



Hastings & Rother Disability Forum

November Newsletter

Since the last newsletter the forum has had its Annual General Meeting and the following people are your new committee:-

Charles Ellis	Chairman
Dave Rogers	Vice-Chairman
Rosemary Iddenden	Secretary
Cornelius Acket	Treasurer
Alan Care	Member
Neil Simmons	Member
Ann Hadland	Member
Mike Alexander	Member
Terry Steeples	Member

We were very pleased that Theresa Andrews from Hastings Advice and Representation Centre was able to have a table with information in our room. Theresa gave advice and suggestions to people who were having problems locating the right information, after the main AGM business was completed. We were also pleased to have the presence of Councillor Kim Forward at our meeting, from Hastings Borough Council.

Charles Ellis was happy to flag up the results of working with local authorities departments. There is now an accessible route down Bohemia Road to the town centre as kerbs have been lowered at the junction of Holmesdale Gardens and Cambridge Road. We of course continue to contact the council and privately owned concerns we feel that if we can work with them to improve access in all its forms, it will make life easier for everyone. Graham Hodge was thanked by Charles and the committee for his involvement in the planning of the new Hastings Town Health Centre. Nick Tapp was thanked as without the support of The East Sussex Disability Association it would have been much more difficult for committee members to have got events of the ground.

Although there were small numbers of people who were able to attend the AGM it was a lively one and different people have come forward onto the committee. The people present were very pleased to hear about the future open meetings we will be holding this year and next.

In Hastings & Rother there are many different sport and leisure activities but perhaps our readers would like to let us know which ones are truly catering for people with different disabilities. In the experience of forum members some activities are very good for people with, for example, a mobility problem but there may be a lack of provision for people with sensory disabilities.

It is hoped that Charles Ellis and Rosemary Iddenden will be able to send you a bi-monthly newsletter so that your information is always up to date. We would be very grateful if any of our readers who may have interesting news that people with disabilities might like to know about, if they would email rosemary.iddenden@tesco.net and the items can be considered for our next newsletter, due out in mid January.

The forum has had quite a difficult year following the resignation of key members, but with Dave Rogers back from living it up in Canada for 6 weeks and commitment from more of our members who are able physically to be involved, we are sure the forum will keep going from strength to strength.

December 3rd is The International Day of Disabled People, please come to Marlborough house at 2.30pm for a social get together and an opportunity to chat with old friends and make new ones. See you there!

In order to lower costs but send out regular newsletters if you have an email and you feel we may not have it then please let Rosemary know and we will then be able to distribute a larger number of our newsletters by email.

A question to finish with:- Is there anyone out there who knows of an easy way to gain a small amount of money, because although the forum is reasonably healthy at this moment in time if we will need the coffers' topped up in order to supply everyone with good information on a regular basis. Please consider attending our meetings and the Access Group always welcomes new faces.

January 13th starts off the New Year with an open meeting giving our members and friends an opportunity to have a taster session from one or more of our complimentary therapists who will be present.

Best Wishes Charles & Rosemary