

Welcome to the June 2025
Vision Support newsletter,
covering:

Halton 0151 5117260

Chester 01244 478910

North East Wales 01244 381515



A big hello from all of us at Vision Support! This month there are some fantastic updates including our upcoming **online art auction**, events being held by the **Sight Loss Information Line**, our **Low Vision Roadshow**, and updates on events in our region. Please note a full list of our events are on the Vision Support website www.visionsupport.org.uk under events calendar and you are always welcome to give us a call to find out what's going on in your area!

Volunteers Week

Megan & Rachel (pictured right smiling and holding a 'Thank You, Volunteers' sign) celebrated **Volunteers Week** with a big thank you to our amazing volunteers. Our volunteers are at the heart of everything we do—whether it's making friendly phone calls or helping out at groups, they make a huge difference to the lives of the blind & partially sighted people we support!





Vision Support ART AUCTION

**Live on eBay from Monday
30th June - for 1 week only!**

Don't miss the chance to own original artwork by two of our incredibly talented service users, Jon and Melvin.

All proceeds go towards expanding Vision Support services across Cheshire, Halton & North Wales, helping more people with sight loss stay connected and supported.

BID. BUY. SUPPORT.

<https://bit.ly/3FKIHAS>



Sight Loss Information Line (SLIL)

Our National Lottery project, the Cheshire SLIL is proud to be the first point of contact for people with vision impairments across Cheshire—providing support, guidance, and practical advice.

You can connect with our SLIL officers, Ash & Hayley (pictured right smiling at an event in front of a table with leaflets on), at our welcoming drop-in hub in Chester's historic Bluecoat building, or by phone on **01244 478910**. But that's not all—we're out and about too, hosting coffee mornings and regular pop-up events in local libraries and community venues.

Here are some of the events coming up. As this newsletter is published every two months, not all our events are listed—so check out our social media pages or our online events calendar or give us a call for the most up-to-date info!

Upcoming Pop-Up Sightline Sessions

Hope Farm Library – Tuesday, 1 July, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Storyhouse, Chester – Thursday, 3 July, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Lache Library – Thursday, 10 July, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Northwich Library – Monday, 21 July, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Sandiway Library – Thursday, 31 July, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Tattenhall Library – Thursday, 7 August, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM



SLIL – Community Support Morning

After the success of our recent coffee morning at The Bluecoat, we're delighted to invite you to our upcoming Community Support Morning!

Wednesday, 20 August from 10:00 AM at the Bluecoat, Chester.

Join us for an informative and welcoming session featuring short talks from the Vision Support team, updates on our latest work, and an open Q&A where you can ask questions and explore the support available to you. Full event details will be available on request closer to the date —so if you'd like to find out more, please get in touch.

We'd love to hear from you call us on **01244 478910**.

What's Going on in Halton

Gardening Club

Green Fingers Gardening Group have a session for Vision Support service users on a monthly basis. Our next session takes place on Wednesday 2nd July at 11am. Dawn, our Community Engagement Coordinator had the opportunity to carry out some of the activities for herself which included weeding the raised flower beds, planting tomatoes and planting cosmos flowers. To find out more, call us on 0151 5117260.

Halton Tuesday Group

The Tuesday Club is thriving with around 20 people attending every week. They have recently enjoyed a trip to Llandudno with a lovely meal at The George Hotel, had performances from various choirs, celebrated VE day, and numerous birthdays with lots of cake!

Evening Social

We had a fabulous evening at Widnes Superbowl 'Strike and Slice' with some very competitive bowlers!! Our next social will be at The Queen of Hearts pub on 8th July. If you would like to come and join us please get in touch!

What's going on in Halton

Monday Morning Meet ups

We are continuing with our very popular Monday Morning Meet Up's at The **Route Café in Widnes**. We have had guest speakers from The Readers Charity to deliver a shared reading session as well as Ruth Darling from Halton Libraries to continue our life stories work, celebrating our services users and the amazing lives people have led. We meet on the **last Monday of the Month 11am – 12.30pm**.

Golf Sessions

Our golf sessions have been fully booked up this month! If you would like to join us on the next session (date and time to be confirmed), then please let Dawn know at our Halton office on 0151 5117260.

Outreach Education and Health Hub in Runcorn

The Halton team will be out and about this summer at several pop-up events, including **Warrington Disability Awareness Day at Walton Gardens on Sunday 13 July**—a fun-filled day for the whole family with attractions, food, drinks, and information. You can also visit us at the **Sir Captain John Moore Building, Halton Hospital, on Tuesday 12 August from 12pm to 3pm**.

Meanwhile, work is underway on the new **Education and Health Hub in Runcorn**, due to open next year. Our Community Engagement Coordinator, Dawn, has been supporting the project to help ensure the space is as accessible and as vision impaired (VI) friendly as possible. We're excited to continue contributing to this important development.

Want to know more? Call our Halton office on **0151 5117260**.



Vision Support Low Vision Roadshow

23rd Trinity Centre Llandudno 10 - 4pm

25th Ellesmere Port Civic Hall 11 - 3pm

26th Widnes Masonic Hall 12 - 3pm

**Join us this September for a unique event
spotlighting essential resources, expert
organisations, and the latest in eye health, low vision
aids, equipment, and wellbeing support.**



**Email information@visionsupport.org.uk or call
01244 381515 if you'd like more details**

What's going on in Cheshire

West Kirby Walk

A quick mention about the West Kirby walk we have coming up on **Tuesday 15th July**. We will be joined by Fiona, the Health Development Officer for Wirral Council. For the walk we will be heading up to West Kirby, taking around a 3-mile stroll of the Marina and part of the Wirral Way, before stopping for some well-earned lunch at a café.

