

Spelthorne

Committee

Access

Now



info@spelthorneaccess.org.uk

www.spelthorneaccess.org.uk



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Breakdown Insurance Cover for Wheelchair Adapted Vehicles (WAVS) - Are You Covered – Richard Eason - Edited from SCAN's Archive of Newsletters

Richard, a former member of SCAN and a regular contributor to SCAN's early newsletters, had sustained a severe brain injury in a motorcycle accident. He experienced multiple physical injuries and damage to his brainstem, but after a long spell in intensive care followed by intensive rehabilitation, he was able to live a reasonably independent life despite the ongoing effects of his injury.

The following has been edited from his contribution to SCAN's newsletter issued in the Spring of 2000.

I took my son to Brands Hatch (Kent) for a day with the Nigel Mansel Racing school for a birthday treat. On leaving the race track complex to return home, we'd just got onto the A20 when the car spluttered to a stop.

My Recovery/Breakdown insurance policy had been recommended to me and I was assured that the 'rescue' option was specifically designed for disabled motorists. The recovery vehicle arrived within the hour. The driver enquired what happened so we tried starting the car. The engine leapt into life at the first attempt and proceeded to tick over.

He suggested that we set off with him following, and after about a mile it broke down again. He decided that he'd have to tow us home. That was when the problems surfaced.

It came as a surprise to him that I would not be able to leave my wheelchair and get into the cab of his truck. He'd not faced these problems before and he had to phone for advice.

I was getting cold but we were able to find a hotel nearby. It had an accessible entrance which got me into a nice warm lounge. Four hours later we got a call to say that a 'Metropol' type taxi was on the way from London to take me home. Well done to the recovery firm, they put a lot of effort into finding a solution.

I later made extensive enquiries to find an organisation that makes provision to rescue a wheelchair dependent motorist, without success. It seems the only answer is to find the nearest taxi firm that has 'Metropol' cabs equipped with ramps.

Surely I'm not the only one to have had this problem. Are there other people unaware of what could happen to them?

If you wish to respond to this Article please email info@spelthorneaccess.org.uk or fill in the 'Contact SCAN' form on our website pages at www.spelthorneaccess.org.uk/



Lack Of Street Access Prevents Independent Living

A survey by Disability Rights UK (published March 2022) has found that 84% of Disabled respondents feel that there are serious issues with street accessibility in their local area, worsened by the pandemic. These issues have had a severe impact on their mental and physical wellbeing and have limited their opportunities for social contact and to go about daily tasks.

DRUK asked a number of multiple-choice questions and undertook a series of in-depth interviews, to understand people's experiences of moving round their local neighbourhoods, and found that street inaccessibility led to 60% of Disabled respondents saying they were unable to 'live independently'.

Disabled people reported that problems stemmed from the inadequate condition of pavements and the many obstacles including bins, hedges, street furniture and cars parked on pavements. These barriers prevented Disabled people moving freely around their local neighbourhood, making it difficult to get to shops or transport links. One respondent said: *"This affects us most times we ever leave the house, can't get wheelchair through on the path when cars park on the kerb or block the drop-down kerbs, then you have to back track and find another way as well,"*

Fazilet Hadi, Head of Policy at Disability Rights UK, said: *"Our research confirms that there are a growing number of challenges that Disabled people have to overcome, just to get around our neighbourhoods safely and independently. Streets should be accessible to all citizens. The survey also found that Disabled people have little confidence that authorities listen or act on complaints and feedback on the street environment. Our message to Government is simple – act now and make streets safe and accessible to us all."*

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/news/2022/march/lack-street-access-prevents-independent-living-finds-new-dr-uk-survey>



Wireless Festival 2022: Poor Disabled Access – Edited from <https://www.itv.com/news/london/2022-07-04/an-absolute-disaster-disabled-festivalgoers-on-abysmal-wireless-experience>

Music fans have described disabled access at Wireless festival in south London as an "absolute disaster" after being forced to cross "dangerous" terrain and watch performers from a distant platform next to the exit. "From the onset, it was an absolute disaster," said Katouche Goll, a 25-year-old PR representative and disability content creator. Ms Goll, from Canada Water, London, has cerebral palsy and is an ambulatory wheelchair user, meaning she often uses a scooter for events like festivals. She said the terrain at Wireless meant she had to use a wheelchair on day two. "I wouldn't typically go with a wheelchair but because of how

physically exhausted (and) in pain I was after the first day, I had to take a wheelchair the next day,” she explained. Ms Goll documented the experience on Twitter with the hashtag #DisabilityAccessWireless.

