

Oxfordshire Association for the Blind

OAB Newsletter

July 2008

including a summary of the

Annual Report and Accounts 2008

(Subject to Audit)

Is it that time of year already?

writes OAB Director Colin Cure

AGM time, that is! Yes, the Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on 2nd September, from 2 – 4 pm, at the North Oxford Association Centre, Diamond Place, Summertown, Oxford, OX2 7DP.

I would like to extend an invitation to you to attend the meeting. There is a reply slip on the back page of this newsletter. Or, if you prefer, telephone us on 01865 725595 to let us know whether you can attend. We were quite full last year, so please apply early, if you are keen to come. Everyone is welcome, but of course to vote, you need to be a member.

If you are not already a member, perhaps you might like to join? The more members that we have, the greater our voice when we advocate, as we frequently do, on behalf of blind and partially sighted people.

This year, as last year, we've decided to produce a summarised version of the Annual Report and Accounts, and we've

placed this as the centre segment of this newsletter. I'm pleased to say that we are in reasonably good financial health, but we cannot be complacent. Costs are rising and if we are going to achieve our aim to bring more services to more people, we need to strive ever harder to promote our work. It's great to know that we have so many supporters, who wish us well in our efforts.

This was particularly evident when I and my friends did a sponsored cycle ride recently. There is an article about the ride on page 7, but I'd like to repeat again my gratitude to everyone who turned out to encourage us from the excellent clubs and groups for visually impaired people around the county, and to all those generous people who sponsored us.

I'm happy to report that our new service in Banbury is going well.

Janet is regularly assisting people who visit her on a Wednesday afternoon, at

Please turn to page 3

First things first

**By special
appointment..
.....it's you!**

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 please ring us on 01865 725595 and make an appointment!



**Support OAB
be, a member!**

Show your support for Oxfordshire's best loved Visually Impaired charity by becoming a member. At just £5.00 a year it is great value for money and your membership gives us a greater voice in the county. Just fill in the form at the back of the newsletter or call us on 01865 725595 for more information.



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

Registered Charity 273559

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

Telephone 01865 725595 ● Fax 01865 725596 ●

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

Opening hours 9-5pm weekdays (24 hour message service)

Chairman **John Hewitt** Vice-chairman **Adrian Hill** Treasurer **David Warr**
Director **Colin Cure** Administrator **Teresa Bennett**
Accounts **Michael Ling** Home Support Officer **Marian Small**
Welfare Group Officer **Mary Gregory** Information Worker **David Thompson**
Fundraiser **Ben Allcock** Sight Advisory Desk **Judith Wood**
Volunteer Co-ordinator **Ana Novakovic** (*Wed and Friday.*)
Banbury Co-ordinator **Janet Payne**

Your Newsletter is written, compiled, edited by David Thompson

the Age Concern Centre, and is recruiting new volunteer visitors. If you know anyone in or near Banbury, or Oxford, who might like to be a volunteer for an hour or two a week, please do ask them to contact us. It's a very enjoyable role and we make sure that the person is well trained and supported.

I'd also like to give you a flavour of the work of the rest of the team. Whether it be answering queries from telephone callers, arranging a volunteer visitor introduction, demonstrating specialist equipment in our resource centre, or seeing clients at their homes or at the hospital, there is always a buzz of activity. I'm particularly pleased when I overhear the frequent discussions of the team members working out together how best to assist a caller with their enquiry. It's good to know that we have such a dedicated team, including our resourceful volunteers.

We've now completed the plans for the development of Bradbury Lodge, so that we will be able to provide a wider range of support to blind and partially sighted people, including classes in Information Technology and other useful skills. We have presented the plans to the Local Authority and hope to be awarded planning permission soon.

We are also planning on making use once again of the Action for Blind People Mobile Resource Centre, which was so popular in March, bringing the specialist equipment to different towns in the county. At the time of writing, we are still confirming the venues for the first week in September, when we have been granted the use of the vehicle. Please see the article on page 5 for more details. Once again, I'd like to thank all of you whose support enables us to continue

to assist visually impaired people in the county. We are very grateful to you.

With good wishes,

Colin Cure, Director.

Look for help with VI children

Look Oxfordshire is a local support group run by parents who have children with a visual impairment, for parents, carers, family members and professionals. It provides information on education, benefits, eye conditions and relevant organisations and professional contacts. Look Oxfordshire supports parents by bringing them together and by providing activities and resources, including toys and books, for children with a visual impairment.

We organise activities for children who have a visual impairment, and their siblings, twice a week during school holidays. These include trips out, swimming, music sessions, art and craft sessions and other sensory based activities. We believe that with support every child with a visual impairment can reach their full potential.

Look Oxfordshire also holds relaxed and informal parent-only evening meetings, monthly, giving parents the opportunity to meet people in similar situations. We hope to have professional speakers talk to parents at these meetings about issues such as education and developmental strategies.

For more information please contact Alison Baker on 07852 360971 or email alisonjj.baker@gmail.com ■■■

Gifts in Wills

Most of OAB's funding is sourced from voluntary donations, subscription charges from members, donations from friends, grants from trust companies, and sponsorship money given towards fundraising challenges; all these things help to keep OAB's support services going, and to make sure they can improve in the future. Without them, there would be no kitchen skills class, or home visiting scheme; quite simply, we wouldn't exist.

