



The Parkside Centre  
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Outwood  
Wakefield WF1 2PN  
Tel: 01924 215555  
Website: [www.wdsa.org.uk](http://www.wdsa.org.uk)

## **Hello everyone and welcome to our Spring newsletter!**

I am pleased to write with news that we are now up to full staff once more! I am delighted to welcome Jo Brook, our new Community Coordinator, and Nic Ford, our new Sight Loss Advisor, to the team.

Jo says, "I am excited to be joining this friendly team at the start of a new chapter, as the charity redevelops its service and networks to inspire and support visually impaired people across the Wakefield communities."

Nic says, "I am a qualified Dispensing Optician, with over 20 years' experience in the industry. I am really looking forward to bringing this knowledge to the role of Sight Loss Advisor and looking at how we can work together to ensure we make Wakefield District Sight Aid the best it can be."

I am also very happy to tell you that Bev, who has been our Service Administrator for a number of years and is the lynchpin of everything we do at Wakefield District Sight Aid, has achieved a well-deserved promotion and is now our Operations Manager. This reflects Bev's hard work supporting our members and overseeing our services, and her meticulous management of our daily processes and procedures that keep us running smoothly. During the next few months, Bev is going to be working more closely with me to look at everything we do and developing a plan for how we grow the charity in the coming years. I'm sure you will all join me in congratulating Bev on her new position.

With warm wishes for a very happy Easter,

Hayley

## **Wakefield District Sight Aid – charity news**

### **Data Protection – the information we hold about you**

You may be aware that the law concerning personal data is changing. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into force on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. GDPR will update the law on data privacy as the world has changed so much since the Data Protection Act 1998 came into force.

Because you receive this newsletter, and you may have received other services or support from us, we will hold certain personal details about you. You have the right to know what details we hold for you, and to ask for any of your information to be removed from our database at any time. Please get in touch if you would like to discuss the information we hold.

### **Fundraising news**

This quarter we have received some very generous donations from friends and members in memoriam of people sadly passed away and in recognition of the services we provide. Thank you for your support.

We would also like to thank the following organisations:

- St. Andrew's Church and Three Lane Ends Academy, who raised £86 and £45 respectively in lieu of sending Christmas cards.
- Trinity Methodist Church, who raised £95 at a recent coffee morning.
- Asda Wakefield Superstore, who donated refreshments for use at our outreach events.

Did you know that you can collect FREE funds for us every time you shop online, including Amazon and eBay? Visit the link below to start raising donations for us every time you shop online with over 3,300 retailers – it won't cost you a penny: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/wdsa/>

### **Historical figures quiz – (thanks to Jack and Pam Reynolds)**

1. Which great Welshman became prime minister in 1916?
2. Who ruled Jordan from 1953 until his death in 1999?
3. For what crime was Al Capone finally jailed?
4. Who married Linda Eastman in 1969?
5. With which Christian sect was William Penn associated?
6. In which year was Abraham Lincoln assassinated?

7. On which Royal Navy ship did Charles Darwin voyage to South America in the 1830s?
8. In 1963 Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman to go where?
9. Horatio Nelson was born in which county?
10. Who was executed at Fotheringay Castle in 1587?

The answers are at the end of the newsletter.

### **Sight loss news**

#### **Robin Christopherson MBE speaks at the House of Commons**

On Wednesday 31st January Robin Christopherson MBE, Head of Digital Inclusion at AbilityNet, was asked to give evidence to a House of Commons select committee about how digital technology can help reduce barriers in the workplace for people with disabilities.

Robin, who is blind, is a great example of someone who uses technology to lead a busy professional life that takes him all around the world. He is also a brilliant advocate for the ways in which digital technology can help people of all abilities to achieve their goals. Robin addressed a panel of fifteen MPs and shared his knowledge as an IT expert.

You can watch Robin's talk on the parliamentlive.tv website – Robin's panel begins at 10:24am: <https://tinyurl.com/y8mocmuy>

#### **First-ever 'guide horse' trained to help blind journalist**

Britain's first-ever guide horse has been given to a blind journalist as campaigners battle for the animals to be allowed on planes and in restaurants.

Digby, an American miniature horse, is being trained as an assistance animal for Mohammed Salim Patel, 23, a journalist for the BBC, who is visually impaired and afraid of dogs.

Digby's owner Katy Smith is pushing for greater rights for those who rely on the horses as an alternative to the more traditional guide dogs. The horses are common in the United States but Digby is believed to be the first in training to work as an assistance animal in the UK.

