

Spelthorne

Committee

Access

Now



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www.spelthorneaccess.org.uk



1992 – 2024



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February 2024

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Tardis Wheelchair Ramp Is ‘For Every Disabled Kid’

<https://www.greatbritishlife.co.uk/news/23980270.doctor-actress-says-tardis-wheelchair-ramp-for-every-disabled-kid/>

Doctor Who star Ruth Madeley has said the new accessible ramp on the Tardis is “for every disabled kid”.

A wheelchair-friendly ramp attached to the Time Lord’s space craft was unveiled during the third episode of the BBC sci-fi drama’s 60th anniversary specials.

On X, formerly Twitter, Madeley, 36, who has spina bifida and uses a wheelchair, posted a photo of herself next to a ramp leading into the Tardis, which is shaped like a traditional blue police phone box and is usually raised slightly from the ground.

In response to the post many people praised the accessibility feature with one person saying that “small little things create a huge difference”. Another comment read: “Seeing a ramp as an addition to the Tardis made me smile.”

For the 60th anniversary episodes, David Tennant, who played the 10th Doctor returns as the 14th incarnation, starring alongside Catherine Tate as the Time Lord’s companion, Donna Noble.

For the third special in December 2023, titled The Giggle, Tennant’s Doctor was joined by his successor, the 15th Doctor, played by Sex Education star Ncuti Gatwa.

In the episode, the Tardis is duplicated and when Tennant’s character opens the door to the second time machine, he spots something different and unfolds a ramp.

Madeley, who stars as scientific advisor Shirley Anne Bingham on the show, says to Tennant’s Doctor: “At last, you’ve finally caught up with the 21st century.”

After the first of the anniversary specials aired in November, Madeley posted to X that she hoped to make the disabled community proud.

She wrote: “Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of your gorgeous comments and messages. “We knew how important Shirley would be to the disabled community and I really hope we did you proud.”



York City Centre Blue Badge Access Restored

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-67863655>

Restrictions were first introduced in 2019 and were made permanent in 2021 by the previous Liberal Democrat/Green-run council, to make way for measures to protect against vehicle-based terror attacks but attracted strong opposition from disability groups.

Restricted access to the city centre of York for disabled drivers was lifted on January 4th 2024. Disabled drivers will have to present a valid Blue Badge to barrier staff.

Katie Lomas, executive member for finance, performance, major projects and equalities, said: "Restoring this important access for disabled residents is the first step and we are eager to hear Blue Badge holders' experience of passing through the new barriers and accessing the city centre. "Blue Badge holder access will become a permanent feature of the city centre."

The council said Blue Badge holders would be able to access the city centre via Goodramgate. They can then drive along Goodramgate, and out via the bollards at Colliergate.

Motorists will also be able to drive both ways along Church Street and turn around at the junction with Silver Street, just beyond St Sampson's Centre.

Once installation and connection of the anti-terror measures are complete, which is expected to be later this year, access will also be available via staffed, sliding bollards at Blake Street, through St Helen's Square and out through CCTV-controlled sliding bollards at Lendal.

Blue Badge holders and other drivers can continue to drive into the city centre before 10.30 and after 17:00 when the barriers are not in operation.



First Pavement Parking Ban Outside London In Force

<https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/uk-world-news/first-pavement-parking-ban-outside-9013269?>

Edinburgh has become the first city outside London to enforce a ban on pavement parking. Local authorities in Scotland were given new powers to stop vehicles from parking on pavements by the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019, which came into effect in December.

The rules are designed to protect pavement users – especially those on wheelchairs or pushing buggies – who may be forced onto the road by vehicles taking up the pavement. Drivers who park on the pavement could be fined £100, reduced to £50 if they pay within 14 days.

After assessing 5,000 roads in the city, Edinburgh council has written to residents in a small number of streets to help them prepare for the measures. Edinburgh council's transport convener, Scott Arthur, said: "These new rules are about making our streets safer and more accessible for everyone, in particular those with visual impairments or mobility issues.

"I've heard from many people who say the change will make their

day-to-day life much easier. I have also been pleased to hear that, as a result of our publicity campaign, pavement parking is already reducing in some areas.” He added: “I am proud that Edinburgh is leading the way on enforcing the ban, and that all political parties here agree that no street should be exempt. I would expect everyone to adhere to the new prohibitions once in place, but we’ll continue to monitor streets across the city to make sure the impacts on the wider network are minimal.”



