

Spelthorne Committee Access Now



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1992 – 2023

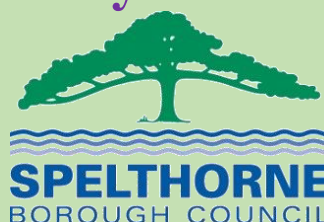


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Cyclists Mount Pavement At 'Floating Bus Stop' In London <https://www.lbc.co.uk/news/cyclists-go-past-blind-man-floating-bus-stop-london/>

A hair-raising on line video shows the moment two cyclists weave past a woman in a wheelchair and a blind man holding a white stick, at a London 'floating' bus stop. Known officially as 'shared-use bus boarders' by Transport for London (TfL) they have become more prevalent in recent years across the capital, as officials try to prioritise 'active travel' like cycling, while not compromising on public transport.

Transport chiefs say that floating bus stops are good for preventing cyclists from going out into traffic around buses, which could endanger them and drivers. But the floating stops have been criticised by disability campaigners, who claim that for many disabled and blind people they act as a hindrance to getting on buses.

The Highway Code states: 'Cyclists should give way to pedestrians on shared use cycle tracks' and that they 'should always take care when passing pedestrians, especially children, older or disabled people, and allow them plenty of room'. It adds, bikers should: 'Always be prepared to slow down and stop if necessary'.

The footage shared by the National Federation of the Blind UK (NFBUK) features their president Andrew Hodgson, who is himself blind, and was the man at the bus shelter on Lea Bridge Road in Waltham Forest, north-east London last Wednesday afternoon. Despite the concerns raised by the NFBUK, Mr Khan has refused to pause the development of floating bus stops. In a letter to the NFBUK, the mayor said an independent review into floating bus stops will be completed later this year and he 'looks forward to reading it'.

In the video, as the wheelchair user aligns with the ramp, a cyclist on a cargo bike and another cyclist directly behind him approach the bus stop at speed.

As he was unable to see the cyclists zooming past him, Mr Hodgson only became aware of the incident after it had happened, when his colleague told him. When he found out he said he was concerned that he could have been injured if he had decided to step forwards or backwards - or that an accident could have happened if he had stuck his cane out.

He said the cargo cyclist was probably riding very dangerously and could have 'mown him down' had he not been standing in exactly the right position. He advised both cyclists involved 'to be more careful and keep an eye open for vulnerable pedestrians' like himself and the woman in the wheelchair. Mr Hodgson also slammed the dangerous bus stop designs as 'not fit for purpose', adding: 'It really is totally inaccessible. These sorts of designs

need to be scrapped, those that have been installed need to be taken out and no new ones installed.'



Scientists Decode Why People Are Scared of Clowns

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-11832053/Are-scared-clowns-Questionnaire-reveals-degree-coulrophobia.html>

If the image of a clown makes you turn your head away, you may have coulrophobia. Researchers at the University of Wales created 'The Fear of Clowns Questionnaire' to investigate the origins of this phobia - and the results may not be what most expect.

Participants were asked to rank 18 items, including '*if I came across a clown, I would leave the room,*' from '*totally agree*' to '*totally disagree.*' However, the team also discovered coulrophobia decreases with age - bringing hope to those who still shiver at the thought of a clown. Previous studies have determined that people are not born with a fear of clowns, but the phobia develops as they age.

Coulrophobia starts at a young age when a child watches a thriller featuring a killer clown - Killer Clowns from Outer Space, released in 1998, and Stephen King's It from 1986 are just two examples.

However, some people are afraid of Ronald McDonald, the fast food chain mascot, and he is not meant to scare you,' the researchers penned in The Conversation. This suggests there might be something more fundamental about the way clowns look that unsettles people.'

