

CONTAXIA

Dave's 'Dithering's'



Without members help again this newsletter would be nearly empty and a waste of time but thanks to Kirstie and Barbara, I have made another 'effort'.

I have brought this edition out a few days early so that some may benefit from a grant offered by the DWP, but you need to be in touch with your local council quick to benefit. See Covid-19 Winter Grant Scheme.

Hopefully, by now, some of you should have received your Covid jab. You should have had little discomfort afterwards, probably cured by a couple of 'Paracetamols' but still find you still have to self-isolate till the virus 'contracts'.

Mine and Sue's finally happened on 15th Feb after Sue saw an article in the Sunday paper telling you to do it online – we did and went the next day! On the Monday morning of going, we got letters telling us to book – too late we were off. Post jab, I was fine but Sue's a bit lethargic for a day.



Spring is on its way?

Dave

'Virtual' meeting 20-02-21

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James Atkins and David Martin had to leave early.

Yet another enjoyable get together was held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Feb with 16 people attending and one dog!

After James's interesting update from the AUK 'InControl' programme the meeting continued with a lot of conversation about Covid and the 'jab' with many present already having received the injection.

If anyone hasn't they should contact their GP to get them included has anyone with ataxia now should be considered vulnerable and be entitled to receive the injection as a matter of priority.

Lesley told us that we had £1565.61 in the account which is very good considering we had not had chance to fundraise and had given £500 to Auk.

Finally, Thanks to Steve for setting up our meeting

### Naidex is Postponed Again Email direct from Naidex

Naidex have taken the difficult decision to postpone the event to the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2021.

The event was previously scheduled to go ahead in March. We have been in consultation with various Government departments and whilst the rollout of the vaccine has given the country much needed optimism, we have been advised that we will be unable to host the event in the Spring.

The safety of our visitors, customers, partners and staff is paramount. We are confident that moving the

event to September will enable us to run the safe, successful event the industry demands. To support our exhibitors, partners and the wider industry we are delighted to announce an additional digital version of Naidex taking place on the 18th & 19th March. This will provide a digital meeting place, world class speaking sessions and access to the latest products and services.

If you have any queries, please contact the Naidex team directly on [marketing@naidex.co.uk](mailto:marketing@naidex.co.uk)

Kind regards,  
**The Naidex Team**

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How to take advantage

Or have I read it wrong

This email I received recently really 'got my goat'. How can people try and make profit over this pandemic? But I could have seen it all wrong!


Charities Buying Group

We are Happy to announce that we now have Covid test kits, allowing you to test yourself and staff with just a 15-minute wait for an answer without leaving the office.

To make sure that you have the information you need about the possible upcoming Lockdown we will be updating our website with information in the days to come.

Contact us on 08001953010 or sales@charitiesbuyinggroup.com.

ROCHE Rapid Test Kit, Box of 25

 *The SARS-CoV-2 Rapid Antigen Test enables fast decision making e.g. whether patients need to be put in quarantine, reducing the risk of further spreading.*

£269.95

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**COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme**

The Department of Works & Pensions [DWP] has introduced the COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme. The grant money has been issued to County Councils across England and it will be used to provide financial support to families with children, other vulnerable households and individuals, the money will be able to help these households to cover the cost of food, energy and water bills during the pandemic.

The grant is worth £170 million and it will be available to local authorities until March this year.

Make sure you do not miss out if you think it will help you!!

*Extracted from Disabled Motoring, January 2021.*

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A Grand Day Out

Me and my partner, Aaron are huge Harry Potter fans, and we had had 3 visits to the studio tour, including at Christmas when Hogwarts was covered in snow, and it was truly magical. We had never been during Halloween though, so we booked to go in October over a year ago, to ensure that we would get to see all the Halloween decorations.

Then Covid hit and turned everything upside down, we had holidays, weddings, and evening shows cancelled so I didn't hold out much hope of getting to the Studio Tour.

At one point we even considered cancelling because of Covid and keeping safe, but I saw lots of



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reviews online where people were saying that they had been and the social distancing situation had been amazing, plus we had been with the kids literally 24/7 for 8 months and wanted some adult time so we decided to go! It takes around an hour and a half to get there from Peterborough depending on traffic but we always leave in plenty of time to ensure we aren't panicking and missing our slot.



When we got there, I was surprised by how quiet it was. I was pleased to see that everyone wore masks, and even the queueing system to get in was all socially distanced too. We quickly realised that unfortunately there were no Halloween decorations, as they had extended their Dark Art displays.

Although we were very disappointed, the displays that we hadn't seen before more than made up for it.

We actually preferred it this time around to the previous 3 times we had been - because of social distancing, we felt we could take our time to look at the displays and read any information on the little cards, as there weren't any people crowding around us. We also got to talk to members of staff that

honestly have so many bits of gossip about the set etc, it's well worth talking to them!

This is the first time we have been since they put in Gringotts bank, and it's worth going again just to see that. It was literally breathtaking and in one room, the floor and walls vibrate, as a life-like dragon comes walking towards you and destroys the room - all done with special effects which were so life-like.

All of the studio is completely wheelchair friendly except from Hogwarts express (although this was closed due to not being able to social distance), and the bridge. The disabled toilet, although doesn't have a radar key lock, is always clean and more importantly, the floor is always dry so feel nice and safe.

There was only one point where I felt people weren't social distancing, but after a glare from Aaron they did move away from us, so all in all I did feel safe while I was there.

Very disappointed there were no Halloween decorations but I guess this means I have the perfect excuse to book up again!!



Kirstie & Aaron planning another trip.

Thank You Kirstie.

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Disparity in Successful Blue Badge Applications Revealed

Posted in *General News* of Disabled Motoring UK on Monday, January 18th, 2021

According to an investigation conducted by the BBC those who apply for a Blue Badge on the grounds of having a non-visible disability have far lower success rates than those who apply on the grounds of having a visible physical disability. Of the 109 councils that provided full responses to the BBC's Freedom of Information (FOI) request 80% approved more people with visible physical disabilities than those with non-visible disabilities. In the case of 10 of these councils, the disparity equated to as much as 50 percentage points.

The councils with the largest disparity between approval rates assured the BBC that they had followed government guidance and assisted applicants in providing supporting medical evidence. Around 2.3million disabled people in England have a Blue Badge according to the latest government data. The BBC's investigation also found that 28,000 Blue Badges were issued to people with non-visible disabilities in the first 12 months of the assessment criteria being changed. Councillor David Renard, Transport Spokesperson for the Local Government Association, which represents councils' interests, said: "local authorities wanted to make sure services and communities were as accessible as possible." DMUK is well aware that the Blue Badge scheme is a crucial lifeline for many people with non-visible disabilities and we stress the

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