A friend of Ms Goll’s, Hannah Mambu, is a full-time wheelchair user with spina bifida and was “shocked” at the viewing platform’s placement. The aftercare consultant from Lewisham said. “I am using my phone to zoom in to see the artist perform... we’re basically outside the park, everyone is there and jumping having fun and we are at the back.” The viewing platform for disabled attendees for the second stage was partially blocked by a tree.

“We paid the same amount of money that everyone else paid,” Ms Mambu said. “They didn’t put two thoughts into disabled people... they didn’t get people with mobility issues to advise them on what’s the best solution to give disabled people a good view.

Wireless organisers Festival Republic have been contacted for comment, but had not responded at the time of publication. (4th July 2022)

How Birmingham Wireless Festival Disabled Access Will Be Better – Published 5th July 2022

Following the disaster that was the disabled access at Wireless Festival at Crystal Palace, the pressure is on the NEC and Finsbury Park to raise the bar for the final two events. Thankfully, the NEC event is taking place on tarmac, so the terrain should be more palatable. An NEC spokesperson said: “We are working closely with the Wireless organisers, Festival Republic, to ensure that as a venue we have the appropriate accessibility provisions in place to support ticket-holders and ensure they all have an enjoyable festival experience.”



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. 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 which indicates that an interview is being conducted and they are being recorded.

TV Ad 5 - 'Relationships' We meet Millie and Roxy who have been introduced to highlight the, sometimes, sensitive subject of people's perceptions about what personal relationships people with disabilities can have.

Millie comments that *'Some people think because you have a disability you should be with someone with a disability. And it doesn't work like that.'* Her ad closes with the arrival of two elephant's feet and a trunk that presents her with a flower and a kiss.



Roxy comments *'They think that if you're disabled, you can't have a love life. That's not true'*. She chuckles shyly and the camera draws back to reveal a buck rabbit and a number of youngsters.

Millie voiced by Shelley who was 22 and lived at Leonard Cheshire Disability's Lavender Fields transition service in Hitchin. *"One thing I enjoyed about school was when kids from other schools would come in. They were mainly from mainstream schools and I would be the one chosen to show them around.*

Doing that really helped my confidence and I found it easier to start conversations with people. I think it was good for them as they could see that I might use a wheelchair but it didn't stop me doing things. It showed them that sometimes disabled people might live a bit differently to non-disabled people, but we still have the same feelings and need to be treated as equal."

Roxy - voiced by Issy who was also 22 and a wheelchair user. She lived at Leonard Cheshire Disability's Lavender Fields transition service in Hitchin, and worked as a volunteer at the Cancer Research charity shop in the town centre on Tuesday each week and at the Garden House Hospice Shop every Wednesday afternoon.

"What I really want to do is to work in a shop and I'm applying for jobs at the moment. Unfortunately I haven't been offered anything as there are access issues with my wheelchair, but I'm going to keep applying." **Future ads feature; Callum - Chameleon, Ozzy - Owl, Cath - Cat and Sonny - Shrimp.**



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. Please Check with Kew for any changes to the schedules

Forthcoming BSL Tour Dates

Sunday 7th August 11am – 12pm

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

Forthcoming Dementia Friendly Tour Dates

Wednesday 10th August 11am – 12pm

Wednesday 14th September 11am – 12pm

<https://www.kew.org/kew-gardens/whats-on/health-walks-for-people-living-with-dementia>

Forthcoming Sensory Tour Dates

Sunday 7th August 2pm to 3pm

<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.



using gardening to change lives

Why Gardening Is Good For Your Health - Edited from

<https://www.thrive.org.uk/how-we-help/what-we-do/why-gardening-is-good-for-our-health>

We're on a mission to help you experience how gardening can improve your health and wellbeing. Decades of experience promoting and providing gardening-for-health services means Thrive is well-placed to help you get the most out of your green space, whether you've got 10 acres or just a windowsill to look after.

