

Spelthorne Committee Access Now



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1992 – 2024



Included in This Issue

- 2 *What People With Disabilities Wish You Knew*
- 3 *Disability History Month*
- 4 *What is UK Disability History Month?*
- 5 *Adaptations Not Provided for Disabled Contestants*
- 6 *Kew Gardens Walking Tours*
- 7 *Community Access Scheme*
- 7 *Spelthorne Para Sports & Staines Shopmobility*
- 8 *Spelthorne Boccia Club*
- 9 *N Surrey Sports Association For Disabled People*
- 9 *Current Scams - It's Not a Panto and Not Really a Laugh*
- 10 *ACS Hubs*
- 10 *News Issued By DRUK 5th December 2023*
- 12 *Government's New Guidance: Make Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles More Accessible*
- 13 *DR UK's Relunched Blog! This Week: Listening to the Voices of Disabled Workers by Dr Calum Carson*
- 13 *Spotlight on... Campaign to Get Involved - Opportunities for Disabled People*
- 14 *Disability Rights UK Helplines*
- 14 *Disability Network – North Surrey & Surrey Wide*
- 15 *SCAN and (SPSCDF)*
- 16 *From A Former Contributor to SCAN's Newsletters*

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What People With Disabilities Wish You Knew

Life with a disability can be beautiful

Patronising attitudes towards people with disabilities is a huge issue.

Disability can be expensive

People with disabilities have long been sharing the ways in which their disability presents additional expenses that many able-bodied people never need to consider—research that demonstrates adults with disabilities, on average, need 28% more income to achieve the same quality of life as those without disabilities.

Look at people with disabilities when speaking to them

When having a conversation with a person with a disability, you should look at them when speaking to them—even if they have a caregiver or interpreter present.

Disability is not something we need to “overcome”

Yet another example of ableist language that has been greatly normalised, we need to stop using the term “overcome” to describe people with disabilities who have accomplished great things.

Wheelchairs are freeing—not confining

Disability rights groups have noted that the unfortunately common phrase “confined to a wheelchair” is not proper or welcomed terminology. Mobility devices are tools, not traps.

Disabilities can be invisible

Assumptions about people with disabilities can be dangerous, including the assumption that you can tell if someone has a disability by looking at them. Many people with “invisible disabilities” have shared stories of the challenges they face when it comes to accessing support and being taken seriously. As a general rule, you are not being inclusive if your idea of inclusion centres only around disabilities you can “see.”

Accessibility can be invisible, too

Just as a disability can be invisible, so can the supports a person needs. Stevie Wonder famously said, “we need to make every single thing accessible to every single person with a disability.” This means we need to go further than the important work of making buildings more physically accessible.

People with disabilities belong everywhere

People with disabilities belong in every space. While workplaces, schools and other institutions can certainly improve the lives of people with disabilities by investing in accessibility, they also benefit from having diverse people in these spaces.

You are not being helpful when you touch people with disabilities without asking

As actor and disability advocate Samantha Renke has opined, people with disabilities deserve privacy and personal space, and

so you should never take it upon yourself to assume they need help, especially if that involves touching them or their mobility devices.

It's okay not to be able to do everything

Stephen Hawking once said that people with disabilities should “concentrate on things your disability doesn't prevent you doing well, and don't regret the things it interferes with.”

Media representation of people with disabilities is important

Disability advocates and organisations such as the United Nations agree that insufficient or inaccurate portrayals harm the disability community, and people with disabilities need opportunities to take control and share their own stories.



Disability History Month

<https://metro.co.uk/2022/11/29/everyone-should-be-paying-attention-to-disability-history-month-17841123/>

Samantha Renke is an actor, presenter, metro columnist and disability rights campaigner.

Eliza Suggs was a mesmerising disabled woman in the late 19th century. Like me, she was born with brittle bones, but she was also a woman of faith and believed God made her unique for a reason. She wrote her incredibly successful poems in her debut book, *Shadow and Sunshine*, in 1906 – all while preaching that disability isn't a bad thing.