The team surveyed 987 people between the ages of 18 and 77. These participants were in Africa, Europe, Australia, North and South America and the UK. The items included:

- *I would do anything to avoid a clown;*
- *If I encountered a clown, it would take me a long time to get it out of my mind;*
- *If I saw a clown, I would be afraid of it; and*
- *If I saw a clown, I would feel very panicky.*

The survey also led to the origins of people's fear, with clown's makeup giving them a not-quite-human look reported as the most popular explanation. Some respondents reported that the makeup reminded them of '*death, infection or blood injury, and evokes disgust or avoidance,*' the researchers wrote. The last reason, which may come as a surprise, was '*a frightening experience with a clown.*' 'Intriguingly, we found this final explanation, had the lowest level of agreement,' the researchers wrote in The Conversation. 'This indicates that life experience alone is not a sufficient explanation for why people are afraid of them.'

Disabled Actors Shouldn't Be Feelgood Mascots. –

Edited from Article in The Guardian written by Cathy Reay - a freelance writer with dwarfism

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2023/mar/10/woody-harrelson-comedy-champions-disabled-people>

Woody Harrelson's new feelgood comedy *Champions* wins points for casting learning disabled actors – but Hollywood should be aiming higher than the way it treats their characters.

Marcus (played by Woody Harrelson) is a basketball coach in court for drunk-driving and aggressive behaviour, and asks the judge rather pathetically *"I wanna say the right thing but if I can't call them the r-word, what can I call them?"*. The judge replies *"I suggest you call them by their names,"* she replies tersely, sentencing him to community service coaching the Friends, a basketball team with learning disabilities.

This is Marcus's chance to redeem himself. Within 90 days, he must halt his drink problem and stop resorting to violence when he doesn't get his own way. Based on the Spanish film *Campeones*, *Champions* sets out on a righteous path by casting learning disabled actors in learning disabled roles.

These actors are funny and real and cool, not that we get to see much of them. *"I have Down's syndrome, I'm not deaf!"* quips sassy standout star Madison Tevlin in response to a non-disabled person who is shouting at her. But *Champions* immediately lost its street cred for me once I understood that the disabled characters exist to

- a) facilitate Marcus' transformation into A Good Guy™ and
- b) act as the film's feelgood mascots.

If proper screen time was spent following their lives, we could have witnessed so much more disabled joy, companionship and the societal barriers they face. Instead, this is deprioritised in favour of a tired stock Hollywood romance story between Marcus and one of the Friends' hot non-disabled sister. As the credits roll, the disabled actors all dance about having a great time, while the non-disabled cast members' names appear on-screen.

Hollywood opportunities for learning disabled actors are extremely rare. Not only that, these kind of characters have historically been written so one-dimensionally - cue violin music – as desperately sad and pathetic. And have typically been played by non-disabled actors – Dustin Hoffman, Sam Claflin, Tom Hanks, I'm looking at you.

I want to see screen time devoted to disabled life. Disabled actors are fully capable of making us feel a whole spectrum of emotions – if only the film industry would let them.



Model Born Without Upper Limbs

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/mum-born-no-arms-uses-25013044> Doctors couldn't say why Sarah Talbi, was born without any upper limbs. But as a child, she learnt to eat, dress herself and brush her hair using her feet.

When Sarah was a teenager she studied English and Spanish translation at Institut Supérieur De Traducteurs Et Interprètes (ISTI), Brussels, without extra support. Sarah said: "I was able to do it like anyone else. "I just had an experience like anyone would have done and I did that without struggling."

As she got older, she developed more skills like chopping vegetables and doing her make-up - all with her toes. Sarah has a daughter, Lilia, who she cooks for, dresses and plays with. Sarah, from Brussels, Belgium said: "I can do anything with my feet as long as I don't have shoes on.

As a child, Sarah didn't see herself as having any issues with her missing limbs. Sarah said: "How a baby takes everything with their hands and makes a mess, I did the same with my feet so my brain was connecting to my feet. "I could do everything a toddler the same age could do, just with my feet. "As I got older I could eat, but I struggled to write. Those things came later. "Some other children asked why I didn't have arms but for me, it was totally normal. I thought there were lots of other people without arms and I was just one of those people."

Sarah said: "It is a huge achievement becoming a mum. It's my best achievement. "I think it's hard for any woman to become a mum because it's such a big change, plus having a disability you are dealing with two things. "But my disability had to adapt to having a baby. I can do everything with my daughter. "She holds me by my sleeve when we walk along the street. It's unbelievable, she's holding it like a hand. "It's funny because sometimes she'll want to run off and touch something in the street and she asks and tugs my sleeve.

