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# Re-action

Hastings and Rother  
Disability Forum Newsletter  
Winter 06 - Issue 10

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## **Editorial...**

Welcome to the Winter 06 edition of the Hastings and Rother disability Forum newsletter. We made an application to Awards for All for some equipment (PA and Loop system) and for the International Day of Disabled People Party on 3rd December. We are looking forward to some community arts and music workshops and some displays from disabled artists in the afternoon. In the evening we have booked Carolyn Parker who did sign language karaoke at the 2005 Liberty Festival in London. I hope she wears her rainbow suite.

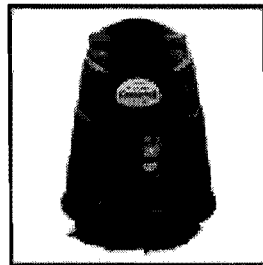
Hope to see many of you at the International Day of Disabled People Celebration...

*Lizzie*

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# The Compost Doctor Prescribes...



Compostable waste (predominantly kitchen and food waste) forms over 30 % of most dustbin contents. This adds to our local and national waste

disposal problems and makes your bin smell!

Composting kitchen wastes at home turns this problem into a resource; you can turn a landfill contamination problem into a valuable soil conditioner, and save fuel and energy in the process!

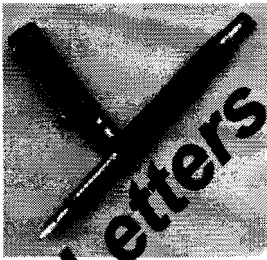
Its possible to successfully compost anything that once lived, and many people have kept a compost heap at the bottom of their garden for years, dealing mostly with garden ("green") wastes – lawn and hedge trimmings mainly. However, composting kitchen waste is new to many people, as most kitchen waste is currently binned. This adds to our landfill mountain / waste disposal problems. Advice is now at hand to encourage you to compost ALL your compostable wastes at home!

Don McLean the Hastings Compost Doctor, has recently started delivering this the Compost Doctor project in the Hastings area. This aims to encourage and support Hastings residents to compost their kitchen waste.

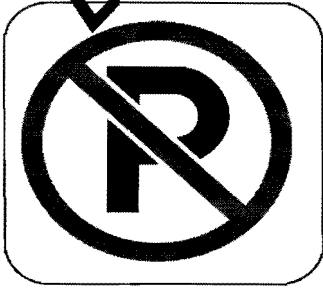
***Don is available on:***

*01424-451488 (answerphone),*

*e-mail: [dmclean.hastings.gov.uk](mailto:dmclean.hastings.gov.uk)*



Letters...



Dear Editor,

Thanks for Re-action. HBC parking services are RUDE and INCOMPETANT. I have like Mr Burkitt a massive file of correspondence between myself, HBC, councillors and 10 Downing Street. Despite parking services ability to use discretion, they upheld their fine, despite personal circumstances surrounding my father's death. It was only the support of the brilliant Michael Foster M.P. that caused them to think again...

Michael

Dear Editor,

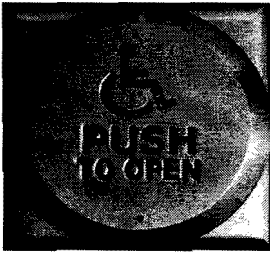
A traffic warden told me that they issue about 30 tickets a month to disabled drivers for illegal parking due to the chaos surrounding HBC parking rules. Also HBC are taking money from disabled motorists under false pretences as there is no working on Black meters indicating free parking if you display your badge. These issues need to be taken forward...

Rob

Dear Editor

Once again HBC have struck again demanding £30 with a threat of £60. We along with other disabled car users are being treated unfairly. 64% of Observer readers who voted on 27th July 2006, cannot be wrong!!!

Stephanie



# **Disability Equality Duty - Involving Disabled People**

**Theresa Hodge**

You will have recently received a letter from the Primary Care Trusts (PCT) of Hastings and Rother and East Sussex Downs and Weald inviting you to attend a focus group to talk about what improvements could be made to the services the PCT provides. These focus groups are being held so that the PCT can show that they have involved disabled people in developing their Disability Equality Scheme, which they have to publish on 4th December 2006 in order to comply with new duties under the Disability Discrimination Act.

There are four focus groups running and disabled people are invited to attend the one most convenient to them. It is important for as many disabled people as possible to attend these groups and so I would like to take this opportunity of reminding you of the dates and venues.