Learning about her life – as well as listening to and reading about her journey – is incredibly humbling to me. Disability History Month is a time of real importance in the disability calendar and something I genuinely look forward to year on year as a physically disabled woman. The more involved and empowered I am by my disability identity, the more love and eagerness I have to learn from my fellow deaf, disabled and neurodivergent peers from years gone by.

I'm someone who spent most of my childhood and adolescence avoiding other disabled people because I thought I didn't see myself in them. I was so scared to be further marginalised by my non-disabled peers that I didn't embrace that part of my identity – one that is so intertwined with harmful stereotypes such as being less intelligent, less desirable and less deserving. As a result, I missed out on my history and culture for many years. That is, until 2010, when I became a trustee for the Brittle Bone Society

Disability history is so rich, yet seldom celebrated outside of the parameters of our own community. Of course there are figures like Helen Keller – the first deaf-blind person to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree – and my absolute goddess Frida

Kahlo, who are better known.

Disability History Month is a time to challenge us all and to question if we've really learned from past mistakes against disabled people. Are things really any different and are the lives of those who are part of the disability community getting any better in a way of being more included, respected and valued?

The pandemic lifted a veil that I had been living under – a security blanket that told me I was safe as a disabled woman living in a progressive country. Although I still acknowledged the disabling world all around me I felt like if s**t hit the fan, I'd be protected – I'd have allies and I'd be looked after. I don't feel that anymore. I feel like the pandemic showed how alone I really am, how many still view disability as a burden and how much I still have in common with disabled people from times gone by. Disabled people like myself felt expendable.

We talk of progress, yet I have never felt so devalued as a disabled person than I did over the past two to three years. We have clearly not learned from the past and society still seems to view disabled people in a harmful and dangerous way.

I am often met with the comment, 'Things are getting better right?' by my non-disabled peers who feel certain that living with a disability today has to be easier and that we certainly must be more included. The truth is a big fat no. This statement is subjective and unquantifiable – 'better' for who and by what scale are we measuring this by? Is my life better than my peer Eliza Suggs? Perhaps in some respects, but not enough.



What is UK Disability History Month?

<https://ukdhm.org/what-is-ukdhm/> UK Disability History Month (UKDHM) is an annual event creating a platform to focus on the history of our struggle for equality and human rights.

Our website is the central platform to:

- Find out what events are going on around the UK and near you
- Find out the ways you can get involved
- Access exciting resources which we hope will inspire you to organise an event rooted in our history.
- For some time now a number of disabled led organizations have felt the need to have a specific time in the year when the history of our struggle for equality and human rights can be focused on.

In 2009 Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) – now Department for Education commissioned the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) to carry out research on the

possibility of a disability history week in schools. This research showed that schools would be in favour of such a week.

Disability History Month 2023 ran from 16th November to 16th December 2023 and the theme this year was Disability, Children and Youth. It is split across the two months to allow for the Christmas shut down and to allow for four weeks in school term time.

Focussed on the Experience of Disablement amongst children and young people in the past, now and what is needed for the future. UKDHM comes from a Social Model/Human Rights approach, so that all children and young people with long term impairment will not experience the social exclusion of stigma, stereotypes, negative attitudes and socially created barriers in the environment and the way things are organised.



Adaptations Not Provided for Disabled Contestants in University Challenge Christmas Episode

<https://www.express.co.uk/celebrity-news/1841389/BBC-University-Challenge-Christmas-disabled-ableist-complaints>

One of the Christmas episodes of University Challenge has been pulled after two contestants complained about what they described as a “distressing” experience on the show.

One contestant, who is blind, explained that the audio description that they had been promised was not provided to them. Meanwhile, a neurodivergent contestant’s request for subtitles is understood to have been turned down.

The blind contestant said: "One minute before the show, we were told there was no audio description and that your captain will instead have to explain everything." They went on to explain that several visual images, including a pie chart and maps, needed to be described, adding: "It was distressing."

The other contestant, who has challenges with audio processing, said they had requested subtitles in advance so they wouldn't be at a disadvantage. "Unfortunately, I was told this wasn't possible," they said, before revealing that other requests to help manage their sensory needs were not met. They also said that the lack of provisions had meant that the experience was "overwhelming and overstimulating" - so much so that their ability to function was affected for one week following filming.