Sarah has even found that she can paint using her feet and is looking forward to putting on more exhibitions to showcase her work. She said: "I do it with my feet like everything else. My main inspiration is nature, I love painting landscapes. "I love nature and travelling and I really miss it."

Sarah hasn't met any other woman who has the same disability as her. Sarah added: "I have adapted entirely myself and I can do everything I want. I don't let it hold me back."



Everyone Can Dance! - Wheelchair Dancing

<https://paradance.org.uk/about/history/>

Para Dance UK is a charity and the national governing body for

Para Dance Sport in the UK. Their aim is to develop and promote dance as a sport and an inclusive leisure activity across the country. They develop highly competitive athletes at an international level, as well as progressing dancers across the UK through regional and national competitions.

Wheelchair Dance Sport has been defined as a sport that “involves athletes with a physical disability which affects the lower limbs.” However, this definition has since been expanded to incorporate upper limb disabilities, dual disability and multiple disabilities.

In 1998, Wheelchair Dance Sport became an International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Championship Sport and the World Dance Sport Federation (WDSF) has entered into partnership with the IPC.

The format of wheelchair dance sport competitions is very similar to those for non-wheelchair dancers including Beginner Competitions and Intermediate and Championship level competitions where the five dances for Ballroom and Latin categories are danced.

There are two categories for the disability competitions which are: Class 1 for severe disabilities and

Class 2 for those who do not have severe disabilities.

There are also two types of competitions:

Duo – where the two dancers are both in wheelchairs and

Combi – where one is in a wheelchair and one is a non-disabled partner, which currently seems to be more popular.

Age categories are not currently well established, but some Junior and Senior events are developing as the popularity of the sport has grown. The WDSF rules for wheelchair dance sport are as much the same as those for non-wheelchair dance sport.

In 2016, IPC rebranded numerous sporting disciplines including dance sport and renamed it World Para Dance Sport. Progress is being made worldwide as, towards the end of 2017, World Para Dance Sport was shortlisted to be entered into the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris, France.



Travel Will Become Impossible for People with Disabilities

<https://www.getsurrey.co.uk/news/surrey-news/surrey-wheelchair-user-asks-8-26386696>

Vikki Walton-Cole, currently works four days a week as a social worker, is a director at Surrey Coalition of Disabled People, and has been a full-time wheelchair user for the past year. Vikki invited SurreyLive to join her on a typical train journey in an effort to demonstrate the extra considerations she has to make just to get

from A to B. On this occasion Vikki interacted with a total of eight separate members of staff between the ticket office and the final ramp back onto the platform. This number, however, she described as typical.

The Surrey activist and campaigner for accessible travel spoke of the fears she and people with a disability share towards proposed cuts to the level of staff at stations. Cuts, she claimed, that will lead to a loss of independence and greater isolation for those in the disabled community. Vikki said “The disability in itself is easier to cope with, but it’s the lack of independence and lack of access that makes it hard.”

Vikki went on to describe how she will typically travel by train three or four times each month but said she often chooses to drive part-way to find a more accessible station than her local one at. She added, however, that this can lead to other issues when the entrances to some car parks have height restrictions barriers - that are set too low for her wheelchair-accessible vehicle (WAV).

“It’s bad enough already. We can’t guarantee that we’re going to get places or get back,” she said. “But if you take away the ticket office, station staff, and guards, there’s just no chance to travel.”

Surrey Coalition of Disabled People CEO Nikki Roberts commented on the proposals that could see rail staff numbers cut and said: “It is totally unacceptable that disabled train passengers may face having no railway staff at the stations to ask for help, to purchase tickets, for advice, and to meet their safety, security, and accessibility needs.”

Vikki concluded: “My biggest thing is to help people understand that the world isn’t as accessible as they think. Unless you actually see it first hand most people assume that there are laws in place and it will be fine. But when you have to rely on that you realise that there’s still a long way to go.”

