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With the recent removal of all Covid 19 restrictions, we are rapidly marching towards Spring and what we expect to be yet another busy year for DAG. Amongst other things, we are busy helping people with **Benefits Advice, planning trips, outings and activities** and getting ready for “**Lift off**” with our **Mobility Equipment Hire Scheme**.

Over the past year the scheme brought in over **£16,000**, which is well over and above what the scheme normally generates and is most likely down to more people last year, holidaying in the UK. **(It also explains why we were all exhausted by the time the season quietened down!).**

From conversations I have had recently, it is apparent that many people do not realise is that this is just part of the work DAG is involved in. It is often wrongly assumed that DAG is all about older disabled people, especially those who are wheelchair users. Whilst in many cases, this is true, I wanted to use this month’s article to highlight other areas of work we are involved with, which you might not know about but are integral to DAG’s work.

For instance, we are working with **Healthwatch North Yorkshire** to promote **The Accessible Information Standard**. We want to raise awareness of the standard so that all people who are disabled, have an impairment or sensory loss know that they have **the legal right to get information that they can access and understand**.

So if you're speaking to a dentist, doctor, care home manager or any other provider of health and social care, you have the right for example to receive that information in audio, braille, easy read or large print. **Please look at the information on page 14 of this newsletter for more details and I would urge you to complete the survey if you are able to do so.**

Another, and ever increasing area of our work is around **Improving Access for disabled people**. Alongside giving advice to local businesses and community based organisations, we have been involved with the **Whitby Town Centre Pedestrian Signage & Wayfinding Steering Group**, working alongside **North Yorkshire County Council, Scarborough Borough Council and Whitby Civic Society** to name but a few. When the signage is completed and installed we are confident that it will help disabled visitors and residents find their way around town much more easily.

In addition to this, over the next three months we will be promoting the **NHS App** which is a simple and secure way to access a range of NHS services on your smartphone or tablet. These include ordering repeat prescriptions, booking appointments at your GP surgery, and getting NHS information and advice on hundreds of conditions and

treatments. We will be offering advice on support to download and use the app, so watch this space!

Another scheme we are involved with is **Reboot North Yorkshire**, an exciting new initiative that provides **re-cycled IT equipment and an internet connection** to people in the county that currently lack access to these facilities.

The scheme is aimed at vulnerable people that may be socially isolated and older people, to enable them to stay in touch with friends and family, and to access important services such as shopping, healthcare and advice.

We've seen just how important the ability to be online and be able to connect with other people is during the pandemic and are really pleased to be supporting this scheme.

Finally a big thank you to **DAG Member and Access Champion, Ian Lawson** for organising a **domino drive** at **The White Hart Inn, in Mickleby**. It was a great night, and a fantastic **£267.00 was raised for DAG**.

In fact it was so successful Ian is organising another evening of fun and games in **June**! Further details will be available nearer the date.

Until the next time
Ian



Whitby, Scarborough & Ryedale DAG is one of this year's nominated causes for the Co-op Local Community Fund.

So, **between now and October 2022**, we would love as many Co-op Members as possible to **choose Whitby DAG** when you shop at **Whitby Co-op** or purchase **Co-op Funeral Care services (Well Close Square)**.

For every £1.00 Co-op Members spend on selected Co-op branded products and services, 2p will go into your membership account. The same amount will support community organisations and local causes like DAG. To collect rewards and contribute to your cause, you must swipe or scan your Co-op membership card when you shop.

DAG has a dedicated page on the Co-op membership website. This explains who we are and what we do.

<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/61181>

If you aren't already a Co-op member and would like to support Whitby DAG, **this link** also takes you to the **membership registration**.

Thank you for your support.

Membership News and Activities

Monday 14th March

Steam and Moorland Garden Centre,
Pickering



Transport £9.00

Closing date 7th March 2022.



Thursday 21st April

Old Chapel Tea Room, Castleton

Transport £8.00

Closing date 14th April 2022.

If trips are oversubscribed names will be drawn out of a hat. Places will be confirmed and payment for bus taken after the draw is made.

Membership Renewal 2022-23

It's that time of year again, when, we hope, you will all be renewing your DAG Membership for 2022-23.

The new Membership year starts on **1st April 2022**, and costs **£15 for a Single Member** and **£20 for joint Membership**. Please complete the **renewal form** sent out with this Newsletter, and return it, with your payment to the DAG office. We can also take card payments by phone.

Look out in the April newsletter for our **Membership Activities, Trips and Activities survey**, and **Members' Details Form** (to help us keep our records up to date).

CHAT & CRAFT



Our Chat and Craft groups in **Hinderwell (Village Hall)** and **Staithe (Memorial Village Hall)** meet on Wednesdays.

