

ISSUE 58

AUTUMN 2003

# VIEWPOINT

A quarterly Newsletter providing information for and about people who  
have a physical or sensory disability

VIEWPOINT  
AUTUMN 2003

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**0161 - 480 7248**

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Disability Stockport, 16 Meyer Street, Cale Green, STOCKPORT SK3 8JE  
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Registered Charity No 1006025

## A Farewell Message

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Viewpoint!

By the time you read this edition of Viewpoint I shall have left Disability Stockport and be enjoying a retirement holiday with my husband and one of my daughters.

After 14 years in the post life for me will be very different when I return. No longer will I have to get up early in the mornings and battle through the traffic and I will be able to take up new hobbies or return to the ones I had years ago.

I have immensely enjoyed my time with Disability Stockport despite the ups and downs, successes and failures, meeting so many readers of Viewpoint and responding to the many queries and problems disabled people have encountered over the years.

I know that there are still many, many issues and tasks left unfinished: the world, and Stockport in particular, is not yet fully accessible to disabled people despite our best efforts. The work will go on under the new leadership, and the organisation will, I am sure, continue to grow and to provide the best possible services and support for the disabled people of Stockport.

Thank you to everyone who sent their good wishes for the future to me - may I in return wish Disability Stockport every success for its future and welcome the new Director, Kieran McMahon.

**You can contact Kieran on  
0161 480 7248 (telephone/fax/textphone)  
E-mail: [disabilitystockport@btinternet.com](mailto:disabilitystockport@btinternet.com)  
Website: [www.disabilitystockport.org.uk](http://www.disabilitystockport.org.uk)**

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## NOTICE IS HEREBY given of

**Disability Stockport's  
Annual General Meeting  
on  
Tuesday 21 October 2003  
at the Dialstone Centre,  
Offerton, Stockport  
12.00 noon – 2.00 pm**

**If you have anything which you  
wish to raise at that meeting**

**please write or speak to  
Kieran McMahon  
by 10 October 2003.**

# ALL CHANGE

## Disability Stockport Welcomes New Director

Hello Everyone,

My name is Kieran McMahon and from 11 August, I started work as the new Director of Disability Stockport.

I live in Romiley with my wife and children. I have lived in the Northwest for almost 20 years although originally from Birmingham .

I was self-employed until my 30s when I decided to change careers and went into mental health with a charity called Making Space. Beginning as a Family Worker I eventually headed an ever-growing department covering the whole of Northern England. After 12 years I was ready to take on a new challenge that was locally focused and was delighted to be appointed to Disability Stockport.

I have a hearing impairment (a legacy of time spent in the music industry) that is alleviated by hearing aids. It is progressive so at some time in the future I will need to lip-read and/or sign. This does mean however, I will be able to learn about one area of disability first-hand and hope to put this to positive use.

As I am writing I will be completing my first few days in post, and while it is not quite a baptism of fire, I am faced with lots of new people to meet, lots of information to absorb and lots of work ahead. However, it is not too daunting, as I am very fortunate to be following on from Liz Williamson, who has not only passed on an organisation that is in very good shape but is giving me the added bonus of helping me through the first two weeks before leaving for a well-earned retirement.

Now, I know well already that Liz is not an act to be followed easily. After more than a decade she has made Disability Stockport very much in her own style which is one reason I won't be attempting to fill her shoes (so to speak!). I hope to continue the tremendous work done by the excellent staff and volunteers, with the addition of a few ideas of my own when I am settled into the post.

Meantime, I will look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the coming weeks - there is a lot for me to learn from you. If anyone wishes to contact me please do not hesitate to get in touch with the office.

**Contact me on 0161 480 7248 (telephone, textphone or fax)**

**E-mail: [disabilitystockport@btinternet.com](mailto:disabilitystockport@btinternet.com)**

# TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY

## Disability Stockport Transport and Access Forum

Your chance to become involved or influence the Transport Strategy

**The next two meetings are scheduled for:**  
**Wednesday 15 October 2003 at 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm**  
**Wednesday 12 November 2003 at 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm**

at  
Disability Stockport  
16 Meyer Street  
Cale Green  
Stockport SK3 8JE

**Telephone/fax/textphone us on 0161 480 7248**  
**E-mail [disabilitystockport@btinternet.com](mailto:disabilitystockport@btinternet.com)**

## Access Guide for Stockport Can You Help?

Three members of Disability Stockport, Leila Sheerin, Rod Simpson and Peter Rowe have been awarded a Millennium Help the Aged Award to produce an Access Guide for Stockport.

