

# DAG News

Newsletter of Whitby, Scarborough  
& Ryedale Disability Action Group



ISSUE 233

December 2017 & January 2018

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

An audio cassette version is available on request.

As a challenging 2017 draws to a close, I would like to start with some good news. DAG has received funding from the **Donald Forrester Trust** to offer some new “**Befriending through Sport**” activities and funding through **North Yorkshire County Council’s Stronger Communities** to provide “**Swimming for Well-being**” sessions at Whitby Leisure Centre, both starting in the New Year. **Sally Williams** will be leading on this and you can expect to hear from her in the next few weeks.

For those of you who would like to participate in swimming, we will need you to book your place so that we know what support people need to take part. Some of our members may need a bit of extra

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support to enable them to take part, so if you are not keen on actually being in the water, but would be willing to help, we would love to hear from you.

Another positive development followed a conversation I had recently with a local taxi driver who wanted to know how he and his colleagues could better help their elderly and disabled passengers. I was able to organise a **Dementia Awareness Session** for **Abbey Taxi** drivers, which was provided by the **Alzheimer's Society**. As well as having drivers with a much better understanding of dementia, Abbey Taxis are now **looking to improve their website** to make it clearer to disabled people **what accessible vehicles they have and how to book them**.

As we look ahead to the turn of yet another year, experience tells us that none of us knows what lies around the corner. This has been another challenging year for DAG and 2018 promises to be no less so. In the past, we have been fortunate enough to benefit from some substantial personal donations and, in the last 12 months, from Charitable Trusts including the **Masonic Charitable Foundation, Donald Forrester Trust, Comic Relief and Scurrah Wainwright**. However, as in previous years, DAG still faces financial challenges and we would welcome any support you can give. If you think you can help in any way, please come and talk to us, either by calling in at the office or by telephone or email.

On behalf of everyone at Whitby, Scarborough & Ryedale Disability Action Group I would like to wish you a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**.

Ian



## DAG office opening hours December 2017 & January 2018

On **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December** the DAG office will close at 12noon for the Members Christmas Lunch. We will **re-open at 9am on Thursday 21st December.**

The mobility equipment hire desk will be open as usual from 10am to 4pm.

## Christmas and New Year 2017/18

**The DAG office and the Mobility Equipment Hire desk** in Whitby Library will **close** for the Christmas/ New Year Holidays at **4pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017** and will **re-open at 9am, Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 (10am for mobility equipment hire desk).**

**NB:** Anyone wishing to hire a mobility scooter or wheelchair over this period must make arrangements for delivery/ collection by 12noon on Friday 22nd December 2017.

**Thank you.**

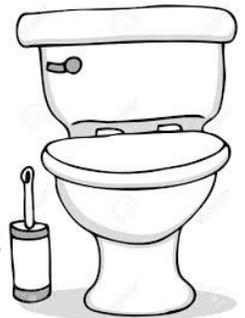
## A message from DAG Member, Ian Lawson

“Good day to you all. I'm currently on a mission to see improvements in accessibility for disabled people in North Yorkshire. What started in January this year is now starting to gather momentum. One strand of this campaign is to **persuade Scarborough Borough Council SBC to improve the information on its Discover Yorkshire Coast website for disabled visitors and residents.**

**Toilets** are, I believe, at or near the top, of factors that decide where disabled people go or don't go. All websites should provide more information about their toilets, on each venue's webpage. It is not enough to tick a box on a questionnaire that asks "is there a disabled toilet?". **The questionnaires sent out by Scarborough Council to restaurants, cafes, shops and accommodation Businesses need to be changed.**

I am going to address in both **Scarborough** and **North Yorkshire Councillors** to encourage them to support our proposed changes. I intend listing all the mishaps and calamities I have experienced in toilets in a humorous way.

What I would like from you are **any stories you have of visits to the disabled loo, when on your travels, that went wrong, for example, the door was too heavy or the emergency cord was out of reach**". **Thankyou**



Please send your feedback via the DAG office - by phone, e-mail, letter, or call in.



## Activities and Places to Visit

Even in Winter, we often have clear, and, dare we say it, sunny days. So why not explore the local countryside where you live or are visiting?

### The Whitby, Scarborough & Ryedale

**DAG** guide “Where to Go” provides details of venues, activities, museums and places of interest within 25 miles of Whitby. Also transport, parking location of radar toilets etc. We ask for a contribution of £1.50 (plus £1.22 p&p) for a printed copy. A PDF version of the guide is also available by e-mail. **Contact the DAG office.**



**Open Country** produces a series of **on-line Directories** of activities and places to visit in **North, South, East and West Yorkshire, Teeside, County Durham and Lancashire.**

The directories include information about walking and outings, sports and outdoor pursuits, wildlife and conservation, and volunteering opportunities. They can be downloaded from the Open Country website **[www.opencountry.org.uk](http://www.opencountry.org.uk)** Click on “**Directories**”.

Open Country is a Harrogate-based charity which seeks to enable disabled people access the countryside, activities, information, training and advice. **Tel: 01423 507227.**  
**E-mail via their website.**

**We recommend that you contact the venues prior to visiting to confirm opening times and access.**



## Abbey Taxis go Dementia Friendly

**Abbey Taxis** have taken part in a dementia awareness information session, and are now set to turn their understanding into action by making simple pledges that will improve the quality of service to their customers with dementia.

The session was run by **Deborah Senior** from **The Alzheimer's Society** and is part of an initiative led by the **Whitby Dementia Action Alliance** to create a Whitby dementia friendly community. Deborah said she had enjoyed delivering the sessions and was impressed that the drivers wanted to do that little bit extra to help their more vulnerable passengers. ***“Having a dementia friendly taxi service will help make life a little easier for someone who has dementia, to get safely to and from home, provide a friendly face and reassurance to their families.”***

**Steven Angus**, of **Abbey Taxis** said ***“the information session was really enjoyable and worthwhile. We all came away with a much better understanding of the disease and it's effects on people and their families. We will all have more confidence in dealing with everyday situations and helping clients old and new, with dementia”***.

To find out more about the **Whitby Dementia Alliance**, or how to become a **Dementia Friend**, contact **Celia Imogen** on **01947 601548**;  
e-mail: [manager@trinitycentrewhitby.org](mailto:manager@trinitycentrewhitby.org)



**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

### GP Dementia Clinics

**Filey Practice** - fourth Thursday of every month 10am-1pm

**Falsgrave Practice** - first Thursday of every month 12 noon – 4pm

**Peasholme Practice** - third Thursday of every month 10am-1pm.

For information and enquiries **Tel: 01723 500958.**



The **Whitby Cardiac Support Group**

Meets every third Wednesday of the month.

For details of times and venue: **Tel 01947 601547**

## Caring Together



Whitby & District

### ***FARMERS BREAKFAST***

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

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

**December 6<sup>th</sup> - Ian Sleightholme – Yorkshire Dialect**

### ***HINDERWELL FRIENDS AFTERNOON***

Meet up with old friends. Make new friends. Share a cup of tea and piece of cake. Contact us if you need transport.

**Tuesday 12th December 2017 at Methodist Chapel  
School Room, Hinderwell, from 2pm.**

Call **Isabelle Harrison** on **07811 638504/ 01947 605 757**;  
Or 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**

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### Acorn Super-glide 120 Stairlift

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**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**
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**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.*