

Spelthorne Committee Access Now



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1992 – 2023



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2023 – 2024 – August 2023

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World Record For Woman With Down's Syndrome

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/harvey-price-mencap-downs-syndrome-victoria-coventry-b1088655.html>

A woman who set a world record for identifying the most celebrity birthdays in three minutes has said she is “very proud” to be challenging perceptions about what people with Down's syndrome can achieve.

Heidi Crowter, 27, from Coventry, became a Guinness World Record holder after recalling 70 celebrity birth dates in under 180 seconds, ranging from Queen Victoria and Margaret Thatcher to Brad Pitt and Shakira. “I love sharing my joy of birthdays with people, and I have been writing a birthday list and practising a lot. Everyone knows that practice makes perfect.”

Ms Crowter's achievement was announced by the learning disability charity Mencap ahead of Learning Disability Awareness Week (June 19-25). She is one of a number of Mencap Myth Busters who want to challenge misconceptions about learning disability and to campaign for change.

Her record – the most celebrity birthdays identified in three minutes was achieved under Guinness World Records' new impairments initiative, developed alongside Mencap, in the intellectual impairment category. The initiative allows reasonable adjustments to be made for record attempts in order to better include people with a disability. “Achieving a Guinness World Record means I can do anything I set my mind to,” Ms Crowter said. “I am proud to be a Mencap Myth Buster and keep challenging perceptions about what I can achieve.”

Mencap's chief executive Edel Harris said that it was “crucial” to give people with a learning disability the chance to break world records. “It's truly ground-breaking for Mencap to be working with Guinness World Records to ensure breaking records is something that's accessible and achievable for people with a learning disability,” she said.

“People with a learning disability, just like the wider population, have a range of amazing skills and talents. “It is crucial to provide a platform for people with a learning disability to not only provide equal opportunities but also bust myths about what people can and can't do.”



We're Identical Twins - But Only On One Side

Since he was 7 years old, Lukas Caldwell, now 18, has struggled to feel “normal” as he was diagnosed with Parry-Romberg Syndrome. The condition causes the skin and soft tissues on one side of his face to progressively deteriorate. This means that Lukas is gradually looking less and less identical to his twin

brother, Ben, who does not have the same condition.

Growing up, Lukas states that he “suffered with self confidence”, but the remarkable relationship between the competitive siblings brought solace to him, as Ben has been his “biggest support.”

To the surprise of his schoolmates, Lukas started posting disease awareness videos on his TikTok account, amassing over 2 million followers. The high achieving teen, desires to just be himself and spread positivity in any way he can.

Parry–Romberg syndrome (PRS) is a rare disease characterized by progressive shrinkage and degeneration of the tissues beneath the skin, usually on only one side of the face (hemifacial atrophy) but occasionally extending to other parts of the body.

An autoimmune mechanism is suspected, and the syndrome may be a variant of localized scleroderma, but the precise cause and pathogenesis of this acquired disorder remains unknown. It has been reported in the literature as a possible consequence of sympathectomy. The syndrome has a higher prevalence in females and typically appears between 5 and 15 years of age.

In addition to the connective tissue disease, the condition is sometimes accompanied by neurological, ocular and oral symptoms. The range and severity of associated symptoms and findings are highly variable.



Paralympian Ellie Simmonds ‘I Was Adopted After Birth

Paralympian Ellie Simmonds has revealed that she was adopted at the age of the three-months-old. The 28-year-old has now been reunited with her birth mother, after finding out she was put up for adoption at 10 days old.

The Paralympic gold-medal winning swimmer, who starred on *Strictly with Nikita Kuzmin*, opens up about her journey to find her birth mother in a new ITV documentary.

Ellie, who was born with achondroplasia, a form of dwarfism, tragically discovers that her mum wished she had died at birth, and told medics that she thought Ellie would be seen as ‘evil’. But, the pair are now rebuilding their relationship, after an emotional five-hour meeting for the first time.

‘Until now, it’s never emotionally affected me, it never made me feel rejected or ask why do my birth parents not want me,’ she says in the documentary, in quotes obtained by the *Mirror*.

‘I’ve been so focussed on the future and never thought about it.’

‘One of the reasons for being given up for adoption is dwarfism and maybe it can be a factor of why my personality is like it is, because of that rejection at the start,’ she continues.