The **Whitby Group** meets on **Mondays, at Whitby Art Gallery, Pannett Park.**

These are friendly, relaxed groups, and we always have a cuppa and a biccie. Bring some knitting, crocheting or other project to do and have a really good natter.

If you want to come along, please get in touch with Lynne:-
lynne@whitbydag.org.uk **01947 821001**

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The Domino Drive at the White Hart in Mickleby on 15th February, was a great success.

A grand total of **£267** was raised for DAG and, apparently it was the best Tuesday night's takings since the current landlord and landlady took over!



Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event and raffle, and to everyone who contributed to the substantial post match supper.

DAG Member Ian Lawson will be organising another fundraising evening for DAG at the **White Hart on Tuesday 26th June. Put this in your diary!**

March's Flower - The Daffodil by Janet Fife

Scientific name: *Narcissus Pseudonarcissus*.

Common names: **Daffydowndilly, Daffys, Lent Lily, Easter Lily.**

Wild daffodils bloom in February and March, hence their association with Lent and Easter. Daffodils (**in Welsh 'golden leek'**) are the national flower of Wales, traditionally worn on St. David's Day (1st March).



Daffodils, like snowdrops, are part of the Amaryllis family, not true lilies. Both are used in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease, but all parts of the plant are toxic.

In Greek mythology the handsome youth **Narcissus** fell in love with his reflection in a pool of water. The nodding head of the daffodil is thought to represent Narcissus leaning over, absorbed in his own image. **Wordsworth** described wild daffodils 'tossing their heads in sprightly dance' by the lake in his poem '**I Wandered Lonely As A Cloud**'.

Daffodils were one of our most common wildflowers until the mid-19th century. Farmers picked and sold them before other crops were grown. However, it was considered unlucky to bring any indoors before the first eggs had hatched. Wild daffodils are sadly less common now due to changes in land use, and to the over-harvesting of bulbs. Planting cultivated daffodils near wild ones also results in the wild species dying out. But in nearby **Farndale** we can still see a wonderful display. (Picture northyorkmoors.org.uk)





Welfare Benefits Unit - Benefits Bulletin Winter 2022

Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

As we know, Personal Independence Payment claims are currently taking much longer to process. Clearance times for new claims were 24 weeks in October 2021 compared to August 2021's peak of 26 weeks, and roughly twice the amount of time expected pre-pandemic.

Record numbers of new PIP claims were registered in the three months to October 2021, with more claims received than at any point since the benefit was introduced in April 2013. The DWP has noted that pandemic-related disruption continues.

PIP Goes Online

In a further move towards digital processing, the DWP have outlined a six month pilot scheme, which was due to start in January 2022. As well as making an online claim, a small number of invited claimants will also be able to upload evidence to their online account. Completed claims will be assessed by a case manager who can refer the claim back to the claimant if, for example, more information is needed

From 6th December 2021 all new PIP claimants can be offered the option of completing and submitting their **PIP2** form ("**How your disability affects you**") online. This option is not currently available for appointees.

Changes to Terminal Illness Rules from April 2022

The current legal test is that at the time of the claim, **the claimant is suffering from a progressive disease, and death in consequence of that disease can reasonably be expected within six months.**



The Scottish Government announced their intention to remove the six month rule in April 2018, and to replace it with the clinical judgement of a medical practitioner. A Bill which reflecting the Scottish proposals, was given its first reading in the House of Commons in July 2018.

The DWP refused to accept the Work and Pensions Committee's 2019 recommendation (**that claimants only had to provide evidence that they have a terminal illness likely to cause their death, with no requirement for it to be within six months**). In response to pressure from the Work and Pensions Committee, some small changes were made to DWP guidance, but not to primary or secondary legislation. Further pressure came from the All Party Parliamentary Group, urging the Westminster Government to follow the Scottish Government proposal.

The DWP confirmed the rule change in October 2020. The most recent announcement, **that the six-month rule would be replaced with 12 months**, was in November 2021.

Changes to Universal Credit (UC) and Employment Support Allowance (ESA) will be introduced in April 2022. Changes to **Attendance Allowance, Personal Independence Payment and Disability Living Allowance** will be later, as this requires the amendment of primary legislation.

Energy Bills Rebate

The government has announced a package of support to help households with rising energy bills.

