

Eye Chat Weekly.

Issue 230 – Friday 14 October 2022

Welcome to this week's quick update giving you news, views and information. Contact Alex or Jill in the office, to offer us your articles, or e-mail admin@buryblindsociety.org



This week we held our Annual General Meeting on World Sight Day, Thursday 13th October. Now the accounts for 21/22 have been officially accepted, Our Review of 21/22 and key highlights from the accounts will be available in the Centre from next Friday 21st. If you would like a copy sent to you, either in large print, audio or email, please let us know and we will send this on to you.

On Thursday we also had a stand in the Millgate Shopping Centre promoting World Sight Day and celebrating the Society's Centenary. We included a number of items our groups had put together as well as a little 'test' for people to see if they could read a word in braille. Many of the photographs and resources used will now be transferred onto the notice boards within the centre, for everyone to enjoy. Do get the 'Welcome Volunteers' on duty to describe the photos as there's even an album with some photos from 2010 and before! Thank you to everyone who contributed and supported the event. Don't worry – we'll save some of these items and display at our forthcoming Centenary Party! Don't forget, tickets for the party on Saturday 26th November are on sale now from the Centre at just £8.00 including live entertainment and a hot buffet! Bring friends, family, anyone who would like to help celebrate our 100 years! The more the merrier!

On Wednesday we held a face to face User Forum. The main topic for discussion was whether this was still a useful forum to capture issues, ideas and share information. There were a number of new members who had not attended before and feedback was really positive. Everyone reported that hearing what other groups do, flagging up access and problem areas, and being made aware of activities and ideas happening with Society was really beneficial. Group Leaders were encouraged to communicate via the 'Comments Section' of their registers, as these are recorded and actioned by Jill. There was a suggestion to re-introduce the 'Comments & Feedback' post-box. Jill read out an email response from Sam McVaigh, Director of People and Inclusion from Bury Council following a visit to the Centre. Sam had spoken to a number of clients and was very appreciative of our input. Many of you will recall the Disability

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Forum that used to be held at the Seedfield Centre. We had suggested that there needs to be some mechanism similar to this to be pro-active and influence planning in Bury whether it be buildings, transport or street furniture. Sam is relatively new to the role and is very keen to listen to the community voice. Watch this space. We also discussed at the Forum how having speakers and workshops are proving popular and Group Leaders were encouraged to note any requests on their registers for staff to investigate availability. Going forward, it was agreed the forums will meet every two months and all will be encouraged to have their say.

On that subject, we are delighted that Wiltshire Farm Foods are coming to our Wednesday morning drop in on 26th October, 10.30am with samples to taste! Wiltshire Farms provide a wide-range of delicious, nutritious, home-made meals that can be microwaved from frozen. If you are living on your own, there's plenty of choice and you save money as heating via a microwave uses less energy. Please book your place so we can give Wiltshire Farm an idea of numbers.

Talking of saving money. Throughout November and December Asda, Pilsworth are offering over 60s, soup, a roll and unlimited tea and coffees for £1! And, mentioned at our User Forum, T J Hughes are selling some wonderful cosy and warm, 'poncho style' fleeces for £20. Let us know if you have any other suggestions or ideas to keep warm this winter.

20th October is the deadline for submitting any messages and/or photos of loved ones for the Healthy Living group to make tribute cards for their 'Dia de los Muertos' session, the following week, on Thursday 27th October.

Monday and Wednesdays 10am-12pm it's our Morning Drop In and Monday afternoon, Music Fun Afternoon, Wednesday (19th) is the Macular Group at 1.30pm. Thursday afternoon 'Tea & Chat' for the Over 60's, and Friday is lunch club – book by Thursday.

Future Dates for Your Diary:

- **Sunday 20th November, 10.30am.** Our Christmas Craft & Gift Fair at Ramsbottom Civic Hall. We do have a few stall places available. Details on our website or simply call Alex or Jill at the Office.
- **Saturday 26th November:** BBS Centenary Celebration Party. Holcombe Brook Sports Centre. Tickets now on sale – all welcome.