



Monthly V.I. Link – Issue 25

November 2021

Hello! Now that Bonfire Night is over, we are hurtling towards Christmas and hopefully, this year we will all get the opportunity to share the day with friends and family. At the time of going to press we are all busy preparing for our first 'Christmas Market' at the Centre, Sunday 14th November, 11.30am-2.30pm. As many of you will know, we have held a Craft and Gift Fair for many years at the Civic Hall in Ramsbottom. With current restrictions and the fact the venue is being used as a Vaccine Centre, we thought we'd try a 'Covid Appropriate' event and risk the weather by holding our own outdoor Gift and Craft Market in our car park! We have everything crossed that it will be dry weather, and Carole has prepared hot soup and various festive treats to welcome people plus a number of our regular stall holders from Ramsbottom are donating their crafts or attending, so there will be a nice selection with our own crafts and gifts for that special Christmas Gift. I even heard a whisper that Santa was going to hand out promotional leaflets to unsuspecting members of the public!! Let's hope it goes well. It will be the first face to face fundraising event we have held this year – which, given that over 60% of our income comes from fundraising puts it into perspective how vital these events are! That said, our Fundraising group have been working hard on ideas including the Walk 4 Sight, Steps In September, the Virtual Quiz to name just a few. Last month we sent out the Christmas Collection promoting a selection of Christmas goodies we have made as well as the gift wrapping. If you would like further copies to hand out to friends and family, please let us know. There's other exciting news regarding how to support the Society further in this edition. A quick update on your response so far regarding the newsletter. Currently the majority have voted to stay with the monthly version, we will continue to seek your views over the next month and a decision will be made for our January edition. I hope you enjoy this VI Bulletin. *Jill Logan, CEO.*

[Coronavirus information from Carrie Dearden, NHS Bury CCG.](#)

Protect yourself, your family and your community. The Covid-19 vaccines are safe and effective. They are the best way to protect yourself and other people around you.

[NHS - Coronavirus vaccine](#)

You will be invited to receive your booster vaccine six months after you had your second Covid-19 vaccination.

You should also be offered the seasonal flu vaccination at the same appointment.

Please wait to be contacted by your GP practice. The Covid-19 booster and flu vaccinations are by appointment only at our vaccination sites located in Ramsbottom, Bury, Radcliffe and Prestwich.

For people (age 16+) who are still requiring first or second doses, vaccines are available on a walk-in or bookable basis at Bury's four clinics.

Find out about local clinics: www.bury.gov.uk/coronavirus-vaccine

For support to book call 0161 983 2300 (Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm) or e-mail:

buccg.vaccinationbookings@nhs.net

For 12 to 15-year-olds, vaccinations can be booked at other sites via: www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination or call 119.

Emotional wellbeing support

If you feel you need some extra support, Bury's Getting Help Line is a confidential service run by the voluntary sector for people of all ages who are experiencing difficulties with their mental wellbeing. Access advice, guidance and signposting to local services by calling 0161 464 3679 (Mon to Sat, 8am to 8pm).

Moving On Together: During Covid many of us have had to deal with the loss of a loved one who we have cared for. It can be tremendously difficult to go from 24 hours a day, 7 days a week caring for someone to nothing. This, alongside the pain of bereavement. Moving On Together gives former carers better chances in their lives. If you or someone you know would benefit from this group contact 07510435851 for more information. Alternatively, you can join the monthly meeting at St John's Hall, Parkinson Street, Bury BL9 6NY, 2nd Monday of each month at 2pm.

Healthwatch Bury: Financial Assessments Survey

Have you or someone you care for had your financial assessment carried out through Bury Council?

Healthwatch Bury wants to find out about your views of the financial assessment process. What was good and what could have been improved?

