

### **ACCESS PANEL**

At their last meeting on the 17th July 2008 the Access Panel were made aware of the new Public Toilet facility on Kenilworth Avenue in Wishaw. The facility intends to have manned access 6 days a week and unmanned on a Sunday with access by Radar Key (available from your social work offices for £3) There will be a disabled toilet and adult changing facilities.

On the same vein, Bellshill train station have opened new disabled toilets, given that this is a very busy station we are sure this will be good news for all.

### **DISABLED PARKING BILL**

A Bill to make provision for the duties of local authorities in relation to parking places for use by disabled persons' vehicles and connected purposes.

The Bill was introduced on 2nd June 2008. The Bill is currently being considered at Stage 1 and has been referred to the Local Government and Communities Committee, the deadline is 28th November 2008. We hope to update you on the progress of the Bill in our next Newsletter in December.

### **Citizen Advice Bureau Service funded by NHS Scotland**

Advice and Support for all NHS users.

Provided by the independent Advise and Support Service

They can help you (or someone else on your behalf) if:

- ◆ You have comments or complaints about the treatments you've received in hospital, from your GP, dentist, nurse, or from any other part of the NHS, and you're not sure what to do next
- ◆ Ill health or disability is having an impact on other areas of your life, and you'd like some advice or help.

For more information please call Motherwell CAB office on 01698 251981/259389.

**WORD SEARCH**

How many of the words listed below can you find?

Access, Coffee,

Communication,

Committee,

Friends,

Members,

Openday,

Outreach

Tea

Understanding

Volunteer

g	v	e	y	e	l	c	a	h	s	v	t	h	r	o
n	t	o	n	m	o	m	c	t	t	c	e	n	a	d
i	f	m	l	f	n	a	e	e	e	e	r	s	i	a
d	s	r	f	u	e	b	u	e	u	n	d	a	r	e
n	n	e	i	r	n	c	o	m	m	i	t	t	e	e
a	e	a	t	e	u	t	i	l	r	u	a	d	r	e
t	l	u	o	c	n	a	e	i	l	t	e	a	g	t
s	o	m	n	n	l	d	f	e	n	m	n	n	s	d
r	i	t	y	a	i	h	s	o	r	o	h	t	n	i
e	d	a	s	t	m	m	t	e	p	h	p	n	a	e
d	t	o	a	n	u	i	e	e	a	c	t	t	t	c
n	o	i	t	a	c	i	n	u	m	m	o	c	t	f
u	n	h	r	a	y	d	s	r	o	n	f	o	i	m
f	i	e	t	o	a	e	e	s	f	n	t	i	i	e
a	d	e	l	y	a	c	c	e	s	s	w	d	a	o

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE DISABILITY FORUM AGM**

Our AGM was held on Friday 27th June 2008 and was a great success. This year has seen a change in our management committee with Francie Fallan being elected as our new Chair and Michael Glancey Vice Chair, both of whom we are sure will continue to push the Forum forward and continue to help people in North Lanarkshire.

**Moira's Word**

It had been a long year for Helen as she had lost her husband. They were always out and about now she was home alone. Wish I could meet other folk in the same situation. Helen's walking ability was poor and being a senior citizen it was harder to find anyone who understood her plight.

If you can relate to this situation please contact us or visit our office. One of our volunteers is interested in organising a social morning for tea/coffee and chats. Please call and ask for Lorraine on 01698 275710.



Hi there my name is Katie Murphy, I am 27 years old and I have been a volunteer for North Lanarkshire Disability Forum since September 2007. My medical conditions are Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, also I am wheelchair bound.

I have had the pleasure of meeting so many people since I have joined. Being a volunteer has helped me make new friends and also learning new skills.

Since becoming a volunteer for the forum, I have become more confident within myself, I have also gained so much from all the other volunteers in the forum. I hope to be here for the foreseeable future.

North Lanarkshire Disability Forum is involved with other organisations in all North Lanarkshire, to help all disabled people, volunteers are always needed so you could become one like me? No qualifications are needed and training will be provided.

I help out at one of the outreach clinics, the service we provide is very important as we can help with filling out forms to applying for a bus pass. All enquiries are confidential.

If you have time on your hands and have nothing to do, become a volunteer like me, it can help to build your confidence, meet new friends and find new interests.

If you have a passion for helping people, we are here waiting for you.

When you are ready we would love to hear from you, please call Lorraine on 01698 275710 or send a letter to 41/42 Civic Square, Motherwell, ML1 1TP.

To find out more about Spina Bifida go online [www.spinabifida-online.com](http://www.spinabifida-online.com)

# Newsletter

## **UPDATE**

**Our office is now open 5 days, from 11am-3pm.**

### **Page 2**

Access Panel help highlight 7 day public toilet access for disabled users in Wishaw.

Disabled Parking Bill update.

New support through CAB provided by NHS.

### **Page 3**

North Lanarkshire Disability Forum AGM news. Try out our word-search.

### **Page 4**

Katie Murphy tells us about her volunteering experiences.

## **Post Office Closure Programme**

Post Office Ltd's six week public consultation on post office closures in Ayrshire, Inverclyde, Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire commenced on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2008.

Post Office Ltd has proposed the closure of 44 branches in this area, replacing a further 7 branches with outreach services.

North Lanarkshire areas are:

Airdrie & Shotts, Coatbridge & Bellshill, Cumbernauld, Motherwell & Wishaw.

As a group who represents the right of disabled individuals, we are particularly worried about the most vulnerable members of the affected communities who may not be fit or able to make the necessary journey to their nearest Post Office branch, which in some cases may involve using public transport and the problems that can entail.

North Lanarkshire disability Forum have since written a letter and requested we be part of this consultation process. We will of course keep you up to date with our progress.

If you would like additional information on this subject you can contact Postwatch Scotland on 08456 013265 or go to their website [www.postwatch.co.uk](http://www.postwatch.co.uk)