



DISABILITY FORUM NEWSLINK

HERE TO MAKE PETERBOROUGH A MORE ACCESSIBLE PLACE
FOR EVERYONE.

June 2011.

Issue 2.

National Disability Roadshow Hits Town.

Held over three days - 30th June, 1st and 2nd July at the East of England Showground, local companies will also join around 150 exhibitors showcasing the latest mobility and independent living products. You can test drive adapted vehicles as driver or passenger and discuss vehicle conversions with experts. New to the show this year is a dedicated wheelchair accessible vehicle (WAV) test drive hall. You'll be able to compare hundreds of manual, all-terrain and powered wheelchairs plus fitness and exercise equipment. The popular Cyclefest is expanding with a wide range of options from tiny trikes to companion and wheelchair cycling for all ages to try. There will be scooters to hire so you can go round the exhibitions in comfort.

Celebrating National Young Disabled Person's Day on 2nd July there are special events for younger and newly disabled people. Those contemplating their first vehicle can be assessed for driving, explore models and adaptations and test drive selected vehicles. The charity Go Kids Go! is hosting daily wheelchair skills sessions tailored to the needs of disabled children. On Saturday David Proud will present prizes to winners of the national school's Ready Willing & Mobile competition.

In the new Design Zone designers, innovators and Roadshow visitors can exchange ideas about looks and functionality of current and future concepts for independent living products and leave comments on the new 'cool wall'. The Sports Arena is expanding with many more accessible games to try including football with the England Wheelchair Football Team, basketball, tag rugby, dancing and sledge hockey; plus the accessible climbing wall, archery, laser clays, remote-control cars, a giant Scalextric, Nintendo Wii, and simulated flying and golf. See the Red Wheelies Scooter Formation team on the Saturday.

A new national photographic competition in partnership with the Disabled Photographers' Society will be announced. Pick up hints and tips on achieving great pictures and get behind the camera in a mini studio.



Inside this issue:

Mobility roadshow.	1
Bikers at the Kingfisher centre.	2
Ferry meadows	2
Our point of view	3
Julie's holiday.	3
Butlin's Ho...	4
What did you lose in the war Dad ?	4
DIALSport	5

DID YOU KNOW THAT....

- Over a fifth of disabled people say that they do not have choice and control over their daily lives
- Around a third of disabled people experience difficulties related to their impairment in accessing public, commercial and leisure goods and services.
- One in 5 disabled people in the UK are unemployed but want to work, compared to 1 in 15 of non disabled people.

**SPREAD YOUR WINGS, DIALSPORT
ANNUAL SKYDIVE, SATURDAY 16TH JULY.
CONTACT BRYAN FOR MORE DETAILS.**

Bikers Easter Egg Run At The Kingfisher Centre.



The blue buses don't get a look in when bikers arrived at the Kingfisher Centre !



The service users at The Kingfisher Centre got an Easter surprise on April 21st when bikers from the Dresser-Rand Community Support Team roared up with an Easter egg for everyone. In an annual event, the bikers handed out eggs & let people sit on their bikes & run the engines.

Some of the centre users who prefer to stay inside came out to enjoy the bikes & all the fun. Elaine Childs, Lead Day Centre Officer from the Kingfisher Day Care Centre said that it was a fantastic experience that got everyone talking excitedly for hours. A great time was had by all and a special well done to Steve Canham and the Dresser-Rand Community Support Team.

Getting Out And About At Ferry Meadows

The Nene Park Trust is working on plans to improve access to Ferry Meadows, Orton Mere and Thorpe Meadows for visitors with disabilities. The Trust aims to make Nene Park a flagship for accessibility and a place that is welcoming and engaging for all visitors. They're aiming to become one of the top countryside sites, with excellent facilities and accessibility.

The Trust is involving local disabled people in the project right from the start. Bryan Tyler, Disability Forum Manager for DIAL worked with Susan Evans, the Nene Park Trust's Visitor Services Manager to appoint specialists to carry out an Access Audit for the Park and to make recommendations for improvement. Jan Loveless and Sarah Douglas of Access Matters UK have been appointed and have started work already. They're doing a survey of visitors and residents and are inviting people with disabilities to join a focus group. Jan and Sarah said: "We're delighted to have been appointed and would love to find out your opinions on accessibility at the Park. We welcome all suggestions for ways of improving access – however whacky! Please contact us and tell us what you think."

