



Bournemouth Blind Society

Your local charity supporting blind & partially sighted people

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Editor: Jo Wood

Dorset Dolphins VI Cricket Team



Bournemouth Blind Society was pleased to provide its minibus and a volunteer driver for the Dorset Dolphins VI Cricket Team to travel to two away matches recently. The Dolphins played the Kent Spitfires in June and the Berkshire Stags in July. These trips were funded thanks to the generosity of Bournemouth North Rotary Club and a private donor.

Several of our members play for the Dorset Dolphins, including 83 year old Jean, thought to be the oldest player in the national league. The Dolphins compete in the South Development League of 7 teams. Everyone enjoys the fun and competitive spirit.

If anyone is interested in playing, please call Team Captain Steve Bailey on **07799 511215**.

Assistive Technology



We are so pleased that our working partnership with Action for Blind

People continues to thrive and develop.

A 6 week Assistive Technology course took place in our Conference Room in May and June.

Course leader Yvonne Brooks explains, 'whether starting from scratch or refreshing old skills, our 6 members were able to learn in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.'

Further courses are also planned, with the next one commencing 1st September. If you are interested in attending, please contact Yvonne on **01722 345440** or **e-mail: yvonne.brooks@actionforblindpeople.org.uk**

Chief Exec Philip says, 'we are now planning the creation of an Assistive Technology Suite on the ground floor of the Centre. This will involve a number of room changes. We are very dependent on getting sufficient funding for this project to be completed over the next few months.

The new suite will be available

to any visually impaired person living locally to help them develop their technology skills.'

Walking Group

Would you like to join our Walking Group? Great company, great scenery and a great way to get fit! Refreshment stop included! Minibus transport from your home is provided.

We enjoyed a lovely time at Hengistbury Head in June - some opted for a shorter stroll whilst 3 more energetic, enthusiastic members reached the highest point of the Head.



Our next 2 walks:

Friday August 14th - New Forest (£7 includes Picnic)

Friday September 18th - Christchurch Quay (£5)

Please call **01202 546644** if you would like to book for either of these. We look forward to hearing from you!

'My Guide' to Guide Dog - Part 2

Sue Dewey has been a Volunteer in Bournemouth Blind Society's Resource Centre since 2012. She explains, 'In 2013 I took a "My Guide" course organised by Guide Dogs for the Blind, learning the best way to guide a partially sighted or blind person. The course members were given the opportunity to experience a lack of sight by being blindfolded and this proved a very scary and, may I say, a real "eye opening" but invaluable experience.

In 2013, I agreed to be a "My Guide" to a severely visually impaired member, Debbie, who was hoping to get a guide dog in the near future. Debbie was eventually paired up with Jasper and it is wonderful to see Debbie so confident and settled with him now.

In 2014 I was asked if I would agree to be a "My Guide" a second time to a young blind member of 28, Beth. Beth had previously been matched with a dog but the partnership did not work out. It is quite crucial to match a suitable dog to an owner as their personalities



have to be compatible.

Beth and I embarked on a series of outings to enable her to thoroughly get to know the various routes she needed to use in her daily life and in the future with another dog. We commenced local walks, took the bus to Winton several times, to Boscombe, Poole, the hospital and Littledown Centre. We regularly continued with these trips throughout the whole year with no news of a suitable dog, until early this year when Guide Dogs identified what they thought would be a suitable candidate. I then stepped back from my involvement while Beth was introduced to Goldie. They gelled immediately and then became involved with the specific Guide Dogs for the

Blind intense training.

On 17th June I went to meet Goldie, a gorgeous golden Labrador who has fitted into the family perfectly. She is an enthusiastic worker, but also a lovely soft, friendly family pet. It was wonderful to see Beth so happy, confident and settled with her.

“My Guide” is not only for those hoping to get guide dogs, but for any visually impaired person who wants to get out and about confidently. It is gratifying to know that both Debbie and Beth found my help valuable.’ If you would like to benefit from “My Guide” please phone **01202 546644**.

In the Community

In early June Philip gave presentations to Age UK groups at Turbary Park and Sutton Road.

Geraldine and Marie went to Action for Blind People’s June training course for early reach support in eye clinics. They discussed the different eye conditions, the registration process and emotional impact of sight loss.

On 16th July Philip gave talks to the 7th Bournemouth Beavers, Cubs & Scouts at Richmond Hill.

On 21st July he visited the Stroke Association group at Moordown Clinic.

If you know any group who would like a presentation about visual impairment and our work, please contact Philip on **01202 546644** or e-mail: philip.tarrant@bournemouthblindsociety.uk

Chiropody

Chiropody appointments can be booked for Wednesday **2nd September (£16)**. Transport is available. Please phone **01202 546644** to book your appointment.