This guide will list leisure venues in Stockport that are accessible to disabled people. These will include pubs, restaurants, cafes, cinemas etc. It will be for the people of Stockport and we want your help in producing it.

If YOU know somewhere that is accessible for wheelchair users, for people who don't get about too well, or for those who have a sight or hearing impairment, please let us know.

- ◆ Is there level access?
- ◆ Are there steps and if so, how many?
- ◆ Are there steps inside?
- ◆ Is there a Braille menu?
- ◆ Is there a wheelchair accessible toilet?
- ◆ Are the staff known to be helpful towards customers who have a sight or hearing impairment?

It will be your guide. We depend on you to help make it a useful and accurate guide!

**Send the information to: Peter Rowe,**  
**Disability Stockport, 16 Meyer Street, Cale Green, Stockport, SK3 8JE**  
**0161 480 7248 (telephone/fax/textphone)**  
**E-mail: [disabilitystockport@btinternet.com](mailto:disabilitystockport@btinternet.com)**

# DISABILITY STOCKPORT MEMBERSHIP

Once again we are seeking people with an interest in disability issues, preferably from a personal point of view, to become members of Disability Stockport.

If you are a member you can be nominated to serve on the executive committee and help to shape the future of Disability Stockport. If you do not wish your involvement to be hands-on, you can elect those you think would be an asset to the organisation by voting for them at the Annual General Meeting. So far we have had nominations from nine people to fill the ten places on the committee.

If you are on our Viewpoint mailing list you are NOT automatically a member of Disability Stockport. If you would like to become a member, please fill in the Membership Form below. Membership is **FREE**. If you have filled in and returned a membership form before, you will not need to do so again.

If you would like to know more about what is involved in being a committee member please contact the Director, Kieran McMahon, for an informal chat on:

**0161 480 7248 (telephone/fax/textphone)**  
**or e-mail [disabilitystockport@btinternet.com](mailto:disabilitystockport@btinternet.com)**

**DISABILITY STOCKPORT  
MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**\* Please delete as appropriate.**

\*I / We would like to become a member / members of Disability Stockport

\*I am / know of someone who is interested in becoming a Committee member and would like further information.

Name: .....

Organisation (if appropriate): .....

Address: .....

.....

Postcode: ..... Telephone / Fax no: .....

\* I am a disabled person / carer / professional / interested in raising awareness of disability issues:

Other reason: .....

\* I / We agree to Disability Stockport holding the above information on computer.

Signed: ..... Date .....

# TRADING STANDARDS ADVICE

## **Danger – Gas !**

Stockport Trading Standards Service has recently undertaken a joint investigation with the Health & Safety Executive. A local trader who was falsely claiming to be CORGI registered had done work on gas appliances, causing some danger. Traders must register with CORGI (the Council of Registered Gas Installers) before they are allowed to install, repair or inspect gas appliances.

Trading Standards received three complaints in quick succession about a man called Scott Waterhouse (also known as C S Waterhouse). He advertised in the Yellow Pages and claimed on his invoices that he was CORGI registered. In fact he was not.

It was reported that Mr Waterhouse had installed a gas boiler incorrectly, had charged too much for work to repair another boiler and, finally, he had installed a gas fire in such a way that it was unsafe. Fumes from the fire were leaking back into the room and the householder was in danger of being poisoned by carbon monoxide.

The safety matter was reported to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). In the first case of its kind it was decided that the two agencies would work together to bring a joint prosecution. This meant that the court would get a true picture of events and would see why it is vital that anyone working on gas appliances is CORGI registered.

At Stockport Magistrates Court Mr Waterhouse pleaded guilty to working on gas appliances when not registered with CORGI and to installing a gas fire in such a way as to cause danger to the householders. He further pleaded guilty to falsely claiming to be CORGI registered. The magistrates felt that the matter was so serious that the Crown Court should hear the case and a judge would pass sentence.

On 31 July 2003, the Crown Court ordered Mr Waterhouse to pay a total of £2,500 in fines and costs. Mr Waterhouse's legal representative told the Court that his client had been CORGI registered until early 1999 when he had let the registration lapse.

His Honour Judge Lewis described the matter as '*one of deception with potentially lethal consequences*'.

