

Link

JUNE 1992 NO 140

Price 30 pence

The magazine for people with
Spina Bifida and/or Hydrocephalus



IN THIS ISSUE

HOW CONTINENCE MANAGEMENT CAN
CHANGE YOUR LIFE

IMPROVING READING AND SPELLING SKILLS



HYDROCEPHALUS - THE VIDEOS

To complement our 1991 video "Hydrocephalus - a guide to Education", ASBAH has re-released "Hydrocephalus: the Hidden Handicap" and is selling the pair of videos at a bargain price of £35.00 (inc VAT, post and packing).

'A Guide to Education', scripted by Leonie Holgate, focuses on two main areas - handwriting and number-work - and offers practical ways in which these can be improved in a partnership between school and home.

"The Hidden Handicap", made in 1988, gives a wider view. It shows what hydrocephalus is, how it is treated and some of the complications which may arise - questions which arise daily when in discussion with people who are unacquainted with the disability.

Because it was made four years ago, it does contain some information about Five Oaks and ASBAH's structure which is out of date. Most of the footage, however, remains reliable and relevant to a disability whose incidence is rising. *We recommend that the videos be viewed together.*

BARGAIN! £35 THE PAIR

To obtain the pair, send a cheque/postal order for £35.00 (inc VAT, post and packing) :-

Miss Pat Corns, Information Officer, ASBAH House, 42 Park Road, Peterborough PE1 2UQ.

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The magazine for people with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus

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JUNE 1992
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A new base is needed by Britain's leading hydrocephalus shunt research group after a decision to axe their work at the Institute of Child Health.

The unit - led by microbiologist Dr Roger Bayston - has been given six months notice to quit the Institute. They must be out by September.

So far, attempts to relocate the unit have failed. Dr Bayston is known to be resisting suggestions to move to America where there has been a greater willingness to recognise the commercial potential of his inventions.

Dr Bayston has pioneered work on early detection and prevention of infections in hydrocephalus shunts, which has led to a reduction in life-threatening, post-operative complications.

One of his major achievements has been to develop a serum test which can detect infection weeks after a shunt has been put into the brain. In some cases, it takes months or even years before the symptoms show and health rapidly deteriorates. Another development has been invention of an infection-resistant shunt, which has just been taken up in the United States.

Dr Bayston's work has been supported financially by ASBAH for several years. We have invested many thousands of pounds in his work and created the post of honorary consultant in hydrocephalus for him. He was also our first research fellow.

ASBAH executive director Andrew Russell said Britain's lead in this highly specialised field will be lost if Dr Bayston and his team are broken up.

"Dr Bayston has impeccable research credentials which are known the world over. He has pioneered many advances resulting in a reduction in life-threatening shunt blockages and infections, and his work remains of immense value to people with hydrocephalus. He is also a constant source of inspiration and advice to ASBAH."



COVER- Gilly Thorn with parents Martin & Debbie and the Anglia TV crew see page 5. Photo: Peterborough Evening Telegraph

Dr Bayston is Senior Lecturer in Microbiology, Dept of Surgery, Institute of Child Health and Hon Bacteriologist, National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery.



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Changes to driving assessment arrangements

In the past, Five Oaks - ASBAH's independence training centre in Yorkshire - has hosted a mobile unit from Banstead Mobility Centre which carries out driving assessments to enable disabled people to find out if their disability will affect their ability to drive safely. These bi-annual sessions will now cease as a new assessment unit is being set up at St Mary's Hospital, Leeds. *If there is sufficient demand* the unit should be able to provide assessments throughout the year, so if you live in the north of the country and would like a driving assessment do let them know. You can apply to Dr V Neumann, Younger Disabled Unit, St Mary's Hospital, Greenhill Road, Leeds LS12 3QE.

For those in the south of the country, apply direct to Banstead Mobility Centre, Damson Way, Orchard Hill, Queen Mary's Avenue, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4MR.

Not the first time

In reporting, in the last LINK, the success of our February TV appeal, we said it was ASBAH's first television appeal in eight years - since Thora Hird did one for us in 1984.

Wrong, we were reminded by Mrs Janet Ellison of Bedford that her daughter Rebecca (*right*) did an appeal with Sarah Greene on BBC TV five years ago, and together they raised over £22,000 for ASBAH.



Since then, things have been going really well for Rebecca, now aged nine. A taxi takes her eight miles each day to Harrold Priory Middle School, and she enjoys swimming, photography and the Brownies.

Eighteen months ago, Rebecca became one of the first children in the UK to benefit from the ACE continence procedure at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Our mate, Marmite!

Thanks to help from the makers of Marmite, ASBAH will be able to spread the news on the importance of folic acid in preventing spina bifida.

Although families with a history of spina bifida will be aware of the MRC research findings (which indicated that taking extra folic acid before conception, and in the early days of pregnancy, could help prevent some neural tube defects) thousands of women who are planning their pregnancies may not know this vital information.

ASBAH has collaborated with the Sylvia Meredith Health Education Advisory Service to produce a leaflet for women of child bearing

age, with no previous history of spina bifida. Marmite has funded the production of 50,000 of the leaflets which will be sent to women's organisations. ASBAH's appeals manager, Roy Johnston, told LINK: "To reach an even wider audience we have obtained a companies mailing list, at 50% of the usual cost, from Dun and Bradstreet - this means we can send sample copies of the leaflet to companies all over the country and ask them to reproduce it for their staff."

And Wetherby District Lions Club have donated over £1200 towards distribution costs to get this awareness campaign started.

Advertisement latest

In the last issue of LINK we reported ASBAH's condemnation of an advertisement for a book entitled 'Medical Curiosities' in which people with severe disabilities were luridly described as "freaks of nature".

Since our complaints, four national newspapers have now agreed not to use the advertisement again. And a letter from ASBAH's publicity manager Tony Britton, asking newspapers to think before accepting such insensitive advertisements, was published in the UK Press Gazette - the magazine for journalists.

Taking part in Telethon

ASBAH has latched on to this year's ITV Telethon marathon in a big way. Three separate films are expected to be shown during the two-day fundraising extravaganza on 18 and 19 July.

Anglia TV producer Ron Trickett has already made a brief film stressing the importance of the

fieldwork service to families who need our unwavering support.

Mary Castle, fieldworker for the Cambridgeshire area, will be seen visiting the Thorn and Woodhead families in Orton Goldhay, Peterborough.

Thames TV producer Alix Somner will be filming 12-year-old Patrick Stokes, of Manor Park, East London. In this film, Patrick will be speaking about his life as a boy with spina bifida and people's attitudes towards him.

And, in the Harlech TV West area, producer Gerry Dawson - who made our appeal film which was shown on ITV in England and Wales in February - is expected to make a film about the Nichols



Filming inside the Thorn family home.
(Photo courtesy of the Peterborough Evening Telegraph)

family, of Yeovil, and the relevance of our fieldwork service to them.

"The films should all be shown regionally during the Telethon weekend, and stand a good chance of being selected to be shown on the network," said ASBAH's publicity manager Tony Britton.