During the journey to discover her birth parents, Ellie reads hospital forms confirming that she had achondroplasia. The form tells her birth mother that her daughter would have a ‘large skull and depressed nasal bridge’ and that children with the condition ‘tend to be muscular and acrobatic, which is perhaps the reason for them traditionally being involved in the circus and other forms of theatre’.

Ellie says: ‘Can you imagine reading that and thinking, “That’s my child”? In a way, I understand, when you don’t know anything about the disability and you get this. You’re going to be scared.’ In the documentary, Ellie who also gets in touch with the family of her late foster mother, who had seen her on television and in sport, knowing that was the Ellie who she helped to raise, reads an emotional letter from her birth mother.

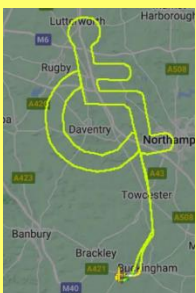
It says: ‘I’ve suffered with guilt and self-hatred for not being strong enough to cope. I cannot express the happiness I feel to know your parents and siblings have provided you with such a loving environment, that you’re so happy. You’ve achieved so much.’

After the pair met for the first time, Ellie says: ‘It was amazing. I didn’t realise the time was passing by.’ She adds: ‘What touched my heart was she said she thinks about me every day, and she still sees me as her daughter. ‘It’s helped with finding out who I am, looking at someone who birthed me, the nature I’m from, it makes you a bit more whole. ‘Questions I’ve carried for years have been answered. I’m proud of my life and I love my family, and maybe that family just got a bit bigger.’

Ellie Simmonds: Finding My Secret Family aired on ITV1 on Thursday, July 6 at 9pm.



Disabled Pilot ‘Draws’ Wheelchair In The Sky



<https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/disabled-pilot-draws-wheelchair-flight-path-b2310761.html>

Russ Pinder set off in his two-seater ultralight Aeroprakt A22LS Foxbat on 27th March 2023 to create what he called an “appropriate” image.

The one hour and 41 minute long flight took off in Buckinghamshire before flying over Towcester, Northampton, Daventry and Lutterworth. The unusual route came to the attention of aviation tracking site FlightRadar24, who tweeted an image of the path with the question: “Does anyone have any information on the nature of the flight?”

Mr Pinder, who describes himself as “That Wheely Plane Bloke on Twitter”, piped up: “It was me, I’m a wheelchair using pilot. No real story behind it other than I wanted to dry (sic) out drawing pictures

and it seemed appropriate.” “Makes good sense to us!” responded Flightradar24.

“How did he make it so perfect?” marvelled one user, prompting other users to cite GPS and LNav as the explanation. “Yep, they plan it on a software and let autopilot take over with the flight to ‘draw’ it,” explained one user. “That’s still incredibly impressive,” noted another.

Another user had a more emotional response to the image. “This is amazing, I've been feeling self conscious about becoming a wheelchair user (into my 4th week) [but] the amount of people I've come across (online) that [have] done something that has made me feel differently each time I have one of those moments.

“Thank you and keep up the good flying.”

Pilots taking bespoke routes to create pictures in the sky have become increasingly common in recent years. In 2020, a pilot “drew” a picture of Pac-Man chasing a ghost in the sky above Lincolnshire. And in 2017, a pilot created a giant Christmas tree in the sky over Germany while doing a test flight of an Airbus A380 aircraft for Emirates.



QEF Mobility Open Day

<https://www.qef.org.uk/events/mobility-open-day-17th-august-2023/>

Queen Elizabeth Foundation (QEF) mobility services will be holding a Mobility Open Day on Thursday 17th August 2023 at their Mobility Centre, 1 Metcalf Avenue, Carshalton. SM5 4AN

The open day will showcase the latest mobility solutions for children and adults and you can experience driving in an adapted car on their private track with free tester sessions – no licence needed.

It’s free to attend and prebooked free introductory assessment sessions are available for a wide range of needs.

Driving assessments open to people from the ages of 15+

Seating and transfer assessments

Tryb4uflly assessments for anyone traveling by air

Bugzi assessments bespoke powered wheelchair for children under 5 years

Scooter assessments

Wheelchair assessments

Child Car seat assessments

To book your free introductory assessment call QEF mobility services on 020 87701151 or email mobility@qef.org.uk



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

Kew have guided walks around the beautiful setting of Kew Gardens that are designed to be accessible for people living with dementia, sight 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

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

Sunday 13 August 2023 11am to 12pm

Forthcoming Dementia Friendly Tour Dates

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

Wednesday 9 August 2023 11am to 12pm

Forthcoming Sensory Tour Dates

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

Sunday 13 August 2023 2-3pm

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.