The contestants issued a complaint to the BBC, with one saying: "I was in touch to say I'd prefer not to have the manifestation of my disability broadcast on network TV in the run-up to Christmas."

Both contestants voiced their gratitude over the decision to pull the episode and have since offered to help showrunners make the

programme more accessible.

A BBC spokesperson said: "We can confirm that an episode in the upcoming series of Alumni University Challenge will not be broadcast because two of the contestants felt their access requirements were not sufficiently met by the production. "We are working closely with producers to improve cross industry access on our programmes to ensure a consistent approach is implemented. "We would like to apologise to the individuals and teams concerned, and they have been written to personally by the producers."



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

Kew will be starting to run their 2024 walks around the beautiful setting of Kew Gardens that are designed to be accessible for people living with dementia, sight loss or hearing loss. Also for 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. Please Check with Kew for any changes to the schedules

Forthcoming BSL Tour Dates

Sunday 11 February 2024 11am to 12pm

Sunday 25 February 2024 11am to 12pm

Sunday 10 March 2024 11am to 12pm

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

Forthcoming Dementia Friendly Tour Dates

Wednesday 14 February 2024 11am to 12pm

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

Forthcoming Sensory Tour Dates

Sunday 11 February 2024 2-3pm

Sunday 25 February 2024 2-3pm

Sunday 10 March 2024 2-3pm

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

Forthcoming Community Wellbeing Dates

The community wellbeing walks are for members of the **Community Access Scheme** (see next page for details) at Kew Gardens and are designed to be accessible for everyone.

Starting from Victoria Gate and lasting around 60 minutes, the walks are led by Kew's volunteer walk leaders.

Wednesday 7 February 2024 11am to 12pm

Wednesday 6 March 2024 11am to 12pm

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

Please email discovery@kew.org or call 07341114533 to book

Community Access Scheme at Kew

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

The Community Access Scheme (CAS) is a group annual membership for organisations that give support to people experiencing barriers to visiting Kew. The scheme is for service users and accompanying support workers, personal assistants, or next of kin. Please note that being a member does not entitle you to free entry to ticketed events, such as Christmas at Kew, nor does it guarantee the availability of tickets to these events.

Who is eligible?

Organisations providing services to people who face barriers to visiting the Gardens independently e.g.:

- older people
- people who have a learning, physical and/or sensory impairment
- people who have mental health conditions
- people who have dementia
- members of society who are otherwise marginalized, excluded, vulnerable or isolated

Your organisation must also be one of the following:

- a registered charity
- community interest company (CIC)
- a community benefit society
- a voluntary community group

And your organisation must be based within the M25.

If you have any queries about a new or existing CAS membership, please email community@kew.org. Alternatively, call us on 0208 332 3600 and a member of our team will be happy to help.



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



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**



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



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 main-stream, 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



Current Scams

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

It's Not a Panto and Not Really a Laugh

We may no longer attend a pantomime as our standard seasonal treat but maybe we can still remember our participation in them. So let's use our experience of those times to respond to scammers who approach us. In their phoned approach to us they will firstly state who they are, and then what they can do to our financial benefit.

Alternatively they may take the other tack and warn us that we are in serious trouble unless we take a certain action. Either way we respond similarly, drawing on our past experiences; with "Oh no you're not!" Followed by finishing the call.

To "I'm from BT and your broadband is down, but just let me into your PC and I can help you; it's "Oh no you're not!" To "I'm from the tax office and I'm sorry to inform you that you owe us £842.37 and unless you pay right now then we will have no option but to call in the police". Again it's Oh no you're not".

Or it's "HMRC here and it's your lucky day for we have overcharged you. All we need is your banking details so we can send you some money back"

It is however a serious game where **we** decide on the rules we play by. There's the usual others like "I'm from Microsoft and we've noticed a problem with your service". Or "There's a parcel we have here at the Post Office and unfortunately there's another £2.95 to pay on it before we can deliver. So if you can now pay me over the phone." And if we fall for that one then shortly afterwards we get a call from our "**bank**" to say "we've noticed that you've just paid a scammer and now he has all your banking details. Let's immediately get all your remaining money into a new safe account"

Believing these calls is a lot more dangerous than believing in fairies; from a stranger, out of the **blue**, to help us to become rich or threaten with legal action. All are **SCAMS**.