"While money raised from the weekend goes directly to each ITV company's Telethon Trust and not to ASBAH, we collect a substantial bonus in the form of raised public awareness," he added.

ASBAH is tailor-making applications to each individual Telethon Trust in the hope of obtaining a number of grants towards our work.

Sheffield Housing project under starter's orders

Sheffield ASBAH are delighted that building is about to start on nine bedsits in the city for disabled young people. The bedsits with an additional communal kitchen and living room should be completed next spring.

In a joint housing project, between themselves and Sheffield's Association for People with Cerebral Palsy, the two organisations have raised the £50,000 needed by the Northern Counties Housing Association to start work on the building. The Housing Association will receive the rents from the tenants, who will be young people with spina bifida/and or hydrocephalus and those with cerebral palsy. The project will enable the tenants to live independently with some support available on site.

Mobility in Cornwall

Cornwall ASBAH held a successful Mobility Weekend earlier this year thanks to donations from the Prince's Trust, RAF St Mawgan, Mount Charles and Carelaze junior schools.

The weekend was designed to improve wheelchair skills and by the end of the weekend everyone could back-wheel balance and almost all could safely negotiate a six inch kerb. Everyone had the opportunity to try out a lightweight wheelchair and parents are now fundraising to ensure that all the participants get their own lightweight chair.

Cornwall ASBAH would like to thank all those involved including: John Naudé of ASBAH, Ian Laker of GBL, Mike Grace of Tehidy Mobility Centre, Helen Marquis (former ASBAH counsellor) and Barbara Timms, Health Authority Continence Adviser.

NIDYA launch leaflet

The Northern Ireland Deaf Youth Association (NIDYA) has produced an information leaflet which sets out its aims and activities and the opportunities open to young deaf members.

If you would like a copy of the leaflet contact: Angus Sneddon, NIDYA, Bryson House, 28 Bedford Street, Belfast BT2 7FE, telephone Belfast 438566.

June is Van Month

Ford are promoting new vans with special offers on any of their commercial vehicles which are registered in June. Offers include the fitting of a free security alarm and low rate finance on such vehicles as the Courier (see new products on page 7), Transit and Escort van.

Further details on Van Month, from your Ford dealer.

Multiple Marathon

Success

Athletes with spina bifida certainly were not lagging behind in the London Marathon this year. Tanni Grey, aged 22, from Cardiff, won the women's wheelchair event in two hours 17 minutes and 23 seconds and David Holding, aged 23, from Kettering, led the race in the men's wheelchair marathon for most of the distance. He was just beaten into second place by Canadian Daniel Wesley who crossed the line 11 seconds ahead of David.

David won the wheelchair event - in record time in 1989.

Both athletes are hoping to join the British team in Barcelona for the paralympics. David could be competing in the 1500 and 10,000 metres, Tanni is hoping to go in for the shorter events - 100m, 200m, 400m and 800m.

Of course, successfully completing the gruelling 26-mile London Marathon requires a lot of preparation. David, pictured right, trains six days a week on the road before he goes to work. With support from his employers he is able to train when the rush hour traffic is over and arrive at work a little later than the rest of Corby. Some days he does long distance training but he also has to practice sprinting - a sprint finish is needed even for long distance races. Bad weather doesn't stop his training schedule - he does it in the shed - on rollers! He has a few tips for would-be marathon racers: "You



Photo: Kettering Evening Telegraph

need the right sort of wheelchair (David uses Bromakin racing chairs) and skin tight gloves - if you get blisters on your hands you can't continue with your training". Diet is important too, David says he tries not to eat too many chips!

Also in the marathon, and raising money for ASBAH was Jon Clark from Kent.

You may remember that Kevin Daily, whose daughter has spina bifida, told LINK earlier this year of his intention to run the marathon even though he had not done any running since his school days. He did complete the race with his friend Jeremy Swann, but it took them almost six hours after Jeremy hurt his knee! But, together with another runner from Ely, they raised about £1,000 for ASBAH.

Our congratulations and thanks go to all those who finished and those who boosted ASBAH's funds.

Foreign Exchanges



Fannie lives in Champigny, France. She is 15-years-old and would like to write to a friend of the same age. She is learning English at school and hopes to improve her English by writing to a pen-friend here. However, she would be willing to have an English pen-friend who wants to write to her in French - this way they can both benefit from improving their knowledge of each other's language. Write to Fannie Haffner, 32 Ancien Chemin de Villiers, 94500 Champigny, France.

Greg is looking for a penfriend in France, Spain or Germany as he is learning to speak these languages at school. Greg is 14 and would like to write to someone aged 12-15 of either sex. He is fond of reading, swimming and wheelchair sports. He has spina bifida and hydrocephalus and uses a wheelchair. Our overseas readers can contact Greg by sending their letters to him at LINK, ASBAH House, 42 Park Road, Peterborough, England.

Wrong Numbers

We apologise for any inconvenience to readers after two phone numbers were printed incorrectly in the April issue of LINK.

The correct numbers are:
Computability Centre 0926 312847
and GBL (for wheelchair insurance) 081 569 8955.

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Helping computers to communicate

A committee has been set up by the European Commission to develop international standards for communication between healthcare computers, initially in the EEC and later anywhere in the world. It is hoped that the first standards will become available in 1993.

Chairing the Committee (European Workshop for Open Systems Expert Group for Healthcare) is Dr Adrian Stokes who has spina bifida. Dr Stokes is also involved with several charities in addition to a full-time job at the NHS Management Information Centre.

Flying High

Tracy Booth has a busy summer ahead - not only is she getting married and going on honeymoon in Jamaica but just a few weeks later she's jetting off to the USA to learn to fly!

Tracy has won one of nine flying scholarships which are awarded annually in memory of Group Captain Sir Douglas Bader, the legendary World War II fighter ace who lost both his legs in a flying accident.

During eight weeks in Georgia, Tracy, who lives in London, will have 40 hours of dual and solo

flying instruction in a Piper Warrior training aircraft.

She first found out about the scholarships in a magazine and "decided to go for it" even though, unlike some candidates, she has no previous connection with flying. Selected applicants had to attend a three-day assessment at Biggin Hill where they were interviewed by a panel of seven high ranking RAF officers: "They kept telling me there was no need to feel nervous!" says Tracy, whose talkative nature obviously helped her through this part of the

selection. There were also intelligence tests and computer assessments during the three days - not just to see if they would be suitable for the course but also to assess potential and discover candidates who would benefit from the experience, even if they do not go on to fly alone.

Tracy hopes she will achieve her pilot's licence as a result of the scholarship although this would involve more tests if she wanted to fly alone in this country. Even if she doesn't qualify Tracy is determined to make the most of this opportunity which many disabled women would never get.

We wish Tracy every success and she has promised to write about her experiences for LINK later this year.

PRODUCT NEWS

Off-road fun

Following the successful conversion of a Ninja Storm Cat 3 x 3 child's off-road three-wheeler to hand controls only, CJS Custom will shortly be offering this model as a standard conversion at £199.95.

