



Staffordshire Sight Loss

Newsletter March/ April 2019

Welcome to our March- April newsletter! Here is a rundown of our available services over the next few months...

Awareness Event

Important- please note that the date of our Awareness Event at the Quality Hotel has changed

We have moved the date of our upcoming Awareness Event to **20th June** as the previously announced date clashed with another event.

We hope that you can join us anytime between 10am and 4pm; the event is being held in the Longshaw Suite of the Quality Hotel, the address is:

66 Trinity Street
Hanley
Stoke-on-Trent
ST1 5NB

At the event you will find a wide range of organisations waiting to tell you about the services and products that they provide. There will be equipment and technology demonstrations, a raffle, cake stall and tombola.

We would love to make this an annual event and need your support to make this happen so please attend if you can.

The more successful and well attended that we can make this first event, the more chance that we will have of getting organisations to come back for another event next year.

There is a pay and display car park at the hotel should you need it (other car parks available in the surrounding areas) and the hotel is a 7 minute walk from Hanley bus station. If you need any further information about the venue or the event in general please get in touch.

Organisations that have confirmed their attendance so far:

- RNIB
- Macular Society
- VisionAid Technologies
- North Staffs Carers
- Blind Veterans UK
- Synapptic Ltd
- Update Talking Newspaper
- Seeing Solutions
- Cobolt Systems Ltd
- Sight and Sound Technology Ltd
- Dolphin Computer Access
- British Wireless for the Blind Fund
- Associated Optical
- Access to Entertainment North Staffs
- Optelec/ Enhanced Vision Limited
- Green Door CIO
- Beacon Centre

- Medequip Assistive Technology
- Age-Friendly Stoke-on-Trent

More to be confirmed soon

Sighted Guiding Training delivered in conjunction with the Guide Dogs Organisation

Do you have any friends or family members that would benefit from learning more about how to guide a person with sight loss in a safe and appropriate way?

If so we are holding a Sighted Guide Friends and Family training day in conjunction with The Guide Dogs Organisation on 11th April in the Arnold Bennett Room at Hanley library (ground floor). The session will run from 10am until 12pm and we will be learning tips and practising guiding techniques including how to safely manage doors and stairs. Booking essential, get in touch to book your place.

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. Our next sessions are as follows:

March 27th	Tracey Wainwright from the New Vic Theatre will be coming to tell us about accessible performances
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April 10th	Kath Reynolds will be coming to talk to us about childhood memories
April 24th	Helen from Staffordshire County Council will be coming to speak to us about staying safe
8th May	Mika from Art Brazil will be returning for a Brazilian Drumming session

Newcastle and Leek Social Groups

We are still working hard to bring social groups to Newcastle and Leek soon, apologies for the delay with this, let us know if you are interested in attending one of these groups and we will keep you up to date on our progress

Wellbeing workshops delivered by Changes

Changes have kindly offered to deliver a 3 week Wellbeing course for us, the course will comprise of three 2 hour workshops held over 3 weeks. If you are interested in attending please get in touch. Dates will be confirmed for this soon.

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 Suzanne 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.

RNIB coffee morning

There is a coffee morning held each month at the RNIB offices in Albion Street on the first floor (lift available). It takes place on the second Tuesday of each month from around 10.30am. It is a friendly group of people who meet for a coffee and a chat (and they often have a guest speaker too).

Check availability before attending as there are expected to be temporary closures to the RNIB offices over the coming months as the space is reconfigured. If you are interested in attending the group, get in touch with us and we can put you in touch with the appropriate person to speak to.

Volunteering

Do you have any free time to spare?

Would you like to meet new people and to learn new skills?

If so, have you considered volunteering?

At present we are looking for volunteers who would like to help with:

- Social Groups across North Staffordshire
- Fundraising, organising events and helping out at events

- Peer Support: this may be showing someone how to use a piece of technology that you are confident with or attending a group to talk to others.
- A range of administration tasks

Get in touch if you would like the full role descriptions

Volunteering opportunities also available at Blind Veterans UK:

Can you make a difference to the life of a blind veteran in Staffordshire?

When an ex-Service man or woman loses their sight, it can lead to a loss of confidence.

You can be the difference! Help to rebuild the lives of blind veterans across Staffordshire.

If you have a couple of hours to spare we are looking to fill volunteer roles from home visitors to lunch club co-ordinators. We have a wide range of volunteering opportunities to suit your skills, personality and availability.

Your support can put a smile back on the face of a blind veteran and let them know that someone cares.

Call: 0300 111 2233

Email: volunteer@blindveterans.org.uk

Visit: blindveterans.org.uk/volunteer

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.

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

And Search for 'Sight Loss'

Our Contact details are:

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