- **£200 discount on energy bills** for domestic electricity customers in Great Britain, to be paid back automatically over the next 5 years. Domestic energy customers will receive a £200 cash discount on their bills this Autumn. This will be paid back, in equal instalments (probably through an increase in standing charges) over five years, starting from financial year 2023-24.
- **£150 non-repayable Council Tax Rebate** payment for all households in England that are liable for Council Tax in Bands A-D. People in receipt of the Single Person Discount in Bands A-D, and Households in England in Council Tax Bands A-D that pay less than £150, or do not pay Council Tax due to Local Council Tax Support will also be eligible for a £150 Council Tax Rebate payment. The rebate will not be paid for second homes or empty properties. The majority of people who pay by Direct Debit should receive this money in April.
- **£144 million discretionary funding** to Local Authorities for households who need support but are not eligible for the Council Tax Rebate (e.g. households on income support in higher bands (E-H), or with properties in bands A-D that are exempt from council tax).

More information is available on the factsheet: [https://
www.gov.uk/government/publications/
governmentsupport-for-energy-bills-and-the-cost-of-
living-factsheets](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governmentsupport-for-energy-bills-and-the-cost-of-living-factsheets)

Financial Help For Motability Customers



Every time you fill up your car or open an electricity bill, you will be all too aware that prices are going in only one direction – steeply upwards. The Motability Scheme has introduced a **‘New Vehicle Payment’** to help customers cope with the increases. **The payment ,of up to £250, will be given to both existing and new customers.**

The **New Vehicle Payment** will be **£250** for a new car or Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV). Customers who order a mobility scooter or powered wheelchair will receive a **£100 ‘New Product Payment’**.

This one-off payment will be sent to **all customers who take delivery of a new vehicle or product in 2022**. Customers who join the Scheme in 2022, as well as existing customers who have ordered a new car will be eligible.

Existing customers who won't be replacing their vehicle during 2022, will still be eligible to receive the New Vehicle Payment or New product Payment when they next renew their lease.

One payment will be made per customer, and will be issued straight away after delivery. The Motability Scheme is encouraging customers to set up an online account with up to date payment preferences, as the quickest way to receive the payment is by bank transfer. The alternative option is by cheque, but this may take longer to process.



SCARBOROUGH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Residents' News
February 2022

Warning About Bogus Home Energy Scheme Callers



Scarborough Borough Council (SBC) has received reports of people calling at homes in the Borough, claiming to be from the council or energy provider **E.ON**. Scammers have been knocking on doors or making unsolicited telephone calls.

Scarborough Borough Council works with E.ON, North Yorkshire County Council and three other councils to offer **government funded energy efficient schemes**. For this scheme, **they don't make unsolicited calls**. Because they know which homes are likely to benefit, **they write to the householder first**.

Money is not requested up front. So if someone who has phoned you or called to your house asks for money up front, **it's likely to be dodgy**.

SBC and E.ON won't be offended if you ask to see their ID (and you should).

If you're ever unsure whether someone is a genuine council employee or representative, **call SBC on 01723 232323**. To check whether a caller from E.ON is genuine, **call 0333 202 4820**.

Don't fall victim to criminals. It's your hard-earned money. Keep it that way.

Tackling Illegal Doorstep Collections

Scarborough Borough Council (SBC) has been inundated with messages in recent weeks about illegal doorstep collections - **people masquerading as charities to collect your unwanted clothes and pre-loved goods**. They claim that proceeds of the collection will go to charity. In fact they benefit a private enterprise or individual.



Illegal collections cost the charity sector money, erode public trust and confidence in charities generally, and potentially put off donors and charities from using this fundraising method. SBC shares residents' concerns about the problem and have already tackled four such collections in parts of Scarborough this year.

If you need to find out whether the donation bag that comes through your door is from a genuine collector, you can check the SBC public register on their website:-

<https://licensing.scarborough.gov.uk/1/Operator/Search/10>

The SBC licensing team also issues **exemptions** to other genuine charities throughout the year to permit them to collect. **During February and March 2022**, these are:-

PDSA; Against Breast Cancer; Dogs Trust; Cancer Support UK; Great Ormond Street Hospital; Marie Curie; Yorkshire Children's Trust; Cancer Research and Genetics.



North Yorkshire New Accessible Information Project

We introduced the **Healthwatch North Yorkshire, Accessible Information Project** to you in our February 2022 Newsletter. The surveys are now ready, so we want to encourage as many people as possible to complete them.

This is a chance to share your experiences and whether you feel your needs are being met regarding provision of information by the health and medical services you use.

The DAG office has standard print, large print and easy read versions of the survey – let us know if you would like us to send one to you. The survey can also be completed online at:-

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HJGBG55>

If you would like to complete the survey **by phone** please ring **Ruth Stockdale on 07458 301393** and she will make an appointment for someone to call you back.

