

Spelthorne Committee

Access

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Newsletters 2022-2023

Sponsored By



30th Anniversary

Edition 1

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30th Anniversary For SCAN

Over the next 12 months I will be revisiting some of the organisations and people that have been featured in SCAN's newsletters over the last 30 years.

There will be serialisations such as 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.

Based on the Aardman Animations' Creature Comforts series, the '**Creature DisComforts** 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**".

I will look again at some of the '**You Don't Look Sick**' stories that were weekly features throughout 2019 on Metro.co.uk. There was then estimated to be 13.9 million disabled people in the UK and many of them had an invisible illness or hidden disability.

I have edited some articles that were written by former members, but I believe their comments then still have some relevance for people in the disabled community today. One of our blind former SCAN members gave his 'light hearted' thoughts on the seemingly haphazard distribution of lamp posts.

He said in his 1994 article *'I imagine a day, far back in the mists of time when a great bird had flapped its way lazily towards its nesting site after it had been scavenging and had collected some rather tasty seeds. However, it had over-filled its beak and consequently seeds dropped at random and in the fullness of time they grew into fine young lamp posts'*.

Another former member of SCAN and a regular contributor to SCAN's early newsletters, had sustained a severe brain injury in a motorcycle accident. During his recovery he documented his feelings and thoughts as a form of therapy, and they were compiled into a book in 1988.

Some, he later updated for SCAN's early newsletters and wrote new pieces through the 1990's

Former SCAN member Darren Swift was injured by an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) in Belfast in 1991, which resulted in both legs being amputated above the knee. While he was still recovering in the rehab centre he says *'I realised I had a stark decision to make – put my chin on my chest and do nothing or pick up my chin and get on with life and whatever may be in front of me'*.

Now an actor in productions ranging from Sci-fi to War, comedy and emergency Casualty Simulation. He's an Ambassador for BLESMA and a volunteer for the Not Forgotten Association where he mentors other injured service personnel and takes part in Adventure sports, primarily as para-sport snowboarder.

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. If necessary, I can anonymise any stories. See below for ways to contact me.

Space in the paper version of the newsletter will be limited because of the production and distribution costs, but anything I can't include each month can still be entered on our web site.

Either email me on info@spelthorneaccess.org.uk or visit our web page <https://e-voice.org.uk/spelthorneaccess/> and fill in the 'Contact SCAN' form on the page.



Happy 60th Birthday To The White Lodge Centre

White Lodge Centre at Chertsey celebrates 60 Years



The centre's history dates back to the early 1950s when a group of parents of children with cerebral palsy set up a small treatment centre in Worplesdon Village Hall.

They soon realised there was a very real need to create a purpose-built treatment centre and began a fundraising campaign.

The foundation stone, donated by St Peter's Hospital, was laid at the present site in Chertsey in 1961. A year later, the Children's Centre was completed and the first children were admitted.

A highlight of the new centre was the hydrotherapy pool, which was completed in 1964. The building was extended through the 1960s to provide more space and better therapy services.

A second extension to the building and a new hydrotherapy pool, was opened in 1980. In 1982, a former water pumping station adjacent to the site was given to White Lodge by North Surrey Water and work soon began to convert this into a centre for disabled adults, as a pilot project for the 'Centre for Living'.

With this project up and running by 1983, negotiations began with the North West Surrey Health Authority to purchase a bungalow, also adjacent to the White Lodge site.

The 'Space to be Me' appeal was launched in 2004 with the aim of raising funds to replace The Cottage and The Adult Resource

Centre. The £1.6 million needed to replace The Cottage was met through generous donations and work began in May 2005 on Treetops, a purpose-built facility offering essential leisure activity breaks for up to six young children aged up to 12 years in a home-from-home environment.

Completed in May 2006, this fabulous new building was officially opened in September 2006, by Ted Gostling, President Emeritus of the ACT Foundation, which supported the construction of the building a £1 million donation.

After a successful major capital appeal, the White Lodge Centre officially opened Rendezvous, their adult resource centre, in October 2008.

This state-of-the-art building was designed with their adult members in mind and reflects White Lodge's dedication and commitment to the continued support and growth of all those who use it.

By 2017, their 55th anniversary, they supported over 2,500 disabled children, their families and carers in the modern purpose built buildings and landscaped grounds you see today!

