're in a wheelchair."***

Then the venue changes and a 'sausage' dog is talking to the camera. (Flash): ***"Virtually nothing's unachievable, with the right access and equipment you can do anything."***



Then it's back to Brian on the bridge... *"My standard reply has become – "watch me."* Brian then puts on his helmet as he prepares to also bungee jump from the bridge.

English Bull Terrier - Brian - voiced by Kevin who has spina bifida and uses a wheelchair, and often finds going out a problem. ***"We went to have a look at a pub that we were considering visiting on a group day out which calls itself disabled friendly, but when we got there we found there was gravel outside which made it difficult to move our wheelchairs around, an extremely sharp right turn to get into the entrance, and then a step to get to the bar! That's not what I'd call disabled friendly."***

"It's things like this that make you feel excluded as there are certain places I'd like to go to but can't because of access problems".

Sausage Dog - Flash - voiced by Alex who at the age of 32, had a fall at work which damaged his spine. Some 25 years later, he needs to use a number of computerised aids to control his television, telephone and other utilities around his home. Access is a topic that gets Alex hot and bothered.

"No thought goes into disabled provision in buildings, even new buildings. Businesses follow the regulations so they get planning permission and a building has disabled access on the outside, but there don't seem to be any rules for the layout inside."

Future ads feature; Slim - Stick insect, Spud – Slug and Peg - Hedgehog, Tim - Tortoise, Millie – Mouse and Roxy - Rabbit, Callum - Chameleon, Ozzy - Owl, Cath - Cat and Sonny - Shrimp.



Design for Life Centre – *extracts taken from Equal Adventure's web pages and SCAN's Archive of Newsletters.*

The Design for Life Centre was, in the 1990's, a charitable, not for profit making organisation based on the Brunel University Runnymede Campus. It included the Adventure Designs Project run by Suresh Paul and they designed outdoor equipment for people with disabilities, and this eventually evolved into Equal Adventure. www.equaladventure.org/

From December 1995, with the help of Nigel Winser at the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) and Professor Heinz Wolff, Suresh launched and ran the Adventure Designs Project at the Brunel University campus. Legacies from this foundation research work formed the basis of Equal Adventure. Now based in Scotland as a registered Scottish Charity and Limited Company.

Suresh is an Industrial Design graduate with extensive knowledge of disability, social inclusion, coaching and sports science. His early interest in outdoor adventure activities saw him sitting at the bottom of an abseil watching children with arthritis, whose emotions ranged from tears to laughter, the result of their discomfort in a standard climbing harness.

In 1997 Suresh along with Darren Swift, (former) SCAN Member and local disability advisor, were part of a 6 man (7 legged) team of adventurers who undertook the Coppermine River Expedition in Northern Canada.

Darren and one other member of the team were double amputees and a third member of the team was a single amputee. Darren and other members of the team then gave presentations of the venture at SCAN's 1998 AGM and nationwide for numerous schools, the Duke of Edinburgh Award schemes, disability groups and other local communities. In July 1999 Darren embarked on his Icelandic Adventure – Hand-cycling across Iceland.



Darren is now an Actor, Public Speaker in education and corporate fields about 'Resilience', he is also an Ambassador for BLESMA and a volunteer for the 'Not Forgotten Association', 'mentoring' and advising other injured veterans on a range of issues and activities.... and he still had

time to train and compete in the 2003 British Skydiving Championships, receiving a Gold medal!!!

In future issues, the newsletter should be able to cover some of his activities both as an actor and the access issues that he has encountered, as well as his adventures as a para snow-sports athlete.

The future newsletters will also look at some of equipment that

Suresh and his team have designed and currently use for outdoor activities for people with disabilities.



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 were suspended during COVID. The walks 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. With the exception of May, when they will be running a Community Open Week that will replace the walking tours

Forthcoming BSL Tour Dates

Sunday 3rd April 2022 2pm -3pm

Forthcoming Dementia Friendly Tour Dates

Tuesday 12 April 2022 11am – 12pm

Forthcoming Sensory Tour Dates

Sunday 3rd April 2022 11am – 12pm

This tour has been created in partnership with VISOR Richmond and Richmond Talking Newspaper

Kew 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.



