



Bury Society For Blind and
Partially Sighted People

Monthly V.I. Link - Issue 9 – 13 July 2020

Welcome to our monthly V.I.Link. Whilst still keeping you informed of any changes with Covid-19, we are also looking to the future and letting you know what else is happening in our lovely borough of Bury!

Centre Activities: We are delighted to now be in a position to offer a protected environment for you to meet up with friends. As we mentioned in our last edition, the Centre has now opened up the Lounge area only for booked sessions, Monday to Friday between 10.30am-12.00pm. The Centre looks a little different with our one-way entry system, sanitizing stations, social distance markings and appropriate protective clothing but please be assured this is for your safety. If you do wish to book a session, and are not classified as an extremely vulnerable person currently shielding, please contact the office to arrange. To ensure the Lounge is thoroughly cleaned, we are only able to offer morning sessions. However, depending on the uptake, and your feedback, we may look at alternating between two afternoon sessions and three morning sessions. Do let us know your thoughts.

Have you suddenly found yourself being a bit of a 'Techy'?! Whilst many of us were wary of using mobile phones, tablets or computers before lock-down, they have proved a life-saver for many. Family and friends have kept in touch through Zoom, House-party or WhatsApp, having realised just how easy they are to operate. By the same token, there's been frustration, as clients have said they have struggled to access, dial or 'log on'. In August our Rehab team will be holding some basic introductory workshops, initially starting with how to access and download apps. onto your mobile phone. We are looking at making these available via Zoom as well as face to face sessions. If you would like to know more detail then just ring and speak to a member of our Early Intervention Team who would be happy to provide more information or even guide you with a specific issue.

Future thoughts: Whilst we'd all love to go back to 'normality', at the moment, this seems unlikely for the foreseeable future. We are therefore looking at a number of alternatives to offer. In the past we have held 'Equipment Focus Days' as well as inviting specialist speakers to our Centre. Going forward, we are investigating putting a programme together of various talks and demonstrations both in house and from organisations such as, Optelec, Dolphin, The Macular Society, Glaucoma Association to name just a few. These would be held via Zoom, which is accessible through the internet. If you do not have access to the internet, you will still be able to listen to these sessions through your landline phone.

If any of these ideas are of interest, or if you would like to set up a 'Social group', maybe reviewing the week's radio or television programmes (our own 'Goggle Box!'), or form a 'Poetry Group' or something, then do get in touch and we would be happy to organise.

Volunteers: As we mentioned in our last bulletin, many of our usual roles are not available at the moment. However, if you would like to help host or support a virtual group or activity like a weekly quiz, a cookery session, our 'Techy sessions', all ideas welcome, then give us a call. We are currently in the process of putting together a Volunteers Voice giving further details of opportunities with the Society but do ring Diane or Jill if you wish to have a chat.

Foot Care: For your own safety, we are not able to offer our usual podiatry sessions at the Centre with Carolyn. However, Dougie Warrington, Foot Care Practitioner is available for home visits, providing it is safe to do so. If you wish to contact Dougie, please ring his no. direct 07557 516 879 and quote Bury Blind Society.

Thank you for your Support! Bury Blind Society, like all charities at the moment, has felt the devastating effect of loss of income. Last year, through our fundraising efforts, room hire, events and donations over £50,000 was raised, all of which was used to support the Centre and provide vital care for our clients either through social activities, volunteers, benefit and counselling service, newsletters, transport, events

and outings as well as certain specialist equipment. More recently, we have utilised our funds to ensure our Centre has sanitiser and towel dispensers, safety markings, protective screens, as well as high visibility jackets, face masks, face shields, protective overalls and lanyards for clients, volunteers and staff. Only last week, following the heavy rains, we experienced a flood in our Reception which resulted in the ceiling collapsing and subsequent damage.

We have been so touched by your support over the past few months. Many of you have sent in donations. Last month, two of our clients, Stephanie Garvey and Roy Smithies donated, between them over £400, after celebrating a special birthday and anniversary. Instead of gifts, they asked for donations to the Society. Our heartfelt thanks.

Obviously, despite the current Covid crisis, we are continuing with our support and this would not be possible without the help of you – clients, volunteers and friends of the society. We have taken this opportunity to think about new ways we can ensure that our valuable work can continue and so we need your help!

Firstly, can you help us by spreading the word and telling people about us! If you feel we have helped in any way, please, do let us know so we can share your story. If you do have access to Facebook and Twitter, share our posts, encourage your friends to 'like us', plus promote our website. Maybe, like Steph and Roy, you would consider supporting the Society by asking for birthday/Anniversary donations? Other ideas include our amazing Monthly Prize draw – just £1 per number, or may be considering a sponsored event. Over the next few months, we will keep you updated on our 'fundraising progress'. In the words of that famous supermarket 'Every Little Helps'! If you have any ideas or would like to discuss any of our thoughts further, please do get in touch. 0161 763 7014.

Community News: 'Ace Currie' has to wait to regain 'world' title: Just in case you didn't get to see the Bury Times, there was an excellent article featuring our very own Jim Currie in the July 2nd edition. Jim was selected to represent Great Britain at the International Blind Tennis Tournament but the event in Italy was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. You

may recall that Jim was in Benidorm last year and narrowly missed out on a second gold medal by the smallest of margins. For now, Jim will have to put his international ambitions on hold, but he is keen to return to training in the hope of domestic tournaments being possible, organised by the LTA, in the not too distant future.

Covid-19 updates (unless classed as ‘clinically extremely vulnerable’):

From 4th July, Restaurants, pubs, cinemas, visitor attractions, hotels, campsites, hairdressers, libraries, community centres, places of worship, outdoor playgrounds and outdoor gyms amongst others could open provided they are able to operate safely. So, what was your priority? Library, places of worship, a restaurant? The main one we heard about was....the hairdressers! How many of us have been struggling with our hair? !

For help with getting food deliveries and prescriptions, please phone Bury Community Hubs on **0161 253 53 53**, available every day of the week.

Just for Fun: Brain Teaser: (answer in next edition)

Two people both eat exactly half of a chocolate bar and nothing else, but one person eats more than the other. How is that possible?

‘Take 5’ - five quiz questions to contemplate until next month! Good luck!

1. What is Liverpool's main railway station called?
2. According to the song what did the old lady swallow to catch a spider?
3. Which former film star has a statue to him in Leicester Square in London?
4. In which century did post boxes first appear in England?
5. Which is the longest bone in the human body?

Stay safe and well everyone and we look forward to catching up next month. Jill and all the Bury Blind Society Team.