

DAG News

Newsletter of Whitby, Scarborough
& Ryedale Disability Action Group



ISSUE 236

March 2018

This Newsletter is available by e-mail (PDF), and in large print.

An audio cassette version is available on request.

In my first newsletter article in September of last year, I highlighted how the process of applying for PIP, a benefit designed to make disabled people's lives easier, actually makes them less able. Indeed for many the whole process has been a nightmare which has gone on for months and thousands of disabled individuals have had to fight to receive support to which they are legally entitled.

New figures show that more than £108 million has been spent by the Department for Work and Pensions on administering reviews and appeals against disability benefits in little more than two years. This is in addition to the tens of millions of pounds spent every year by the Ministry of Justice on the appeals. Around two-thirds of PIP and ESA tribunals have been won by claimants

Church House Centre, Flowergate, WHITBY, YO21 3BA
Mon & Tues 9am-5pm; Thurs 9am-1pm; Fri 9am-4pm

T: 01947 821001
07956 751 790*

E: info@whitbydag.org.uk
daglibrary@icloud.com*



*Mobility equipment desk at Library - Mon, Tues & Thurs (10am-4pm)

W: www.whitbydag.org.uk

Reg. Charity No: 1131037

Company Reg: No: 6956837

Patron: The Marquis of Normanby

this year and more than 300,000 PIP and ESA decisions have been changed at review or appeal since October 2015. Back in September I said it was time for this benefit change to be overturned and nothing I have heard or seen since has changed that view. To spend this amount on admin fighting to uphold flawed decisions that shouldn't have been made in the first place is staggering and the extent of the appeals being seen clearly indicates that something is seriously wrong with the system.

This month we say a fond farewell to **Barbara Plum**, who for the past year has been volunteering for DAG. Barbara has been helping out on our mobility hire scheme based at Whitby Library but is retiring this week and moving on to new challenges. Volunteers are vital to the work of DAG and without them, we would not be able to run our services as we do. We would all like to wish Barbara well, to thank her for her time and for helping us to make a difference to the lives of disabled people. If, like Barbara **you want to make a difference and have a few hours to spare, we would love to hear from you.**

Finally, with severe weather warnings being issued for the rest of this week, can I remind you to **make sure you are prepared for some seriously cold weather.** I am still young enough to remember as a child, a forecast of snow would bring excitement and thoughts of sledging and having snowball fights. However, it brings with it increased health risks to vulnerable and elderly people. For those of you with less able friends, neighbours and relatives, please check up on them to make sure they're safe and well. Hopefully, Spring will be with us soon but until then, my message to you is to stay warm and stay safe.

Ian

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)



Regulations replacing the 1998 Data Protection Act will become UK law on **25th May 2018**.

GDPR basically **prohibits the processing or holding of data** (information that can identify an individual) **without good reason**, and **applies to “data controllers”** (businesses and organisations), **including DAG**.

There will be a more detailed report about GDPR and what it means for DAG, our customers, clients and Members in the April 2018 DAG Newsletter. Information about the GDPR is available on the Information Commissioner’s Office website ico.org.uk

DON'T FORGET!



The last day the paper £10 notes can be legally used is

Thursday 1st March 2018.

After that date DAG **will no longer accept** the paper £10 note for any payments to us.

Holders of the notes should still be able to exchange them at post offices or local banks, although they are not under a legal obligation to do so.

The [Bank of England](http://www.bankofengland.co.uk) has an open-ended promise to **exchange old notes at face value at any time**. You can post your old notes to the bank at Threadneedle Street in the City of London, or, if you happen to be in London you can even take your old notes to the bank in person!

Wetwheels Yorkshire Coast - UPDATE

The first meeting of the **Friends of Wetwheels Yorkshire Coast (FOWWY)** was held on 23rd February at the Falcon Inn, Cloughton.