Vikki was also in a group who visited Downing Street in February 2023 to deliver a petition and request that safe staff levels remain on trains, at stations, and in ticket offices. (see below)



Surrey Coalition’s Trip To Downing Street With Petition

On Monday 20th February 2023 members and staff from Surrey Coalition of Disabled people travelled to Downing Street to hand in a petition signed by more than 150 organisations. All members of the group travelled into London independently by train, a freedom which could soon be denied to

them if the proposed changes come in to force.

Arriving at Downing Street the group were determined to put their point across and there was instant camaraderie with other organisations present especially with the National Federation for the Blind, the organisers of the petition.

We encountered our first obstacle, a very steep dropped kerb which was not particularly safe and quite frightening for Vikki to navigate in her powered chair.

We gave Jonathan the task of announcing our presence with three very loud knocks on the door. We handed in our covering letter and explained that we were supporting the petition to request:

- 1: For all ticket offices to remain open and all manned stations to remain manned at all times with safe level of staffing
- 2: For all trains to have guards (also known as train managers or conductors) at all times
- 3: For all unmanned stations to become manned at all times with safe level of staffing

The team from The Coalition made it clear that it is totally unacceptable that Disabled People face having their freedom to travel by train independently taken away from them. A freedom which most people take for granted. The Coalition asked that the Prime Minister reconsider the proposals as a matter of urgency.

After our big moment we all took it in turn to have our photos taken in front of one of the most famous doors in the world. Jonathan, Vikki and Jean were then interviewed by ITV south and BBC Surrey.

This is not the end though, we will continue to campaign for Disabled People in Surrey and around the country to maintain their freedom to travel.

Image: Surrey Coalition of Disabled People / National Federation of the Blind from left-right: Vikki Walton-Cole, Nikki Roberts (CEO Surrey Coalition), Jonathan Fisher, Jean Meyer, Yasmin Broome



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

covers the areas of Runnymede, Spelthorne, Woking & Surrey

Heath.

Monday 22nd May 2023, 1pm-2.30pm,

Surrey Wide Meeting dates for 2023

Monday 15th May 2023, 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.



Progress on New Leisure Centre

<https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/newleisurecentre>

Just over nine months ago (18th July 2022) contractors moved onto the site of the new Spelthorne leisure centre and the 'ground breaking' event was performed by the Mayor Cllr Doran on 31st July 2022. The contractor Willmott Dixon has since been issuing monthly newsletters/progress reports.

New temporary parking areas were created for the existing leisure centre but SCAN's chairman, Ken Saunders, who has been involved with the Boccia and Para Sports clubs for people with disabilities at the leisure centre, found that the new spaces marked for blue badge holders in these areas were frequently being used by non blue badge visitors to the centre. Signage made no difference.

This created persistent parking difficulties for disabled people using the centre's facilities and Ken reported these parking issues to the council.

Additional spaces have now been painted/added in the temporary car park for blue badge holders and Ken has received assurances from the council that all of these designated spaces will be monitored for abuse.

Ken also reported concerns to the Council about access for visually impaired people (VIPs) along the Knowle Green footpath at the front of the development that has been closed for pedestrians. Willmott Dixon arranged for an alternative route that has been signposted. However, some signs have been placed in such a way that they are actually hazardous to VIPs. On the footpath passing the Council offices the original tactile paving guides VIPs up to the signs for the blocked footpath. This paving should be removed and placed where it will take VIPs safely to an appropriate position for the diverted route. This was taken up with Surrey County Council, who consider that as the Willmott Dixon footpath diversion is temporary (it will be in force until **April 2024**) no action is required.



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.

Spelthorne
ParaSports Club

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



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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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



Kew Gardens Walking Tours

Kew Gardens have started to run their walks around the beautiful setting at Kew that are designed to be accessible for people living with dementia, sight loss or hearing loss and Community Wellbeing.

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.

Walking tours have to be limited to a set number of people who can participate so it is essential that you register in advance for ALL/ANY walks and events held at Kew.