Let's forward suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk and suspect text messages to 7726 for our service provider to deal with.



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) – News Roundup – Dec 2023

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

News Issued By DRUK 5th December 2023

Disability Rights News page for more policy updates and

stories.

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/civicrm/ mailing/ url?u=66334&qid=12101436>

Autumn Statement: Content and DR UK's Response

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/civicrm/ mailing/ url?u=66338&qid=12101436>

Prior to Jeremy Hunt's Autumn Statement, we published a piece on what it should contain to truly support Disabled people and carers across the country.

Despite this, the Chancellor announced a damaging 'back to work' plan for Disabled people with tougher and more harmful sanctions. Read more about the Statement's content here.

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/civicrm/ mailing/ url?u=66340&qid=12101436>

Landmark Funding Announced for Moving Social Work Programme

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/civicrm/ mailing/ url?u=66341&qid=12101436>

We are excited to announce that Get Yourself Active's Moving Social Work programme will be expanding thanks to a £1 million investment from Sport England. This will cover the second stage of the programme over the next five years.

Moving Social Work is an evidence-based and co-produced education programme designed to encourage social workers to speak about physical activity with Disabled people.

It focuses on the role that social workers can play in improving the quality and levels of physical activity for Disabled people, to help reduce health inequalities and improve social justice. Read our press release about this landmark opportunity on GYA's website.

UK's Train Ticketing 'Full of Digital Barriers'

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/civicrm/ mailing/ url?u=66342&qid=12101436>

A new study into British rail habits has unsurprisingly found that the UK's train ticketing is full of barriers. A SilverRail survey for the rail industry shows plainly that digital convenience is missing from our 'digitally-savvy nation' as 48% of passengers surveyed favoured purchasing train tickets at the station rather than via an online app.

Official statistics point to this being one third of all rail tickets sold, which on current revenue would equate to around £2.8bn. Age differential is a factor climbing from 36% among 18-24-year-olds to 63% for those aged 65 and over. Disappointingly 20% felt that they would be unable to find the cheapest ticket for their journey. And, most significantly, more than half of those (58%) who have bought a ticket in the past believe there are simply too many ticket options, with this number increasing to 71% amongst 65+ years.

From 'peak' to 'off-peak' to 'super-off-peak' the industry jargon confounds 19% of the population and it was the most vulnerable

who struggled most, with more than a quarter of those with a disability (26%) saying they are likely to struggle to secure the cheapest ticket, and are baffled by the variety of tickets on offer (69%).

Stephen Brookes Disability Rights UK Rail policy adviser says 'The survey results are not a surprise and as we keep saying it's imperative that we don't sideline the most vulnerable in society. We need to convince the industry that disabled rail users must not be penalised in either cost or experience however they wish to buy their ticket.'

Government's New Guidance: Make Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles More Accessible

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/civicrm/mailing/url?u=66343&qid=12101436> Ministers have urged councils to act on new government guidance to help improve the accessibility of taxis and minicabs in their area.

Taxis and private hire vehicles (PHVs) are regulated by local licensing authorities and the Government's updates to guidance, published this week on 17 November, underline that councils must take action against drivers who discriminate against people with disabilities and guide dog owners, issuing fines and suspending licences where required. PHV operators, meanwhile, are encouraged to identify a passenger's accessibility needs before they take a booking to ensure an appropriate vehicle is provided.

Roads Minister, Guy Opperman, said: "Disabled people rely on taxi and private hire vehicles services and it's unacceptable for people to be unlawfully discriminated against when travelling.

"It's vital these services cater for disabled people's needs, and local authorities should take action now to ensure drivers and operators understand their duties so everyone can travel with confidence."

A Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC) spokesperson said: "DPTAC welcomes this new best practice guidance, particularly the much greater emphasis on making taxi and PHV services more accessible to disabled people.

"We hope that this will see licensing authorities addressing the barriers that hinder disabled people using taxis and PHVs, including a rapid reduction in the 38% of authorities that do not make disability awareness training mandatory for drivers.

