

Plymouth Area Disability Action Network

PADAN

Newsletter Winter 2016

 Seasons
Greetings

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EXCITING NEWS FOR PADAN

We have been successful with an application for funding to the People's Health Trust to fund a new 2 year PADAN project.

The funding will help PADAN to set up a group for disabled people to meet socially, get help to try new activities, share skills, enjoy lunch together and get involved with other PADAN activities.

Read all about the project on page 4.

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PADAN Notices

**Next Access Group Meeting
13th January 2017**

**Frobisher Room,
The Council House**

10.30 am for 11am - 1 pm

**The Access Group is an open meeting
- all members are welcome**

It helps us to know if you are coming

Email: admin@padan.org.uk

**PADAN EVENT – ‘CONNECT & INCLUDE’
February 10th 2017 at the Jury’s Inn,
Plymouth**

**Look out for our one day event focusing on
disability issues in the City**

PADAN has a Facebook page ~

**Search for: “Plymouth Area Disability Action
Network – PADAN”**



or follow this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/PlymouthAreaDisabilityActionNetwork/>

Like us to keep up to date with our activities

Helen Starbuck-Phelps Tribute



We were sad to hear that Helen died on July 7th this year.

Helen was a PADAN member and those of you who knew her might like to read this tribute in the Plymouth Herald (link below).

<http://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/plymouth-s-powerchair-football-club-founder-helen-phelps-starbuck-dies-aged-36/story-29712838-detail/story.html>

Mobility scooters 'conga' through city centre in fundraiser for Access Plymouth



PADAN member and regular Access Plymouth user Bruce Abbott led a conga of mobility scooter users through the City Centre recently.

Despite the wet conditions, Access Plymouth's fundraising officer, Erica Travies, hailed the event as a success and plans a similar ride next year.

"The ride promoted the charity and raised awareness of the needs of people who use mobility scooters," she explained, "it was a visual demonstration of the type of services we provide".

Read more: <http://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/fleet-of-mobility-scooters-conga-through-plymouth-city-centre-in-quirky-fundraiser/story-29679963-detail/story.html>

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Your new PADAN project

With funding from the People's Health Trust PADAN's new monthly activity group starts on January 5th 2017. The project aims to work with disabled people who want to enjoy all sorts of activities and make new friends – we want to

make sure there is something for everyone. Group members can contribute ideas for a programme of activities and then we will work together to make it happen. We have a large screen laptop and can provide access to the internet.

Lunch will be provided and if you need help with transport we can talk to you about how we can do this.

Introducing our project staff

Cansu Sonmez
Project Development
Worker



Mel Leonis –
Sessional
Worker

Cansu & Mel look forward to working with you

If you are interested in coming along please contact:

Dawn Clarke or Debra Ewing

By email: dawn@padan.org.uk

By telephone: 01752 201766 (leave a message if we are not in the office)

The group will run on the first Thursday of every month starting on Thursday January 5th 2017:

VENUE: the Morice Baptist Church, Ham Drive PL2 2NJ

TIME: 10.30 to 3.30

Morice Baptist Church is situated at the junction of Ham Drive with North Prospect Road, by the roundabout.

Free parking is available at the Church and it is accessible to wheelchair users.

Community Christmas Day Lunches



Davie Masonic Hall, North Hill, Plymouth

Sam Lounds is putting on a festive feast for older people and whoever else is spending Christmas alone. Transport can be arranged for people who will have difficulty getting there.

He told the Herald: "I am anticipating around 60 to 70 guests, but will probably cater for quite a lot more and will be more than happy for people to just stop by for a coffee and a chat, a meal, or even just to spend the afternoon with us."

To find out more or book a seat:

Phone Claire: 07824340771

Email: clairedom@hotmail.co.uk



Operation Snow

Free traditional Christmas lunch. Booking required. All ages; needs of older people considered. Attendees arrange own transport.

Phone: 07554 665461

Email: enquiries.arterne@gmail.com



Welcome Hall

Free traditional Christmas lunch. Booking required. All ages; needs of older people considered. Attendees arrange own transport.

Phone: Glynis Lidster 606317

Email: glidster71@gmail.com

Closing date 24th December 2016

Update on Access issues at Plymouth's MTV Crashes

You may recall from our last newsletter that there were issues with disabled access to the MTV Crashes event on Plymouth Hoe 28th in July.