Depending on the intensity of the gardening you are doing, it's estimated that work in the garden will help you consume 250-500 calories an hour. Regular stints will soon have you working out every major muscle group as you stretch, bend, lift, pull and push, and in the process burning calories at a high rate.

People living with physical disabilities are 3 times more likely to experience depression than those living without.

Randall was a Structural Engineer with a busy career: he worked on the London Underground and the Channel Tunnel and enjoyed how different every day was. But in 2018 Randall was diagnosed with sepsis. Although he won the overall battle, Randall lost one of his legs to the life-threatening condition. After the amputation, Randall spent an entire year hidden inside with no outside contact, and in 2020, after 6 operations, lost his other leg to circulation problems. 'Life was boring' says Randall. That's when Randall came across Thrive and joined our Sow and Grow Programme in Birmingham – a 12-week course designed for over 50s who want to learn more about gardening in a social setting.

Keeping busy means a lot to Randall. His life changing turning point was understanding that, just like before losing his legs, he could be busy again. He now goes into his garden on most days to do tasks he has learnt at Thrive. *It helps me realise that there is always an opportunity to keep busy. I am enjoying my life now. Now I can be the happy person I always wanted to be.*



Recognised Assistance Dogs

Most people are probably aware of the Guide Dog for people with visual impairments but how many are aware of the other organisations that provide 'assistance' dogs for people with other disabilities

www.Assistancedogs.org.uk (ADUK) is a coalition of assistance dog organisations that encourages the exchange of ideas and best practice amongst its members, raises awareness amongst the general public and promotes behavioural and legislative changes to ensure the freedom, independence and rights of its clients.

A "Recognised Assistance Dog" is one which has been specifically trained to assist a disabled person and which has been qualified by one of the charitable organisations registered as members of Assistance Dogs UK.

Being refused access can be a very humiliating and stressful thing to deal with. A lot of service providers are just not aware of their obligations under the Equality Act 2010 so providing initial information about access rights for assistance dogs is the first step. In many cases, when service providers realise they are at fault they are more than happy to help to resolve the problem.

You can point the service provider to the Assistance Dog (UK) website if they ask for further information. However, if they continue to refuse to deal positively with the issue, it would probably be best to contact your assistance dog organisation and they will support you in any way they can.

The registered Full Members of Assistance Dogs UK are;

Guide Dogs - Telephone: 0870 600 2323

Email: guidedogs@guidedogs.org.uk

Website: www.guidedogs.org.uk

Autism Dogs CIC, has gained Autism Accreditation from the National Autistic Society. Telephone: 01260278416. Email: info@autismdogs.co.uk Website: www.autismdogs.co.uk

Canine Partners - Telephone: 03456 580 480

Email: info@caninepartners.org.uk.

Website: www.caninepartners.org.uk

Dog A.I.D - Telephone: 01743 588469. Email:

admin@dogaid.org.uk. Website: www.dogaid.org.uk

Dogs for Good - Telephone: 01295 252600. Email:

info@dogsforgood.org Website: www.dogsforgood.org

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People - Telephone: 01844 348100

(voice/minicom) Email: info@hearingdogs.org.uk Website:

www.hearingdogs.org.uk

Medical Detection Dogs have been trained to detect the odour of human disease - Telephone: 01296 655888

Website: www.medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk

Seeing Dog Alliance - Telephone: 01634 572125. Email:

info@seeingdogs.org.uk Website: www.seeingdogs.org.uk

Support Dogs - Telephone: 0114 261 7800 Email:

info@supportdogs.org.uk Website: www.supportdogs.org.uk

ADUK also work with a range of assistance dog organisations that are working towards the same accreditation that our members have, find out more on our candidate page

<https://www.assistedogs.org.uk/candidates/>



Old Name, New Purpose: Action On Hearing Loss Becomes RNID Again

The team at RNID have gone back to the old, much-loved name after a decade as Action on Hearing Loss. The return to the household name, which dates back to 1911, is part of our ambitious plans to reach more of the 1 in 5 adults in the UK who are deaf or have hearing loss and the 1 in 8 who have tinnitus. The focus on the daily issues deaf people have faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, has highlighted the need for us to be a stronger brand.

