

Spelthorne

Committee

Access

Now



info@spelthorneaccess.org.uk

www.spelthorneaccess.org.uk



Included in This Issue

- 2 *SCOPE is 70 Years Old*
- 2 *A Week of Awards for SCAN Member*
- 3 *Kew Gardens Walking Tours*
- 4 *Elmbridge, Runnymede & Spelthorne Talking News*
- 4 *Then Barbara Met Alan*
- 6 *Actor Liz Carr Calls For Mask-Only Performances*
- 7 *Staines Shopmobility*
- 7 *Spelthorne Para Sports & Spelthorne Boccia Club*
- 8 *Words To Use/Avoid When Writing About Disability*
- 9 *Creature Dis Comforts*
- 10 *QEF Film Gives Help for Disabled Air Travellers*
- 11 *Holiday Home Exchange*
- 12 *Census 2021 Updates*
- 13 *Disability Rights UK (DRUK) Helplines*
- 14 *Disability Empowerment Network – North Surrey & Surrey Wide*
- 14 *SCAN and SPSCD Forum*
- 15 *Reflections of a ‘Chair Man’*
- 16 *– My Life Stream*

30th Anniversary Edition 3 - May 2022



Sponsors for Newsletters 2022-2023



SCOPE is 70 Years Old - Edited from www.scope.org.uk/

In 1952 - Three parents and a social worker meet to form our charity. The parents wanted their disabled children to have equal access to education

By 1957 - Our first employment officer, Bill Hargreaves, supports hundreds of disabled people to find their first jobs and 1962 Bill had created 62 Clubs, run by disabled people to organize their own leisure activities and holidays.

1970 - We opened our first charity shop in Kent. There are now 190 shops nationwide which raise money for our work.

1990 - We launched our telephone helpline for disabled people and their families. The helpline supports nearly 30,000 people a year.

www.scope.org.uk/helpline/

2016 - Two thirds of non-disabled people admit to feeling awkward around disability. We launched our **End the Awkward** campaign to change this.

2017 - We launched our **Work With Me** campaign with Virgin Media. To tackle the barriers disabled people face getting into and staying in work.

2022 - The focus in our 70th anniversary year is to change attitudes towards disability. The SCOPE online community is at

<https://forum.scope.org.uk/>



A Week of Awards for SCAN Member



SCAN member, Keith Goldson was one of 18 volunteers presented with a Civic Award in April by the Worshipful Mayor of Spelthorne, Councillor Ian Harvey. Then later the same week he was surprised to receive an award for long service when he attended the AGM of the Elmbridge, Runnymede and Spelthorne Talking Newspaper.

Keith came to England from Jamaica in 1956 to receive treatment for his failing eyesight after his eyes were damaged in an accident when he was 11 years old. He had an uncle already living here who had fought in WW2. Keith attended the RNIB funded Royal National (Normal) College (RNC) in Shrewsbury where he learnt to play the guitar. He also participated in Judo, Swimming and Water Skiing. His sight continued to deteriorate however and by the age of 21 he was blind.

Keith was one of the founding members of the Spelthorne Talking Newspaper in 1977 and after a merger with the Elmbridge and Runnymede service he was elected as their Life President in 2021 in recognition of his dedicated service.

He has been a trustee of Staines Shopmobility since 2001. He actively developed the local scheme to meet the particular personal needs of visitors for assisted and escorted travel in Staines town centre.

He continues to perform as one third of the **Live Element Function Band** where he is the guitarist and a vocalist.



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.

The walks will be monthly between February and November and extra tours are planned between 7th and 11th May as part of their Community Open Week

You'll have the opportunity to meet Kew scientists and horticulturists, and take part in a fantastic range of activities, workshops, tours and games suitable for all ages. Explore the theme of food and food security, connect with nature, and enhance your well-being through collaborative and inclusive activities.

Register for Community Open Week 7th – 11th May 2022

Don't miss your chance to visit Kew Gardens and enjoy our amazing range of free activities

<https://www.kew.org/learning/community-and-access/community-open-week>

Forthcoming BSL Tour Dates

Sunday 8 May 2022, 11am to 12pm and

Tuesday 10 May 2022, 2.30pm to 3.30pm

Forthcoming Dementia Friendly Tour Dates

Monday 9th May 2022 11am - 12pm

Forthcoming Sensory Tour Dates

Wednesday 11th May 10.30am – 11.30am

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

Kew Garden set limits for the number of 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.





