

**Welcome to the December  
2023 Vision Support newsletter  
covering:**

**Halton 0151 5118801**

**Chester 01244 478910**

**North East Wales  
01244 381515**

# **Holiday Opening Hours**

**From December 27th  
to December 29th, our  
offices will be unmanned,  
but we will be available on  
the phones – just like last year!**

**We will be Closed on:  
Christmas Day (December 25th)  
Boxing Day (December 26th)  
New Year's Day (January 1st)**

**We will be back open as normal on the 2nd January**



# We need you!

Are you passionate about connecting with your community but find yourself limited to volunteering from the comfort of your home? Exciting news awaits! Starting next year, we're introducing some fantastic new volunteering opportunities, and we're looking for enthusiastic individuals like you to join in. Your Facebook and local community groups are calling for your support!

Become a social champion by spreading the word about our engaging groups and upcoming events. Your involvement can make a significant impact, and we'd love to have you share our posts within your local groups.

If you prefer volunteering in a more hands-on way, why not consider joining on of our busy social groups? Our creative art group in Ellesmere Port has been a great new group thanks to funding from the UK Government. Where you could provide sighted guiding, help during crafts or assist in serving refreshments, your presence would be invaluable.



Pictured is a man sitting down in a red jumper holding a Christmas wreath. Leaning across the table is a lady with a silver star jumper pulling some gold ribbon around the top.

But wait, there's more! We have lots of volunteering opportunities waiting for you. If you've been contemplating volunteering in the new year, give us a call to discover the exciting possibilities that await.

Curious to hear more? Flip to the next page for an inspiring story from one of our exceptional volunteers. Join us in making a difference and building a stronger, more connected community!

## Valued Volunteers - Linda Morris

I started my volunteering journey with Vision Support on January 29, 2014, at the heart of the old Rhyl Office.

From the get-go, I also volunteered at a Vision Supports Social Group and a Walking Group that was held locally.

I also helped at Vision Supports bi-monthly information stand at Abergelge Hospital With Moz who is one of Vision Supports Vision Rehabilitation Specialists and at the Conwy Sight Loss Group that still meets every month.

My early days involved a mix of general reception duties and at the social groups I welcomed people taking names and drink orders (amongst other things) and at the information stands we'd give out leaflets and information about relevant groups. I was really pleased when I was awarded the Certificate "Volunteer of the Year" by Vision Supports CEO in December 2015.

"I absolutely love the work, both helping and meeting people. I feel that I understand the problems of people with sight loss better."  
- Linda Morris

"Linda is now a key part of the Rhyl Visionaires Social Group. She knows each member well, and cares very much about them individually, and for the group as a whole. She helps ensure each group meeting goes smoothly. The time and care she gives to the group are hugely appreciated."  
Megan, Community Engagement Coordinator.



So, if you're considering volunteering, get in touch, there are so many opportunities available! Pictured is Linda sat smiling sat at a table with a hot drink and a note pad and pen at the ready!



# Royal Society for Blind Children

## Access Unlimited

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A while ago we wrote a short piece about our involvement in the RSBC Access Unlimited Project as a partner. With the new year approaching we wanted to give you an update about the project and the new training that has been developed.

We have had a great year promoting the services of RSBC to young children networks and organisations. We are now focussing on promoting the new capacity training.

This training is aimed at anyone providing a service for young people whether it's running groups, activities or delivering services.

The aim is to help them to review the accessibility of their service for children and young people with a vision impairment and increase confidence in communication.



This training has been very popular so far and we would like to encourage as many local groups providing services for children and young people in Wales to attend this two hour virtual course.

There are many dates available to book on to. To find out more and to register please search for <https://www.rsbc.org.uk/for-families/access-unlimited-wales/capacity-building-training/> and quote Vision Support when asked where you heard about the course.

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## Community Information Service

On the next page are the visits we have planned for January 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**