The Storm Cat, which normally has a foot controlled accelerator pedal, was converted for six-year-old Ian Powell, who has spina bifida, after his mother contacted the distributors, The Ninja Corporation, in Cheshire.

Other adaptations, to the Storm Cat, available from CJS, include: backrest support £50, foot retaining plates £30, and a 12-volt conversion with anti-tip bars, for an additional £95. More information from: CJS Custom, Unit W6, Chester Enterprise Centre, Hoole Bridge, Chester, CH2 3NE. Telephone: 0244 310089.



Courier Conversion

Mobility specialists, Car Chair, have launched their conversion of the Ford Courier which can accommodate a driver, one wheelchair passenger and three other passengers.

A power belt system pulls the wheelchair up a non-slip ramp to enable the user to get in the back of the vehicle. Car Chair have lowered the floor and installed an extra window in the front to improve visibility for the wheelchair-seated passenger.

Further information from Car Chair Ltd, Car Chair House, Station Road Industrial Estate, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 2ES, tel: 0323 840283.

Inside the converted Ford Courier



Items in Product News have not been tested by us.

Hydrocephalus and upper limb control

by Carole Sobkowiak

It is possible to use detailed testing of hand function to assess a child's capabilities for manual tasks, handwriting, and also to relate these findings to learning difficulties. It has often been said that hydrocephalus is a hidden handicap and it is for this reason that it is extremely important to assess hand function as it gives a picture of how the brain is developing control of the fingers. Although the test battery will also give indications of perceptual, spatial, visual and auditory memory problems, much has been written about these and so I propose only to discuss the control of upper limb movement in this article.

I have researched these problems in a study on the upper limb function of children with spina bifida and hydrocephalus in the age range 6-8 years (Minns et al. 1977) and have since used this method of testing to identify problems early on so that remedial programmes and strategies can be worked out with parents, carers and teachers.

The same testing has also been applied to a group of teenagers aged between 14-16 years and it was found that they had poor hand skills more in keeping with those of a young child. It is equally important to identify these problems so that realistic advice can be given to carers, advisers and colleges of further education.

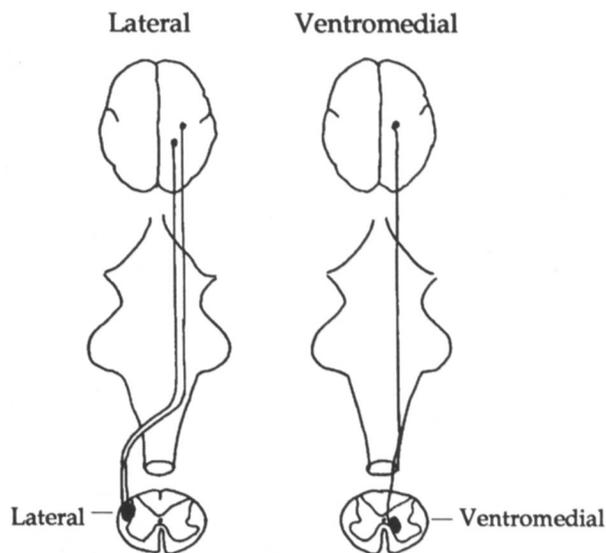
The question may then be asked 'How does upper limb function develop and why does it fail to do so in some cases?'

The control of muscles is by nerves which originate from nerve cells deep down in layer V of the cerebral cortex, close to the

ventricles. These nerve tracts then pass down through the brainstem to the spinal cord as shown in the diagram. Hence the name cortico-spinal tracts.

In order for nerves to mature they undergo a process called myelination. Nerves carry electrical impulses and rather like electric wires they need an insulating sheath around them otherwise the electrical field will spread and become weaker and weaker as it travels along. Myelination is the human sheath around the nerves. It is likely that hydrocephalus and/or leukomalacia (small cystic cavities) around the ventricles can affect and slow down the myelination process. This has been shown with studies of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

It is interesting to see how the cortico-spinal tracts can be broadly divided into two sets. Firstly, the ventromedial pathway which ends near the centre of the spinal cord and supplies the muscles of the trunk and shoulder girdle which provide postural fixation. Secondly, the lateral pathway which makes contact with nerve cells nearer the outer edge of the spinal cord responsible for innervation of the more distal muscles of the arm such as those of the hand and fingers which are responsible for fine skilled movement.



Nerve tracts passing down through the brainstem to the spinal cord. (cortico-spinal tracts)

For many everyday functional tasks and handwriting we need to be able to stabilise our trunks, often in a good sitting position, and fixate the shoulder muscles in order to produce good skilled hand movements.

All too often when examining children we find that they cannot stabilise their proximal joints. They may also have difficulty with individual finger sequencing, thumb to index finger opposition, piano playing movements and the ability to make rapid alternating movements of the wrist and forearm. They may also retain mirror movements and associated movements in the hands, thereby making it difficult to isolate the use of one hand for function.

Other information from the test battery can highlight the inability to know which fingers are being touched, to recognise numbers being drawn in the palm of the hand, lack of ability to feel and distinguish a range of shapes and

Upper Limb Control Continued

fixtures as well as overall poor pencil control for handwriting and drawing.

A detailed and thorough examination of upper limb and hand function enables us to assist in the planning of educational programmes together with

educational psychologists and teachers. In this way therapy becomes inclusive in the school curriculum rather than the withdrawal of the child from the class for exercises.

References:

Minns RA, Sobkowiak CA, Skardoutsou A, Dick K, Elton RA, Brown JK, Forfar Jo (1977) "Upper

limb function in spina bifida", *Zeitschrift fur Kinderchirurgie* 22, 493-506.

Further Reading: *Current Concepts in Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus* - Edited by Carys M Bannister and Brian Tew.

Carole Sobkowiak is a Superintendent Physiotherapist at Darlington Memorial Hospital.

Beware the Parents' Charter

The Independent Panel for Special Education Advice (IPSEA) has issued a warning over the latest DES Parents' Charter - "Children with special needs" which is being widely distributed via special schools and voluntary organisations. IPSEA says that this 'charter' gives no new rights to parents of children with special needs as it is just a guide to the 1981 Education Act and, indeed, has several omissions and some mistakes in its 20 pages.

The main points in the charter with which IPSEA takes issue are:

- The book takes only one of the legal definitions of children with special educational needs - that of a child having greater difficulty in learning than others of the same age. It omits those with a disability which either prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities. It also leaves out the under fives.
- The Parents' Charter omits to inform parents that LEAs have a duty under Section 2 of the 81 Act to integrate children with special needs into mainstream schools, subject to certain conditions.
- The charter suggests that children in ordinary schools could be helped by "attendance for part or all of the week at a specialist centre or a special school" without the need for an 81 Act assessment or Statement. But IPSEA says: "Parents should be wary of

agreeing to their child being placed in a special school without an assessment or Statement. It is often a convenient way for mainstream schools to get rid of a 'problem' and does not necessarily ensure that the child receives the right provision". Indeed the booklet is giving contrary advice to that given by the DES to LEAs. In a circular (22/89) LEAs are told that: "The Secretary of State expects that children in special schools would normally be afforded the protection of a statement".

