



# Bournemouth Blind Society

Your local charity supporting blind & partially sighted people

ISSUE 51

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2017 Editor: Jo Wood

## Lisa close to her 100th Birthday

We are excited that another of our members is nearing her 100th birthday - Lisa Stovey. She will celebrate this in August, with a large party in Spain, where her daughter lives.



Lisa was born near Dortmund in the North West of Germany. She remembers the wartime bombings both day and night in this industrial area. 'We had to stay in the bunkers; many people were bombed out. It was a horrid time but then you had to forget all about it. I said that I would never talk to the Americans or British after the bombings and then I ended up falling in love and marrying a British soldier from Monty's 8th Army who I met in a café! Harry was a wonderful, fantastic man.'

Lisa continues, 'I came to England in 1947; I left on a Saturday morning and docked at Tilbury on Sunday evening, where my future husband was waiting for me. We travelled on a luxury liner full of German girls coming to marry English men. I arrived on the 22nd June and married Harry on the 27th - he said he didn't want to risk me going back home! England is lovely and I settled well as I already spoke English quite fluently.'

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Lisa continues, 'I have lived in Bournemouth all these years. I became a part time cashier at Beales and then a dental receptionist before working in accounts at Westover Motors.' Sadly Lisa's husband died 20 years ago. Lisa now has 3 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren who all enjoy coming to England to visit her.

Lisa states, 'I can still manage on my own, even though my daughter wants me to move to Spain. I have had Macular Degeneration since I was 93. I can no longer see to read or write; I can see shapes but not details - it's quite hard to see the food on the plate when you are eating!'

Lisa attends our Tuesday morning Drop in Café, 'I love coming here to meet people and for the company. I only ever miss a Tuesday if I'm in Spain, I wouldn't miss it for any other reason! I also like coming to some of the evening events you have in the Rooper Hall, especially bingo and musical entertainment. I don't like being at home on my own!' Lisa concludes, 'I think it's amazing that I will be 100, I never thought I would live that long! The only sad thing for me will be that many of my old friends are now all gone.'

Asked what the secret to her long life is, she replied, 'well, everything in moderation! I like a drink, I like going out and I like people!'

## Emotional Support

Are you aware of the Society's Emotional Support service?



Our professional counsellor Marie Evans (MBACP) offers one-to-one sessions for anybody who is struggling to

come to terms with sight loss and the challenges this brings. Sight loss can be a devastating experience for many and sometimes people find it helpful to talk to someone outside of their family or friendship circles.

If you feel this applies to you or anyone you know, please contact Marie (**01202 522184**) for a confidential, initial chat.

She also offers support to family members of people with sight loss. One-off or a series of sessions can be arranged.

There is no charge for the service but donations to the Society are appreciated.

# Cricket

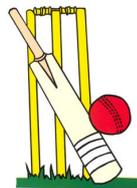


The Dorset Dolphins VI cricket team have been enjoying this season's matches.

Their recent results include a winning draw at home to Gloucester in June and a defeat at Kent in early July.

The Dolphins now enter a very busy fixture period, with a T20 cup match in Gloucester on 30th July; a home game to Metro on 6th August at Poole Park and then a local derby away to Hampshire on 13th August.

We wish the team Good Luck for the rest of the season.



If you or anyone you know would be interested in joining the Dolphins, please let us know and we will pass on your details to the Dolphins Captain, Steve Bailey.

## Walking Group

The Group have already taken some lovely walks this season, including one to the New Forest in June (as shown in the photograph top right).

The walks have allowed our members to get fit, form new friendships and explore the local area.



Our next walks are:

**Friday 25th August -**  
Hengistbury Head

**Friday 29th September -**  
Moors Valley

Walks are suitable for people who don't require walking aids. Transport cost is **£5**. Please phone us today on **01202 546644** to book your place on our next walk.

We are also planning a Friday outing to **Swanage** on **8th September** with our 'walkers' and other interested members. Please let us know ASAP if you would like to join us as minibus spaces will be limited.

We take this opportunity to thank volunteers Linda, Adrian, Tony and Doug, who have helped us with the Walking Group.

We look forward to another walking season commencing in April 2018.

## Holiday Season



Visually impaired people can still enjoy holidays if they are fortunate enough to find the right organisations to assist them. Member Alan Taylor, who will be 73 in August, recently went on his first holiday since 2009, when he still had his sight. Alan went to Holton Lee with Green Island Holiday Trust at the end of May/beginning of June.

He explains, 'we stayed in a house with 4 bedrooms - there were 2 guests downstairs, with 2 carers upstairs who were on call 24/7. We went on a tractor and trailer ride, a horse and cart ride, a boat trip from Poole Quay to Lulworth, plus trips to Wimborne, Swanage and Weymouth. I really enjoyed it and made some nice acquaintances. The staff really looked after us and I think I ate my body weight in ice-cream!

We had no TV, radio or newspapers as we were with people and busy all the time. We also had some really good entertainment - a Country & Western act and a folk singer. We even had a Pamper Day where you could have your nails or hair done and get massages.

