

Oxfordshire Association for the Blind

OAB Newsletter

April 2011

Future Vision

The building is about to start! Yes, I'm delighted to tell you that the builders are about to commence work on our new Resource Centre for Blind and Partially Sighted People. With luck, the work will be finished by, or soon after, Christmas. The Resource Centre will enable us to provide a range of new services for visually impaired people, and a more comfortable environment for our present services. We'll be able to provide training courses on how to use new technologies as well as opportunities to practise more practical skills like baking and cooking. Our meeting room will be available for local visual impairment clubs and for seminars to teach staff from other companies about sight impairment. We'll be able to extend our counselling service and we'll be working together with Social and Community Services, Action for Blind People and others to set up joint initiatives which should benefit more people. All of this will be in a safer, more energy efficient building than our present facilities.

I'd like to thank all those of you who have helped us to get this far. The project to build, equip and run the Centre – Future Vision, we call it – has progressed so well that we are able to get the building phase under way.

There is still more fundraising to do to ensure that the new facility will be able to function at its full capacity, but if the generosity of donors continues at this rate then our Future Vision will spring into life around next Spring itself. If anyone feels able to make a contribution towards the completion of the project, we would, of course, be delighted to hear from you.

There's more good news too. We've completed the legal process to transform OAB into a Charitable Company: that is, an organisation that is both a charity and a registered company. This puts us on a more secure legal footing and provides important protection for present and future trustees. At a meeting on 23rd March our members voted for the final stage to be completed and so the new Charitable Company is effective from the start of April. We continue, of course, with the same aim, to support as many visually impaired people in Oxfordshire as possible.

Once again, I'd like to finish by thanking all those very many people who help us to carry out our work: our friends, our volunteers, our group leaders and their helpers as well as all those people who have made donations or left us a legacy in their will. Thank you all.

Colin Cure ■■■

First things First!

A gentle reminder!

With the New Year just starting to wear in and become comfortable I am prompted to remind our supporters that the Annual Membership subscriptions are once again due! Your support is vital and gives us a stronger mandate to work for you, and membership gives you a vote at our AGM. For more information look at pages 9, 10 and 11. ■■■

Avoid disappointment, Make an appointment!

In order to give you the best possible service we need to know you are coming to see us. Then we can ensure that the right person is here to give you the best possible help. So, we would be very grateful if you could please ring us on 01865 725595 and make an appointment before you visit! ■■■

Keeping it short and sharp

TWO abbreviations appear in every newsletter. OAB is our pet name for The Oxfordshire Association for the Blind and VIP stands for visually impaired person and its other meaning is just as relevant! ■■■

The Oxfordshire Association for the Blind

*Bradbury Lodge, Gordon Woodward Way, River mead Park,
Abingdon Road, Oxford, OX14XL.*

Telephone 01865 725595 ● Fax 01865 725596 ●

E-mail : information@oxeyes.org.uk ● Web site : www.oxeyes.org.uk

Opening hours 9- 4pm weekdays (24 hour message service)

Chair **David Warr** Vice-chair **Adrian Hill** Treasurer **Amanda Tilley**

Director **Colin Cure** Administrator **Sarah Milrose**

Accounts **Michael Ling** Home Support Officer **Marian Small**

Welfare Group Officer **Mary Gregory** Information Worker **David Thompson**

Fund-raiser **Ben Allcock** Sight Advisory Desk **Judith Wood**

Volunteer Co-ordinator **Ana Novakovic** (*Wed and Friday.*)

Your Newsletter is written, compiled and edited by David Thompson

Oxfordshire Association for the Blind is registered as a charity in England and Wales No.1140556 and as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 07465300. Registered office address: Bradbury Lodge, Gordon Woodward Way, Abingdon Road, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX1 4XL.

Your chance to win £200

We are delighted to enclose for you a book of OAB summer raffle tickets, in large A5 format, for you to enter this year's charity raffle.

The top prize on offer is £200 with £50 and a fine selection of wines as second and third prizes respectively. All profits will go straight towards OAB and helping visually impaired people in Oxfordshire.