- The booklet fails to advise parents of the different courses of action they can take if their LEA refuses to issue a statement such as consulting a solicitor about the possibility of a Judicial Review - which is much more effective than complaining to the Secretary of State who can only direct the LEA to reconsider.
- Parents are not told about their right under Section 7(4)b to ask for a meeting with an Officer once they receive the draft Statement: "This is the most important single piece of information parents need if they are unhappy with a draft Statement, for it is only by asking in writing for a meeting that they can stop the LEA finalising the Statement," says IPSEA. Furthermore the booklet does not tell parents that they have a right, at the draft stage, to call a meeting with the professionals who have

written reports on their child, in order to challenge those reports.

- Reviews are described in the booklet as taking place yearly but they can happen at any time and parents can ask for an immediate review if they are unhappy about the provision.
- Information in the charter which states that when a child moves to a different LEA the new Authority is "responsible for ensuring that your child's special educational needs are met" is wrong. In fact, the statement from the previous LEA has no legal validity and the new LEA should undertake a full assessment.
- The Parents' Charter does not detail the most effective way to complain to the Secretary of State ie that the LEA is failing to fulfil its legal duty under Section 99 of the 1944 Education Act. This course of action is likely to be much more useful than complaining on the grounds that the LEA is acting unreasonably - as suggested in the booklet. The latter is a very weak complaint because it is much harder to prove.

The Charter also fails to mention a parent's right to seek the advice of a solicitor or complain to the Ombudsman if they are unhappy with their LEA's actions.

IPSEA urges parents to send their comments on the charter to the Secretary of State for Education.

ARROW - a multi-sensory approach to learning

Arrow is a multi-sensory learning approach from Somerset which is based on the concept that one's own voice, the 'self-voice', is central to the thinking process and that this concept applies to children and adults of all ages and abilities, including those with spina bifida and hydrocephalus.

Recent studies amongst various students experiencing reading, spelling and listening problems have shown that Arrow can accelerate progress in these skills.

The Arrow techniques are centred upon a student listening to his/her own voice replayed on a tape player. A high quality tape recorder using a headset boom configuration (see picture) is deemed necessary for recording the student's voice and for the overall success of Arrow. Replay of the recording, however, can either be made on the special equipment or the student's own cassette player.

Arrow is the acronym for Aural-Read-Respond-Oral-Written and all students using the approach will meet one if not all of these components. But it is the 'self-voice' which remains the core of the system. In essence the student listens back to his own voice when reading material, taking dictation etc.

Recently, it has been shown that training can be successfully applied by a teacher, speech therapist, parent, volunteer, or by students practising alone.

Speaking - Independent studies with hearing-impaired, speech/ and language disordered children have shown that the vocalisation, intelligibility and articulatory skills of students can be improved through Arrow.

Listening - Research shows that

Dr Colin Lane, of the Arrow Trust, explains how the Arrow system can improve reading, spelling, speaking and listening skills.

Arrow improves listening for environmental and speech sounds and recent studies add a new dimension with respect to the effect of classroom noise upon the auditory performances of students.

Investigations show that most students can listen accurately to a quiet voice when presented in quiet conditions. Yet great variability exists between students once classroom noise is introduced and poor readers have worse classroom listening skills than good readers.

Results are taken from a test/retest across the five-week training period and results are summarised as follows:

All children who undertook Arrow training for spelling improved their classroom listening skills. In the junior school, listening skills rose by 30%, from an average of 28.4 words to 36.9 words correct. In the secondary school, interestingly, again scores rose by 30% from an average of 41.8 words to 54.0 words identified correctly.



A student using Arrow equipment

In the secondary school a control group of five pupils took the test on both occasions but did not effect any improvement - their average scores being 51.4 and 58.8 respectively. This non-movement has been demonstrated before on many occasions (Lane 1990).

The Birmingham Study

An investigation was conducted in Birmingham to further explore the relationship between classroom listening performances and Arrow training for spelling. Two schools agreed to participate: the first an inner-city school with a class of mixed 10-year-olds; the second a girls' secondary school containing a class of 10 poor attainers, aged 12 years. Five girls received Arrow, five acted as controls.

The Bridgwater Study

In this study, conducted during the spring term 1992, 14 primary age students with very poor reading and spelling skills were given the Classroom Listen Test as used in the Birmingham study. The students were seated within two metres of the tape player during testing and were assessed on two measures. First, the number of words or part words written down correctly and,

second, the number of words they spelt correctly when writing these words. It was decided to check the children's progress whilst at school for a five-week period before Arrow training, then after five weeks of Arrow training.

During the five week pre-Arrow control period:

★ Students did not improve their ability to detect more words - the average remaining constant (28.38 - 28.4).

★ Student spellings of those words they wrote showed only minimal improvement, averages rising from 13.29 to 14.05.

After Arrow training for reading and spelling a different picture emerges:

★ The children's listening skills showed that most marked progress had been made. The words written down correctly rose from 28.4 to 48.4, ie an 84% improvement after Arrow training.

★ The average for words correctly spelt also rose sharply from 14.05 to 25.16, ie 79% improvement over previous scores.

The results confirm the Birmingham study and again establish that when students use Arrow for literacy skills improvements, a rise in listening skills also follows.

Reading and Spelling

Studies are being conducted in several parts of the UK by teachers trained in the latest Arrow techniques and information is already to hand to show that marked improvements in literacy skills can be effected.

Table 1 results are from the Arrow Trust Centre at Bridgwater in Somerset. These results show that students attending for a one-hour training session per week with follow-up work at home make considerable progress in reading/spelling within five weeks.

Table 1
Mainstream students with literacy problems

| Age Group | Reading age pre-arrow | Reading age 5-6 wks Arrow | Spelling age pre-Arrow | Spelling age 5-6 wks Arrow |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| | mean scores | mean scores | mean scores | mean scores |
| | yrs mths | yrs mths | yrs mths | yrs/mths |
| 5-7yrs 8 in group | 6 4 | 6 9 | 5 8 | 6 4 |
| 7-11yrs 35 in group | 7 7 | 8 4 | 7 4 | 8 0 |
| 11-18yrs 20 in group | 10 4 | 11 6 | 9 0 | 9 7 |

The results in Table 2 are from a residential school for students with specific learning problems and show that students accessing to Arrow at school and working the recorder themselves on a daily basis also made commendable progress in reading and spelling.

Table 2
Students with specific learning problems

| Age Group | Reading age pre-arrow | Reading age 8-9 wks Arrow | Spelling age pre-Arrow | Spelling age 8-9 wks Arrow |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| | mean scores | mean scores | mean scores | mean scores |
| | yrs mths | yrs mths | yrs mths | yrs mths |
| 8-13 yrs 16 in group | 9 4 | 10 3 | 8 0 | 8 8 |

Table 3 shows results gained at an Avon school for students with severe learning problems and, again, shows that students can make good progress with reading and spelling skills if accessing to the approach.

