



# Bournemouth Society for the Visually Impaired

Your local charity supporting the blind and  
partially sighted in Bournemouth and the  
surrounding areas

**ISSUE 32**

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**Editor: Jo Wood**

## **'MY GUIDE' to GUIDE DOG**



BSVI trains people in guiding using the Guide Dogs for the Blind scheme 'My Guide'. Resource Centre volunteer Sue Dewey participated in one of our courses and shares her story with us:

Sue explains, 'obstacles were set up for us to guide visually impaired members around the BSVI building. We went up and down stairs and, eventually, along the pavements of Victoria Park Road. The course members were given the opportunity to experience a lack of sight themselves by being blindfolded, which proved a very scary but a "real eye opening" experience - one that has proved invaluable.'

*(continued on page 4)*

## Philip's Thoughts

The BSVI 'family' is growing again. We have welcomed a number of new members over the past few weeks who bring a new vitality to the various groups. Our work with those who are unable to come to the Centre is also expanding.

Thank you to all those staff and volunteers who work so ceaselessly to make sure everyone benefits from BSVI's interaction with them. We are planning a Cream Tea celebration in early July to thank all our volunteers for their continued dedication and commitment - BSVI would not be able to run without them! On this note, I proudly announce that one of our volunteers, minibus driver Robert Taylor was recognised in the Mayor's 'Volunteer of the Year' Awards recently - read more of this story on page 3.

As we look forward to the sunny weather, look out for the summer activities that are being arranged. Hopefully the BSVI 'family' will all be present at some of the events, such as the Garden Party, our Summer BBQ/Party or the outing to Glenhurst Manor. *Philip*

## BSVI services

**Chiropody** - HPC registered chiropodist Margareth Sackett offers members appointments every 6 weeks on Wednesday mornings (£16). Transport is also available. The next date is **25th June**. Please phone **01202 546644** to book an appointment.

**Tuesday morning Drop In Café** - Any visually impaired person is welcome on Tuesdays between 10.30 and 12.30 for a cooked breakfast and to socialise. Pre-booked roast lunches are offered on the last Tuesday of each month. Minibus transport can be arranged. Do come along to meet new friends, have some fun and a good chat!

**Hearing Club** - We continue to develop our Hearing Club, which takes place on the 2nd Wednesday each month from 10.30-12 noon. Transport is available for £4 - please book in the office 2 days in advance. If you would be interested in joining this friendly group or know anyone who would like to volunteer to help with it, please call **01202 546644**.

## In the Community

Geraldine attended a Bournemouth Borough Council event in April to discuss changes in Adult Social Care Services.

Philip gave a talk to the Bournemouth Older People's Forum in May.

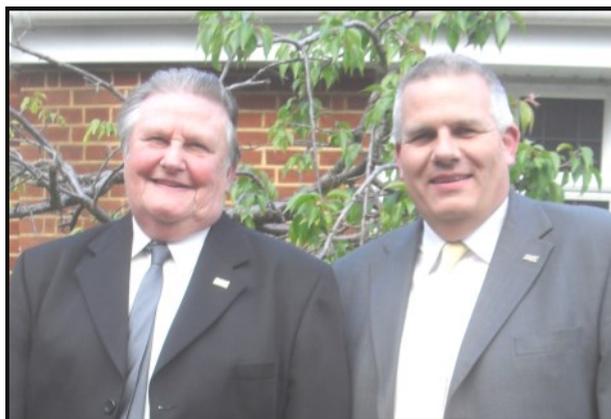
On 10th June BSVI are presenting a session at Bournemouth University's Festival of Learning.

If you know any group who would like an information talk about visual impairment and BSVI's work, please contact Philip on **01202 546644** or e-mail: [philip.tarrant@bsvi.org.uk](mailto:philip.tarrant@bsvi.org.uk)

## Water Skiing

The British Disabled Water Ski & Wakeboard Association has specialised equipment and guidance to help the visually impaired to water ski at their Ellingham Club, located near Ringwood. Novice days are held on the first Saturday of each month and specific Tuesday mornings from May to September. To gain more information about the possibility of taking up this new and fun challenge, please e-mail [pviney@aol.com](mailto:pviney@aol.com) or phone **01202 740470**.

## Robert Taylor



Chief Exec Philip and volunteer driver Robert attended the Mayor of Bournemouth's 'Volunteer of the Year 2013/14' awards in May. Robert was recognised for his 14 years dedicated service to BSVI and the local community.

He was presented with a certificate by The Mayor, Councillor Dr Rodney Cooper.

## Robert's Outings

**Saturday 26th July** (please note change of date) - **Weymouth/Portland** (£15)

**Saturday 6th September** - **West Bay** (£15)

**Saturday 25th October** - **Salisbury** (£14) Prices quoted are for transport only. Trips are only suitable for those who are reasonably mobile and do not require excessive personal assistance.

## 'My Guide' (cont)

'In April 2013 I was asked to be a 'My Guide' to a severely visually impaired member who was hoping to get a guide dog. I met Debbie and we embarked on a series of outings to enable her to thoroughly get to know the routes she needed to use in her daily life, so that when the time came she could concentrate on the commands she would need to give to her dog. We regularly continued with these trips until a glorious day towards the close of the year when I received an excited phone call from Debbie to say that Guide Dogs had identified what they thought would be a suitable dog for her. I then stepped back from my involvement while Debbie was introduced to Jasper. They gelled immediately and became involved with the specific Guide Dogs for the Blind training. In January I went to meet Jasper, a gorgeous golden Labrador who has fitted into the family perfectly - an enthusiastic worker, but also a friendly family pet. It was wonderful to meet him at last and to see Debbie so happy, confident and settled with him.