On 29th July the story of the removal of Alana Roberts, a wheelchair user, from the event was reported widely in the media – locally and nationally. Alana told the Herald: "When I arrived I queued for hours because I had been told it was first come, first served for the disabled viewing platform. When we were finally allowed through they would not allow us on because it had to be pre-booked." Alana could see space at the front so went there with her daughter instead only to be told by staff that she should be on the disability platform. She was then forcibly removed by security staff.

PADAN contacted the national organisation Attitude is Everything for a comment on this story in early October. Paul Hawkins, Festival Project Manager replied to us and to Karen Walker, Senior Events Officer, Economic Development, PCC:

"I understand from both of you that the priority is to ensure that there is a strategy in place to avoid the possibility of a repeat of the incident that happened on the first night. With that in mind, what I would suggest is that I would be happy to set up a meeting with Karen to talk about our Charter of Best Practice and the procedures and policies we'd recommend to make the event as accessible as possible and work on getting the event signed up to the Charter in 2017. I'd also say that we find one of the most valuable ways to improve access at an event is to ensure there is a process where local Deaf and disabled people are able to feed directly into planning the access at the event and there may be ways the council and PADAN could work together to find a system to do this. What might be a good strategy before the meeting might be to work with PADAN to pull together a list of where the challenges are so that we can ensure we cover everything in the meeting."

The meeting was held on December 2nd and the good news is that PCC will now work towards meeting the Attitude is Everything Charter of Best Practice when the City hosts large music events.

The Charter can be found at the link below.

<http://www.attitudeiseverything.org.uk/the-charter-of-best-practice>

Read more at the link below:

www.plymouthherald.co.uk/disabled-woman-manhandled-by-mtv-crashes-plymouth-security-guards/story-29565112-detail/story.html#ekAjxiVQ8M7xeooo.99

TRANSPORT & TRAVEL



Countryside Mobility's all terrain mobility scooter hire gives easy access to the South West's countryside and visitor attractions for anyone who has difficulty walking.

Their all-terrain mobility scooter hire is available at a wide range of wheelchair accessible outdoor visitor attractions and wheelchair accessible Wheelyboats provide access to inland lakes and waterways.

Read more: www.countrysidemobility.org/

SHOPPING

Sainsbury's 'Slow Shopping'

Sainsbury's may soon be introducing 'Slow Shopping' to support older and disabled shoppers. The concept is being trialled in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The idea was championed by Katherine Vero, Founder of Slow Shopping. "My mum used to love shopping but as her dementia developed it became increasingly difficult and stressful for us both. But I didn't want her to stop going out and become isolated."

The Alzheimer's Society found that eight out of ten of the 850,000 people living with dementia list shopping as their favourite activity but after diagnosis one in four gave it up.

Read more: www.plymouthherald.co.uk/sainsbury-s-introduces-slow-shopping-to-reduce-stress-for-elderly-and-vulnerable-shoppers/story-29672757-detail/story.html#jyGqXAe0ib64XXyV.99

New signs make Asda's toilets accessible to people with "hidden" impairments

Asda are rolling out new signs for their accessible toilets in 421 stores to make sure all customers with 'hidden' impairments such as Crohn's disease, autism and Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) feel comfortable using them.



The new signs were inspired by a conversation between Abby Robinson, store manager and Tonya Glennester, Mum to five-year-old Evalynn who has ADHD and autism who used the disabled toilet. She and her mum became upset when they were questioned by a customer who told them "You don't look disabled."

"Evalynn can be affected by the noise of hand dryers as well as queues and crowds of people," said Tonya. "When we walked two customers were waiting, one in a wheelchair, who disagreed that I should be using the toilet. I suffer from health issues and often use hand rails. We were both upset but I decided to speak to the manager because there are so many stories like ours."

Asda agreed to new signs in 421 stores to make them more accessible. Abby said: "I feel very proud that a simple conversation with a customer and her daughter has resulted in this initiative to raise awareness of invisible illnesses."

<http://your.asda.com/news-and-blogs/we-re-introducing-accessible-toilets-in-more-than-400-asda-stores>

Armada shopping centre lift repaired

Repairs to the lift in the Armada Centre in Mayflower Street were completed in early September.

CBRE Ltd, a global real estate services and investment firm who manage the shopping centre, said the work was essential and unavoidable.