Blue Badge Holder Fined For Parking In Disabled Bay While Shopping

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1791840/blue-badge-holder-fined-disabled-bay>

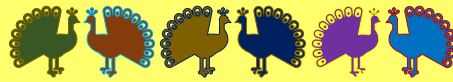
Louise Reilly was slapped with the fine after parking in a disabled bay at the Braehead Shopping Centre in Glasgow before heading to her local M&S to do some shopping for her sister-in-law's birthday.

Louise was issued the blue badge in 2015 and made sure to display it on her dashboard before going into the shop. But she said she was left baffled after receiving a letter stating she shouldn't have parked there on account of not having a blue badge - despite the letter including images of her car with the badge clearly visible. Popping my badge on the dashboard has become second nature to me."

Louise immediately filed an appeal online but didn't receive a reply

for weeks, leaving her fearful that Premier Park would send debt collectors after her. However, Louise only discovered that she was no longer being chased for the money after checking the website constantly.

Premier Park have been contacted for comment.



Spelthorne Community Centres Opening Extra Day Each Week

Spelthorne Community Centres provide a wide range of activities including yoga, pilates, quizzes, art, bridge, computer classes, singing, bingo, dancing, book club and language classes. Some also offer hairdressing, chiropody and beautician services.

They are great places to have a bite to eat, meet new people or try some activities.

For information about opening hours, costs and your nearest centre, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/communitycentres , email independentliving@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446389.

Fordbridge and Greeno Centres have extended their regular opening days to include alternate Saturdays until the end of September 2023.

Members of the Community Centres and non-members over 50 are welcome. Please call the Centre to book a place for lunch by the Wednesday before each date.

Which Community Centre Is Open On Saturdays

Saturday 5 th August 2023	Greeno Centre, Shepperton
Saturday 12 th August 2023	Fordbridge Centre, Ashford
Saturday 19 th August 2023	Greeno Centre, Shepperton
Saturday 26 th August 2023	Fordbridge Centre, Ashford
Saturday 2 nd September 2023	Greeno Centre, Shepperton
Saturday 9 th September 2023	Fordbridge Centre, Ashford
Saturday 16 th September 2023	Greeno Centre, Shepperton
Saturday 23 rd September 2023	Fordbridge Centre, Ashford
Saturday 30 th September 2023	Greeno Centre, Shepperton

Fordbridge Centre: Telephone 01784 243880

Email fordbridgecentre@spelthorne.gov.uk

Greeno Centre: Telephone 01932 246173

Email Greenocentre@spelthorne.gov.uk





North Surrey Sports Association for Disabled People (NSSADP)

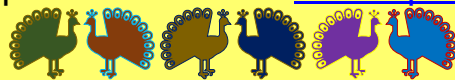
has been established by local volunteers to facilitate the provision of sports for disabled people within North Surrey and adjacent areas.

The association will initially focus on Boccia, with coaching for disabled people, training for coaches and arranging some competition.

It is intended that the association will extend this principle to other sports, both paralympic or mainstream, facilitating the creation of other clubs aimed at providing sport for disabled people.

Membership is open to both individuals and organisations interested in furthering the association's work.

For more information please contact nssadp@gmail.com



Spelthorne Para Sports Club



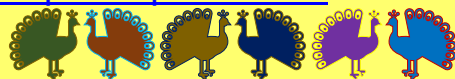
Aimed at young people aged 5-25 and their siblings, Spelthorne Para Sports Club provides opportunities to play a wide range of sports as well as offering sport specific coaching for those interested in developing skills.

All sessions are overseen by enthusiastic volunteers although parents/guardians are encouraged to stay on side during the sessions. No need to book - come and try - first session free!

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

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

For more information please visit the council's web site 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)

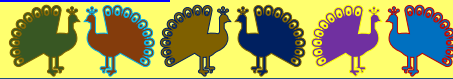
Where - Spelthorne Leisure Centre, Knowle Green, Staines

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



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@gmail.com

www.stainesshopmobility.com

www.facebook.com/stainesshopmobility

Membership Charges

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

Holiday Hire

Wheelchair- Overnight, Weekend, Week, Fortnight - maximum hire period of 6 weeks.