TV Licensing – Dispensation for the Queen’s Jubilee

Throughout 2022, events and initiatives will take place to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee culminating in a four day UK bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June 2022.

We know that many communities will come together to mark this historic occasion and during the bank holiday weekend, the BBC is offering local communities a special one-off TV Licence dispensation.

Celebratory events will take place throughout the weekend and the Platinum Party at the Palace, a special live event that will bring together some of the world’s biggest entertainers on Saturday 4th June, will be broadcast live on the BBC.

The dispensation will allow those celebrating by arranging events

in town halls, community centres and streets across Britain, where TV is not usually watched, to screen the live programmes throughout the weekend without needing to purchase a licence.

We want to reach out to communities and those who are making arrangements to celebrate the event, to let them know that the dispensation is in place and therefore we welcome your support in making your service users aware.

By law, if live television or BBC iPlayer is viewed on any premises, those premises must be covered by a valid TV Licence. However, in exceptional circumstances, the BBC can grant a dispensation for the temporary viewing of television, so long as the viewing is for the sole purpose of screening an event which is judged by the BBC to be of national importance. The BBC considers that the Queen's Platinum Jubilee is such an event.

Aside from one-off dispensations, a TV licence is needed to watch or record live TV, on any device including a laptop, tablet or mobile phone. You need to be covered by a TV Licence to watch or record live TV programmes on any channel or device, and to download or watch BBC programmes on iPlayer.

If you have any queries or if you would like to know more please contact Clare Clark, Senior Communications Specialist – Stakeholder Engagement, TV Licensing. Email: clare.clark02@bbc.co.uk Mobile: 07756 215538. Twitter: Follow @TVLicensingNews for news and updates



What's It Really Like To Live With Dementia – Edited from *The Independent* May 2017

From the outside, coping with family members who have dementia is tough. But what does it feel like for them? More than 225,000 people develop dementia every year – that's roughly one person every three minutes. It is a collection of brain diseases – with Alzheimer's the most common – and is not just about memory loss. Everyone experiences it differently. The symptoms can range from alterations in behaviour, to difficulty processing conversations, to confusion over everyday tasks – such as how to make a cup of tea.

As academics researching in this area with other organisations, Catherine Bailey, Katie Brittain and Sue Tiplady work directly alongside people living with dementia, as well as their Carers, families and communities. And while we understand a lot about the disease – including how it affects a person's health and the impact it can have on their personal lives – we do not know what it's really like to live with dementia, day in, day out.

This is why it's critical to listen to those who can tell it like it is – which is what a large part of our research is about. Susan Small who was a dementia support worker and a Carer says: “People

should not be defined by their dementia, but given opportunities and experiences to enjoy life and relationships – and indeed take a few risks now again. We need to learn to listen more to what the person with dementia is telling us. It is important for people to get a correct, early diagnosis, as long as it is followed up with timely information and support. Too little information can leave the person with dementia and those close to them, feeling ill prepared – yet too much information can leave people fearful of their future.”

People living with dementia – and their carers – also speak of the need to emphasise what is achieved, rather than what isn't. How a person might live with dementia depends on who they are, their own individual diagnosis as well as their support network and connections. But it is important to remember that people can and do live well with dementia.

Catherine Bailey is a senior research fellow in public health and wellbeing; Katie Brittain is an associate professor of ageing & health; Sue Tiplady is a senior lecturer adult nursing at the Northumbria University, Newcastle. This article was originally published in The Conversation

For the full article please enter the following link into a web browser www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/what-it-s-really-like-to-live-with-dementia-health-a7748521.html



Staines Shopmobility

making staines accessible



**Two Rivers (West Car park), Mustard Mill Rd,
STAINES, TW18 4BL.**

Telephone 01784 459416

The service will be available Tuesday to Saturday from 9.30am until 4.15pm, with the last equipment hire time of 3pm.

