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It's been a while since I last wrote one of these! Seven and a half years in fact, in the summer of 2017 before I retired.

Ian Peck has now left DAG, so I am doing this 'editorial' piece for the DAG News. **It falls on me to thank Ian very much for his contribution to DAG since**

2017. We're still here and we continue offering a range of services to people living with disabilities in Whitby & District – and beyond thanks to the Mobility Equipment Hire Service. **That is in no small part due to Ian's efforts, especially during the Covid Pandemic** (is it really almost 5 years since lock-down?) when, thanks to his leadership and with the support of the staff, we became like the famous Windmill Theatre in Soho and **'never closed'**. An achievement to be proud of. **So, it's "goodbye" Ian and very best wishes for the next chapter in your life.**

Writing this, the sun is beating down from a cloudless blue sky and it is easy to look ahead into spring and summer. Whilst many of our services are busy year-round, the Mobility Equipment Hire Service's season usually begins with Easter, peaks during July and August, and remains fairly busy until the end of October. **Mark Watkins** leads the

service and, having run it over last year's busy time, he will be able to further take some of the demands off Judith in particular. It is a strategy of DAG to relieve the pressure this service can exert on our office staff and to do that the service has to 'stand alone' as much as possible; from enquiries, to bookings, to pick-ups, to drop-offs. Volunteers are always welcome and if you, or anyone you know, are interested in supporting Mark's work please contact DAG.

Today, I was wondering what 'hot topic' I might be able to write about in this issue and BBC News had an article about the importance – to disabled people – of shops still accepting cash. The main points from the article are: 16m disabled people rely on cash (**info. from Disability Rights UK [DRUK] and Royal National Institute for the Blind [RNIB]**). Government says shops will not be forced to accept cash despite concerns that millions of vulnerable people rely on it. **DRUK & RNIB warn that making card payments the default creates "more barriers" for disabled people.** Disabled people fear losing access to cash would limit independence, and they would struggle to track spending by card, leaving them with no tangible control over their finances. **If you are concerned about this issue or have had to deal with it please let us – and Alison Hume, our local MP – know.**

Finally, a reminder that this year we are planning a **programme aimed at improving people's physical and mental health through physical activity**, potentially including gentle yoga, seated exercises or adapted cycling. **We need to know from YOU what activities YOU would like to see offered.**

That's all for now. **Richard Weightman**

DAG Updates

Annual General Meeting for 2023-24

We held our rescheduled Annual General Meeting on Monday 24th February. 13 Members (including Trustees) and one member of staff attended. 13 Members and two staff sent their sent apologies.

The Minutes from 23/1/2024, Annual Report and Accounts for 2023-24 were all approved. Copies are available, on request, from the DAG office, and can be viewed on our Companies House listing www.gov.uk

Barbara Booth, Roger Everitt, Mike Hutchinson, Jacqui Jobling, Malcolm Watt, Richard Weightman, and Sally Williams have all been re-elected to the Board of Trustees.

The proposal from Trustees that the Membership Fee for 2025-26 should remain at **£20 for a single Member** and **£25 for joint Membership**, was approved unanimously.

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Membership Renewal for 2025-26

Memberships are due for renewal on 1st April 2025 - **£20 for a single member and £25 for joint membership.**

Card payments can be taken over the phone and in the office. Cheques should be made payable to **Whitby, Scarborough & Ryedale D.A.G.**

Anyone who became a DAG member on or after 2nd January 2025 should renew in April 2026.

Get your DAG Newsletter by E-mail

“DAG seeks to enable disabled people to live as independently as possible, making informed choices through access to services and information”

Our monthly newsletter is an important means of providing information. Each month we send out 268 newsletters to individuals groups and organisations. 121 of these are by email.



We would like to encourage more of you to receive our newsletter by email.

You would receive your newsletter sooner each month, and, it's a much more efficient way for Members to receive notices and papers, for example for the AGM.

Of course, it would also help DAG save money on printing, paper and postage. We don't receive any funding for the newsletter.

Paid up DAG members may receive their newsletters by post. We understand that not everyone has email, or a computer with a large enough screen to read documents. However if you can receive documents by email, please contact us so that we can add you to our emailing list.

Organisations, non-members and groups can only receive our newsletter by email.

TRIPS & SHOPPERS: MARCH 2025

Unless otherwise stated, **all trips cost £8 for DAG Members and £10 for a non-members.** For more information and to book your place(s), contact Tom on **07871 388 425**, or ring the DAG office on **01947 511118** and leave a message.

Friday 7th: Staithes Shopper to **Redcar**

Monday 10th Day out to **Irton Garden Centre**

Thursday 13th Whitby Shopper to **Guisborough Market Day**

Wednesday 19th **Northallerton Market Day** £10/ £12

Thursday 27th Lunch Outing to the **Badger Hounds, Hinderwell**

Friday 28th Staithes Shopper to **Skelton**

DAG Easter Coffee Morning

Wednesday 16th April 2025
at Staithes Village Hall
10.30am -12.30pm

Teas, Coffees, Hot Cross Buns
Easter/ Spring Themed Raffle





Whitby DAG Hospital Transport Scheme

The service is for people over the age of 60

- with some form of disability
- who would have great difficulty using public transport or taxis to attend their hospital appointment
- who do not have anyone to take them to the appointment
- who are not eligible for Patient Transport

Home collection and return. Wheelchair accessible vehicles. Wheelchair users will need to bring a companion.

Contact our dedicated telephone line on **07873 631 245** between **11:00am and 2:00pm**, or leave a short message on the answerphone and we will return your call.

We are now able to provide transport to the following hospitals. Cost confirmed on application. TWO WEEKS NOTICE REQUIRED.

