



Welcome to the August 2023 Vision Support newsletter covering Halton, Chester and North East Wales. If you would like to get in touch please call our head office on 01244 381515 or email information@visionsupport.org.uk

Low Vision Roadshow

We are pleased to announce some upcoming technology events in Halton, Wrexham and Chester with Vision Support staff and accessible technology providers VisionAid. All events run from 10 am till 2 pm.

- Monday 11th September: AVOW, 21 Egerton Street, Wrexham, LL11 1ND.
- Tuesday 12th September: Halton Sensory Services, 126 Widnes Road, Widnes, WA8 6AX.
- Wednesday 13th September: The Oakroom, Chester Bluecoat Charity, Upper Northgate Street, Chester, CH1 4EE.

To book onto this free event call VisionAid on 0800 002 5555.

Community Information Service

On the next page are the visits we have planned for September with the Community Information Service.

Please note we have two vehicles and the schedule can be subject to change. For more information please call us on **01244 381515** or email **information@visionsupport.org.uk** it can also be found on our website, **www.visionsupport.org.uk**

Community Information Service Schedule

- Friday 1st at **Prestatyn Library (Talking Point)** 10.00am – 2.30pm
- Monday 4th at **Cemaes, Cae Pwmp car park** 10.30am – 2.30pm
- Tuesday 5th **Kingswood Kingsway** 10.00am -12.00pm
- Tuesday 5th **Blacon Library** 1.00pm - 3.00pm
- Wednesday 6th **Widnes Market Community Stall** 10.00am - 3.00pm
- Wednesday 6th at **Tweedmill, St Asaph** 10.00am – 2.30pm
- Thursday 7th **Northwich Victoria Infirmary** 10.00am - 3.00pm
- Thursday 7th at **Asda, Llandudno** 10.00am – 2.30pm
- Sunday 10th at **Morrisons, Holyhead** 10.30am – 2.30pm
- Monday 11th at **Morrisons, Rhyl** 10.00am – 2.30pm
- Tue 12th **Co-op Runcorn old Town** 10.00am - 3.00pm
- Tuesday 12th **Bellis Bros, Holt** 10.30am - 2.30pm
- Wednesday 13th **Waverton Shops** 10.00am - 12.00pm
- Wednesday 13th **Barbour Institute Tattenhall** 1.00pm - 3.00pm
- Wednesday 13th at **Denbigh Library (Talking Point)** 10.00am – 2.30pm
- Thursday 14th **D Link Widnes** 10.00am - 2.00pm
- Thursday 14th at **Co-op, Dolgellau** 10.30am – 2.30pm
- Friday 15th at **Y Maes car park, Pwllheli** 10.30am – 2.30pm
- Monday 18th at **Llandudno Prom (by Cenotaph)** 10.00am – 2.30pm
- Tuesday 19th **Frodsham Library** 10.00am - 3.00pm
- Wednesday 20th **Northwich Victoria Infirmary** 10.00am - 3.00pm
- Wednesday 20th at **Morrisons, Caernarfon** 10.30am – 2.30pm
- Thursday 21st **Widnes Market Community Stall** 10.00am - 3.00pm
- Monday 25th **Gordale Garden Centre** 10.00am - 3.00pm
- Monday 25th at **Ysbyty Gwynedd Hospital, Bangor** 10.30am – 2.30pm
- Tuesday 26th **Ellesmere Port Market Car Park** 10.00am - 3.00pm
- Tuesday 26th at **Rhyl Library (Talking Point)** 10.00am – 2.30pm
- Thursday 28th at **Flint Pavilion** 10.30am – 2.30pm
- Friday 29th at **Lower High St car park, Prestatyn** 10.00am – 2.30pm

Cheshire

SIGHT LOSS INFORMATION LINE 01244 478910

A National Lottery Funded Project
in Partnership with NHS England,
Cheshire West and Chester,
Cheshire East Council,
Vision Support and
East Cheshire Eye Society.



