

NewsLink

Peterborough Disability Forum
September 2016

The Great Supermarket Scandal.

Do retailers give *any* consideration to disabled customers?



Back in 2011 the then Transport Minister, Norman Baker, urged major retail chains to take tougher action against disabled bay misusers.

"Many disabled people and disability groups have told me about the problems they have in finding a disabled bay at supermarkets because of their abuse by people who have no justification for parking in reserved spaces," Mr Baker said at the time. His appeal for tougher action was "backed" by Aldi, M & S, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose and Lidl. They said that able-bodied motorists using the bays will be issued parking charge notices - the private equivalent of a parking ticket.

This is what Mark Gunter, Morrisons' group retail director promised. "We will penalise those able-bodied drivers that incorrectly park in spaces allocated for blue-badge drivers." How did that pan out Mark?

5 years later and the misuse of disabled bays in Morrisons car parks is still rife with one Disability Forum regular counting eight cars without Blue Badges on a recent trip to the Stamford branch.

The Forum contacted Morrisons for a response, this from Customer Services. "I can confirm that we are unable to constantly police the situation. Please don't let this put you off shopping, we are listening to our customers and your feedback is very valuable to us." How?

There are 2.5 million blue badge holders in Britain. While local authorities can issue fines to motorists who illegally use disabled bays on the public highway, they are powerless to act on private land.

Jason Merrill, Disability Forum member said "Supermarkets should work with groups like the Disability Forum to come to a proper solution to this continuing problem. My view is that penalties need to be severe because the kind of person who would park in a disabled bay would laugh off a small fine. Retailers need to get their act together once and for all!"

Is accessible and affordable transport the answer to reducing social isolation?



The Peterborough Disability Forum received a "thank you" recently from the family of a local retired disabled gentleman.

"We wanted to say thank you to you and your colleagues. A year ago our dad was in a really bad place, he'd lost mum, he had his own health problems, and he lived alone and saw no one for days on end. We try to get to Peterborough as often as we can but it's difficult when we have young families and jobs. When we first contacted you about activities he could get involved in, dad was a bit reluctant. He was concerned about using buses, but you introduced him to a chap who would take him out and about. This year has flown by and our dad is unrecognisable from 12 months ago, he's never home! He is out and about taking part in all manner of things, it's brilliant. Again, thank you to you and your colleagues, keep up the good work."

Sporting Saturday 2017



Where does the time go? It's planning time for Sporting Saturday 2017-Keep Saturday 30th January 2017 free or get it in your diary now!

As always, the action will take place in the Cresset in Bretton. Lots of stands, stalls and exhibitions from Peterborough's leading disability charities, groups, organisations and sports providers. If you or your group would like a stand at the event or you would like to have a display in the main hall, can you get in touch with Inspire Peterborough: contact@inspirepeterborough.com

Disability Peterborough Q & A session on the radio



Disability Peterborough CEO Sandie Burns was a recent guest on the Inspiring Peterborough Radio Show. Sandie answered questions on a whole range of disability related issues from listeners and members of the Disability Forum. Sandie said "The questions were extremely well thought out and challenging. There were lots of questions we didn't get chance to answer but we will be doing the Q & A sessions on a regular basis and so hopefully we will answer your query next time round."

Send your disability related questions to:
bryan@inspirepeterborough.com

Number of people caught abusing Blue Badge scheme has soared by 198 per cent



Thefts of blue badges used by disabled drivers have trebled in just three years as motorists try to scam free parking, new figures have revealed.

The latest data from councils showed there were 2,056 thefts in 2015, compared to just 656 in 2013.

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Blue badges entitle around 2.5million disabled drivers to free parking in pay and display bays and allow them to park in specially-designated zones. Thieves steal the badges – issued by councils – to sell them on the black market where they can fetch as much as £1,500 each or use them to get free parking

Fraudsters have increasingly been prosecuted by councils in the past year for using stolen or lost badges and using dead relative's badges in order to get free parking when shopping or at work.

In one case last year, Hayley Noyce, of Littlehampton, West Sussex, was hit with fines totalling £1,110 after being caught stealing her elderly grandmother's disability permit while she was asleep at a care home.

Councillor Martin Tett, the LGA's transport spokesman, said: 'The theft of blue badges is clearly a crime on the rise and it is alarming that incidents have trebled in just three years.

Illegally using a blue badge is not a victimless crime. For disabled people, blue badges are a vital lifeline that helps them get out and about to visit shops or family and friends.

'Callous thieves and unscrupulous fraudsters using them illegally are robbing disabled people of this independence.'

A blue badge can only be used in a vehicle when it is being driven or used to transport the holder. Misuse can lead to a fine of up to £1,000.

If you see someone abusing or misusing a Blue Badge in Peterborough contact: Blue Badge dept. Tel: 01733 452375 or email blue.badges@peterborough.gov.uk

Do you have the broadcasting bug?



Do you have an interest in media, broadcasting, radio presenting & production?

The Inspiring Peterborough Radio Show is looking for enthusiastic voluntary recruits to join the show. Reporting and researching local events, activities for broadcasting on the programme. Joe Coles our present incumbent is off to continue his broadcasting education at college. Joe has been

fantastic since he joined Louisa Parr, Zoe Ann Goss, Nikki Griffiths Inspire and Gail Howard Inspire and me on the show-so big boots to fill! Criteria-

1. Must be willing to learn the technical aspects of radio and be able to prepare and present material for broadcasting every Friday between 12-2pm as well as interview guest from all walks of life
2. Must have an interest in what happens in Peterborough with a heavy emphasis on communities and disability issues
3. Must be willing to "muck in"
4. Must be reliable
5. Over 18 or 16 if supported by parent, carer, college tutor or guardian

Contact: bryan@inspirepeterborough.com with details, short CV and reasons why you would like to be involved with the Inspiring Peterborough Radio Show

Can you cook? Fancy proving it on C4?