Trading Standards advice is always to check that the trader is CORGI registered before you let them start work. Ask for their CORGI registration number and ask to see the ID badge. You can even check directly with CORGI by telephoning 01256 372200 or going to their website at [www.corgi-gas.com](http://www.corgi-gas.com). If you find that someone is claiming to be CORGI registered when they are not, please report the matter to:

**Stockport Trading Standards on 0161 474 4248.**

If someone does work on a gas appliance and you later find they aren't CORGI registered you can report the matter to the Health and Safety Executive.

**Ring them on 0161 956 8200 if you are worried about your safety.**

**If you smell gas turn off the supply at the meter, open all the windows and ring Transco immediately on 0800 111 999 to report it.**

# HOLIDAYS

## NEW LUXURY CARAVAN



More spacious, sleeps six people, fully equipped

You can get away from everyday pressures, be free to do your own thing and enjoy your surroundings in your own way and in your own time.

You can join in a wide variety of on-the-spot facilities and entertainment or you can explore many accessible venues in Wales.

What holiday-makers say

*“Very impressed with the caravan. So spacious”*

*“Super caravan. Very impressed with all the facilities on the site”*

*“Caravan well equipped and very spacious”*

*“Nice caravan, very, very spacious”*

*“Caravan excellent”*

*“Enjoyed our stay very much”*

*“Caravan is lovely and in a very good spot”*

**Book early and you will have a better chance of securing the week of your first choice.**

**For all your caravan enquiries contact:**

**Caravan Bookings on 0161 480 7248 (Telephone/fax/textphone)**

**Or E-mail [disabilitystockport@btinternet.com](mailto:disabilitystockport@btinternet.com)**

**BOOK FROM  
NOVEMBER  
FOR 2004**

### **ORLANDO FLORIDA**

Disabled Travellers, don't miss this spacious, luxury adapted bungalow  
3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms,  
(Mangar bathlift), cable TV,  
2 telephones,  
Country club membership FREE,  
10 minutes from the airport  
15 minutes from Disney World

**For availability and booking  
Contact paraplegic owner  
Sue Fisher on 0161 792 3029  
Email [rita.suefisher@ntlworld.com](mailto:rita.suefisher@ntlworld.com)**

### **Carers Break Service**

Do you live in Stockport? Do you look after a relative, partner or friend who is ill, disabled, confused or frail?

If you do, you are a Carer and you may be entitled to a free break under the Carers Special Grant

**For information contact: Gaynor Hannon  
Signpost Stockport for Carers,  
on 0161 483 6600**

# CONNECT PLUS NEWS



Since 1997, connect plus has received the majority of its funding from two consecutive three year grants from the Community Fund (previously known as the National Lotteries Charities Board). As Community Fund rules do not allow for a third round of funding, we have been reliant since the end of May on a modest grant from SMBC, plus moneys accrued over the past few years as a result of prudent financial management and a variety of fundraising efforts.

These funds will enable us to continue to run the project at its present level until the end of November. After that we will continue to offer a service, although we cannot be sure whether we will be able to offer exactly the same level of service as we do at present.

We are, and have been, in the process of applying for continuing funding from a number of trusts. So far, apart from a couple of small grants, we have not yet been successful. Consequently we will be continually reviewing the service we offer in the light of income, whilst endeavouring to ensure that we do continue to offer a good quality, wide ranging and cost effective service to our members.

During the six years of community funding, connect plus has thrived and therefore been able to offer an ever-improving service to our members. Throughout the period we have had a total of over 130 members, with new members joining whilst others have been able to move on to something new. Members have been supported over the six years by a total of 110 volunteers, whose contribution is greatly appreciated. Without them we would not have been able to provide a service.

Members have been able to enjoy hundreds of different activities over the period. We have organised activities for individuals, couples, small groups and large groups. We have arranged things in people's own homes, in local centres or community facilities and organised day trips throughout the Northwest and further afield. We have done cultural activities, such as:

- theatre and the ballet
- sports - watching and participating
- attractions like Alton Towers and Knowsley Safari Park
- heritage visits to Wigan Pier and the Hat Works Museum
- Informative things such as Museums, Walks and Talks
- plus many, many, many, many, more.

The Community Fund has enabled us to offer a fantastic service to our members and, although this source of funding has dried up, we will strive to continue to offer a service they deserve to disabled adults in Stockport .