They are aiming to raise £60,000 for their 60th anniversary to support their most critical and growing services. For more information visit the White Lodge website

www.whitelodgecentre.co.uk



BSL Bill: Deaf Community Celebrates As Bill Passes Second Reading - Edited from <https://rnid.org.uk>

Deaf people around the UK are celebrating a fantastic win and a vital step towards the legal recognition of British Sign Language (BSL), after the BSL Bill passed its second reading unanimously in the House of Commons today.

BSL is the first language of 87,000 Deaf people in the UK and is used by tens of thousands of others to support their communication.

The language was formally recognised by the UK government in 2003 but does not yet have full legal status, meaning many Deaf people are unable to access essential information and services in their first language.

Campaigners – including *Strictly Come Dancing* winner Rose Ayling-Ellis – and charities supporting the BSL Act Now! campaign are celebrating the victory and calling upon MPs and ministers to get the Bill over the line.

Passing its second reading today means that the Bill is on its way

to becoming law. It now has to complete its passage through the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

If passed, a BSL Act would increase both the official status and public awareness of BSL. Government Departments and public bodies would also be required to stick to and report their performance against new guidance, setting out how they must meet the needs of BSL users.

The Bill was presented as a Private Member's Bill by Labour MP Rosie Cooper, who is a Child of Deaf Adults (CODA) and considers BSL her first language. She spoke emotionally about her parents' experience during the debate and why legal recognition for BSL was so important.

Mark Atkinson, Chief Executive at RNID, said: "This is a momentous day for the Deaf community where we celebrate moving a massive step closer to full legal recognition for BSL. We are thrilled that the Bill has been approved in principle by MPs and will now move onto the next stages of the legislative process.

The Bill includes important mechanisms which will provide government departments and public services with guidance explaining how they are required to meet the needs of BSL users.

This will help ensure BSL users are fully included in society. We celebrate with the Deaf community today and we hope parliamentarians will now give Rosie Cooper all the support she needs to get this Bill passed into legislation and give BSL and deaf people the recognition they deserve."

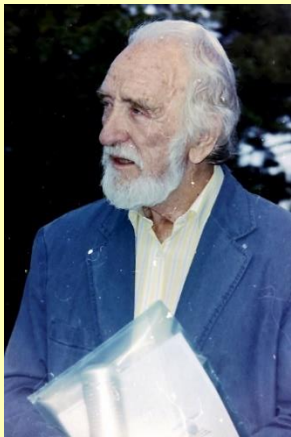


Founding Member of SCAN Spearheaded the Creation of a New Standard for Better Disabled Access.

A founding member of SCAN, Sunbury architect C. Wycliffe Noble OBE, was the driving force behind BS 8300 standard, which lays down sweeping requirements for building design to accommodate the needs of people with a wide range of disabilities.

As Chair of the British Standards Institute's Technical Committee, Wycliffe Noble spent six years painstakingly researching the contents of the new standard which came into effect in 2001.

"This really is a major breakthrough", says Mr. Noble. "For too long we have seen examples of building design that ignore the needs of people with physical, sensory or cognitive disabilities. This causes them unnecessary difficulty and inconvenience and very often exclusion from facilities, experiences and enjoyment that those of us who are more fortunate take for granted."



C. Wycliffe Noble OBE FRIBA FRSA was chairman of SCAN for several years and was a consultant architect to organisations and major charities in the field of building design for disabled people. He acted as advisor to the Palace of Westminster, the Albert Hall, Somerset House Trust, the Leonard Cheshire Foundation and Park House, Sandringham.

Wycliffe remained a very active member of SCAN well into his 80's

In his capacity as Access Architect, Wycliffe also worked with the management and staff of the Riverside Arts Centre, the Embroidery Café and Sunbury Parish Church.

In 2010 he received a RADAR (Now Disability Rights UK) Person of the Year Award from Dame Tanni Grey-Thomson. The Citation read:

“For nearly 40 years Wycliffe has promoted access for disabled people. In the early 1960's he was one of the first architects to take on disability access issues, and has had an immeasurable influence on the accessibility of modern Britain. He has chaired the British Standards Institution committees relating to access for disabled people and has been a leading player in the International Technical Aids and Access Commission established by Rehabilitation International. This nomination recognises the immense work and dedication given to the cause of equal access of this unsung hero throughout the last five decades.”