To stand a chance of winning please remember to fill in your address and contact details on the stub for each ticket that you want to enter. Tickets are £1 and each book contains ten tickets. We have enclosed a return addressed envelope for you to send the tickets to OAB for entry, though you will need to add a postage stamp or an articles for the blind stamp.

If you would like more tickets please let the OAB team know and we will send more to you. Please let us know if you would rather not receive any tickets in the future. We have done our best not to enclose tickets for those of you who requested this last year.

The draw will be held on Monday June 20th, with winners being notified that same week. We ask that all tickets for entry are completed and returned by Friday June 10th. To keep costs as low as possible we will not send receipts confirming your entry as a matter of course though we are happy to do so if requested.

Thank you, and good luck! ■■■

Building update

As you know, we will begin building our new resource centre soon after this newsletter is published. We're looking forward to helping more local visually impaired people in more ways when it is completed. Unfortunately, our existing services will be disrupted by the building process. For example we will soon have to remove the portakabin from our car park. Therefore our equipment and visual aids will be moved to our much smaller meeting room ("Campbell Room") in Bradbury Lodge. This means that we will not be able to display as much equipment as we do at the moment. We expect this to be the case from May to December 2011. Of course, once the building is complete we will have a greatly improved facility and will have a much wider range of equipment to demonstrate!

Due to the demolition of existing facilities there will be a period of time where the only disability access toilet facility available will be a portaloo in our car park. We expect this to be the case from June to December 2011.

Though we will of course ask the building company to be as considerate as possible, the construction process will be noisy and busy. There will, for example, be a number of large vehicles and equipment that will require access. We would, therefore, like to ask that you please try to book your appointment to visit us in advance, as this will help us to minimise the inconvenience that is caused to you. We are sure, when the dust has settled, and our new services are available, you will agree that it was all worth it. Thank you.

■■■

News from the North

We'd like to inform you about a change in our service in Banbury. Our excellent Coordinator, Janet Payne, is reducing her hours, for personal reasons, and concentrating on specific projects in the area. We will continue to operate our volunteer home visiting scheme in Banbury, thanks to our wonderful volunteers. We will also be continuing to liaise with the Banbury Society for the Blind, the Banbury Macular Disease Group, Age UK and the Horton Hospital. We'll no longer be available at the Age UK centre in White Lion Walk, Banbury on a Wednesday afternoon but, as always, if you need our help please do call us on 01865 725595 and we'll be pleased to assist you in any way we can. We would like to encourage anyone who is interested to consider joining the Banbury Society for the Blind or the Banbury Macular Disease Group. They're very welcoming groups and it can be very helpful to discuss issues with other people whose circumstances are similar. ■■■

Blindart a hit at Banbury Museum

Lots of sighted and V I visitors really enjoyed getting hands on this unusual exhibition including the Banbury MD group. Fame at last for me – my hand was featured in the Banbury Guardian exploring one of the exhibits! Watch out for a fantastic hologram exhibition coming to the museum in the summer. ■■■

Walk yourself to Health

The monthly Health Walks for visually Impaired People are taking place over the summer months as usual in Banbury. There are qualified walk leaders and volunteers to lend an arm if you need them.

Remember that we walk in most weathers and on different surfaces, including grass, so bring the right gear and walking shoes, plus some money for a drink and a social get-together at the end. If you are a new walker come a few minutes earlier so that we can register you for insurance purposes and, as a bonus, arrange for you to have a walker's card which gives a discount at Millets. ■■■

The Health Walk Schedule for Banbury in 2011 is as follows:

Sunday 5th June 11am at The Mill
Thursday 7th July 11am at Sainsbury's
Thursday August 4th 11am at The Mill
Tuesday September 6th 11am
at Sainsbury's ■■■