All equipment is to be returned by 4.15pm.

stainesshopmo@btconnect.com

www.stainesshopmobility.com

www.facebook.com/stainesshopmobility

MEMBERSHIP CHARGES

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



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Closure of Disability Equipment Service (DES)

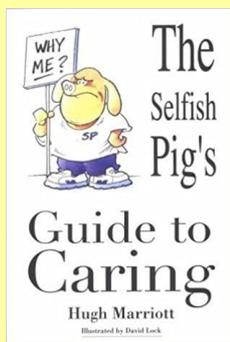
The Disability Equipment Service (DES) was a website devoted to the buying and selling of disability equipment between organisations and members of the public

Items that were donated were cleaned, repaired if necessary and then sold at a competitive price. 25% of all proceeds from donations was donated to charity with the remaining proceeds supporting the running costs of the website.

In July 2017 they were able to donate £5,000 to Guide Dogs for the Blind. By January 2019 they raised a further £5000 and were in the process of sponsoring a second guide dog puppy.

They then changed their nominated charity and began raising funds for another assistance dog charity - www.supportdogs.org.uk/ and they managed to raise £2000 before they had to take the difficult decision to close down the site

COVID and other factors meant that sadly, running the website was no longer viable. They continued to operate the website until 18 March 2022. They would like to thank *'everyone who has donated equipment or used and promoted the service, without your support we wouldn't have been able to achieve any of this.'*



The Selfish Pig's Guide To Caring - written By Hugh Marriott in 2003 and featured in SCAN's **Newsletter April 2004**

Hugh Marriott became a Carer for his wife, Cathie, after she was diagnosed with Huntington's Disease some years ago.

Hugh wrote the book for those, *'who have come reluctantly to caring' and 'feel bad about our unwillingness, and secretly think of ourselves as selfish pigs. Like pigs in nature, we can be of either sex. Also like pigs, we are not necessarily, or at least not always, disagreeable and unpleasant. But we're certainly obstinate.'*

Hugh's aim was to bring into the open everything that he'd wished he'd been told about when he first became a Carer. He overcomes any issues of being gender specific by creating his own name for all those who are being cared for. Cathie is his **P.I.G.L.E.T.** or **Person I Give Love and Endless Therapy** to, and thereafter all Carers have their own 'Piglets'.



Disability Rights UK (DRUK) – New in Brief

We work with our members to influence national policy on independent living, benefits, education, employment, transport, human rights and other issues – shaping policy through direct

experience and expertise.

We also work with our local individual and organisation members to empower and to influence local policy and services.



To contact Disability Rights UK (DR UK) see www.disabilityrightsuk.org/contact-us

Minister Affirms Importance Of Engagement With DPO's

In February a number of DPOs (Disabled People's Organisations) from the

Disability Rights UK Our Voices group met with the Minister for Disabled People, Chloe Smith. The Minister confirmed her intention to engage with DPOs and listen to Disabled people.

The Minister said that she wanted to hear what was missing from the Disability Strategy. She also said that the recent court ruling hadn't quashed the current Strategy. She wanted to find ways of increasing the involvement of DPOs in the delivery of the Strategy, including reviews on procurement and stakeholder engagement.

DPO Representatives asked that the Government re-enforce the important role of DPOs, improve communication with Disabled people who remain clinically vulnerable to COVID and ensure that the COVID Public Inquiry includes the voices of Disabled people.

Disability Rights UK Responds To Accessible Railways Report

The Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee has submitted a new report to the Department for Transport on railway accessibility.

The report considers what a fully accessible railway means, and accepts 'that it is a challenging concept for two reasons: it is difficult to envisage a railway where there are not, at least, some operational and physical characteristics that represent a barrier to some Disabled people, and full accessibility is a moving target in the sense that technology, our understanding of disability and, indeed, of accessibility is constantly evolving.'

DR UK Rail Policy Adviser Stephen Brookes said: "This report pulls no punches by saying that disability access is viewed as an expensive add-on within the industry, as opposed to being seen an opportunity to increase independent living for disabled people, and to develop increased revenue from many people who have been historically side-lined by the industry.

We are clear that the much needed changes have to acknowledge the importance of the creation and full inclusion of pan-Disabled access panels who are willing to share their life experiences, all of which should be more widely and consistently used in all aspects of rail planning and staff training."

Autistic Boy Wins Right To Life Transplant Hearing

The mother of an autistic boy has won a legal battle to ensure her teenage son has the right to a potentially life-saving transplant after Royal Manchester Children's Hospital refused the option on the grounds that his autism would make the operation and aftercare too risky.

