

Winter

DAGMAG

2007

Newsletter of North Dorset Disability Action Group

Re-Launch of DAGMAG

After an absence of over a year it has become clear that our members and regular readers were missing their newsletter from DAG, hence this, the first issue of the new look seasonal Dagmag, we are asking you not to compare this new look Dagmag to the wonderful multi-page newsletter you were previously used to.

We intend to keep you informed of what's happening and when things are happening, we hope to cover some topical issues and have a little fun too, Local information on access issues on Shopping, Holidays, Eating and Entertainment, we do so hope that you will help us by also contributing.

So who's editing the new look Dagmag well surprise surprise! **Grumpy's Back** alias Alan Dunn, former Chairman and coordinator of the North Dorset DAG is going to try his hand, so the writing may have a slight Yorkshire accent and the spelling and grammar will probably be a bit dodgy too. Alan and his wife Anne have been living in sheltered accommodation near Southampton they have been working as voluntary caseworkers for the Royal British Legion County Field Office in Hampshire, but they have now moved into a bungalow in the Ringwood area, so being closer to DAG's area of operations volunteering for the editors role was not a step to far either for Alan or Anne.

7.30pm

CHRISTMAS BINGO

7.30pm

• **BOURTON PRIMARY SCHOOL on SATURDAY 8th DEC**

Annual General Meeting 2007

This years AGM was held at the Pavillions in Shaftesbury on 18th October The meeting was very well attended, officials from the District Council and Signpost Housing attended.

Lorna Sewik the chairperson reported that the past year had been difficult and that rumours that DAG was folding up had not helped, but the group had now become stable and was making giant steps forward.

The EPV service is still providing a important and in many cases a life changing service.

Kay Gardiner from Instep gave a presentation about the role of Instep.

Liz Baker from Signpost Housing gave a short talk about the need for disabled residents and their carers to get involved in helping to shape the housing associations diversity policy, anyone who would like to contribute should contact Liz direct.

Prime Accounting audited the annual accounts which were presented to the meeting by David Sewik.

There was two changes to the constitution one related to the implementing a life membership, the other related to a paid membership scheme, which was agreed in principle.

The following members were voted into office:

Lorna Siwek Danny Lawes
Pat Withers David Siwek
Sue Lawes Barbara Young
Jerry Dalton Violet Wheeler
Sarah Stewart.

The Dag raffle was drawn at the end of the meeting and refreshments were provided by Jerry Dalton.....

The Disability Rights Commission (DRC) closed on 28 September 2007, but the website is still available and has plenty of information, including a brief overview with the key points of the Act. On 1 October 2007 the three equality commissions merged into the new Equality and Human Rights Commission:

- Commission for Racial Equality (CRE)
- Disability Rights Commission (DRC)
- Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)

The websites of these commissions have also been incorporated into the new Equality and Human Rights Commission website: www.equalityhumanrights.com.

Annual Christmas Lunch

Yes it that time of year again, and yet again Sue and Danny have arranged for a lovely Christmas Lunch at The Sherbourne Hotel on Wednesday 19th December The cost this year is £13 per person, but well worth money, If you want to attend you will need to book it with Sue or Danny no later than 1st December on 01747840701 email on:

mayorlawes@susanlawes.wanabee.co.uk

Happy Christmas” is what I chose to say
But other greetings are used for the day
By one and all during the festive season
And foreign languages are the reason
There's "Frolyke Kerstfeest" or "Joyoo Noel"
"Felleeth Navidad" even "Glaydlig Yool"
"Kalla Kristoogenna", "Boo-on Natarlee"
"Boas Festas" or "Sheng Dan Kwhy Lee"
You could say "Frerlicker Vine-akten"
Or maybe "Roshdesrom Kristovim" then
So you can say it in very many ways
But please never say “Happy Holidays

Instep is the national training and information service for social housing tenants. It is managed by Tribal, a national company providing consultancy, education, training and associated services to the public sector. Instep provide an information service which is a free enquiry service for social housing tenants on tenant related, tenant participation, housing and community issues. The service provides accurate and up to date information on policy issues and initiatives which affect tenants, their homes and communities. The service offers. Freephone telephone 0500 844 111

SPECIAL FEATURE

The Disabled Traveller. Yes its that time of year again, we are in the middle of winter and all I can think about is a holidays in the sun, last year I took my mobility scooter to Spain, the process through airports and on flights went well, but I did feel the odd one out and at times isolated from the rest of my family. The following information was gained from Bournemouth Airport and is of a general nature but you need to be advised that if you are a disabled traveller you must check your travel details and details with the airline and airport.