The Whitby boat is now under construction. After stops at Bridlington and Scarborough on the way up from the Solent, trips from Whitby will hopefully start in June. **DAG will be booking group trips for our Members, so keep an eye on your Members' Noticeboard.**

Wetwheels want to set up a local team of volunteers who will help promote the project, fundraise, organise events, act as bunkering crew (keep the boat fuelled and ready to use), and volunteer crew (a commitment of 5 days per year). If you are interested tel: **01947 466566** or e-mail: **info@wetwheelsyorkshire.com** . Information is also available on the website: **www.wetwheelsfoundation.org**



- **Sleights Café Activity Group** - third Tuesday every month' 10.30am-12.30pm
- **Whitby Practice Dementia Clinic** - third Tuesday of every month, 1pm-4pm
- **Scarborough Singing for the Brain** - every Wednesday, 1.30pm-3pm
- **Scarborough Activity Group** - second Monday of every month, 2pm-4pm
- **Filey Activity Group** - last Tuesday each month, 2pm-4pm
- **Filey Practice Dementia Clinic** - second and fourth Thursday of every month 10am-1pm

For full details about these events, contact **01723 500958**.



RYEDALE CARERS SUPPORT



SUPPORTING THOSE WHO CARE FOR OTHERS

Farmers Community Breakfast: A social morning of conversation, memories and a **bacon buttie**

Lythe Village Hall on the **first Wednesday** of the month
10.15am - 12.00 noon
 Contribution of £3.50 appreciated.

.....
Songs and Scones: A social afternoon of music, conversation and cake



Ayton Village Hall, East Ayton, YO13 9HY on the **last Thursday** of every month, **1.15pm - 4pm**

For both of the above events contact **Isabelle Harrison**, on
07811 638 504/ 01947 605757/ 01723 364808
 or E-mail: **activities@ryedalecarers.org.uk**



.....
Mid Esk Moor Friends monthly get together

Catch up with old friends, or make new ones

The Mallyan Spout Hotel, Goathland on the **second Thursday** of every month, **10.30am-12.30pm**
£4 to include tea/coffee and cake

Contact **Sarah** at Caring Together on **07764 628015**
 or E-mail: **activities@ryedalecarers.org.uk**

Where possible Carers Support will provide free door to door transport to these events.

Cycling to Freedom

Want to explore the possibilities of cycling with a disability?



Sunday 4th March, Hospital Fields Road
An inclusive cycling day with the York Cycle Campaign

Heaven to Pluto and more: with Empowered People on a 30mi/50km return cycle ride from York to Selby. 10am Start



Adaptive cycles taster: with Get Cycling to try out cycles for all needs. 10am-3pm



Cycling with a disability: Panel discussion to explore the benefits of cycling for disabled people. Cycle Heaven 4pm



Mobility, Equity and Cycling: Talk by Rachel Aldred, cycle campaigner and transport researcher. Cycle Heaven. 7.30pm

Find out more at YorkCycleCampaign.bike

Facebook: [YorkCycleCampaign](https://www.facebook.com/YorkCycleCampaign)

Twitter: [@yorkcycle](https://twitter.com/yorkcycle)





Government consultation on plans to extend Blue Badge eligibility Deadline for response - 18/3/18

Although current rules should embrace all conditions, local authorities often disregard guidance about accommodating users whose difficulties are not primarily caused by limited mobility. Last autumn, the Department for Transport (DfT) launched a **draft transport accessibility plan**, including proposals to modify Blue Badge eligibility, so that people with non-physical disabilities do not face discrimination.

The consultation is seeking views on a proposition to change this criterion to the following:

a person who has an enduring and substantial disability the effect of which is that that person is unable to:-

- i. walk;**
- ii. undertake any journey without it causing very considerable difficulty when walking;**
- iii. undertake any journey without there being a risk of very considerable harm to the health or safety of that person or any other person;**
- iv. follow the route of any journey without another person, assistance animal or orientation aid.**

The DfT is also looking for views **on the use of eligibility assessors for all applicants covered by the proposed new criterion.** An independent mobility assessor currently used by local authorities may not be qualified to assess mental and cognitive disabilities. The proposed change would mean that a range of healthcare professionals could undertake the

(continued page 8)

assessments. They would not need to be independent of the applicant, but should be recognised by the local authority as holding a suitable professional qualification and having the necessary expertise to assess the applicant's eligibility.

Finally, the consultation asks for views on providing **automatic Blue Badge eligibility** to those people who receive **12 points for the 'planning and following journeys'** activity of the **mobility component of Personal Independence Payment (PIP)**, for non-physical mobility issues. They did qualify automatically for a Blue Badge under the equivalent higher rate mobility component of Disabled Living Allowance (DLA).