Email discovery@kew.org or Telephone 07341 114533. **Please Check the Kew Web pages for any changes to the schedules.**

Community Well Being Tours

Wednesday 3 May 2023 11am to 12pm

[Check Kew Gardens web site for more details](#)

People Living with Dementia Tour Dates

Wednesday 14 June 2023 11am to 12pm

[Check Kew Gardens web site for more details](#)

Sensory Guided Tour Dates

Sunday 11 June 2023 2-3pm

[Check Kew Gardens web site for more details](#)

British Sign Language Guided Tour Dates

Sunday 11 June 2023 11am to 12pm

[Check Kew Gardens web site for more details](#)



South London Train Station With Steep Ramp to Get Major Upgrade <https://londonnewsonline.co.uk/hither-green-railway-station-to-get-long-awaited-lift-to-platforms/>

Hither Green railway station in south London is to get a facelift, including a new lift to replace a ramp that's so steep people in wheelchairs can't use it.

Plans to build new footbridges, lifts and entrances at the station were approved by a Lewisham council planning committee in March 2023.

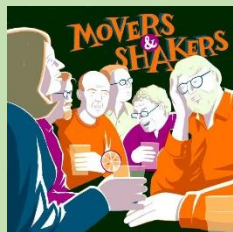
Passengers using the station currently rely on stairs to reach its six platforms. While part of the station is accessible by a ramp, it is too steep for wheelchairs. The refurbishment will be funded with a share of a £300 million pot that the Department for Transport has set aside to make railway stations more accessible. The works, which will be carried out by Network Rail, will see four new 16-person lifts built at the station, which will allow passengers to reach every platform without using steps.

Speaking in favour of the plans, Jenny Marsden, a resident who has lived in the area for five years, told the council planning meeting that the lack of lifts at the station made it dangerous. She said: "Currently four out of six platforms at the station are only accessible by steps, making it really difficult for people with mobility issues, but it's also a massive safety issue for everyone else using the station. While part of the station is accessible by a ramp, this is non-compliant, it's too steep for users."

Lewisham council previously approved plans for the station works in April 2022, without the project going before councillors to vote on. But officials were forced to backtrack after some local residents challenged the decision, arguing the proposals should have gone before a planning committee.



Movers & Shakers: New Podcast About Living With Parkinson's



<https://cureparkinsons.org.uk/2023/03/movers-shakers-six-familiar-faces-launch-podcast-about-living-with-parkinsons/>

A group of six friends living with Parkinson's – some or all of whom you may recognise – have launched a podcast to raise awareness of the condition.

Cure Parkinson's Patron and Vicar of Dibley co-writer Paul Mayhew-Archer is joined by former BBC presenter and legendary inquisitor Jeremy Paxman; former BBC technology correspondent Rory Cellan-Jones; High Court Judge Sir Nicholas Mostyn; former BBC political expert Mark Mardell and former 'Working Lunch' presenter, management consultant and lecturer Gillian Lacey-

Solymar.

Their new podcast, titled 'Movers & Shakers', will share the challenges and positives of their Parkinson's experience through informative, open and often hilarious conversations. The group touch on research news and interview their own specialists and international experts on different aspects of the condition.

"It's fascinating, the way we 'Movers and Shakers' respond to the illness", Mark Mardell said, "from Paul's hysterically funny and brightly optimistic determination to regard our collective curse as a personal blessing to Jeremy's gloomy fury and trademark, incisive questioning of accepted wisdom.

The podcast is of course for people with Parkinson's and their friends but also for anybody interested in the human condition. We learn to cope. That pesky packaging? When your fingers fail, attack with scissors, a knife, determination – and hope."



Woman Spent 20 Years Hiding Amputated Leg

<https://metro.co.uk/2019/09/24/woman-who-spent-20-years-hiding-amputated-leg-finally-learns-to-love-her-body-10779690/>

36-year-old Lianne Forrest was born with spina bifida, and made the decision to have her leg amputated below the knee at the age of nine, following name-calling including 'squint foot'. She struggled to come to terms with the fact she was an amputee and would hide her leg from view, wearing long skirts and knee-high socks. At age 18, she had her leg further amputated above the knee, due to developing osteomyelitis – a rare but serious infection of the bone. Now, she's decided to embrace her body after being fitted with a new prosthetic leg.

Lianne, who lives in Tarleton near Preston, has worn prosthetics from the NHS for most of her life but still hated looking in the mirror. She felt embarrassed by her leg.