Elmbridge, Runnymede & Spelthorne Talking Newspaper (ERSTN)

We are a Charity (No 1186678) dedicated to providing Local news and information to sight-impaired listeners within Elmbridge Runnymede and Spelthorne. We are sponsored by the local Rotary

Clubs and supported by other donors.

ERSTN is a voluntary organisation which provides a free service of local news to blind and visually impaired people, as well as others who have difficulty in reading. It is our aim to reach as many of these people as possible, to enhance their lives by helping them keep in touch with what is going on in their community.

Every Friday two presenters record onto USB memory sticks an mp3 audio file of up to ninety minutes of local news taken from the Surrey Comet and Surrey Advertiser newspapers. The memory sticks are then delivered free of charge through the post, usually to be received on a Saturday, and after listening, listeners return the sticks, again post free. Most of our listeners play the memory sticks on a boom box which can be provided. Anyone having Amazon Prime can also ask Alexa listen.

We also produce a Magazine for our listeners. This contains items of local interest taken from magazines as well as other items appealing particularly to our blind and visually impaired listeners.

If you want to know more, please feel free to contact us at email erstn@erstn.org.uk. Our Helpline number is: 01784 435622. By Post to Elmbridge, Runnymede and Spelthorne Talking Newspaper, Rear of New Haw Community Centre, 65 Woodham Lane, New Haw.

KT15 3ND



Then Barbara Met Alan (*Commissioned in 2021 as **Independence Day? How Disabled Rights Were Won***) – Edited from 'i' and www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0015p4q

In our April Newsletter, the Disability Rights UK News roundup included notice of a new 'one off' BBC drama about Barbara Lisicki and Alan Holdsworth, two cabaret performers and Disability Rights activists who became the driving force behind an unprecedented campaign of direct action that ultimately led to the passing of the 1995 Disability Discrimination Act.

Written by multiple Bafta winner Jack Thorne and actor-turned-writer Genevieve Barr, **Then Barbara Met Alan** stars Bafta-nominated Ruth Madeley as comedian and activist Barbara Lisicki, and Arthur Hughes as singer-songwriter and activist Alan Holdsworth.

Their story begins in the early 1990s, when many disabled people

in Britain faced huge barriers in the workplace, lived in poor quality housing and could not even get on inaccessible public transport.

At that time, the idea that the disabled community should be the grateful beneficiaries of charity handouts was commonplace, and far from being equal independent citizens, disabled people had no rights in law.

Where are they Now? *Edited from the 'i' and the 'Guardian'*

Although no longer a couple, Barbara and Alan are still campaigning. Alan is focusing on getting additional early years education about disability in schools.

Barbara said: *"London is a lot more accessible than it was 25 years ago, but if I want to catch a train I can't guarantee that assistance with ramps is going to be available. If I just turn up without having booked, they can get snippy with you. Much of the legislation from the Discrimination Act, which got absorbed into the Equality Act, is now being ignored and not being enforced."*

She added: *"With any sort of campaign, you have to take the long view, you can't just say, 'Right, well, we've won. It'll never be over and won, not in my lifetime and probably not in my child's lifetime either. Hope is vital, and the fight goes on."*

Disabled journalist and writer Dr Frances Ryan wrote a review of the drama in her Guardian Column and she said *'I'd wager most of the British public think Disability Rights were introduced in the 1970s along with other anti-discrimination laws, but this couldn't be further from the truth.'*

Disabled people in the UK [in the 1990's] still had no basic rights enshrined in law. It was perfectly legal for a company not to hire someone because they were Deaf or for a bus not to have ramps and be unable to take wheelchair-using passengers.

These moments of everyday inequality are cleverly represented in the drama and the characters' lives. This was Disability Rights front and centre on primetime television, played by disabled actors and created by disabled storytellers.

By the time the real-life Barbara was on screen in the final scene – with a ramp symbolically coming out of a bus to finally give her entry – I was crying.

For what we gained. For what was taken from us for decades, and still is. For the campaigners who gave so much for my generation and those that do today.

This is what disability looks like – and the battle continues.

Dr Frances Ryan is a Guardian columnist and author of *Crippled: Austerity and the Demonisation of Disabled People*



Actor Liz Carr Calls For Mask-Only Performances

Disabled actor Liz Carr won best supporting actress for her role in *The Normal Heart* at the Olivier awards for theatre in April.