In 2012 he was presented with a Spelthorne Civic Award by the Worshipful Mayor of Spelthorne, Councillor Sam Budd.

British Standard BS 8300:2001

This is a Code of Practice covering the design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people. It is a revision and amalgamation of BS 5619:1978 and BS 5810:1979, both of which have now been withdrawn.

The standard covers most types of buildings, including residential dwellings, commercial and administrative buildings. In effect, it covers almost all buildings with public access, including schools, hospitals and places of worship. In addition, it covers car parking provisions, setting down points and garaging, also the approach routes, patios, etc. associated with such buildings.

The standard does not however apply to dwellings or residential properties designed exclusively for use by disabled people or for use by children.



Kew Gardens Dementia-Friendly Health Walks

Join us for a walk around the beautiful setting of Kew Gardens. These relaxing walks are designed to be accessible for people living with dementia. All walks start from Victoria Gate and last around 60 minutes, the walks are led by our volunteer walk leaders.

Support workers, friends or family are very welcome and will also receive free entry to the Gardens.

Forthcoming Dates

Tuesday 8th March 2022, 11am to 12pm

How to register

We can only accommodate a limited number of people per walk, so Please register in advance by emailing discovery@kew.org or phoning 07341 114533.

Kew Gardens Monthly British Sign Language Tours

For visitors who use British Sign Language, these walking tours are led by our specially-trained tour guides and offer a fascinating overview of the Gardens, its history and important scientific work.

Forthcoming dates

Sunday 13 March 2022 11am to 12pm

Kew Gardens Sensory Guided Walking Tours For Visitors With Sight Loss And Their Carers

Join us for a sensory guided walking tour, led by one of Kew's specially-trained tour guides.

Forthcoming Dates

Sunday 13 March 2022, 2pm to 3pm

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



Disability Rights UK (DRUK) - News



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

Nominations For The 2022 Disability Power 100 Now Open!

Every day of every year, there is incredible work going on to improve the lives of disabled people. Nominating for the Shaw Trust Disability Power 100 is an opportunity to get someone you know recognised for their work in challenging and changing perceptions of disability. This could be in their local community, changing workplace culture to changing policy at the very top, it may be for other reasons – it all counts! If you know someone who fits the bill, nominate them through the following link.

<https://disabilitypower100.com/nominations/>

Key Dates

Entry deadline: 31 March 2022

Please note the entry deadline, this date is final and there will be no extensions provided. Submissions after the deadline will be blocked automatically. Successful entrants will be notified before 31 August.

Entry Criteria

Your nominee(s) must be resident or registered in the UK.

Support

If you have any questions on the entry process, or require the nomination format in a different format please contact the organisers by email to powerlist@shaw-trust.org.uk .

You may edit your entry after submitting, up until the entry deadline. Please make sure all your personal details are entered accurately, including contact details. You can make as many nominations as you like, for any category, as long as they meet the criteria.

The Awardforce Process

Go to this Website <https://disabilitypower100.com/nominations/>

- Click on the button that says '**Click to Nominate**' to be taken to the nomination form.
- Create an account or sign in with one of the permitted social platforms like Facebook.
- Make sure you verify your account via the email you receive!
- Fill out the form to complete the nomination.
- To complete your nomination, make sure you click the blue submit entry button once you have filled out all the required fields.
- Share the fact you have nominated on social media.

Don't forget you can nominate more than one person!

Paralympian Activist Joins Calls For Protections For Shielders

Anne Wafula Strike is the latest voice to speak up about the lack of protections for clinically extremely vulnerable people and those who cannot medically be vaccinated. Read more about her recent

piece in The Guardian.

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=62304&qid=10403970>

Train Companies To Reduce ‘Tannoy Spam’

The Government has announced that it is reviewing and removing so-called ‘tannoy spam’ – train announcements that add unnecessary noise and disruption to journeys.

DR UK Rail Policy Adviser Stephen Brookes said: “Train announcements are vital for many Disabled people including people with visual impairments. However, we are aware that too many announcements can be difficult to process for people with other forms of disability, such as autism and mental distress.

The Government has said it will work with accessibility groups to ensure that passengers can still receive the necessary information. We cautiously welcome this move, which forms part of the Williams-Shapps Plan for Rail which seeks to put passengers back at the heart of the railways.”

