

Bournemouth Blind Society

ISSUE 35

Your local charity supporting blind
and partially sighted people

DECEMBER 2014 & JANUARY 2015

Editor: Jo Wood

BSVI World War 1 Banner is Revealed



Our Art & Craft Group were delighted to unveil their completed World War 1 commemorative banner earlier this month. Very poignantly, this marvellous achievement - a tribute to those who fought in The Great War, was given its first public showing just before Remembrance Day.

Daily Echo reporter Melanie Vass visited to interview those involved in the project. The commemorative banner is a wonderful example of what can still be achieved by people who have lost their sight. It surprises people to know that BSVI even has a sewing group! Every person in the *(continued on page 2)*

group has some kind of severe visual impairment - some members, like Helen, have no sight at all and others have limited or colourless sight.

Brainstorming for the project began in the Spring and monthly sewing sessions continued afterwards. Helen attached all the poppies' beads whilst Emma produced the central poppy in what she describes as 'back-stitch'. She explains, 'I completed all the work at BSVI, often outside Craft time. It looks good, I'm quite proud.' Margaret then assembled the final piece.

The members' photos of relatives who fought in The Great War add a personal touch. As Volunteer Jackie concludes, 'It was inspiring to watch everyone contribute something, everyone wanted to be involved, regardless of their sewing ability - I think they surprised themselves with what they could achieve!'

We are now enthusiastically embarking on our next project - a single bed quilt, with each member producing their own patchwork square. Volunteers will mainly assist with threading needles and guiding stitching.' To join or help us, please call **01202 546644**.

Philip's Thoughts

I start with some really wonderful news ... I thank all our members and supporters who kindly voted for us in the Lloyds Bank Community Award Fund. We gained **1,261** votes, which was **28.3%** of the total votes cast. We are delighted to announce that BSVI has therefore been awarded 1st place and **£3,000** to invest in our Befriending Service. What a result, especially as we were only in third place at the half-way stage of voting! Thank you all once again.

I've recently been interviewing for a new member of staff in the Resource Centre and will be pleased to introduce the successful candidate to you in our next newsletter.

We look forward to our BSVI 'family' coming together to celebrate the festive season - we remind you to book early for our Christmas lunch. We have organised a special December programme of activities for you to enjoy.

On behalf of all the BSVI staff, I wish you a **Happy and Healthy Christmas** and all **Good Wishes for 2015!**

Philip

In the Community

Geraldine attended Dorset's Clinical Services Review Information event at the BIC in October.

Philip is presenting a short talk at the RNIB Members' Forum at the 'Best Western' on 4th December at 12.15pm.

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

We look forward to hearing from you.

Items for Sale

Ash Eclipse Video Reader.

Colour. Approx 10 years old. Original cost £1995. Good working order. £400 ono. Contact Mr Howard Roderick - **01202 482840**

Optelec Clearview+ HD Colour 22" TFT Video Magnifier plus an Advanced Features pack. New October 2011, costing £2295. Sale price: £600 ono

Contact Mr Jeff Pangbourne - **01202 743741** or **07952 163113** or alternatively, e-mail: jeff.pangbourne@ntlworld.com

BSVI services

Chiropody - HPC registered chiropodist Margareth Sackett offers members appointments every 6 weeks on Wednesday mornings for **£16**. Transport is available. The next dates are **10th December** and **21st January**. Please phone **01202 546644** to book your appointment. The full list of Chiropody dates for 2015 are enclosed with this Newsletter.

Tuesday morning Drop In Café - A lively atmosphere is enjoyed and a menu of cooked breakfasts is offered each Tuesday from **10.30-12.30**. Pre-booked roast lunches are available on the last Tuesday of the month. Minibus transport can be arranged. Come along to meet new friends, have some fun and a good chat!

Hearing Club - this takes place on the **2nd Wednesday** of each month from **10.30-12 noon**. Transport is available for **£4** - please book 2 days in advance. If you would be interested in joining our friendly group, please call the office on **01202 546644**.

Christmas at BSVI

A reminder that the Annual Staff versus Members Cards Tournament will take place on Wednesday 17th December at 1.30pm.



Fun but competitive matches of Whist and Cribbage will be played and the Cup presented to the winning team at the end of the afternoon. (Note to all staff/volunteers from Editor Jo - **please** start practising, we have lost this tournament for the past 5 years!)



Your invitation to the BSVI Christmas Lunch on Monday 22nd December

should now be with you. Please remember that bookings and payments need to reach the Office by **Thursday 11th December.**

We remind you that the BSVI Christmas Raffle Draw will also take place on the 22nd December – please



remember to bring/send back your completed stubs and money before then. If you need more tickets to sell to family and friends, please call

01202 546644.

We thank you for your continued generosity and support.



