

Motability Powered Wheelchair & Scooter Scheme

It is now possible through the Motability Scheme to hire a powered wheelchair or scooter. The Scheme is available to anyone who receives either of the following benefits and has at least 12 month award length remaining when they apply:

- Higher Rate Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance
- War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement.

There are two options, Contract Hire and Hire Purchase, that enable you to turn your mobility allowance into a mobility solution for your needs and that may mean getting a powered wheelchair or scooter.

If you are in receipt of one of the two allowances listed and want to know more you can contact Motability Powered Wheelchair and Scooter Scheme, T 0845 60 762 60.

For enquiries about the Higher Rate Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance, contact Department for Works and Pensions, T 0845 712 3456.

For enquiries about the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement, contact Service Personnel and Veterans Agency, T 0800 169 2277.

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"The Hungry to be Heard campaign has resulted in changes at two of Norfolk's Hospital Trusts. In both cases a red tray system was introduced on wards for older people indicating patients requiring support to eat their meals."

From Age Concern Norfolk's Annual Report of Trustees 2007 - 2008

Pension Credit 5 Years On

Pension Credit was introduced 5 years ago in October 2003 and for many people receiving the entitlement their assessed income period (AIP) will be coming to an end. The AIP was set for most people for five years, which meant that people did not have to provide any additional financial information to the Pension Service once they had been awarded Pension Credit for five years.

The plan was that after five years people would have to undertake another financial assessment. However new regulations coming into force in August 2008 change the rules slightly, a system of "rapid review" is being introduced so that people whose circumstances are unlikely to have changed and who fit certain criteria will be notified that a new AIP has been set.

Details of information held by the Department of Works and Pension will be sent out and people will be asked to notify them of any corrections or changes in circumstances, if nothing has changed drastically people will not have to undertake a full financial assessment and their Pension Credit will continue to be awarded.

For more information contact Age Concern Norfolk on T 01603 787111.

Did you know that Concerning You is available on our website www.acnorfolk.org.uk?

We can send you an email reminder to let you know when the latest edition is available. Help us to save resources and access Concerning You in a more convenient way.

Simply E gemma.pendleton@acnorfolk.org.uk to subscribe to this service.

The voice of Age Concern in Norfolk

The Creation Of A New Charity For Older People

For the past 18 months, the Trustees of Age Concern England and Help the Aged have been looking into the possibility of bringing together the two national organisations and creating a new successor charity. At a Special National Council on Ageing Meeting on 3 July 2008, members voted in favour of Age Concern England and Help the Aged continuing to work together with the aim of creating the new charity from 1 April 2009.

Currently, both charities campaign actively for the rights of older people. It is proposed the new Charity will bring together individual and shared strengths, building on combined research, campaigning, and social policy expertise, Age Concern's local information, advice and support provision and the fundraising and international aid work of Help the Aged, enabling the new UK-wide charity to tackle the disadvantages faced by older people in the UK and around the world and to create a better life for older people in the future.

61st Annual General Meeting



Eighty people attended a national perspective in relation to the Age Concern current policy environment and highlighting Norfolk's 61st issues raised by older people and their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 2 September 2008 at South Green Park Enterprise Centre, Mattishall. Stephen Burke, Chief Executive of Counsel and Care, a national charity which aims to get the best care and support for older people, their families and carers, gave the keynote speech. Mr Burke was honoured recently at the Ceretas National Homecare Awards when he was named the Social Care Personality of the Year in recognition of the "significant contribution" made by Mr Burke and Counsel and Care within the social care sector during the year.

The theme of the AGM and Mr Burke's presentation was "Transforming Social Care: The Future of Care for Older People and Their Carers". With the recent launch of the Age Concern Big Q campaign focused on quality of social care services and the implementation of personal budgets across the county the content of the key note speech was very timely.

Stephen Burke provided delegates with a national perspective in relation to the Age Concern current policy environment and highlighting Norfolk's 61st issues raised by older people and their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 2 September 2008 at South Green Park Enterprise Centre, Mattishall. Stephen Burke, Chief Executive of Counsel and Care, a national charity which aims to get the best care and support for older people, their families and carers, gave the keynote speech. Mr Burke was honoured recently at the Ceretas National Homecare Awards when he was named the Social Care Personality of the Year in recognition of the "significant contribution" made by Mr Burke and Counsel and Care within the social care sector during the year.

The AGM saw a number of changes to the Age Concern Norfolk Board of Trustees. Dr Graeme Duncan stood down as Vice Chair and Mrs Muriel Yarnall, a longstanding Trustee retired at the AGM. During the meeting the Chairman formally thanked Dr Duncan for his term of office and Mrs Yarnall for her commitment and dedication over the many years she served as a Trustee to Age Concern Norfolk. Mr Sam Morton was elected to the position of Vice Chair. Mr Andrew Halsey was re-elected to serve another three year term as Trustee and Mrs Rachel McLean, Trustee of Age Concern Great Yarmouth was elected to the Board of Trustees for the first time.

“Topping Out” £5million Resource Centre For Older People



A new era in care for older people in Norfolk took a step closer on Wednesday 30 July 2008 when the final roof tile was laid on the £5million state-of-the-art resource centre being built in Costessey. The new multi-care scheme, to be called Gray's Fair Court, is designed for disabled and vulnerable older people and is being built on the site of the former Huntingfields Care Home.