Join the Banbury Super Bowlers

The North Oxfordshire Blind Bowlers meet on Thursdays at 1pm and have a couple of games at the Lakeside SuperBowl in Banbury. As I write, they are awaiting the results of competitions to see if they have qualified for the finals of the British Blind Sports Trios competition to be held in Sheffield. Though some members of this group are participating in competitions on a regular basis, the group is actually a really good opportunity to get out and meet people. As Chris French, the Club Secretary, says, "We are a friendly bunch and any visually impaired person who wants to join will receive a very warm welcome from all of us". Of course sighted partners are welcome too, not least because they can assist the VI players and keep the scores! If you want to know more about the North Oxfordshire Blind Bowlers, contact Club Chairman Marisol Clack on 01295 269206, email: marisolclack@hotmail.com or the Club Secretary Brian Baker on 07971588994 or the Deputy Secretary Chris French on 07760112292. ■■■

Open Garden

Trish Field is an excellent gardener who also has MD. She is willing to open her colourful and inspiring garden on an ad hoc basis for other VIPs and their families or friends in exchange for a contribution to OAB. If you'd like to visit, she lives in Barford St Michael, near Banbury and can be phoned on 01869 338820. ■■■

Free books on iPhones

Brian Fountain tells us that he's enjoying downloading free audio books from the iPhone App Store via LIBRiVOX. LibriVox volunteers record chapters of books in the public domain and release the audio files back onto the net. Their goal is to make all public domain books available as free audio books. You can choose books by genre, language and other categories. He says he can listen through his earphone and then delete the book when he's finished. He also thinks the voice software on the iPhone is good. ■■■

Banbury MD Group

MD is Macular Degeneration

This group meets on a monthly basis at the Methodist Church meeting room, Marlborough Road in Banbury on the second Thursday in the month at 2pm-4pm. Everyone with an interest in MD is welcome whether as a person who has MD, or a friend or relative. A small charge of £2 is made to cover costs. For more information contact John on 01608 685293. ■■■

Banbury Blind Club

Meets alternate Tuesdays 10.30am - 2.00pm at the WRVS Centre. Helpers are always welcome. For more information call Enid Smith on 01295 269568. ■■■

Improve your vision with “Eccentric Viewing” Training technique to help people with Macular Degeneration

Age Related Macular Degeneration is the commonest form of blindness in the county. Although the central part of the eye that sees detail ceases to work, this condition does not affect the rest of the retina. As such the remaining vision can be utilised to “replace” that lost area. With just a little bit of trial and error it is possible to find out which part of the residual field of vision is the

Coming to a library near you?

In a new venture to get out and about we’re setting up an information desk at a different library in Oxfordshire for a day from 10am to 3pm throughout 2011. We’ll have OAB staff there and a range of special equipment for visually impaired people. The first information day was at Bicester Library where the staff made us very welcome and supplied us with coffee for which we were very grateful!

Here are the details of the remaining Information Days for 2011:

2nd June – Thame Library

28th September – Witney Library

7th December – Wantage Library

We look forward to seeing you. Please do let us know if you are intending to come along and if there is anything in particular that you would like to view. Just call us on 01865 725595. ■■■

best for looking at things, and then to practise using this area rather than trying to look straight at the point of interest. Our good friend Daphne Dorman may be able to help people with MD train to use their residual vision through a short series of weekly sessions. For more information please call Daphne Dorman on 01993 811084. ■■■

New season at The Playhouse

The Oxford Playhouse has a good crop of audio described shows coming up this spring and summer. On Sat 21 May, Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell starring Robert Powell; Sat 25 June brings Communicating Doors, Alan Ayckbourn’s classic comedy thriller and on Sat 16 July it’s Eden End, a JB Priestley classic presented by English Touring Theatre. All the shows start at 2.30pm with a (free) touch tour at 1pm. When you book (box office 01865 305305), remember to explain that you want to listen to the audio description - it may affect where you need to sit in the theatre. You, and sometimes a companion, will be eligible for a concessionary ticket price. Guide dogs may be allowed into the auditorium or theatre staff can look after them.

If you want to go on the mailing list for the Oxford Playhouse audio brochure, contact Hester Bond 01865 305334. ■■■

A Future Vision update and appeal

We want to help more local visually impaired people in more ways. As readers of this newsletter will know, our Future Vision project, to build a new two-storey resource centre (replacing the rather cold and cramped portakabin that so many of you are familiar with), is at the heart of this aim.

