



Newsletter

Summer 2018



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

A Word From Miriam Wright

Welcome once again to our newsletter which is packed with information about the work we do and the services we offer across Halton, Cheshire and North Wales. Over the next 12 months Vision Support will be contacting you to find out your views on these services because we want to involve you in designing and developing future projects.

We are going to do this by coming along to groups to talk to members, organising focus groups to discuss specific issues, conducting surveys and running service planning days. We also want to find out what knowledge and skills you have that could be used in the delivery of services. Just a few examples would be, training to run a peer support group, going out into communities to talk to other organisations about sight loss or delivering VI awareness training.

We are realistic and fully recognise that there are barriers to getting involved and we need to hear about those as well and work together to address them.

If you have any initial comments or suggestions please call us at on **01244 381515**, email **information@visionsupport.org.uk**, or write to us at Vision Support, Units 1 & 2, The Ropeworks, Whipcord Lane, Chester, CH1 4DZ.

We really need you to attend the groups and respond to surveys, feeding in your experiences and knowledge in order to become a part of everything that we deliver. In essence this is how we will ensure that Vision Support services are meeting the support needs of people with sight loss across the region.

I am very excited about the prospect of working towards new services in this way and am looking forward to meeting many of you at some of the planned events. Meanwhile have a good summer, here's hoping it brings lots of warm weather and fun.

Miriam Wright, CEO

Vision Support Delivers 2018-2019

Vision Support Open Line

If you are struggling with sight loss and cannot visit us at the Bluecoat Vision Centre in Chester we have a brand new service, Vision Support Open Line, where you can telephone or email for a friendly person to talk to about any issues you may be having.

Working in partnership with Chester Lions.

Simply call **01244 478910**

Or email **bluecoat@visionsupport.org.uk**



VI Volunteer Mentoring Project

We are pleased to announce our "VI Volunteer Mentoring Project", which aims to support people over the age of 25 living in Conwy and Denbighshire who are long-term unemployed or economically inactive with building the skills and confidence needed for volunteering or employment. The project will also support participants to find further learning opportunities. We are delivering this project in partnership with Wales Council for Voluntary Action. It is being funded by the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) and will run until August 2019.

For more information, please telephone our Prestatyn Sight Loss Centre at 01745 472558, or email **kbenn@visionsupport.org.uk**

Vision Support at Boots in Northwich

Graham from our Cheshire mobile unit will be holding a stand in the next few months at Boots in Northwich. Which will provide information and demonstration equipment.





Vision Supported Communities

Do you have sight loss?

Are you over 50?

Do you live in Cheshire West and Chester?

Would you like to get out more?

If you have answered 'YES' to all these questions
Vision Support can help! We will:-

- **Visit you and find out what you would like to do and what is available near where you live**
- **Go to social groups and activities with you until you feel more confident and motivated**
- **Help groups and organisations be more inclusive for people with sight loss**

To find out more visit our website – www.visionsupport.org.uk

Call: **01244 381515**

Email: Information@visionsupport.org.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/visionsupportcharity/>

Vision Supported Communities is a Brightlife funded project to help reduce social isolation in people aged 50+ in Cheshire West and Chester



Dates For Your Diary

Enhanced Vision Open Day

Demonstrations of the latest Low Vision Aids from Enhanced Vision.



Thursday 17th May 10:30am to 2:00pm at the Bluecoat Vision Centre, Upper Northgate Street, Chester, CH1 4EE.

Showcase Event

This exhibition will showcase the latest technology, products and support services available from a number of different organisations.



This year we will also be joined by Sports Disability Wales and other sports groups such as Archery, Golf, Plas y Brenin Outdoor Partnership and Disability Ski!

Friday 18th May 10:30am to 6.00pm at Venue Cymru, Llandudno, Conwy, LL30 1BB

Day Out with the Wrexham Visionaires

By Adam Flavell

The Wrexham Visionaires social club is a really friendly and chatty group that meets on the first Thursday of each month.

Last month out, the group wanted to meet up at the Everland Fish Bar for lunch. The staff made us feel very welcome and the food was excellent!

Everyone had a good chat and it was nice catch up with each other.

If you are interested in joining the lovely and friendly group please contact Jo Jardine at our Head Office on **01244 381515** for further information.

Supporting Vision Support

Charity Boxes

Do you know a local shop or work place that would like one of our cardboard charity boxes? We'd love to get more information out there and we can send out our charity boxes along with some free flyers about who we are and what we do.

Leave a Legacy

It is not something we like to think about, but when people leave Vision Support a gift in their will it makes a huge difference to people with sight loss. Gifts like these mean we can continue providing valued services such as our home visiting service in Cheshire. We can also carry on supporting people with sight loss to live independently and with respect and dignity. If you would like further information please contact Head Office on **01244 381515**.

Thank you

A big thank you to The Rhyl Walking group who supplied us with the photograph for this newsletters cover. If you would like to submit any content for the next newsletter please get in touch.

Dedication

Ernest Frobisher who was the grand old age of 104 and a half passed away this year. He was very well known and loved by the people and groups in Prestatyn and will be missed.

We are not always able to get dedications into the newsletter but we will do our best to put them in if you get in touch.

Sight Loss Forums in Cheshire

Macclesfield – Meets first Wednesday of every month 1.30pm
Macclesfield Eye Society, 15 Queen Victoria St, Macclesfield, SK11 6LP

Current Issues being discussed:

Silk museum opening up local access, Working with Cheshire east council towards a leisure cinema scheme.

