



# Staffordshire Sight Loss

## Newsletter Autumn 2019

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter!

We apologise for the delay in sending this newsletter however we have been reviewing the way that we keep you informed about our services and we have decided that from now on our newsletter will be sent out quarterly.

Here is a rundown of what we have been up to and what we have coming up...

### **1. Awareness Day**

Our Awareness Day on 20th June at the Quality Hotel was a huge success. 29 different organisations attended to give advice and information and to demonstrate equipment and technology. Around 100 members of the public attended and our raffle and tombola raised a fantastic £650 for the charity.

We are so pleased with how this first event went and would like to thank you very much if you attended. We plan to make this an annual event and will be using the feedback gathered on the day to make next year's event even better.

We would also like to thank partner organisations who attended, all of the local businesses, standholders and members of the community who donated prizes for our raffle

and tombola and everyone who helped us to promote the event by sticking up posters, telling friends and sharing on social media.

We can't wait until the next one!

## **2. Services and Events**

### **Family and Friends Sighted Guiding Training delivered in conjunction with the Guide Dogs Organisation**

We have been working with the Guide Dogs Organisation to deliver their Friends and Family Sighted Guide Sessions at Hanley library.

Attendees have learnt tips and practical advice about how to guide in a safe and appropriate way, including through narrow spaces like doors and up and down steps.

Feedback has been excellent and the next session will be held on Wednesday 30th October from 10.30am til 12.30pm in the JRR Tolkien Room at Hanley library which is on the first floor. If you have any friends or family that would benefit from a session like this please get in touch to book your place. Sessions can only go ahead if there are enough people booked on so please get in touch if you would like to attend.

### **Social Groups**

Why not try our Hanley social group, it is a friendly group of all ages, we meet at Hanley Library in the JRR Tolkien Room (first floor) on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 10.30am til 12.30pm.

We ask for £1 per person per session to contribute to refreshments and at each session we have a speaker or an activity.

Please see our enclosed events calendar for sessions upto Christmas.

**Please note** that speakers and activities may change due to circumstances out of our control and so if you are coming to a group specifically for a speaker or activity please get in touch prior to the session to check for any changes and to avoid disappointment. Any changes will also be notified on our social media pages.

### **Leek meet-ups**

We have been meeting up on Saturdays at the Green Dragon Pub in Leek however attendance has been very low. Due to this we have decided to make our October meet up at the Green Dragon Pub the last one for now. If you would like to attend that meet-up our volunteer, Gareth will be at:

The Green Dragon Pub on St Edwards Street on 12th October from 11am

As an alternative we will be arranging a meet up on the first Monday of each month at the White Hart Tea Room on Stockwell Street, Leek, ST13 6DH from November. If you fancy and coffee and a chat, come along between 10.30 and 12.30 where we have a table reserved. **First meeting 4th November.**

### **Hanley Saturday meet-ups**

Our volunteer Gareth has also organised a meetup in Hanley on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Come along to meet others, have a chat and share experiences.

**Please note that booking is required for this meet-up, it will only go ahead if requested.**

The meet up is being held at the Reginald Mitchell pub in Hanley (Wetherspoons) from 11am until 2pm. This is at Parliament Row. The next meeting being 19th October.

## **Community Support Service**

Do you need...

- Advice and information
- Benefits advice
- Help with form filling
- Support with applications for grants for equipment
- Advice about concessions
- Support with housing issues...or anything else

Get in touch to arrange an appointment with our community support worker and benefits advisor on 07931 327 018.

If you need some support but are unsure if we can assist please get in touch and if it is not our area of expertise we will do our best to refer you to someone who can help.

## **Steering Group**

Are you interested in helping to shape future services for people living with sight loss in North Staffordshire?

Then why not join our Steering Group; we are a community led charity committed to delivering services that our community wants and needs. Come along and have your

say about what services should be available and how they should be delivered.

Next meeting Wednesday 16th October in the JRR Tolkien Room at Hanley Library, 10.30am til 12.30 pm. There will be cake! Get in touch for more information.