You can get involved in different ways:

- Ring on 0161 253 6300 to request a paper copy of the survey and a freepost envelope
- Arrange a one-to-one conversation - contact Healthwatch Bury on info@healthwatchbury.co.uk or 0161 253 6300 to arrange the most convenient date and time for you. These can be carried out over the telephone, virtually or face to face.
- Drop-in sessions at local libraries, details from Healthwatch on 0161 253 6300.

Your experiences will help Healthwatch find out how the process can be improved. They will write a report summarising the results, this will be shared with the commissioners and published on Healthwatch's website. Individual responses will not be shared. Healthwatch will ensure your responses are kept secure and confidential and nothing that could identify you would be published or passed on to anyone.

Let's Get Physical!

Sadly, last month, our Walking group couldn't make their monthly session due to the weather. Hopefully, the sun will be shining this time and they will meet on the third Monday of the Month and walk to The Burrs Country Park. All meet at 1pm in the garden at the Centre. If you could let us know if you are joining Michael and Jonathan, we can ensure appropriate support is available. Ring the office for details. Anyone interested in becoming a sighted guide for these walks, please contact Jill Logan for further details. Full training given. After the November walk, there will be a break in December until January when the walk will be subject to weather conditions.

Centre Activities:

We are hopeful that a number of our groups will be resuming their face to face meetings in the New Year. In the meantime, regular activities are as follows:

Monday:

Weekly Drop In: 10am-12pm: Monday Morning Blues? Join Margaret and co. for a Monday 'weekend review' at our weekly Drop In.

Monthly Walk: Third Monday of the month, 15th November, meeting in the Garden at the Centre, 1pm. This month's walk – Burrs Country Park.

Weekly Music Fun sessions: 1.30pm-2.30pm. Join Mags for an informal music session – no experience necessary.

Fourth Monday, 22nd November: 1.30pm-2.30pm: Music Afternoon with a guest performer. This month the 'music planners' have invited Alan Seymour to come along and, together with guests, will be putting on an afternoon of

local ditties and musical tunes. There may even be an odd Chorley cake around with your cup of tea! Open to all, just listen or you are welcome to join in. Contact the office for further details. Booking essential as places limited due to Covid restrictions.

Tuesday:

Weekly Drop In: 1pm-3pm, an afternoon Drop in with Paul and Sue. All welcome.

Third Tuesday: Retinal Dystrophy Support Group: Meeting at 1pm on 16 November. Contact the office on 0161 763 7014 for meeting place.

Wednesday:

Weekly Drop In: 10am-12pm: Sid and co. welcome you to join them for a brew and biscuit every Wednesday morning in the Centre.

Monthly Makes Workshop- Every second Wednesday at 2pm: Next meeting will be on 8th December for a Christmas get together. Mince pies and festive boxes are the order of the day. Please ring and book on to ensure materials are available for you on the day.

Third Wednesday: 17th November 1.30pm: The monthly Macular Support Group: Currently this group is accessed by a land or mobile telephone line. All welcome. In December there will be an informal festive get together at the Centre and then, it is hoped that face to face meetings will resume in January.

Fourth Wednesday: 24th November, 1.30pm-2.30pm, Glaucoma Support Group: Bernard and the group provide a warm welcome at this monthly group. Please note the revised times. Meeting in person at the Centre.

Thursday:

Third Thursday: 18th November 10.30am: Healthy Living: Currently accessed via Zoom or phone line, join this friendly group to review recipes, learn hints and tips on how to prepare safely and even do a few exercises whilst you talk!

Friday:

Weekly – Friday Lunch Club: 11.30am-1.30pm. Carole and Mags, alternate weeks, are providing a delicious meal ranging from Fish and Chips, Chicken Paella or home-made soup and sandwich. Ring the office for menu details and to book your place. All welcome. Book by the Thursday before meal date.

Weekly – Foot Clinic: 10.00am-3.00pm. Dougie (qualified foot practitioner) holds a weekly clinic at the centre. Ring to book an appointment.

