

**Isle of Wight Society for the Blind  
Newsight March 2007  
Registered Charity No. 203658**

**From the Director's Chair**

I have joined the Society at a very exciting time. The move to Millbrooke House is now complete and gradually these improved facilities are being used more and more. There is always room for more groups to make use of the space available, so please let us have any suggestions on how to improve our services.

We are currently exploring the feasibility of taking a shop, even for a short period to sell a range of goods and any crafts that we make here. Please let us know if you have any item that we can sell and we can arrange to collect them.

We are also about to launch the Friends of the Society Scheme. We would like to invite people to become a Friend for a single payment of £5 (more if you like!) This will entitle you to discount rates for special events, BBQs, concerts, etc. The scheme is open for anyone to join—clients, relations, friends, volunteers, professional colleagues etc. If you would like extra application forms please phone us.

We need to have feedback both on current services and also suggestions on how we can improve, so please let us know. Working together as a team, clients, volunteers, staff and trustees can help the Society grow and be more successful.

**Anne Watts**

**Greetings Cards  
On Sale at the Centre  
*General Birthday  
Get Well Thank you  
Sympathy and Open***

**The London Marathon 2007**

Nikki Collinson the grand-daughter of the late Alice Collinson who some of you will no doubt remember, is entering the

**London Marathon**  
hoping to raise money for the  
**Isle of Wight Society for the Blind**

in memory of her grandmother. She would like to raise money to help purchase and donate valuable equipment to those island residents who are unable to afford it for themselves, like the equipment that her grandmother found invaluable. She was able to see at first hand how things from a simple cane or talking watch to a talking microwave etc enabled her grandmother to cope with her disability. Alice found the talking County Press an absolute godsend, especially for a lady who simply had to know what was going on around the island.

**Please help her to raise this vital money for the Society, by guessing how long it will take her to complete the 26 miles.**

Ring Jane at the Society on 52 22 05 for details of how to pledge money or visit Nikki's website at  
**[www.justgiving.com/nikkicollinson](http://www.justgiving.com/nikkicollinson)**

**Feedback to the RNIB**

The RNIB would like to have your views about their products. Whether it is a positive comment or a critical one. If you have experienced a problem or recognised a design fault with any of their items or are particularly impressed with something, they would like to hear from you.

Please ring **01733 375361**

**IT Exhibition For People With Visual Impairment**

Did you know there are specialist computers, scanners and software that can help people with failing eyesight continue to enjoy using IT? We at the IW Society for the Blind are holding an exhibition at our Centre at 137 Carisbrooke Road, Newport on **Wednesday 28th March** There will be professionals on hand to give expert advice about equipment suitable for your particular needs. You will be able to try what is available and learn where you can obtain it.

The exhibition runs from 10am-3pm and light lunches and drinks will be available. We'd be delighted to welcome you and to help you, so please come along and find out more. The car park is reached from Castle Road.

The Centre is running training courses to teach IT skills to encourage people to use computers. These are tailored to meet individual needs. It could open up a whole new world and lead to interesting work opportunities!

**Telephone 52 22 05** if you'd like further details.

Firms and service providers who will be represented include:

Enhanced Vision  
Humanware  
Optelec  
Sight & Sound  
Professional Vision  
Calibre  
Microlink  
SW Retail  
Software Express  
Guide  
and  
St Mary's Eye Clinic

If any of you already own equipment or software and are experiencing problems why not come along and asked the experts.

**FOR SALE**

"Pico" Hand-Held  
Portable Magnifier

to help you to read wherever you go.

Current model in perfect condition and guaranteed.

Originally £495

offered at **£395**

Please Tel: 868377

**Diary Dates**

**Niton Post Office Coffee & Chat**

Tuesday 6th Mar  
Tuesday 3rd Apr  
Tuesday 1st May  
10 to 11.30am

**Bembridge Coffee & Chat** at The Cloisters

Tuesday 27th Mar  
Tuesday 24th Apr  
Tuesday 29th May  
10.15 to 11.15pm

**West Wight Coffee & Chat** End of the Line Café Freshwater

Monday 26th Mar  
Monday 30th Apr  
Monday 28th May  
10.30 to 12 noon

Sound Advice will be there to check hearing aids and Age Concern with advice on a range of issues.

**Ryde Coffee Morning**

George Street Centre Ryde  
Tuesday 13th Mar  
Tuesday 10th April  
Tuesday 8th May  
10.30am till 12pm

**Strollers**

Wednesday 7th Mar  
Botanical Gardens, Ventnor Lunch in the café

Wednesday 4th April  
Shanklin Old Village along the cliff top and down to the Steamer Inn for lunch

Wednesday 2nd May  
Up the creek from the New Inn at Shalfleet and back

**Striders**

Thursday 29th Mar  
Along the river to the Folly Inn for Lunch and back again.

Friday 27th April  
Around Niton to St Catherine's Lighthouse

Thursday 31st May  
The Mill Trail around Newport

### **Gadabouts**

Friday 2nd Mar  
Lymington Old Town

Friday 13th Apr  
Portsmouth Historic Dockyard—use your ticket if you've still got it.