Presiding over the four day hearing, Mrs Justice Emma Arbuthnot said she had put herself in "William's shoes". *"I have no doubt he wants to live a life with the support of his family and that he wants to continue playing 'kerbie' long into the future,"* she said.

She said that even though there were risks involved in a transplant it was the only way of potentially securing his life. The court heard how William, who has autism, ADHD and learning disabilities, was not deemed to have the capacity to make such a complex decision about his future.

William told Justice Arbuthnot that while he was scared about the operation, he wanted the chance to live longer. Ms Toli Onon, Joint Medical Director for Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, said: *"We welcome the clarity which this decision brings for William, his family and our clinicians. The Trust asked the Court of Protection to make today's judgment because of how unusual, complex and risky the situation is."*

DR UK's Head of Policy Fazilet Hadi said: *"This case is a horrifying and prime example of the medical model of disability..... It is appalling that the Hospital was willing to argue to let William die rather than have a shot at a longer, fulfilling life. Time and again, medical institutions gaslight Disabled people under the delusion that they are acting in our best interests. Nothing without us about us is for us. This is an important victory,... It should never have needed to go to court."* Read more on the BBC website.

www.disabilityrightsuk.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=62646&qid=10584985

Lords Votes To Remove Social Care Cap Conditions

The House of Lords has voted to remove conditions placed on the £86,000 care cost cap proposed by the Government as part of its social care reform. The cap, announced by the Prime Minister Boris Johnson last September was designed to limit how much any person spent on their social care during their lifetime. However, the Government later said any care funded through the means tested system would not count towards the cap.

In a debate in the House of Lords, peers said that the cap in its current state was "divisive" and "regressive" and that it was running against Sir Andrew Dilnot's report that recommended a zero cap on care for anyone under 40 years old.

DR UK has worked with Inclusion London and Baroness Jane Campbell to brief the House of Lords on several unfair clauses within this Bill. 198 members of the House voted in favour of dropping the Government's proposed cap – set to come into effect for people in care from October 2023. 158 voted against its removal. The Government is yet to respond to the vote.

DR UK's Dan White said: "Although this is a victory, there is still a long way to go to make sure that the clauses that are unfair to Disabled people are removed permanently. The campaign will continue when the Bill returns to the House of Commons." The letter is still available to edit and send to your local MP here www.disabilityrightsuk.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=62647&qid=10584985

Taxi Bill Will Improve Access To Travel For Disabled

The Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (Disabled Persons) Bill is making its way through the House of Commons and will be moving onto the report stage. This new legislation will amend the Equality Act to make it easier for Disabled people to travel by taxi.

Jeremy Wright MP, the sponsor of the Bill, said: "The Bill builds on the progress made in the Equality Act to make it easier for people with a range of disabilities to travel by taxi or private hire vehicles and will, I believe, make a real difference for many. It has been a privilege to be able to present it and argue for it, and I am grateful for all the support it has received so far." Full details of the Bill can be found here.

www.disabilityrightsuk.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=62649&qid=10584985

DR UK & Bus Users UK Launch Accessibility Audit

Following a successful series of events in September 2021, Bus Users UK in partnership with Disability Rights UK is launching an accessibility audit for bus and coach operators. The aim is to identify what operators are currently doing and plan to do, to make their services more accessible to passengers and local communities.

The results will be shared with passengers, operators and the wider industry to highlight best practice and innovation and identify any gaps in provision for future development.

Stephen Brookes of DR UK said: "We welcome this project as for too many years disability access to many buses has been very limited if possible at all, but we are seeing a newer range of vehicles which means that Disabled people can now access services to make day to day lives far easier."

www.disabilityrightsuk.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=62665&qid=10584985

Bus Funding Welcomed With Caution

DR UK has offered a cautious welcome to the Department for Transport (DfT) announcement that the bus industry in England will receive a further six months' recovery funding beyond the planned end date for the Bus Recovery Grant (BRG) on 6 April.

