

NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE D.I.A.L.

Registered Charity No. 1053933

THE BULLETIN



Autumn Issue
2005

Community
Legal Service



Welcome

Autumn has arrived, welcome to this our 7th edition of The Bulletin. We hope that you are finding its contents useful. Please remember that the information provided is included only as a direct response to what our readers ask for. If something is featured it is because people have requested it. So get your thinking caps on, what would you like to find out about? We will do our best to provide it.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to send back their feedback forms for the last edition. Accompanying the Bulletin is a new feedback sheet, if there are any issues you would specifically like us to cover in the next issue, please send it back to us. If you would prefer you can ring, our free phone Helpline and leave a message on **0800 970 7202** or email **admin@nwdial.org.uk**. We look forward to hearing from you and providing you with useful information and contacts.

Changes @ Dial

There have been some changes in the Dial team paid staff. With support from the Big Lottery we have just appointed 1 full & 1 part time staff to develop, with the volunteers, the helpline service – this will impact on our other activities as well. Watch out for more assistance being available from January onwards. A new Manager, Jim D Smith has also been appointed to lead and work with the team and partner organisations. Jim has started to review and work towards strengthening our provision in the Redditch and Bromsgrove areas as well as continuing to develop the Wyre Forest and head office services.

We have outreach clinics at Redditch Town Hall and Library, Kidderminster - The Oldington and Foley Park Network and Wyre Forest Connect and at Tenbury. Facilities are planned for Bromsgrove. We know from feedback that users appreciate the Information and Advice services provided by Dial. The whole staff, paid and volunteer, is determined to continue to meet existing and new needs and demands together with sponsors and partners, **are you in a position to help us with this?** We are keen to recruit more volunteers from across the whole of North Worcestershire – Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest. There are a wide variety of roles and time slots to fit into flexibility. We offer training and support, teamwork and companionship – and the satisfaction of helping to help others! Ring the helpline and explore how volunteering helps you.

Special points of

interest:

- Changes @ Dial
- Summer Skies
- Driving Lines
- Useful Contacts

Helpline Project
Supported by



SUMMER SKIES

With the weather getting colder and colder, with ice on the ground and fog in the air, it's not surprising that this is the time of year when we might start thinking about and planning a holiday.

Over the past few years more and more organisations have been established to provide information to people with disabilities in relation to holidays and organisations set up specifically to provide holidays with additional support.

Two excellent information providers are :-

HOLIDAY CARE SERVICE

Tel: 0845 1249971

Website: www.holidaycare.org.uk

RADAR

Tel: 0207 250 3222

Website: www.radar.org.uk

Website: www.radarsearch.org - Radar's Disabled Holiday Search Engine.

They also publish some very useful guides on holidays and considerations you might like to make before booking one.

Specialist Tour Operators have also developed greatly, among these are :-

GROOMS HOLIDAYS

Tel: 0845 6584478

Website: www.groomsholidays.org.uk

CHALFONT LINE ESCORTED HOLIDAYS

Tel: 01895 459540

Provides escorted holidays for people with disabilities, with 3 levels of care available.

Website: www.chalfont-line.co.uk

ACCESS TRAVEL

Tel: 01942 888844

Destinations include: Majorca, Tenerife, Algarve, Costa Almeria, Rhodes, Cyprus, Malta, Florida and self-drive holidays to France.

Website: www.access-travel.co.uk

"Out of the ordinary" holidays, can also be found, outward bound courses, skiing, camping, the list is ever increasing here are a few to start with.....

LYNEAL TRUST

Tel: 01743 252728

which provides canal boat and canal side holidays for people with disabilities together with their helpers, friends and families on two purpose-built canal boats with hydraulic lifts and steering.

VITALISE

Tel: 0845 345 1970

(Previously known as The Winged Fellowship Trust) is a national disability charity providing breaks for disabled adults, children and their carers at five accessible UK locations.

BRITISH SKI CLUB DISABLED

Tel: 01747 828 515

The British Ski Club for the Disabled provides skiing on artificial ski slopes throughout the UK and organises group skiing holidays on snow.

Website: www.bsacd.org.uk

CAMPING FOR THE DISABLED

Tel: 01743 463 072

Camping for the Disabled is an organisation offering practical help and information to disabled people who wish to enjoy camping (in campervan, caravan, trailer tent or tent).

