



***HUNTINGDONSHIRE  
SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND***

***REGISTERED CHARITY 202573***

***NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2020***

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HUNTINGDON  
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**www.huntsblind.co.uk**

**facebook: @huntsblind**

**twitter: @huntsblind**

**WE HAVE STAFF AVAILABLE FROM 10.00 am to 3.00 pm**

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY**

**Here to help:**

**Manager**

**Erika Brown**

**Administrator/Finance Officer/**

**Emma Martin**

**IT Advisor**

**Social Activities Co-ordinator**

**Andrea Murphy**

**Social Activities Co-ordinator/**

**Rachel Sutherland**

**Fundraising Co-ordinator**

**Outreach Worker (north)**

**Vicki Jones**

**Outreach Worker (south)**

**Jenny McInnes**

**Eye Clinic Liaison Officer**

**Vicky French**

I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

The last four or so months have been quite extraordinary for us all. When we produced the last newsletter we were in the very early days of lockdown. Clubs and activities were cancelled, face to face appointments were put on hold, the resource centre, shop and office all closed and generally all “normal” services came to a grinding halt. Very quickly we adapted to a new way of working and shifted our focus to providing support to members via the telephone. Initially our priority was to establish that all members and their carers were safe and provided for in terms of shopping etc. We were reassured that, for the vast majority, members were incredibly well supported by family, friends, neighbours and the wider community and there was just a very small number who needed to be referred for additional support.

From those very early phone calls we continue to keep in regular contact with members and have enjoyed the opportunity to really get to know some who we'd had less contact with in the past. We have embraced new ways of reaching out through “zoom” meetings and quizzes and recently the Arts and Crafts group members had a lockdown project delivered to their doorstep.

Throughout lockdown we have continued to provide essential equipment and garden visits are starting to become the new way of life for outreach support.

I know some members are keen for clubs to resume and, whilst we may feel the same, we will not take any risks with your health and safety or that of our volunteers and staff. We regularly review all our options and at this time don't have any plans to re-start any of our social activities. Similarly we don't have any immediate plan to re-open the shop and office. The shop space is very small and social distancing would be incredibly difficult to maintain. Staff are all able to work from home and will continue to do so for the time being. I can't say when things will change. Each day brings new government advice and directives and obviously we will work in line with regulations but most importantly your wellbeing and safety will remain our priority.

Whilst the office and resource centre may still be closed and social groups on hold, we are still able to provide support. If you need any help, information and advice please don't hesitate to contact us. The office phone has been re-directed and will be answered as normal – 01480 453438 or email us on [info@huntsblind.co.uk](mailto:info@huntsblind.co.uk).

By now we would be in full swing of our coffee morning season. We would have held various other fundraising activities and events and of course welcomed many hundreds of customers into our charity shop. Coronavirus has had a massive impact on our ability to fundraise these last few months and continues to wreak havoc as futures events continue to be cancelled.

As our annual summer draw was cancelled we have launched an alternative fundraising appeal to help us bridge the financial gap the pandemic has caused. If you are able to help with a small donation to the Society during this difficult time we would be incredibly grateful. Please feel free to use the enclosed form which also provides Gift Aid information. Thank you in advance for all your support.

These last few months have been hugely challenging and I think it's quite clear that life will not be the same for some time to come. It's been a massive learning curve for us all and we've had to adapt to new ways of working. I'm sure when we come out the other end of lockdown we will continue to develop some of our new founded methods of service delivery. In the meantime I wanted to say thank you to all members for your continued support. As always we value and appreciate your feedback and welcome any comments about the services we provide especially as things have changed in the last few months. My thanks also to the team of volunteers who have continued to selflessly and cheerfully support members and staff during this time. And finally my thanks to the brilliant staff team I work with. Not only have they adapted to new working methods and environments – kitchen and dining room tables – will breathe a sigh of relief when all this is over but they have provided fantastic emotional and practical support to our members which I know you truly appreciate.