With my Macular Degeneration I can't see very much clearly now so I really appreciated this holiday as there were people to look after me; I would definitely recommend it!

## In the Community

Presentations on sight loss and our charity's work are essential to raise awareness and 'spread the word' about the support that is available for visually impaired people.

On July 10th, Philip gave a talk at the Brendoncare club at Kinson Hub.

Future presentations include:  
27th September: the Salvation Army, Winton  
28th September: Wimborne Macular Society.  
12th October: Townswomen's Guild, Verwood

If you know any groups who would like similar talks, please phone Philip **(01202 546644)** 4

## New Volunteers

We have welcomed several new volunteers to the centre over the last few months:



**Alan Simms**, a retired heating engineer, is now working in the Sight & Hearing Resource Centre one morning per week.

Alan says, 'it's very interesting to discover how much equipment is available to assist people. I wear two hearing aids myself and am enjoying meeting people and helping them.'

**Keith and Marion Collins** have been working on Tuesday mornings since February.



Keith is acting as an escort on the minibus whilst Marion works in the Drop in Café. The couple used to run a local Bed and Breakfast before retiring.

They have a lot of experience volunteering with the Scouts and Marion also cares for an elderly lady with a visual impairment. She says, 'we just felt we had some spare time now and wanted to give something back to a local charity. We enjoy volunteering and have attended several of the fundraising evening events here - Quizzes, Bingo and musical entertainment.'

If you know anyone else who would like to join our friendly team of volunteers, please ask them to call **01202 546644** for more information.

We are particularly looking for **Minibus Drivers** to help provide our valuable transport service to members, allowing them to visit the centre and leave the isolation of their own homes that many blind and partially sighted people find particularly challenging.

## Kitchen Skills

During two Fridays in August, we are pleased that our kitchen/café area is being used by Angela Wood of the Vision Support Service.

She will be holding workshops for young visually impaired people to learn a range of kitchen skills.

# Sight and Hearing Resource Centre

Open from 10am - 1pm  
Monday - Friday

Our Centre consists of two rooms where you can discover the latest equipment available to help both sight and hearing impaired people.

Products can be purchased or ordered. Customers may also be signposted to other services or organisation that they may find useful.

## Assistive Technology



### Frustrated?

Are you frustrated with your PC, tablet or mobile phone?

We will be offering more IT sessions in our AT suite soon where you can learn:

\* How to use the accessibility features of PC's, Tablets and smart phones

\* How to master new things on your tablet

\* How to use Windows 10

\* How to achieve those things which were easy before your sight loss

If you had instruction years ago on Supernova, Guide, Zoomtext, Jaws or NVDA but need a refresher, this can also be arranged

**OR** perhaps you would like to learn something different?

Please ring Yvonne Brooks (RNIB) on **07568 130569** or leave a message for her here at Bournemouth Blind Society (**01202 546644**) to talk about what you would like to learn.

## Tuesday Drop in Café

Have you ever considered visiting our Tuesday Café? This is a good opportunity for visually impaired people to meet up and make friends. Cooked breakfasts can be purchased each week, in addition to roast lunches on the last Tuesday of each month.

Minibus Transport can be booked in advance. (£4.50 for a round trip)

Please call **01202 546644** for more details.

## Fundraising Thanks

We thank everyone for their continued generous support of our Society:

Bournemouth North Rotary kindly gave us £395 for the purchase of a CD duplicator to produce the audio copies of this newsletter. (Philip is shown in the photo below receiving the cheque from Rotarian Stan Webb)



We thank the family of Ivy Fudge who gave us a donation from her 100th birthday party.

We received funds In Memory of member John Woodroffe, a sadly missed former member of the Wednesday Cards Club.

Our popular June Quiz night raised £1165. Thank you to everyone who attended - the next Quiz is on **Saturday 23rd September**.

We thank the Wessex Chorus for performing their 'Summer Extravaganza' concert here on 15th July - over £400 was raised from tickets and bar sales on the night.

We now look forward to their Christmas concert on **Tuesday 5th December**. Please get the date in your diaries ASAP!

As an independent charity, we rely heavily on donations and fundraising to keep providing our vital services to local blind and partially sighted people.

## Balls Eye Club



Results of the **3rd Draw** (held on 29th June):

**1st Prize:** R. Bradley

**2nd Prize:** S. Bailey

**3rd Prize:** C. Simmons

Anyone can still join the Club at any time of the year - this is a relatively easy way for you to support us and be in with the chance of winning some cash!

Please contact the office on **01202 546644** for further information and to request your membership forms.

Good Luck to everyone for the 27th July draw.

# QUIZ NIGHT

**Saturday 23rd September**

**Doors open 7pm - Quiz starts 7.30pm**

**in our Rooper Hall**

**Tickets: £10** (includes Fish & Chips)

**Prizes for winning team**

**Raffle & Cash Bar**

To book your team or for more information, call

**01202 546644**

## **Bournemouth Blind Society**

**5 Victoria Park Road  
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**Tel 01202 546644**

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

**[www.bournemouthblindsociety.uk](http://www.bournemouthblindsociety.uk)**

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