

# DAG News

Newsletter of Whitby, Scarborough  
& Ryedale Disability Action Group



ISSUE 233

November 2017

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

An audio cassette version is available on request.

In last month's newsletter I drew your attention to the difficulties disabled people were having with PIP applications, with lengthy waiting times, Mandatory Reconsiderations and Appeals all adding to the worries, stress and anxiety that disabled people face in their daily lives.

The **House of Commons Select Committee for Work and Pensions** has now launched a new Inquiry, not only into the PIP process but also ESA assessments. When around two thirds of assessments are overturned on appeal there are serious concerns around assessor's expertise to carry out assessments and changes obviously need to be made. On pages 4 and 5 of the newsletter, you will see that anyone who has been assessed or is waiting to be assessed can submit their

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

T: 01947 821001

07956 751 790\*

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[daglibrary@icloud.com](mailto:daglibrary@icloud.com)\*

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

W: [www.whitbydag.org.uk](http://www.whitbydag.org.uk)

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evidence, in writing to the Committee and I would urge anyone who has gone or is going through this process to do so. With a collective voice we might just get some positive changes to a system which is causing so much misery to people and making Britain a harder place for disabled people to live in. You can submit your evidence on line. If you don't have access to a computer, we are happy to help you do this using our computers at the DAG office. Contact Committee staff if you need to use another format. Details are all on page 5 of this newsletter.

On a more positive note, at our AGM some members asked about swimming for disabled people, so I contacted and met with the Manager of Whitby Leisure Centre about running "**Swimming for Wellbeing**" sessions, where DAG would have sole use of the pool. We talked at length about how having an opportunity to take part in regular physical exercise can benefit disabled people, helping them to keep healthy, keep bones and muscles strong and help to improve mobility and maintain independence for longer. The sessions would also give DAG members the opportunity to meet with friends and take part in something they enjoy.

**We do need to be able to demonstrate that there are enough people interested in taking part, so please get in touch if it's something you would like to do.** I have already looked into funding for these sessions and hope to have good news by the time the next newsletter comes out. Finally, many thanks to **Whitby Amateur Dramatics Society** who chose DAG to be their charity of the year and this week we gratefully received a cheque for **£150**, which was raised at their annual raffle. We would very much like to thank Chris Copeland and all the other WADS for this very kind donation.

**Ian**



## MEDITATION and RELAXATION GROUP

**Thursday afternoons, 2.30 - 4.30pm** in the large meeting room, **Whitby Library**.

Fee for Whitby Whaler Members - **£1.50 per session**  
First (Trial) Session - **FREE**. Coffee/ Tea & Biscuits - **20p**

**INFORMAL GATHERING.**  
**ALL "WHITBY WHALERS" WELCOME.**

Leader :**Jean Thornton, 01947 601709**, or for further information contact the Curriculum Organiser, **Bruce Russell** on **01947 228164**



Whaler membership £12 per year. Join at a group meeting.



## Community Connections FREE Jigsaw Lending Library

**First & Third Wednesday of every month**  
**10.30am—12.30pm**

**In the Theatre at Whitby Coliseum, Victoria Place**  
**(opposite the George Hotel, next to the Bus Station).**  
**Stepped and ramp access, automatic door**

**Everyone welcome.**  
**For information contact: 07743 725 586**



**Sleights 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 of every month, 2pm-4pm

**Filey Practice Dementia Clinic** - second and fourth Thursday of every month 10am-1pm



The **Whitby Cardiac Support Group** meets every third Wednesday of the month.

For details: **Tel 01947 601547**

## **Whitby Civic Society**

The lectures are all on the **third Monday of the month** at the Coliseum, from at **7:15pm**.

20th November: **'Unveiling Victorian Genius'**: Professor Mark Seaward on North Yorkshire botanists Richard Spruce and William Mudd. .

## **FARMERS BREAKFAST**

First Wednesday of every month  
At **Lythe Village Hall**, 10.15am - 12.00noon

A social morning of conversation, memories and a bacon buttie. Free door to door transport can be provided.

**November 1<sup>st</sup> - Mr Howard Petch CBE - Farming Tales**  
**December 6<sup>th</sup> - Ian Sleightholme – Yorkshire Dialect**

Call **Isabelle Harrison**, 07811 638504, 01947 605 757;  
email: [activities@ryedalecarers.org.uk](mailto:activities@ryedalecarers.org.uk)

### ***Caring Together Whitby & District***

Funded by the NYCC Stronger Communities Programme



## **SONGS AND SCONES**

A social afternoon of music, conversation and cake. Free door to door transport can be provided.