Floating' Bus Stop Data Shows 60 Per Cent Of Cyclists Refuse To Give Way <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12935669/Sadiq-Khan-Floating-bus-stops-cyclists-feel-dangerous.html>

Plans for 'Floating' bus stops have taken a blow after leaked data revealed that 60 per cent of cyclists refuse to give way at zebra crossings.

Documents show that more than half of cyclists do not stop at London's 121 floating bus stops' zebra crossings, prompting the London mayor's cycling commissioner to admit they 'feel dangerous'. The research also revealed that two pedestrians were seriously at such sites while another two people suffered minor injuries.

'Floating bus stops' - also called 'shared use bus boarders' (SUBBs) - have a cycle lane between the bus shelter and the road - forcing passengers to venture through incoming bike traffic to board their bus.

It comes after documents released under the Freedom of Information Act revealed a panel of 10 disability experts were unimpressed by the bus stop designs during a meeting of TfL's Independent Disability Advisory Group (IDAG) in October 2020.

While the panel agreed the designs were an 'improvement' on previous designs, shared use bus stops were not inclusive to people with disabilities, with one mobility scooter user stating he would be 'anxious' to board or exit a bus from a cycle lane.

Former Labour Hackney councillor Vincent Stops, who worked for London TravelWatch, a London transport watchdog, and revealed the IDAG document, said such bus stops had proved problematic for blind passengers. He said: 'But however many times TfL was told blind people couldn't use them, no one would listen.'

IDAG chairman Joanna Wootten said her group would keep feeding back to TfL to ensure they can address the 'barriers' posed by certain bus stop designs. She added: 'IDAG will continue to advise and support TfL in mitigating any barriers faced due to certain bus stop designs.'

Bus stop boarders have become more prevalent in the capital since the pandemic, during which London Mayor Sadiq Khan rolled out 62 miles of cycle lanes in just 12 months.

According to the Highway Code: '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'.

Helen Cansick, TfL's Head of Healthy Streets Investment, said: 'Keeping everyone travelling in the capital safe is our top priority and the needs of everyone, including disabled people, are always taken into consideration when designing cycle lanes. 'Protected cycle infrastructure is key to reducing the risk of injury for people cycling and enabling more cycling in London. 'TfL and the London boroughs, like in many cities across the country, have integrated bus stop bypasses into the Cycleway programme, in line with central government guidance, which has helped to increase the number of people cycling in the capital.

'We have been engaging with stakeholder groups, including those representing older and disabled people, on a robust review of their safety taking into account concerns raised. This has included looking closely at data, the design of bus stop bypasses as well as observing the operation of existing bypasses. We will be publishing details of our assessment early this year.'



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

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

All walks start from Victoria Gate and last around 60 minutes. The walks are led by their volunteer walk leaders. Support workers, friends or family are very welcome and will also receive free entry to the Gardens. 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 11 February 2024

Sunday 25 February 2024

Sunday 10 March 2024

Forthcoming Dementia Friendly Tour Dates

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

Wednesday 14 February 2024 11am to 12pm

Wednesday 13 March 2024 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 11 February 2024 2-3pm

Sunday 25 February 2024 2-3pm

Sunday 10 March 2024 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.

Forthcoming Community Wellbeing Dates

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

The community wellbeing walks are for members of the Community Access Scheme 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.

Please email discovery@kew.org or call 07341 114533 to book.

Wednesday 7 February 2024 11am to 12pm

Wednesday 6 March 2024 11am to 12pm



Special Assistance When Flying: What Are The Rules

<https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/special-assistance-flying-airport-airline-disabled-b2419598.html>

Simon Calder - Travel Correspondent

In 2023 a row broke out between Ryanair and Bordeaux airport in southwest France after a passenger in a wheelchair was left behind at the gate when they should have been on a flight to Edinburgh. Initially Ryanair blamed the airport for the mix-up. But the airport has now hit back saying that it is merely an infrastructure provider and that the airline was responsible

Caught in the middle: the passenger. What does the law say about access to aviation and the care disabled travellers are entitled to expect – and how do you go about getting it? These are the key questions and answers.

Do disabled passengers have the right to fly – and to be looked after?

Yes, absolutely. Aviation confers freedom on travellers to explore the world, encounter other cultures and return with a wealth of life-enhancing experiences. Passengers with reduced mobility – or “PRMs”, in the jargon beloved by the aviation industry – are legally entitled to exercise the freedom to travel with dignity.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) says: “We strongly believe that everyone should have access to air travel.”