**If you or someone you know would like to know more about volunteering with Connect Plus contact: Tony Williams, Sara Johnston or Allie Cordes on 0161 474 0048 Email: [disabilitystockport@btinternet.com](mailto:disabilitystockport@btinternet.com)**



# LEYFIELD PRIMUS NEWS

The Summer 2003 edition of Viewpoint reported that people who attend Leyfield Primus have, since April 2003, been able to take advantage of the wide variety of leisure and social activities on offer, through a pilot voucher scheme operated between Social Services and Disability Stockport.

Social Services Update August 2003 reports::

## **Voucher Scheme provides ‘Passport to Choice’**

“A recently introduced Voucher Scheme will allow people in Stockport to have even more freedom to choose who will provide the help and support that they need from Social Services.

A pilot scheme is currently operating at the Leyfield Primus Centre in Romiley which enables people who are eligible for day services from Social Services to receive that help in the form of Vouchers, allowing them choice and flexibility over the days they choose to attend.

A delighted service user at Leyfield Primus said: “I like the scheme as it gives me more freedom to go to Primus at different times so this means that I don’t have to lose my day care if I have a hospital appointment or whatever. It also makes it possible to spend time with members from other days so that we can get to know each other better, and to take part in a greater variety of activities”.”

Leyfield Primus is open Monday to Friday 9.30 am – 3.30 pm. It offers a service to disabled people aged 18 – 65 years whose disability is predominantly physical or sensory. Most people who currently use the service are over 30 years old.

If you would like to join us at the Leyfield Primus, talk to your social worker about how to get a voucher to come, or you can come as a private member if you do not fit Social Services criteria.

**Contact your social worker or ring us on 0161 430 2891.**

## **VOUCHER SCHEME**

If you are interested in helping Social Services develop the Voucher Scheme further by joining a User or Carer Forum, or want to go on a mailing list to find out more about the longer term development of the Voucher Scheme, please contact:

**Catriona at Social Services on 0161 476 4628**

**People currently attending Leyfield Primus  
automatically receive any mailings about the scheme.**

# DISABILITY AT WORK

The following is an outline of your rights under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) at work, or when applying for work.

## Who does the Act cover?

To be covered you must be classed as disabled under the Act.

You are classed as disabled if you have a **physical or mental impairment** which has a **substantial** and **long term** adverse effect on your ability to carry out normal **day-to-day** activities.

- **Physical impairment:** includes impairment to the senses, eg sight and hearing
- **Mental impairment:** includes learning disabilities and mental illness if it is an illness recognised by a respected body of medical opinion
- **Substantial:** more than minor or trivial
- **Long-term:** has lasted or likely to last at least 12 months or for life
- **Day-to-day activities:** normal activities carried out by most people on a regular basis and must include one of a list of categories such as speech, hearing or sight, mobility, ability to carry, lift or move ordinary objects.

You are covered if you are permanent staff, a temporary worker, a worker on contract hired from an employment business, self-employed, a home-worker or an agency worker.

You are only covered if your employer, or the person you are applying to work for, employs 15 or more workers.

## Past Disabilities

You are also covered if you have had a disability in the past, even if you have recovered or are in remission.

## Severe Disfigurement

You are covered if you have a severe disfigurement, this is even if the disfigurement has no effect on your ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

## Medication/equipment or aids

If you take medication or use equipment or aids to help your disability, these are not taken into account when considering whether there is a 'substantial' effect. For example, if you use a hearing aid, it is your level of disability without the aid that would be considered.

## Progressive conditions

You are also covered if you have a progressive condition which is likely to have 'substantial effect' in the future. However, you are not covered as soon as you get the condition but only **as soon as there is a noticeable effect on normal day-to-day activities**, even if to start with the effects are very slight. Examples of progressive conditions are cancer, HIV infection, multiple sclerosis or muscular dystrophy.

**There are some people who may not be covered eg if your employer employs fewer than 15 people, if you work mainly or only outside the UK, if you are addicted to/ dependent on certain substances eg alcohol, nicotine – this would not be classed as a disability under the Act. It could, however, be a reaction to a disability, in which case it wouldn't rule out a claim.**

# DISABILITY AT WORK

## Discrimination

It is unlawful for your employer (or a prospective employer) to discriminate against you by treating you less favourably than someone else for a reason relating to your disability if the treatment can't be justified.

