

ActiveEyes – February 2020

Good News

Southampton Sight announced as Port of Southampton's (ABP) Charity of the Year 2020

We have been chosen as charity of the year following a vote by ABP employees. Each year ABP in Southampton selects a single charity to give staff a focus for their fundraising efforts during the year. Charities who have a strong presence in Southampton or Hampshire are nominated by employees and then all employees are given the chance to vote for their preferred charity.

Southampton Sight CEO Jackie Powers said: "It's an absolute privilege to be chosen by ABP employees as their Charity of the Year. We have been delivering services for people living with sight loss in Southampton since 1899 and we look forward to a wonderful partnership with ABP as we continue to make a difference in the city in 2020."

Regional Director for ABP in Southampton Alastair Welch, said: "It is a pleasure to announce Southampton Sight as our new charity of the year. They were nominated by a member of our team who has a close link to the charity which makes it an even more poignant choice. Our team has a strong history of fundraising and we're looking forward to working with Southampton Sight throughout the year."

National Lottery Funding

The National Lottery is going to fund Southampton Sight. We secured £291,900 over 5 years for core services and to develop a Volunteer and Apprenticeship Programme. This is very exciting news and we will be starting this project in April 2020.

Raffles

Thank you to everyone who bought tickets for our Summer and Christmas raffles. We raised over £2,500.

The first prize for the summer raffle was a lunch for 4 people on the Queen Victoria. This was won by the Nash family who said “We had a really amazing time, and everything was perfect, from the drive there to the hospitality, and the delicious food. Our visit to the ship ended by listening to a wonderful choir singing carols in the atrium of the ship. We really could not praise the whole experience enough. Special thanks to Michelle for hosting the day and Snows Group for providing the transport.”

Our prize for the Christmas raffle was a 7-day cruise for 2 and this was won by Jane Cookson, who attends Tai Chi and the Monday Afternoon Group. She is currently choosing her trip but was very excited by her win.

Unwanted presents and raffle prizes

As many of you know raffles are very important at Southampton Sight. If you have any unwanted presents or anything suitable for a raffle prize we would love to have them.

Fundraising

At Southampton Sight we are always very grateful for our fundraisers who go out of their way to raise funds for the Society. Special thanks to our regular bucket collectors who give up their Saturdays on a monthly basis at Haskins. We also have pots out and about in pubs and shops and many of you raise funds for us over the year. Thank you for your sterling efforts.

In April this year Richard Fielder will be running the London Marathon to raise funds for Southampton Sight. The marathon will be the finish of his pledge to run 500 miles. Richard has a long history with the Society as his grandfather was blind and chairman of the Society. His uncle, Ron, remembers delivering the newsletter by bicycle across the city in his teenage years (more than 50 years ago) and still volunteers for the Society. Many of you will also know Angela, Richard's mother, who works for Southampton Sight. What a legacy...and thank you Richard. If you would like to sponsor Richard the link to his page is on our website and Facebook pages.

Cost of Social Activities

This is the time of year when we review our budgets going forward. Over the last few years we have worked very hard to increase our offer at the social activities that we run at the centre. This has resulted in increased attendees at all our groups and with this has increased their viability. We have also been successful with some funding from the Co-op Community Fund to pay for the entertainment and so will **NOT** be increasing our fees this year.

Jackie Powers CEO

Dates for your Diaries

We are celebrating **VE DAY** at Southampton Sight

Date: **Saturday 2nd May**

Time: **11.30am – 2.30pm**

Music: **Amanda Parsons singing the ‘old tunes’**

Lunch: **Hog Roast and Trifle**

Tickets: **£10 (if you require transport £8 donation)**

If you would like to come please book your ticket.

Tickets are limited to 80.

Low Vision Equipment Day – Wednesday 19th February

On Wednesday 19th February we will be holding a Low Vision Equipment Day in association with Visionaid Technologies.

Individual appointments lasting 20 minutes will be available between 10am and 1pm. Please phone Sonia or Gail on 023 8076 9882 to book your appointment time.

In the afternoon Ben will be demonstrating the latest gadgets to our Wednesday Social Group. New members are welcome to join the group for the afternoon to see a demonstration of the latest range of digital handheld magnifiers, transportable video magnifiers and wearables. If you'd like to come and need transport then give Sonia or Gail a call on 023 8076 9882.

Activities in February 2020

For more information about any of our activities or to book a place, please ring **Sonia, Gail or Maria on 023 8076 9882**. We can arrange transport if needed.

Monday Tai Chi – Every week between 11.30am and 12.15pm.

Monday Activity Group – Weekly activities including mini bridge every Monday at 1.30pm. On **Monday 3rd February** we will have musical entertainment from **Brian Budden** on the keyboard.

Wednesday Social Group – Every week at 1.30pm. The activities for this month are:

5th **Rev Jill Bentall** will be here for a talk entitled **Yes I remember it well!**

12th **New Tricks** will be entertaining us at our **Valentines Tea Party** with a variety of songs

19th **Low Vision Equipment Demonstration** by **Ben Ross** from **Visionaid Technologies**

26th Join **Maria** for our monthly **Craft Session**

The Friday Lunch Club will meet on the first Friday of the month, **7th February** for a home cooked meal of **Cottage Pie** followed by **Raspberry Puff and Custard**. Phone Maria or Gail to book a place.

The Creative Writing Salon will be meeting on **Friday 28th** at 10.00am.

Book Group will meet on the **28th** at 1.00pm. They will be discussing **Absent Friends** by **Gillian Lancscott**.

The Children and Young People's Group will be having a **Pottery Workshop at the Centre** on **Saturday 8th February**. Phone Sonia or Maria for further details and to book your places.

Southampton Sight

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