Disability Peterborough have been contacted by C4s "Come dine with me" looking for new guests with a disability for the show.



As part of C4's Year of Disability, the broadcaster's hit television show "Come dine with me" is furthering its commitment to ensuring the representation of disability on screen. At present the popular programme is on a nationwide search to find brilliant people to compete in both the solo and couples version of the new series. Do you think you can host the perfect dinner party? Could it be you walking away with £1,000?

You must be over 18 and not trained or working as a professional chef. To apply for "Come dine with me" email: cdwm@shiver.tv. If you are in a relationship and wish to apply, email: comedinewithme@shiver.tv! Alternatively, call directly on: 0207 157 4575. When emailing, please leave your name, location, age and contact number. A member of the team will aim to contact you as soon as possible.

Phantom's sledge hockey team- What an achievement!



Well done the Peterborough Phantoms Sledge team for winning the Planet Ice league for the 4th successive year! The team, sponsored and supported by Inspire Peterborough beat Cardiff 5-1 in the last match of the season recently to lift the league title. Iain Crighton, Chair of Inspire told Captain Matt Coleman "what an accomplishment and what a credit to Peterborough the Phantoms are. I know how hard the players have worked to get crowned as champions again, but to win four on the trot is a real achievement!"

Save our community pub



Is community ownership of the Hand and Heart becoming a reality? The Hand & Heart Community Pub Limited has applied to the Financial Conduct Authority to become a Community Benefit Society.

The goal is to attract £265,000 funding through a community share offer with any interested individual or group able to invest in 10 to 200 shares at £100 each. If successful the CBS will buy the pub, undertake some improvement works and install a manager. Proposed works include: New disabled access and toilet · A parcel drop-off facility for residents who are not at home · Re-introduce pub sport teams – dominoes and crib · Introduce regular coffee mornings · Themed events to encourage take up from residents including Polish nights etc. Pledges so far have reached £100k, but more needs to be raised before September or risk losing the last pub in Millfield to developers. If further information, contact Matt Mace on 07809629241 or email handandheartcommunitypub@gmail.com

Care & Repair wins national award.



The outstanding work carried out by Care and Repair has been commended at the Home Improvement Agency and Handyperson Service Awards 2016. The team was awarded the National Foundations Collaboration Award. Each year the team helps 4,000 people through the handy person service, 1,300 with minor aids and adaptations, and 500 through the larger jobs scheme. Work includes repairs such as damp proofing and roof work, minor adaptations such as rails and banisters, larger disabled adaptation, for example stair lifts and level access showers (wet rooms), and small extensions for wheelchair accessible bedrooms and bathrooms. To find out if you are eligible for any of the larger services delivered by the Peterborough Care and Repair team please contact 863895 or for the handy person scheme call 863860.

When is a disability hate crime not a crime? When it's an incident!

The police don't tolerate hate crime



Why should you?

Report it online: www.report-it.org.uk
Report it to your local police: Call 101
In an emergency, always dial 999

Disabled people are four times more likely to be victims of crime than non-disabled people – and there is evidence that many more incidents of violence or hostility go unreported or are not dealt with properly by many local authorities, crime prevention units, public transport and other public bodies in Britain.

People with learning disabilities and mental health conditions are particularly at risk and suffer higher levels of victimisation.

A disability hate crime is any criminal offence that is motivated by hostility or prejudice based upon the victim's disability or perceived disability. It can take many forms:

- Physical attacks such as assault, damage to property, offensive graffiti and arson
- Threat of attack including offensive letters, abusive or obscene telephone calls, intimidation and unfounded, malicious complaints
- Verbal abuse, insults or harassment - taunting, offensive leaflets and posters, abusive gestures, dumping of rubbish outside homes or through letterboxes, and bullying at school or in the workplace.

Reporting Hate Crime

- Ring 101 (999 in emergency)
- At a police station
- Speak to a police officer
- Report on police website

http://www.cambs-police.co.uk/victims/report_online/

- Report on true vision website
<http://report-it.org.uk/home>



- Report to crimestoppers



How to report disability hate crime

Hate crimes and incidents can be very frightening and upsetting.

By reporting a hate crime, you can get the help you need and prevent it from happening to others.

And finally.....Some useful numbers

Age UK 01733 564185

Benefits (housing and council tax) 01733 452241

Care and Repair 01733 863895 Handyperson 863860.

CareZone 01733 575083

Carers Trust Peterborough 01733 645234

City Care Clinic 01733 293800

Child Benefit 0845 302 1444

Department of Work and Pensions (new claims) 0800 055 6688

Disability Peterborough (DIAL) 01733 265551

Fire and Rescue Service 0800 917 9994

Housing Options 01733 864064

Inland Revenue – Tax Credits 0845 300 3900

Inspire Peterborough 01733 330815

Peterborough Association for the Blind 01733 344 844

Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme 0844 4994120

Peterborough Direct 01733 747474

Peterborough City Hospital 01733 678000

Peterborough Police 101

Samaritans 08457 909090

Shopmobility 01733 313133

St Georges Hydrotherapy Pool 01733 453583

YMCA GYM 01733 313 085

49 Lincoln Road - Learning Disability Drop-in-Centre 01733-207299



**You can contact the Inspiring Peterborough
Radio Show at PCR, Herlington Centre.
Peterborough, PE2 5PN**

01733 237525

www.peterboroughcityradio.co.uk