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- Tuesday 2nd **Abergele Eye Clinic** 10.00am – 2.30pm
- Tuesday 2nd **Gordale Garden Centre** 10.00am - 3.00pm
- Wednesday 3rd **Tweedmill, St Asaph** 10.00am – 2.30pm
- Wed 3rd Co op **Runcorn old Town** 10.00am - 3.00pm
- Thursday 4th **Colwyn Bay Library** 10.00am – 2.30pm
- Thursday 4th **Ellesmere Port Market Car Park** 10.00am - 3.00pm
- Friday 5th **Prestatyn Library (Talking Point)** 10.00am – 2.30pm
- Monday 8th **St Asaph Library (Talking Point)** 10.00am – 2.30pm
- Thursday 11th **Pwllheli, Y Maes car park** 10.30am – 2.30pm
- Sunday 14th **Morrisons, Holyhead** 10.30am – 2.30pm
- Monday 15th **Morrisons, Rhyl** 10.00am – 2.30pm
- Tuesday 16th **Nant Y Mor, Prestatyn** 10.00am – 2.30pm
- Tuesday 16th **Brook St Neston, Nr Sainsbury** 10.00am - 3.00pm
- Wednesday 17th **Morrisons, Caernarfon** 10.30am – 2.30pm
- Wednesday 17th **Kingswood, Kingsway** 10.00am - 12.00pm
- Wednesday 17th **Blacon Library** 1.00pm - 3.00pm
- Thursday 18th **Northwich Victoria Infirmary** 10.00am - 3.00pm
- Friday 19th **Llangefni Town Hall car park** 10.30am – 2.30pm
- Monday 22nd **Llandudno Prom (by Cenotaph)** 10.00am – 2.30pm
- Tuesday 23rd **Northwich Town Centre Nr Boots** 10.00am - 3.00pm
- Wednesday 24th **Morrisons, Wrexham** 10.30am – 2.30pm
- Wednesday 24th **Waverton Shops** 10.00am - 12.00pm
- Wednesday 24th **Barbour Institute Tattenhall** 1.00pm - 3.00pm
- Thursday 25th **Flint Pavilion** 10.30am – 2.30pm
- Thursday 25th **Widnes Market Community Stall** 10.00am - 3.00pm
- Friday 26th **Cae Garnedd, Bangor** 10.30am – 2.30pm
- Monday 29th **Ysbyty Gwynedd Hospital, Bangor** 10.30am – 2.30pm
- Tuesday 30th **Ellesmere Port Market Car Park** 10.00am - 3.00pm
- Tuesday 30th **Rhyl Library (Talking Point)** 10.00am – 2.30pm
- Wednesday 31st **Frodsham Library** 10.00am - 3.00pm
- Wednesday 31st **Asda, Queensferry** 10.30am – 2.30pm

## Regional Pride of Britain Awards 2023

Skydiving and abseiling Vera Rogers who we featured in one of our previous Newsletters has been awarded The Pride of Britain Regional Fundraiser of the Year for the North West!

The 86-year-old received the award in recognition of her incredible fundraising efforts in her husband's memory. Vera has raised more than £20,000 through daring abseils, skydives and wing walks to help St Luke's, in Winsford, who provide end of life care for terminally ill people.

Vera was expecting a photoshoot and tea party at St Luke's when she was met by Granada Reports presenter and a Pride of Britain gong.



As the winner of the regional Pride of Britain awards Vera was invited down to London to appear on The National Pride of Britain Awards presented by Carol Vorderman. Vera said, "I had a wonderful time and met a lot of very incredible people from all over the country who make a difference to people's lives by raising money for very good causes".

Vera is now looking forward to how she can make more money for St. Lukes and is now preparing to abseil down Blackpool Tower next year. Good Luck Vera!

## **Associated Optical Offers**

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**We have been given some great deals to pass on to you! Associated Optical has provided a code for our service users which is VISICS1 you**



**can use this towards the following items. If you are interested in either of these items or want to know more call Associated Optical on 01628 600410 .**

**Visolux XL FHD - A Large 12inch screen with 2x to 22x magnification. Can be used with the controls or by using the touch screen. In HD and can be plugged into the TV as well to project the image. Has a kick stand so easy to use and manoeuvre. Screen is crystal clear. Costs £1499 on their website but with the code it's £665**

**Smartlux Digital - With a 5-inch LCD screen, 3x to 15x magnification. Has a built in stand so can be used in three ways, hand-held for mobile use, low stand for reading material and high stand for writing underneath. Again, quality of the screen and image is brilliant. Also has a photo function where images can be taken and stored. Costs £590 on their website but with the code it's £285.**

## Sight Loss Information Line

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With the support of the Local Eye Health Network (LEHN) and with funding from the National Lottery, Vision Support have launched the Cheshire Sight Loss Information line in partnership with East Cheshire Eye Society.

The Information Line is a free service which works throughout Cheshire to help people with a vision impairment by providing them with support and guidance through bespoke information packs, signposting to relevant services and organisation that can help. A dedicated team of staff are waiting for your calls ensuring that you are getting the information you want when you are ready.

For Cheshire call us on 01244 478910 for Wales call 01244 381515 and for Halton call 0151 5118801.

Join our online community by visiting our website and social media pages! Full of up to date information about Vision Support, our activities and exclusive blogs! [www.visionsupport.org.uk](http://www.visionsupport.org.uk)



Facebook

@VisionSupportCharity



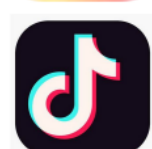
Twitter

@\_VisionSupport



Instagram

@\_VisionSupport



TikTok

@VisionSupportCharity

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## Thank you

We want to say a big thank you to all of our colleagues in Vision Support Trading who have worked incredibly hard this year, resulting in them gift aiding a total of £638,000. This financial support enables us to continue to provide quality services across the organisation. THANK YOU VST.

We have also been very fortunate to receive legacies this year amounting to nearly £200,000. We are extremely grateful to those people who have left us such generous gifts. If you would like to include us in your will, please do get in touch with us.

Seasons Greetings to you all from all of the team at Vision Support.