Your employer must not discriminate in the following situations:

- recruitment or retention of employees
- terms of employment, promotion, transfers
- training and development
- dismissal or any other detriment

## Changes to premises and other arrangements

Your employer must also make **reasonable** changes to their premises or employment arrangements, if these substantially disadvantage you or a prospective employee compared with a non-disabled person.

## What are reasonable changes?

A number of factors are considered, including:

- how much the alteration would improve the situation for you
- how easy it is to make the change
- the cost of the change in terms of money and disruption
- the employer's resources
- money or any other help that might be available

## When is less favourable treatment justified?

Your employer can only justify less favourable treatment under the Act if:

- the treatment is relevant to the circumstances of the individual case and
- the reason for the treatment is a substantial one.

For example, having psoriasis (a skin condition) is unlikely to be a relevant reason for treating you unfavourably if you are working in an office, however, it may be relevant if your job involves modelling cosmetics.

If the reason could be overcome by your employer making a **reasonable adjustment** then the less favourable treatment would not be justified.

## What if workers are victimised for asking for their rights under the Act?

The Act covers you if you are victimised for taking, or trying to take, action under the Act. People who help you complain about discrimination are also covered. The Act also covers people who:

- take an employer to an Employment Tribunal under the Act
- give evidence or information for a case
- help you under the Act
- allege that someone has ignored the Act's provisions
- are believed to have done any of the above

**For more information about pay and employment rights call the Greater Manchester Low Pay Unit 0161 953 4024 (voice and textphone). Website: [www.gmlpu.org.uk](http://www.gmlpu.org.uk)**

# DID YOU KNOW?

## Operation Guy Fawkes

The Safer Stockport Partnership is launching a campaign this autumn to promote the safe use of fireworks and crack down on fireworks misuse in public places.

Backed by Stockport Council, Greater Manchester Police, the Fire Service and Stockport Primary Care and NHS Trusts, the campaign aims to prevent accidents with bonfires and fireworks, and also to warn young people that making a nuisance with fireworks will not be tolerated. From 15 October, residents can call a special fireworks **hotline for information, advice and to report any incidents 0845 644 4315** campaign news from Joan Lomas on 0161 474 4205

## Leyfield Primus

### Christmas Fair

**Tuesday 18 November 2003**  
**1.30 pm – 3.00 pm**

Everyone is welcome

**For more information contact:  
Leyfield Primus on 0161 430 2891**

### ‘Imagine All the People...’ A Networking Evening on Cultural Awareness

**Wednesday 29 October 2003**  
**7.00 pm – 10.00 pm**  
**Pinewood House, Stepping Hill Hospital**

The evening will offer talks, some of which are detailed below:

- ◆ Impact of new cultures on old
- ◆ Sickle Cell Disease
- ◆ People’s Stories: Experiences of refugees and people seeking asylum

There will be opportunities to ask questions, collect additional information and find out how you can learn more about any of the topics covered by the speakers.

A loop system is installed for people who are hard of hearing.

**For more information contact:  
Fran Holmes, Head of Partnerships with People, Stockport Primary Care Trust on**

### ‘The Home Service’ A Networking Evening on Primary Care in the Future

**Wednesday 12 November 2003**  
**7.00 pm – 10.00 pm**  
**Pinewood House, Stepping Hill Hospital**

There will be presentations on:

- ◆ Quality Services close to your home – a new Primary Care Service
- ◆ Winning the Waiting Game – Access, Booking and Choice
- ◆ Staying at Home – Short-term Rehabilitation Service

The evening is open to all residents of Stockport.

If you would like more information and/or would like to go along please contact:

**Fran Holmes, Head of Partnerships with People, Stockport Primary Care Trust on:  
0161 419 5066.**

# HELP AND SUPPORT

## Accessible Websites

Created by the National Library for the Blind in consultation with visually impaired internet users,

**www.nlb-online.org** is a gateway to hundreds of accessible websites. It offers:

- A wide choice of links to accessible websites, ranging from high street shopping to finance, sport and technology
- A regularly updated list of websites which have been checked for accessibility
- A useful way for beginners to try out the internet by logging onto websites which work with access technology

**Contact: The National Library for the Blind, Far Cromwell Road, Bredbury Stockport SK6 2SG**

**Tel: 0161 355 2000 / Fax: 0161 355 2098**

**Textphone: 0161 355 2043**

## Give Families a Break

Do you want a new challenge? Have you got a few hours to spare?