Table 3
Students with severe learning problems

| Student | Age | Reading age pre-arrow | Reading age 5-6 wks | Spelling age pre-Arrow | Spelling age 5-6 wks |
|---------|-----|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| | | mean scores | mean scores | mean scores | mean scores |
| | | yrs mths | yrs mths | yrs mths | yrs mths |
| D | 13+ | 7 0 | 7 4 | 5 6 | 6 1 |
| J | 13+ | 9 1 | 9 5 | 6 4 | 7 4 |
| R | 13+ | 7 9 | 8 4 | 7 8 | 8 5 |
| S | 13+ | 6 6 | 6 8 | N/S | N/S |

Arrow and children with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus

The evidence to-date shows that Arrow is a developing technique which can be applied across a wide range of students of all ages and abilities. Much work needs to be undertaken by teachers and/or parents of hydrocephalus and/or spina bifida students in order to establish its full potential. Advisers from ASBAH have already contacted the Arrow Trust with a view to developing this further.

Training, Distance Learning and Home Support

It has become apparent that the most effective way of helping students improve their listening, literacy and communication skills is through

Continued from Page 11

teacher/welfare assistant/parent training. *The Arrow Trust* is a registered charity and has been formed with the aim of helping students and training educators, speech therapists and parents in the use of this approach. The Trust has received the full support of Sedgemoor District Council and now has its headquarters in

Bridgwater in Somerset, with plans to establish outreach centres in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

Parents are successfully using Arrow at home with their children. The most successful way of introducing Arrow into the home is when teachers and/or parents attend training programmes, use Arrow at home, then maintain contact with the Trust, on a

tutorial basis, several times a year.

For further information contact:

Dr C H Lane
The Arrow Trust
Priory Annexe
St Mary Street
Bridgwater
Somerset TA6 3EL

Tel: 0278 446261

(If writing, please include a large, stamped, addressed envelope.)

Meeting Britain's First Astronaut

When Helen Sharman, Britain's first woman in space, toured Birmingham University after receiving her honorary degree, she was accompanied by a young member of Midland ASBAH. Thanks to arrangements made by former ASBAH fieldworker Lettie Bellshaw, 11-year-old 'space crazy' Alex Davies met the astronaut and spent the day with her. Alex reports:

"I went to meet Helen Sharman, Britain's first astronaut, at Birmingham University. She went into space in April 1991 on one of the Russian spacecraft Soyuz, to the Mir space-station, and stayed there for eight days.

When I arrived at the University I was met by Miss Sheila Harris and went to wait for Miss Sharman. While we were waiting I spoke to Richard and Mark - two post-graduates - who answered some of my questions about the stars and the Solar-System.

Miss Sharman arrived with "Prof", as everybody called him. We then looked at some photographs of the stars and the space shuttle and I asked Miss Sharman if she went on a space walk. Although she didn't on her first trip she said she would have liked to. She also told me that she had applied to the European Space Agency to go into space again.

We went to look at a giant computer which was part of the Starlink facility. This is a worldwide computer system which receives data, from telescopes on satellites in orbit, and then processes it.

We were shown a solar telescope which was in the process of being built and is due for launch in 1993 (fingers crossed!) I also looked at a telescope which had been into space on the Space Shuttle a few years ago, to look at the stars in certain areas of the sky.

Next we went up to the Astro-Physics lab and met some of the under-graduates studying for their degrees.

During the day we had our photograph taken several times and I got Miss Sharman's autograph. It was a very enjoyable and extremely interesting day for me."



Helen Sharman & Alex, centre, during their guided tour.



Launch of Holiday Care Awards 1992

For the second year the Holiday Care Service will be recognising the achievements of both individuals and organisations in the tourism industry, in meeting the needs of all tourists and holidaymakers, through the Holiday Care Awards.

Chairman of the HCS, Mary Baker, told us: "The awards have three objectives: to reward good practice, to encourage the industry to design for the larger market, and to enable consumers themselves to recognise high standards of service by individuals or businesses in tourism".

They aim to involve the active participation of people with personal experience of disability in the nominating process. You can nominate your choice for any of these categories:

Accommodation - 20 bedrooms & over; Accommodation - under 20 bedrooms; Self Catering; Attractions (including museums); Most helpful individual member of staff in tourism. Alternatively you may like to enter Category 6 yourself - writing an article under the heading "Best Journey Experience of someone with a disability". Nomination and/or entry forms are available now from the HCS and must be returned by 30 September. The awards will be presented at the World Travel Market, in November, at Earls Court.

For forms, or more details, contact: Holiday Care Service, 2 Old Bank Chambers, Station Road, Horley, Surrey RH6 9HW, telephone 0293 774535.

Eureka! - a new experience for children

Eureka is the name given to a brand new museum specifically for children which opens in July. This is the first museum of its kind in the country and is housed in Discovery Road, Halifax, telephone 0422 330069.

EUREKA!

There will be three permanent exhibition areas designed to appeal to the interests and understanding of children and based in environments familiar to them. The good news is that the exhibits are accessible to all, rather than having special areas for children with disabilities. And the *Me and My Body* exhibit enables children to find out what makes each one of us special and unique. How bodies work and coping with disability are also addressed.

Living and Working Together is an exhibit based around a town square where a house provides a setting to find out about the science and technology of its services and construction and there's history to be discovered in its attic or in the archaeological excavation outside. A bank and shop allow children the chance to role play or, again, look at the

technology, of the security system for example. There's even a garage where they can 'service' a car.

The third exhibition area is *Inventing and Creating* which looks at communications and in the television studio they can operate the cameras, read the news or present the weather.

And for the under fives there's a 'jungle' to play in, with ball ponds, wobbly bridge, ramps and foam animals. It sounds great and this is one place where children are definitely welcome, the museum reserves the right to refuse entry to adults without children.

Eureka! opens its doors on 10 July. Admission prices are £3.50 for adults (over 12 years) and £2.50 for children 3-12. Family ticket £10.00. The museum has a shop and cafe and lots of parking space.

Making dreams come true

Two organisations which help disabled children to have the holiday of a lifetime are the National Holiday Fund for Sick and Disabled Children and the Make-a-Wish Foundation UK.

Make-a-Wish tries to grant the wishes of children aged 3-18 years who have life-threatening illnesses. It could be that a child wants to go somewhere special or meet a celebrity or even wants to own a particular item. Teachers, family, friends or medical contacts can refer a child to the organisation. More details from Make-A-Wish Foundation UK, 473a London Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3JA, telephone 0276 24127.



The National Holiday Fund organises holidays with necessary medical support. They help children aged 8-18 who are physically disabled or chronically or terminally ill. More information from the Fund at Suite 1, Princess House, 1-2 Princess Parade, New Road, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9LS, telephone 081 595 9624.

CAN WE HELP?

Send your problems to 'Can We Help?' (address on page 3). Confidentiality will be maintained and no names or addresses will be printed.

"My 11-year-old daughter has spina bifida and hydrocephalus and goes to a mainstream school some three miles away.

From the age of three she had an indwelling catheter but six months ago went over to intermittent catheterisation every three hours. This is proving successful though she is not yet able to do it for herself.