Daily Telegraph (6<sup>th</sup> February 2018): <https://tinyurl.com/ycwkn4l7>

## **Voting and elections**

The right to vote independently, and in secret, is a cornerstone of our democracy. Yet blind and partially sighted people continue to face unacceptable barriers to exercising their democratic right to vote, says the RNIB. Its latest report, Turned Out 2017, reveals that only one in four blind and partially sighted voters felt the current system let them vote independently and in secret.

You can access the report, and find out more about your rights, on the RNIB website here: <https://tinyurl.com/ycz2cabm>

## **Dates for your diary**

Our next **Equipment Demonstration and Advice Day** runs from 10.30am – 2pm on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March** at the Parkside Centre, Outwood. We will be joined by colleagues from Wakefield & District Society for Deaf People and RNIB's Assistive Technology service, so do come along and have a chat with them about the support they offer. There will also be a Clearance table and a "free to a good home" table at this event so have a rummage through the equipment on offer and grab a bargain!

We also have a number of items of equipment for sale that can be ordered from us directly if you can't make it to Demo Days. Please see the list at the end of this newsletter.

Forthcoming Demo Days: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June and Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

## **Coffee mornings:**

Parkside Centre, Outwood: Mondays 9<sup>th</sup> April, 4<sup>th</sup> June

Cluntergate Centre, Horbury: Tuesdays 10<sup>th</sup> April, 8<sup>th</sup> May, 12<sup>th</sup> June

St. Giles' Centre, Pontefract: Saturdays 14<sup>th</sup> April, 19<sup>th</sup> May, 16<sup>th</sup> June

**NEW! Eastmoor lunch and friendship group:** Mondays 16<sup>th</sup> April, 21<sup>st</sup> May, 18<sup>th</sup> June 11.30am – 1.30pm at the Café on the Moor, St. Swithun's Centre, Arncliffe Road, Wakefield WF1 4RR. Join us for a low cost lunch, with the option of joining in with other activities at the Centre afterwards.

From time to time we review our community outreach activities, in terms of what we offer and improving our service to you. We have enclosed a

brief survey with this newsletter. Your feedback is vital to make sure our services are tailored to what our members really want and need. We should be really grateful if you would fill this in, irrespective of whether you've attended any of our events in the past, and return it to us in the enclosed envelope. For our members who receive this newsletter on USB, CD or in Braille, please feel free to call the office and we would be happy to complete the survey with you over the phone. Thank you for your help with developing this important part of our work.

### **Annual General Meeting (AGM):**

Our AGM will be held in the Church Hall at the Parkside Centre on **Monday 14th May 2018**. Refreshments will be available from 10.00am and the meeting will start at 10.30am. All are welcome; for catering purposes please contact us in the office if you are planning to attend.

### **Forthcoming external events** – come and join us at the these events:

**Pensioners' Fair organised by Andrea Jenkyns MP** – 10am - 4pm on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March at Wrenthorpe Methodist Church Hall, Wrenthorpe Road, Wakefield WF2 0JR. Local charities, services, clubs and businesses will be there to provide free advice and information to the more mature people in our community.

**Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing Event** - 12noon – 2.30pm on Wednesday 28th March at St. Swithun's Community Centre, Arncliffe Road, Wakefield WF1 4RR. There will be plenty of stalls, activities and workshops to get involved with at this free event.

**Wakefield Deaf & Hard of Hearing Support Service Exhibition** - 9am – 6pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May at The Ridings Shopping Centre, Wakefield WF1 1DS. A free exhibition of support services available to local people to coincide with Deaf Awareness Week.

### **Other groups, schemes and events of interest**

**Wakefield Macular Support Group** – 1pm – 3pm on the first Tuesday of every month at the Elizabethan Gallery, Brook Street, Wakefield WF1 1QW. Meetings are open to anyone affected by central vision loss. Family, friends and carers welcome. Contact Alan: 01924 372180.

**Pontefract & District Live at Home Scheme** – supporting independence for older people. You can choose the services that best suit you and staff

and volunteers will always be there to help with questions and concerns. The services available include (but are not limited to):

- Befriending
- Supported shopping
- Transport to and from appointments
- Trips out and tours
- Arts and crafts
- Social afternoons
- Luncheon clubs on Tuesdays and Wednesdays
- Gentle exercise
- Personal advocacy and information

A charge will be made for activities. To find out more, please call 01977 695006 (an answerphone service is operational) or email [pontefract.liveathome@mha.org.uk](mailto:pontefract.liveathome@mha.org.uk).

**Different Strokes – support for younger stroke survivors** - Different Strokes is a national charity supporting stroke survivors under 65 to reclaim their lives.

Different Strokes West Yorkshire Open Day – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 10am – 3pm at Brownlee Circuit, Bodington Hall, Weetwood, Leeds LS16 8NA. Go along to the open day to learn more about them and the services they provide, including support and exercise groups.