Research with 6,000 people led to the new strategy and brand purpose, which is that “Together, we will make life fully inclusive for deaf people and those with hearing loss or tinnitus.” The research found that RNID was still more popular and more trusted,

despite the name not being used since 2011. The current brand did not reflect the charity's history or communicate the amazing work they do.

A message from Mark Atkinson, Chief Executive: *“Returning to RNID and redefining our purpose is a critically important step in our journey to make life more inclusive for deaf people and those with hearing loss and tinnitus. RNID continues to be a well-known and much-loved charity and I am proud that we have the confidence to make bold and radical changes which are crucial to our ambition to grow our audience reach and impact.*

RNID will be a stronger voice for deaf awareness and invest in campaigning for change. Our new purpose, name and identity is about making it clearer who we are for and why we exist. Because now, more than ever, it's vital that people across society understand the challenges deaf people and those with hearing loss and tinnitus face.” (Our registered name remains The Royal National Institute for Deaf People but you can call us RNID.)

<https://rnid.org.uk/2020/11/old-name-new-purpose-action-on-hearing-loss-becomes-rnid-again/>



Yes, I'm Deaf. But That Doesn't Mean I Can't Hear What You're Saying – *Edited article written by Liam O'Dell for the Independent May 2019*

I've heard all the same deaf jokes before. Sorry? What? Pardon? whenever I tell someone I wear hearing aids and have a mild hearing loss, the odd few like to try their luck. It may seem harmless, but the retort is likely to emerge again and again and reinforce the damaging misconception that deaf people are ignorant, stupid or cannot listen.

The issue lies with a lack of support and accessibility. For instance, employers are failing to implement reasonable adjustments in the workplace and as such reject job applications from deaf people. In many ways, deafness – and indeed, disability as a whole – is still viewed predominantly from the perspective of what people can't do.

While of course it is fair to state that being deaf means we struggle to hear certain things, it's wrong to say that a loss of hearing affects our listening skills. If anything, it actually makes us more alert when it comes to visual cues, we can experience “concentration fatigue” when we have to process too much information. The problems start to occur when being unable to hear is interpreted as being unable to do other, unrelated tasks.

As a community, we are proactive. We've already seen incredible steps forward for deaf representation in the arts, such as the Oscar-winning short film *The Silent Child*, and deaf theatre

productions in London. Hearing people need to listen to *us*, listen to our stories, and see how we are fighting the injustices we experience every single day.

www.independent.co.uk/voices/deaf-awareness-week-campaign-disability-hearing-aids-a8909476.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

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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Supreme Court Ruling – Bus Spaces For Wheelchairs

This problem was first reported in 2013 after Arriva were challenged about their 'First Come First Serve' policy in respect of access to the wheelchair space on their buses. The decision in the case would establish whether a wheelchair user has a legal right to the space and whether buses owe a legal duty to passengers under the Equality Act.

Arriva had been granted additional time to call witnesses to explain why they consider the adjustments made by other bus companies could not be made by them. They argued that the cost of making reasonable adjustments to accommodate disabled passengers access was cost prohibitive. Arriva also argued that a change to their policy would be prejudicial to parents using

pushchairs.

Unity Law (who represent the disabled Claimants) believed that this was a cynical attempt to create an unnecessary conflict between these two groups of bus users. Similar debates have taken place previously and groups representing mothers say that they are in fact happy to move to accommodate wheelchair bus users.

Then there was report from 'Transport for All' that, a wheelchair user in Leeds, had won a historic victory against First Group Buses for denying him access to the wheelchair bay on a bus. The judgement in 2013 had ruled that a 'first come first served' policy for wheelchair access on buses was in breach of the Equalities Act.