VI Golf Driving Range Session

We also have our VI Driving Range Golf sessions taking place one **Friday each month at Foregolf, Sealand Road, Chester, CH1 6BP**. We are still awaiting confirmation on dates for the next several months but if anyone is interested in knowing more, please get in touch!

VI Friendly Swimming, Northwich

We are also running VI-Friendly Swimming sessions in Northwich. We've had a successful start to these and we would love for more people to come along! Its **every Wednesday 3pm - 4pm at Memorial Court, Chester Way, Northwich, England, CW9 5QJ**. The sessions will be free if you're a Brio member, or there is the option to pay as you go for £5.60 per session with a concession card.

If anyone would like to know more, call our Sight Loss Information Line on **01244 478910**.

What's going on in Cheshire

Socialise Meet Up

Our next Socialise meet-up will be on Friday 11th July at Colwyn Bay!

This will be a more informal beach social, where you can pop along for a short time or join us for the day. There is a chance to have a short walk along the promenade in the morning for around an hour and a half. For the day, you are welcome to bring along a picnic lunch or independently head into Colwyn Bay to find a cafe or pub for some food or drinks.

VI Friendly Dinghy Sailing Experience

We are also organising a VI friendly dinghy sailing experience with the help of UK North Blind Sailing Association and Shotwick Lake Sailing Club. A date is TBC but likely late July/ August but we are asking anyone who may be interested to get in touch to find out more!

We do have lots more activities coming up and all of our events are listed on the event calendar on the Vision Support website.

www.visionsupport.org.uk.

If you would like any more information about any of our Cheshire groups, give the Sight Loss Information Line a call on **01244 478910**.

Wrexham Visionaires

This month the Wrexham Visionaires enjoyed a memorable outing to Llangollen. The day included a peaceful horse-drawn canal boat ride to the Horseshoe Falls, where the group could take in the gentle sounds of the water and surrounding nature, and a hearty fish and chips lunch!



Image description: Photo 1: the group sat in the canal boat, along benches either side.

Though the morning began with a bit of rain, the weather cleared just in time for a scenic and enjoyable experience. If you'd like to attend any of our future outings give us a call on 01244 381515.

Image description:
Photo 2: some of the group members looking out across the Horseshoe Falls, a tree is visible in the water to the left .



Prestatyn Visionaires

On Tuesday 3rd June members of the Prestatyn Visionaires group and their volunteers went on an afternoon trip to nearby Bodrhyddan Hall.

Members were able to enjoy a guided tour around the house, hearing about the many artifacts collected by the family over the years, and hearing about their family history.

After the tour members were treated to tea and cake in the tearooms. Some members even had time for a short walk around the gardens before getting on the bus back home.



Image description: members of the Prestatyn Visionaires stood outside. Behind them to their left is part of Bodrhyddan Hall and behind to their right are some of the many shaped hedges in the gardens.

There are lots of exciting events coming up in North Wales, so please check out our website or get in touch to find out more—01244 381515

The Gift That Keeps on Giving

When someone chooses to remember our charity in their Will, they create ripples of support that extend far beyond their own lifetime. Over recent years, we've been humbled by the generosity of supporters who have left us legacy gifts, and the impact of their thoughtfulness continues to transform lives across our region.

Thanks to the foresight of those who remembered us in their Wills, we've been able to expand our vital services in meaningful ways.

Legacy gifts have enabled us to increase the hours in our home visitor team in both Cheshire and North Wales, enabling us to provide vital support to people in their own home, provide additional hours of support in our digital skills programmes to help people develop their skills with using every day tech to support accessibility and connection, and we have introduced a counselling service to support people to process their feelings around their sight.

What makes these gifts so special is their enduring nature - a single bequest continues working year after year, supporting multiple people and creating a ripple of positive change that the original donor could never have imagined.

If you'd like to learn more about remembering Vision Support in your will, please contact us at **Information@VisionSupport.Org.Uk** or phone us on **01244 381515** for a confidential conversation about how your future gift could help ensure our services continue for generations to come.

At Vision Support, we're always planning activities, day trips, and social groups with you in mind — and we'd love your input!

Please take a few moments to read the questions below and let us know what you'd most enjoy. Then simply email your responses to **information@visionsupport.org.uk** or call one of our offices (numbers on the front page) — whichever is best for you.

- 1. Where do you live?** (Town and county)
- 2. What types of activities interest you?** Social groups (e.g., coffee mornings), Arts & crafts, Sports & fitness, Educational talks, Music, dance, singing, Outdoor activities (e.g., walks), Games (bingo, quizzes, board games), Other (please specify)
- 3. Any specific activities or groups you'd like us to offer?**
- 4. What kind of day trips would you enjoy?** Nature / seaside History / culture / museums, Food, Theatre / music, Other (please specify)
- 5. Any specific day trips you'd like us to offer?**
- 6. Would you (or someone you know) be interested in volunteering with Vision Support to run or help run any of the social or activity groups?** Yes, No, Maybe - please contact me with more details (please give your name and contact number if you'd like us to get in touch!)
- 7. Any other feedback or suggestions?**

Image description: The Vision Support logo with the tagline “Your Vision, Our Support” in matching purple text.



Your Vision, Our Support