Speaking backstage at the Royal Albert Hall after her win, Ms Carr explained *"If I'd had a five-minute speech, I would've talked about how I haven't been to the theatre in over two years. This is a frightening night for me,"* she said.

"Now, you could say 'but you did a play, Liz, in front of 1,200 people every night.' 'Yes, but I was on stage and everybody in the cast tested [for Covid] every day, so I felt safer than being a random member of the public in an audience around people I didn't know."

Ms Carr's win comes after the legal obligation to wear face coverings was lifted in England earlier this year, as Covid restrictions eased due to the success of the vaccine rollout.

A large number of theatre, cinema and concert-goers have abandoned masks in recent months as a result, because many people find them stuffy, uncomfortable, and now arguably unnecessary.

However, Ms Carr suggested that, while most live shows could remain mask-free, theatres should look at reserving performances specifically for more vulnerable people who are still worried about Covid safety.

"I'm not sure about [the issue of] everybody wearing masks, personally I think yes, they should, in indoor environments because Covid-19 is airborne," she said. *"But I think theatres could think about having safer performances. I think they should have mask performances that are more socially distanced."*

"In the same way you might have a British Sign Language performance, I think you should have Covid-safer performances."

Many arts and entertainment venues currently offer accessible showings alongside their main programmes, such as cinemas scheduling subtitled performances of films for deaf people. But most venues do not currently split audiences who do and don't wish to wear masks.

Ms Carr recalled: *"Some of my friends who weren't ready to come and see the show, they came to see the dress rehearsal, because they didn't feel safe enough to come. So I think performances with less capacity and mandatory masks, every show should be doing that to make sure theatre remains accessible even to those of us who have health conditions."*

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-61061976>



Staines Shopmobility

making staines accessible



**Two Rivers (West Car park),
Mustard Mill Road,
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.



Freedom

Accessibility

Independence

Confidence

**Charitable
Incorporated
Organisation
(CIO) 57628**



Spelthorne Para Sports Club



**Spelthorne
ParaSports Club**

Aimed at young people, with disabilities, 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!

When - Next Session 7th May 2022 and then 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month 10:15-11:45am (term time only)

Cost - £3 a session (£2 for siblings) payable on the day.

Where - Spelthorne Leisure Centre, Knowle Green, Staines,

For more information please visit the council's web site

www.spelthorne.gov.uk/parasportsclub

Spelthorne Boccia Club

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

www.spelthorne.gov.uk/boccia



Inclusive Language: Words To Use And Avoid When Writing About Disability – Edited from www.gov.uk

1. Language Guidelines

Not everyone will agree on everything but there is general agreement on some basic guidelines.

1.1 Collective Terms And Labels

The word 'disabled' is a description not a group of people. Use 'disabled people' as the collective term.

However, many deaf people whose first language is BSL consider themselves part of 'the deaf community' – they may describe themselves as 'Deaf', with a capital D, to emphasise their deaf identity.

Avoid medical labels. They say little about people as individuals and tend to reinforce stereotypes of disabled people as 'patients' or unwell.

Don't automatically refer to 'disabled people' in all communications – many people who need disability benefits and services don't identify with this term.

Consider using 'people with health conditions or impairments' if it seems more appropriate.

1.2 Positive Not Negative

Avoid phrases like 'suffers from' which suggest discomfort, constant pain and a sense of hopelessness.

Wheelchair users may not view themselves as 'confined to' a wheelchair – try thinking of it as a mobility aid instead.

1.3 Everyday Phrases

Most disabled people are comfortable with the words used to describe daily living. People who use wheelchairs 'go for walks' and people with visual impairments may be very pleased – or not – 'to see you'.

An impairment may just mean that some things are done in a different way.

Common phrases that may associate impairments with negative things should be avoided, for example 'deaf to our pleas' or 'blind drunk'.

2. Words To Use And Avoid

Avoid passive, victim words. Use language that respects disabled people as active individuals with control over their own lives.

3. Some Tips On Behaviour

- use a normal tone of voice, don't patronise or talk down
- don't be too precious or too politically correct – being super-sensitive to the right and wrong language and depictions will stop you doing anything
- never attempt to speak or finish a sentence for the person you are talking to
- address disabled people in the same way as you talk to everyone else
- speak directly to a disabled person, even if they have an interpreter or companion with them

www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-communication/inclusive-language-words-to-use-and-avoid-when-writing-about-disability



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 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 2 - 'Stick' The main animated character here Slim and he is standing on a tree branch somewhere in the city. He needs a

walking stick to help him walk.