The machinery, dated from when the centre was built in the 1980's, needed an overhaul so badly the mall has effectively been fitted with a new lift.

A PADAN member reported that the problem has not been totally resolved as the lift is constantly breaking down.

Read more: <http://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/when-will-armada-centre-lift-be-back-in-action/story-29679544-detail/story.html>

Councils treble successful Blue Badge prosecutions in 5 years

On August 22nd Public Law Today reported that Local Authorities successfully brought 985 prosecutions for Blue Badge fraud in 2015, three times the number (330) five years ago. The Local Government Association said the theft of Blue Badges had risen by a quarter in the past 12 months and trebled in three years.

There were 2,056 reported thefts in 2015, up 26% on the previous 12 months.

Examples of successful prosecutions included:

- **Bath:** 6 people were prosecuted for illegally using a family member's Badge.
- **Hampshire:** the council prosecuted 6 cases in 3 months.
- **Ealing:** the council is prosecuting more than 50 drivers.

Read more: <http://publiclawtoday.co.uk/local-government/transport-and-highways/443-transport-and-highways-news/31310-councils-treble-number-of-successful-blue-badge-prosecutions-in-five-years>

On a local level, Councillor Mary Aspinall updated the Access Group in October on the Plymouth picture:

1 prosecution (detailed in the Herald)

1 prosecution lined up for the use of a dead relative's Blue Badge

Awaiting court dates for 6 cases which will be prosecuted under Section 2 of the Fraud Act 2006, a more serious offence

4 cautions last month for the misuse of Disabled Persons Blue Badges

3 further cautions awaiting sign off

42 live investigations

UPDATE At the time of press: The Corporate Fraud team secured three successful Blue Badge prosecutions over the past fortnight.

The prosecutions include a man who illegally used his late father's Blue Badge six months after he had died, a woman who used her dead husband's Blue Badge, and a man who used his mother in law's Blue Badge.

The Corporate Fraud Team operates as South West Anti-Fraud Service and cover the whole region. They have already had a number of successes for other local authorities across Devon as well as Plymouth.

To report a Blue Badge Fraud contact:

Email: corporate.fraud@plymouth.gov.uk

Tel: Fraud Hotline on 01752 304450

SPORT

Premier League: Up to third of clubs to miss deadline for disability access

On 15th September the BBC reported that Lord Chris Holmes, Disability Commissioner and successful Paralympic swimmer is raising the threat of legal action if Premier League football clubs do not comply with official guidance on disability access by 2017 as promised this year.

Lord Holmes said, "There are clear sanctions in the Equality Act which Premier League clubs may find themselves on the end of. Clubs install HD cameras or extensions to hospitality areas in a heartbeat. We have the richest, the most profitable league on the planet. That has to be the most inclusive league as well, otherwise it is morally bankrupt."

Joyce Cook, chair of Level Playing Field, called the delay "unacceptable".

Read more:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/37368651>

<http://www.levelplayingfield.org.uk/news/parliament-seek-answers-over-lack-disabled-access-premier-league>

Plymouth Argyle Disabled Supporters Association

Plymouth Argyle Disabled Supporters Association (PADSA), launched in 2009, represents disabled supporters and their carers. PADSA liaises with the club and other football clubs to promote the enjoyment and experience of attending matches, home or away. PADSA holds social events and members receive regular newsletters. Membership is free.

CONTACT

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Email: padsagroup2015@gmail.com

Post: 'Padsa'
Plymouth Argyle Football Club
Home Park
Plymouth PL2 3DQ

Website: www.padsa.co.uk

BENEFITS

pipinfo

an adviser guide to personal independence payment regulations & case law

Developed by the London Advice Services Alliance (Lasa) with support from the Law Society Charity and Access to Justice Foundation, pipinfo is a new web tool designed to help people find details of Personal Independence Payment regulations and case law.

Help Lasa spread the word

Lasa are asking for help in letting people know about pipinfo.

Find out more at this link: www.pipinfo.net/

If you like pipinfo, check out Lasa's other web tools: lasa.org.uk/webtools

Disability Rights UK – Advice & Information Resources

Disability Rights UK, run by and for people with lived experience of disability or health conditions, provides information and advice and campaigns to secure disabled people's rights.