Sharecare provides short breaks for disabled children. Their problem is they can't provide enough breaks for disabled children and families without you!!

Sharecare supports and trains sessional workers and volunteers to spend time one-to-one with disabled children.

They need all sorts of people. You could be retired, working or unemployed, with or without children, single or with a partner. You do not need any particular experience or qualification. Each person recruited means that one more child can receive a service.

**For more information call: 0161 494 5771**

**E-mail: [office@sharecare.demon.co.uk](mailto:office@sharecare.demon.co.uk)**

## Make Time for Health

Members are being sought to form part of a large network of local health forums set up all over England. With legal powers, Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Forums will be able to speak up for the public on health.

You may be young or old or from any section of the community – most importantly you'll want to check and challenge decisions when it comes to health.

**For more information please call 0845 120 7115  
or visit [www.maketimeforhealth.org](http://www.maketimeforhealth.org)**



**Everything you need to live a confident carefree life**

**for 100s of mobility and healthcare products**

- visit our store
- call us for a free 96 page catalogue
- or call us for a free no obligation home assessment

- Scooters
- Wheelchairs
- Stairlifts
- Walking Aids
- Continence Care
- Bathing Aids
- Rise / Recline Armchairs
- Adjustable Beds
- 100's of Daily living aids
- Hire Service Available
- NHS Vouchers Accepted

**0161 480 4999** 136-140 Shaw Heath Stockport SK2 6QS

# HELP AND SUPPORT

## Diversity Festival Hidden Talents, Hidden Histories

Stockport has secured an award supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund for the above project. Disability Stockport is one of the partners in this exciting project which will produce a number of exhibitions and events in Stockport over the next year.

Over the next twelve months Disability Stockport will be producing a history of Disability in Stockport spanning three centuries. We hope to involve people in providing an oral and photographic record for display. We will also be participating in events by other organisations, the first of which will be at Stockport Town Hall on 27 September.

Look out for details which will be advertised throughout Stockport in the coming weeks. All details for the above are still being finalised and we will keep everyone updated as things develop.

**If you can help in anyway please contact  
Kieran McMahon on 0161 480 7248 (telephone/fax/textphone)  
E-mail: [disabilitystockport@btinternet.com](mailto:disabilitystockport@btinternet.com).**

**Ridge Danyers College  
Cheadle Campus, Cheadle Road  
Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire SK8 5HA**

Classes starting in September

### **For Students with a Hearing Impairment**

- Lip Reading

### **For Students with a Visual Impairment**

- Cookery
- Dressmaking
- Music Appreciation
- Craft
- Gardening
- Pottery

### **For Students with Physical Disabilities**

- Craft
- Pottery

**Please contact a member of the  
Community Network Team  
Telephone: 0161 486 4600**

### **Why not try a FREE internet starter session?**

If you've never used the internet before, you'd be amazed at what you can do. It's a fantastic source of information and great fun - and it's never too late to give it a try.

Telephone your local online centre for more information:

Flexible Learning, Stockport College on 0161 958 3366 or Stockport County Learning Centre, Edgeley Park on 0161 429 7392

### **Learn the basics:**

- Using a keyboard and mouse
- Looking at websites
- Finding out how to search for information
- Sending an email

**Everyone's welcome**

# POSTBAG

Dear Viewpoint

The Aixam, as it is known, has now been accepted by the Government as a suitable replacement for the well known and very popular, amongst very many disabled people, Blue Trikes. They, of course, have now all been withdrawn and scrapped. This idea in itself left a lot of people including my mother, Elsie Houldsworth, unable to drive themselves around whenever they felt like it.

The reasons for the resentment for the new Aixam are many, in so much as this all-new car cannot be readily adapted for hand controls, for example tiller steering, or power steering. Apart from these faults, the Aixam is, for anyone with a reasonable amount of strength in their arms, a delightful little car to drive. It has a two-cylinder 500 cc diesel engine which through the automatic gearbox allows a top speed of fifty-five miles per hour. This vehicle is probably more economical to run than the old trike, as it will do more than one hundred miles to the gallon.

The Aixam, has now been accepted onto the Motability scheme as one of the few cars that do not require a deposit. For a couple it is an ideal means of transport as there is room for two children on the back seat. But anyone with a wheelchair might have some

difficulty getting the chair in. The Aixam comes in a variety of colours and my mother chose to have a darkish blue one.