A Cash Deposit Of £50 Is Required.

Scooter - Overnight, Weekend, Week, Fortnight - maximum hire period of 4 weeks.

A Cash Deposit Of £100 Is Required.



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(CIO) 57628**



There's A Scientific Reason Why You Can't Remember Names And Faces – Edited from Telegraph July 2023

Talking to Vernon Kay on the BBC Sounds Tracks of My Years podcast, actor Joanna Lumley revealed she has prosopagnosia, a neurological condition better known as face blindness and characterised by the inability to recognise people's faces.

She said she kisses strangers without knowing who they are, and that she's "been at parties where I've literally said, 'Do you want another glass of wine?' Gone off, got the glass of wine, come back, and I don't know who I've been talking to... because their face hasn't registered."

Other people who have this condition include the broadcaster

Stephen Fry, 65, who has an “appalling ability to remember faces”, and the actor Brad Pitt, 59, who said prosopagnosia means “so many people hate me because they think I’m disrespecting them”.

According to a study published in the journal Cortex in February, millions of us may have prosopagnosia without even knowing the condition exists. Previously thought to affect between 2 to 2.5 per cent of the global population, researchers at Harvard Medical School (HMS) and the VA Boston Healthcare System, who administered an online questionnaire and tests to 3,341 individuals, found prosopagnosia might actually affect as many as one in 33 people – 3.03 per cent.

“Expanding the diagnosis is important, because knowing that you have real objective evidence of prosopagnosia, even a mild form, can help you take steps to reduce its negative impacts on daily life,” says Joseph DeGutis, the study leader and HMS associate professor of psychiatry at VA Boston, who describes these impacts as “social distress and embarrassment. Recognising someone is a social signal, indicating that ‘you are important to me’.”

Volunteers were asked the extent to which they agree or disagree with 20 statements, such as “I often mistake people I have met before for strangers” and used for diagnosis in conjunction with computerised face recognition – believes that, whether we have proso-pagnosia or not, facial recognition is a spectrum.

At one end are “super recognisers”, who can instantly recall the face of a person they haven’t seen for decades. But at the other end, are people with extreme proso-pagnosia, “who can’t recognise themselves in photos”.

Only formally recognised as a condition by the NHS in 2014, prosopagnosia is likely to manifest in childhood. It is often hereditary and there is a link with autism – a 2020 study found prosopagnosia potentially occurs in more than 36 per cent of autistic adults without intellectual disability

Meanwhile, a recent study on a woman known only as “Annie”. Unable to recognise her own reflection, it is only when she smiles, that “she can see a small chip in her tooth that helps her know it must be her.



Commons Speaker Warns Rail Minister: You’re Not Being Told Truth Over Ticket Office Closures

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/transport/lindsay-hoyle-speaker-ticket-office-closures-huw-merriman-b1094113.html>

The Commons Speaker made the intervention after rail minister Huw Merriman told MPs that train firms had promised that “no currently staffed station will become unstaffed as a result of these changes”.

The Speaker told the Minister that the ticket office at Chorley station, in his Lancashire constituency, was currently open all day. However, the proposed change was only to have “somebody available” on the station from 9am to 4pm. He said: “Please take [this] up for people with disabilities, quite rightly. But don’t forget: what you are being told isn’t the case.”

Mr Merriman faced a series of questions during transport questions about the ticket office closure proposals, in particular the feared consequences for passengers needing assistance. He was told that a number of people with disabilities had raised concerns with MPs. Baroness Tanni-Grey Thompson, the Paralympian, had also expressed concerns. He said the aim was to “redeploy staff” from behind ticket office windows onto station platforms and concourses. Mr Merriman said: “I passionately believe that the best help anyone can give on a railway station is when they have personal interaction. That is very difficult when somebody is behind a glass screen.”

Research by the Evening Standard found that about 150 ticket offices in the capital are at risk of being closed, including on routes run by Thameslink, Southeastern and South Western Railway.

The RMT union has been leading the fight against ticket office closures. General Secretary Mick Lynch was due to address demonstration at King’s Cross station

Mr Merriman claimed the closures were “industry-led reforms” that were about “modernising the passenger experience”. He said that 90 per cent of train tickets were bought online or at a ticket machine. But he refused to respond directly to a question from Labour MP Rupa Huq, who represents Ealing Central and Acton, when asked if he could guarantee there would be no staff redundancies. Ms Huq asked if an equalities impact study had been carried out. She said: “I’m lucky Sadiq Khan is keeping all my TfL rail stations open. But rail workers risked their lives for us all. They weren’t doing box sets and Bridgerton during covid. Can you commit to saying there will be no redundancies?”



