

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

From the Director's Chair

We seem to be set for a super sunny summer—or maybe this is it! Gardens all around look so dry already, but we can still use hoses to save the plants from wilting.

We have been presented with two oak benches to use on our patio. The work group at Albany prison have made a superb job of them and a photograph of the presentation will be given pride of place in the prison workshop. We have also been given two sturdy wooden tables to compliment our patio furniture. Hopefully the good weather will continue and we can make good use of this outdoor space.

The Friends of the Society continues to attract people from all walks of life who are interested in the work we do and the services we provide. We have managed to get our advertising leaflets into opticians across the whole country, so that will raise our profile across an even wider audience. Holiday makers who have sight impairments together with their families and friends could become “Friends” too! We are planning to close the clubs for the Summer recess from Monday 23rd July and restart the week beginning Monday 3rd September. This will give the small staff team an opportunity to catch up on all the jobs that need to be done in and around the centre. It is also an opportunity for our volunteers to take a well earned break from their valuable work.

Anne Watts

The Roman Villa—Brading

The management at the Roman Villa have asked us to invite visually impaired clients to visit the revamped Villa on Friday 25th May at 10 am. They would like your feedback on any other improvements that could be made to make a visit to the villa as enjoyable experience.

Contact Jane on 52 22 05 if you would like to attend.

Humanware and Optelec

If you missed our recent I T Day or would like to see again a particular item, both Humanware and Optelec will be here on

Monday 4th June from 10am to 3pm

With a selection of their latest equipment.

Keyboards

We now have Large Button Computer Keyboards in stock

Black on yellow keys or Black on white keys

For Sale

Special prices on Second hand items

Tel: 52 22 05

Aladdin CCTV Reader

Was £1300 Now **£200 o.n.o**

Expand Reading Aid

Enlarges on to TV only **£50**

Portset

Talking - Reading Machine **£150**

For Sale

**Tieman Reader
Colour CCTV**

Was £2500

Will accept £250

Tel: 866325

Computer Lessons

We are now arranging the next session of lessons. Unfortunately the funding from the I W Technical College has now run out so a charged of £80 for 10 lessons will be required.

Or why not try a 1/2 day taster session for £10.

If you are interested in either of these, please contact the Society. Tel: 52 22 05

R P News

You may have heard the recent good news that a treatment trial using gene therapy to halt a syndrome of RP called LCA is under way at Moorfields eye hospital. This is a very positive step along the way, which has taken the BRPS 30 years of funding to get to. In order for the RP group to do their bit to assist the work still

needed, they have put together the following events:

Sponsored Ride and Stride for Sight.

Sunday 24th June, to represent the shape of an eye, a group of people will be cycling round the coastal roads starting from Wight Offroad Cycles in Sandown. To represent the Iris the RP group together with striders and others will be walking around the Mill Trail (8 miles) leaving Millbrooke house at 11am and heading in an anti-clockwise direction.

To join in or for a sponsor form, see below.

Sponsored Hovercraft Flight for Sight.

On 10th Sept the RP fundraising manager, Colin McArthur, with a sighted pilot, will be taking the controls of the new hovercraft, due for service between Ryde and Portsmouth, to raise money for RP Fighting Blindness. Not only publicising the charity but also the RP weekend at Whitecliff Bay on 28th September.

For more details

Tel: Colin on 406661

Yoga Sessions

Every Tuesday Morning Here at the centre

Cost £3 per session Please ring 52 22 05

to book a place.

Diary Dates

West Wight

Coffee & Chat

End of the Line Café

Freshwater

Monday 28th May

Monday 25th Jun

Monday 30th July

10.30 to 12 noon

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

Niton Post Office

Coffee & Chat

Tuesday 5th Jun

Tuesday 3rd July

Tuesday 7th Aug

10 to 11.30am

Age Concern will also be there with advice.

Bembridge

Coffee & Chat

At The Cloisters

Tuesday 29th May

Tuesday 26th Jun

Tuesday 31st July

10.15 to 11.15pm

Ryde Coffee Morning

George Street Centre Ryde

Tuesday 8th May

Tuesday 12th June

Tuesday 10th July

10.30am till 12pm

Striders

25th May The Yar Trail part 1

29th June The Yar Trail part 2

27th July Ventnor Tunnel to Wroxall

Strollers

13th June Northwood Recreation Ground

17th July St Helens to Brading

Gadabouts

Nothing for May

8th June

13th July

Destinations to be confirmed

Information Fair

The Parish Hall

Town Lane, Newport

Monday 21st May

10am till 3pm

Volunteers Thank you Tea

Calling all volunteers, please don't forget to let us know if you would like to come to your special Thank you Cream Tea so numbers can be catered for.