Airport assistance? Passengers with special needs, use a wheelchair or who have reduced mobility and require airport assistance, are strongly advised to contact the airport and the airlines before making a reservation. If you do not request assistance in advance the airline or airport cannot guarantee that assistance service will be available. The airlines offer assistance to wheelchair passengers and transport your wheelchair free of charge (in addition to your normal baggage allowance), but please be aware that if assistance is required, the airline will require either a disabled badge number or a doctor's letter.

Electronically powered wheelchairs and scooters will be accepted for travel, providing that the general conditions for their carriage, as outlined in the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations, are met. These

relate to the batteries used to power wheelchairs. Since the batteries will remain attached to the wheelchair, it is important that the wheelchair can be easily stored in an upright position when collapsed for carriage. Batteries must be disconnected and the battery terminals insulated to prevent accidental shorting. We recommend that passengers have insurance cover for the full replacement value of their wheelchair. **Deaf, Dumb, and Blind passengers.** Passengers who are deaf, dumb or blind will be accepted for carriage providing The airline has prior notification of the condition, and providing appropriate escorts accompany the passenger. As appropriate a cabin crew member will brief the passenger concerned. Braille emergency cards are usually available on board.

Guide Dogs. Guide dogs are only permitted on certain flights. Speak to your airline before booking a flight.

Diabetics. You can carry insulin and a pen injection device in your hand baggage during the flight. However please be aware that you must advise check-in staff that you intend to carry insulin and a pen injection device on board, and you will also need a doctor's letter or approved Diabetic card to prove that it is for medical purposes only.

Even if you will not require insulin during the flight, we do recommend that you carry these items with you in your hand baggage for safety reasons, and also in case of any delays whilst on-board the aircraft. Please remember to inform check-in staff and to carry your doctor's letter or Diabetic card with you during the flight.

If you have any queries please contact your airline.

Medication. If you carry medication or medical equipment, please provide a doctor's letter or prescription which lists all the items you require. If your medical supplies could be classed as excess baggage because of the amount or size, this will be free of charge but please contact the airline in advance to pre-book carriage of these items:

oxygen-on-board the aircraft. No, unfortunately airlines do not generally allow the use of oxygen on the aircraft but always check first.

DISABILITY HATE CRIME

The following is an extract from a recent “Disability Now” feature; *Rikki Judkins was waylaid in an underpass, and subjected to a sustained assault that ended with a large stone being dropped on his head, causing fatal injuries, his money was stolen. His attackers were jailed in February.*

Raymond Atherton was beaten, had bleach poured over him, and teenagers, whom he considered his friends, used his flat to smoke cannabis and have sex. He was beaten and thrown in the River Mersey. His attackers were jailed for manslaughter in April.

Barrie – John Horrell was kidnapped by “friends” who, in the words of the judge “treated him like a dogsbody” He was then hit over the head with a brick and strangled him. His murderers were jailed in May.

Kevin Davies was kept like a dog in a locked shed for four months, fed scraps and brutally tortured. His benefits were stolen, His captors were jailed in July.

Steven Hoskin was made to wear a dog collar and lead and dragged around his house. His benefits were stolen. He was forced off a viaduct. His tormentors were jailed in August.

These are just five vicious crimes that Disability Now have investigated. The CPS has confirmed that none of these cases were treated as Disability Hate Crimes. Disability Hate Crime is not a separate criminal offence, but Section 146 of the Criminal Justice Act created a sentencing provision. If there is evidence of hostilities to somebody because of their impairment, that must now be seen as an aggravating feature. The Judge can then increase the sentence or, in the case of murder, the life tariff.

Just 20 Cases of disability hate crimes have been recorded so far this year, with 18 of them successful. But disability organisations say the problem is so widespread there must be many more cases that never come to court.