Fourth Friday: 1pm: Access Forum: A forum providing an area to voice concerns ranging from support in Supermarkets to uneven pavements and overhanging foliage. Currently only available via Zoom and phone line. Contact the office for details to join.

For further details of how to join any of these sessions, just ring the Centre and speak to a member of staff. 0161 763 7014.

News and Upcoming Events:

Eye Hear You Workshop: Last month, together with our colleagues from Communic8te, we held our first workshop for people with both sight and hearing loss, which was really well received. We are planning to hold further sessions in the New Year as well as resuming the Eye Talk Support programme -with a little revamp! Watch this space for further information.

Bury Pipeline: As many of you will already be aware, Pipeline is back! We believe currently it is only fortnightly but what a welcome return! However, the return is tinged with a little sadness as we said farewell to Jean Spencer, who has retired. Jean was a founder member of Pipeline and been involved with Bury Blind Society since the 1980's. We send her our thanks for all the years she has been involved in such a well-loved service, and very best wishes for a long, happy and healthy retirement – well deserved!

Eye Openers: The friendly social group 'Eye Openers' is back open on a Monday evening, 7.00pm-9.00pm. The group meet at Elton Liberal Club in the Sinatra Room. Activities include quizzes, bingo, speakers, entertainment and a Christmas party. The organisers will also book Ring & Ride if required. For more information ring Rhona Forrester-Kittridge on 0161 705 1189.

Engage 2 Stage, drama group: Calling all VIPs (Visually Impaired Persons) friends and supporters of Engage2Stage. We are holding a Hollywood themed Christmas party on Saturday 18th December from 7pm at Bury Sports Club. Join us for an evening of festive fun. It's also a great opportunity to make new friends and dress up for a red-carpet event. Tickets are £12 and this covers entry and buffet style catering. To book or make enquiries contact Anthony via email at Engage2stage@email.com

New Craft Group in Radcliffe: We were overwhelmed when a former volunteer from many years ago, Susan, approached us with a donation of some lovely

craft items for our Craft and Gift Market. Susan has recently set up a 'Quiet Crafts group' at Radcliffe Library meeting every Wednesday 10.00am-12.00pm. All are welcome, just bring your own crafts and share ideas. Susan will be attending a refresher Visual Awareness Training session by us so the group can welcome all. For more information call Susan on 0161 724 0986.

Festive Wrapping Demonstration: If you have always fancied helping out at our annual Christmas gift wrapping in the Millgate, or just simply would like to know the 'secret' to gift wrapping – BBS style! Come along to our demonstration sessions. Tuesday 30th November at 10.30am-11.30am; 5.00pm-6.00pm; 6.30pm-7.30pm. Please ring the Centre to book your place. All welcome.

Christmas Lunches: Bookings are now being taken for Christmas lunch at the Centre. Price is from £8.00 per person. Two dates are available, Friday 3rd or 17th December, 12pm.

Festive Musical Afternoon: Monday 13th December. 1.30pm. Join Geoff Kenyon in a Christmas themed afternoon of musical entertainment. Numbers are strictly limited so booking is essential. Ring & Ride can be booked to provide transport.

Volunteers Festive Drop In: Tuesday 14th December, 1pm-2.30pm. An informal drop in session for volunteers to meet up for a drink and festive snack. All welcome.

Future Plans: As mentioned last month, we're booked to carry out our Luxury Gift Wrapping service in the Millgate Shopping Centre from Friday 10th to Friday 24th December. In addition, we are at Bury Market, Stall 27 on the outdoor section, on Wednesday 1 December if you want to grab a bargain!

Holy Trinity School: We have just received the wonderful Christmas cards designed by the children of Year 2, Holy Trinity School. Included in your VI Bulletin is a flyer with the design. If you would like to order a pack of these lovely cards, or order any of our other products displayed in our Christmas Collection broadsheet, please pop into the Centre or send the order form with your cheque. Packs of 10 cards, £5 per pack.