Healthwatch are also arranging for the survey to be available in BSL. More information about this will be available on the Healthwatch North Yorkshire website, along with downloadable copies of the survey: <https://www.healthwatchnorthyorkshire.co.uk/accessible-information-survey>

Healthwatch would also like to hear directly about your experiences, good and bad, when getting information from health and medical services. And, they would love to talk to anyone interested in being a spokesperson for accessible information. **Contact Lynne at the DAG office.**



Your North Yorkshire Charity
Care and Support for Life



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

**Concerned
about dementia?**

**Call your
local
helpline**



03300 578592

**Delivering a Dementia Support
service covering
all areas of**

North Yorkshire

Working in partnership with:

- **North Yorkshire County Council**
- **Clinical Commissioning Groups**

**We offer a range of
services including:**

- Information & Advice**
 - Access to Dementia
Support Advisors**
 - Home Visits**
 - Signposting**
 - Emotional & Practical
Support**
 - Day Services**
 - Social Activities**
 - Education**
 - Weekly Wellbeing Cafes**
 - Dementia Specialist Nurse**
-

**Dementia Forward
George Armitage House
Church Lane
Burton Leonard
HG3 3SD**

How to contact us :

-  www.dementiaforward.org.uk
 -  info@dementiaforward.org.uk
 -  [@DementiaForward](https://twitter.com/DementiaForward)
 -  facebook.com/dementiaforward
-

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Registered Charity No 1148225

Trinity

activities
talks and demonstrations
celebration events

Registered Charity 1164415

Social activity centre for older people in Whitby and surrounding district



Mondays,
Wednesdays &
Fridays

11.30am-2.30pm

- Opportunity to socialise and combat social isolation and loneliness
- Wide range of inclusive activity sessions
- Traditional games and pastimes
- Daily armchair exercises
- Programme of special events, celebrations, guest speakers and demonstrations
- Morning and afternoon snacks and delicious home cooked two course lunch

Trinity Centre, Flowergate, Whitby, YO21 3BA
T: 01947 601548; E: info@trinitycentrewhitby.org



FARMERS' BREAKFAST

Caring Together
Whitby & District

Lythe Village Hall ,10.15 - 12.15 (ish)

A social morning of a cuppa, conversation,
memories and a bacon buttie

Wednesday April 6th - **Nell's Curious Yorkshire** - A
sheepdog's view of unusual hidden treasures. Supported
by Mr G Aldous

Wednesday April 27th **pm** - save the date.

Wednesday May 4th - **Edward Harrison** - the eclectic
Harrison collection amassed by the Harrison brothers over
their lifetimes of living in North Yorkshire

Wednesday June 1st - **Kerry Fieldhouse** - the flora and
fauna along the North Yorkshire Moors Railway

Wednesday 6th July - **Trip out** - Suggestions please.

Please let us know if you want to come to any of the
meetings. We have to keep to limited numbers to maintain
Covid Compliance.

How to Book: Call Rural Activities Coordinator, **Isabelle
Harrison** on:-

M: **07811 638504** T: **01947 605 757,**
E: isabelleryedalecarers@gmail.com

A local voluntary organisation and registered charity providing practical and emotional help for carers, the people they care for and older people living on their own.

Caring Together
Whitby & District

For details please phone **01947 605757**.

Scarborough & District CAB

citizens
advice

Contact Details

Website: www.scarcab.org.uk
Online Advisor: citizensadvice.org.uk/chat
Tel: 0808 278 7889 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)
Email: info@scarcab.cabnet.org.uk
Relay UK: 18001 0800 144 8884

Contact DAG to be referred directly to Scarborough CAB for general enquiries and their money, welfare benefits and debt advice service.



Dalewood Trust supports adults with learning disabilities providing leisure activities, adult education, volunteering and work experience.

They also provide services for the wider community in the Whitby area – **Shopping, Laundry, Meals on Wheels and Afternoon Teas.**

For more information and to arrange services

Tel: 01947 600583
Email: info@dalewoodtrust.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DalewoodTrust/>

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**
- **Amazon Smile**
- **LocalGiving**
- **Easy Fundraising**

**Please support Whitby DAG by
nominating us for the Co-op Local
Community Fun 2021-22**



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?
- Would you like your details to be added to/ removed from our newsletter mailing list?
- Do you have any articles, stories, items wanted/ for sale or information you would like to be included in our newsletter?



Send the details to the DAG office by the 20th of each month.

DON'T FORGET - you can get a PDF version of your newsletter by e-mail. It gets to you more quickly and saves on paper, printing & postage costs for us!

Find us at Church House Centre, Flowergate, WHITBY, YO21 3BA Mon, Tues & Thurs 9am-5pm; Fri 9am-4.30pm

Telephone: 01947 821001 Email: info@whitbydag.org.uk
Website: www.whitbydag.org.uk

Mobility Equipment Hire has re-opened. All enquiries should be via the DAG office.

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.