

WEST BERKSHIRE DISABILITY ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

Registered Charity No. 11008112

No. 2 March 2005

PENSIONS & BENEFITS:

Do you need someone to collect your pension or benefits for you? With pension books now a thing of the past and Post Offices closing, things have been made a lot more difficult. However, with the Post Office card account, customers are able to obtain a second card with a separate PIN free of charge, for a nominated person to access their account. While most Banks and Building Societies also have arrangements that will allow someone to access a customers account with that customers permission. You can also request that your pension or benefit is paid by Giro cheque and is posted to you. For more information on pensions and benefits go to the Department of Works & Pensions website

TAXI SURVEY:

The WBDA would like to thank the 111 people who replied to our Taxi Survey. The results of the survey can be found on the website www.wbda.org and were presented to the Task Group reviewing disabled access for taxis in West Berkshire on 1/2/05.

The task group has in turn presented its findings to West Berkshire Council's Licensing Committee on the 14th March. From 07/12/2004 all new licensed taxis will have to be fully wheelchair accessible, giving a steady year on year increase on the percentage of fully wheelchair accessible vehicles in the West Berkshire taxi fleet. All new drivers will also be required to take a course of Disability Awareness

MOBILITY SOUTH:

Friday and Saturday 6/7 May 2005, Newbury Racecourse
10.00hrs – 17.00hrs

Don't miss Mobility South, the only exhibition in the South of England totally dedicated to disabled people! Ideal for the whole family, carers and healthcare professionals, Mobility South will give the opportunity to test out an extensive range of products, get support and enjoy a great day out.

Tanni Grey-Thompson will be visiting on Saturday 7th May to hand over the keys of a Gowrings Mobility adapted Vauxhall Zafira to the winner of the 'Seize the Day' competition!

Free admission, free parking, accessible facilities, competitions and prizes!

Visit www.gowringsmobility to register.

ACTION IN NEURO-REHAB:

There is to be a one day conference and exhibition at Newbury Race Course on the 21st April. The keynote speaker will be Professor Raymond Tallis from the University of Manchester, and there are also numerous other speakers on varied topics.

For further information please contact: Dr. T.F. Davison, Goran, Upper Bucklebury, Cold Ash, Thatcham RG18 9NJ - Phone 01635 202605 or e-mail: neuroconf@aol.com.

The WBDA will be having a display at the conference.

WEST MEETS EAST:

The WBDA Open meeting on 16th May will be held at Greenfield House in Calcot. It is our belief that the Alliance should try to get around and about the West Berkshire area and we would like to welcome those from the east of our region to join the WBDA.

Hopefully in the autumn we will holding either an Open meeting or Forum in the west of the district.

THE DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT (DDA) - IS IT WORKING?

By April 2005 the clause 'all physical barriers to accessing services should be removed' in the DDA, will have been in affect for 6 months. The theme of the West Berkshire Disability Forum on the 4th April will ask the question 'Is it Working?'

Speakers will include persons from; the Citizens Advice Bureau, Pathways to Employment, The West Berkshire Chamber of Commerce, React, and Reading University. There will also be an update and discussion on the DDA itself.

ACCESS GUIDE ON LINE:

The Access guide is now online and can be found on the WBDA's website. Anyone not in the guide who wishes to be in or who has updated their premises since it was published should contact info@wbda.org . There are still some hard copies and taped versions available contact mickhutchins@wbda.org or call 01635 49701

NEXT WBDA MEETINGS:

MONDAY 21ST MARCH

Open Meeting

@ United Reform Church Room
Cromwell Place Newbury (18:45-20:45)

MONDAY 4TH APRIL

West Berkshire Disability Forum

@ Frank Hutchins Community Hall
Bradley Moore Square
Thatcham(18:45-20:30)

MONDAY 16TH MAY

Open meeting

@ Greenfield House Highview
Royal Avenue Calcot (18:45-20:45)

MONDAY 18TH JULY

WBDA AGM

@ United Reform Church Room
(19:00-20:45)

Agendas - www.wbda.org

VEHICLE ON MOTOBILITY? CLAIM YOUR £200:

It has recently been announced that when a person trades in their Motorbility Vehicle after 3 years if you have not made a claim and the vehicle is returned in "good condition" you will be entitled to £200 refund .SPEAK TO YOUR DEALER WHEN YOU CHANGE CARS DON'T MISS OUT.

This newsletter has been produced by the West Berkshire Disability Alliance, who are sponsored and backed by; Newbury Town Council, AFC Newbury, Comic Relief, the Berkshire Community Foundation.

If you have any comments about this Newsletter or would like something included in the next issue in June please contact : ron.renton@wbda.org.