Volunteers! Is anyone available to help out at Tesco, Bury in their forthcoming Food Collection – Fareshare 2021 on 18, 19 & 20 November. Volunteers are needed to help getting donations, packing donations in boxes etc. If interested contact Wendy on bury.community@tesco.com and she will contact you.

On Monday 25th October we welcomed Jane and Steph from Age UK Bury who explained their telephone befriending service and the future one to one befriending support they are hoping to offer. As many of our clients attend both charities we are looking at joining forces to ensure all clients are receiving at least one contact from either charity to meet the increasing need. We are also working with Steph and Jane to develop links with the Jubilee Centre Cafe as a welcoming area to meet up with telephone befriender and others. If you would be interested in attending please let us know.

At the Coffee morning we also discussed setting up similar, more accessible, coffee mornings or afternoon teas sessions utilising the community rooms offered by various retailers such as Morrisons in Whitefield, Tesco, Bury and Asda, Pilsworth. Again, if this is of interest, please let us know and we will develop further.

It's Good To Share: One of our clients, Tarnia from Prestwich, contacted us with the idea of an article entitle 'Subject of The Month'. Tarnia, suggested she discussed a different subject each month and welcomed views from fellow readers to be included in the following month. This month's subject is your local GP service. Tarnia reported that she felt that many of the delays and alterations to service have been attributed to the pandemic. Recently she had to contact her own GP. There are six telephone lines into the surgery but on this occasion Tarnia found herself in a long queue, and in fact, when she finally arrived at 'no.2' she got cut off and had to start again! When she did finally get through to the Reception, Tarnia was told that the member of staff was working on her own, hence the delay. The alternative is to go 'on line' and book your appointment or consultation. For many people with sight loss, Tarnia being one of them, going 'on-line' is not an option due to either not having the internet or simply struggling to access. Tarnia felt frustrated by the changes and wondered how others have found this service. She has no complaints with the GP's once you get to see them but the whole process takes a considerable length of time. Let us know your experiences, either phone, write or record on your USB memory stick if you are on an audio version. Tarnia, and the Society,

would really like to hear your views. Tarnia will be back with another subject for discussion in January.

Taxi Issues: Have you been experiencing any problems with taxis lately? One of our clients had a frustrating experience recently whilst visiting hospital. In the past, when she has ordered a taxi, and explained that she is registered blind the drivers have got out of the car, announced themselves and assisted her to the vehicle. However, whether this relates to the Covid precautions, on this occasion when the vehicle arrived to pick her up, the driver just stayed in the car and did not announce he had arrived. Although the client had received a text so knew that the taxi must be somewhere, she was unable to trace it and it drove off. Has anyone else experienced anything similar?

Take Care! One of our clients, Michelle from Bury, reported that she recently had someone call saying they were from the NHS Mobile Opticians. Fortunately, Michelle has an intercom system, and recognised that this was a scam as the NHS do not have a Mobile Service and would not visit unannounced. However, she wanted to bring it to our attention to warn others.

Funding News:

Co-Op: We are delighted to have been nominated with the Co-Op Community fund. If you are already a Co-op member, you can go on the Co-op website and nominate us to be your chosen local cause. This means, any Co-Op's own products you purchase will earn us money! If you're not already a member, it's just £1.00 to join. You can obtain a membership form from your local Co-Op or go on the Co-Op website www.coop.co.uk. We are a 'local cause' from 24 October 2021 for 12 months. The good news is, you don't have to live in Bury to nominate us as your local cause! So, spread the word!

Virgin Money Giving: Our Virgin Money Giving page will expire on 30 November. If you currently make a regular donation via Virgin, this can continue either via our PayPal account or direct into BBS Bank. Please do get in touch for further information. Thank you for your support.

