

Vision North Somerset Newsletter

Registered Charity 270331 March 2016

Vision North Somerset Open Day: Tuesday 19th April 2016 - 10.30 am to 3.00 pm

Vision is again joining forces with Optelec to give our members an opportunity to try out the latest in electronic magnifiers. An Optelec leaflet is enclosed which tells you more about their most popular products.

Now that we have more space in The Bradbury Room we are also able to ask more colleagues to join us to showcase their products or services. So do come along and take the opportunity to find out what is available.

You can try out a demonstration of an exciting new product called OrCam MyEye. Difficult to describe, but great in practice; the OrCam MyEye is an intuitive portable device with a smart camera mounted on the frames of your spectacles. OrCam recognises text, products and people's faces. It speaks to you through a mini earpiece to describe what you are seeing. You can find out more at www.orcam.com.

Colleagues from Woodspring Talking News will be available to tell you about their weekly local news service. You can also find out if you qualify for a free radio, cassette or USB player from British Wireless for the Blind. Our own staff will be on hand in the Resource Centre to demonstrate equipment and there will

be an opportunity to find out more about our Karten IT project if your interests lie in computers and technology.

Coffee and Tea will be available throughout the day, but please note that there will be no parking at Neva Road. We will reserve an area for dropping people off and picking up only. The nearest car park is in Carlton Street and on street parking is often available nearby. If you are coming by train, we are a short 5 minute walk from the station.

We look forward to seeing you.

Living with Sight Loss: 2 Day course with Action for Blind People and Vision North Somerset

The course is designed to help people who have recently lost their sight, or those who are facing significant changes in their lives and need support in coming to terms with the issues they face because of sight loss.

Topics include the sight loss journey for the patient and an overview of services that are available to help. There are sessions on benefits and concessions, low vision, IT and mobility and also opportunities to find out about leisure options and peer support. An optometrist will be there to provide information about different eye conditions.

The Living with Sight Loss Course will take place at Vision premises in Neva Road on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th May from 10.15 to 4.00pm on each day. There is no charge for the course and lunch will be provided. Spaces are limited so if you are interested please speak to our Rehab Officer Nina Farr

on 01934 419393 in the first instance to find out if the course is suitable for you.

Comments from previous participants say:

“The course was excellent. It was inspiring. I will strongly recommend this to other people.”

“Everyone was very friendly and relaxed.”

“People have been great, very helpful and knowledgeable and I enjoyed the company of others on the course.”

Art and Crafts

Many visually impaired people enjoy a range of art and craft activities and we want to find out if you would like to try it too.

First of all we need to find out how many people might want to take part and what opportunities they would like us to consider. For example: painting, basketwork, mosaics or indeed anything that you fancy trying your hand at. The sessions would take place in the Bradbury Room at Neva Road on a day to be agreed. A session leader will provide the expertise and guidance.

Although we will seek funding for the materials and equipment we may need to make a small charge. Unfortunately we will not be able to provide transport.

If you would like to register your interest with a view to finding out more about this potential project please call Michele Blake on 01934 419393.

Look out for Summer

The summer activity for the Bradbury Room will be an event to showcase the work of Blind Veterans, Guide Dogs and other organisations working in the field of visual impairment. Details are in the process of being arranged and will be included in the June newsletter.

North Somerset Senior Community Links Event

Life starts at 50 for seniors in North Somerset. Join Senior Community Links (SCL) for their Annual Event on Wednesday 6th April at Somerset Hall, The Precinct, Portishead from 10.00 am to 3.30 pm.

Hear about what the digital world holds for older people, the future of health and social care in North Somerset and the issues facing people in rural areas. A panel of experts will be there to answer your questions and a range of information from service providers will be available. There is a free buffet lunch included to – so make sure you book your place by 25th March. Telephone 0300 123 2463 or email scl@curo-group.co.uk.

Senior Community Links: *“We’re a network of friendly people, aged from 50-100+ who get together to help make life great for older people across North Somerset.”*

Community Connect

Community Connect is a service offered free of charge for people over the age of 50 living in North Somerset who would like information, advice or guidance to help them stay living independently at home.

The service offers tailored support to help people to stay connected and active in their communities, including help to set up groups and activities that benefit the local area, opportunities to participate and learn a new skill and sign-posting to local services and agencies.

The service is run by Curo in partnership with the West of England Rural Network. Tel 01275 888 803 or

Email: communityconnect@curo-group.co.uk

Website: [www.curo-group.co.uk /communityconnect](http://www.curo-group.co.uk/communityconnect)

Annual Appeal

Vision North Somerset no longer has a membership fee. Instead we write to all of our 1.550 members every year to ask for an annual donation. We rely on this income to help us to continue to provide our charitable services which are so important to our members. In the current economic climate of savings and cutbacks it is getting more and more difficult to raise the money we need to keep our services running.

If you've received help from us and you would like to ensure that we can continue to provide help to other people in similar situations then please look at the enclosed leaflet and donate what you can.

Legacies

Legacies are becoming more and more important as a source of income for charities like Vision North Somerset.

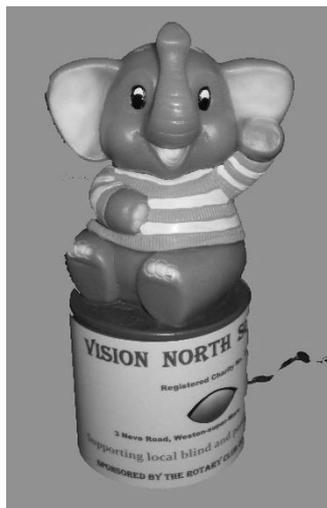
If you have been helped by Vision and would like to leave a lasting legacy to enable us to continue our good work, then please think of us in your will. Your legacy will make a

difference to local blind and partially sighted people living in North Somerset – just simply by keeping our daily activities running.

Pink Elephants

We would like to say thank you to our 10 members who have taken an elephant collection box and are feeding them regularly with spare change. Hungry elephants can collect £35 or more which is a great boost to our funds and greatly appreciated. If you would like to give an elephant collecting box a home then contact Michele on 01934 419393 or email: volunteers@visionns.org.uk

Thank you.



Please Give Me A Home!

Vision North Somerset

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