A life-changing moment came when her twin boys, started secondary school. Lianne, was determined not to let her sons suffer any abuse at the hands of bullies because of the way she looked.

The teaching assistant was lovingly told by Finlay: 'mum you're part robot now' after being fitted with a metal c-leg – a prosthesis that gives mobility and independence – by Ottobock which became available on the NHS following a trial. Lianne decided to bare all and posted a photo of her wearing her new prosthetic on Instagram and hasn't looked back since.

I'd never really met anyone of my own age who was an amputee. 'There were times when I was at an all-time low, I hated myself for only having one leg. I used to dream of having a prosthetic that would look as real as my other leg.

'Everybody who knows me knows I've got a prosthetic leg but they have just never seen it. I was always bothered about what people might be thinking. I felt trapped behind my leg but then I decided enough was enough. The main factor was me accepting it and coming to terms with it after all these years, I was no longer able to hide it as well with this new prosthesis. Also my main concern was that I had to be comfortable with it for the sake of my boys.

Lianne is now glowing with confidence and describes how she is 'thankful' to her younger self after giving doctors the green light to remove her right leg. 'This new C-leg gives me the freedom to keep up with my family, be more active, attend the gym. It does a lot of the work for me.'



Don't Force Drivers To Pay For Parking with Smartphones <https://www.localgov.co.uk/Dont-force-drivers-to-pay-for-parking-with-smartphones-Gove-says--/55957>

In a letter sent to every local authority in England, Levelling-up secretary Michael Gove has told councils they must not force drivers to use smartphones to pay for parking spaces. He was concerned about the elderly and vulnerable being excluded if traditional pay-and-display machines using cash were scrapped.

Traditional parking meters have been ditched by some councils in favour of cashless options such as mobile phone apps. Mr Gove said it would not be appropriate for high street parking to be 'solely available for those who have access to a mobile phone'. Councils should also not replace paper-based parking options such as 'scratch cards' if the only available replacement is entirely digital.

He wrote: 'Cash remains legal tender and it will continue to be used in our daily lives by people who favour its accessibility and ease. I am therefore concerned that local authorities should ensure that there are alternative provisions for parking payments available so that no part of society is digitally excluded. 'This is of course important for many areas in preserving the accessibility of our high streets and town centres for all the public.'

A government source insisted that councils had a "duty to their residents, particularly elderly or vulnerable motorists", to ensure they were not "cutting them off" from their local businesses.

Sir John Redwood, Margaret Thatcher's head of policy at No 10, said: "I think a lot of people feel that these new parking systems are designed to stop them driving in and parking. "They are very complex sometimes, and it means you do need to have a live, charged mobile phone with the right app. So I think there should be easy payment alternatives.

Charities including Age UK have warned that elderly people face being rendered outcasts by the increasing shift to a cashless

society Research conducted by Age UK showed that three in five (59 per cent) people over 65 used a smartphone, compared with more than 90 per cent of adults aged between 16 and 54. Studies suggest about 10 million people, or about one in five adults, would struggle to manage in a cashless society, with four million of them aged over 65.



Inclusive Language: Words To Use And Avoid

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

Consider these guidelines when communicating with or about disabled people.

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' not 'the disabled' 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.

For table of examples visit the Gov.uk web site

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



The Definition of Accessibility and Why People Get It Wrong – Edited from article at

https://wheelchairtravel.org/accessibility-definition-why-most-people-get-it-wrong/?dm_t=0,0,0,0,0

When disabled people contact businesses to inquire about accessibility, they often receive positive assurances that ultimately prove to be false. There are many differing perspectives on what constitutes accessibility and as such, disabled people can and should be suspicious of terms like “fully accessible.”

In attempting to understand what being “accessible” truly means, one might start with the dictionary definition — here's what Dictionary.com says:

- *the quality of being easy to approach, reach, enter, speak with, use, or understand; the quality of being usable, reachable, obtainable, etc.; the quality of being suitable or adapted for use by people with disabilities*

Accessibility is closely integrated and enables equitable use

Truly accessible environments are just that — accessible. When accessibility is an afterthought, as it often has been, wheelchair access must be “bolted on” after the fact in ways that are often unreliable and raise additional barriers.

