



Southampton Sight
supporting people living with sight loss

August 2022

News Bulletin

Greetings everyone and welcome to the August edition of the News Bulletin. I am sure that you will agree that July was a swelter with Britain experiencing some of the highest temperatures since records began. For those who don't like the heat just remember Autumn is just around the corner.

Meet The Trustees

As arbiters and advocates for Southampton Sight and its members, the trustees are a vital constant within the charity. But who are these mysterious entities who keep us staff in line? Time to meet the trustees...

Howard Fair

Entrusted with the prominent role of the Chair of Trustees, Howard has been an indispensable lynchpin at Southampton Sight since 2017. A qualified chartered accountant, he has been an international finance director and a commercial director in the advertising industry, before retiring, early. Since then, he has been the finance commissioner at Yarmouth, Isle of Wight harbour Trust Port, and then non-executive finance director with Cowes Yacht Haven.



However, Howard is no stranger to sight loss. Diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, he has been visually impaired since 2015. He is effectively mono-sighted and has been left with restricted peripheral vision.

Howard is especially keen in promoting the activities that bring awareness to fully sighted adults and children. He is passionate in the belief that helping to break down barriers and redefine the notion of what it is to be visually impaired can only help those living with sight loss to lead full and fulfilling lives.

Tom McInulty

One of the more well-known trustees, Tom has been a prominent figure in the V.I. community for many a year, having lost his sight in a shockingly dramatic and devastating fashion. After celebrating his 31st birthday as a carefree, normally sighted man, he awoke to the shocking realisation that his sight had gone. In a rare and irreversible reaction to the trace



amounts of cyanide found in alcohol, his optic nerves had been damaged, leaving him with only the blurred light perception he woke up with.

Since then, Tom has rebuilt his life from the bottom up, embracing his new reality and overcoming the physical and mental obstacles it raised. Retraining both in career and mindset, Tom inspires others with his journey. Speaking to the Southampton Echo, “A disability can become an ability, it made me... discover things that I hadn’t even known about myself and my interests. When you get to the point where you can concentrate on the things you can do and aren’t harping on any more about the things you can’t, that’s a turning point.”

Having worked for a number of sight loss charities, within the eye clinic to support those newly diagnosed, and initiated V.I. groups throughout the country, Tom is more than qualified in all matters relating to visual impairment and has been a true asset here at Southampton Sight since 1992.

Fundraising

We would like to share with you the ways in which people have helped and can continue to help with fundraising for Southampton Sight. These include raffles, donations, legacies, 100 Club along with sponsored events, running, walking, head shaving, car washing, cake sales the list is endless. So many of you have helped, thank you so much for your support.

Platinum Jubilee Raffle

Thank you to everyone who entered our Platinum Jubilee Raffle. Here are the winners:

1st Prize	£250.00	5020	Mary Adams
2nd Prize	£100.00	9320	Caroline Lloyd
3rd Prize	£50.00	6651	Sam Pearman

100 Club Lottery

Thank you to all of you who have joined our 100 Club Lottery for a chance of a monthly cash prize. Here is a list of our most recent winners.

June Draw			
1st Prize	£35.00	105	Nick Thornton
2nd Prize	£24.50	98	Martin Lever
3rd Prize	£10.50	84	Freda Beeching

July Draw			
1st Prize	£35.00	94	Jackie Powers
2nd Prize	£24.50	49	Joyce Smith
3rd Prize	£10.50	17	Jane Cookson

Cruising To Sunnier Shores - Sailing with The Solent Dolphin

Crewed and maintained by the Solent Dolphin charity, a wholly self-funded endeavour, the small but determined organisation provide boat trips for the disabled, as well as hot drinks and biscuits, a welcome addition given the as ever fickle British summertime. Despite the gloom, spirits were high as members from Southampton Sight, along with representatives of the Sensory Services, all boarded the Alison McGregor, ship-shape and Bristol fashion.

Our journey took us to the cruise liner berths where we experienced close encounters with some of the Solent's huge behemoths. At last, the rain eased, and the sun began to threaten an appearance as the Alison McGregor was passed by both Red Funnel and Hythe ferries creating quite the wake. As we bobbed our way along the causeway, we took a quick look at Marchwood military port before retracing our route back down the Solent, turning to travel up the river Itchen as far as the Northam bridge. On the return we popped into Ocean Village marina for a look at the boats before a quick blast across the Solent had us in the Hythe marina lock and back on the berth by lunchtime.

Founded off the back of a tragic loss of life in the Clapham rail disaster some thirty years ago, the eponymously named Alison McGregor helps bring joy and optimism to those who need reminding of the beauty of simple pleasures. A massive thank you to the staff and crew of Solent Dolphin who worked tirelessly to make our day an occasion to remember.

Southampton Sight

3A Bassett Avenue, Southampton, SO16 7DP

Tel: 023 8076 9882 **Email:** support@southamptonstight.org.uk

Text: 07521 514 792 **Website:** www.southamptonstight.org.uk

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