Stay safe and take care everyone.  
Erika, Manager

# **SOCIETY NEWS AND NOTICES**

## **Member News**

### **Birthdays**

We would like to send our best wishes to all members celebrating a birthday in August, September, October and November. Members celebrating a **special birthday** in the coming months are: Ivy Longland, Jill Shelton, Mary Smoker, Joan Draper, Richard Cullen, Don Mayle, Jenny Carroll, Josie Atherton, Ellie Clark, Joy Bolland, John Rhodes, Simon Muncaster, Lily Fisher, Mary Todd, Brenda Gipp, Joan Atherton, June Feldon, Joan Walter, Geoffrey Westaway, Bet Cannings and Clive Worboys.

### **Deaths**

We are very sorry to report the deaths of the following members: Violet Reynolds, David Jones, Ian Proudfoot, Mona Taylor, Joy North, Reginald Dyer, Paul Gotobed, Don Griffin, Reg Russell, Ernie Hawkins, Joan Sewell, Olwen Juniper, Paula Rushton, Betty Hanson, Jim Bowles, Danny Mayers, Betty Chapman, Jeanette Broadbent, Margaret Smith, Jean Murphy, Doris Gash, Janet Raynor, Mary McCann, George Taylor, June Cable, Jean Ambler, Doreen Claxton and Jim Colyer.

### **Office/shop closure**

The shop and office will be closed for August bank holiday on Monday 31st August 2020.

### **Face Masks**

Society members and volunteers have been offered free washable, reusable face masks. If you or your carer would like a mask please call us on 01480 453438.

### **MESSAGE FROM VICKY FRENCH**

#### **Eye Clinic Liaison Officer, Hinchingsbrooke Hospital**

Hello, I hope everyone is staying safe in this very unusual time. The eye clinic here at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital continues to run our AMD clinics as normal along with our Emergency Eye Clinic, but we book fewer patients per clinic to ensure that we can comply fully with 2 meter social distancing requirements. The waiting room has been marked out to help ensure all attending patients and staff remain safe. If a family member,

friend or carer needs to attend an appointment with a patient this is possible but we do ask this only happens when absolutely necessary. Everyone entering the hospital must wear a mask. All our staff have sufficient PPE and remain here to help and support you. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your sight please call us, leave a message at reception and a nurse will call you back to discuss the concern.

The main hospital number is 01480 416416 and ask for the Eye Clinic. Any patients who have been unable to attend their appointment due to shielding have been given the opportunity to rearrange. All elective procedures remain cancelled until we receive National Guidance as to when they can recommence, this includes the Low Vision Clinic. I will keep you posted as and when things change, take care and stay safe.

Best wishes  
Vicky

### **Audrey's 90th Birthday Celebration**



Hunts Blind member Audrey Wright celebrated her 90th birthday in June. Audrey has been a member of the Society since 2000 and regularly attends the fundraising coffee mornings and the St Ives social group. Many of you would have met Audrey over the years at various gatherings so we thought we would share this lovely photograph of her.

If you have celebrated any special birthdays or events and would like to share your news and photographs we would love to hear from you and could include them in our next newsletter.

## **Social Activities Report by Rachel and Andrea**

Who'd have thought at Christmas time we would be here today hosting quizzes online via zoom and delivering arts and crafts kits to your door. We miss seeing you all and look forward to being reunited at clubs when it is safe to do so. Bring on an afternoon of singing with a cream scone and a cuppa!

We have very much enjoyed our chats with you all during lockdown and have loved learning new things about you. I'm sure some of your gardens could give Alan Titchmarsh a run for his money.

Over the last few weeks we have hosted a weekly Zoom Quiz which has proved popular with members. Brian and Gyllian Harrison from St Neots club have won every week so far so if you fancy a go at knocking them off the top spot please contact Rachel on 07542 680280. Well done to everyone who has taken part in the quizzes - we hope you have enjoyed them as much as we have.

Behind the scenes we are always trying to think of new ways to connect with you during this time. If any of you have ideas on what would be fun to do please let us know and we can see if it is feasible.

In the meantime, keep safe and well and we hope to be back at the clubs when we can, enjoying each other's company once again.