Woman Refused Entry Because Of Her Guide Dog

<https://metro.co.uk/2023/07/11/disabled-woman-refused-entry-into-leeds-primark-because-of-guide-dog-19108790/>. Chloe Tear, 25, was shopping with her sister in Leeds city centre on Sunday when they decided to visit the budget clothing store. But a staff member stopped the siblings, who had Chloe’s 19-month-old guide dog Dezzie with them, because ‘dogs are not allowed’.

The disability blogger said: ‘When I explained he was a guide dog, they still said no. I then explained the law and that it was illegal to

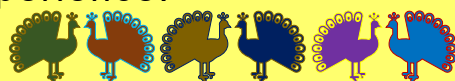
refuse a guide dog as it was a public place. 'We had to wait there while the member of staff radioed their manager. It took a few minutes to get a response, but luckily the manager said yes. We were then allowed into the shop. 'The whole thing cannot have lasted more than a few minutes, but I was so shocked that it had happened, even emotional. 'It was frustrating to have to explain multiple times that Dezzie was a guide dog.

Dezzie is my first guide dog and we only finished training two weeks ago. 'I'm glad we were allowed in eventually, but if I wasn't with my sister, I probably would have turned around and walked away as it was pretty intimidating.' Chloe felt worse when her sister told her she had noticed the staff member who had initially refused them entry 'following them around the shop'. This made me feel so uncomfortable, like I had done something wrong,' Chloe said.

Primark has since apologised to Chloe and made sure to add: 'To clarify, guide dogs are, of course, always welcome in our stores.' It is illegal for any service provider to deny entry to a disabled person because of any equipment they may need, and this includes guide dogs.

She said: 'Dezzie has enabled me to be independent. Prior to getting a guide dog, the simple act of going into a shop would have been very tricky.

Primark told Metro.co.uk: 'We want all of our stores to be accessible for everyone and we're really sorry that a customer was wrongly denied access with their guide dog to our Leeds Trinity store. 'We're following up with our security provider to ensure this doesn't happen again and are in contact with the customer to apologise for their experience.'



Current Scams <https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/>



Below are some common scams, at time of writing. Others are invented daily, exploiting the current 'cost of living' concerns we have, including now, much higher mortgage payments. So, we should anticipate invitations to click links to fake government sites to find what financial support can be obtained. There to divulge our personal information, including banking details.

Impersonation scams are prolific. A scammer pretending to be what they are not , to gain our trust so that we action something that will harm us. Aiming to harvest our banking details for later use by them or another scammer that they have sold our details to.

We will be reached by landline phone, or mobile or email. And we

know, don't we, that contacts to us out of the blue from a stranger are surely red pointers to scams.

It could be an email from TV licencing to say that something has gone amiss with our direct debit and our bank details will have to be set up again.

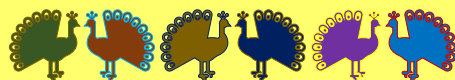
It could be a text claiming to be from the tax office (HMRC) to say 'enter information' on the given web site, including bank details, to get a refund, or a text from an energy company to say there's an appointment booked to check our smart meter and please go to their web site to confirm our details.

Genuine companies will never ask for such actions. Nor use the 'URGENT - ACT NOW' messages much favoured by scammers.

If it's someone calling and claiming to be from our bank, we should finish the call immediately and five minutes later, preferably from another phone, call 159 to speak to our bank. Or use the number on the back of our bank card.

On our computer screen we can get pop-ups claiming to be from Microsoft stating that we've been infected and can get help by calling their given support number. IF we do then a scammer will ask to take control of our computer to "fix". The proper fix is to simply turn the computer 'off and on' to restart and then run our anti-virus software. If we don't have that protection, then it's like leaving the back door wide open when we leave the house.

Scam texts should be forwarded to 7726 for our mobile phone provider to deal with. Scam emails we should forward to report@phishing.gov.uk for a government agency to action.