Call Access Matters UK on 01227 764411 and leave a message if we are not there and we will phone you back.

Or email Jan on jan@access-mattersuk.co.uk.

Our Point Of View.....

How many of you went along to the march in London on May 11th that was held about the proposed changes to the benefit system ? 8,000 people took part & we know a few from Peterborough that did but why has there always been an immense air of apathy in the city from disabled people ? They moan about things but never lift a finger to do anything about fixing the problem. This has been the situation for years & it was highlighted recently with the closure of The Disability Voices group last month.

Set up by Bryan Rowley from The British Polio Fellowship over 20 years ago, the group went through a few trials, tribulations & name changes but always managed to get the voices & views of Peterborough's disabled population heard from a monthly meeting. However it had got to the stage where the group was unable to continue due to apathy and members expecting things to be done but not contributing a thing themselves.

As there's an estimated 35,000 people with a long term condition in the city, surely more than a handful of participants should have been involved in the good work of the Disability Voices group and used it to make Peterborough a better place for all. Ask any medical professional how much truth there is in the adage "Use it or lose it!" Surely the same applies to everyday day life. If disabled people can't be bothered to make the effort, why should anyone else?

Julie's Escape In The Sun.

By Julie Fernandez.

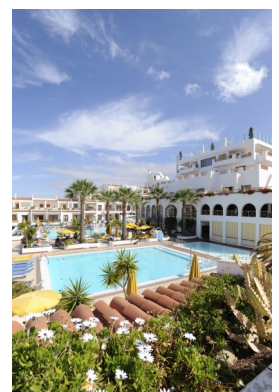
The setting for our little get away is the much loved Canary Island of Tenerife. Home to an abundance of English tourists each year, it's attraction being a consistently year long hot climate. With a flight time of around 4 hours and no time difference it is little wonder why the Island of Tenerife is a potentially attractive get away. A good supply of low cost airlines keep people connected to the UK.

The Mar Y Sol is located in Los Cristianos and to say that it is completely accessible to disabled people may actually be an understatement. With views over the mountain range of Tenerife to one side of the building, and views to the sea flanking the other side, the hotel sits quietly on the hillside of Los Cristianos. We stayed for a week and after a hectic work schedule were in much need of a relax and wind down from the pace of the UK. The hotel is immediately inviting and the sun of Tenerife provides a warmth which is all too rare in the UK.

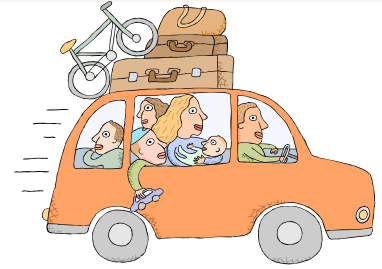
Every room at the Mar Y Sol is completely wheelchair accessible and can fit an electric chair or scooter inside comfortably. With more lifts than a high street department store the Hotel has no issues regarding access. The pool area has a hoist and you get a choice between a heated (40 Degree) pool and a non-heated pool. There are a large number of activities on offer all of which are disabled friendly from pool gymnastics and dance to golf at a nearby golf course. With the aid of a Paragolfer we were able to experience the relaxation of having an afternoons golf time. Most impressive for young people is the diving instructors that work at the Mar Y Sol. All skilled and experienced in taking all different types of people with various disabilities including severe spinal cord injuries for a dive. With a training session organized in the pool the team assess the needs of each diver before taking them out to sea to dive. Why dive in Tenerife? Well the chance to see sea turtles the size of a car bonnet and manta rays, need we say more. David experienced a full dive and despite having Asthma and Spina Bifida managed to dive for 50 minutes in the sea. The Mar Y Sol's commitment to disabled clients is refreshing and extends to maintenance of mobility aids as well as maintenance of the person. A store sits next door to the Mar Y Sol providing all types of mobility aids and repair facilities. The same company operates the accessible transport that is used for airport transfers and for exploring the island. For families of disabled people it offers a completely safe environment for relaxation for the whole family. The staff are highly qualified, friendly, English speaking, and in no way patronizing.

Mar Y Sol's pricing is similar to that of normal hotels in Tenerife but be aware that some activities such as diving and spa treatments are extra so be sure not to have to miss out by budgeting too little spending money. If in doubt enquire as to the costs before arrival to be able to participate in everything you wish too. The Mar Y Sol is a little haven in Europe, which provides escapism on more than one level. The hotel is proud of a high rate of people returning after an initial stay. As a place to go with friends or family it certainly is worth checking out.

