



Bury Society For Blind and
Partially Sighted People

Monthly V.I. Link - Issue 10

13 August 2020

Hello! We hope you have been enjoying the sunshine of recent days. Only last month, we were talking of an easing of the lock down and here we are again, with an increase in the number of cases of Covid-19. On 7th August, new restrictions for all boroughs of Greater Manchester were announced. This was to address the rise in coronavirus infection in Oldham and Rochdale and prevent other GM boroughs from seeing similar rises. Bury Council and NHS Leaders have launched a campaign to urge residents to follow the new restrictions and prevent Bury having a spike in infection rates. Recognising that there is some confusion about what the new restrictions mean, a leaflet is being distributed throughout the borough of Bury with a much clearer message (copy enclosed). As well as urging you to wash hands, wear a face covering and keep a safe distance, the new leaflet says, quite simply:

You can no longer meet with people you don't live with:

- **Inside private homes**
- **Inside public venues**
- **Or outside in private gardens**

If you feel unwell, get a free test now. Call 119 or go to nhs.uk

For more information go to the bury.gov website at

<https://www.bury.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=15594>

Don't forget, you can still get help with food deliveries and prescriptions. Please phone Bury Community Hubs on **0161 253 53 53**, available every day of the week.

What can we do in this 'New World'?

Whilst this spike is disappointing, there are activities that you can still be involved in. The main message, as stated earlier, is wash or sanitize your hands, wear a face covering and ensure correct social distancing. Here at the Society, and in other establishments, we have implemented a strict safety regime and are confident that we can welcome you to a protected environment. So, here's a few ideas to consider.

'Eat Out to Help Out' Scheme: operating until 31 August, Monday to Wednesday. You receive up to 50% discount on food or non-alcoholic drinks to eat or drink in (up to a maximum of £10 discount per diner). Participating establishments include restaurants, cafes, bars or pubs. So individually, or as part of your 'social bubble' you can go out for a meal at participating

venues and enjoy being waited on! A few of our clients have enjoyed this deal and reported that they felt safe and comfortable with the arrangements. Tables were appropriately distanced and the 'waiting on' service, particularly in pub restaurants was really welcome! No more queuing up at the bar! You do need to book your table and be prepared to give your contact details for Track and Trace but it's a thumbs up from us.

Confidence Guide: A number of our clients have taken advantage of our Confidence Guide scheme to familiarise themselves with new social distancing rules and general changes in accessing shops, transport etc. The scheme is very simple, the allocated person will accompany the client and be 'their eyes' describing changes and advising where layouts and guidelines have been implemented. The Confidence Guide is matched carefully depending on how much support the individual requires. It may be that you just would like someone to accompany you on the tram to Bury a couple of times until you feel confident, or perhaps you would like someone to walk with you around your local park, just so you can feel safe when you are out. Currently, there are certain restrictions with this service due to the Bury Lock Down, however, do give us a ring and we can discuss your requirements. **0161 763 7014.**

Mobile Phone Help: Would you like to know a bit more about your mobile phone, e.g. is there a speech facility or can I increase the text size? Glynis and Kelly are holding a basic introductory session on Tuesday 25 August at 2pm in the Centre to tackle this thorny issue. If you are interested in attending, places will be limited to just 4 for safety reasons, please contact us to book on.

Cake Packs: we have been lucky enough to have some individually wrapped cakes donated by Kluman & Barter. Why not enjoy with family, work mates or just to treat yourself. Minimum donation requested £1.00 per cake. Delivery can be arranged if required. We are also looking to put together some baking packs for you to bake in the comfort of your own home – more details next month!

Donated Goods: why not raise money for BBS via eBay or one of the local sites? We'd be happy to guide you through the set up. Alternatively, we can sell them for you via our eBay site. For more details, ring and ask for Kelly.

Big Sunday Sale 23/8/20: Tottington Con Club, Royds Street, BL8 3NH 10am-4pm. Yes, we're going to be there with our gazebo and socially distanced tables with craft and tombola! Fingers crossed for sunshine!