Recently, I had a phone call from the school to say that the care assistant who carries out my daughter's catheterisation (I had been into school for two days to show her how to do it) would be absent for the next two days. As the stand-in care assistant did not want to perform this task, I was told that either I should keep my daughter off school for two days or go in myself every three hours to catheterise her.

When I turned down both these options I was told that the best thing would be to send my daughter into school in nappies and the care assistant would change her. I sought medical advice and was advised that nappies would be most unsuitable and would undo the last six months' work.

I contacted the head of the care assistants who informed me that care assistants are not trained to do catheterisation, though in principle she was

willing for all those under her to be trained. In this instance, she said she would contact the school nurse to see if she could go in to supervise my daughter's catheterisation.

I feel very strongly about this matter and the fact that I was given half a day's notice and an ultimatum. Maybe you could tell me what care assistants jobs are. If more disabled children are going into mainstream school and will need catheterising are all parents going to be expected to go into school to do this?

I would like to hear from any other parents who have been, or are going through the same experience and can anything be done about it."

Under the terms of the 1981 Education Act, all local education authorities (LEAs) have a legal obligation to carry out a multi professional assessment (MPA) of children with special needs to produce a Statement of the child's special needs, if deemed necessary, and a recommendation of placement. After parental opinion and approval has been obtained, the agreed document will then serve to provide the school with the necessary level of expertise and provision of support to enable staff to meet the child's special needs within the educational framework.

The wording and content of the Statement is very important. Contributors to the formal assessment should include those professionals

with the greatest knowledge of the condition and the individual child and family, if it is to be valid. The Statement is a 'shopping list' and should state clearly both the child's needs and the LEA's means of meeting those needs.

Every child so stated is subject to a statutory annual review. The purpose of this is to ensure that, as the child's needs change, the statement can be modified. Parents and relevant professionals should be informed that an annual review is taking place and should therefore have the opportunity to modify provision as necessary. In fact, parents can ask for a review at any time and do not have to wait for the annual review if they are concerned about provision.

At your daughter's next review the change in her continence management, and therefore her special educational needs, should be reflected in the statement. The review will provide a formal opportunity for parents, medical and other professionals and school staff to decide and agree upon the type and level of support needed to ensure successful independence and continence training.

As your daughter is approaching adolescence, she requires a great deal of support and encouragement and her personal and social education should include some content relevant to her disability.

How continence management changed my life



Christine Helliwell who has triumphed over incontinence

"Until about four years ago, when I got up in the morning my bed used to be saturated. Some mornings I could literally wring the sheets out, they were so wet. I tried having the last drink one hour before I went to bed. This helped keep the bed drier but meant I was likely to wake up with an infection in my bladder. Bladder infections meant taking high doses of antibiotics which often made me feel lethargic.

Professor Brindley, of the Maudsley hospital in London, recommended that I see Mr Thomas, consultant urologist at Lodge Moor Hospital in Sheffield. I was admitted to South Ward 2 of Lodge Moor Hospital. Mr Thomas proceeded to do tests on my bladder.

It was decided that intermittent catheterisation should be possible. Unfortunately, disappointment was to follow. We tried using a plastic catheter but had great difficulty getting it into the bladder. Mr Thomas said he would 'go back to the drawing board'. I was sent home and re-admitted at a later date.

This time intermittent catheterisation was tried using a metal catheter and was successful. The nurses taught me how to do this for myself. At first I was nervous because I was frightened of hurting myself. I had nothing to worry about - it did not hurt at all. To start with I found it helpful to use a mirror. It took about a week to learn using this method. Now I can do it anywhere, anytime, without a mirror, and it only takes

about two minutes. For most of the time I now became dry.

However, I suffered from severe constipation which was confirmed by x-rays done at Lodge Moor Hospital. I made frequent visits to my doctor and we tried all the laxatives: Lactulose, Fybogel, Manevac and Co-danthrusate (Danthron). Although these helped they did not do enough. Mr Thomas even tried me on 5mls of Picolax every three days and this did not do much either.

In desperation I rang Mary White, ASBAH continence adviser, she mentioned the ACE operation to me but said my consultant might like to try the cardiomed catheter first.

I went to see Mr Thomas and he suggested trying to use the cardiomed to empty my bowel. An early admittance to the hospital was arranged. Four days later I was being shown how to use the cardiomed. It is like a catheter with a balloon on it that can be inflated when it is in the bowel. At one end is a drip bag in which is placed warm water and salt. This is allowed to flow into the bowel and acts like an enema. This method works very well for me and I can do it without any assistance.

The sister on the ward rang my doctor to arrange delivery of a commode at the earliest convenience as I cannot go more than three days without using the cardiomed. I was amazed to see that at 9.30am the following morning the commode had been delivered and that shortly after

10am the District Nurse had delivered some paper sheets. I could not have expected a better service than this.

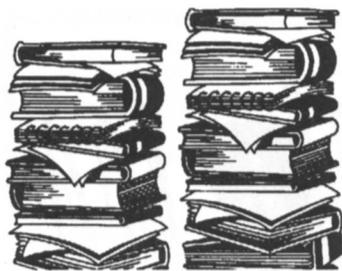
I am now dry day and night. Can you imagine what this means to me? For the first time in my life I can walk into a travel agency and book a holiday in a hotel in any country I like. No longer do I have to go to a nursing home or hotel where they accept incontinent guests.

It is hard to put it into words but my life has changed completely.

I have a full-time job as an analyst, having gained a degree in chemistry. I do all my own washing, cleaning and shopping. I am secretary to the Trefoil Guild for the Disabled, I test badges for the local brownie pack, knit toys to sell at charity sales and have recently joined the embroidery guild.

I would like to thank Mary White, Mr Thomas, the nurses who helped me on South Ward 2 and Central 2 and the doctors, district nurses and receptionists at the Ryding Hall Surgery, Brighouse. Between them they have given me a very high quality of life.

To all those with spina bifida out there who are still struggling - do not just sit back do something about it. It could change your life completely. "



BOOK REVIEWS

Am I Allowed to Cry? - A study of bereavement amongst people who have learning difficulties. Maureen Oswin. Published by Souvenir Press 1991, Human Horizons Series. Hardback £12.99. Paperback £7.99.

This book is a valuable addition to the field of publications which aim to improve life for people with learning difficulties. It is easy to read, with a host of case studies where the person with a learning difficulty has ample opportunity to speak for themselves, about their experience of loss.

Without sentimentality, Maureen Oswin analyses reactions to bereavement, describing men and women bewildered by the loss of a parent or close friend and often further distressed by the, albeit well meaning, response of remaining family or residential care staff.

While the author is sympathetic to problems faced by staff in coping with bereaved people with learning difficulties, she is highly critical of their training, which often fails to respect the very normal feelings of the people in their care. Everybody, in situations of grief, is likely to behave in a way that is out of character, yet people with learning difficulties are rarely accorded the understanding shown to others.

In a final practical and optimistic chapter some guidelines for change and improvement are given. These could be of great use to families, as a means of preparing themselves for dealing with possible future bereavements, and to help them support the person with a learning difficulty.