Visit the website at: www.marysol.org



Butlin's Ho!



Did you know that the children's social care department at The Manor, Children's Home in Peterborough, have an 8 berth caravan for hire? It's available to any children up to the age of 18 in Peterborough who have a disability and their families. It is also available to schools and other organizations providing a service to children who have disabilities.

The caravan has a ramp and a veranda and it's on the Butlin's site at Skegness. This means that anyone staying in the caravan can make use of all the Butlin's facilities including an indoor water park, fair, and entertainment. It's the ideal place for a summer holiday.

This is non-profit making so is charged at a reduced rate which around a quarter of the cost of a similar holiday. These rates and further details can be obtained from Helen Forster, Roy Spijker or Tina Jones at The Manor. Tel: 01733 864550. email - Helen.forster@peterborough.gov.uk

What Did You Lose In The War Dad ?

By Andrew Bryant

January 20th 1942 is a date few of us remember. But it is one of those dates in history that defines where we are now nearly 70 years later.

In Wannsee, a small, affluent suburb of Eastern Berlin, sat a committee of 15 senior Nazi Party Officials and other leading German bureaucrats including industrialists, bankers and politicians led by Reinhard Heydrich, Chief of the Reich Main Security Office (RSHA). The Butcher of Bohemia. The role of this omnipotent group of men was to make a decision on what was euphemistically known as the Final Solution to the Jewish Question. The Holocaust. The decisions taken in Wannsee on that January 20th, would lead to the deaths of at least six million Jews and five million other untermensch, sub-humans in the eyes of the attendees of the "Final Solution" conference, in the death camps of eastern Europe

Among those five million undesirables was a considerable number of disabled people, people deemed not worthy of life by the Nazi Party hierarchy. Many of us think of the Nazi camps as either P.O.W, or Concentration camps, but there were many other kinds. Work camps where the fit and healthy worked until they died of starvation or brutality. Then there were the extermination camps, camps such as Auschwitz-Birkenau. At Auschwitz and Mauthausen and other camps throughout Eastern Europe, people like Dr Joseph Mengele and Dr Aribert Heim would carry out terrible medical experiments on disabled prisoners. Many of their sadistic acts of barbarism and inhumanity would be carried out until the prisoner died, or, if they didn't die under experiment, they were taken to the gas chambers and put to death.

Ironically, a thousand miles away, disabled people were helping to bring about the demise of the Third Reich.

Part 2 next month.

DIALSport.



Want to get fit? Want to get out of the house? Want to make new friends?

DIALSport in partnership with Vivacity, YMCA, Ferry Meadows and Peterborough Prison offer a range of sports and fitness sessions around the city for people with disabilities

- ◆ Mondays from 10-12 pm **YMCA Gym at the Cresset £2**
- ◆ Monday from 10.45-11.45 **Peterborough Athletics Track (Indoors) £2.50**
- ◆ Tuesday from 11-1pm **Bushfield Accessible Gym £2**
- ◆ Wednesdays from 2-4pm **YMCA Gym at the Cresset £2**
- ◆ Wednesdays from 5-7pm **Ferry Meadows accessible cycling club £2**
- ◆ Thursdays from 1-3pm **YMCA Gym at the Cresset £2**
- ◆ Fridays from 10-12pm (from Friday May 6th) **YMCA Gym at the Cresset £2**

SPREAD THE WORD ! Please send NewsLink to anyone who could benefit from reading it !

Peterborough Disability Forum Meeting Dates.

The next Disability Forum meeting is on **28th July from 1-3 pm** in the Council

Chambers, Peterborough Town Hall.

FORUM SUB-GROUPS.

The next Transport meeting is on **Thursday 9th June from 2pm** at The Kingfisher Centre, Cresset, Bretton.

The next NHS meeting is on **Thursday 16th June 2pm** at The Kingfisher Centre, Cresset, Bretton.

The next Access meeting is on **Thursday 23rd June 2pm** at The Kingfisher Centre, Cresset, Bretton.

CONTACT US !

DIALSport@gmail.com or ring the DIAL office on - 01733 265551

Newsletter ideas, articles & feedback to Nicky Hampshaw at Nickyaerobones@yahoo.co.uk

Edited by Nicky Hampshaw & Bryan Tyler. Many thanks to all our other contributors