Why not go along, have your voice and let us know how you get on. The details of times and venues are on page 5. If you wish to attend, contact

**Gill Cowley, East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT**

Telephone: 01273 403567

Fax: 01273 403682

Email: [gill.cowley@esdwpct.nhs.uk](mailto:gill.cowley@esdwpct.nhs.uk)

## PCT Focus Groups

**23rd November**

**10.30am - 12noon:**

The Magnet Centre, London Road, St Leonards

**14.00pm - 15.30pm:**

Icklesham Village Hall

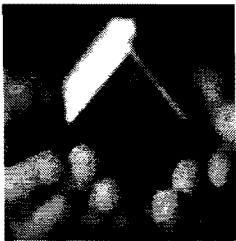
**29th November**

**10.30am - 12noon:**

Uckfield Civic Centre, Uckfield

**14.00pm - 15.30pm:**

Kings Church Centre, Eastbourne



# Housing Report

Report of event 20th September 2006

The report from the Housing meeting held on 20th September is now available upon request. Sadly this event clashed with the 'Save Our Hospital Rally' and so you may have missed it. The report makes interesting reading and if you would like a copy please contact us. We will also download a copy on our new website to be launched on 3rd December 2006 at International Day of Disabled People Celebration (see pages 1&2).

# Save Our Hospital...

On Wednesday, September 20th, I caught up with 7,000 people marching from Hastings Pier to The Stade to protest against the proposed closure or downgrading of the Conquest Hospital. Led by Peter Lindsey, Editor of the Hastings Observer other local luminaries including Michael Foster M.P, Maureen Charlesworth, Mayor of Hastings and Jeremy Birch, Leader of the Hastings and Rye Labour party, also took part. As could

be plainly seen from local reports, disabled people, whose lives would be severely affected by any closure or relocation of services, wanted to have their voice



heard and turned up in their droves to show their support. Sadly, many were prevented from participating in the finale of impassioned speeches as it was held on the beach!!

My message to future organisers of protest rallies, "disabled people wish to be fully involved in the life of their communities and have their voices heard, keep public rallies accessibly and feel the full force of the whole community..." *by Kev Towner*

# Headline News

**GROUNDBREAKING**, affordable self-propelled wheelchair being developed in Eastbourne. University of Brighton's Clinical Research Centre have been awarded £90,000 from Department of Health to develop a kit which converts a standard wheelchair. The ergonomic self-propelled (ESP) wheelchair kits will enable the user to propel using only one hand and steered by the foot. It is estimated that the cost will be in the region of £500. Anyone interested in being involved in the trials should contact Dr Mandy on 01273 643946.

*Eastbourne Today, 20.10.06*

The **MS SOCIETY** in Eastbourne and Weald have won the national organisation's Innovative Services award 2006. Services specifically recognised include a project to assist young carers in funding driving lessons, the Scooter and Wheelchair Action Group (SWAG) and the MS Ladies support group.

*Eastbourne Herald, 20.10.06*

## Voting online - Hastings Observer Poll

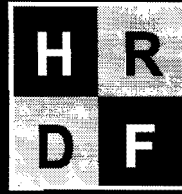
Are disabled drivers being treated unfairly by Hastings Borough Council?



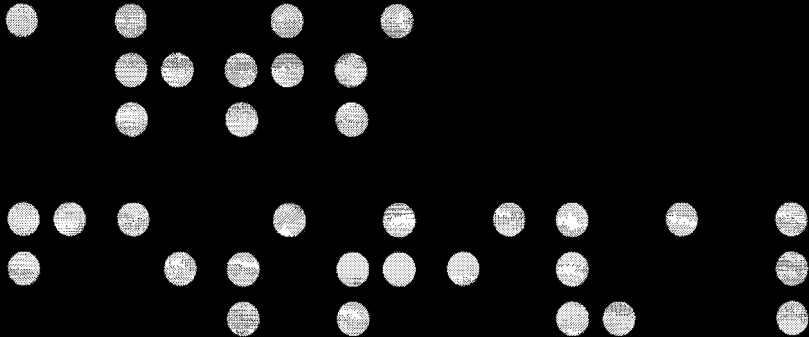
Yes - 65%



No - 35%



Hastings & Rother Disability Forum



# Arts Festival

Celebrate International Day of Disabled People  
with Hastings & Rother Disability Forum

3 December 2006

12 noon - 9.30pm

At the Phoenix Arts Centre, William Parker School

Celebrate the International Day of Disabled People with our fun and creative workshops, displays from disabled artists, bands in the evening, sign language karaoke.

Come along on the day or book your free places in advance.

Contact Jocelyn on 01424 451855

or HRDF on 01424 201201 / [enquiries@hrdf.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hrdf.org.uk)