Whitby Hospital, Scarborough Hospital, Brotton, South Tees Hospital, Hospital, (Redcar), Guisborough.

Middlesbrough:- James Cook, South Tees Hospital, Tees Valley Hospital, West Lane Hospital, Roseberry Park Hospital, One Life Medical Centre, The Bridge Elysium, Park View Medical Centre.

Stockton:- University of North Tees Hospital, North Tees NHS Trust Hospital, Nuffield Health Tees Hospital, University Hospital Tees Breast Cancer Screening.

Let's Make a Difference



Volunteers are people who give up their time to help their community. It can be as informal as doing an elderly neighbour's shopping right through to supporting an organisation to deliver a vital service.

We run lots of trips for DAG members and for over 20 local groups and organisations, and particularly want to recruit more **Volunteer Drivers and Passenger Assistants** - driving and supporting disabled people on our trips and outings

Being a volunteer has lots of benefits. It can bring meaning and purpose to your life, while increasing your confidence, self-esteem and wellbeing. It can help you make new friends, help you develop new skills and a sense of "giving something back".

Most of all, **volunteering has a positive impact on your community.**

If you have a few hours a week to spare and would like to know more about volunteering for DAG, please get in touch. Our contact details are on the back page of this newsletter.



The Euan's Guide Access Survey is the UK's largest and longest-running survey on disabled access, with over **6,500 participants**, 68% of whom identify as a disabled person. The 2024 Survey **has uncovered an entire generation that has been failed by disabled access**, despite 2025 being the 30th anniversary of the **Disability Discrimination Act 1995** and fifteen years since its replacement, **the Equality Act 2010**.

The results reveal widespread failures in public venues, transport, and social inclusion - respondents expressed frustration, exhaustion, and isolation due to inaccessibility.

- **98%** are not confident about visiting new places when thinking about accessibility
- **77%** have found a venues websites to be misleading, confusing or inaccurate when planning a visit
- **70%** are more likely to visit somewhere new if staff are welcoming or the venue seems to care about accessibility
- **62%** will avoid going to venues which haven't shared disabled access information, presuming it is inaccessible
- **57%** feel that disabled people are not fairly represented across the media (TV, advertising, film, books)
- **77%** have avoided going somewhere because they couldn't find information about an accessible toilet
- **73%** have come across an accessible toilet that they've been unable to use

Kiki MacDonald, co-founder of Euan's Guide, said:
 "...disabled people are still having to fight for disabled access information and access to everyday places...."

A full report is available via the link

<https://www.euansguide.com/get-involved/access-survey/>



Looking for a person to support a lady to go out walking round the town centre of Whitby where she lives.

The lady goes to shops, and walks to see the sea. The person, if they are a driver, would also be asked to go for a longer trip, e.g to Scarborough.

I am looking for someone to support the lady out and about with her independence. She walks herself and is mostly independent. **Help would be needed for between 4 to 12 hours a week i.e. two sessions a week.** This is negotiable to be agreed / planned with the right person/s. The role could suit a rehabilitation assistant, or someone interested in this type of work.

Must not smoke /vape. Professional approach required. Decent rate of pay for the right candidate. Start asap. Please call or email to discuss.

M: 07837 440261 E: lizziemay100@hotmail.com



Supporting adults with learning disabilities providing leisure activities, adult education, volunteering and work experience.

- **Shopping and Laundry** services - charges apply.
- On site **café**, woodwork, craft and plants - **Cholmley Way**
- **Calla Café** at the **Eastside Community Hub**



For more information and to request services

Tel: 01947 600583 Email: info@dalewoodtrust.org

Facebook:

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

Parkinson's UK Whitby Support Group

Meets at **Whitby Golf Club**



Friendship and support locally to people with Parkinson's, their families and carers. **For dates and details contact Tracy on 07789 884 602**

Parkinson's UK helpline on [0808 800 0303](tel:08088000303)

Caring Together

Whitby & District

Providing social and emotional support to carers, the people they care for and people living alone .

- Volunteer visitors - to give carers a break
- Company for those living alone
- Monthly online and in-person social and activity groups
- Volunteering opportunities

T: 01947 605757 (leave a message)

E: caringwhitby@gmail.com

W: caringtogetherwhitbyanddistrict.org.uk



Dementia Forward

Care and Support for Life

Whitby "Welcome Wednesday" Wellbeing Café

1-3pm, The Theatre, The Coliseum, Victoria Place

**Dementia Forward Local Helpline, Monday to Friday,
9am to 4pm. Tel: 3300 578592**

Make your donations to DAG go further through

- **Gift Aid (if you are a UK Taxpayer)**
- **Give as You Live**
- **Leaving a Financial Gift in your Will**
- **LocalGiving**
- **Easy Fundraising**

Contact the DAG office for more details.



The Computer Centre
Repairing Whitby's computers for over
15 Years

Sales & Repairs
Computers, Laptops, Tablets & Phones

E: sales@apc4me.co.uk W: www.apc4me.co.uk
Visit: Unit G1B St Hilda's Business Centre, The Ropery

T: (01947) 605859

- Have you changed your address or contact details?
- Do you have any articles, stories, items wanted/ for sale or information you would like to be included in our newsletter?



Printed copies of our newsletter are only available to paid up DAG members. Contact the DAG office to join or to have your name added to our e-mailing list.



**Ingrid Flute Room, The Coliseum, 1B Victoria Place,
WHITBY, YO21 1BZ**

Mon, Tues & Thurs 9am-5pm; Fri 9am-4.30pm

T: 01947 511118

E: info@whitbydag.org.uk

W: www.whitbydag.org.uk

Mobility Scooter & Wheelchair Hire enquiries should be via the DAG office, or phone **07956 751 790**.

Reg. Charity No: 1131037

Company Reg: No: 6956837



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.