Take care  
Rachel and Andrea

## **Lockdown Arts and Crafts by Andrea**

The arts and crafts group which was due to meet shortly before lockdown was announced had been cancelled for safety reasons. By June I was really missing the group and the opportunity to try new crafts and then, one day, I had a brainwave! Would it be possible to arrange a project for members to do while they remained at home? I started developing the idea of a homemade hanging basket and was lucky to have most of the materials to hand to practise with a prototype – and it worked!! Given the materials available I assembled 17 boxes with all the items needed to make the flowerpot hanging basket including glue,



compost and a few seeds to grow. Rachel and I delivered the boxes to members social distancing at the doorsteps. It was lovely to see you all.

And I'm happy to report that it was a success judging by the finished project photos members have emailed me. Let's just hope the seeds grow!

The next arts and crafts box of fun will be distributed in August. The project is a bit of a "corker" and I cannot wait to get started on the prototype.

### **Theatre Group Update**

Our theatre group was due to watch a performance of 'The Cat and the Canary', in April, at the Cambridge Arts Theatre. As you will be aware all performances were cancelled and will remain so up until at least 31st August 2020. The Arts Theatre is currently taking bookings for later in the year. We are unsure at this stage when our theatre group will meet up again but will update those members with more information as soon as we are able to do so.

If you would like any information about the theatre group please contact the office.

### **Christmas Party**

Before lockdown we'd started to plan for this year's Christmas party due to be held at Wicksteed Park where we hope to enjoy a musical show and refreshments in December. Unfortunately, as you may have heard on the local news, Wicksteed Park is experiencing financial difficulties although it appears that various financial rescue packages are being put in place. At this point in time we are waiting for further information before we can confirm what will be happening. We will of course keep you all updated as soon as we have more information.

## **Society Holiday 2020**

Due to the Coronavirus, this year's Society holiday to Studley Castle in Warwickshire was cancelled. A decision regarding future holiday's is yet to be made.

### **Payment by Card**

Please note that the Society will soon be able to take electronic payment for visual aids, social activities, 200 club shares, shop purchases and donations.

## **FUNDRAISING NEWS**

Whilst all fundraising activities and events have been cancelled these last few months and into the immediate future you can still support the Society through membership of our 200+ club. The scheme helps to raise over £1500 per year for the Society and distributes the same amount in prize winnings to shareholders. If you would like to join the 200 club (one share is £12 per year) please complete the form of the back of this newsletter or contact the office 01480 453438 for more information.

### **HSB 200+ Club Results**

Congratulations to 200 club draw prize winners for April, May, June and July:-

#### **April**

1st prize - £25, P Carson  
2nd prize - £15, B Buist  
3rd prize - £10, E Barber

#### **May**

1st prize - £25, T Busby  
2nd prize - £15, M Rhind-Tutt  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize - £10, D Claxton

#### **June**

1st prize - £125, M Depasquale  
2nd prize – £60, R Maith  
3rd prize – £30, J Ambler  
4<sup>th</sup> prize - £20, J Bird  
5<sup>th</sup> prize - £15, P Porter

#### **July**

1st prize - £25, P Kofie  
2nd prize - £15, D Moore  
3rd prize - £10, K Yallop

## Easy fundraising - feel good shopping

We need your help! If you shop online, please sign up to easy fundraising to support Huntingdonshire Society for the Blind.

It's a really easy way to raise money for us – you just use the easy fundraising site to shop online with over 4000 well known online stores such as Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, Sainsbury's, ASOS, M&S and many more.

We want to raise as much as possible, please visit the easy fundraising website <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>. From there you will be able to choose a cause to support and then join for free. Visit retailers and shop online as normal. Hunts Blind will receive free donations at no extra cost to you.

## NEW PRODUCTS

Whilst the Society's resource centre is currently closed we are still able to arrange delivery of equipment direct to your home avoiding unnecessary contact and travel. As mentioned earlier you will also be able to make payment via card. Please don't hesitate to call us if you require information or advice on any equipment.



The Partially Sighted Society has added a new lanyard to their range of symbol of visual disability items.

The new 'I cannot see to socially distance' lanyard is priced at £1.80 ex vat and is available by the Partially Sighted Society on 01302 965195 or emailing [reception@partsight.org.uk](mailto:reception@partsight.org.uk).

The highly visible armband with high contrast yellow card and symbol of visual disability. One size fits all. The overall size is 15.5cm x 11.5cm.