The Transport Secretary says that the money "represents the final tranche of pandemic-related support to operators," and adds that it is intended to help them to adapt to changing travel patterns and help the continued delivery of Enhanced Partnerships and Bus Service Improvement Plans as part of National Bus Strategy for England work.

www.disabilityrightsuk.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?url=62666&qid=10584985

DR UK's Stephen Brookes said: "The funding will ensure that the many Disabled people who depend on bus services for day to day needs can continue to use vital public transport services."

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



Adult Social Care Monthly Briefing

**Briefing for local stakeholders with an interest
in social care, health and communities**

Adult Social Care | Information and Engagement Team



Cases Of COVID - 19 Are Rising In Surrey

Cases are rising
across the
county with more

than 12,000 new cases reported in the last seven days, meaning a rise of 23% in new cases compared to the previous week.

There are still steps you can take to reduce the risk of catching and spreading COVID-19:

- Get vaccinated
- Let fresh air in if meeting indoors, or meet outside
- Consider wearing a face covering in crowded, enclosed spaces
- Get tested if you have COVID-19 symptoms, and stay at

home if positive.

Surrey County Council's weekly short figures summary gives a high-level snapshot of coronavirus infection rates and vaccination uptake for all districts and boroughs across Surrey. It also provides information on people admitted to hospital with Covid-19 across the South East region.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/community/emergency-planning-and-community-safety/coronavirus/local-outbreak-plan/figures-and-statistics/short-report>

A spring booster of the COVID-19 vaccine is available to people aged 75 and over, people who live in a care home for older people, or people aged 12 and over who have a weakened immune system. For further information please visit our Coronavirus information and advice resources.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/community/emergency-planning-and-community-safety/coronavirus>

Review Of The Accessible Information Standard Published

All organisations that provide NHS care and/or publicly-funded adult social care are legally required to follow the Accessible Information Standard (AIS). The standard sets out a specific, consistent approach to identifying, recording, flagging, sharing and meeting the information and communication support needs of patients, service users, carers and parents with a disability, impairment or sensory loss.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/accessibleinfo/>

The Deaf health charity, SignHealth, has worked in partnership with a coalition of charities to survey NHS and social care professionals in England, as well as disabled people who have accessible information and communication needs, about the AIS. This survey revealed the following:

After five years of the Accessible Information Standard, only 11% of patients covered by the AIS have equitable access to the NHS.

- 35% of professionals reported that their organisation provides regular training linked to the AIS however 37% report training has never occurred.
- 67% of Deaf people reported that no accessible method of contacting their GP has been made available to them.
- 81% of patients reported having an appointment when their communication needs were unmet.
- 77% of people with accessible information needs reported rarely or never receiving information in alternative formats.
- Only 41% of complaints procedures were reported to be accessible by the professionals who filled in the survey.
- 1 in 3 health and social care providers were unaware or

unsure of the existence of the AIS.

The Review of the NHS Accessible Information Standard contains the full findings and highlights the significant actions that must be taken by providers in order to implement the AIS in full.

<https://signhealth.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Review-of-the-NHS-Accessible-Information-Standard-FINAL.pdf>

Additionally, as part of the 'Your Care, Your Way' campaign, Healthwatch England has set out five headline recommendations to help health and care services ensure that people who have communication needs are given their healthcare information in the way they need it. The 'Your Care, Your Way campaign full recommendations' is available to download. <https://www.healthwatch.co.uk/news/2022-02-21/accessible-information-standard-our-recommendations>

UK's First Firefighter Wearing A Bone Anchored Hearing Aid Joins Surrey Fire And Rescue Service

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service's On-call Trainee Firefighter Dave Newman is the UK's first bone anchored hearing aid wearing firefighter. Dave is currently taking part in a modular firefighter training course. He has been supported through some high-risk exercises to ensure he, and many others like him, can fulfil their dreams of becoming firefighters. The tests were to ensure he is safe and well whilst in extremely hot situations.

Dave said: "I hope this encourages other people who are living with single sided impairment or are part of the diverse and underrepresented community to apply to join blue light services because I am thoroughly looking forward to my new career."

For further information on careers in the fire service please visit their careers page. <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/community/fire-and-rescue/recruitment/become-a-firefighter/right-for-you/on-call-firefighter>

New Website Launched For Surrey And Sussex Cancer Alliance

Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance recently launched their new website. The website includes the latest updates on their key programmes of work related to cancer prevention and early diagnosis, faster diagnosis, treatment and care, personalised care and patient engagement and experience.

