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## Photo I.D. Voting Is Coming

The UK Government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo identification when voting at a polling station at some elections. This new requirement will apply for the first time in England at the local elections on Thursday 4 May 2023. For many of us, we may already have a form of photo ID that is acceptable. You can use any of the following:

Passport, Driving licence (including provisional license), Blue badge, Certain concessionary travel cards, Identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme), Biometric Immigration document, Defence identity card and Certain national identity cards

For more information on which forms of photo ID will be accepted, visit [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID) or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280.

If you don't already have an accepted form of photo ID, or you're not sure whether your photo ID still looks like you, you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate. You can apply for this online.

Alternatively, you can complete a paper application form and send this to the electoral services team at your local council (Call Calderdale Council on 01422 393059 / 393060 if you need any help with applying for a Voter Authority Certificate or want to request an application form).

## Calderdale Dementia Group

Happy Valley Dementia Engagement and Empowerment Project (DEEP) is a discussion and action group for people with dementia in Calderdale. The group offers support for individuals, plus the opportunity to become involved in projects aimed at advising/helping organisations or businesses to become dementia friendly.

It's suitable for people who are newly diagnosed or who are early to mid-stage. The Happy Valley Deep Group runs every 4th Wednesday of the month, 10.30am – 12.30pm at Elland Christian Centre, Newcombe Street, Elland HX5 0EG. The group works on a referral basis: to refer yourself or someone you know to the group please contact Lisa on 07513 727441.

## DIARY DATES

### Men's Fitness Sessions

A new Staying Well funded activity programme aimed toward improving men's health and fitness is starting on Monday 17th April 2023 at 6:30-7:30pm at the OSCA Foundation, Cousin Lane, Ovenden, HX2 8AD. The sessions will include sporting activities such as football, tag rugby, dodgeball and circuit style training. These will be delivered by former Halifax RLFC, Leeds Rhinos and Wales star Damian Gibson. To book a place please email Chris Mitchell [chris-mitchell@live.co.uk](mailto:chris-mitchell@live.co.uk) or text 07947 827627

### New Walking Group

Halifax Society for the Blind are starting their very own Walking Group. Walks will be once a month between May and September. The first walk will be Tuesday 16th May 2023 at Ogden Water. Contact them to book or for more details: Call HSB's office: 01422 352383 or Email: [info@halifaxblindsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@halifaxblindsociety.org.uk) - Venues they have chosen are suited to all abilities, but please ensure you wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather at the time of the walk.

#### DATES/VENUES

16th May: 11am Outside Visitor Centre Ogden Water  
27th June: 11am Outside Mereside Cafe Shibden Park  
11th July: 11am Far end of carpark Cromwell Bottom Nature Reserve  
29th August: 10am Outside Secret Cafe Sowerby Bridge  
12th September: 10.30am Outside Visitor Centre, Hollingworth Lake

## Text Message Bus Information

You may already be familiar with real time bus information: up-to-the-minute updates for customers via displays at bus stations, at stops and shelters, on websites, via text message and third-party smartphone applications. One of the easiest and most useful options is the real time information text message service, which works as follows: You simply send a text message to 63876, followed by the eight-digit bus stop number found on the bus stop flag. You then receive a returned text message with the next few buses from that stop. Each text message may be charged at your standard outbound rate plus a maximum of 12p for each returned text by your provider.

## Pet Food Bank Opens in Halifax

Halifax Fridge community Pet Food Bank is now open in Halifax. If you're struggling to feed your pet, please pop in and pick up some free pet food. They won't ask you for a referral or any personal information. Every Saturday at the Halifax Community Fridge, Madni Mosque, HX1 5LE, from 11am till 12.30pm.

## Bikeability Cycle Training

Calderdale Council is currently running funded adult cycle training sessions, which cater for all needs on Saturdays at Spring Hall track, Halifax HX3 0AQ. They can even provide a bike and helmet. If you would like to book a session, call Bikeability on 01422 392800 or email [Bikeability@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:Bikeability@calderdale.gov.uk)

## Energy Saving Tips That Work All Year

- Use your washing machine on a 30 degree cycle instead of higher temperatures (40 degrees is often the default) and reduce your washing machine use by one run per week to save around £34 per year.
- Avoid the tumble dryer – dry clothes on racks inside or outside in warmer weather to save an average £70 a year. But don't hang clothes directly on radiators.
- Fill your dishwasher – only run your dishwasher when it's full to reduce the amount of water you use. Reducing your dishwasher use by one run per week for a year could save you £17.
- Spend less time in the shower – keeping your shower time to just four minutes could save a typical household £95 a year on their energy bills.
- Swap your bath for a shower – some of us might enjoy a long soak in the bath, but swapping just one bath a week for a four minute shower could save you £20 a year on your bills.
- Turn off lights – you can save around £25 a year by turning lights off when you're not using them or when you leave a room. Replacing all the lights in your home with LED bulbs can help you save even more.

## DIARY DATES

### Daisy Chain Dementia Cafe

Everyone is welcome to this new café. They provide a covid-safe environment, are dementia friendly, DBS checked and have disabled access. All café sessions are on Tuesdays, 1.30pm – 3.30pm.

Dates: April 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, May 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, June 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. They serve tea and coffee with cakes and buns, whilst you listen to music, or play games, games includes: Play Your Cards Right, Quizzes, Bingo, Raffles and Bonus Ball. Entrance is £3.00 – which includes all tea, coffee and cakes.

### Piece Hall Easter

The Piece Hall is hosting a family Easter hunt every day between April 1 and April 16. Visitors can collect a trail from the Visitor Centre and search around The Piece Hall shops to find the hidden clues before claiming an exciting chocolate treat. There is also Easter crafts on April 30 and Ramadan crafts on April 29.

### New Mixenden Social Club

The Daffodil Club has arrived at the "Addy" in Mixenden, Mixenden Road, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX2 8QD. The club runs every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 12.30pm to 2.30pm. For only £2 you get three games of bingo, tea and coffee and most importantly CAKE! No need to book just turn up!

## ABOUT US

Calderdale Forum 50 Plus is the online newspaper for people over the age of 50 and their families & friends.

web: [www.calderdaleforum50plus.com](http://www.calderdaleforum50plus.com)

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