The relevant legislation is known as Regulation 1107/2006 – a European Union law from 2006 that was transposed into UK legislation through the Civil Aviation (Access to Air Travel for Disabled Persons and Persons with Reduced Mobility) Regulations 2007.

The EU legislation says: “Disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility, whether caused by disability, age or any other factor, should have opportunities for air travel comparable to those of other citizens.”

Such travellers, says the European law, “have the same right as all other citizens to free movement, freedom of choice and non-discrimination”.

The EU says: “This applies to air travel as to other areas of life. Assistance to meet their particular needs should be provided at the airport as well as on board aircraft, by employing the necessary staff and equipment. In the interests of social inclusion, the persons concerned should receive this assistance without additional charge.”

Yet some disabled travellers feel they get a raw deal. Campaigners say that the growing number of people who need special assistance should be better recognised by the aviation community, and that improved accessibility is essential.



My Dream Job Offer Was Taken Away After I Told Them About My Disability <https://metro.co.uk/2024/01/03/dream-job-offer-taken-away-told-disability-20028146/>

As I left the job interview for the first stepping stone into my legal career, the employer shook my hand, winked, and said, ‘I expect we shall see each other again very soon.’ I was elated – everything I had worked so hard for, committing myself to my school work, going on to study law at university, was finally coming to fruition.

Then came the email. ‘Congratulations! Please find attached our diversity and inclusion forms for employees.’ I ticked that I identify as disabled and needed reasonable adjustments, then sent it back, not thinking too much about it.

Days later, I received a phone call from the interviewer, saying that they wanted to know more about my disability. Happy to oblige, I explained and talked through the adjustments I needed – access to an accessible bathroom, permission to carry sharps and an agreement around attending medical appointments.

After a long pause, the interviewer’s tone shifted. The call was

hurried to a monotoned finish. That same day, I received an email that they no longer thought I was suited to the role and had chosen another applicant. They didn't believe, the email stated, I was going to fit in with the team dynamic because I was 'different', and they weren't able to offer adjustments.

Why did they send over the forms if they weren't willing to actually go through with the adjustments? Was it a tick-box exercise? Or that they could only cope with less severe health complications? All these questions swam through my head, but in the end, it didn't really matter. Because whatever their reasons, it didn't change the way I felt. I was devastated and defeated.

I was born with a genetic abnormality called Loeys-Dietz Syndrome, a genetic condition that weakens the body's connective tissue that has numerous life-threatening complications. This means that every single one of my organs, muscles, tendons, bones, and tissue is weak, undeveloped, or failing.

There is no cure, and my body has been consequentially ravaged by multiple disabilities such as gastroparesis, multiple organ failure, POTS, heart failures and immobility, with the list of what works countable on one hand.

The experience that I had with this employer is not unique. I've faced similar situations more than once, and, after speaking with disabled friends, I know I am not alone. As soon as you mention words like 'disabled' or 'neurodiverse', we become stereotyped. They ignore the facts – and the person – before them.

Today, I am a multi-award-winning campaigner, lobbyist, investor, and policy designer. I work closely with organisations, charities, and governments, advocating for improved equity of representation, inclusivity, accessibility, and opportunities for disabled people.

I am also the co-founder of the first policy unit in the UK that focuses on putting disability at the heart of Westminster called The Disability Policy Centre and Access2Funding, which transforms and the opportunities and outcomes for disabled entrepreneurs.

The barriers for disabled people in employment are rife. We are misunderstood, seen as risky rather than talented, and we have our capabilities judged on our health, not skills. On top of that, accessibility barriers – virtually and physically – run rampant alongside stereotypes about who we are.

Over 25% of small businesses in the UK are owned by someone with a disability or health condition and – as of 2020 – the spending power of disabled people (known as the 'purple pound') and their household is estimated to be worth £274billion per year. But disabled people are also almost twice as likely to be unemployed as non-disabled people, which makes an employment

gap of 29%.

The responsibility to eradicate ableism and improve outcomes is on all of us – as both employees or employers. We must transform the opportunities and outcomes for disabled people, creating an equal playing field. The removal of barriers that transform the opportunities and outcomes for disabled people is achieved through active intervention, promotion and instilment. Being proactive, not reactive.

Accessibility is a right, not a privilege. We must create more opportunities for participation, eradicate ableism and foster environments where disabled people feel recognised and valued.

To the employer who turned me away because of my disability, I say this: Disability does not equal less ability. Nobody should experience these kinds of situations of discrimination based on any element of their identity. Your misconceptions, stereotyping and stigma of disabled people has to end.



