

Bournemouth Society for the Visually Impaired



providing support, guidance & information to the visually impaired for over 100 years



Eye can't, but I can!

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Editor: Jo Wood

Visually Impaired Archery



Visually impaired archery taster sessions have taken place in the Rooper Hall on Tuesday evenings during April and May with fully qualified instructors from Sagittarii Archery Club. Sessions have been available for small groups from 6-8pm.

Member John Bennett, pictured above, enthused: 'I used to do a lot of archery before my sight deteriorated and to be able to get back to do it again is really thrilling - I thoroughly enjoyed it and it's given me the confidence to start up again and pursue it.'

There will be opportunities for members to attend sessions at an outdoor location during the summer months and the indoor group will re-commence at BSVI in September. For further details about this exciting new project, please call Caroline Simmons on 01202 546644.



BSVI services

Emotional Support - We have 2 BACP qualified Counsellors who can support you either at the Centre or in your own homes. Please call Caterina or Marie on 01202 522184.

Chiropody - Margareth Sackett provides appointments every 6 weeks or so. Transport can be arranged. The next date is **Wednesday 26th June**. Please phone 01202 546644 to book.

Job Focus - Karen Kerley, Employment Co-ordinator from Action for Blind People (Salisbury) offers sessions between 10.30 and 12.30 on the first Wednesday of each month. The next sessions will be on **5th June** and **3rd July**. Please call Karen on 01722 345440 for more information.

Befriending - For those unable to attend the Centre, volunteers will visit you or provide Telephone Befriending. This service is free of charge and is tailored to suit individual's requirements. For further information, contact Geraldine Bradley on 01202 522184.

ActiveEyes - The ActiveEyes Youth Group runs on Saturday mornings for youngsters aged 8 and over. The dates for the next 2 months are **Saturday 15th June** for an **Open Day** and **Saturday 20th July** from 10.30-12.30. Please go to contact@activeeyes.org.uk for further details.

Walking Group - Our walks are planned for the 3rd Friday of most months and allow opportunity for outside photography and a stop at a café for refreshments. The next dates are: **Friday 21st June** at **Moors Valley (£5)** and **Friday 19th July** at **Upton House (£5)**

Tuesday morning Drop In Café - Any visually impaired person is welcome to 'drop in' to the Café on Tuesdays between 10.30 and 12.30. Minibus transport can be arranged. Cooked breakfasts are served most weeks, with a pre-booked roast lunch being offered on the last Tuesday of each month.

Mick and Daren



Thank you to our member Daren Morris and volunteer Mick Davidson who completed the Reading Half Marathon during March in

under two and a half hours. They are also walking the South West coastal path to raise funds for us. To find out more and to support their fundraising, please go to www.justgiving.com/mickanddaren

Barbara's fundraising

Blind member and volunteer receptionist Barbara Russell completed 'The Dorset Knobber' 62 mile cycle ride in the Purbecks on Sunday 21st April, riding with volunteer



driver Steve Shuck on one of our new tandems. Barbara said, 'it was a lovely sunny day, I went to parts of Dorset I had never been to before. My pilot acted like a Tour Guide, describing the villages we rode through. I thoroughly enjoyed the event but it was quite a pleasure to get off the saddle at the end!' They are now training for the 'London 100' on Sunday 4th August.

To donate to Barbara's fundraising campaign or read more about her story, please go to www.justgiving.com/Barbara-Russell2 or fill in the sponsor form in the office.

Goodbye Miriam



Everyone said goodbye to Miriam Noble during March as she retired from BSVI after 14 years of voluntary work

with us. We thank Miriam for all her efforts, dedication and care for our members. We wish her good health and happiness in her retirement and hope that she will continue to pop in and see us all from time to time!

BSVI Minibus Appeal 2013

Did you know that there are about 6,500 partially sighted people in our area and the number of people with sight loss is increasing?

Chief Executive Philip Tarrant explains, 'BSVI is currently providing more services to the blind and partially sighted in Bournemouth and the surrounding area than ever before. We have also increased the number of activities available for the visually impaired and all this expansion is being achieved at minimal cost, largely due to the goodwill of staff and volunteers.

However, all services and activities cost money. BSVI costs about £700 for every day it is open. This year, we also have to replace the minibus. Many members find it difficult to travel around the town and with limited resources, taxis are expensive. Our current bus has been on contract hire since January 2009 and this ends shortly. Mindful of this, the Trustees have considered the members' needs and have agreed that a replacement minibus be purchased. A pre-used vehicle will cost about £20,000.



I am making an appeal for financial donations towards the new bus. A grant making trust has indicated that they may be willing to match pound for pound everything we can raise, so it makes

every £1 you can donate into £2. If you can Gift Aid your donation, then that will add a further 25p for every £1 you donate.'

Some of our members highlight what BSVI and its minibus means to them:

Emma (aged 43) says, '**BSVI is like my second family, I wouldn't be without it**'.

Alan (aged 69) adds, '**without the guidance and support from BSVI staff, I wouldn't be here today and using the minibus has given me the confidence to get out and about again.**'

Tracey (aged 40) claims '**the Centre has changed my life, it's like a home from home and I've met many great people here.**'

Philip concludes, 'Any amount that either you or anyone you know can give towards our Appeal, however small, will help. Thank you for your support.'