However, in February 2015, another report said that the Court of Appeal had found against the wheelchair user and accepted First Bus Group's appeal that their "First Come First Served" policy for the disabled bay on their buses is not discriminatory and in breach of the Equality Act 2010. The Supreme Court then granted an application for an appeal to the Court of Appeal's decision earlier that year in a case of what reasonable adjustments a bus company is required to make in order to accommodate disabled wheelchair users.

In this case there had been a sign on the bus that asked "*please give up this space if needed for a wheelchair user*". However, a woman with a baby in a pushchair were using the space and she said the buggy would not fold and refused to move. The driver took no further action and the wheelchair user's journey was delayed, and he missed a connecting train service.

Finally Lord Nuebeger, the president of the supreme court said, "Where the driver concludes that non-wheelchair users' refusal is unreasonable, it would be unjustifiable for a bus-operating company to have a policy which does not require some further action by the bus driver ... Where there is some other place that a non-wheelchair user could move, I cannot see why a driver should not be expected to rephrase any polite request as a requirement.

Chris Fry, of the law firm Unity Law, who represented the wheelchair user, told disability campaigners "It's a win for all of you, so that you will have an expectation that you have a right to travel. Three of the supreme court justices would have gone as far as saying that the policy should go as far as removing people from the bus who do not comply [with a request to make room]."

The judgment, Fry said, replaced the old "request and retreat" policy for drivers with a more forceful "request and require" policy.



Disabled Britain: Doing It For Ourselves Series

For the first week of July, journalist Rachel Charlton-Dailey joined forces with the Daily Mirror to launch a week-long series **Disabled Britain: Doing It For Ourselves**, showcasing the lives of disabled people. *The following is edited from*

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/introducing-mirrors-disabled-britain-doing-27394651>

Rachel is a founder of **The Unwritten**.

What comes to mind when you think of disabled people in the media? Inspirational stories of Paralympians winning gold despite their “differences”, deaf babies hearing their mothers for the first time.

*Then at the opposite end benefit cheats and deeply traumatic stories of abused and neglected disabled people that focus on how hard it must've been for the parents. I know those are a lot of the images I was bombarded with growing up and it followed me into my own writing career. It's what led me to found my publication *The Unwritten*, which aims to give disabled people a platform to tell their stories authentically. Unfortunately, even during a pandemic I was watching much of the media continue to ignore disabled people. Or worse play to the same old stereotypes.*

The Daily Mirror asked me to guest edit and curate a series of features highlighting the reality of disabled life, written by the voices of those with lived experience. Working on this project has been the highlight of my career and hopefully shows the importance of having disabled people involved at every level.

The articles were by disabled people, written by disabled people, and photographs - where possible - taken by disabled people. After all, as the saying goes, there's “nothing about us without us”.

This also coincided with the start of Disability Pride Month, a time to listen to disabled peoples voices and acknowledge that we are not ashamed of our disabilities. They're another part of who we are.

There are 14 million of us, and we aren't all the same, it's time the public stopped listening to lazy stereotypes and viewed disabled people in all our wide-ranging splendour.



The Hidden History Of Screen Readers – edited from

<https://www.theverge.com/23203911/screen-readers-history-blind-henter-curranteh-nvda>

On a night in 1978, Ted Henter was driving a rental car down a dark road in the English countryside. A 27-year-old motorcycle racer from Florida, Henter had just won eighth place in the Venezuelan Grand Prix, the first race of the 1978 World Championships. He was daydreaming about his next race in Spain

when he saw the other car driving straight towards him.

Henter had been driving on the right side of the road, just as he did back home. Instinctively, he swerved right. But the other driver, faithful to his own British instincts, swerved left. It was a head-on collision. Henter's face broke the windshield and glass shards left him with detached retinas and eighty stitches on his face.

The first operation to reattach his retina was successful, and Henter regained his sight in one eye but as scar tissue formed, the retina detached again. When he woke up after the second operation, Henter knew things were different this time. "I had about ten minutes of despair in the hospital when I felt a very calming spirit in the room. Maybe it was an angel," Henter recalls. "It more or less said to me, 'Don't sweat it. Everything is going to be okay.'"