The project has received fantastic support from various trusts and foundations. Many OAB supporters have already made their own personal donation or pledge to the project – and we are very grateful to all of you who have done so, thank you – while a number of OAB trustees, volunteers, and staff have already made a gift to the project too.

We're working hard to raise the balance required to ensure that the resource centre can be built to the best standard. We will soon be sending an appeal letter to local people in Oxfordshire who we think will want to help, but who haven't supported OAB before. We will also be running a number of exciting events later in the year. Ben Allcock will run more than 300 miles around Oxfordshire over nine days in July to raise money for the project, while one of our Trustees, Sean Rainey, plans to run a staggering 85 miles in just one day to raise sponsorship! Future Vision is a fantastic project – because of it, local visually impaired people will be able to access better practical and

emotional support than is currently possible. If you are reading this and are moved to make a donation to it, then I would like to ask that you please consider doing so using the donation and Gift Aid form on the next page.

I would like to finish by thanking all of you who have already supported OAB in getting the project this far. I hope that once the resource centre is built and we're helping more people in more ways you can allow yourself to feel proud of the many wonderful things you have helped to achieve. Thank you. ■■■

Leaving your legacy

Legacies have already played a big part in helping us to set up a number of new services over the last few years.

Indeed, there are a number of services that we may not have been able to provide, like our telephone counselling scheme, for example, without the gifts that some supporters have left to us in their Wills. We are very grateful to each of those people for doing so. We work hard to honour their gift every day.

If you would like to speak with someone about leaving a gift to OAB in your Will, then please feel free to contact Colin or Ben on 01865 725595. Thank you. ■■■

Wireless watches?

I had an entertaining conversation the other day with a gentleman who seemed very enthused when I told him about the radio controlled clocks and watches that we have in our resource centre. As soon as I mentioned them he launched into an energetic monologue on his interest in radio controlled aircraft and the ambidextrous and spacial awareness skills required in order to complete feats of aerobatic and gyroscopic endeavour. When his lungs finally ran out of air, he paused and with a quizical look he asked "What is the point of a radio controlled watch?". Sadly my explanation did not involve inverted rolls and loops but a sober discourse on the merits of a radio time signal broadcast from Cumbria that helps keep our radio controlled devices accurate as they regularly check themselves against the radio signal and make any necessary adjustments in order to stay accurate, even accommodating BST. We now have an addition to our range of "radio controlled" timepieces in the shape of a new calendar watch. As well as keeping good time, accurate to one second in 60 million years (though I don't think the batteries last that long). This watch can tell you the date, accurate to the day! It has a metal case, an English male voice and is available with a bracelet or strap for a very reasonable £40. We have examples here at Bradbury Lodge so if you would like to make an appointment to come and see them or any of our equipment please contact us on 01865 725595.



Cobolt Big Button "Talking" mobile

We now have an example of the Cobolt Big Button Talking mobile phone in our demonstration area. It has a high contrast keypad with white text on a black background. The speech function is quite limited in that each number button will only announce the number when pressed, with no other speech feedback available.

The 15mm LCD screen is backlit in orange with black text and adjustable contrast. The numeric digits are 7.5mm high. The phone book stores up to 250 names and numbers, 8 of which can be stored as speed dial numbers. Although it might sound gimmicky this phone also has a torch and an FM radio feature. I must confess I listen to Radio 4s Today program on my mobile phone as I come to work on the bus! The Big Button Phone also has an emergency or "SOS" button which can have up to 4 numbers assigned to it. It also has a loud-speaker, is hearing aid compatible and is not locked to any particular service provider. Although not fully accessible to people who are blind or with severe sight loss due to the blocked design of the keypad and limited voice feedback, this device may be useful for those with sufficient residual vision to see the large print keys/buttons, who would like audio confirmation of keypad number presses. For more information or to book an appointment to come and have a look at this or any other piece of equipment call us on 01865 725595.