(Slim): *"The first time walking down the street after getting the stick to help me to walk, I felt very self-conscious about it because who was this man that had been so active, now walking with a stick."*

And as time went on, you don't think anything about it and your friends don't think anything about it. In fact I think your friends admire you for carrying on with life the best way you can."

Slim is voiced by Irving who worked in the hotel industry. Then he started to have back problems, caused by heavy lifting, that forced Irving to give up his beloved job and become registered disabled.

Not that Irving likes the term: *"People should be able to carry on their lives, regardless of whether they are disabled or not,"* he says. *"I don't encounter as many access difficulties as people in wheelchairs,"* he continues. *"I've noticed that there are a lot of shops and pubs without enough space to move wheelchairs around".* **Future ads feature; Spud – Slug and Peg - Hedgehog, Tim - Tortoise, Millie – Mouse and Roxy - Rabbit, Callum - Chameleon, Ozzy - Owl, Cath - Cat and Sonny - Shrimp.**



QEF
queen elizabeth's
foundation for
disabled people

Film Gives Help For Disabled Air Travellers

UK charity Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People (QEF) is addressing issues faced by wheelchair users when travelling by air, through the launch (in January 2019) of a unique film 'Your Guide to Flying with a Disability'.

Now people thinking about flying with their powered wheelchair can see exactly what's involved when taking a flight as the film shows every stage of the journey, from the preparation required, through check-in, security, boarding, in-flight and landing, as well as the assistance available.

QEF developed 'Your Guide to Flying with a Disability' with the UK Civil Aviation Authority and the airline and airport industry, with the aim of providing disabled people with the information they are missing, so they can make informed decisions and feel confident about taking a flight.

QEF's Accessible Aviation expert, Graham Race, says: *"Our QEF Tryb4uFly service has already proven invaluable to many disabled people that have been anxious about taking a flight, but there has been a significant increase in demand for information. British Airways have already confirmed that they will make the film"*

available to all customers who book wheelchair assistance.

The film shows a complete journey by air and offers advice at each stage. It provides much needed information and assurance to the thousands of disabled people and their families who currently feel that air travel is not an option for them."

Paul Smith, Director at the UK Civil Aviation Authority added: *'It is a priority for the UK Civil Aviation Authority to continue to improve the accessibility of air travel. We have worked closely with UK disability charity Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People (QEF) who have expertise in this area, to develop an insightful and informative film.*

'Your Guide to Flying with a Disability' is available to view via QEF's website: www.qef.org.uk/accessibleaviation



Holiday Home Exchange Web Site



In 2005, SCAN's Newsletter reported on a new website that had been launched for people with disabilities who wished to 'house-swap' for their holidays. www.matchinghouses.com

Everyone who lives with disabled family members probably has had at least one nightmare holiday experience – arriving at an inaccessible hotel, not having an accessible bathroom to use, maybe not even having a bed to get into. matchinghouses.com is a simple solution to all these problems, allowing you to travel with the security of knowing your accommodation will meet your needs when you get there.

The house swap idea is not a new one – people have been swapping their properties for many years, using it as an opportunity to travel to places they'd never thought of going. You get to stay in someone else's property while they get to stay in yours, and it's much more relaxing than staying in a hotel.

However no-one had thought of this specifically for disabled people. And yet it makes so much sense. No longer do you have to rely on a travel agent, or a hotel, to get it right. By using this web site it is one disabled person talking to another about exactly what they need.

The site was conceived, designed and has been run by a disabled person since 2004. The website has evolved in the intervening years and now caters for families with disabled children, so that families with the same access needs can also take advantage of this idea.

They have a few pioneers who have registered and are using the

site to swap with each other. They have a database that can match your property with other, similar properties across the world. You decide where you want to go, make contact with the home owner, and arrange the dates and exact details for your swap.

It's that simple! If an exchange can be arranged between people with similar needs, both should be able to travel with greater confidence either within the UK or overseas.

Joining matchinghouses.com is also simple. There's a form to sign to accept their terms and conditions, then you add your house details, including photos to show the property in its best light. And that's it!

You can then send messages to any of the properties in which you're interested, and get swapping. For more information go to www.matchinghouses.com/

At the end of the day this is an opportunity to go to new places, see new things, and meet new people.



Census 2021 – Updates - *Edited from Press Release published October 2021*

The census is the largest statistical exercise that the Office for National Statistics (ONS) undertakes, producing statistics that inform all areas of public life and underpin social and economic policy. It provides a wealth of information at small geographies to inform local planning and decision-making. It is, therefore, vital that everyone takes part and is counted and that the statistics produced are accurate and meet user needs.