Crewe – Meets first Tuesday of every second month 11.00am
IRIS Vision Resource Centre, 14 Chapel Street, Crewe, CW2 7DQ

Winsford – Meets last Tuesday of every second month 1.00pm
Winsford Library, High St, Winsford, CW7 2AS

Congleton Forum – Last Wednesday of every other month, 10.00 – 12.00, Venue varies.

Chester Forum – First Thursday of every month 11.00 – 1.00pm, Bluecoats office.

New members with sight loss welcome plus family members welcome at all the forums.

Volunteer of the Year

All of us here at Vision Support would like to extend a huge **Thank You** to our two Volunteers of the Year 2017.

Susan Lees (pictured top) supports our Resource Centre in the AVOW centre in Wrexham and helps us with organising the Wrexham Visionaires club.

Hilary Kay (pictured bottom) has been with us for a number of years and has been invaluable with helping to organise the Halton Activities Group.



News

A big Happy Birthday to our Sandbach Club who was 25 years old this year! Founded on the 6th April 1993!

The club meets weekly, within Oakdene Court, Belle Vue Terrace, Sandbach, 10 am to 12 noon, for tea, biscuits and a game of bingo.



We had our first new stand at Abergele Eye Hospital on the 19th of April this year and are looking forward to doing more in the future! So if you come in when we are there please pop by and say hello.



We now have a new Audio Described Cinema Group at The Storyhouse in Chester where we have monthly screenings please call **01244 381515** for more information.



Our “Socialise” group recently had its second birthday! Founded in March 2016, the past few years have seen the group enjoy picnics and Christmas lunches, and many afternoons spent meeting new people and getting to know new places.

A Message From the Vision Support Board

You may have heard a lot about the Data Protection Act and how it is changing on 25th May 2018 to General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

Data Protection has always been part of what we do at Vision Support however we simply will be making improvements to the way we protect and keep your information.

We will be sending out our Privacy Statement shortly, which explains how we use your information, for example to send you out this newsletter but if you have any questions in the meantime please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Social Groups in Cheshire

Tuesday Club – Meets alternate Tuesday mornings 10.30 - 12.30pm at Head Office, Chester. Call 01244 381515 for more information.

Halton Activities Group – Meets Tuesday mornings 11.00 - 1.00pm at The Grangeway Community Centre, Runcorn.

Northwich Society for the Blind – Meets first Wednesday each month 2.00 - 4.00pm at Castle Community Centre on Barbers Lane.

Hazlemere Group – Meets first Friday each month 10.30 - 12.30pm at Hazlemere Extra Care Development, Hambleton Way.

Nantwich Group – Meets every Thursday 10.30 - 12.30pm at The Alms Houses, Beam Street, Nantwich.

Crown Green Bowlers – Meet every Thursday 11.00 - 1.00pm at St Werburgh's Parish Centre, Brook Street, Chester, CH1 3DZ. Sighted Volunteers required and no experience necessary.

Chester FC Partially Sighted Football Session – Meet every Saturday 11.00 - 12.00pm at Goals, Sealand Industrial Estate, 4 Talbot Way, CH1 4LT. Open to partially sighted men and women. No previous experience necessary.

Sandbach Group - Meet every Monday at Oakdene Court, Belle Vue Terrace, Sandbach, 10 am to 12 noon.

Social & Campaigning Groups in North Wales

Rhyl Visionaires – Meets on the last Monday of every month 11.00 – 12.30 p.m. at Rhyl Library.

Rhyl Walking Group – Meets on the second Wednesday in the warmer months at 11.00 a.m. at Morfa Hall, Rhyl.

Prestatyn Visionaires – Meets on the first Wednesday of each month. 10.00 – 12.00 noon. Nant Hall Church, Prestatyn.

Wrexham Visionaires – Meets on the first Thursday of each month. 11.00 – 1.00 p.m. at AVOW, Wrexham.

Conwy Sight Loss Group – Meets on the first Thursday of each month 11.00 – 1.00 p.m. The Grand Hotel, Happy Valley Rd, Llandudno.

Mold Visionaires – Meets on the third Wednesday of each month 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. Llys Jasmine, Mold.

VI Voices Denbighshire – On the 2nd Monday every other month 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. Prestatyn Library. Call 01745 472558 for details.

VI Voices Wrexham – Meets on the third Monday every other month 2.00 – 4.00 p.m AVOW. Please call 01745 472558 for details.

Socialise (18 to 55) – Meets first Saturday of the month 1.00 - 4.00pm. Please contact 01244 381515 for venue information.

Contact Information

Chester Head Office
Units 1 & 2 The Ropeworks
Whipcord Lane, Chester, CH1 4DZ
01244 381515

Halton Resource Centre
Independent Living Centre
Collier Street, Runcorn, WA7 1HB
01928 582946

Prestatyn Sight Loss Centre
38 High Street, Prestatyn, LL19 9BB
01745 472558
Monday—Thursday
10:00am-3:00pm

Wrexham Resource Centre
AVOW Ty, 21 Egerton Street
Wrexham, LL11 1ND
01978 318813

Bluecoat Vision Centre
Upper Northgate Street
Chester, CH1 4EE
01244 341885
Monday—Wednesday
10:00am-3:00pm

information@visionsupport.org.uk
www.visionsupport.org.uk

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& Follow us on Twitter @_VisionSupport