As a member you can attend free events and receive discounts on paid publications, a free newsletter and handbook updater. Find out more about the benefits of membership. **Individual membership is only £7.50 a year.** Disability Rights UK produce the Disability Rights Handbook and updates when changes occur. They provide a range of information including a useful timetable of expected changes to the benefits, tax credits and social care system and guidance to the Care Act 2014 and recent changes.

Full contact details can be found in Useful Organisations on page 13.



The Energy Advice Team – How can we help you?

We can support you to:

- Save money by switching tariffs, suppliers and payment methods
- Apply for energy supplier grants such as the £140 Warm Home Discount
- Apply for government grants towards boiler repairs/replacements, loft or cavity wall insulation and other energy efficiency measures
- Check eligibility and apply for grants to clear energy and water debts
- Reduce costly water bills by getting the correct discounts
- Understand your bills, use heating systems effectively and live in a healthy and warm environment
- Understand the smart meter rollout and benefits to them
- Address any other advice needs through our debt and benefit services

For more information or to book an appointment:

Call us on 01752 241082

Or email EnergyAdviceTeam@plymouthcab.org.uk

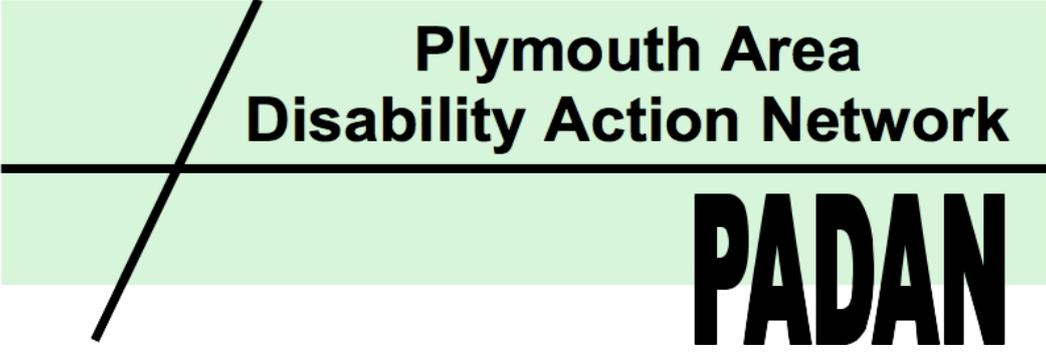
Leave your name, contact number and issue that you would like support with.



**ENERGY
ADVICE
TEAM**

Useful Organisations

<p>Disabled People Against Cuts http://dpac.uk.net/</p>	<p>DisabledGo Tel: 01438 842 710 www.disabledgo.com</p>
<p>Disability Rights UK Ground Floor CAN Mezzanine 49-51 East Rd London N1 6AH Tel: 020 7250 8181 Email: enquiries@disabilityrightsuk.org www.disabilityrightsuk.org</p>	<p>Disability News Service Email: john@disabilitynewsservice.com www.disabilitynewsservice.com</p>
<p>Plymouth Advocacy Free & Independent Advocacy service for adults & young people Highbury House, 207, Outland Road, Plymouth PL2 3PF Tel: 0300 343 5719 SMS: SEAP followed by your message to 80800 Email: info@seap.org.uk</p>	<p>Advice Plymouth Ernest English House, Buckwell Street, Plymouth PL1 2DA Drop in service Monday to Friday: 9am – 5pm Telephone Lines Open: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9am - 6.30pm Tuesday and Thursday 9am - 8pm Saturday 9am - 1pm Tel: 03444 111 444 (local rate) www.adviceplymouth.org.uk</p>
<p>Care or Not Ltd Sharon Lamerton, Plym Legal Services Tel: 01752 905031 SMS: 07922065761 Email: info@plymlegalservices.co.uk www.plymlegalservices.co.uk</p>	<p>Access Plymouth Mayflower East Car Park PL1 1QJ Tel: 01752 600633 Fax: 01752 229286 Email: accessplymouth@gmail.com www.accessplymouth.co.uk</p>



**Plymouth Area
Disability Action Network**

PADAN

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Although every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this newsletter is correct at the time of going to publication, PADAN will accept no responsibility for the accuracy of text. Views expressed in articles in the newsletter are not necessarily those held by PADAN.



Plymouth Guild
Helping people since 1907

The Clare Milne Trust
Supporting Disability in Devon and Cornwall

The Lynn Foundation

 **The David Gibbons
Foundation**