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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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



Diaries of Someone With Motor Neurone Disease

www.suzyjagger.com

Suzy was diagnosed with the Bulbar Onset version of Motor Neurone Disease in October 2016 and the first of her 'diaries' begins in August 2017 as this was the first point she felt able to step back and put some thoughts on paper. She was able to 'write' three all together all filled with the details of a journey she never thought she would have to embark on.

These words are for people who want to understand from the inside what it's like to be hit with this disease. There is online access to all of the diaries because many people had expressed how they helped them.

Remember Me As I Was

Someone you could lean upon
Someone who was strong and quick
Someone with a ready wit
Who loved you whatever.
Who could fix it.

Remember me as I was
My smile, my laugh, the love in my face,
Never forget I was there for you
That I wish I could always care for you.
Think of me as I was,
Not what I will become.

Remember how much I love you
Even when I won't be able to hug you
Cuddle me more to make up for it,
Don't let me become a sad presence
That sits in the corner in silence.
Don't hide me away,
Let's dance now while we can!
What fun we shall have!
God I'm so.... LUCKY!



Current Scams

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

Scams Watch – Affairs of the Purse

Soon it will be Valentines Day and perhaps a whiff of romance in the air.

It is internet dating sites that have contributed to the fast growth in romance scams in the last year or so.

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (yes there is one) had over 8,000 frauds reported to it with the average loss to a victim being over £11,000

There's every chance that the total scammed loss far exceeds the £92 million or so however, for many victims are not reporting their experience.

Ashamed alas for being a victim. If we know already about a victim we should encourage them to report to Action Fraud, for the general good. And if they want help then approach the Citizens Advice Consumer Service 0808 223 1133.

There's no nice scam and romance ones are amongst the nastiest for they hit very hard the pocket and the mental well-being of the deceived.

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



Disability Rights UK (DRUK) – News Roundup – January 2024

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

Disability Rights News page for more policy updates and stories.

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

Government U-Turn on Disability Minister

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/news/government-u-turn-disability-minister> The Government has made a U-turn to scrap the Disability Minister. They have appointed Mims Davies MP as Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work.

Disability Rights UK wrote to the Prime Minister urging the Government to reverse its initial decision to scrap the role and highlighted the Government's unacceptable history of de-prioritising disability rights.

The letter, from Kamran Mallick CEO of DR UK, included:
"Removing the dedicated position of a Minister for Disabled people tells us that our needs aren't a priority for UK Government. De-prioritising our needs and lives is not your policy choice to make.

Domestic and international legislation make clear the Government's legal responsibilities to uphold and protect Disabled people's lives – yet 14 years after signing the UNCRPD, UK Government continue to violate its obligations"

SEND Tribunal Appeals At A Record High

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/news/send-tribunal-appeals-record-high>

The number of parents having to appeal Local Authority SEND decisions has reached a record high - with 13,658 in the last academic year (2022/23), Special Needs Jungle reports. This is an increase of 24% from the previous year, and four times the number of appeals since 2014/15 when the Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) was first introduced.

The top three reasons for appeals are the contents of an EHCP (61%), refusal to assess (28%), and refusal to issue an EHCP (9%). Although there are also now twice as many statutory SEN plans than there were nearly 10 years ago, the increase in appeals and tribunals is still disproportionate to the increase in children identified as having SEND - as the number of appeals has quadrupled over the same period.

Most concerning and revealing, however, is the increase in successful appeals. In other words, a 9-year trajectory of increasingly unlawful Local Authority decision-making and gatekeeping of a child's right to access an inclusive and safe education.

In 2022/23, tribunals found in parent and carers favour 98.3% of the time. That means Local Authorities' initial decisions were found to be lawful less than 2% of the time.

Most staggering is the waste of resources. As many Local Authorities face bankruptcy during the cost of living crisis, parents of Disabled children are often blamed for squeezing the Local Government purse. But, as the cost of living has increased, as has spending at tribunal rather than making lawful decisions from the start.

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 these copies please email me on info@spelthorneaccess.org.uk or use the 'Contact SCAN' form on www.spelthorneaccess.org.uk/



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 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/

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/



SCAN is 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

THE EDGES OF REALITY

The moon illuminated the misty night,
across the valley floated a sound like a scream.
Was it some nocturnal being, in pain or fright?

What was it that had frozen your senses
and left you feeling like you'd had a bad dream?

Nightmares invading your helpless imagination,
like a leaf on the rapids of a swollen stream?

No, it's just time for another painkilling injection,
by an overstretched night nurse doing her routine.



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