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meeting.

Seasons  
Greetings

***Working for the North Dorset's Disabled Community in the temporary provision of loan electric wheelchairs and scooters.***

## DAGABILITY

The Disability Action Group in North Dorset, at its Annual General Meeting did change the name of the 'Electric wheelchair and Scooter Loan Service' to **Dagability**. The reason for this change of name was to coincide with our task of re-equipping our ageing fleet of scooters, we have already been donated two new scooters from Gillingham Town Council and funding applications are winging their way to other grant giving organizations as we speak.

Relaunching this service is also a good means of raising

public awareness, to the plight of disabled persons some of whom are struggling in the current financial climate to keep warm and eat wholesome food with absolutely no hope of being able to purchase a scooter at a time when they need it, Our loan service gives them a little time to enable them save or find scooter finance. we also have to remember that some people have temporary disabilities and only need a scooter for a short period of time, for example while awaiting a hip or knee replacement.

Our goal is to equip

our fleet with one single make and model of EPV making it easier and cheaper to service, hopefully we will eventually be able to contract out the service and repair work..

Currently we are short of some temporary storage for scooters, can you help, do you have a garage space or similar we could use as a standby? If so please contact us on the usual number. Or email us at: [info@nddag.co.uk](mailto:info@nddag.co.uk)



## DAG CHRISTMAS LUNCH

**The Sherborne Hotel**

on

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> of December**

**The Lunch will be a 2 course Christmas Carvery with Coffee, Mince Pies and wine (vegetarian option available)**

**Please book by 3rd December**

to

**Sue Lawes on 01747840701**

## Annual General Meeting.

**Christmas thought**  
STRESSED is  
just DESSERTS  
spelled backward

*A Sunday school  
teacher asked her  
children as they  
were on the way to  
a church service,  
'And why is it  
necessary to be  
quiet in church?'  
One bright little girl  
replied,  
'Because people are  
sleeping*

**I'm so strong I could  
lift a reindeer with  
one hand.  
Yeah, but where are  
we going to find a  
one-handed reindeer**

How do sheep greet  
each other at  
Christmas ?  
A merry Christmas to  
ewe

Father: "Did you see  
Father Christmas this  
year, son"  
Son: "No it was too  
dark to see him, but I  
heard what he said  
when he stubbed his  
toes on the edge of  
my bed"

The AGM in October was a most interesting meeting, it was attended by the Mayor's of Blandford & Shaftesbury, the chair of Mrs Elliot from the Royal British Legion, Liz Baker from Signpost and the community police representatives who gave a very

informative talk. We adopted a totally new constitution which is based on the Charity Commissions Model. Our chair Mary Lorna Siwek, formally stood down from office and was presented with a gift from the group in recognition of her service to DAG. Refreshments were

provided by the committee members and the annual draw was conducted, 1<sup>st</sup> Prize of £150 went to Mr Sobey from Gloucester, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize of £50 to Doreen from Blandford Forum and the 3rd prize of the trip to Jersey went to Mrs Smith from Weymouth

## A new benefits system making it tougher for sick and disabled people.

### A new benefits system making it tougher for sick and disabled people to claim benefits .

Claimants who are neither terminally ill nor severely disabled could have their benefits cut if they refuse to attend interviews with jobs advisers. About 2.6 million people claim incapacity benefits but ministers say most want to work and the Employment and Support Allowance should help.

But campaigners fear rising unemployment will be a barrier to many. Any new claimants will have to pass a tough new test intended to identify the sort of jobs claimants may be able to do. The government hopes to reduce the number of people on sickness benefits by one million. Work and Pensions Secretary James Purnell said the benefits reforms would mean better support and help for disabled people and people with

ill health, who have been calling for it.

"In the 1990s people were written off on incapacity benefit with no help to overcome their problems or support to get them into work," he said.

"It is even more important during an economic downturn that we increase support for people, not take it away."

But many campaigners claimed the new rules would leave many worse off.

### ENSURED MOBILITY

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**Topical views by Sharon Riley**

The Government has legislated that it is now illegal to park more than 50cm from the curb  
(*This is a checkable fact*) I say if you are 50 or more cm from the curb you're not parked you're stuck in traffic!! I guess it gives traffic wardens a valid reason to ticket all those stopped at a red light.

**EARLY SHOPPING**

**It was coming up to Christmas and the Judge was in a jolly frame of mind.**

**"Now then, please tell me, what is the charge against you?"**

**" I was caught doing my Christmas shopping very early." replied the man in the dock.**

**"That doesn't seem like an offence to me. What do you mean by 'very early'?**

**"Well, your Honour." said the defendant, "It was before the shop was open."**

**EHRC slammed by Bert Massie**

**.The new Equality and Human Rights Commission is not doing enough for disabled people, the chairman of its now-disbanded predecessor has said.**

Sir Bert Massie, who was chairman of the Disability Rights Commission (DRC), is now a transition commissioner in the year-old EHRC.