Weekly meetings in Leeds – every Friday at Armley Sports Centre, Carr Crofts, Leeds LS12 3HB. Social and group activities take place between 1pm and 2pm, with gym activities between 2pm and 3pm.

Fortnightly meetings in Dewsbury – 2pm - 4pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday each month at Thrive, 21 Bond Street, Dewsbury WF13 1AX.

### **Wild About Wakefield**

Open Country is a fantastic disability charity with 25 years' experience in running outdoor activities around North Yorkshire. It recently started working in Wakefield and is now running evening tandem rides, a weekday walking group, regular nature conservation projects and weekend outings! They will also be producing informative directories about outdoor access in and around Wakefield. It has specially trained volunteers to help guide visually impaired people. Based from Thornes Park just south of the centre of Wakefield, Open Country is using minibus transportation to access the countryside, particularly local parks and

nature reserves in the district. For more information on becoming a member or a guide volunteer, please contact Ella Dixon, Project Officer, on 01423 507227 or email her on [wakefield@opencountry.org.uk](mailto:wakefield@opencountry.org.uk).

### **DisabledGo – the UK’s leading provider of access information**

A fantastic online resource that provides detailed access information for thousands of venues across the UK and the Republic of Ireland: shops, pubs, restaurants, cinemas, theatres, railway stations, hotels, universities, hospitals (including Pinderfields, Pontefract and Dewsbury Hospitals) and more. Visit their website at [www.disabledgo.com](http://www.disabledgo.com) to will find detailed access information on over 125,000 venues.

### **How we can support you**

#### **Office availability**

Our office is open Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 1.30pm (telephone contact only on Thursdays please). If possible, please get in touch before dropping into the office so we can make sure someone is available to help you. You can call us on 01924 215555 or email [admin@wdsa.org.uk](mailto:admin@wdsa.org.uk).

#### **Befriending service**

Our befriending service pairs you with one of our volunteers who will visit or telephone you regularly. Please contact the office for more details.

#### **Newsletter format**

The newsletter is available on paper, by email, on CD and USB stick, and in Braille. Please do let us know if you wish to change how you receive it.

#### **Quiz answers**

1. David Lloyd George
2. King Hussein
3. Tax evasion
4. Paul McCartney
5. The Quakers
6. 1865
7. The Beagle
8. Space
9. Norfolk
10. Mary Queen of Scots

## **Stock available to order**

These items are “sold as seen” on a first come, first served basis. We cannot arrange repairs or replacements should they fail in the future. All items are available to purchase at Demo Day or by contacting the office.

<b>Item &amp; model number (if applicable)</b>	<b>In stock</b>	<b>Price</b>
RNIB Talking Calculator	2	£5.00
Talking Key Chain (tells the time)	1	£3.00
Variety of talking watches (old models)*	5	£5.00
Cobolt Talking Calendar Alarm Clock W10	3	£10.00
RNIB Envelope Writing Guide DW44	2	£2.00
RNIB Personal Information Wallet	13	£2.00
RNIB Clip On Hobby/Reading Light DN1057	1	£5.00
Easy 5+ Mobile Phone	1	£10.00
Pocket Sliding Magnifiers	10	£3.00
Goodmans Smart Talk Set Top Box GDB20TTS	2	£5.00
Cobolt Talking Colour Detector	4	£5.00
Freezer Alarm	1	£3.00
Reflex LCD Talking Clock	1	£3.00
Green Button Talking Alarm Clock	4	£2.50
Reflex Travel Alarm Clocks	4	£2.00
RNIB Culinaire Magican Can Opener	1	£3.00
Cobolt Talking Bathroom Scales (old models)	3	£10.00
Large Print Playing Cards	1	£0.50
Cobolt Wraparound Sunglasses	2	£3.00
SanDisk USB 2.0 Flash Drive 4GB	3	£2.00
Roberts SD-1 SD Card Media Player**	10	£5.00
Ativa SD Card 2GB + Card Reader**	7	£2.00
RNIB Raised Line A4 Note Pad DW22	2	£1.00
A4 Wide Ruled White Writing Pad 50 sheets	10	£0.50
A4 Wide Ruled White Writing Pad 100 sheets	8	£1.00
A4 Wide Ruled Yellow Writing Pad 50 sheets	1	£0.50
Anti-Glare Fit Over Sunglasses H21	5	£5.50
Anti-Glare Fit Over Sunglasses M30	6	£5.50
Clip-On Sunglasses	4	£14.00

\*Some watches may require batteries, which we can arrange for £7 each.

\*\*These items can be sold together as a package for £7 while stocks last.