Eight Year Old With Autism Wins Hearts And Minds In Big Tech

A video games company has restored access to a game following a request from the father of an eight-year-old boy who has autism.

The Guardian reported that the game – Joe Danger – not only provided the un-named boy with pleasure and entertainment but helped him deal with stress and interact with his friends and family. However, updates to Apple’s iOS operating system rendered it defunct until his father asked the game’s developer to put it back online. The company rebuilt Joe Danger so it could return to Apple’s iOS.

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=62325&qid=10425933>

Ofcom Investigate TV Transmission After Sub-Titling Fiasco

TV regulator Ofcom is to investigate transmission arrangements at a number of UK broadcasters after equipment failure left Deaf people and others frustrated for many weeks in the autumn.

The Guardian has reported that the probe will particularly focus on Channel 4 - which was the broadcaster most affected by the problems caused by a fire alarm at the offices of the company which manufactures transmission equipment.

The incident wiped the sub-titling option from around 90% of Channel 4’s programmes for several weeks and also hit audio description and sign language services. Channel 4 says that it was particularly affected because its own back-up equipment failed simultaneously.

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=62326&qid=10425933>

Bus Services Set To Leave Disabled People Isolated

Bus services are being slashed due to driver shortage and after funding under Boris Johnson's £3 billion plan for a "bus revolution" has been substantially reduced.

Disabled users of bus services face difficulties in using their local buses due to "a decline in many bus services" through a combination of Covid illness, shortage of drivers and massively reduced government funding. Without a timely decision from the Treasury to maintain funding there will be a further significant round of service reductions in the first half of this year which will reinforce the decline in many bus networks which was occurring pre-Covid and which will lead to more isolation for Disabled people.

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=62376&qid=10447075>

New Countryside Guidance Calls For More Access

New Countryside Code guidance has been released for farmers and land managers. The guidance says that they must ensure their land can be easily reached by 'visitors with different abilities and needs' – effectively, asking them to replace stiles and kissing gates with accessible access points, and to use more accessible signage. The guidance says: "Access on your land should be easy for visitors with different abilities and needs... Create gaps or put up accessible self-closing gates instead of stiles where there is public access, if possible." The guidance has been slammed by countryside groups who object to costs and the risks of more trespassing.

DR UK's Fazilet Hadi said: "The law has been clear for 25 years that reasonable adjustments must be made for Disabled people. It's great news that the Government is now actively encouraging landowners to understand a diverse range of access needs and make the relevant changes so the countryside can be enjoyed by everyone."

RSC Casts First Disabled Richard III

The Royal Shakespeare Company has cast its first ever Disabled Richard III. The medieval king, who is believed to have had scoliosis, will be played by Arthur Hughes, who has described the role as a "dream come true".

"I'm thrilled not only to be playing this title role at the RSC, but also that a major production of this play is putting disability centre stage," he said. "Richard is the most murderous and charismatic character in Shakespeare's plays, and...he's disabled! It's sadly rare in many plays to find a leading disabled character, and with this production I hope we prove that disabled talent deserves to be in the spotlight."

CODA Nominated For Oscars

A film with three leading Deaf actors, CODA, has been nominated for three Oscars at this year's ceremony. Troy Kotsur is nominated for best supporting actor, while the film has been nominated for best adapted screenplay and best picture. The film takes its name from the abbreviation for 'children of deaf adults'. CODA can be seen on subscription streaming service Apple TV in the UK.

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=62377&qid=10447075>

Channel 4's All-Disabled Winter Paralympic Presenting Team

The presenting team for Channel 4's coverage of the Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter Games will be made up entirely of Disabled presenters and pundits. The broadcaster says it is a "global first" for a "world-class sporting event". The ground-breaking team will lead more than 80 hours of Paralympics coverage around the clock from China on free-to-air television, with content also streaming on Channel 4's YouTube channel.

Michael Erhardt, Spokesperson at DR UK project Get Yourself Active, said: "Disabled people have waited a long time to be properly represented in sports media. This announcement is a significant step, and we are all very excited to watch this year's games. We hope that Channel 4 will make all changes necessary for this coverage to be as accessible as possible, especially following the recent subtitle outage. Disabled people deserve to see themselves in the media, and we hope that this global first sparks real and widespread change." The Winter Paralympics start on 4 March 2022.