"We have been pleased to work with DfT in the production of this guidance and will continue to press for more steps to make taxis and PHVs more accessible."

Fazilet Hadi, DR UK's Head of Policy, went on to add 'For many Disabled people accessible taxis and mini cabs are absolutely essential to getting around. For some, public transport remains inaccessible and for others a door to door service is required.

DR UK's Relunched Blog! This Week: Listening to the Voices of Disabled Workers by Dr Calum Carson

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/civicrm/ mailing/ url?u=66346&qid=12101436> DR UK has just relaunched our blog corner onto our new website, and this week we have a great article from Dr Calum Carson about the Disabled Worker's Survey.

Recently we have seen more and more employers in the UK putting opposition to remote and hybrid working into practice and sometimes limiting or even fully reversing the remote working freedoms gained at the height of the pandemic.

This survey aims to take into account the experience of Disabled workers who have experienced remote or hybrid working to present a full body of research catered around our experiences. Read more of his words on our blog.

Spotlight on... Campaign to Reinstate the Access to Elected Office Fund!

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/civicrm/ mailing/ url?u=66347&qid=12101436> Until March 2020, the UK Government provided a fund to meet the costs of reasonable adjustments for Disabled candidates. However, despite evidence that such a Fund is necessary, the Government has so far failed to re-establish it.

We're calling on the Government to reinstate this Access to Elected Office Fund to support Disabled candidates to run in UK parliamentary and local government elections. Read our open letter here.

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/civicrm/ mailing/ url?u=66348&qid=12101436>

Support the campaign by writing to your MP using this Action Network Tool. To support the campaign, share the open letter and tool on your social media!

Get Involved - Opportunities for Disabled People

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/civicrm/ mailing/ url?u=66350&qid=12101436> Pledge Your Support to the Disabled People's Manifesto!

The Disabled People's Manifesto was created collaboratively by Deaf and Disabled People's Organisations in England. We have radical demands, aiming to transform society and dismantle the barriers we face in all areas of life. It is a manifesto with equality and justice for all at its heart. It is also available in Easy Read

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/civicrm/ mailing/ url?u=66351&qid=12101436> and BSL.

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/civicrm/ mailing/ url?u=66352&qid=12101436>

Want to show your support? Sign the petition

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/civicrm/ mailing/ url?u=66353&qid=12101436>

[=12101436](#) and write to your MP!

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/civicrm/ mailing/ url?u=66354&qid=12101436>

Visit the Disabled People's Manifesto site to find out more.

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/civicrm/ mailing/ url?u=66355&qid=12101436>

Disability Rights UK Helplines

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 – *Paper versions of the information bulletins that are received in emails from **Disability Rights (DRUK)** and the **Surrey Adult Social Care Information & Engagement Team** are usually distributed as separate documents with the newsletter. If you wish to receive the copies 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 2024 - TBA

covers the areas of Runnymede, Spelthorne, Woking & Surrey Heath.

Surrey Wide Meeting dates for 2024 - TBA

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/

A venue for our next meeting has yet to be confirmed.

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/



We're registered with **EASYFUNDRAISING**, which means you can help us for FREE.

Please remember to use easyfundraising every time you shop online. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us, including all the big names like eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, ASOS, Expedia, M&S, Just Eat, Uswitch and many more!



This means you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you're buying. If you haven't signed up to support us yet, it's easy and completely FREE. These donations really help us, so it would be great if you could take a moment to get started!

You can find our easyfundraising page here:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/spelthorneaccessnow/>



Donations for SCAN's Newsletters

This project will require new sponsorship from April 2024 as demand for paper booklets continues to evolve after the pandemic.

Sponsorship and membership subscription packages 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. Electronic versions of Richard's book can be viewed on the Headway website

NEGATIVE TO POSITIVE

*I'm filled with indignation
at the sheer degradation
of my disability,
bereft of explanation.*

*But I'll use my imagination
to beat all the frustration,
that kind of inspiration,
is really my salvation.*

*So, despite my situation,
I've got my compensations,
and with that realisation,
I'll enjoy a celebration.*

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