North West Surrey Drop-In Hubs

Addlestone – 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each Month

KnapHill – Every Monday

Shepperton – 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each Month

Surrey Downs Hubs

Epsom - 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each Month

Hersham - 2nd and 4th Monday of each Month

Leatherhead – Every Friday

To contact Action for Carers Surrey, Telephone 0303 040 1234

Email CSAdmin@actionforcarers.org.uk Text 07723 486730

Web site www.actionforcarers.org.uk





Disability Rights UK (DRUK)

Disability Rights UK Helplines

Our helplines are operating as normal:

Personal Budgets Helpline

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

Telephone: 0330 995 0404 personalbudgets@disabilityrightsuk.org

Disabled Students Helpline

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

Telephone: 0330 995 0414 students@disabilityrightsuk.org

Welfare Rights Helpline for Member Organisations

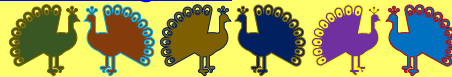
Opening hours: 10.30am-12.30pm Tuesdays and Thursdays

Telephone: 0203 687 0779 ken.butler@disabilityrightsuk.org

PLEASE NOTE – *The news Bulletins received from **Disability Rights (DRUK)** and the **Surrey Adult Social Care Information & Engagement Team** is now being distributed as enclosures with each monthly SCAN Newsletter.*

Please contact me if you wish to receive these enclosures by sending a text message (with your name and postal address) to 07859 639025.

If your preference is for an electronic copy then please email me on info@spelthorneaccess.org.uk or use the 'Contact SCAN' form on www.spelthorneaccess.org.uk/



Disability Empowerment Network – North Surrey & Surrey Wide

Administration and management of the Disability Empowerment Network (DEN) meetings is arranged by the Surrey Coalition of Disabled People (SCDP)

All Empowerment Meetings Continue To Be Held Via Zoom unless otherwise noted

North Surrey Meeting Dates 2023

Runnymede, Spelthorne, Woking & Surrey Heath.

Monday 4th September at 10.30am *hybrid at Goldwater lodge*

Surrey Wide Meeting dates for 2023

Monday 11th September at 6pm

For more information, please contact:

involvement@surreycoalition.org.uk or Tel/SMS 07492 249 513 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/

Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 10 October 2023**. It will be a hybrid meeting in the Goddard room in the council offices, Knowle Green starting at 12 noon for those who are able to attend in person. Details for those wishing to use ZOOM will be distributed nearer the time.

The meeting will start with SCAN's AGM and our guest speaker will be a **SCAM Champion** from Trading Standards. After a short break for a buffet lunch, there will be an abridged meeting of **Spelthorne's Physical, Sensory and Cognitive Disability** forum.

Further details for this forum are available on SCAN's web site at www.spelthorneaccess.org.uk/news/scan-news/spscd-forum/



Donations for SCAN's Newsletters

Sponsorship and membership subscription packages for supporting of newsletter project are available to any individuals, councillors or organisations interested in supporting SCAN's newsletter project – please use the contact options below for information about making donations. If you have news that you would like included in the newsletter or on our web site, or to be reported at the quarterly meetings, please send an email to info@spelthorneaccess.org.uk or fill in the 'Contact SCAN' form on SCAN's web page where you will also find more details about SCAN's work www.spelthorneaccess.org.uk/



From A Former Contributor to SCAN's Newsletters

Richard sustained a severe brain injury in a motorcycle accident in 1983 and he felt that although people tried to relate to his situation, they often couldn't understand.

He put his thoughts and experiences together as a collection of poems and articles about his life after his 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.

Richard died in 2014, and his son shared his father's book with Headway who provided a link to the book from their website

<https://www.headway.org.uk/>.

Richard's personality and wit shines through the book.

Some of the poems and the, often very poignant, drawings that went with them will be difficult to publish as the local artist who drew them for Richard's book has also died. Electronic versions of Richard's book can be viewed on the Headway website

A Different Wavelength

*Unease was written all over his face,
he hadn't seen me before in a chair.
We used to play squash and have fun together,
now trepidation filled the air.*

*I don't know who suffered the most,
it was hard to hide the distress.
He couldn't think of anything to say
and I tried too hard, I guess.*

*My voice had reduced to a whisper,
I could tell he hadn't caught a word.
He smiled awkwardly and nodded,
he wouldn't have if he'd heard.*

*So, we kept up the charade for a while
both praying it would come to an end,
when it did, he left in a hurry,
and I never saw him again.*

*He's yet another painful aspect,
a part of what's been lost.
I must keep counting my blessings,
not waste time, counting the cost*



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