Before his motorcycling career began, Henter had earned a mechanical engineering degree from the University of Florida. Blindness made working as a mechanical engineer difficult. When he consulted Florida's Division of Blind Services, a counsellor told him that computer programming was becoming a popular career for people who are blind. Henter went back to school for a degree in computer science. He learned to program by typing code out on the terminal and having a volunteer read the screen back to him.

It wasn't until his first job when Henter got what he calls a "talking computer." This ancestral screen reader, created by Deane Blazie, could only read one character at a time. (For example, the word "PRINT" would be pronounced not as one syllable but as "P-R-I-N-T.") Nonetheless, this was a game changer. Henter could perform his job without any assistance. When the next version — one that could read a word at a time — came out, Henter regularly called the company for tech support and became the most known user. Blazie, the head of the company soon offered him a job.

Henter was both an engineer and an advocate for the product. He was sent on a trip to Chicago to train a high-profile businessman named Bill Joyce — on using a screen reader. An industrial accident had left Joyce blind and partially deaf. The two men became close friends, bonding over their love of water skiing.

In 1987, they founded Henter-Joyce and soon released the first version of their screen reader. They called it JAWS, which stands for Job Access With Speech, but is also a playful reference to another screen reader called Flipper, like the dolphin in an eponymous 1960s TV show.

JAWS was not the only screen reader in the market, but it had original features like the dual cursor. It also had built-in Braille support and a scripting language for users to customize their workflow.

The leap from text to graphics presented a fiendish challenge.

Nonetheless, in the winter of 1995, Henter-Joyce released JAWS for Windows. JAWS was so good that Microsoft bought the code and built on top of it to create its own native version.

The market for screen readers is hardly niche. In 2020, the estimated number of blind people worldwide was 49.1 million. An additional 255 million people have moderate to severe visual impairment.

Nearly three decades have passed since JAWS for Windows was released, during which possibly tens of thousands of blind and partially sighted programmers entered software development. Just as it was in Henter's time, it's a field that is relatively inclusive for people who are blind, as the accessibility barriers are lower than in many hands-on jobs.

It was only in 2019 that an open-source alternative — NonVisual Desktop Access (NVDA) — finally overtook JAWS in popularity. (JAWS took back its dominant market share in 2020, but just barely). The number of contributors ballooned, and NVDA expanded to more than 60 languages. Accessibility teams at Google, Microsoft, and Mozilla wanted to work together to make NVDA integrate well with their platforms and browsers.

The NVDA community is enthusiastic, even passionate about the software. Discussions comparing one screen reader to another — very much like the iPhone vs. Android or Chrome vs Firefox debates — can become religious. (“I realize I'm opening up a can of worms,” wrote one user to the NVDA community's mailing list, asking how three different screen readers compare.)

The history of screen readers is as much a transcendent achievement for the blind programmers who pioneered the field as it is a rebuke to sighted programmers, without whose neglect non-native screen readers might not have to exist. “As a blind person, I want to go to the local computer store, buy a computer and just use it. I shouldn't have to go and buy or even have to download another screen reader,”



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/

Our next 'Hybrid' meeting that will include SCAN's AGM will be in October 2022. Exact arrangements to be confirmed.

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

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



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 5th September 2022 - 1pm

Surrey Wide DEN meetings Monday 12th September 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.



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 amount of relevant news being received from **Disability Rights (DRUK)** and the **Surrey Adult Social Care Information & Engagement Team** has become too extensive to continue to include all of it as part of the main SCAN newsletters

and will now be distributed as separate documents that will be enclosed with each monthly SCAN newsletter and will only be sent to an abridged mailing list.

If you are interested in reading the news in a paper copy of these bulletins and have not received copies, please contact me by sending a text message (with your name and postal address) to 07859 639025 (Please Note our New Number).

If your preference is for an electronic copy then please either email me on info@spelthorneaccess.org.uk or use 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 has more than made up for anything in the archive that couldn't be traced.

Space in each of the paper editions 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 probably be able to cover anything that could not be included in the printed newsletters.

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. Either fill in the 'Contact SCAN' form on our web page www.spelthorneaccess.org.uk/ or email me at info@spelthorneaccess.org.uk



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