Group Activities Dates

The Reminiscence Group

4th Tuesday of the month

May 22nd

Jun 26th

10.30 till 2.30pm

July—Aug No Club

Art and Craft Group

2nd Tuesday of the month

May 8th

June 12th

July 10th

10.30 till 2.30pm

Aug—Sept No Club

Games Club

1st Tuesday of the month

May 1st
June 5th
July 3rd

12.30 till 2.30pm

Aug—Sept No Club

MD Group

1st Monday of the Month

May 14th

June 11th

July 2nd

10.30 till 12pm

RP Group

2nd Monday of the Month

May 21st

June 18th

July 9th

10.30 till 12pm

If you are unable to attend the clubs for any reason
please ring Susan or Veronica on 52 22 05

Marks and Spencers Collection

A big Thank you to

Don Haver, George Hudson, Liz Tuckwell and Wenna,

Mark Atrill, Carla Nicholson, Jane & John Townsend
and Viv Booth who raised **£462.10**

Somerfields

Ryde

Another big Thank you to Don Haver, Mark Attrill,
Pat Pearce and Ann Robinson who collected
£108.51

If you would like to join the group of visually impaired
collectors please ring
Don Havers Tel: 616336
Your help would be very much appreciated.

The Marathon Diary

It had arrived - the 22nd April 2007, a date that had
been etched on my mind for the last 5 months! The day
when all the last few months of training would finally and
hopefully come into their own!

I had always wanted to run the London Marathon & after
my nanny, Alice Collinson died I hoped that one day I
would get a place and I could run for my own charity the
Isle of Wight Society for the Blind which I had been
involved with since I was a child through my nanny's
sight problems. I knew that the training was hard but
the reality over the last few months had been a
nightmare of running and exercise, come rain or shine,
piling on the miles trying to build up the stamina.

Standing at the start line in Blackheath was very

overwhelming. It would have to be the hottest one on record with road temps reaching 27.5 degrees, but the atmosphere was buzzing, a mixture of excitement and fear. As we set off I knew that here was the moment I had been waiting for and that this was it, no turning back.

The first few miles went quite well, and I got swept along with everyone else. The miles ticked along quite well at the start, but the heat was incredible. It wasn't until I crossed Tower Bridge that I really felt like I was in the marathon, as it was a sight they showed a lot on the TV. I could see the camera above me and joined everyone around me waving as we passed by. From then on it was just a case of plodding on looking out for the archways you went under that signalled another mile completed!

As I continued along, I told myself on a number of occasions to savour each moment. The crowds were truly amazing and the support was incredible. There were thousands of people lining the streets cheering you on, handing out jelly babies, slices of oranges, and even holding their garden sprinklers out for you to run under, to cool down. Pubs having street parties and live music every mile, the atmosphere was unbelievable, you really got a feeling of a city coming together in the name of charity.

The last 2 miles were the hardest as I was beginning to tire. Coming around in front of Buckingham Palace was memorable for one thing that was that there were only 200 meters left to go! It is amazing that whilst you feel

so tired, when you see that finish line you can seem to muster up this final burst of energy, not just so you look good when you cross the line but because you know that the quicker you cross the line the sooner it is over!!

And so for me crossing that line was a great feeling, an amazing rush of adrenaline, a euphoric feeling of achievement and yet an emotional overload that rushed through me with tears of relief and joy flooding down my face. I had actually done it. I clocked in at 6hrs 1min and 38secs but 30mins of this was queuing for the toilets on route.

Nikki Collinson

The Sponsorship Fund has not yet closed anyone who missed sponsoring this fantastic effort and would still like to do so, can. Please send donations to Nikki c/o The Isle of Wight Society for the Blind

Bus Time Table

A CD version

Costing £1 is available from the centre. Tel: 522205 to order your copy.

A very big Thank you is sent to David Rogers who supplied the information, Mr & Mrs Boffin who read it and Terry Mitchell for recording it and producing the CDs. Those who had already received their copy have said it is excellent. And very much appreciated.

St Mary's Hospital will now send your appointment letters in Braille if you are a Braille reader and would prefer this format.

Talking Radio Controlled Calendar Alarm Watch

The time and hands set automatically using the atomic clock signals.

£38.45

Easy to See TV Remote

Works with a wide variety of TV brands. Simple to use, controls the basic functions of your TV.

£12