The last supplies of BSVI Christmas cards are on sale in the office for the reduced price of **50p** for a pack of 10 cards. **All stock must go!**

BSVI will close at **4.30pm** on **22nd December.**

We will re-open at **9am** on **Monday 5th January 2015.**

Postal Dates

Latest recommended Christmas postal dates for the UK, issued by Royal Mail:



Thursday 18th December - 2nd class

Saturday 20th December - 1st class

Training

A group of staff and volunteers participated in a full-day training course in November on 'Manual Handling' and 'Emergency First Aid.' Further courses will be attended next year.

Quiz Night

Our last fundraising Quiz Night of 2014 is on **Saturday 29th November**. The Doors will open at **7pm** for a **7.30pm** Quiz start. Teams of 6-8 people are invited to compete over 6 rounds of friendly fun, with an interval to enjoy Fish and Chips and an Ice-cream.

Tickets remain at the excellent value price of **£8.50**. A Raffle with a selection of superb prizes will be drawn at the end of the evening.

Guests may bring their own drinks or purchase alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages from the BSVI Bar - all sold at reasonable and competitive prices. **All profits go to BSVI!**

Please phone Caroline on **01202 546644** if you wish to join us and book in your team!

2015 Quiz Night Dates:

Saturday 28th March

Saturday 20th June

Saturday 26th September

Saturday 28th November

The annual **BSVI Rotary Quiz** will take place on **Saturday 21st March 2015**.

JST UPDATES



Our 3 'daredevil' members, Jean, Pete and Barbara have recently returned from their voyages on the Jubilee Sailing Trust Tall Ship 'Tenacious' and enthusiastically shared their adventures with us.

Barbara explains, 'the tall ships enable disabled people to experience a voyage at sea both as a passenger and as part of the crew. We were all in a 24 hour team or 'watch' and were able to steer the ship at the helm, keep the ship clean scrubbing decks, work in the galley washing up and help put up the sails and pull the ropes.'

The ship has wide decks for wheelchairs, braille and large print signs throughout, plus an audio readout on the steering wheel to keep the ship on 5

course.

Barbara and Pete enjoyed a 5 day voyage in choppy weather around the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. One of the highlights of their trip was the 'assisted climb' up the mainmast to a crow's nest approx. 40 metres up. As Pete explained, 'it was quite a complicated climb treading on ropes that swayed back and forth near the top. The people below cheering us sounded an awfully long way down, it was an exhilarating sense of achievement! The whole trip was a brilliant working experience and the work was a pleasure to do. Our 'buddies' helped us but also allowed us to be independent. I enjoyed learning about the different ropes and knots.'

Jean went on a 7 day voyage to Cherbourg and the Channel Islands, with 3 races between the 'Lord Nelson' and 'Tenacious' ships on her trip. Member Philip has just returned from a voyage to the Canary Islands; we look forward to sharing his stories with you in the future.

For more information about Tall Ships experiences with the Jubilee Sailing Trust, please call **01202 546644**.

Fundraising

Philip and Jo attended a cheque presentation during October for funds raised at Glenhurst Manor's Summer Garden Party.



Julie Canham updates us on her family's running exploits at the Bournemouth Marathon Festival, 'we really enjoyed it, Ben (aged 9) came 47th out of 151 children, George (7) came 120th out of 265 children and I came 757th! I was just happy I wasn't last!

Please pass on our thanks to all those who sponsored us. My boys are keen to do it again next year.' We thank Julie and the boys for raising almost £200 for BSVI.

We also thank both the Bournemouth Concert Brass and The Andrew Cannon Band for their fundraising musical entertainment shows at the end of October and beginning of November.

Sight & Hearing Resource Centre

Opening Hours:

**Monday - Friday
10 am - 1pm**

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

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

We have produced our own large print A3 2015 calendar - these are now on sale in the Resource Centre for £4. Sale proceeds will help to raise funds for the society.



We thank MPH Merchant Units for their donation of the binder to produce these calendars.



Also in stock we have large print diaries, broad or fine tip pens and signature guides that may help you to write your

Christmas cards.

Large print Sudoku and Puzzle books, talking clocks and watches can also be ordered to make ideal Christmas gifts for visually impaired people.

Entertainment

Monday 1st December - Philip's Christmas Quiz (2pm)

Thursday 4th December - Trip to listen to the Epiphany School Choir

Monday 8th December - Harmonica Harmony (2pm)

Thursday 11th December - Olde Tyme Songsters (2pm)

Monday 15th December - Jackie's Christmas Crafts

Monday 22nd December - BSVI CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Thursday 8th January - Lunch Outing to Iford Bridge Tea Rooms

Thursday 22nd January - Philip's Word Games (2pm)

Thursday 29th January - Storytime (2pm)

70's & 80's Disco

Winton & Moordown

Royal British Legion Club
Wimborne Road, Bournemouth



Saturday 20th December 2014
7-11pm



Tickets £15 each
(includes Ploughman's)



Tickets available from: BSVI (01202 546644)

Proceeds in aid of BSVI

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

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