Friday 11th May  
Museum of Aviation, Bournemouth

### **Group Activities Dates**

#### **The Reminiscence Group**

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month  
Mar 27th  
April 24th  
May 22nd  
10.30 till 2.30pm

#### **Art and Craft Group**

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month  
Mar 13th  
April 10th  
May 10th  
10.30 till 2.30pm

#### **Games Club**

1st Tuesday of the month  
Mar 6th  
April 3rd  
May 2nd  
12.30 till 2.30pm

### **MD Group**

1st Monday of the Month

Mar 5th

April 2nd

May 14th

10.30 till 12pm

### **RP Group**

2nd Monday of the Month

Mar 12th

April 16th

May 21st

10.30 till 12pm

### **Information Fair**

The Parish Hall Town Lane, Newport

Monday 21st May

10am till 3pm

### **Steam Rally**

Monday 9th April

Compton Farm Military Road, Brook

10am till 3pm

### **Indoor and Outdoor Green Bowling**

at the Plessey Club Cowes

We are hoping to organise with Plessey, afternoon bowling sessions for visually impaired people, starting at 3.30pm

Each session would last approx 2hrs 30mins and cost £1.50

This is open to clients and volunteers if you are interested please

contact the Society Tel: 52 22 05

Easy access via bus from Newport to gate.

### **Charity Flowers**

Whatever time of year, it's always a pleasure to give and receive flowers. For those special occasions—birthdays, anniversaries, as a thank you, or simply a way of letting someone special know

you're thinking of them. It's easy to arrange.

Charity Flowers are the only floral postal service wholly owned by a charity and where all the profits are donated to charitable causes. So every time you send flowers by Charity Direct you are giving pleasure to a loved one and bringing hope to many people you may never meet.

All bouquets are packed in a presentation box together with your own personalised message. The flowers are then sent by 1st class post.

**We as a charity benefit directly from this service if one of their leaflets with our unique reference number is used.**

Please call in for a leaflet or ring 52 22 05 if you wish to use this very useful service.

Due to the funding obtained through Leader Plus to finance the position of  
Activities Co-ordinator,  
the Society continues to organise and run the extra clubs and services that are now available to you our clients.

### **Chiropody**

Why not visit the Chiropodist here at the centre

For just £10

Once a month on a Thursday afternoon  
Ring 52 22 05 to book an appointment

### **Bus Time Table in Large Print and CD**

Large print copies of individual route timetables are available from public libraries and from the Society. There is a small charge for this service.

After a successful trial, from the April timetable the talking bus timetable will be available to registered blind people who need it on CD only. If you are registered and would like your name added to the list to receive it please telephone the Society.

## **Wear Bright for Sight Day Friday 30th March**

Schoolchildren are being encouraged, in agreement with their school to support this day, by wearing really bright clothes instead of their uniform and donating money to the Society. Schools can also arrange to have a visit by a guide dog and its owner, who will give a talk to the children about life as a visually impaired person, thus providing young people with a worthwhile learning experience.

Also any adults who want to participate by introducing this annual event at their workplace and collecting £2 from their colleagues would be much appreciated.

Please contact Jane for details Tel: 52 22 05

### **Perkins Brailer**

**If you have one of our brailers will you please contact Jane on  
52 22 05**

### **A Farewell Message from Tony**

By the time you read this I shall have officially retired from my part-time post at the Society.

I have fond memories of my early years working as a Volunteer. I started in 1995 as one of the first six recruits in the Home-visiting scheme but my duties gradually grew as time went on. I remember one specific task I undertook— personally delivering over 500 Mugs to registered persons throughout the Island. These were for those clients who were unable to attend the Dinners we held at Westridge to celebrate the Society's Centenary. I went on to drive the Minibus on a regular basis and also managed to fit in taking weekly Braille and typing classes. I also assisted in running the social clubs held on Wednesday evenings.

At the turn of the Century I went on to the payroll on a part-time basis and during recent years have been mainly responsible for the production of Braille. Recently I have had great pleasure in creating a new Website for the Society— our window to the world!

I have enjoyed my 12 years association with the Society and have been totally committed during this time. I have always been so impressed with the

dedication of my fellow colleagues who have strived to give a service to the visually impaired people on the Island. Unfortunately, during the past few years, this has not been easy for them to achieve due to circumstances beyond their control. It was for this reason that I delayed my retirement. However, I am now happy and confident that we have turned the corner thanks to Peter Scott, who served as Acting Director during a very difficult time leading up to the appointment of Anne Watts our new Director. I am also pleased that Ian Attrill, our former Director, has been appointed Chairman of the Trustees with Brenda Lawson as deputy. I am sure you will find that they will give the Isle of Wight Society for the Blind, its staff and clients the guiding hand that has been absent for some time. I believe that the Society has the potential to become a shining example in the delivery of visual impairment services.

As you probably may gather the purchase of Millbrooke House has put a considerable strain on our finances. This was another factor I took into consideration when deciding to take early retirement as my salary can now be put towards the services we provide. It is not a great sum but every little helps!

I am also very honoured and pleased to have been appointed a Trustee as from 1st March 2007. I am hoping to put the experience I have gained to good use. I am certainly looking forward to this new challenge. I will also be coming in from time to time as a volunteer so I can continue with the production of Braille.

**My good wishes to you all—and thanks for the memories!**

**Tony Wood**