Debbie feels that more people ought to know about 'My Guide', she believes that the ability to have someone to walk out with you who can identify every obstacle on the pavement was invaluable and enables you to intimately get to know your routes before having your dog. When you do then have your dog you can confidently put your trust in him.

'My Guide' is, of course, not only for people who are hoping to get a guide dog, but for anyone visually impaired who wants to get out and about confidently in their local area. It is most gratifying to know that Debbie found my help so valuable and the whole experience proved very worthwhile for me too.'

## Walking Group

**13th June:** Poole Park  
(please note change of date)

**18th July:** Moors Valley

**15th August:** New Forest

**19th Sept:** Chines and Promenade

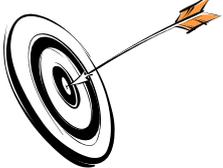
Please phone **01202 546644**  
to book your place.

## Quiz Night

Our next fundraising Quiz Night is on **Saturday 21st June**. 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 cost **£8.50** and a Raffle will be drawn at the end of the evening. Guests may bring their own drinks or purchase from the BSVI Bar.

The next Quiz is on **20th September**. Please phone Caroline on **01202 546644** if you wish to join in the fun!

## Archery TV stars!



Cameramen from BBC South Today and ITV Meridian news programmes filmed our V.I. Archery group during April, making TV stars of some of our members! The cameramen were impressed by the high standards the group are achieving. During the summer members hope to participate in sessions outside at Canford Magna. Please contact Caroline on **01202 546644** for more information.

## Emotional Support

We remind you that Marie Evans, a fully qualified



Counsellor and member of the BACP (British

Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy), now provides our Emotional Support Service. She offers one-off or weekly sessions with visually impaired people, their family or carers.

Marie says, 'in the first instance, if you would like an informal chat to find out a little more about our service, please contact me on **01202 522184** or alternatively, you can e-mail: [marie.evans@bsvi.org.uk](mailto:marie.evans@bsvi.org.uk)'

## Cat in Canada

We thank all members, volunteers, staff and trustees for their donations to our Emotional Support Counsellor Cat's farewell present when she emigrated to Canada.

Cat has used the money collected to help purchase a new laptop which will enable her to skype and keep in touch with all her friends and family both in the UK and at BSVI. 5

## Fundraising

During the last few months BSVI has been grateful to receive a legacy from Sydney Youngman. We have been delighted to accept donations from members Freda Eveleigh, Gordon Spong and Jean Sparrowhawk.

We were also thrilled to be awarded a significant grant by the Clothworkers' Foundation towards our minibus purchase. Our Ladies Pamper Night was enjoyed by all the stallholders and guests, raising over £350.

After a busy Bank Holiday at the Kinson Donkey Derby, where we raised in excess of £550, BSVI staff are again running a fundraising tombola stall at Winton Carnival on Saturday 28th June. We hope to see you there!

If you know any group who might be prepared to do a fundraising event to help BSVI, please let us know on **01202 546644**. We will help them by providing our leaflets and publicity material.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity and continued support - your donations make such a difference to the lives of local visually impaired people.

## WW1 Art Project

Members are enjoying their tactile Art project. Jackie says, 'we are at the second stage where the individual



petals become poppies and then Helen will apply beads to make the centre-pieces. It has been suggested that if any members have photos of



relatives in the war that we could copy, we will use these as part of

the display, so please bring your photos in for us.'

## Calibre

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For more information, please call **01296 432 339** or e-mail: [enquiries@calibre.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@calibre.org.uk)

# BSVI 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 demonstrations of specialist equipment for sight and hearing impaired people to order or purchase.

We have several second hand items for sale in our Donation Corner, including Max TV Glasses, Talking Clocks, a Clarity Amplifier, a talking microwave and a PL Daylight Reading Lamp.

Please do come along, take a look and make an offer for any item that may be suitable for your particular needs.



We also have some BSVI Sale items, which are all individually priced, including chopping boards, large face watches, a Teleflash to enable you to see/hear your telephone ring, a can opener and ring pull opener. With summer fast approaching, we have a range of wrap-around sunglasses which may be useful for you - do come along and try them out!

## Entertainment

Some of our activities during the summer months -

**Monday 2nd June:**

Lunch at the Cranleigh Pub.

**Thursday 12th June:**

Talk on SW Coast Path.

**Monday 16th June:**

Caledonians Show

**Friday 20th June:**

An afternoon trip to Glenhurst Manor - tea and entertainment.

**Thursday 26th June:**

Brian's Magic Show.

**Thursday 3rd July:**

Annual Garden Party at the home of Councillor Greene.

**Monday 14th July:**

Andy's Horse Racing.

**Thursday 24th July:**

BSVI Summer BBQ/Party

Please book early in the office!

# AN EVENING OF LIVE MUSIC

with **The Andrew Cannon Band**



**Easy Listening/Swing/Jazz/Country  
Pop and Ballads**

**Saturday 7th June**

7.30pm in The Rooper Hall (Doors open at 7pm)

**£13.50 including Supper  
Cash Bar and Raffle**

Please contact the office to purchase your ticket!

**Bournemouth Society for the Visually Impaired**

**5 Victoria Park Road, Bournemouth BH9 2RB**

**Tel 01202 546644 (General Enquiries)**

**Tel 01202 522184 (Community Services)**

**[www.bsvi.org.uk](http://www.bsvi.org.uk)**

**e-mail: [info@bsvi.org.uk](mailto:info@bsvi.org.uk)**

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

**Company Reg No: 5792657**

**Charity Reg No: 1114570**