The armband is priced at £4.00 ex vat, also available from the Partially Sighted Society.



## **2021 Diaries and Calendars**

We will be taking orders for diaries and calendars from September onwards.

Please contact Emma with your order.

If you have any visual aids you no longer require and are in good working order, please contact the office. The Society will take back your old blinds and recycle them to other members. All recycled donations are greatly received.

### **TECH CORNER by Emma**

Due to the impact of the coronavirus, lots of the activities we are involved in as individuals and groups are now taking place online, such as exercise classes, book clubs, office meetings, etc. Thanks to apps such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams we are able to carry on and adapt to a different way of living and to enable these activities to go ahead, albeit slightly differently. As things start to change and lockdown measures are eased things will start to return to a different normal. We will continue to use the tech we quickly had to adapt to, we've learnt new skills and it's become a new way of life. Once we got the hang of these new ways, we find they are often easier and have the reassurance of feeling safe in our own homes. Shopping online has inevitably increased with the likes of Amazon and our major supermarkets having to hire extra staff to keep up with the demand, as so many more of us are now having our food and general supplies delivered this way.

Like the rest of the world, the Society quickly had to set up some new ways of working. Luckily, a few weeks prior to lockdown we moved over to an app called Slack which is essentially a chat room designed to replace internal email as a primary method of communication and sharing. We can message and attach files quickly to one another in group discussions and private messages. It has been invaluable over the last few months. We now have a Zoom account which we use to hold our office meetings, meetings with other organisations as well as getting some good use by our Sports & Social group who use Zoom for their weekly quizzes. If you are considering downloading the Zoom app yourself and would like some support in doing so, please contact Emma at [emma@huntsblind.co.uk](mailto:emma@huntsblind.co.uk) or call the office number and we will arrange for some assistance.

As well as a new way of communicating via Slack and our new video conferencing app Zoom, the Society is in the process of setting up a new contact management system called Charity Log. The new system will hold all our information in one place; members, staff, volunteers, suppliers, the list goes on. We have been working alongside our Charity Log Implementation Consultant, building the system during June and July and are planning to go live in the next couple of months. A lot of work has gone into the planning and ensuring the data we hold is all current and up to date. This will explain some of the phone calls to members from Hunts Bind staff checking their details. It is an exciting time for us, bringing us more up to date and enabling us to work more efficiently.

We have had an interesting and busy time over lockdown learning new systems and ways of working.

### **TV Licensing - Update**

Free TV Licences, funded by the Government, for all over 75s will come to an end on 31st July 2020 and from 1 August 2020 there will be a new scheme in place.

Under the new scheme, anyone aged 75 or over receiving Pension Credit will be eligible to apply for a free TV Licence, paid for by the BBC. Pension Credit can be in the name of the licence holder, or in their

partner's name if they are a couple living at the same address. If Pension Credit is not received – either in the licence holder's name or their partner's name if they are a couple – the TV Licence will need to be paid for.

If you turn 75 on or after 1 August 2020 and you don't receive Pension Credit, you will not be eligible for a free licence under the new policy. If you think you may be eligible for Pension Credit but you currently don't receive it, you can find out more at: [www.gov.uk/pension-credit](http://www.gov.uk/pension-credit) or by calling 0800 99 1234 (opening hours 9:30am-3:30pm).

If you are blind (severely sight impaired) and can provide the appropriate evidence, you are eligible to apply for a 50% concession. Your licence will also cover anyone who lives with you. If you are partially sighted (sight impaired) you are not eligible.

## **CAMBRIDGESHIRE LIBRARIES PRESENTS**

Paul McCartney The Biography, Author Philip Norman, Narrator Jonathan Keeble

Since the age of twenty-one, Paul McCartney has lived one of the ultimate rock-n-roll lives played out on the most public of stages. Now, Paul's story is told by rock music's foremost biographer, with McCartney's consent and access to family members and close friends who have never spoken on the record before. Paul McCartney reveals the complex character behind the façade and sheds new light on his childhood – blighted by his mother's death but redeemed by the father who introduced him to music.

