

# Vision North Somerset Newsletter

Registered Charity 1165364

September 18

## Me and My iPhone

My name is Hanna and I have virtually no sight. Never in a million years did I think I would be able to use an iPhone properly, and most importantly, be able to master some of the apps which are so amazingly useful to blind people like me.

I joined the Karten IT group at Vision and was matched with a volunteer called Jo. She is an absolute expert on the iPhone and what it can do, and because she is visually impaired too I felt that I could really believe what she was telling me.

The whole thing was amazing. After only a few free sessions I was confident in using the iPhone to make calls, using text to speech and using Siri – a built in feature that I can ask to make phone calls, play music or connect me to the internet. I love the calendar function which sets off an alarm to remind me of any appointments or events – no danger of me missing any important dates now!

I feel so liberated, so much more independent, and also very proud to have mastered this skill. I'm much more confident now so I'm going on to learn how to use my tablet – and if I can do it I'm sure that anyone can.

Here's a photo of our IT students learning to use tablets and phones!



## **Information Technology Open Day**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October – 11am to 2pm**

This is an opportunity to find out more about IT and what it can do for you. If you have been inspired by Hanna's success, here is your opportunity to find out more.

Our event will be structured to provide presentations about the range of IT options available, demonstrations of different types of iPhone, iPads, analogue phones, tablets and desktop computers. There will be opportunities for you to try out equipment and discuss with our specially trained volunteers and staff what might suit you as an individual.

We have limited our event to 20 people, to ensure that we can give time to everyone. A light lunch will be provided and we aim for a friendly, relaxed day which provides you with an opportunity to learn from other people with sight loss just what a difference IT can make to creating and maintaining independence.

Please contact Nina Farr on 01934 419393 by the 12<sup>th</sup> October to book your place.

## **Visionary WOW Nomination**

Our IT project is offered in partnership with the RNIB, who provide the technical expertise and training for our volunteers. The equipment that our learners use in their IT sessions is funded by the Karten Information Technology Trust. This is a great way of different organisations using their individual areas of excellence to come together to deliver a very worthwhile project.

We are delighted to announce that this innovation has been shortlisted for an award by Visionary, the national organisation for charities supporting people with sight loss. Awards will be presented at the Visionary Conference in October.

## **Big Lottery Fund**

A great deal of work has been going on behind the scenes to prepare our application to the Big Lottery Fund. Many thanks to everyone who has helped us by attending a Focus Group, or by responding to our email questionnaire.

Our application has four distinct areas which will enable us to increase our support further to visually impaired people in North Somerset:

1. Outreach Service
2. Digital Outreach
3. Connect ME
4. Buddy Volunteering

All four strands of our project have come about from the input of our service users. They will work with existing services to help us to reach more people, offer IT at home for people unable to travel to our centre and will connect people to their communities –either online or with face to face activities. We are also keen to develop volunteering opportunities for people with sight loss, by offering a buddy to help them take those difficult first steps into a different environment.

Some of these innovative ideas will be delivered in partnership with the RNIB and they are keen to support our application to the Big Lottery.

We hope to submit our application by November, but it will be several months before we know the outcome.

## **Sponsored Events**

Volunteers have raised a massive £2,284 in sponsorship since April this year. We are really grateful for their endeavors and hope that they had fun and enjoyed their activities which did such a great job in raising funds.

Thanks to:

- Caroline - London marathon: £1277
- Julie -Wing walk: £464
- Katherine - Wing walk: £165.
- Team Gooding - Bristol half marathon: £377 and counting!

Money is still coming in and we can also claim gift aid on many of these donations - a massive thank you to all!

## **A Gift In Lieu of Flowers**

Many thanks to people who think of donating to Vision North Somerset in lieu of funeral flowers. We consider this a real privilege.

Please make sure you mention Vision North Somerset to the funeral director as donations are sometimes sent to RNIB by mistake.

## **Glamsticks**

Fab, funky and glitzy – impress the rest with bejeweled or colourful long canes or walking sticks. There are many designs to choose from and Glamsticks make a real statement. They also make ideal Christmas or birthday gift for she who has everything!

Visit [www.glamsticks.co.uk](http://www.glamsticks.co.uk) to find out more about this unusual and fun idea. Mention Vision North Somerset for a 10% discount on your order.

## **Annual General Meeting**

We look forward to welcoming you to our Annual General Meeting, which will take place at Neva Road on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

Coffee / tea will be available at 2:00pm and the meeting will start promptly at 2:15pm.

Our AGM is a formal meeting where members are asked to vote for trustees standing for election. The Chairman reports on the year's activities, the Treasurer presents his Finance Report and auditors are appointed.

In accordance with our constitution, two thirds of current trustees must resign. They may stand for re-election if they wish. Georgina Pinkerton has resigned and does not wish to stand for re-election. Trustees Sue Pinnock and Marie Mackle both wish to stand for re-election. We also have two new trustees co-opted during the year who will stand for full election at the AGM. They are Trish Rolph and Kam Govind.

There will be an opportunity to visit the Resource Centre after the close of the AGM. If you would like to come along to the meeting please complete and return the bottom part of the enclosed form, or ring and let us know.

## **Do You Use Email?**

Almost 200 people receive our newsletter and other correspondence via email. If you would like to take up this

option, please send your email address to [info@visionns.org.uk](mailto:info@visionns.org.uk)  
– we will not share this information with any other organisation.

## **Torch Trust**

Torch Trust for The Blind is a Christian organisation. The Weston branch meets on the third Saturday of the month, starting at 3pm.

Members are encouraged to talk about what they have been doing, how they are feeling, and share any good news stories. A home cooked tea of sandwiches and cakes is provided and transport can be arranged.

Contact Cathy Martin on 01934 416051 for more details.

**Vision North Somerset**

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