After having had seventeen driving lessons on the Aixam, it was decided that my mother was unable to adapt to the new car. My mother and the driving instructor then decided that I, her son, should become the sole driver. This decision has of course helped me considerably as I too have osteo-arthritis in my spine and various other joints.

The only dealership and service facility for the Aixam, is based in Oswaldtwistle near Accrington. This does make it rather a long journey for service but I look on it as a day out, as there is some beautiful scenery along the way.

Norman Houldsworth

**If you have any queries on the Aixam contact Steve Clayton on 01254 871515.**

Dear Viewpoint

Julie Rothwell, aged 34 years, died on Saturday 17th May at Stepping Hill Hospital.

Although Julie's life was sadly cut short, there is much to celebrate in her life.

Julie trained as a nurse, met and married Howard and then

became a loving, caring mother to her four children.

Gradually, through her own experience, Julie became aware of the difficulties and isolation faced by parents/carers of special needs children.

She wanted to help others in a similar position and so she set up the Hazel Grove Support Group for Parents/Carers. She invited the group into her home and gave them her support and friendship. Julie will be sadly missed by the members of the group and by all the others she reached out to help in her daily life.

Our thoughts are with all her family at this difficult time.

Moira Haworth

For more information on the Hazel Grove Support Group for Parents/Carers of Special Needs Children which meets at the Tree House, Stepping Hill Hospital

**Contact: Moira Haworth, telephone 0161 483 0335 after 6.00 pm.**



# NOTICE BOARD

## CHEADLE GATLEY AND STOCKPORT ROUND TABLE

Disability Stockport is very grateful for the financial help from the Cheadle Gatley and Stockport Round Table



**ADOPT  
ADAPT  
IMPROVE**

The Chair, Committee and staff of

**DISABILITY STOCKPORT** invite you to the

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

on  
**Tuesday 21 October 2003**  
**12.00 noon to 2.00 pm**  
at  
**The Dialstone Centre**  
**Lisburne Lane, Offerton,**  
**Stockport**

### EASYGO

#### Management Committee

Interested in being a member of Easygo committee?

**Contact: Christine Walker**  
**on 0161 482 7240**

### FOR SALE

3-years old **Levo stand-up wheelchair** (one which will help you to stand up).

**Sell for £1,500**

With E-motion assisted wheels

**Sell for £2,000**

Open to offers

**Contact: Tony Montford**  
**(Mondays to Fridays 10.30 am – 2.00 pm) on 0161 613 3117**  
**Or Val Maguire on 0161 285 3133**

### FOR SALE

**Car Seat Elap** rotating grey front passenger

Cost £650

**sell for £250 ono**

**Contact: Mr Cash**  
**on 0161 437 1268**

### SHOPMOBILITY STOCKPORT

Commercial wheelchair hire is now available

**Contact Shopmobility on**  
**0161 666 1100**

### FOR SALE

**Stannah Stairlift**

Covers 12 steps right hand wall

**Contact: (evenings)**  
**Mrs Lynham**  
**on 0161 486 9930**

Thank you to all those who contributed to this issue and to Keith Turner, Stockport Talking Newspaper, for copying Viewpoint onto tape. Viewpoint is a **FREE** publication and is available in large print on audio tape or disk. Please let us know if you would prefer either of these to be sent to you.

If you do not wish to receive further copies of Viewpoint, if you have changed address or if your address label is wrong, please contact the office on **0161 480 7248**.

Opinions expressed in this issue do not necessarily reflect the views of members, staff or committee nor have holidays or other services been vetted by Disability Stockport members. All factual information checked and correct at the time of printing.

**Issue 59** of Viewpoint will be circulated late November. Information to be included in the next issue should be sent to:

**Barbara Bowden, Disability Stockport, 16 Meyer Street, Cale Green,**  
**STOCKPORT SK3 8JE by 1 November 2003**  
**E-mail [disabilitystockport@btinternet.com](mailto:disabilitystockport@btinternet.com)**  
**Website [www.disabilitystockport.org.uk](http://www.disabilitystockport.org.uk)**  
**Telephone/textphone/Fax 0161 480 7248**

### FOR SALE

**Red Aztec 4-wheel scooter** with basket, charger, and cover  
Serviced recently and in good condition  
Cost £3,500 **will sell for £500**

**Contact:**  
**Mrs Burrows**  
**on 0161 427 4392**