The best way to respond to the consultation is online at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/R2OF6/>

Alternatively, you can email your response to bluebadge.consultation@dft.gsi.gov.uk

You can post a hard copy to: **Vida Browne-Campbell, Department for Transport (Traffic and Technology Division), 3/27 Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 4DR**

Your feedback should say whether you are responding as an individual, or representing the views of an organisation. If responding on behalf of a larger organisation, please make it clear who the organisation represents and, where applicable, how the views of members were assembled.

If you would like the consultation document in alternative formats (e.g Braille, audio CD), please contact vida.browne-campbell@dft.gsi.gov.uk

FOR SALE

Pride Colt Executive Mobility Scooter.

Colour black. Comes with cover, charger, scooter bag/ stick holder and user manual.



Purchased June 2016. Hardly used.

Excellent condition. Cost £2250 new. **Accept £1125 or nearest reasonable offer.** Buyer collects.

Powered Rise/ Recline Chair (from Agars, Whitby).

Antique Green leather. Purchased May 2017 - condition as new. User manual provided.

Cost £1153 new. **Accept £600 or nearest reasonable offer.** Buyer collects.

For more details or to arrange to view either of these items, contact **07778 177 953**

SMALL ADS

Diana Richardson: Cleaning Service & Mobile

Hairdresser Cleaning, Ironing, Shopping. Ladies, Gents & Children's hairdressing. Whitby and district.

Reasonable rates. **T: 01947 602477 or 07870 321 477**

Family Values Home Help Service Support Services

and care packages to people of all ages. **T: 07545 867316;**

E: familyvalueshomehelp@yahoo.com

Stuart McClure: HandyMan Experienced builder, handyman, gardener, repairs etc. No job too small.

Reasonable rates. **Tel: 01947 601826**



The Computer Centre
Repairing Whitby's computers for over
15 Years

Sales & Repairs
Computers, Laptops, Tablets & Phones



FREE DIAGNOSTICS
FREE COLLECTION

within 5 miles of Whitby

E: sales@apc4me.co.uk W: www.apc4me.co.uk
Visit: Unit G1B St Hilda's Business Centre, The Ropery

T: (01947) 605859

**FOR
SALE**

Advertise your Item for Sale/ Item Wanted.
We request a donation to DAG of £2.00 per
month.

allcare
 .co.uk

**UNIT B3, ST. HILDA'S BUSINESS CENTRE,
 THE ROPERY, WHITBY, YO22 4ET**

Telephone/Fax: 01947 825555 Mob: 07584220247
 E-mail: info@allcare.co.uk Website: www.allcare.co.uk

Mobility Scooters and Wheelchair

Sales – Servicing – Repairs
 Accessories – Hire



Stair Lifts

Installation - Servicing -
 Repairs



Authorised Dealer

Insurance and Warranties. All work guaranteed
 Part-Exchange considered

**For a FREE, no obligation home demonstration,
 contact Colin Thirkill**

Dalewood
 Services for adults with learning disabilities

**SHOPPING & LAUNDRY
 SERVICES**



We collect your list, deliver **your shopping** with your itemised till receipt. We can also unpack and put your shopping away for you. Contact **Paul on: 01947 604839.**

Your laundry will be collected from your home, washed, dried and even ironed. Contact **Eileen on: 01947 606104.**

There is a small charge for these services.



- Have you changed your address?
- Would you like your details to be added to/ removed from our newsletter mailing list?
- Do you have any articles, stories, items wanted/ for sale or information you would like to be included in our newsletter?



Send the details to the DAG office by the 20th of each month.

DON'T FORGET - you can get a PDF version of your newsletter by e-mail. It gets to you more quickly and saves on paper, printing & postage costs for us!



Make your donations to DAG go further.
Support us through:

- **Gift Aid (if you are a UK Taxpayer)**
- **Give as You Live**
- **Leaving a Financial Gift in your Will**

Contact the DAG office for details.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this newsletter. However, Whitby, Scarborough & Ryedale DAG can accept no liability whatsoever for any matters in any way connected or arising out of use of this information. No recommendation is implied by the insertion of such information.