Giving more easily and effectively

Gift Aid

This scheme enables OAB to increase the value of donations (including membership subscriptions) by 25% provided you are a UK taxpayer.

If this applies to you please complete the Gift Aid declaration.

It makes your generosity go 25% further and helps us do that bit extra!

Standing Order

To make regular weekly, monthly, quarterly or annual payments to us why not take advantage of a standing order with your bank?

Not only does it save you having to remember when you last sent anything to us, it also saves you the hassle and cost of writing cheques and posting them to us.

If you do wish to pay by standing order, please complete the form on the following page, but please remember to send this to OAB and *NOT* to your bank.

Support OAB become a member!

You can show your support for Oxfordshire's best loved Visually Impaired charity by becoming a member. Your membership entitles you to vote at our Annual General

Meeting and gives us a greater voice in the county. Just fill in the form on the next page and help us to help you! Or telephone 01865 725595 for more information. ■■■

Our sincere thanks to all donors

We are very grateful for all donations, whether given in support of the day to day running of the Association or toward a specific project, or in memory of a loved one
Every donation very much appreciated. ■■■

Membership and donation

If you are eligible, please Gift Aid your payment by signing the declaration below. In all cases, please complete your name and address details. If you wish to pay by standing order, please also complete the separate form overleaf and return to us at:

**The Oxfordshire Association for the Blind,
Bradbury Lodge, Gordon Woodward Way,
Oxford, OX1 4XL.**

Membership

Please tick the appropriate box/es

Member

(£5.00)

Friend

(£20.00 annually)

Life Member

(£250.00)

Donation

 £5 £10 £20 £50 £100

Other amount £.....

Gift Aid

Please tick the appropriate box

Please treat this payment as a Gift Aid donation

Please treat all membership/donations that I make from the date of this declaration, until otherwise notified, as Gift Aid donations

I pay Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the OAB reclaims on membership/donations in the appropriate tax year. I will inform the OAB when this is no longer the case.

Signed **Date**.....

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

OAB Oxfordshire Association for the *Blind*

1877-2011

Helping blind people
for 134 years

Bradbury Lodge, Gordon Woodward Way, Abingdon Road,
Oxford, OX1 4XL.

Phone : 01865 725595 Fax : 01865 725596

Standing order instruction

To the Manager:.....Bank plc

at:

.....

.....Post Code

Please pay to **CAF Bank plc, 25 Kings Hill Avenue,
Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ**
Sort Code **40-52-40**

For the credit of **Oxfordshire Association for the Blind**

Account number is **00015471**

The sum of £..... (in words).....

on theday of20.....

and the same sum on the same day in each succeeding
month / quarter / year (*delete as appropriate*) until further
notice and debit my account number

Signed **Date**

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

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Registered office address: Bradbury Lodge, Gordon Woodward Way, Abingdon Road, Oxford,
Oxfordshire, OX1 4XL.

Lets talk Oxtalk

Many of our readers will already be loyal followers of OXTALK, the talking newspaper for Oxford and its environs.

It all began in 1979 when a group of blind and sighted people began planning, fundraising and recruiting specialist help to provide talking news in the Oxford area. Ralph Brain, retired news editor of the Oxford Mail, became the first editor of Oxtalk and Keith Wittrick the first technician.

On May 27th 1980 the first tape of the Oxford and District Talking News was produced on C90 cassette; 35 copies were made using the copying facilities at Westminster College and 28 tapes were sent out every fortnight.

Currently they send out between 150 and 200 cassette tapes and memory sticks per week to their listeners in Oxford and surrounding areas thanks to the work of an army of volunteers supporting the organisation in a variety of ways.

The Oxtalk talking newspaper is a compilation of articles from the local newspapers, sent out every week to people who are visually impaired. And it's absolutely free! If you don't already take advantage of this way of keeping in touch with Oxford life, you can find out more by phoning Carol Aistrop on 01865 766442 or Margaret Simpson on 01865 453403.