PAUL McCARTNEY  
THE BIOGRAPHY  
PHILIP NORMAN

Read by  
JONATHAN KEEBLE



<https://cambridgeshire.rbdigitalglobal.com/book/9781510041158>  
You will need to have a library card and register an account on the RBDigital page  
<https://cambridgeshire.rbdigitalglobal.com/home>

## Maybe Tomorrow

I'm stuck at home, I can't go out  
I'm told I mustn't walk about  
Outside the neighbourhood in case  
I meet a neighbour face to face.  
So here I am at home alone  
As now outside I cannot roam  
And so what now? I wish I knew  
There are so many things to do  
I'll give the house a good spring clean  
Till everywhere is quite pristine  
The lounge needs work, the kitchen too  
And then I'll have to clean the loo.  
The dining room is in a mess  
Perhaps I could start there, unless  
Maybe the bathroom is more urgent  
I'll clean that with some good detergent.  
But now I've got a dreadful thirst  
I'll make a pot of coffee first  
And find a chair where I can sit  
And read the paper for a bit.  
Perhaps I'll clean the cupboards first  
Or give the oven a quick burst  
Of oven cleaner but, oh no,  
I ought to give the floors a go.  
I'll sweep the carpet in the hall  
And dust the skirtings round the wall.  
I'll clean the windows then, I think,  
I'll wash the curtains in the sink.  
I'll dig the garden, pull some weeds,  
Maybe even plant some seeds,  
But it's really nice here in the sun,  
There's heaps of time to get things done.  
I'll write a list, that's what I'll do,  
It always helps to think things through.  
Then I'll know what to prioritise  
And deal with things as they arise.  
Oh, what's the time? It's half past three,  
I think I'll have a cup of tea.

And then I'll give my friend a call  
She's not too well, she's had a fall.  
She likes to talk when on the phone  
And when she's gone the time has flown.  
To start work now it's far too late  
The chores will all just have to wait.  
I feel so tired, I have to say  
It has been such a busy day.  
I will go to bed and maybe then  
Tomorrow I'll begin again.

### **The Topic of 2020. A poem by Angela Wyatt**

Where did all the loo rolls disappear  
I looked everywhere  
But found the shelves completely bare

I shopped early, even late  
Not a sight, for heaven's sake!  
Fancy taking home so many  
Leaving me without any

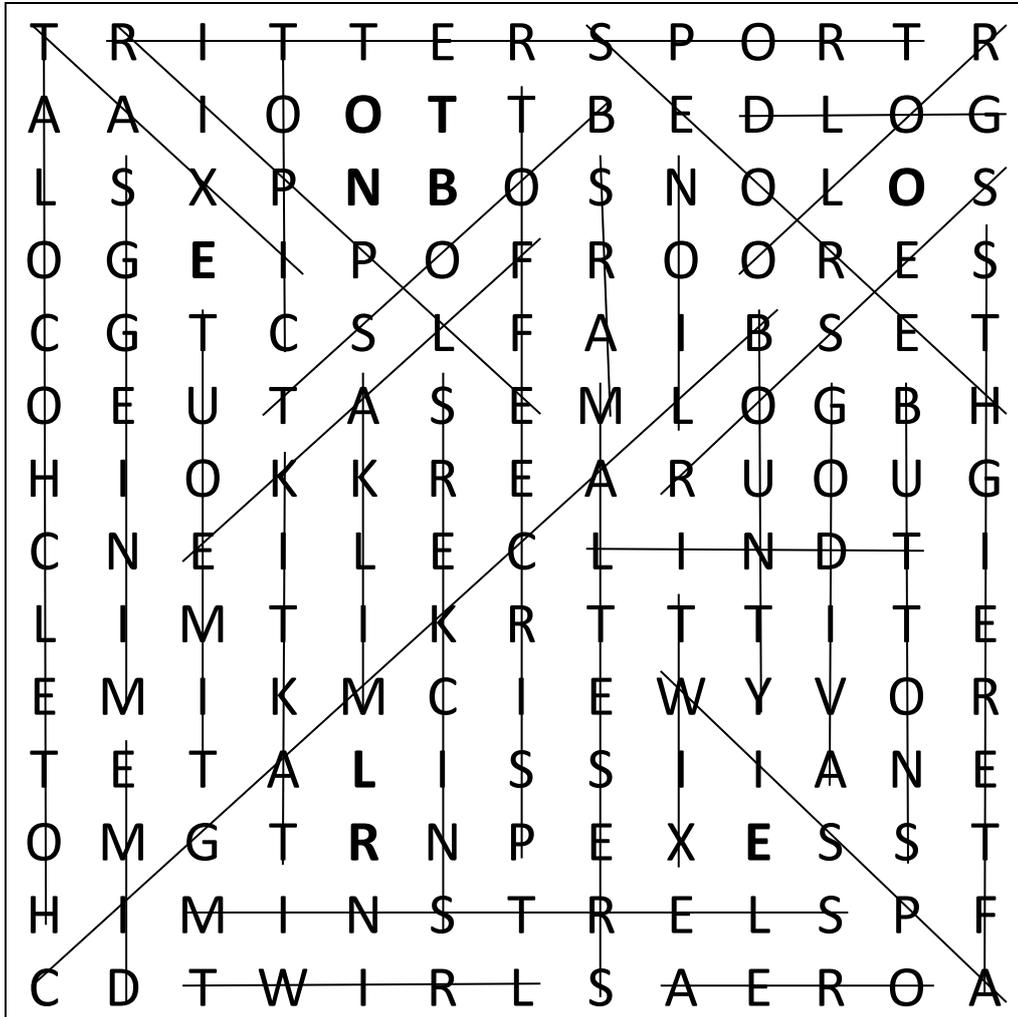
I got worried, what could I do?  
Being so desperate for the loo  
So, I went down to the Spar  
It had to be quick, so drove the car