This is an excellent book and should be essential reading for anyone working with people who have learning difficulties. Many relatives will also find it helpful. Maureen Oswin's advice should create a standard which will do much to help people with learning difficulties in their time of grief.

Rachel Stanworth

When a Baby Dies. Nancy Kohner and Alix Henley. Pandora £6.99. *Reviewed by Veronica Buckland, ASBAH fieldworker for North Armagh and Co Down.*

Nancy Kohner is a consultant to the UK Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society and Alix Henley is interested in health care and the relationship between professionals and consumers. They have co-operated to produce a very readable book filled with practical help for parents and professionals in coping with miscarriage, stillbirth and neonatal death.

All the real life stories are movingly written, describing events and the feelings of those involved. They provide an insight into the depth of emotions experienced by even early miscarriage and continue with the development of the stories, looking back on bereavement and its consequences up to five years later. For those who have not experienced such bereavement they aid perception. However, most of the experiences are harrowing and could prove distressing for those recently bereaved, in spite of the comfort of knowing others have suffered similarly.

The chapter entitled 'Medical Explanations' is written in

layman's terms, explaining in detail the various reasons for early death. This could prove daunting for those embarking on a new pregnancy after the recent loss of a baby.

A very useful book for all professionals coping with the grief of others but not to be shared with the recently bereaved without careful consideration of timing, so that the benefits of shared experience are not outweighed by the disadvantages of exposure to others' sorrow.

Pied Piper - Musical activities to develop basic skills by John Bean and Amelia Oldfield, published by Cambridge University Press.

Pied Piper describes nearly 80 different musical activities for groups of children or adults who may have a wide range of learning difficulties. Although the authors are both music therapists, musical knowledge or 'performance skills' are not necessary to use this book effectively.

The activities are simple to execute, often requiring no more equipment than a tambourine, and are fun.

There are four principal aims behind the activities: developing listening skills and concentration; developing a sense of self and awareness of others; developing social skills; and helping to develop motor control. The book is divided into the four relevant sections and further aims for each activity are highlighted - for example, releasing energy in a controlled way, or promoting initiative.

This book is extremely 'user

Book Reviews Continued

friendly' and can be dipped into for good ideas. There is a useful cross-reference table at the back for easy access to the activities and instruments required for each one.

Although 24 of the 80 activities are unsuitable for wheelchair users, at £7.95 the book still represents excellent value for money. It is also an ideal resource for mixed ability younger groups or playgroup leaders. Line drawings, photographs and the easy layout make this book refreshingly attractive. *Rachel Stanworth.*

ASBAH Publications

Our publications order form, available from National Office, has been amended.

It now includes 'One Step at a Time', Margaret Slade's book on how a North Wales comprehensive school coped for the first time with the integration of disabled pupils. The book was published privately by Mrs Slade in 1990, and it is a very readable, classroom assistant's view of what actually happened to her charge and the school's other disabled pupils.

The ASBAH publication, 'Children with Spina Bifida and/or Hydrocephalus at School', which has been out of stock for some time, has now been brought up to date and reprinted. Originally written by former education adviser Denise Dunning, this contains the distillation of many years of experience, and offers various coping strategies.

ASBAH's audio-visuals order form has also been changed to take account of the new package offer on our two hydrocephalus videos - 'The Hidden Handicap' and 'A Guide to Education'. Details are given in the advert on page 2 of this Link

For free copies of our publications order form and audio-visual order form, contact Information Officer, ASBAH House, 42 Park Road, Peterborough PE1 2UQ (tel 0733 555988).

Calendar Competition

This is the second year ASBAH has been chosen, as one of six disability organisations, to find pictures for Sunrise Medical's special full-colour calendar, by asking our members to send in entries. The best entries from each charity taking part in the competition will be used inside the calendar, with the overall winner having pride of place on its cover.

The illustration can be in the form of a painting, drawing, sculpture, photograph or even a piece of embroidery. In whichever of these art forms your creative talents lie, you can choose any subject matter you like as long as it illustrates the months of the calendar allocated to us - **May and June.**

Entries will be judged by a panel of well-known artists and will be exhibited at a top gallery. Everyone who enters the competition will receive a copy of the finished calendar which will include lots of information for disabled people.

The overall winner will receive £250, with each of the six runners-up receiving £100. And all the finalists (two from each of the six charities taking part) will be invited to attend the award ceremony in London, accompanied by a friend or helper, with travelling expenses met by Sunrise Medical.

Send entries, with the form below, to LINK, address on page 3.

**APPLICATION FORM
Sunrise Medical Calendar Design Competition**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ POSTCODE _____

TELEPHONE NO (Day) _____
(Evening) _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

TYPE OF ENTRY (please tick the appropriate box)

- | | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Painting | <input type="checkbox"/> | Drawing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sculpture | <input type="checkbox"/> | Photograph | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Embroidery | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

TITLE OF ENTRY _____

CHARITY/ORGANISATION ASBAH

Sunrise Medical accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage to works of art.

"I hereby agree that the entry is all my own work, has not appeared in print before and if selected can be published wherever Sunrise Medical wish."

Signed _____

NB. Please remember to put your name and address on your work so that originals may be returned.

All entries must be received by 14th August 1992.

Have you been underpaid Income Support?

It has come to light recently that *some* parents of children receiving Attendance Allowance were underpaid on Income Support, during the period from April 1988 to April 1990.

You might fall into this category if you can answer yes to these questions:

- Were you in receipt of Income Support at any time from 11 April 1988 to 8 April 1990?

AND

- If you were getting Income Support during part or all of this time, were you also receiving Attendance Allowance and Child Benefit for a disabled child?

If you think this applies to you, please contact YOUR DSS OFFICE. (An appeal form is attached for your convenience which you may photocopy if you wish.)

To: DSS OFFICE

Appeal Form

Name _____

Address _____

Tel no. _____

Attendance Allowance number _____

National Insurance Number (if known) _____

To: **MANAGER, DSS BENEFITS AGENCY**

I wish to appeal against your decision not to award the Disability Premium and/or Severe Disability Premium with my Income Support during the period from 11 April 1988 to 8 April 1990.

I have a disabled child for whom I was getting Attendance Allowance during the above period. I understand that I should have been entitled to a Disability Premium and/or Severe Disability Premium during the above period because I was in receipt of Attendance Allowance.

Paragraph 14B of Schedule 2 of the Income Support (General) Regulations, which states that a person shall be regarded as being in receipt of any benefit only if it is paid in respect of him/her, was not added to the regulations until 9 April in 1990.

I have the following special reasons for appealing late:

- 1 The law on entitlement to Severe Disability Premium is very complicated.
- 2 DSS information on entitlement to the Disability Premium and Severe Disability Premium has always stated that the person claiming Income Support, or their partner, must be disabled.
- 3 I did not discover until very recently that I may have been underpaid Income Support.

ADVERTISING

FOR THE USE OF LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

Rates: £3 for 30 words max; £4.25 for 30-45 words;
£5.50 for 45-60 words.
Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to 'ASBAH'.