Tottington and Bury West Rotary: Big thanks to one of our clients, Trevor Eastland and family who, between them took on the challenge to walk The Infinity Bridge High Wire Walk in September! 1000ft above the Honister Pass in the Lake District. The sponsorship money raised was distributed to a number of charities, BBS included. Trevor, his daughter and the Chair of the Rotary Club

presented a cheque for £1200 to Tracey Marno, our Chair. The money was a wonderful surprise and very welcome. It will be used to contribute to our on-going support for people living with sight loss.

Diamond Wedding Celebrations: Congratulations and thanks also go to Councillor Joan Grimshaw and her husband Paul who celebrated their Diamond Wedding this weekend. Joan, a trustee of BBS, is registered SSI (Severely Sight Impaired) and has first hand experience of the challenges facing someone living with sight loss. The couple requested donations to BBS rather than gifts. Both Tracey (Chair) and myself were invited to the celebration which was a real pleasure to attend. We were particularly impressed with Paul's vocal skills! Our thanks to Paul and Joan for thinking of us and supporting the Society.

Do you shop on Amazon?

The Blind Society have signed up for Amazon smile, Amazon smile donates 0.5% of the net purchase to the society and given the season ahead this is a great way to support the charity whilst you shop!

For the society to get the Amazon donation you will always need to sign in with Amazon smile in your browser. You can also shop on your mobile phone app, and it will connect to your chosen charity once set up. For further information go to our web site www.buryblindsociety.org for an easy set up video, or just give us a call, and we'll sort it!

#Giving Tuesday -30th November. On this date we will be promoting our services and activities throughout the day via social media i.e. Twitter, Facebook etc to encourage members of the public to support our work by a donation. We will be displaying a number of 'clips' on Facebook including quotes throughout the day highlighting the differences and the challenges facing a visually impaired person. If you would like to contribute a piece or clip, please give us a call!

Special Thoughts:

To any of our clients, volunteers, Friends of and family members who are not in good health. Our thoughts are also with any of our members or their families who have lost loved ones during this month. We would like thank members families for thinking of us at such a sad time by requesting donations for the Society. These donations will enable us to continue providing support for future members.

Monthly Prize Draw – ‘100 Club’.

Our October winners were No.112, £121.20, No. 225, £60.60 and No. 52, £20.20. Thank you to all the people who have joined us recently. 50% of the money raised is distributed in prizes and the other half contributes directly to provide services for local people living with sight loss. The draw takes place on the second Friday of every month, and to buy a number it costs just £1.00! Let us know if you would like an application pack.

Just for Fun – Give your mind a workout with this month’s brain teaser.

Answers first! **October’s Brain Teaser:** I have keys, but no locks. I have space, but no room. You can enter, but you can’t go outside. What am I? **A computer keyboard!**

This month’s Brain Teaser: What do an island and the letter “t” have in common?

‘Take 5’ Quiz.

Answers from last month:

1. Europe is separated from Africa by which sea? **Mediterranean Sea**
2. Which Coronation Street character has been married six times? **Gail Platt**
3. How many countries still have the shilling as currency? **4 – Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Sardinia**
4. What is the Chinese New Year animal for 2021? **Ox**
5. Which year was the Premier League founded? **1992**

This month’s questions:

