

# Bournemouth Blind Society

Your local charity promoting the health and wellbeing  
of blind & partially sighted people

ISSUE 56

JUNE & JULY 2018

Editor: Jo Wood

**Don't let this be the last newsletter  
you receive from us!**

By now you should have received a letter from us explaining about the upcoming changes to the law concerning data protection. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into force on 25th May. We asked you for your consent to continue sending you copies of this newsletter.

**Thank you** to those who have already returned their consent form - you shouldn't notice any changes and will receive your next edition of the Bournemouth Blind Society newsletter towards the end of **July**.

However, if you have not yet given us your consent, this could be the last newsletter you will receive from us!

If this applies to you, **don't panic** - we are sending you another Contact Permission Form with this newsletter - please fill it in and return to us ASAP to guarantee you will keep hearing from us.

Please call us on **01202 546644** if you need any assistance with this.

**Don't delay - sort it today!**  
**Please don't lose contact with us!**

**BOURNEMOUTH BLIND SOCIETY  
CONTACT PERMISSION**

I consent for Bournemouth Blind Society to send me its regular newsletter.

I recognise that my data will be stored securely and may be used for membership records

I have been made aware that my data will not be sold or shared without my express permission, unless required by law.

I understand that I can choose not to receive contact from the Society by asking them to remove my details from their mailing list.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## Arts and Crafts

Our Arts and Crafts sessions run one Monday each month from 2-3pm.

We are fortunate to have enthusiastic volunteers who provide the inspiration and guidance for both individual and group projects, using a range of media. Our members have been given the opportunity to experiment with collage work, painting (acrylics and watercolour), mosaics, clay, textiles and knitting.

The group's ethos is that just because people have lost sight, this doesn't mean they have to give up artistic hobbies or can't begin to create quality pieces of Art.

One of our younger members, Stewart, recently completed a stunning mosaic. He explains, 'I have an Art background. I studied for a National Art Diploma and used to particularly enjoy working with textiles. My main forte was highly detailed pencil and charcoal sketching. I also loved model making; figures from sci-fi films and history, with the more detail the better. However five years ago I suddenly lost my sight due to a

bacterial infection. I was so broken-hearted and felt my life was over as I wouldn't be able to do Art anymore. I initially worried about joining your Arts group as I was unsure what I would be able to achieve but decided to give it a go.

My mosaic project has been like a little lightbulb coming on as I have remembered how I used to love doing similar things before. I have realised it is not beyond my capability.

I've always admired images with people slightly distorted, such as by Van Gogh and Picasso. I therefore had the idea of creating a face within the tiles. After the first session I went home and talked to my wife, who broke lots of tiles into small pieces and separated out the colours for me. I also spoke at length to another member, Emma, who sadly recently passed away. She encouraged me and helped me to achieve what I wanted. I produced the eyes, nose and mouth but then struggled with how to do the edges of the face. I thought about jigsaws and tried to create fluid sections of separate colours.

The grouting was a bit of a nightmare - I just had to keep building it up and smoothing it! I am quite elated at what I've

achieved; it has inspired me to want to do more Arts and Crafts. I am so grateful for all the encouragement and nice comments people have made about my work, it has been really good for my self-esteem. The group has opened up a side that I thought had gone; I have thoroughly enjoyed it; it has given me some focused hope for the future.'



We would welcome any new members to the group - if you don't wish to come for the whole day but are able to arrange your own transport to the Centre, you can join us just before 2pm on any of the Arts activity dates.

Give it a go, no previous artistic experience is really needed! Have some fun and see what you can produce!

**The next sessions are:  
11th June and 16th July.**

## 4U2Touch II

A group of our members recently visited '4U2Touch II', an exhibition at the Red House Museum, where a mixture of paintings, textiles, sculptures and wooden pieces were displayed for visually impaired people to touch and enjoy.

CADArts have been supporting the Arts in Christchurch and District for over 40 years. Brenda Weeks from CADArts has informed us that some of the exhibits will be donated to display at our Centre in the future so that visually impaired people can continue to enjoy them.

## Balls Eye Club

The Balls Eye Club is now in its 2nd year. Each month 3 lucky winners share the prize fund. Winners in the **11th Draw** (26th April) were:

D. Balsamo; S. Arnell and R. Shephard

Please encourage anyone you know to join. For just a small £2 per month investment, people can be in with the chance of winning a cash prize in addition to having the satisfaction of knowing they are supporting a local charity. 3

## Outdoor Activities



After what seems like a really long winter, the sun has finally decided to shine and we can all enjoy getting out and about.

Hoping that this will remain the case, we have now organised several outdoor events for you over the summer months:

**Monday 25th June** - join us for a day out at the Branksome Dene Community Beach Hut. Enjoy a salad lunch, an ice cream, games and walks along the seafront.

**Thursday 5th July** - our annual Summer Garden Party. Thank you once again to local Councillor Nicola Greene for allowing us to use her beautiful premises.

**Thursday 12th July** - Pub Lunch Outing.

**Monday 30th July** - Barbecue Party at our Centre, including outdoor games and activities.

We advise you to book early for any of these popular events as transport places may be limited.

## Archery

It's nearly time for the Archery Group to venture outdoors on Tuesday evenings.

Members are taken down to a field near Knighton Farm, Canford Magna in our minibus, where they are then able to shoot over longer distances.

The minibus plus the archery costs just £5.50



We are grateful to instructors Janice and Dave of Sagittarii Archery Club, plus all their dedicated helpers for their assistance. The progress our members have made is quite amazing.

If you would like to join our friendly group, please call us on **01202 546644** for more information.