Registered charity No 1174656

Library Services

Did you know that libraries offer online services such as electronic books and magazines for people who would prefer them in a digital format, and also have a selection of large print and audiobook CD's for people with a vision impairment?

There are so many options available at libraries these days such as the BorrowBox app for electronic books and audiobooks, the Libby App for electronic magazines, and NewsBank for online access to newspapers. You can download these apps from either Apple or the Google Play Store, and log in using your library card.

If you're not sure how to do this, get in touch with us at Vision Support by calling 01244 381515 and we can arrange for someone from our Digital Skills team to get in touch with you and go through it.

All libraries stock a range of large print titles and audiobook CD's (library members with a vision impairment are exempt from the hiring charge and also get free reservation).

Additionally, some libraries offer a Home Library Service for members who have difficulty visiting the library. You can apply to join and staff will choose books or audiobooks based on your preferences, and make scheduled visits to deliver these and collect the previously read titles.

Get in touch with your local library to find out what services are available in your area.
Happy Reading Everyone!



Optometrists to issue CVIs for the first time

A piece from Wales Council of the Blind

For the first time in the UK, people with vision impairment can access a Certificate of Vision Impairment (CVI) in primary care optometry.

Optometrists with relevant qualifications working in Wales can now complete CVIs for people with Bilateral Dry Age-Related Macular Degeneration.

Rebecca Bartlett, National Clinical Lead for Wales General Ophthalmic Services, said "we are thrilled that this NHS Wales service is now live. We expect an immediate increase in the number of people accessing certification and the important related support registration brings.

We also expect to see a reduction in referrals to hospital eye services which will free up vital appointment slots for other people whose eye conditions need to be seen in this setting.

The certification of vision impairment in primary care is backed by research performed by Cardiff University and funded by Sight Cymru (Agreement between ophthalmologists and optometrists in the certification of vision impairment | Eye (nature.com)). This showed comparable agreement between consultant ophthalmologists and LVSW optometrists in the identification of certification eligibility criteria for people with vision impairment and provided evidence to support policy change.

The introduction of certification of vision impairment in primary care has been driven by the Welsh Government's optometry contract reform programme that will see the range of NHS-funded eye care services provided by optometrists and dispensing opticians in Wales increased, with each member of the practice team collaborating to work at the top of their respective clinical licence."

Owen Williams, Director of Wales Council of the Blind, said "we are delighted that Certificates of Vision Impairment can now be issued on the high street for patients with bi-lateral dry AMD. The certificate is a crucial document that opens the door to additional support, welfare benefits, financial concessions and services in social care, the third sector, and elsewhere.



By avoiding hospital delays, support of this kind can now be delivered more quickly, helping the patient maintain their independence and avoid the downward spiral into vulnerability, debt, and dependency.

WCB are keen to see more hospital eye services delivered in primary care optometry practices where it is safe to do so, providing patients with a convenient and timely alternative to hospital-based services."

Optometrists in Wales can find out more about participating in the services at Professionals - NHS Wales. Your nearest LVSW optometrist can be found via Perspectif. Type LVSW in the word search and add a postcode to the postcode field.

Wing Walking with Vera

Vera Rogers is one of the great people who receives services from Vision Support. She is 86 years of age and has Macular Degeneration. This is the second time she has done a wing walk, this time for St. Lukes Hospice in Winsford where Vera's husband was cared for before he passed away. Vera has raised money previously for various charities by doing two sky dives, and an abseil.

At Rendcomb Airfield in Cirencester she was strapped to the top wing of a biplane which then performed a 15 minute series of death defying aerobatic stunts at 135 mph over the Gloucester countryside.

Vera said "the wing walk was fantastic, and everyone involved was just brilliant". Vera moved to Winsford from Liverpool in 1967 and she said "it's been a wonderful place for my family to live".

In total, the team of wing walkers raised more than £14,000 for the hospice.



Pictured is Vera in a red boiler suit and red framed goggles. She is smiling and looking towards the camera with both hands in the air. Stood on top of and strapped to the wing of a plane that is painted with red and white stripes underneath.