<https://surreyandsussexcanceralliance.nhs.uk/>

It will also enable them to make cancer awareness resources more easily accessible for you and your organisations, so you can support campaigns through your communications channels.

April Is Bowel Cancer Awareness Month

Every 15 minutes in the UK someone is diagnosed with bowel

cancer. That's over 42,000 people every year. Every 30 minutes someone dies from the disease in the UK. Bowel cancer is the second biggest cancer killer in the UK claiming more than 16,000 lives a year, that's over 44 people every day. Bowel cancer is the fourth most common cancer in the UK, after breast, prostate and lung cancers.

Bowel Cancer UK <https://www.bowelcanceruk.org.uk/support-us/bowel-cancer-awareness-month/> will be releasing campaign materials to help raise awareness. If you would like to receive these campaign materials, please register your interest. <https://www.bowelcanceruk.org.uk/jointteambowelcancer/?footer-newsletter=1>

Surrey Police: Herbert Protocol Helps Missing People

Surrey Police has been raising awareness of 'missing people' and reminding Carers of the importance of the Herbert Protocol. The Herbert Protocol is a form that Carers, family or friends of a vulnerable person, or the person themselves can fill in.

It contains a list of information to help the police if the person goes missing, including; medication, mobile numbers, places previously located or lived and a recent photograph.

Keeping a completed form saves the worry of trying to recall the information during the stressful time of someone going missing. It also saves time for the police, allowing the search to start sooner. For further information about the Herbert Protocol or to fill in the form for a vulnerable person please visit Surrey Police. <https://www.surrey.police.uk/notices/af/herbert-protocol/>

Healthwatch Survey: Are You Or Your Loved Ones Waiting For Hospital Care?

Millions of people have had their treatment delayed by the pandemic and Healthwatch Surrey wants to know if people are getting the advice, information and support they need whilst they wait. The waiting for hospital care survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HospitalWaits>

is for:

People who are currently waiting for a hospital appointment, diagnostic tests at a hospital, or hospital treatment

People who have had a planned hospital appointment, planned diagnostic tests or planned treatment since January 2021 (i.e. not emergency treatment)

The questionnaire will take 10-15 minutes to complete and will close at the end of April. For further information, to request a paper copy of this survey posted to you, or if you would like support to complete the survey, please get in touch with Healthwatch Surrey: Email: enquiries@healthwatchesurrey.co.uk Tel:0303 303 0023 SMS: 07592 787533

Groups and Activities with Mary Frances Trust

The Mary Frances Trust continues to offer a range of support groups and activities, both virtual and face to face. From virtual coffee mornings, peer support groups, mindfulness, football, yoga and Zumba. <https://www.maryfrancestrust.org.uk/how-we-help/activities-courses-and-groups/> They are also launching a new course 'Yoga for Bipolar' Course, which is a 4 week course from 5 April 2022 at 3pm. For further details or to book please contact: Email: info@maryfrancestrust.org.uk Tel: 01372 375 400 SMS: 07929 024722.



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.

All Empowerment Meetings Continue To Be Held Via Zoom

North Surrey DEN meetings Monday 9th May 2022 1-2pm

Next Surrey Wide DEN meeting Monday 16th May 2022 6pm

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.



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



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.

Leave a message on our website or send an email to info@spelthorneaccess.org.uk or we now have a Facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/355493602718055

The meetings will continue to be held via ZOOM. Our next ZOOM session will be on **Tuesday 26th April 2022** starting at 11am.

It's our Anniversary Year, and we hope that some of SCAN's former members will be able to 'drop in' to future meetings, to introduce themselves.

Please contact us for log in details.

Further details for Physical, Sensory and Cognitive Disability forum are on our web site at

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



Raise **FREE** funds for us every time you **shop online**



If you do a lot of your shopping 'Online' then EasyFundraising is an easy and indirect way to generate donations for SCAN after you have registered with using the link below and then follow a link to your preferred online store or utility provider etc.

Why not visit Easyfundraising and see how much you can generate in donations without any additional costs. Please help us raise funds at:

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



Donations for SCAN's Newsletters

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