## Walking Group

Our first Walking Group outing of the season took place on 27th April and it was nice to see a few new faces join us. Unfortunately, after about 40 minutes of walking along Baiter Park, the heavens opened and we were forced to abandon the walk and take shelter in a Poole Quay pub! Nevertheless, our spirits were soon raised after drying off and indulging in warm drinks and food!

We are hoping for better weather on our next outing to Hengistbury Head on **Friday 25th May**.

Destinations for our June and July walks are:

Upton Country Park -  
**Friday 29th June**  
Avon Heath -  
**Friday 27th July**

We will also be venturing into the New Forest at the end of August, where we will have a delicious picnic.

If you would like to join the Walking Group, please call us on **01202 546644**. We look forward to hearing from you. The minibus costs £5 and friendly volunteers assist with guiding.

## Anyone for Cricket?

Bournemouth Blind Society continues to support the Dorset Dolphins V.I Cricket Team.



The Dolphins started the season with a friendly match against the Dorset Under 15 Girls team in April. The girls played some of the match whilst wearing blindfolds or our simulation spectacles of various eye conditions (such as tunnel vision, macular degeneration and glaucoma) to gain better understanding of sight loss.

Our minibus was used on 13th May to transport the team to their away match in Surrey. The team played remarkably well, showing off all the improvements made during the winter training sessions and only conceded a narrow defeat, despite having three less players on the field than Surrey.

Don't forget that the Dolphins first home game is on **Sunday 17th June** against Berkshire at Poole Park (1pm). They would appreciate your support. If you are interested in joining the team, please phone our office on **01202 546644**.

# Sight and Hearing Resource Centre

Open from 10am - 1pm  
Monday - Friday

At this time of year, many people with sight loss struggle with glare from the sun. You may like to try out a new Sun Visor which is manufactured by the Partially Sighted Society (£3.50).

Some visually impaired people like to display a symbol of Visual Disability when they are out and about. The Partially Sighted Society produce an armband which is particularly useful for this (£4).



There is a range of used equipment in the Resource Centre that has been donated to the Society.

This includes keyboards, two floor standing lamps, talking clocks, a CCTV handheld reader and a large button mobile telephone with a talking

keyboard, amongst many other items.

We invite you to come in and try out anything before making reasonable offers for products that may assist you.

## In the Community

Geraldine gave a talk at the RNIB's 'Finding Your Feet' event at Bournemouth Hospital in early May.

She also recently assisted the staff from the MLS Language School as they prepare for the visit of a young blind student this summer.

Philip visited Bournemouth Airport to participate in a forum specifically targeted towards all disabilities (both visible and hidden) to try to improve the experience of passengers who require special assistance.

He has also been talking with Bournemouth Council about accessibility for the visually impaired at the Arts by the Sea Festival in September/October. This included explaining how to make images on websites accessible to screen readers and also considering audio description for some of the live acts.

## Fundraising Thanks

The **Tea Dance** in mid-April raised £235. We thank Martyn James of In2Ballroom for both hosting the afternoon's event and providing the professional dance tuition.

On 19th April Chief Executive Philip attended a presentation evening with the Bournemouth East Cliff Rotary Club. He was presented with a £1,600 cheque by the current Mayor of Bournemouth, Councillor Lawrence Williams.



The Rotary club nominated us as one of three charities to benefit from funds raised by its annual event, the Easter Quarter Marathon.

Some of our staff spent a cold Saturday morning marshalling the race on the Southbourne clifftop, cheerfully encouraging the runners!

We were grateful to hear what a generous donation had been given to Bournemouth Blind Society.

In total contrast, staff enjoyed very hot weather at the Kinson Donkey Derby/Fete organised by the Bournemouth North Rotary Club, held on the early May Bank Holiday. We raised £215 from our Lucky Dip and Games stalls.

£84 has been donated since 1st April from the **Smarties Savers** tubes. A further supply of tubes is available in the office for anyone who wishes to start collecting!

We have received donations **In Memory Of** one of our younger members, Emma McCue.

Over £200 of Donations have recently been given by grateful visually impaired users of our **Assistive Technology Suite**.

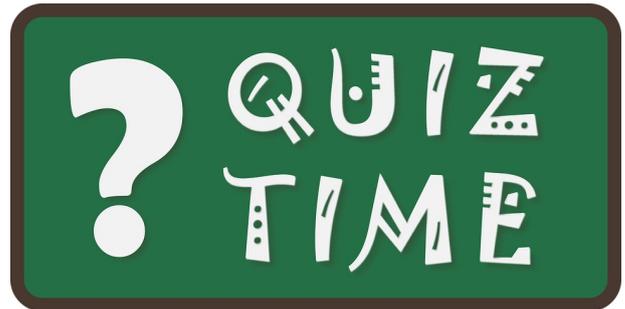
We thank the Boscombe and Southbourne Inner Wheel for its donation following a talk from one of our members about her sight loss and involvement with our Charity.

We thank everyone for their continued generous support. In challenging economic times, small charities like ours rely more and more on fundraising events and donations to keep providing vital services to local people.

## FUNdraising events in Rooper Hall

### Quiz Night

**Saturday 16th June**  
**7.30pm**



**Tickets: £10** (includes Fish & Chips and Ice cream)  
**Licensed Bar**                      **Raffle**  
**Prizes for winners**



### Wessex Chorus

### 10th Anniversary Summer Concert

**Saturday 14th July - 7.30pm**

**Tickets: £5**  
**Licensed Bar**  
**Raffle**

**Refreshments for Sale**

## Bournemouth Blind Society

**5 Victoria Park Road**  
**Bournemouth BH9 2RB**  
**Tel 01202 546644**

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

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

Company No: 5792657

Charity No: 1114570