

Vision North Somerset Newsletter

Reg Charity 1165364

May 18

Thank you

We are grateful to the many members who donate throughout the year and to those who become Friends of Vision North Somerset and give on a regular monthly basis. Our annual appeal is an opportunity for everyone to contribute towards our charity to enable us to continue to provide services for people with sight loss in North Somerset.

Even if you are not currently receiving a service from us, perhaps we have helped you in the past. Please consider a donation so that we can continue to help other people in the future.

Our last Newsletter explained the difficult financial situation that our charity faces in this coming year and support from our members in donations and legacies is more important than ever.

This year we need to raise a massive £84,000

We want to continue to provide the whole range of support that we have always given to our members. Faced with budget reductions from the local authority and increased competition from other charities for grants, donations and legacies means that 2018/19 will be a difficult year for our charity.

We're trying very hard!

Our target for the Annual Appeal is £15,000, so please help us if you can. We will be trying to raise income in all sorts of other ways too, including: from town and parish councils; via our Elephant Collecting tins, by renting out the Bradbury Room and applications to trust funds. We will be working hard to reach that £84,000 total.

Big Lottery Fund

We have submitted our initial application to the Big Lottery Fund. A team of visually impaired people, staff and a trustee representative have worked together to develop our funding plan. We agreed that our best chance of success was to demonstrate partnership working with the RNIB. Colleagues Helen and Sam from the RNIB have provided invaluable advice and insight to support our application.

We are seeking three years of funding to provide a range of improved outreach services for our members and to improve opportunities for inclusion and connection with local communities.

We should hear in a couple of weeks whether or not we have got through the first round. However, it will take 9 to 12 months before we know the final outcome.

Trust Fund Applications

Michele, our Voluntary Services Coordinator continues to work hard in making funding applications, and recent successes include:

- Santander: £5,000

- Quartet Foundation: £3,843
- Austin & Hope Pilkington Trust: £1,000

We are still waiting to hear from Lloyds Foundation and Michele is currently working on an application to the Garfield Weston Foundation.

Thank you to:

Marks and Spencer's staff who carried out a range of fund raising activities to support us as their charity of the year. They raised a massive £2,511.

Thank you also to Moose International (Weston super Mare) for their £300 donation and to our friends at Clevedon Bowling Club who have recently donated £2,500.

We really are grateful to everyone for supporting Vision North Somerset.

A huge thank you to Caroline

Caroline is the daughter of one of our members and she chose to support Vision North Somerset by running the London Marathon.

Caroline completed the run successfully and has raised £1,748 in sponsorship, a great effort on a really hot day! We really appreciate Caroline's support. Thank you.

Team Gooding!

Huge thanks to Paul Gooding, his daughter Millie and 12 office colleagues who are running the Great Bristol Half Marathon on 23rd September to raise funds for us. Good luck to the team.

Wing Walk

Two of our intrepid volunteers Julie and Katherine are taking up the ultimate challenge of Wing Walking to raise money for our charity. They will be strapped to a biplane and whisked off into the air.

The event will take place at an airfield near Cirencester on 14th August. Julie and Katherine both say they are looking forward to it! If you fancy a try I am sure there is always room for one more!

Back on terra firma the other option is to show your support with a donation.

Sponsorship

We are absolutely delighted that people are willing to support us by taking up a challenge. We hope that you appreciate it too and support their efforts with the sponsorship they deserve. You can give by sending in a cheque, dropping cash into the Resource Centre or giving online at:

<https://localgiving.org/donation/visionnorthsomerset>

Please encourage friends and family to support our heroes too.

Humanware

Humanware provide assistive technology equipment to help make life easier for people with sight loss.

Come along to our open session at the Rendezvous Café at 2.00pm on Thursday 21st of June, to find out what it's all about and give it a try.

Stuart from Humanware will bring along a range of audio listening devices, electronic magnifiers and Trekker Breeze the

all in one hand held talking GPS! Humanware offer easy payment terms which make the purchase of their products more easily achievable.

New Equipment Officer for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People

We were sorry to say goodbye to James Selway, our Equipment Officer for Deaf People who left us at the end of April to start his own decorating business. A big thank you to James for his hard work over the past seven years.

We welcome Dave Raby who will be taking over from James. Dave can be contacted on 01934 419393 if you have hearing problems and need any advice about equipment such as door bells, telephones and TV loops.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

You may have heard about this on the news. The rules about how and why we hold data and how long we hold it for are changing. This isn't just for Vision North Somerset but for all organisations throughout the country.

We want to tell you that we have everything in place to ensure that we comply with the new regulations.

We will continue to hold information about you under a term called Legitimate Interest. We think this is the best option for Vision North Somerset and for you, the service user, so you do not need to repeat information about yourself every time you want a service from us. It also helps that we have a record of

any support that we have already provided to you so that we do not have to start all over again.

The GDPR means that individuals have rights regarding the data we hold and these are clearly laid out in our Privacy Policy. The Privacy Policy is available on our website, or we would be happy to send you a copy in an appropriate format, if you wish.

It is important that people are aware that they have the right to 'opt out'. This means that you can tell us that you do not want us to hold any data about you at all. However, this also means you will not receive any communication from us in the future and we will not be able to contact you about appointments, open days or any other relevant information. If you choose, you can just opt out of receiving our newsletter, but we will still hold data about you for other purposes.

These changes need not affect you at all. Vision North Somerset does not and will not sell or share your data with anyone, other than allied health or social care professionals and then only with your agreement. However, if you do want to opt out please contact Celia Henshall and this will be arranged for you.

Vision North Somerset

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