Please send your donation, with the enclosed form to:

Philip Tarrant, BSVI Chief Executive

5 Victoria Park Road, Bournemouth BH9 2RB

Information Day

BSVI is holding a Sight and Hearing Information Day on Thursday 20th June from 10am-3pm in The Rooper Hall. A variety of service providers and equipment suppliers will be on hand to answer questions, give advice or demonstrate products to those with visual or hearing impairment.

Entrance to this event is free of charge and Refreshments will be available.

Hearing Club



A new club for the hard of hearing began in April, set up by the Sight and Hearing team. Future sessions will take place on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 10.30-12. Transport is available from BSVI at a cost of £4 for the round trip - please book 2 days in advance.

Please contact the office for further details.

Fundraising

During the last quarter, BSVI received the following funds:

Donations from Waitrose Winton, Kath Houldershaw and Mr and Mrs Baxter.

The Bournemouth Collegiate School raised £200 from its Christmas Ball.

We also thank all our 'Friends of BSVI' who make regular generous donations to our Society.

The Ladies Pamper Night in April was enjoyed by the large number of guests who attended and nearly £600 was raised. We hope to hold a similar event next Spring.

BSVI thank everyone for their continued generosity and support for our work in the local community.

The following events have been organised for your enjoyment and to raise further funds for us:

Swingin' Summertime

Swing Unlimited Big Band are presenting a Charity gig in aid of BSVI on Wednesday 21st August at Centre Stage, Queens Road, Westbourne.



Tickets are £12, including Supper. Doors open at 7.30 for an 8pm start.

For more details or to order tickets, please contact Caroline Simmons on 01202 546644. Tickets are limited and must be booked/paid for in advance.

Air Show

BSVI has been selected to benefit from the BIC's hospitality for the 2013 Bournemouth Air Festival. With eye-catching views from comfortable seating, coffee, lunch and afternoon tea, why don't you enjoy the Air Festival displays in BIC's Purbeck Terrace Bar on Thursday 29th August?

Tickets are £49 and £5 from every ticket sold for this date will be given to BSVI. For more details, please contact the BIC or look at their website.

Concert

BSVI is presenting a concert on Saturday 21st September at Bournemouth School for Girls, in conjunction with Diverse Abilities Plus.

The Bournemouth Male Voice Choir and soloist soprano 6

Fiona Aucott will be performing. Tickets are £10 and can be purchased from BSVI. Refreshments will be available and the concert will start at 7.30pm.

For more information, please contact Ruth Stanley on 01202 546644

BSVI Sight & Hearing Resource Centre

Have you visited our Resource Centre recently? We can demonstrate specialist equipment for sight and hearing impaired people which can then be ordered or purchased.

We remind members of the range of equipment in our Sight Room - talking clocks and watches; handheld and CCTV magnifiers; large print stationery (pens, address books, signature guides); everyday living equipment (such as liquid level indicators, talking microwaves and talking labelling equipment); leisure items (such as large print Cards, games like Scrabble and puzzle books); sunglasses and visors; large button telephones and mobile phones.

Please come along and

allow our friendly staff and volunteers to assist you!

Sight & Hearing Resource Centre

Opening Hours:

Monday - Friday

10 am-1pm

No appointment necessary

In the Community

On Wednesday June 5th, Geraldine Bradley will be at Strouden Park Library, near Castlepoint for a coffee morning, where she will be available to answer questions about BSVI and our services.

During this busy summer period we will have fundraising stalls and information stands at the following events:

Moordown Fete - 2nd June
Bournemouth North Rotary

Charity Golf Day - 12th June

Winton Carnival - 29th June

Yellow Buses Family Fun Day - 30th June

Slades Farm Family Fun Day - 14th July

Muscliffe Fun Day - 28th July

We hope to see you at some of these events where you can join in the fun and support your local Charity at the same time!

Meet the Volunteer



Local lady Maureen, aged 79, has been a volunteer at BSVI for just over 18 months.

‘I used to be an office worker and then a Carer but I have known about BSVI for a long time as I have family members who were blind and attended the Centre many years ago. I came to volunteer here after my husband died and my GP suggested that I started voluntary work. As he was aware of my knowledge of the blind, he suggested I came here. I now work here 2 full days and one morning per week, assisting the members in the café, in their activities and on outings.

Your sight is a precious thing and I know how difficult it can be for people when they lose it so it is very rewarding to be able to help them. I have also made friends with other volunteers here so if you are lonely and have some time to spare, why not join me and become a BSVI volunteer?’

For more information about volunteering opportunities at BSVI, please call Philip or Marion, who will be pleased to meet you and hopefully, welcome you to the BSVI ‘family’.

Bournemouth Society for the Visually Impaired

5 Victoria Park Road, Bournemouth BH9 2RB

Tel 01202 546644 (General Enquiries)

Tel 01202 522184 (Community Services)

Company Reg No: 5792657

www.bsvi.org.uk

Reg Charity No: 1114570

Our services are designed to enable people who have a significant visual impairment remain independent and be part of the community.