DR UK Trustee Wins Carer Of The Year Award

DR UK Trustee and Chair of the People and Governance Committee, Shelley Simmonds, has recently been honoured by charity Muscular Dystrophy UK as their Carer of the Year for her voluntary work during the lockdown.

Kamran Mallick, Chief Executive of Disability Rights UK said: "We're delighted to see Shelley's contribution recognised with this award."

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=62469&qid=10467217>

New Football Activities For People With Complex Impairments

Sense Active has launched a new programme aiming to improve the quality of football provision for people with complex disabilities, supported by county football associations and football club community organisations.

Michael Erhardt, Communications Officer at Get Yourself Active

said: “Disabled people have a right to get active in a way that suits them, and the sensory football programme will make sure that people with complex disabilities can participate in, and enjoy, the beautiful game.”

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/ur.php?u=62472&qid=10467217>

Disability Rights UK Helplines

Our helplines are operating as normal:

Personal Budgets Helpline

Telephone: 0330 995 0404

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

personalbudgets@disabilityrightsuk.org

Disabled Students Helpline

Telephone: 0330 995 0414

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

students@disabilityrightsuk.org

Welfare Rights Helpline for Member Organisations

Telephone: 0203 687 0779

Opening hours: 10.30am-12.30pm Tuesdays and Thursdays

ken.butler@disabilityrightsuk.org



The Putting Feet First Campaign –

edited from Diabetes UK web site



**PUTTING
FEET
FIRST**

There are more than 20 leg, foot or toe amputations each day due to diabetes. This is shocking, especially as four out of five of these amputations are preventable. This is where the Putting Feet First campaign comes in. We want to

bring an end to the thousands of potentially preventable amputations affecting people with diabetes.

Diabetes UK are campaigning across the UK to make sure:

- People with diabetes know how to look after their feet and know what to expect from their health service
- Local health services provide an integrated footcare pathway – the right treatment at the right time in the right place
- Healthcare professionals are more aware of the risk of diabetic foot disease and provide annual checks.

Look After Your Feet

Know how to look after your feet and know what care to expect from the health service.

- Make footcare a part of your daily routine, just like managing your blood glucose and diet.
- Order a copy of our **Simple Steps to Healthy Feet** leaflet to make sure you're taking good care of your feet day to day.
- Attend your annual foot check. It's as important as your retinal screening appointment.
- Make sure you order a copy of our leaflet **What to expect at your annual foot check** so that you know you are getting a thorough, quality check.
- Know your risk of developing foot problems and make sure that you are referred if necessary.
- Ask someone to assess the feeling in your toes by doing the Touch the Toes test.
- Keep useful numbers handy, and know who to contact at the first sign of problems with your feet.

https://www.diabetes.org.uk/get_involved/campaigning/putting-feet-first



HoME - Housing Made for Everyone – *Edited from*

<https://www.habinteg.org.uk/homecoalition>

Housing Made for Everyone (HoME) is a coalition of ten organisations calling for urgent action to tackle the UK's acute and growing shortage of accessible homes. All members have signed up to a shared vision and charter to review society's approach to housing and ensure all new housing is built to be suitable for the changing needs of our ageing population and disabled people.

HoME is calling for the 'accessible and adaptable' design standard (set out in volume 1 of the Building Regulations M4 Category 2) to be made the mandatory baseline for all new homes; for Local Authorities to ensure their housing policies adequately reflect the needs of older and disabled people; and for housing associations and developers to commit to providing high quality homes fit for the future. We believe that more homes should be built that better meet the needs of current and future generations of older and disabled people. That's why the Housing Made for Everyone (HoME) coalition is calling for urgent action now.

Home Truths:

Rebutting 10 Myths About Building Accessible Housing

Habinteg and Age UK are working together to dispel myths about accessible homes. There is a crisis in housing supply.

We need to build a lot more housing and there is a growing consensus across the political spectrum that all new homes should be built to accessible and adaptable standards. This makes sense

economically and socially, and would mean many more older people could live active independent lives as they age, and significantly reduce the cost of improving their home if circumstances change. However, some developers and the bodies that represent them, have challenged local authority plans that require more accessible housing. Loopholes in the planning rules could result in a whole new generation of housing that is not fit for the future.

We've partnered with Age UK to create a fact sheet to address 10 common myths about accessible homes that are often used to argue against further progress.

