



Bournemouth Blind Society

Your local charity supporting blind & partially sighted people

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Editor: Jo Wood

New Year - New Friends, New Activities!

At **Bournemouth Blind Society** we provide activities and events to help friendships form among people with sight loss. This can reduce the isolation and loneliness that the visually impaired may face, which often goes unrecognised. Reinforcing this theme, Downing Street recently announced the appointment of a Minister for Loneliness. Tracey Crouch, MP, said she was proud to take on the "generational challenge" to tackle an issue affecting about nine million UK people, young and old.



One of our newer members wrote in a Christmas card to the staff: "They've changed my life." I've heard it said of **Bournemouth Blind Society**, and it's certainly true of the positive effects on my life.'

We hope more people will join our **Bournemouth Blind Society** 'family' and gain similar benefits during 2018. Please share our information with as many people as you can!

Walking Group



As we head towards the springtime and hopefully some better weather, we are glad that our Walking Group will begin again on the last Friday of each month (from April onwards.)

If you would like to join the group, please call us on **01202 546644**. We collect walkers from their homes by minibus and drive to a predetermined location, where we walk for about an hour before enjoying refreshments in a nearby café. Volunteers assist by guiding the walkers.

Locations for this season's walks are:

April 27 - Poole Park/Quay

May 25 - Hengistbury Head

June 29 - Upton Country Park

July 27 - Avon Heath

August 31 - New Forest Picnic

September 28 - Weymouth

Why not join us to get fit and make new friends whilst exploring the local area?

Water Guru

Citizens Advice Bournemouth and Poole are pleased to announce they now have an 'in house' Water Guru, Jane, who can assist with water bills.

Both Bournemouth Water and Wessex Water offer a number of options to assist the public to spread costs, reduce water and sewerage bills, help with arrears and help save money or water with a meter.

There are criteria that need to be met in order to receive help. If people are on means tested benefits (e.g. income support, housing benefit, ESA, JSA, pension credit) or suffer from financial difficulty, a medical condition requiring more water or have water arrears, they can arrange an appointment to see Jane.

Jane will be visiting our Society on **Tuesday 13th February** at 11.15am if any of our members would like to talk to her or request help to complete forms for discounts from either Wessex Water or Bournemouth Water.



Bourne2Sing



‘Unlike Morecambe and Wise we try to sing all of the right notes in the right order – most of the time!!’

We are delighted that Dorset based Male Voice Choir, **‘Bourne2Sing’** have agreed to perform a concert for us here on **Saturday 17th February**.

By promoting male voice singing, the group aim to provide enjoyment for their choristers, supporters and audiences. The Choir sings for Charities and Good Causes and has raised in excess of £19,000 since its inception in February 2013.

Their ethos is to ‘have fun from music by singing tunes that are familiar and pleasing for audiences.’ **Bourne2Sing** has established itself as one of the area’s leading Male Voice Choirs, performing at a variety of venues in the local area.

To book or buy your ticket (**£5**) for the concert in our Hall at **7.30pm**, please call us on **01202 546644**.

Legacy Benefits



We were really pleased to take delivery of our new minibus in December. The purchase of the bus and 120 new chairs for our Rooper Hall was made possible due to an extremely generous legacy.

Many people consider leaving donations to Charities in their will. Leaving a legacy to Bournemouth Blind Society ensures future generations of visually impaired people can benefit from our services.

Is this something you may consider to help us?

Making a will is not as complex as you may think and a Solicitor can provide you with relevant inheritance tax advice. If you already have a will and wish to leave a donation to the Society, you may be able to add a codicil to your existing will rather than make out a completely new one.

Sight and Hearing Resource Centre

Open from 10am - 1pm
Monday - Friday

You will be amazed at the variety of gadgets that are available to help you live a meaningful life with your sight loss. These vary from talking watches and clocks to talking bathroom scales; from large print calendars to eye shields to reduce glare. You may think that what you want help with has not been considered, but ask our friendly Resource Centre staff and they may be able to find something!

A new item now available is not just for those with sight loss - a rolling Confidential Stamp. If you want to hide something that is written, just roll the stamp over the area to make it impossible to read. (See the before/after pictures below.) At **£10** each, these little gadgets help with personal security.

Sight and Hearing
Resource Centre
01202 546644



In the Community

We are having an Information Stand at Bournemouth East Cliff Rotary Quarter Marathon (located at Boscombe Pier) on Easter Saturday (**31st March**).

On Tuesday **24th April**, our Community Support Manager Geraldine is giving a talk at Christchurch Baptist Church at 2.30pm. She will discuss sight loss and the services our Charity provides to support the visually impaired.