Talking News in Bicester

The Bicester Talking Newspaper was founded by Mike Daniels and The Lions Club of Bicester in 1982, who campaigned and raised £3,000 for equipment. Later that year, once things had been organised, the first edition came out on 12th December as an audio cassette. This free, weekly service continues today as local news is taken from the Bicester Advertiser and recorded onto audio cassettes on Monday then copied and distributed on Tuesday. If you or someone you know would like to receive the Bicester Talking Newspaper please call Mrs Mary Daniels on 01869 278876. ■■■

Pilot study led to new lenses

Modern cataract operations have been made possible thanks to the second world war. Sir Harold Ridley, who was an ophthalmic surgeon in London, found that pilots came back from their missions with little pieces of perspex in their eye (shattered screens of the planes they were flying in), to which the eye did not seem to "object": no inflammation of any significance was found in their eye. This material was modified and further developed into artificial lenses that are now used in cataract operations. ■■■

Carers groups in Oxfordshire

Carers, of any age, living or working in Oxfordshire can find support, advice and information from their local carers group

North and West Carers Centre

27 Horse Fair
Banbury
OX16 0AE
01295 264545
cc.nwoxon@dsl.pipex.com

Oxford Carers Centre

174a Cowley Road,
Oxford, OX4 1UE
01865 205192
info@carerscentre.co.uk
Website:
www.carerscentre.co.uk

South and Vale Carers' Centre

5 Lydalls Road,
Didcot, OX11 7HX
01235 510212
carers@svcarers.org.uk
Website:
www.svcarers.org.uk

Safety in Camera

An article from South Oxfordshire District Council's "OUTLOOK" CCTV in town centres is funded by the district and town councils and between October and December 2010, closed-circuit television (CCTV) staff monitored 390 incidents in Didcot, Henley, Thame and Wallingford including anti-social behaviour, suspicious behaviour and theft.

Here is just one example illustrating how CCTV has helped reduce crime and the fear of crime in the district. A CCTV operator was asked by police to look out for a specific vehicle involved in an incident of shoplifting in Thame. The operator identified the vehicle and reported its location to the police who were then able to stop it and make an arrest. ■■■

For more information or if you have any questions about CCTV coverage, please contact Katharine Doherty, Community Safety Officer on 01491 823615 or email: katharine.doherty@southoxon.gov.uk

Unvaled revealed

Unvaled, the council's magazine for residents in the Vale, includes information about council news and details of events coming up. Unvaled can be viewed on the internet at www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk if you would like a copy please contact : Victoria Tilley, Communications Officer, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils 01235 540528 www.southoxon.gov.uk www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk ■■■

The work of the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind is assisted by funds from



Dreaming Spires Tenpin Bowling

We heard the sad news that John Ritchie passed away at the end of 2010. He used to enjoy his bowling and meeting the other team members and having a good night out. He was a nice chap who will be missed by all of us.

We have just heard that the B Team have qualified for the finals in Sheffield on the 21st of May. We wish them all the best in the BBS national tournament.

We play at the Bowl Plex in Oxford near the Kassam Stadium. All levels of bowlers are welcome. You can just play a couple of games or you can join us in playing in the BBS leagues.

For more information about playing ten pin bowling, please can you contact Kevin Pamphilon club captain, phone 01869 331778. ■■■

Wantage Blind Club

A social club for partially sighted and blind people living locally. Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month from February to December at the Wantage Day Centre from 3-5pm where members can socialise over afternoon tea. A raffle is held and there is often entertainment. There is also an annual outing. Transport is available by Special Transport Ambulance or in volunteers' cars. For more information call Hazel Aldred on 01235 765849. ■■■

VIBNO

Visually Impaired But Not Old

VIBNO is a group of visually impaired people in the 18–50 age group in Oxfordshire to meet socially and have fun.

We meet once a month on the first Wednesday of the month. We alternate between a meeting at a pub and then the other month we do something completely different including dining, playing skittles and Aunt Sally and going greyhound racing.

So if you are a VIP aged between 18 and 50 and want to socialise and have fun with people alike come and join us. Partners, friends and family are welcome to all events.