<https://www.habinteg.org.uk/hometruths>



In Kind Direct Provide Lower Cost Goods



All over the UK, valuable goods are going to waste every month because companies don't have either the time or the contacts to make better use of them.

In Kind Direct (IKD) was formed to act as a clearing house for donated surplus goods (mostly new items which, thanks to the generosity of hundreds of manufacturers and retailers who donate the goods, can be distributed to charitable causes in the voluntary sector at very low cost.

The goods available include

- computers, printers, photocopiers, fax machines and business supplies,
- household goods and appliances, furniture, linen, carpets and high quality vinyl flooring
- healthcare products, clothing and footwear
- books, sports equipment, toys and arts and crafts materials

IKD produce a catalogue, the Goods Available List, that members of the IKD network receive each month. An additional scheme, the Retail Donation Initiative, matches charities directly with a local branch of a national retail store, enabling the charities to pick up packs of surplus goods each month.

Membership of the IKD network is open to any 'not-for-profit' organisation. Annual registration fees start at £75 plus VAT for any organisation with annual income of less than £50,000. To request a registration pack on line or find further information about their schemes, look at IKD's web site www.inkinddirect.org .

Alternatively contact them at 19 Milk Street, London EC2V 8AN, telephone 020 7860 5927 or email info@inkinddirect.org .

The completed registration form should then be returned with copies of the latest accounts (or all bank statements for new organisations), the most recent annual report and a cheque for the registration fee.



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



Freedom

Accessibility

Independence

Confidence

**Charitable
Incorporated
Organisation
(CIO) 57628**



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 Meeting Monday 7th March 2022 1-2pm

Next Surrey Wide Meeting Monday 14th March 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.



Adult Social Care Briefing – 22 February 2022

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

Adult Social Care | Information and Engagement Team



Heart Beetz Campaign Helps Residents Access NHS Services

Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership has launched a new

campaign to help people know which service to use when, if they need treatment or advice.

<https://www.surreyheartlands.uk/campaign-launches-to-help-people-choose-the-right-nhs-service/>

At the centre of the campaign, which reinforces the NHS' national 'Help us, help you' message, is a new animation, featuring the Heart Beetz, which tells the story of how the band has been battling with illness and accidents – and how their local NHS has helped. <https://www.surreyheartlands.uk/heartbeetz/>

New Awareness Campaign For Mindworks Service Goes Live

Surrey County Council is running a digital advertising campaign until the end of March to help raise awareness of Mindworks, Surrey's new mental health service for children and young people. The campaign will target parents and young people, encouraging them to visit the Mindworks website, where they can find information and advice on staying mentally healthy and what support there is in Surrey.

<https://www.mindworks-surrey.org/?fbclid=IwAR2SmI6DONDSzdPEq96DB79YJ6OYHWWhCpFASy1DaHsjgxbTp4czkj5fPRY4>

SCA's Warmth Matters Project for Low-Income Households

Surrey Community Action will be working with partners to provide advice and information to help low-income households to help them to save energy, save money and access services they need.

This new funding will enable the project to:

- Provide advice sessions to households struggling with their energy bills
- Launch four new energy clubs across the county
- Attend fuel poverty and community events
- Share resources to households in need of extra support.

The project will be helping with things like:

- Explaining supplier and tariff options, including time of use awareness
- Priority Service Register awareness and registration
- The Warm Home Discount Scheme
- Energy debts

- Ways to keep bills down and save money
- Support sessions for charities and community groups.

Where you can find them?

Over the next 12 months, the project team will be available at various locations across Surrey, including:

- Food clubs across Reigate & Banstead including Redhill, Preston, Horley and Merstham
- The Mole Valley Employment & Skills Hub
- Guildford Community Learning Centre in Southway
- Carbon Zero Guildford.

Individuals can also receive support by phone, email and via online zoom sessions. For more information and how to make a referral to the Warmth Matters Project please contact:

davidcarter@surreyca.org.uk

Healthwatch Surrey Insight Bulletin

Healthwatch Surrey's January 2022 Insight Bulletin focuses on:

- Praise and thanks
- The crucial role of unpaid carers
- More people seeking urgent dental help
- Caught in the middle – the impact on patients when services don't collaborate.