Small adverts for the next issue of Link (August) should be submitted by Friday, 3 July. Please send them to: The Editor, ASBAH House, 42 Park Road, Peterborough PE1 2UQ.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

When booking, check to make sure the accommodation suits your particular needs.



SUNNY TENERIFE or SCENIC NORTH WALES?

Holiday apartments at beautiful, fully accessible 'MAR Y SOL' Los Cristianos. "Brilliant, Amazing," say the BBC's Travel Show. Flights arranged. Also luxury adapted bungalow (sleeps 4/5) in Mold, Clywd. Brochures: Lynne James Ltd., 7 Overpool Road, Ellesmore Port, South Wirral L66 1JW (Tel: 051 339 5316)

SELSEY, SUSSEX

Fully-Equipped, six berth mobile home, with colour TV, ramp access, all rooms designed for wheelchair access. Site near sea, heated pool, also clubhouse and small shops. Details: Mrs C. Bugden, 27 The Grove, Sholing, Southampton, SO2 9LT. TELEPHONE (0703) 444921

ISLE OF WIGHT ASBAH

Completely refurbished, fully equipped, wheelchair accessible two-bedroom holiday chalet. Sleeps six + cot. Clubhouse, indoor heated pool, shop, etc. Site overlooks sea. Own transport advisable. Details: Mrs P. Burden, 34 Sherbourne Avenue, Binstead, Ryde, Isle of Wight PO33 3PX

MAR Y SOL - TENERIFE

Lowest ever summer prices. Wheelchair accessible apartments. Heated pool with hoist. Restaurant, poolside bar. Equipment hire. Ring today for video and cheapest prices on flights and accommodation. Tel: (0753) 685718. Sue Abbott, 123 Coppermill Road, Wraysbury, Staines, Middx. TW19 5NX.

LOOE, CORNWALL

Fully equipped, self catering two-bedroom bungalow. Sleeps six. Site near sea with easy access to beach, shop, indoor pool and camp facilities. Easily accessible for wheelchairs. Details: Mr P. Cash, tel: (0425) 72055

NEW MILTON HAMPSHIRE

Fully equipped, completely wheelchair adapted self catering two-bedroom chalet. Sleeps six. Excellent all year round site, indoor and outdoor pool and superb facilities. All 100 yards from chalet. Near to New Forest and Bournemouth. Bookings taken to November. Also similar property at Millendreath in Cornwall. For details contact Mr P. Cash. tel: (0425) 72055

FOR SALE

1990 RENAULT EXTRA

CONVERSION, to transport a wheelchair passenger. Diesel, red, tinted side windows, full width rear access ramp, wheelchair clamps and harness. Fully fitted interior with removable additional rear passenger seat. Renault extended warranty to May 1993. Price £6,995. Telephone: Mr Williamson on (0246) 850 890.

WANTED

STANDING FRAME for use in an Everaid Turso wheelchair. Telephone: Chesterfield (0246) 272765.

BLUE ANCHOR, NEAR MINEHEAD

Privately situated self-catering two or three bedroom bungalows, fully accessible. Fully equipped with linen, TV, video and games room, laundry, parking, playground. Splendid views of sea. Exmoor, steam railway. Phone: Lorraine or Martyn Baab, Dunster (0643) 821200 to discuss your particular needs.

NOTICE

ASBAH AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 17 October
at
National Children's Bureau,
8 Wakley Street, London
EC1V 7QE
10.30 for 11am.

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

BARNSELEY

Mrs Marlene Haigh,
3a Birk Avenue,
Kendray,
Barnsley, S Yorks S70 3AE

BEDFORD

Mrs Elsie Bennett,
341 Bedford Road,
Kempston, Beds MK42 8PX

BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH & DISTRICT

Mrs G. Lanning,
23 Seaway Avenue,
Christchurch, Dorset
Tel: 0425 273 255

BRISTOL & DISTRICT

Mr G Egan,
64 Rookery Road,
Knowle, Bristol 4
Tel: 0272 777942

BUCKS & E.BERKS

Mrs M Ross,
19 Sheepcote Cottages,
Sheepcote Dell Road,
Holmer Green,
High Wycombe,
Bucks HP15 6TJ

BURY & BOLTON

Mr David Clyne,
51 Cuckoo Lane,
Whitefield,
Manchester M25 5WQ
Tel: 061 798 7804 (after 4 pm)

CALDERDALE

Mr A L Crowther,
12 Elm View,
Huddersfield Road,
Halifax HD3 OAE
Tel: 0422 341497

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Mrs D Thorn,
55 Hanbury,
Orton Goldhay,
Peterborough,
PE2 0QU
Tel: 0733 235139

CHESTER & DISTRICT

Mrs P Ithell,
34 King Edward Street,
Shotton, Deeside
Tel: 0244 811074

COVENTRY

Mrs N Newman,
11 The Earls Croft,
Cheylesmere,
Coventry CV3 5ES

DERBY & DISTRICT

Mrs A Hewitt,
St Merryin, 20 Burley Hill,
Allestree,
Derby DE3 2ET

DUDLEY, WOLVERHAMPTON & SANDWELL

Mrs Lorna J Wootton,
14 Leveson Road,
Wednesfield, Wolverhampton,
West Midlands, WV11 2HF
Tel: 0902 738724

ESSEX

Mrs R McCarthy
26 Brixham Gardens
Ilford, Essex IG3 9AX
Tel: 081 594 1852

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Mrs J A Wintle,
54 Borough Close,
Kings Stanley
Stonehouse, Glos GL10 3LJ
Tel: 045 382 2963

GRANTHAM

Miss Caroline MacCallum,
58 Redcross Street,
Grantham, Lincs NG31 8BU
Tel: 0476 66085

GREENWICH

Mrs M Mears,
29 Wellmeadow Road,
London SE13 6SY
Tel: 081 698 5567

HAMPSHIRE NORTH, W SURREY & S BERKS

Mrs Liz Selby,
Buryfields House,
Buryfields
Guildford, Surrey GU2 5AZ
Tel: 0483 571736

HAMPSHIRE SOUTH

Mr S R Baker,
12 Moorings Way,
Southsea, Portsmouth, Hants
POY 8QW
Tel: 0705 819075

HERTS & S BEDS

Mrs S Riseborough,
4 Sherborne Way,
Croxley Green, Rickmansworth,
Herts WD3 3PF.

HILLINGDON

Mrs B Brannen,
30 Fairey Avenue,
Hayes, Middlesex

HUDDERSFIELD

Mrs J V Brook,
11 Standforth Road, Dalton
Huddersfield
Tel: 0484 421776

HULL & DISTRICT

Mrs G D Brown,
233 Cranbrook Avenue,
Hull HU6 7TX
Tel: 0482 857165

JERSEY, Channel Islands

Mrs Joy Thomas,
Belles Roches Cottage,
Vallees des Vaux,
St Helier, Jersey, C.I.

KENT

Mrs S Weatherstone,
6 Croftside, Vigo Village,
Meopham Kent DA13 0SH
Tel: 0732 822985

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