Monthly Sale: Something to look forward to. We know many of you enjoyed our Centre Tabletop Sales, so we're bringing it to you! Ready for next month,

we will include a flyer with several items you may like to purchase. Also included will be details of our lovely hand-made cards but if you need any cards now, do give us a call.

Walk for Sight – Saturday 10th October: Bury Lions will be holding their annual walk from The Robert Peel Monument to the Peel Tower on Holcombe Hill. Why not join 'Team BBS' and raise vital funds? Ring Jill or Diane for more details. **0161 763 7014**

Monthly Prize Draw '100 Club': Another way you can help the Society is through our 100 Club. Drawn on the second Friday of every month, half the funds raised are used for cash prizes. Numbers are just £1.00 each and you can have as many as you want – more numbers, more chances to win!! July's winners were: No. 42 £87.30; No. 211 £43.65; No. 197 £14.55. Thank you for all your support.

My first experience on the Metrolink on my own - G Currie

I am registered severely sight impaired and have limited sight. Having avoided using public transport since March, I took advantage of the 'Confidence Guide' scheme and Glynis, our Rehab Officer, accompanied me on my first journey on the Metrolink. Whilst a little daunting, having Glynis there certainly helped in highlighting new arrangements and made me feel more confident to 'go it alone'. Last week I decided I would experiment and take my first trip alone on the Metrolink.

I avoided the rush hour so there were not too many passengers about. On the platform I could make out that there are big yellow circles for the social distancing, these are not tactile, but visual. I used the tactile markings, as normal, which are marked out for the middle doors when the tram arrives. On arrival of the tram, I placed my mask on my face and boarded. Upon entering the carriage, I found an empty seat and sat on the inside of the double seat. I did make it quite obvious that I did not want anyone to sit next to me, by placing my bag and cane across the unoccupied area. I was surprised to find not everyone was wearing face masks and this did make me feel nervous. No one was stopped for not wearing them, which I found quite disturbing. I thought it was law to wear a face mask on all public transport.

Since this experience, I have used the trams on several occasions, each time it was a little busier than the first time, so I chose to stand. My advice to anyone considering using the Metrolink is, take control - wear a face mask, use a symbol cane or long cane. This should make the other passengers aware that you have a visual impairment and keep their distance.

Please also remember that if you do have a bus pass for your visual impairment (usually with the orange strip), you do not need to swipe in or out

when using the tram system. Metrolink agreed to this when the machines were first installed. Also, if using the lifts on any platforms of the Metrolink, only one person is allowed at any time, unless you are together within your bubble.

TV Licencing update: Free television licences for over 75's has finished. Renewal letters are now being sent out. You will have to pay in full unless you meet the following criteria:

a) If you or your partner are receiving Pension Credit and are living at the same address, you will receive your licence free (you will have to have evidence to prove this when your licence is due to be renewed)

b) If you are registered as s.s.i. (severely sight impaired/blind) you will qualify for a 50% reduction of the total price. You will have to provide proof of this registration before they will proceed with the reduction. You may have to pay in full initially and then claim the 50% reduction, which is normally refunded in the form of a cheque.

Just for Fun:

Brain Teaser: Answer to last month's: Each have their own different sized chocolate bars!

Q: What begins with an 'e' and only contains one letter?

'Take 5' - First, answers to last month and then five quiz questions to contemplate until next month! Good luck!

1. What is Liverpool's main railway station called? *Liverpool Lime Street*
2. What did the old lady swallow to catch a spider? *A fly*
3. Which former film star has a statue to him in Leicester Square in London?
Charlie Chaplin
4. In which century did post boxes first appear in England? *19th Century*
5. Which is the longest bone in the human body? *Femur*

And here's August's Five Questions:

1. Which sea creature has 3 hearts?
2. Who was Henry VIII third wife?
3. What language is spoken in Brazil?
4. In what year did Coronation Street first air on TV.
5. Which city had the most visitors in the world in 2019?

Remember, if you do want to come into the Centre to review equipment or speak to staff, just gives us a call and we can book a time, you are always welcome. Stay safe and well everyone and we look forward to catching up next month. Jill and all the Bury Blind Society Team.