Philip and Geraldine will be running a skills session on sight awareness to a group of Occupational Therapy students at Bournemouth University on **3rd May**. They will also raise the profile of our Charity and give information about our services for local blind and partially sighted people.

The Lecturer Practitioner in Occupational Therapy at the University, says, 'The sessions you run are always very well received by all the students, and the information you provided last time was also very beneficial.'



Tea Dance



We have just added a new event to our 2018 Fundraising Calendar.

We are pleased to announce that Martyn from **In2Ballroom** has agreed to hold a Tea Dance for us on **Sunday 15th April** from 3-5pm.

If you would like to join us, the entrance fee is **£7.50** and this will include the opportunity to dance with a professional tutor, dance away any blues, relax listening to music and indulge in a delicious afternoon tea!

Transport in our minibus will be available to members at **£4.50** for the round trip.

For further details or to book your place, please call **01202 546644**.

Get your dancing shoes on and while away a Sunday afternoon! Family and friends welcome too!

Balls Eye Club



Results of the **9th Draw** (held on 21st December):

1st Prize: T. Clark

2nd Prize: Anonymous

3rd Prize: J. Sparrowhawk

We will be entering the 2nd year of the **Balls Eye Club** on **1st April 2018**.

Members who have already joined the Club and set up Standing Orders with their Banks will have these automatically renewed.

However, this is also a great time for **new** members to join. **Balls Eye Club** is a fantastic way for you, your friends or family to support our Charity and be in with the chance of winning some Cash prizes.

In the 9 draws since the Club's inauguration, over £290 has been paid out in winnings. The more members we have in the Club, the greater the prize money available will be!

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

Fundraising Thanks

The November Quiz took over £1,200. We now look forward to our next Quiz Night on **3rd March**.

Wessex Chorus' Christmas Concert raised just over £500. We thank the Chorus for wonderful entertainment and will welcome them back on **14th July** for their Summer Concert.

Our Christmas Raffle raised £900. Thank you so much to everyone who bought or sold tickets for us.

Chief Executive Philip was presented with a cheque for £1,000 in December by the Independent Order of Foresters, Pinewood Shore. This money was raised during 2017 when we were fortunate to be chosen as their Charity of the Year.



Guess the Sweets competition raised £100.

We thank all the individual members who gave us private donations during December. These totalled approximately £700 and it is particularly satisfying to know how much our Charity is appreciated by the people we help.

We thank everyone for their continued generous support of the Society. Small charities like ours rely on fundraising events and donations to keep providing services to local people.

Assistive Technology

With technology relied upon more and more in the modern world, it is good to know that there are experts available to teach visually impaired people how to use the accessibility features on PC's, tablets and smart phones.

If you would like to come along to our AT Suite for personal tuition, please phone Yvonne (RNIB) on **07568 130569** to discuss what you would like to learn. Her friendly team of volunteers will be delighted to help you.

2018 Quiz Nights

It will soon be time for our next FUNdraising Quiz Night - on **Saturday 3rd March**.

Please start to get together your team of family and friends to pit their wits against Quiz Master Philip. Tickets remain at **£10**, which includes the Quiz plus a fish & chips supper and ice-cream.

We have a Licensed Bar and you have the chance to buy Raffle tickets to win a number of great prizes.

Please add the other 2018 dates to your diary so you don't miss out on any of our future Quiz evenings!

Saturday 16th June
Saturday 22nd September
Saturday 24th November

Raffle Prizes

Thanks to everyone who has donated unwanted Christmas gifts for us to use as prizes at Fundraising events this year.

We will, of course, be grateful for any further donations!



Cards Tournament

The annual Members v Staff Cards Tournament was held in December.

After an enjoyable afternoon of competition and tea, Chief Exec Philip announced that the Staff team had won the tournament by quite a narrow margin.

He then presented the Cup to Staff Team Captain, Geraldine, as shown below.



Tuesday Drop in Café

We invite any visually impaired person to 'drop into' our Tuesday Café.

Our group enjoy chatting and eating their cooked breakfasts or roast lunches (the latter to be pre-ordered for the last Tuesday of each month).

Minibus Transport is available at **£4.50** for a round trip.

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

We invite you to a Musical Evening ...



"Bourne2Sing"

MALE VOICE CHOIR

Saturday 17th February
7.30pm in Rooper Hall

Entrance: £5

Refreshments available Raffle Licensed Bar



For more
information,
call **01202**
546644

Please invite
all your family
& friends!!

Bournemouth Blind Society

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

www.bournemouthblindsociety.uk

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Charity No: 1114570