These are just a few of the organisations which are available to inform, organise and provide holidays with extra considerations.

DRIVING LINES

Since our last edition, a number of Bulletin readers have been asking for information regarding a variety of driving issues. Here we try to answer some of the issues that interested our readers.

The car is a great tool for modern life, as well as an asset for helping everyone to get around and be independent. When problems occur with our mobility the car is a lifeline. If health problems lead to driving becoming difficult, this has a major effect to our way of life. With technology advancing day by day there are a variety of different products available to adapt cars to make them easier to drive, with different types of controls and techniques.

Mobility Centres were set up to provide this type of specialist information and advice for disabled and older people, their families and professionals.

Specialist staff assess your ability to drive, learn, continue or return to driving. Tuition is often available. They can advise you about vehicles that might suit you and about any adaptations you may need. They are well informed on motoring and disability issues generally. Talk to them about any mobility problems you have. Each centre has expert and friendly staff that are likely to have met and solved similar problems before.

Assessment and advice for passengers getting in and out of vehicles and about safe loading of wheelchairs and other equipment is also offered. The Assessment Centre is non-commercial and impartial, so you don't need to worry about them trying to sell you products and services which you don't really need.

There is a cost for some of the services. To find out more please contact.

Regional Driving Assessment Centre

West Heath hospital

Rednal Road

Birmingham

B38 8HR

Tel: 0121 627 8228

Fax: 0121 6278629

Email: paula.beagan@southbirminghampct.nhs.uk

Although cars can provide us with many opportunities, they can also be a bind, especially as I'm sure we all agree financially. Along with MOT's, Road Tax and Petrol, Insurance can also put a dent in the wallet. Some of you have enquired about specialist insurance for Disabled car drivers, and whether we are aware of any specific insurers.

Since the advent of the Disability Discrimination Act it has become unlawful to discriminate in offering insurance products. Before the act came into being there were insurers who specialised and offered specialist disabled drivers insurance. Even though things have now changed, a quote from them may be helpful. Here are a small selection that may also be able to quote for competitive scooter insurance. More can be found by contacting **DIAL on 0800 970 7202** and asking for a copy of our insurance fact sheet or by going to the **DIAL website at www.nwdial.org.uk**

On Route Insurance

Tel: 0800 783 7245

Chartwell Insurance

Tel: 020 8958 0900

Alexandra Forbes

Tel: 0845 602 800

Fish Insurance

Tel: 01772 724442

Useful Contacts

Disability Living Allowance / Attendance Allowance Helpline 08457 123456

Benefit Enquiry Line (BEL) 0800 88 22 00

Worcestershire Carer's Unit 0800 3892896

Mencap Learning Disability Helpline
0808 8081111

Blue Badge Offices:

Wyre Forest Customer Service Centre
01562 732928

Bromsgrove District Customer Service Centre
01527 881288

Redditch One Stop Shop 01527 534123

Pension Credit 0800 99 1234

Social Services 0845 6072000
Out of hours emergency number 01905 768020

Community Legal Service Direct
0845 3454345

Dial-A-Ride

Wyre Forest 01562 755084

Redditch 01527 64910

WRVS Bromsgrove Rural Rides
01527 67771

Mini Bus for the elderly 01527 872507

Driving Lines Continued

Another major issue for motorists is parking, and we have looked at this subject in depth in the past couple of issues. As a follow up to this some readers were interested in where they could obtain cautionary Car stickers for their vehicles. After some research we have found a company which stock a good range, at reasonable prices and low postage and packing rates.

The company is called **Criterion Packaging Limited** and can be found on the internet at www.bluebadgewidth.com

They have info leaflets that are available by calling them on **0114 276 7755**

Among the stickers they offered are:-

"Please leave Room"

"Don't park too close"

"Please leave room for this door to open wide"

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NW DIAL can help with your queries about all manner of issues related to impairment / disability, access, holidays, support organisations both local and national, discrimination, transport etc. We can also help with form filling.

Helpline: 0800 970 7202

Fax & Minicom : 01562 68248

Office: 01562 60241

Email: admin@nwdial.org.uk

Website: www.nwdial.org.uk

North Worcestershire



Produced by
North Worcestershire D.I.A.L.
Registered Charity No. 1053933

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Supported by
 **worcestershire**
county council