



**Southampton Sight**  
supporting people living with sight loss

November 2021

# News Bulletin

Dear All

Southampton Sight exists to support people living with sight loss in Southampton and as we move forward it is important that we are providing the services and support that you want. Over the coming weeks and months, I look forward to hearing your views as we work to improve our services. There is a great opportunity to build on the pre-pandemic work of Southampton Sight to create a service that keeps the best of the old but adds new services that better support you.

For us to do this we must hear what you want and need. Whenever we get feedback, we discuss it and respond as best we can - so please contact us with your views as it will help us inform the future support services of Southampton Sight.

**Jackie Powers – Chief Executive**

## **E-Scooters**

Southampton City Council Local Authority is currently trialing the use of rental E-Scooters around Southampton in partnership with the micro-mobility company 'Voi'. These e-scooters are legal and are being monitored to ensure safe use. They are different from privately owned E-Scooters, which are illegal to ride in public spaces. The Voi publicly owned rental scooters can be identified by their pink colour, black accents and the 'Voi' logo printed in white on the body of the scooter.

If you encounter a problem with one of the Voi scooters or see them being used in an inappropriate manner, you can report it by email to [support@voiapp.io](mailto:support@voiapp.io) or phone 0800 3768179 or via their website [www.voiscooters.com/report/uk](http://www.voiscooters.com/report/uk)

If you are concerned about the use of illegal privately owned E-scooters, you can use the following website to contact your Local MP [www.e-activist.com/page/71562/](http://www.e-activist.com/page/71562/) or you can call the RNIB helpline on 0303 123 9999 and they will fill out the form over the phone.

## **Talking Books through Alexa**

RNIB have announced you will now be able to get RNIB Talking Books available through an Amazon Smart Speaker. If you have an Alexa enabled device you will be able to access 33,000 audio Talking Books for free, by saying “Alexa open RNIB Talking Books.” You need to register with RNIB online library and have an Amazon account to which your Alexa device is registered. For more information phone 0303 123 9999.

## **Anna’s Blog**

During the lockdown and it is now nearly coming to two years. We all have been through the pandemic and during this time I have been thinking of ways to encourage and uplift people. During this very long period, I had inspiration to write some poems. Here are two of them that I have written.

### **There is hope**

There is hope  
How did you cope?  
Did you wash your hands with soap?

Clubs and pubs will open  
Doors will open wide  
Shops and shopping malls will reopen  
So there’s no need for a commotion!

As we wait for lift off  
Hold on tight as we take off  
Hold on to this hope we have  
In a rocket as we blast off.

### **My home bubble**

At home what can I do?  
There are so many things I can do.  
The piano needs to be played  
Projects to attend, books can't write themselves.  
So this is me in my home bubble.

Potting around in the garden  
Racking up the moss  
Weeding out the weeds  
How does your garden grow!!

Taking fresh air  
Running and also flossing  
Plenty of things to do  
In my back garden.

My home bubble will be burst  
When we get lift off  
I can't wait to get out again  
Back to a normal life.

Now, regarding my thoughts on coming back to Southampton Sight after a very long time: it has been great to be back and to be able to help out in the office and enjoy doing all the little jobs that I used to do here. It is great to see people again and able to rejoin and help out with the Monday group.

*Anna (volunteer on Mondays)*

## Annual General Meeting – Monday 6th December 2021

You will shortly receive a separate invitation to our 2021 Annual General Meeting which will take place virtually on Monday 6th December 2021 at 6pm. This will involve ZOOM or an opportunity to take part by telephone.

### Dial a Ride

SCA Transport provide the Dial a Ride service on behalf of Southampton City Council. It is a dedicated transport service to help you if you are unable to use mainstream public transport. It is for people of all ages, living in Southampton. SCA Transport have specially adapted vehicles that can carry wheelchairs and seated passengers for journeys anywhere within the Southampton City boundaries.

The Dial a Ride bookings can be taken between 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 10.30am on Saturday. Vehicle operating times are between 9am to 5pm Mondays to Saturdays. **Please Call 023 8022 2289 to book**

An answering machine is available outside of normal office hours.

Fares depend upon your destination and if it is a single or return trip.

JOURNEY TYPE	SINGLE	RETURN
Up to 3 miles	£2.50	£4.50
Over 3 miles and up to 6 miles	£3.50	£6.00
Over 6 miles	£4.00	£7.00

There is no charge to become a member of Dial a Ride but you must complete the membership application form:

<https://sciagroup.co.uk/transport-services-southampton/dial-a-ride/registration-form/>

## Free transport to vaccination and medical appointments

Free transport is available for people living in Southampton aged 50+ or who are clinically vulnerable, have learning disabilities, a mental health condition or are unpaid carers.

- Free transport from Southampton General Hospital to home
- Free transport to hospital appointments
- Free transport to GP appointments
- Free transport to COVID-19 vaccinations

Telephone: 023 8022 2033 or Email: [dialaride@sciagroup.co.uk](mailto:dialaride@sciagroup.co.uk)

## Christmas Cards

We have a small stock of the following Christmas cards remaining:

Happy Snowmen & The Village Choir. Cards cost £4.50 for a pack of ten.

Please contact us on (023) 8076 9882 to place your order.



## 2022 Diaries and Calendars

Don't forget to order your 2022 diaries and calendars.

The A6 Pocket Diary costs £7.00; A5 Midi Diary costs £9.00 and A4 Desk Diary costs £11.00. The A3 Portrait Wall Calendar costs £8.00 and A3 Landscape Wall Calendar costs £9.00.

Please contact us on (023) 8076 9882 to place your order.

## Christmas Party – 11th December 2021

We are very much looking forward to a big get together and have booked Saturday 11th December between 11.30am and 2.30pm for Christmas canapes and drinks with 'New Tricks' to entertain you all. Admission is Free and transport can be provided for £8.00 return. Please contact Sonia or Angela on **023 8076 9882** if you would like to come.

### And finally ...

Please can we remind you that **BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL** if you want to attend any of our social groups.

- **Monday Activity Group** – every Monday from 11.30am to 2.30pm (includes a light lunch)
- **Wednesday Social Group** – every Wednesday from 11.30am to 2.30pm (includes a light lunch)
- **Creative Writing** – fourth Friday of each month from 10am to 12pm
- **Audio Book Group** – fourth Friday of each month from 1pm to 3pm

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### Southampton Sight

**3A Bassett Avenue, Southampton, SO16 7DP**

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**Text:** 07521 514 792    **Website:** [www.southamptonsight.org.uk](http://www.southamptonsight.org.uk)

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