True accessibility is integrated, meaning disabled people achieve access in the same way their non-disabled peers do. In the most simplistic example, disabled and non-disabled people would enter a building or place of business in exactly the same manner — through the front door or primary entrance.

Accessibility must promote independence of use to the

greatest extent possible

“We can lift your chair.” Some wrongly assume that, so long as they can provide access in some way (such as carrying a person and their wheelchair) that they can identify as being “accessible.”

Accessibility is transparent

It is rare to find photos of accessible hotel rooms and features like roll-in showers, sinks with wheelchair clearance, and toilets with grab bars. With so few providing this information, disabled people are forced to assume inaccessibility.



Boots Parking Sign For ‘Less Abled’ Sparks Outrage

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1758567/Boots-chemist-parking-disabled-sign-row>



A Boots parking sign offering a space for “less abled” customers has sparked outrage online with some saying disabled is not a “dirty word”. The blue sign shows the recognised symbol of a person in a

wheelchair denoting it as a disabled space, however above the image it reads “Less Abled Parking”.

Angharad Paget-Jones, a disability consultant, told Express.co.uk replacing words with something else seemed “completely unnecessary”. She said: “‘Less abled’ less abled than who? She added the fact the space was accessible to “blue badge” parking was already evident.

Boots posted a response to the discussion on Twitter about the signage, from an account called Boots Help a statement said: “Thank you for bringing this to our attention. “We completely accept and understand that this wording is not appropriate and can confirm that we are working to change this signage as a matter of priority. “We sincerely apologise for any offence caused; Boots has always aimed to be inclusive to all and we will always champion this.”

Under The Equality Act 2010 those offering goods and services, like shops, banks, cinemas, hospitals, council offices and leisure centres, should provide appropriate provision for disabled people to gain access.



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) 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** are now being distributed as enclosures with each monthly SCAN Newsletter.*

Please contact me if you wish to receive these enclosures and whether your preference is for an electronic copy or paper copies, Please email me on info@spelthorneaccess.org.uk or use the 'Contact SCAN' form on www.spelthorneaccess.org.uk/



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 on **26th April 2023** starting at 12 noon and be Hybrid - held in person at the Goddard Room, Council Offices Knowle Green and via Zoom.

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/



From The Editor

SCAN's archives still hold a lot of 'memories' that couldn't be included in the Anniversary issues. The amount of space in the paper booklets was limited.

It had been hoped that extracts from '**Reflections of a Chair Man**' could be a regular feature as the author had been a regular contributor to SCAN's early newsletters and a most of the pieces in the book still have some relevance today.

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.

Unfortunately, Headway lost contact with Richard's son so it is not going to be possible to publish a some of the poems and the, often very poignant, drawings that went with them.

It is hoped that this year, more of Richard's work can be included in the newsletters. The following poem was published on the Headway website.

'You Don't Say' is a poem where Richard recounts a situation that is all-too-familiar for many people.

*I know, I know, I've heard it all before,
it doesn't help, even though it's true.*

*It's well meant but it's usually said
by a healthy able-bodied type,
who's never been sick or had a bad day
in the whole of their life.*

*If you were worse off than all the others,
there's one thing you wouldn't have to endure,*

*that's someone patting your head saying
'There's someone worse off than you.'*



Donations for SCAN's Newsletters

We have received both amounts of funding that were applied for in October 2022 plus a new donation from Borough Councillor Jon Button's Better Neighbourhood allocation. All this has made it possible to continue printing the new format 'Coffee Table' issues of the newsletters, until March 2024.

The future of the project is going to be dependent on new sponsorship as demand for paper booklets continues to evolve after the pandemic.

It had been intended to increase distribution in 2020/2021 and funding was applied for in 2019 and approved just before the pandemic lockdown and closures started in 2020, but we couldn't use the award because of the closures and the demographic then changed after the pandemic.

Sponsorship and membership subscription packages are available to any Borough and County Councillors, individuals or organisations interested in supporting SCAN's newsletter project – please use the contact options below to request 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/



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