He recently told the BBC the new body was failing to build on the work already done by the DRC in its last year.

But the EHRC says it is more important to fight for equality "holistically".

Baroness Campbell - who heads the EHRC's Disability Committee - says the commission is now taking "a more holistic approach to taking down barriers" rather than concentrating on the individual equality strands.

**'Groundwork done'**

The EHRC assumed the responsibilities of three former commissions - covering race, gender and disability - on 1 October last year.

It has also added sexual orientation, age, religion and belief, and human rights to its brief.

Sir Bert says the DRC laid a lot of groundwork for the new commission to build on.

"We did all the work for them - all they had to do was carry it on," he said.

He says that the EHRC took longer than was necessary to get new systems up and running.

But his main criticism is that some people in the EHRC are "intoxicated" by the idea of "cross-strand" work at the expense of the important issues that affect only one minority - in this case, disabled people.

**Report on : The First Trustee's Meeting**

The election of Officers was the object of the meeting, working to the terms of new constitution was a little challenging, but in end the following officers were appointed to the **executive positions**

- Chairman.....Alan Dunn
- Vice Chairman....Danny Lawes
- Secretary .....Pat Withers
- Treasurer .....Mary Siwek

**Non executive position are:**

- Member Secretary...Anne Dunn
- Social Secretary .... Sue Lawes
- Web master .....David Siwek
- Dagability ..... Alan & David

In addition Mary was asked to take on the Role of an Envoy and Gerry to be retained as a specialist technical advisor.

After the election of officers it was announced that subject to the signing of an agreement, **The Community Foundation for Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole** had made a Grassroots Grant of £4410 in order to purchase 6 new scooters.

Future General Meetings of the Trustees will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month commencing at 10am.

## Why do we send Christmas Cards.

This year while you're preparing all of the Christmas Cards that will be going out to friends and family, you may wonder, who started this tradition of Christmas cards, after all it's not like the 12 apostles took it upon themselves to send each other greeting cards to remember the birthday of Jesus. I know is hard to believe, but we can't even blame Hallmark as they didn't exist back then. No! it only goes back the 1840's Britain. The first postal deliveries were being sent thanks to the New "Penny Post" that had been set up. Now that the Penny Post enabled people to send Christmas greeting to one another it became customary to do so. However, many people found it tedious and time consuming to hand write all of their Christmas Letters. In 1843, the first Christmas card was commissioned, and now what the Penny Post did for Christmas cards back in the mid 1800s, the Internet is doing today. The way we greet one another at Christmas is changing once again. Thanks to the wider acceptance of "e-cards" all it takes is the click of the mouse to send your friends and family Christmas greetings. Who knows what tomorrow brings, but I'm sure what ever happens about Christmas greeting in the future, you can bet you last penny black 'it will not come cheap'

## ANNE'S RECIPES:- Ginger & Whiskey Cake

### Ingredients.

50g lard  
 25g butter  
 100g caster sugar  
 3 eggs, slightly beaten  
 3 - 4 tablespoons whiskey  
 6 tablespoons cognac  
 1 pinch of ground ginger  
 2 tablespoons chopped crystallized ginger  
 100g sultanas, soaked in 3 tablespoons of rum  
 500g self-raising flour

### Preparation method

- Preheat oven to 160 degrees C / gas mark 3. Grease a 23cm/9 inch round cake tin.
- Cream lard, butter and sugar together until smooth using electric beaters.
- Add beaten eggs and mix well.
- Add whiskey, cognac, ground ginger, candied ginger and rum soaked raisins.
- Stir in flour gradually until well mixed.
- Pour into cake tin and bake in preheated oven for 45min - 1hour or until a skewer comes out clean.
- Leave to cool for 2 hours before serving.

## A CHRISTMAS STORY

It was coming up to Christmas and Sammy asked his mum if he could have a new bike. So, she told him that the best idea would be to write to Santa Claus. But Sam, having just played a vital role in the school nativity play, said he would prefer to write to the baby Jesus. So his mum told him that would be fine. Sam went to his room and wrote 'Dear Jesus, I have been a very good boy and would like to have a bike for

Christmas.' But he wasn't very happy when he read it over. So he decided to try again and this time he wrote 'Dear Jesus, I'm a good boy most of the time and would like a bike for Christmas.' He read it back and wasn't happy with that one either. He tried a third version. 'Dear Jesus, I could be a good boy if I tried hard and especially if I had a new bike.' He read that one too, but he still wasn't satisfied. So, he decided to go out for a walk

while he thought about a better approach. After a short time he passed a house with a small statue of the Virgin Mary in the front garden. He crept in, stuffed the statue under his coat, hurried home and hid it under the bed. Then he wrote this letter. 'Dear Jesus, If you want to see your mother again, you'd better send me a new bike.'