Thank goodness I managed to find a pack of four  
Could not wait to get out of the store  
I cannot believe in this world of today  
That all the loo rolls got sold this way!

### **HUNTINGDONSHIRE TALKING NEWSPAPER**

We are very grateful to The Talking Newspaper who record our Society newsletter onto CD so if you would like to receive it in this format or you would like the weekly Hunts Post then please contact us at the **Hunts Society for the Blind on 01480 453438.**

## SPRING QUIZ ANSWERS



Unused letters spell - TOBLERONE

## HSB 200+CLUB

This is a scheme to raise funds for Huntingdonshire Society for the Blind and for us to give all our supporters the chance to win money prizes every month.

For the annual subscription of £12 per share you will be entered in twelve monthly draws and grand draws twice a year. Last year we raised over £1500 for the society and gave equal amounts in prize money.

If you would like to join please complete the form below and enclose payment or come and visit us at the shop/office.

.....  
Please complete and return to Huntingdonshire Society for the Blind at: 8, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, Cambs PE29 3PE.

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....Tel No .....

In the event we are unable to contact you please give the name of a beneficiary .....Tel No.....

I wish to apply for.....shares, at £12 per year, in the 200+club

I enclose £.....cheque payable to Huntingdonshire Society for the Blind or payment can be made via BACs to CAF Bank, sort code 40 52 40, account number 00021399. Please include your name as a reference.

Signed.....Date.....

### Office Use only

200+ Club number issued .....

Date of first draw .....

**Date of reminder** .....

# SUMMER QUIZ

Here is a word search of 41 fruit and vegetables to complete for fun. It has 14 unused letters which spell out another word, see if you can work it out.



- |             |         |            |              |
|-------------|---------|------------|--------------|
| Apple       | Coconut | Lychee     | Pomegranate  |
| Avocado     | Cress   | Mange Tout | Potato       |
| Banana      | Date    | Marrow     | Pumpkin      |
| Beans       | Figs    | Melon      | Radish       |
| Beet        | Kale    | Onion      | Rhubarb      |
| Broccoli    | Kiwi    | Orange     | Satsuma      |
| Cauliflower | Leeks   | Papaya     | Squash       |
| Celery      | Lemon   | Peach      | Swede        |
| Chard       | Lettuce | Pear       | Tomato       |
| Chicory     | Lime    | Peas       | Turnip / Yam |

Unused Letters Spell \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 The summer quiz is just for fun so for the time being please don't return your answer to the office. Our competition and a prize for the winning entry will resume once we are back in the office.