### **3. Support us**

A big thank you to everyone who has supported us since we set the charity up in 2018. We have had financial donations, donated items which help us to raise money through raffles, tombolas and carboots and we have lots of lovely volunteers who donate their time. Without this support we would be unable to continue our work in the community... so thank you

Here are some of the ways that you can support us:

#### **We are looking for Volunteers who would like to get involved in Fundraising.**

Do you have a bit of spare time? Do you have ideas and enthusiasm and like working as part of a team? We are looking for volunteers who want to join our Fundraising team. We have regular meetings at Hanley library on the first Wednesday of each month from 10.30am til 12.30 pm. These meetings are held on the first floor in the HG Wells Room. At these meetings we plan and organise events and other fundraising activities.

If you would like to come along to a meeting and find out what it's all about, get in touch on 07931 327 018

## **Car Boot**

On 13th October we will be attending Broad Street Car Boot sale in Hanley. All proceeds raised on the day will go towards our continued work in the community.

Get in touch if you would like to donate anything for us to sell on the day, donations can be brought to our Hanley Social group or we can collect.

## **Support us by taking part in the Potto Lotto**

Potto Lotto is a local lottery that supports good causes in Stoke-on-Trent.

- Win up to £25,000
- Tickets cost £1 per week
- For every ticket that you buy in our name we receive 50p
- PLUS 10% goes to other good causes in Stoke-on-Trent

To start supporting, visit:

[www.PottoLotto.co.uk](http://www.PottoLotto.co.uk)

And Search for 'Sight Loss'

## **4. Other things happening in North Staffordshire**

### **FRONTLINE Arts Festival for the whole of October!**

FRONTLINEdance Presents FRONTLINE Arts Festival for the whole month of October! STOKE-ON-TRENT

This exciting, first of its kind disability arts festival showcases the work of international, national, regional and local deaf and disabled artists, and aims to be the most accessible and inclusive festival for all. There will be performances, art installations, workshops, residencies, talks, conversations, and a symposium.

Visit: [www.frontlinedance.co.uk](http://www.frontlinedance.co.uk) for more information

Audio description will be available at every event where it's needed, and they have commissioned a visually impaired spoken word artist to perform and lead workshops.

### **Update Talking Newspaper**

Sign up to Update Talking Newspaper to receive a free audio newspaper once a fortnight. The recording includes local news, sports updates, entertainment news, information about local services plus much more. Receive Update on a USB stick or download it from their website at <http://www.updatestoke.org/>

A player for your USB sticks can be provided where needed and USBs can be returned free of charge. To contact Update call 07721641887 or send them a message through their contacts page on their website.

Update are also looking for volunteers to help them to produce their talking newspaper, contact them for more information.

### **Access to Entertainment North Staffordshire**

A group committed to working with entertainment venues to ensure that they are accessible and inclusive for all. They

are looking for new people with an interest in arts and entertainment to attend their meetings, to share views and help bring about positive change.

Contact Tim Calvert for more information on 07721641887 or by email at [stoketheatreaccess@gmail.com](mailto:stoketheatreaccess@gmail.com).

### **Diabetes UK North Staffs Volunteer Group**

Diabetes UK North Staffs Volunteer Group has been in existence in various headquarters around Newcastle under Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent since 1947.

The group is there to help people who are pre-Diabetic, Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetic with information and practical advice (non-medical), to be able to understand and cope with an illness that cannot be seen or felt but can and will unless addressed, have very bad consequences, for the past 10 years they have resided at Bradwell Lodge, Bradwell lane, Porthill, Newcastle-under-Lyme, ST5 8PS, contact No 07722124176.

They have the top floor at Bradwell Lodge and hold a wide range of (take away) books/magazines to inspire people who could be heading towards becoming Diabetic or who are, but may be struggling, the group is there to help.

## **5. Keep in touch with us**

### **Find us on Social Media**

Look us up on twitter @SightLossStaffs



We are also on Facebook, search for Staffordshire Sight Loss Association where we also have a closed group for sharing ideas and engaging in conversation.

**Our Contact details are:**

**Telephone:** 07931 327018

**Email:** [suzanne.roberts001@gmail.com](mailto:suzanne.roberts001@gmail.com)

If you require this newsletter in an alternative format please let us know.