Last Thursday of every month, 1.15-3pm, **Ayton Village Hall, East Ayton YO13 9HY**

**Thursday 30 November - Live Music Now**

Call **Isabelle Harrison** on **07811 638504 / 01723 364808**  
or email [activities@ryedalecarers.org.uk](mailto:activities@ryedalecarers.org.uk)



The House of Commons **Select Committee for Work and Pensions** has launched a new inquiry into **PIP and ESA assessments**.

It follows concerns from an earlier investigation which produced accounts of a serious mismatch between applicants' recollection of the assessment and the assessor's report used by the Department for Work and Pensions to make a decision.

People were also concerned that assessors did not appear to understand their conditions, and were unable to properly assess the impact they had. The dignity of the assessment process was called into question. About two thirds of cases which are appealed are overturned; what Committee Chairman Frank Field describes as **"wasteful, inefficient, and a huge cost to taxpayers"**.

**Anyone who has been assessed or is waiting for an assessment is welcome to submit written evidence to the Committee, before 10 November 2017.** The submissions can be on any or all of the following questions:

### **Assessors and Assessments**

- Is Do assessors have sufficient expertise to carry out assessments for people with a wide range of health conditions?
- Is the DWP quality control for contractors sufficient and effective?
- Should the options for reforming the Work Capability Assessment (Improving Lives green paper) go forward?
- What examples of best practice in assessing eligibility for benefits are available internationally, and how transferrable are they to ESA and/or PIP?

## **Mandatory Reconsideration (MR) and Appeal**

- Why do claimants seek to overturn initial assessment outcomes for ESA and/or PIP?
- Why are levels of disputed decisions higher for PIP than for ESA?
- Is the Mandatory Reconsideration (MR) process working well for claimants of ESA and/or PIP?
- What accounts for the rate of overturned decisions at appeal for PIP and/or ESA?
- Are there lessons that could be learned from the ESA MR and appeal process for PIP and vice-versa?
- What changes could be made earlier in the process to ensure fewer claimants feel they need to appeal?

## **Claimant experiences**

- Do claimants understand the purpose of the assessment?
- How could claimants be helped to better understand the assessment process?
- Are some groups of claimants particularly likely to encounter problems with their assessments – and if so, how can this be addressed?
- Should the assessment processes for PIP and ESA be more closely integrated? How else might the processes be streamlined for claimants?

Submissions can be sent on the committee web forum:

**[www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/](http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/)**

Select **Work and Pensions Committee** from the list and then click on **PIP and ESA Inquiry**

If you don't have online access or would prefer to use a different format for your submission, then you can contact Committee staff on **Telephone: 020 7219 8976** or

**Email: [workpencom@parliament.uk](mailto:workpencom@parliament.uk)**



**HEADWAY YORKSHIRE EAST COAST  
TALK & SOCIAL EVENT - 8 NOVEMBER 2017  
SCARBOROUGH**

Headway Yorkshire East Coast are very pleased to confirm that their next Talk & Social event will take place on:

***Wednesday 8 November 2017 – 6pm to 8pm***

***At The Street, 12 Lower Clark Street, Scarborough,  
YO12 7PW***

The evening will include a talk by **Philippa Chapman, Director of Operations at the Encephalitis Society**. Philippa's talk, called "**My Brain and Me**", will be about the Encephalitis Society and the condition of Encephalitis, but also aims to be helpful to all who have suffered a neurological injury or event.

There will be a chance afterwards to relax and talk to others – to share experiences or just to chat. Light refreshments, information, factsheets and advice will be available.

The evening is open to all – whether you have suffered a brain injury or are a family member, carer, volunteer or professional.

If you are interested in attending, ring **01723 861686**  
Or send an e-mail to [help@headwayeastcoast.org.uk](mailto:help@headwayeastcoast.org.uk)

We look forward to seeing you.

## Diana Richardson



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## FOR SALE

**Rascal Veo Scooter**, 4-wheeler. Basket, Secure fixing for outside storage, User manual. Three years old. Rarely used. Excellent condition. Battery regularly charged. Paid £600. Accept £300 ono. Buyer collects. **Tel: 01947 810085.**

DAG has the following items that need to be rehomed. Donations for these items are welcome. Unless stated otherwise, the items have been pre-used.

- **Sidhil Dynamic Cushion** with pump.
- Adjustable bed **Grab Rail**
- **Bath Board** & fixings - never used
- **Transfer Bath Bench**
- **Campingaz** portable flush **chemical toilet** - brand new
- 3 & 4 wheeled **Rollators**
- **Handy Utility Bags** for zimmer frames - brand new
- Straight and angled **Grab Rails** - steel



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**T: (01947) 605859**

**FOR  
SALE**

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

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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.**

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