<https://www.healthwatchsurrey.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Healthwatch-Surrey-Insight-Bulletin-January-2022.pdf>

Cervical Screening Awareness Campaign

Cervical cancer is one of the most preventable cancers, yet in England two women die every day from it. Screening can help stop cancer before it starts which is why the Department of Health and Social Care, together with NHS England and NHS Improvement, have launched a Help Us Help You – Cervical Screening Campaign.

You can help support the campaign by sharing the campaign resources within your community settings, through your social media channels and in your e-newsletters and websites. Campaign resources include posters, social media assets, website banners and email signoffs. The full resources are available on the Public Health England Campaign Resource Centre.

<https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/85-cervical-screening-campaign> You will need to register to sign in.

Autism Acceptance Week Planned In March

It is Autism Acceptance Week from Monday 28 March – Sunday 3 April 2022.

<https://www.autism.org.uk/get-involved/raise-money/world-autism-acceptance-week-2022>

This year, Surrey County Council is promoting the new All Age Autism Strategy, which has been co-produced with autistic people, their families and carers.

As part of this, Surrey County Council is piloting an Autism Friendly Community in Redhill, before rolling this out across the County. This will be promoted at a launch event in Redhill on Friday 25 March 2022 during the day at the Harlequin Theatre and it would be great if professionals and autistic people could join.
<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/adults/disabilities/spb/apb/sapb>

If you are interested in any of the above, please contact: **Email:** ldcommunications@surreycc.gov.uk **Phone:** 07929 863582

Surrey Matters Website Relaunched

Surrey County Council has unveiled a new look Surrey Matters - the council's online magazine for residents. The website has been completely redesigned to make it easier to use and with residents' interests at heart, so they don't miss out on what's going on in their county. With new features such as an interactive What's On map showing events by event type.

Residents can also sign up to the monthly Surrey Matters newsletter to keep informed with the latest updates and news in the online magazine, listen to the podcast and find out what's going on in their local area.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/community/surrey-matters>

'No One Left Behind' Ambition Guides Surrey's 2022/23 Budget

Surrey County Council has set out its 2022/23 budget, designed to tackle big challenges including mental health, climate change and social care, and make sure no one is left behind.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/community/surrey-matters/magazine/your-council/no-one-left-behind>

The budget sets out how the council will spend just over £1bn on day-to-day services that everyone in Surrey relies on, as well as a five-year investment programme in key infrastructure across the county.

Look Out For Scams On Energy Prices Increases

Fraudsters are likely to exploit the concerns around gas prices in various ways, for example, knocking on residents' doors offering scam deals, phone calls around new gas takeovers or phishing emails and texts asking the recipient to update personal and/or financial information.

There have also been reports of 'gadgets' that can reduce power bills. Please ask residents to be vigilant and report any scams that you may be made aware of to

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/reporting-a-scam/>

Energy Club Open At Zero Carbon Guildford

An Energy Club is being held at Zero Carbon Guildford on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 11am-1pm.

Anyone with concerns regarding energy bills, or in need of help to understand gas and electric bills, can access support from staff and volunteers.

For more information contact David Carter: **Phone:** 07521 5026

Email: davidcarter@surreyca.org.uk



Spelthorne Household Support Fund

The Council is currently offering a one-off payment to households to primarily assist with food and fuel bills over the winter period.



Residents are invited to apply to the Council for the one-off payment as part of the Government's Household Support Fund scheme. The Council are offering three levels of support, depending on the applicant's circumstances.

- £80 - provided for households with children
- £60 - provided for single people or families without children
- £50 - provided for over 70s

The expectation is that the funding should primarily be used to support households in need with food, energy and water costs.

The scheme will run until 31 March 2022, or whenever all the funding is allocated so applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

Please visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/householdsupport for information and to apply. If you need assistance in filling in the form, please call 01784 446 446.



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. Leave a message on our website or send an email to info@spelthorneaccess.org.uk or we now have a Facebook page <https://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' at the closing stages of future meetings, to introduce themselves, subject to their other commitments at the time. Please contact us for log in details.

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

<https://e-voice.org.uk/spelthorneaccess/news/surrey-links/spscd-forum/>



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



EasyFundraising is an easy and indirect way to generate donations and SCAN encourages people to register with us and use the portal.

Retailers usually make percentage contributions but these aren't restricted to just High Street retailers. Many of the energy and phone service providers are also registered with Easy Fundraising. Please sign up and help us raise funds at:

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



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