The editor says, these crimes should be treated with the same gravity as other hate crimes. why aren't they???? Write to the editor or email dagmag@nddag.co.uk with your views.

DID YOU KNOW

That publicly funded residents in private care homes, unlike those in local authority homes, are not protected by the Human Rights Act....

Disability is not caused by an individual disabled person's impairment but by the way SOCIETY fails to meet their needs"

Believe it or not ! Gardening Tips

The colour of hydrangeas does depend on the soil they are grown in. Turn pink hydrangeas blue by burying a handful of rusty nails in the soil.

Tea roses seem to smell stronger if you water them with diluted tea.

If beetroot's are damaged when you dig them, dip them in flour to stop them bleeding.

Cardboard egg cartons make excellent seed pots. Put seed or seedling into each egg compartment in the carton. When its time to plant seedlings out, slice the egg carton into separate containers and plant each section into the ground without disturbing any roots. (do you have any gardening tips email: dagmag@nddag.co.uk)

Myth Busting!

Many people still consider it bad luck to see only one magpie, as reflected in the traditional rhythm 'One for Sorrow Two for Joy' This is rooted in weather forecasting. If cold or stormy weather is approaching, only one magpie will leave the nest in search of food, while the other will stay with the chicks or eggs. In mild weather the pair go out together. (fancy ago at myth busting? Email dagmag@nddag.co.uk)

Its quite a romantic idea growing old together, sitting on the park bench feeding the ducks, while leafing gently through the pages of Dagmag

FOR SALE.

Do you have a disability related item to sell and would like to advertise in the next issue? There is no charge to advertize but if you could donate 10% of the selling price to Dag we would be grateful, limited space so first come first served basis only. Email: dagmag@nddag.co.uk

Famous Disabled People

who have achieved some amazing things !

[Ade Adepitan](#) – CBBC presenter & wheelchair basket ball champ!

[Alison Lapper](#) – British artist and author. Born without arms and shortened legs, the result of a medical condition called phocomelia. In September 2005 a statue of Alison, by the artist Marc Quinn was unveiled in Trafalgar Square in London!

[Christopher Reeve](#) - actor and star of the 'Superman' films. Became paralyzed in a horse riding accident in 1995 and campaigned for spinal injuries research and development.

[Paul Henshall](#) - actor who has cerebral palsy. Is probably best know for starring in dramas 'A thing called love' and more recently 'Holby City'.

[Stephen Hawking](#) Physicist/mathematician who has Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and is in a wheelchair. He needs a computer to speak.

[Tanni Grey Thompson](#) - the disabled athlete that most people instantly recognise. She has competed in Paralympic Games since 1988, representing Britain at distances ranging from 100m to 800m. She has won fourteen paralympic medals including nine golds, and has broken over twenty world records. As a wheelchair athlete she was also the winner of five London marathons - in 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2001.

How many other famous disabled people can you think of: send us your list, we will publish the name of the person who has the largest list.

Men going bald is natures way of stopping them having lousy hair styles

European Court of Justice ruling

On 18 October 2007 the European Court of Justice gave a judgement which deals with whether Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Carer's Allowance should be paid to people who move from within the UK to live in another country within the EEA (European Economic Area).

It is not clear what this will mean for recipients of the affected benefits until the judgement has been fully understood. More details will be provided as they become available..

How Times Have Changed

My generation thought fast food was something you ate during Lent. A 'Big Mac' was a oversized raincoat. Crumpet was something you ate for tea, and sheltered accommodation was a place where you waited for a bus. Time sharing meant 'togetherness' and you kept coke in the coal-house. A juvenile delinquent was a kid that owed tuppence on a overdue library book...

NEWS FROM MOTABILITY

From 31 October 2007, motability are increasing the mileage allowance for all Contract Hire customers – from 45,000 to 60,000 miles over three-years. Customers with Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles will also benefit from this change, with their allowance increasing to a total of 100,000 miles over their five-year agreement.