The scheme is the result of a partnership between Saffron Housing Trust, Norfolk County Council and Age Concern Norfolk. It will combine sheltered housing, respite care and a day service meeting the needs of

people in Norwich, South Norfolk and Broadland.

The current respite service at Ethel Tipple Court is due to relocate to Gray's Fair Court in early December.

Support for carers will be provided at the centre, helping to maximise independence for older people. The centre will also provide help in enabling people to be discharged from hospital and will be used as a base for further outreach into the local community.

After the relocation of the respite and day services from Ethel Tipple Court, a variety of furniture will be available for purchase. If you are a care home, club, group or individual interested please contact Faith Holland on **T** 01603 785229 to arrange a viewing from 17 November 2008.

The Merry Widow - A Special Matinee Performance In Aid Of Age Concern Norfolk

Readers of Concerning You are invited to join us for the Phoenix Opera's matinee performance of The Merry Widow at The Norwich Playhouse, St Georges Street, Norwich on Saturday 15 November at 2.30pm.

Tickets are £10 each and are available from the Phoenix Box Office on **T** 01603 436510. Part of the proceeds from the performance will go to Age Concern Norfolk and staff from the charity will also be organising a tombola on the day.

The Phoenix Opera is an independent amateur opera group based in Norwich which has been presenting operas and operettas there since 1992, with a history of supporting local charities.

Why not arrange a trip for your club or group to spend an afternoon enjoying The Merry Widow, regarded as the finest operetta of them all?

Age Concern Norfolk's Annual Report 2007 - 2008

Our Annual Report for the last financial year is now available and a copy is enclosed in some copies of Concerning You.

If you do not have a copy enclosed and would like to receive one please contact Paula Skelton on **T** 01603 785235 or **E** paula.skelton@acnorfolk.org.uk.

Alternatively the Report is available to download from our website at www.acnorfolk.org.uk.

“Our outreach workers made 758 home visits and reviewed the benefits of 293 people. Awards for Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance amounted to £770,225.”

From Age Concern Norfolk's Annual Report of Trustees 2007 - 2008

Carers' Cafe In Norwich

Do you provide unpaid care for someone with dementia, who lives either at home, in a care home or hospital?

Drop in to the Carers' Café at Hellesdon Library, Woodview Road, Hellesdon NR6 5SR on Saturday 20 September, Saturday 18 October, Saturday 15 November and Saturday 20 December between 2 and 4pm.

What's on the menu? Free refreshments, information and advice, company and support, reminiscence ideas, internet tuition, memory boxes for loan and relaxation treatments.

Contact **T** 01603 427790 to find out more.

Dates For Your Diary

Saturday 18 October 2008

Over 55s Day – Remembering Norfolk in World War II at RAF Radar Defence Museum, Neatishead, 10am to 5pm. £3.50 for the over 55s. Age Concern Norfolk will be there on the day offering information and reminiscence displays from our Pabulum project. Contact **T** 01692 631485 for further information.

Sunday 19 October 2008

The Great Sunday Lunch at Sprowston Manor, Norwich, from 12.30pm. 2-course traditional roast £9.95 (£5.00 for children). A very special family event to raise money for older people in Norfolk. See enclosed flyer for further details. For bookings contact Hayley Anderson at Sprowston Manor on **T** 01603 254213.

Friday 31 October 2008

Halloween Ball at Sprowston Manor, Norwich. Join us on the scariest night of the year - celebrate Halloween with a Rocky Horror themed three course menu, a drink from the cocktail cauldron, and dancing to a tribute band and disco. £30 per person. Proceeds from the raffle will go to Age Concern Norfolk. Contact **T** 01603 254212 for further information.

Saturday 15 November 2008

The Merry Widow performed by the Phoenix Opera at Norwich Playhouse, 2.30pm. See page 2 for full details.

Christmas Is Coming!

There will be a range of christmas cards and gift wrap on sale from October at Age Concern Norfolk's County Office, 300 St Faith's Road, Old Catton, Norwich and each of its five Community Support Centres: Ethel Tipple Court, Sherwell Road, Hellesdon; Herondale, Bridewell Lane, Acle; Burnham CSC, North Street, Burnham Market; Methwold CSC, Methwold Social Club, High Street, Methwold; The Denny Centre, Thomas Manning Road, Diss.

Cards range in price from £2.75 to £3.75 per pack. If you are sending cards this Christmas, please remember that more than 50% of the sale price of each pack goes to Age Concern Norfolk's funds.

We also still have our eco-friendly “Life is a 4 letter word” canvas bags for sale at £3.99 each and some new trolley keyrings featuring a lucky black cat with the Age Concern Norfolk telephone number on the reverse for £1 each.

Please drop in to any of our centres, stock up on your cards and gifts for Christmas 2008 and support a worthy cause.

“Over the past year our five Community Support Centres have provided 13,576 days/nights of 24 hour respite care; 3,201 mobile meals; 6,363 days of supported day activities.”

From Age Concern Norfolk's Annual Report of Trustees 2007 - 2008

Free Legal Advice Sessions In Norwich And Diss



A free 20 minute legal advice session with a solicitor is available once a month at Age Concern Norfolk's County Office in Norwich and The Denny Centre in Diss, by appointment only. Contact

Age Concern Norfolk's Advice Line on **T** 01603 787111 between 10am and 4pm each weekday for further information.