A fairy has a hard time,  
Up where the tinsel flickers;  
A wand of gold stuck in her hand,  
A fir tree up her knickers!

**A SPECIAL DAY**  
This is the beginning of a new day. You have been given this day to use as you will. You can waste it or use it for good. What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever; in its place is something that you have left behind...let it be something good."

Every Christmas I get a horrendous pain that stays for a week.... Then my mother-in-law goes back to her own house

**IS DEAFNESS A DISABILITY** by **Rebecca Atkinson.**

"I'm not disabled, I'm Deaf" is a argument frequently seen dancing from the hands of sign language using Deaf community.. But what do they really mean when they say they're not disabled? And is a move to distance disabled people when

really we all stand under the same umbrella?  
The idea that deafness is separate from disability is a controversial one and causes heated debate. Some say that being a sign language using Deaf person is not a

disability, but instead means membership to a linguistic and cultural minority. Others, however, view deafness in all forms as a life limiting and disabling condition. So who is right here?  
Please email me your thoughts on this subject.

**What one of our Members said at the AGM**

Mr Micheal King explained that he was referred by his home help to the Social Services who gave him the DAG telephone number, He said that he had become very depressed going from an active outdoor painter and decorator to being virtually housebound. He bravely said that he is illiterate, loved fishing but was unable to get out of the house. Since getting the loan of a Dagability Scooter, he is out 3-4 times daily, always happy to chat to people he meets. Mr King explained that DAG inspired him to get out and get going again. He said the big issue with him now is what will he do and where will he go after the 6 months loan period ends? he said he has very little in the way of finance, and doesn't know how he will cope. Mr King was assured that Dag will assist him all they can to ensure he remains mobile.

Mr King made a passionate plea to the Council members present to financial support the Disability Actions Groups applications for funding.

**NEWS ITEMS**

On 6 October, **Jonathan Shaw MP** was appointed the new Minister for Disabled People.  
  
After acknowledging the excellent work of the **Rt Hon Anne McGuire MP**, who held the position since 2005, he expressed his enthusiasm for his new role. "I am determined to sustain the momentum towards equality for disabled people by 2025," he said, adding he was also keen to "press ahead with the Government on independent living.....  
  
*Editors Note: Actions speak louder than words Mr Shaw, show us what you are made of*

**DISABILITY HATE CRIMES**  
  
On 6 October, Ken Macdonald, the Director of Public Prosecutions (CPS), spoke about the effective prosecution of disability hate crime at an event jointly hosted by the Bar Council and the Equality and Diversity Forum. Whilst acknowledging the progress that the justice system has made, the Director told delegates that this type of crime is widespread and that too many disabled people are still living in fear. He also talked about his belief that more can be done to identify these offences, and to help the courts impose appropriate sentences.  
Key to the effective prosecution of these crimes is avoiding a mistaken focus on the perceived vulnerability of the victim at the expense of looking at the prejudice and hostility of the offender

## Disability Action Group

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.nddag.co.uk](http://www.nddag.co.uk)

### Mistletoe

There are lots of legends and traditions surrounding mistletoe, the most well known and popular being the kissing one, In ancient times the Druids believed that mistletoe was associated with fertility, from there sprang the belief that kissing under the mistletoe would lead to marriage. . A good crop of mistletoe was also believed to be a sign that the following season's harvest would be a good one.



## RECENT FUNDING EVENTS

The Quiz by Sue & Danny Lawes made £9 and the winners were 1st Karen Hone from Watford and 2nd was Joan Farmer from Frome. Once again

Sue and Danny did really well with their Bingo and as a result Dag received a donation from Sue & Danny for a great £173.

Pat Withers Strawberry Tea was a wonderful success and as a result Pat was able

to donate £180 to Dag, at this event Gillingham Town Council made a donation of two new scooters, these were formally handed over to Dag by the Deputy Major Cllr Rupert Evill

The Waitrose Door Collection made £167.

The Blandford Street Collection made £47.39

The DAG Raffle organized by Mary Siwek sold £480's worth of tickets

**A good friend of DAG was Mr Dennis Fayers, from Child Okeford who has sadly passed away, he shall be dearly missed.**

**Dennis's widow Evelyn sent us £470 which was collected at the funeral.**

### Membership cards,

Please keep them safe, as some traders will give a discount on products for card holders, so carry it in your wallet or purse. Currently Ensured Mobility are offering Dag members a discount of a minimum 10% on all items except footwear on production of the membership card.

### Funding

We all know that to provide our loan service we need to generate funds and keep them coming, it does seem that we are always asking for your help, but we would not ask unless we need it.... Have you considered holding a coffee morning, or selling an unwanted items, cakes or garden produce in order to help raise funds?

### A Message from the Trustee's

*As Christmas and the new year approaches the Disability Action Group's Trustee's would like to wish all our members, friends and associates a Merry Christmas and all good wishes for good health and prosperity in 2009*

### ELLWOOD COTTAGES

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