COMPENSATION FOR WHEELCHAIR-USER

Jazz Shaban, a wheelchair user who was denied access to a Wharfe's restaurant and tearoom, in Shaftesbury in May 2006, was awarded compensation of £4,5000 by a county court judge. The court heard that Jazz and some friends visited the tearoom. District Judge Brian Smith said the tea-shop owner, who is appealing against the decision, had presented a "Wholly unmeritorious defence. Which exhibited a lack of sensitivity"**The case was supported by the Disability Rights Commission.**

MEET THE TEAM

I became your secretary on retirement. I joined Dag at the October AGM in 2006. This was an enormous change as I have never done anything like this before. My life has three distinct strands, my work, my home and my passion for Thomas Hardy. I dragged my family to Bourton 25 years ago to live in Hardy's Wessex. it was the best move we made and my rather large extended family has flourished, our house is filled with animals, friends and family. I am mad about horses and have three at home who keep me busy and sane! I also love German Shepherds and have two, along with my Siamese and my black and white moggy. When the children were we did the Good Life thing and grew veg, goats, chickens and a couple of pigs! It is quieter now but I am older! That s me at home.



The second strand was my life as a physiotherapist, which I loved, people are never dull and I never knew what to expect! Mostly people were unfailingly kind, funny and generous and now I wish I'd kept a Diary as memories do fade I worked in Wincanton and Sherbourne and would do it all again in another life.

The third strand is my Passion for Hardy. Is there anyone else out there? I collect his work, visit his haunts and go to qany event I can. Living close to his places ismagical and there are societies to which I belong and now have the time to indulge myself. My long suffering husband puts up with all this and has been known to joinin! I am enjoying being a Gran, means you can do all the lovely 'young' things all over again.

I am really enjoying my involvement in Dagand am looking forward to the future continued success of this amazing organisation. It is a thrill to see clients and scooters together. Mobility means everything tome as I hate to be still, and love getting things done. I am looking forward to meeting more Dag members and need lots of help for fund raising.

POWERED WHEELCHAIR AND SCOOTERS INCLUDED IN NEW HIGHWAY CODE.

The latest edition of the Highway code has recently been launched, This new edition includes a new safety code for users of powered wheelchairs and scooter (invalid carriages) This is the first time ever they have been included in the Highway Code.

The rules stating the class of invalid carriages remain the same.

Class two vehicles are those that do not exceed 4mph (6km/h) and are designed for pavement use.

Class Three vehicles have a upper speed limit of 8mph (12kmh) and can be used on the road and pavement.

The code advises invalid carriage users to obey the guidance and rules for other vehicles. So for example if you are travelling on the pavement you should follow the guidance and rules for pedestrians, likewise if you are travelling on the road you should follow the guidance and rules for road vehicles.

The code tells wheelchair and scooter users not to travel faster than 4mph on the pavement. This is a legal requirement and if you exceed this speed limit you are committing a criminal offence. When travelling on the road, class three vehicle users are told to travel in the direction of the traffic flow and if dark to use lights. The vehicles must also be fitted with indicators, a horn and users should wear reflective clothing or have a reflective strip at the back of their vehicle, These vehicles must not be used on the motorway and should not be used on a dual carriageway with a speed limit of over 50mph (80km/h) however if they are used on a dual carriageway they must have a flashing amber beacon. The code advises not to leave your wheelchair or scooter unattended if it is causing an obstruction.

Alan Dunn one of the founder members of DAG EPV service and editor said he welcomed the new section for powered wheelchairs and scooters, it should hopefully clear-up some uncertainties about EPVs and he said EPV users do need to have consideration, courtesy and be aware of other road and pavement users. The Highway code is available from www.tsoshop.co.uk and www.direct.gov.uk/highwaycode

D.A.G. MEMBERSHIP

As from 1st January 2008 D.A.G. will be introducing a membership fee of £10 per year per person or £15 for a couple. For this you will receive a quarterly DAG Newsletter (Dagmag) informing you of what's going on, news of social events such as bingo, quizzes, coffee mornings etc and also the opportunity to join in with various events.

You will of course still have the same but improved access to our loan system not only of powerchairs, scooters and wheelchairs but also other disability aids such as bath seats, perch stools and walking frames. Any queries on your membership; please contact our new membership secretary: Sara Stewart 07762 284156 or DAG, PO Box 1572, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4ZH.

Please tear off and return this slip with your payment

Name _____

Address. _____

Telephone _____

Email _____