Tuesday Drop in Cafe

Cooked breakfasts are served on Tuesdays from **10.30-12.30**. Roast lunches can be booked for the last Tuesday of each month. Minibus transport can be arranged. Come along to meet friends, have fun and a good chat!

Hearing Club

Our **Hearing Club** will meet on Wednesdays **12th August** and **9th September (10.30-12.00)** **Optional activities** can be arranged.

Home Library Service

Many people use one of the 12 libraries in Bournemouth but less is



known about the Home Library Service. This is a small team that organises the delivery of reading materials to people in their homes via a partnership with RVS volunteers.

The Home Library Service is ideal for people who find transport or carrying heavy books difficult. It has books on CD or cassette, a huge range of large print books and offers clients free monthly deliveries and no overdue charges.

For those keeping up with the latest technology you can register for the e-book and e-audio book service and download for free.

To see if you meet the criteria for deliveries, please contact **01202 547879** or e-mail:

HLS@Bournemouthlibraries.org.uk

Volunteers

Small charities like ours depend greatly on wonderful volunteers who so generously give up their time to make a

difference to other people's lives. We are currently urgently looking for volunteers to act as Befrienders, Minibus Escorts and Hearing Resource Centre assistants.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in joining us, please call **01202 546644** for an informal chat.

We look forward to welcoming new people to our friendly team.

Filming

Florence Pellacani, a Film student from Bournemouth University spent time at the Centre during June filming clips that we hope to use on our website.

We thank Florence for her commitment and enthusiasm. We look forward to seeing the edited final results soon.



Quiz Night

Our next fundraising Quiz Night is on **Saturday 19th September**.



Doors open at **7pm** for a **7.30pm** start. Teams of 6-8 people compete over 6 rounds of friendly fun, with an interval to enjoy

Fish & Chips and Ice-creams. Tickets are **£9** and a Raffle is drawn at the end of the evening.

Guests may bring their own drinks or purchase from our Bar - all drinks sold at reasonable and competitive prices. **All profits go to Bournemouth Blind Society.**

Please phone Caroline on **01202 546644** or e-mail:

caroline.simmons@

bourneouthblindsociety.uk

if you wish to join us and book in your team!

The next Quiz Night is on Saturday 28th November

Fundraising

Over £200 was raised at our Coffee Morning at the end of May - thanks to everyone who

attended or baked cakes.

We have been grateful to receive several personal donations from members.

We thank Councillor Anne Rey for organising a Street Collection in Bournemouth Arcade at the beginning of June.

The June Quiz night raised over £775.

We gratefully received £200 from the Hounslow Lodge Benevolent Fund.

Thank you to everyone for their continued support.

VSS

Visionary Support Services held a Networking event in our Café on 1st July to give parents of children with visual impairment a chance to meet up and share experiences.

In August, Angela Wood from the team is bringing a group of school age children to the Centre for training courses which include sessions in our Rehabilitation Kitchen and Sight Resource Centre.

She is also holding an Employment Day to give assistance with preparing CV's and interview preparation/ techniques.

Sight & Hearing Resource Centre

Opening Hours:

Monday - Friday

10am - 1pm

Everyone is welcome to visit our Resource Centre - **no appointment** is necessary.

Our friendly staff and volunteers can offer full demonstrations of specialist equipment for sight and hearing impaired people which they may then order or purchase.

In our Donation Cabinet we have many items that may interest you, including talking clocks, watches, a keyboard, large print and Braille playing cards. Please feel free to take a look and see if anything interests you and make an offer! We also have a few items of old stock at reduced prices.

In the Hearing Room we have an Introson Digital TV listener neck loop system for demonstration. This costs **£86** plus postage and packaging when ordered from Sarabec.

We now sell Bournemouth

Blind Society mugs (£3) and pens (50p) complete with our bright new logo and contact details.



Activities Bookings

Please don't forget to check your Activities Calendar to find out what's going on during August/September. You can book Activities, Lunch and Transport by phoning the office on 01202 546644.

If you fancy catching the last few rays of sunshine down by the seaside, please book early for our Beach Hut Day on **Thursday 17th September** as transport places will be limited.

You will notice that in August and September, we have **2 Arts & Crafts** sessions per month. We hope to organise an Exhibition in the future of the wonderful work that our members have produced this year.



Saturday 10th October 2015

**The Rooper Hall
5 Victoria Park Road**

7.30pm

£10 (includes Supper)

**Tel: 01202 546644
to purchase tickets**

Cash Bar & Raffle

Bournemouth Blind Society

5 Victoria Park Road, Bournemouth BH9 2RB

Tel 01202 546644 (General Enquiries)

Tel 01202 522184 (Community Services)

Supporting blind and partially sighted people to remain
independent and part of the community

www.bournemouthblindsociety.uk

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