In 2014, the National Statistician recommended that Census 2021 should be a predominantly online census, with special care taken to support those who are unable to complete the census online.

Initial findings show that the online take up of the first 'digital-first' census far exceeded expectations, with more than 22 million responses submitted using the web site questionnaire. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) had set a pre-census target of at least 75% online completion. However, that was beaten, with 88.9% of households responding to the census choosing to do so on a digital device. Mobile phone was the most common way of completing the electronic questionnaire, with 56.4% of households choosing to do so that way. Nearly 35% used a desktop computer, while 9% used a tablet.

The average completion time for the household online form was 23 minutes, in line with expectations. *"We had a fantastic response to Census 2021 with more than 97% of households completing their census to make sure they are represented for local services like school places, hospital beds and emergency services and it was great to see the overwhelming majority use our digital services,"*

Census 2021 Director Pete Benton said. *“Results from Census 2021 will be fundamental to our understanding of the impact the coronavirus pandemic has had on different communities. Census 2021 will not only provide information on our population and our health – it will also shed light on social and economic changes to our lives.*

While data from the 2011 Census has already been crucial in our understanding of mortality for different groups during the pandemic, fresh data from Census 2021 will allow us to update our analysis and, alongside new administrative data sources, give us the richest data on our population we have ever had.”

The Census 2021 outputs consultation closed in October 2021 and a thorough quality assurance process is now taking place. Data and analysis will then be released in phases throughout 2022-2023.

For more information on the online Census 2021 and how the ONS enabled people to respond digitally or on paper, read the full reports here.

www.ons.gov.uk/releases/deliveringthecensus2021digitalservice



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/



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

Next North Surrey DEN meeting 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 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/

The next meeting will be held via ZOOM 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 introduce themselves at some of our future meetings. Please contact us for details.

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/



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.

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 on info@spelthorneaccess.org.uk



Reflections of a 'Chair Man' – *extract from the Headway Website and SCAN's Archive of Newsletters.*

Richard, a former member of SCAN and a regular contributor to SCAN's early newsletters, 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.

Like many brain injury survivors, Richard felt that although people tried to relate to his situation, they often couldn't truly understand. So he set to work writing a collection of poems about life after brain injury to help others in a similar situation to realise that they're not alone, and to try to give 'able-bodied' people a small insight into the world of disability.

After Richard died, to honour his memory, his son set to work re-printing and sharing his father's (1988) book, which can be downloaded from the Headway web site.

Richard's personality and wit shines throughout.

<https://www.headway.org.uk/about-brain-injury/individuals/brain-injury-and-me/reflections-of-chair-man-eason/>

Richard updated some of his work for SCAN's later newsletters, this poem was published in the Spring of 1999. It is hoped that more of Richard's 'Reflections' can be published in future

newsletters.

My Life Stream

*My place of birth was a mountain spring,
the normal beginning for a life to flow.
Gaining in strength as do all that grow,
to tumble over rocks that make you sting,
divert into eddies where whirlpools cling,
the thrill of speed, the momentum grows,
being dragged along by the undertow.
All care abandoned for a wonderful fling,
that sound in the distance completely ignored,
totally absorbed in the power and glory,
the hidden waterfall engulfs with a roar.
Most survive, with just a big splash,
But for me there's a devastating crash.
Suddenly it's a very different story.*

*Destiny, a pool that is quiet, deep and slow,
frustrating and alien from everything before,
like a silent scream behind a closed door.
My old life, a leaf, carried off on the flow,
I must search out a new way for my spirit to go.
Entertained by dragonflies that land on my shores,
and handsome salmon, who visit on tour,
the sunshine and mist often deliver a rainbow,
no daily grind, being forced through the turbine,
I will never again to be crushed at the dam,
no fear of pollution or chemical grime.
I have gained deep strength my heart is warm
In spite of the stones that ripple my calm
After all a man is a man however he flow*



While every care has been taken in the compilation of information included in this newsletter, no responsibility is accepted for any loss, damage or inconvenience caused because of any inaccuracy or error in an article that has not been independently substantiated. The inclusion of information does not imply any endorsement or any association with a contributor's services or products.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or any other correspondence from S C A N, please send your request to 'Unsubscribe' to the email address on the front page of this newsletter or send to the return address on the reverse of the envelope.