For more information and details of our programme please contact Nicola Pamphilon 01869 331778 or e-mail flashnp@aol.com. ■■■

Henley VIP Group

The very welcoming Henley Group for visually impaired people is conducting a "membership drive".

If any blind or partially sighted person living in Henley is interested in coming along to join in the fun, we would strongly recommend it.

Why not try it out and see if you enjoy it? The person to telephone is Michael Pooley on 01491 628284. ■■■

Electronic Magnifier Available

I had a call from Victoria Leng who has a semi-portable CCTV magnifier called the Magnilink Zip, that is no longer being used. It is automatic focus, has full colour, black and white with inversion and a range of false colours if required. It is very good value as it is worth £2,500 new but she is only asking £900 and is willing to discuss terms. She tells me that she can also deliver the magnifier if required. If you would like more information please call her on 01442 828571. ■■■

Our QR code



QR stands for Quick Response. The code, when scanned using a camera on a mobile phone will enable you to access the OAB newsletter. If you have any problems or for more information call David on 01865 725595. ■■■

Quick and Quirky

Did you know that the Giant Squid has the largest eyes of any creature and that an Ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain? ■■■

VIVA

VIVA is a group for visually impaired people with active minds which meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 2.00pm in the North Oxford Association, Community Centre, Diamond Place, Summertown, Oxford. We have an interesting and varied programme for the months ahead. Please note that there is no VIVA meeting in August.

VIVA Programme 2011

May 10th
John Chipperfield
My life as a journalist

June 14th
Outing – To be announced

July 12th
Martin Way
Cotswold Wool Trade and
Shepherding

August No meeting this month

September 6th
Ann Spokes-Symonds
Lessons from life

For further details ring Ron
Sears on 01865 553063. ■■■

Thank you

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and give thanks for donations made to Oxfordshire Association for the Blind received in memory of loved ones

Clubs and groups for VIPs in Oxfordshire

Abingdon & District Macular Group

Leonie Sims: 01235 520981
Mobile 07872 055495

Banbury Macular Group

John Critchlow 01608 685293

Banbury Society for the Visually Impaired

Enid Smith 01295 269568

Carterton Social Club

Rosemary Gibbens 01993 846825

Chipping Norton Friends of the Blind

Mary Gregory 01608 810899

Didcot/Wallingford OAB affiliated

Pam Organ 01235 813391

Dorothy Drummond 01235 812614

Faringdon representative

Jean Young 01367 241467

Henley VIP Group

Mike Pooley 01491 628284

Look Oxfordshire Support for families of VI children

Alison Baker 01235 868262

Kidlington Macular Group

Tom Wright 01865 376482

Marita Ferrett 01865 373104

Oxford Macular Group

Daphne Dorman 01993 811084

Oxford Visually Impaired Club

Mary Gregory 01608 810899

'Oxpots' Pottery Class

Christopher Barry 01608 730407

Thame and District Society for the Visually Handicapped

Norman Lilley 01844 261041

Visually Impaired But Not Old!

Nicola & Kevin Pamphilon 01869 331778

VIVA, North Oxford

Liaison Officer, Ron Sears 01865 553063

Wantage Blind Social Club

Mrs Mary Greenfield 01235 764646

Secretary Hazel Aldred 01235 765849

Witney Area Visually Impaired Group

Mandy Bishop 01993 706824

Oxfordshire Social Services Sensory Impairment Team

A county-wide team of specially trained staff who can assess, advise, support, teach and inform people of all ages with sight problems:

Sensory Impairment Teams,

**Oxfordshire Social
 & Community Services,
 Foxcombe Court,
 Wyndyke Furlong,
 Abingdon Business Park,
 Abingdon,
 OX14 1DZ**

Telephone 01865 894935

Out of hours social services, emergency freephone 0800 833408.

VI Team

Beverley Downs
 Kate Laybourne
 Elizabeth Jones
 Meg Jones
 Serena Glister
 Sue Miles

Senior

Elizabeth Agar
Manager
 John Fearn-Webster