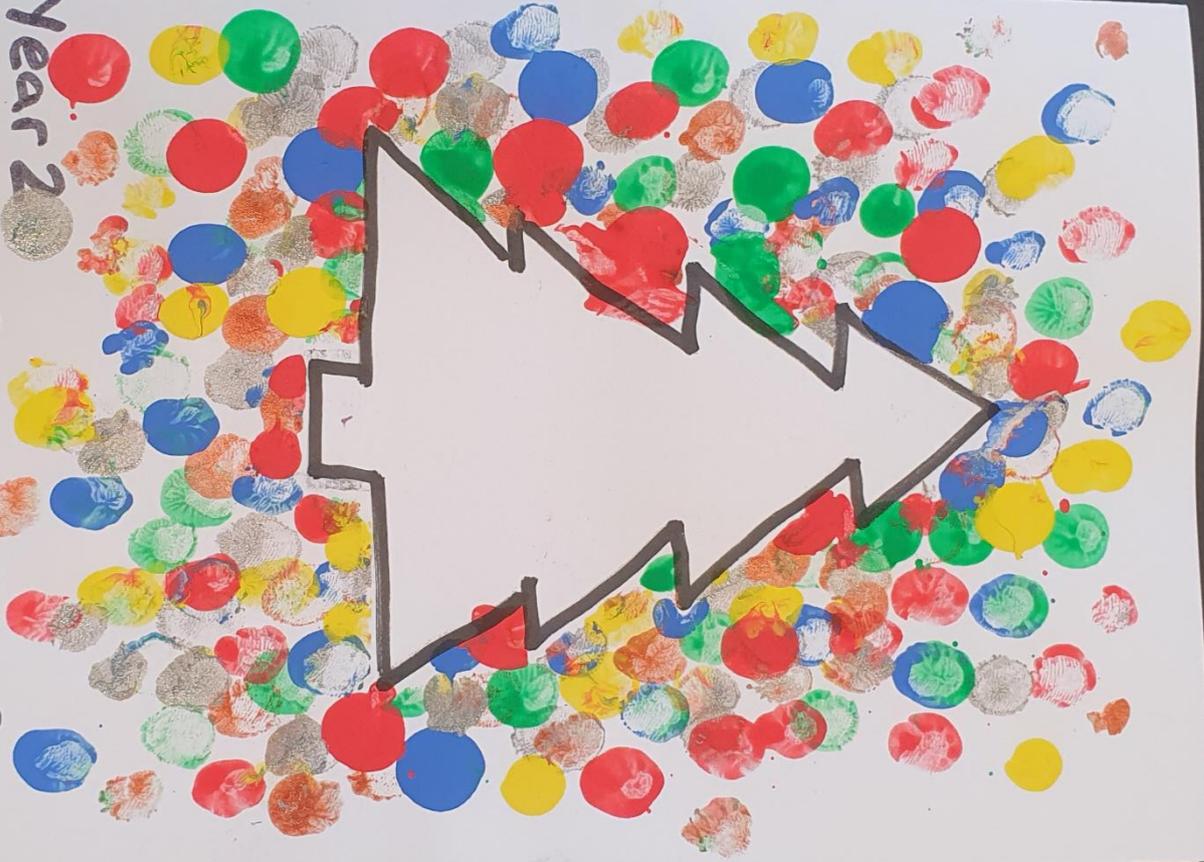
1. How many dots are used in each letter in the Braille system?
2. Who wrote “The Pit and the Pendulum”?
3. How long is there between rounds in boxing?
4. Which public school did Sir Winston Churchill go to?
5. What is the thirteenth letter of the English alphabet?

Stay safe and well and we look forward to seeing you in the Centre.

Jill and all the Bury Blind Society Team

Registered Charity No. 1102525

Year 2
Holy Trinity Primary School, Bury



Year 2
Holy Trinity Primary School, Bury



Description	Price	Quantity	Amount
Pack of 10 Charity Christmas Cards	£5.00 per pack		

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone (in case of query): _____

Please send or email your completed form with payment to:

Bury Society for Blind & Partially Sighted People, Wolstenholme House, 4 Tenterden Street, Bury, BL9 0EG.

Or email: admin@buryblindsociety.org

Please tick payment method:

Payment by cheque/P.O payable to 'Bury Blind Society'

Payment direct to bank:

Account Name: Bury Society for the Blind & Partially Sighted

Account Number: 11442910

Sort Code: 40-15-21

Bank: HSBC Bury

Alternatively, pop into the Centre to order directly.

Thank you for your support. Every purchase made will make a difference to a person living with sight loss in Bury.