Another way of helping is by leaving a gift to OAB in your Will. You may remember our article on Wills in May's newsletter and, as we said then, we believe that Wills are the best way to make sure your money goes where you want it to after you die (as long as you consult a solicitor along the way). Writing a Will can actually be quite an empowering thing to do, a time for reflection. It opens up all kinds of possibilities for who can benefit from your finances once you are gone (friends, family, and pets), and in some ways, your imagination is the only limitation. Perhaps more than any other time in your life, this is when you can decide what you really want to do with your money. Of course, as your local charity, we would encourage you to include OAB in your considerations.

We understand that a Will is a very personal document, one that is up to you to write, but, if you would like to discuss giving a gift to OAB

in your Will, then we would be very happy to hear from you. Not only would that mean your name could be entered into our OAB book (soon to be made), it also offers the chance to chat about what particular cause you would like your money to help, and to make sure we haven't been confused with some other charity like RNIB. If you would like to talk about anything of the above, then please call us on 01865 725595, or write or email to the usual addresses. Thank you.

Vision Impaired Visually Active

VIVA is a group for visually impaired people with active minds, and 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.

- 9th Sept. John Adsett,
University Life
14th Oct. Ann Spokes-Symons,
"Snobbery and Tradition
in North Oxford"
11th Nov. Talk on Waterperry
9th December Christmas Lunch

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

Busy bussing about

We were really happy with the response to Action for Blind People's bus coming to Oxfordshire back in March.

Over one hundred people came onboard over the week, and many said they were happy to have seen all the equipment that was there (things like talking clocks and various reading aids).

Well, we've invited Action to return to the county in September so more of you will be able to see the kinds of equipment that are available to you.

Though the exact locations are yet to be confirmed, the venues and dates for the bus are.

Summertown

Tuesday 2nd September

Abingdon Market-place

Wednesday 3rd September

Bicester

Thursday 4th September

Please, please, call OAB before going to see the bus, as we will need to confirm exactly where the bus will be nearer the time.

Thank you.

Ben Allcock



Get your "Loo" key here!

You may remember that in the last newsletter we had an item about the National Key Scheme (NKS) which offers independent access for disabled people to public toilets. Almost 7000 toilets have been fitted with the NKS lock, including those at a number of seaside resorts and other areas attractive to visitors. The scheme is also used by other organisations including the National Trust, transport undertakings, shopping centres and some pub companies. Having one NKS key, therefore allows access to NKS toilets throughout the country. Well we are now pleased to be able to supply these keys to you at only £2.00 each! To order yours just call Teresa or David on 01865 725595.



For Sale

Mobile phone with Speech Software

Nokia N91 with Talks software, which converts the phone's displayed text into speech. Multimedia features include MP3 player with 4GB memory, Bluetooth & USB connectivity, Internet access through multiple options including WIFI, and more. Includes full purchased license for Talks software, USB connectivity cable, Hands free cable which doubles as MP3 player remote, Nokia Charger, leather carry case with belt clip & phone user manual in audio format. £130 o.n.o Please contact Pete 01993 776548



News from the North

by our OAB representative in Banbury Janet Payne

It's now the middle of June, so I've had nearly four months meeting and getting to know a number of lovely people in the area. Some of you have been to find me at Age Concern on a Wednesday afternoon, others I've met in groups around Cherwell.

The visitors to the help desk seem to have appreciated being able to look at the items to help with visual impairment that I can show them, and be able to order them, there and then, from Bradbury Lodge. They usually arrive within a few days and can then be paid for, provided we have them in stock. Most popular at the moment are talking clocks and watches and the giant playing cards. Unfortunately I can't show any larger equipment like CCTVs, but can show catalogues of what's available.

Other visitors find it helpful just to chat. I'm very happy just to listen and can sometimes offer other advice too, such as re-contacting Social Services if your needs change, or putting people in touch with other organisations, including the Job Centre.

One of the groups I've met while demonstrating my 'box of tricks' is the Banbury Society for the Visually Impaired. They meet twice a month for a good lunch and a chat. If you live in Banbury itself and would like

to go along, there is transport available (contact Enid Smith on 01295 269568 for further information). I'm happy, within the constraints of working two days a week, to visit other groups in the area with a demonstration and discussion, as I realise it is difficult for some people in the area to get down to Banbury to see me.

I'm now starting to make headway recruiting and training home visiting volunteers to assist people in Banbury for an hour a week to manage small tasks which are difficult for VIPs such as reading letters or perhaps getting to the shops. I hope that the first volunteers will be out and helping by the autumn: Criminal Records Bureau checks seem to be taking around three months at the moment. So if you know anyone who is thinking of becoming a volunteer please encourage them to get in touch with me.

We are also now establishing contact with the Horton Hospital. This, coupled with the publicity campaign we've been running for volunteers, and Colin's epic cycling fundraiser (see this issue) which stopped off in Bodicote, should help to raise awareness in the district about what we can ■■■

OAB: Oxfordshire Adventure by Bicycle!

writes Colin Cure

It was 10.30pm on Sunday evening when the 3 cyclists finally made it back to Oxford, after cycling 147 miles around Oxfordshire over 3 days. And what an adventure it was!

The idea behind the cycle ride was to visit most of the towns in the county which have a group or club for visually impaired people, to raise awareness of the excellent help that they provide. In addition, we hoped to raise much-needed funds for OAB through sponsorship. The team was myself, Colin Cure, and my companions, Diane and Gary. All three of us were absolutely delighted with the warm and generous welcome we received as we travelled from town to town. It would be impossible to mention everybody who helped us on our way in one way or another, so I would like to thank everyone very much indeed. It was great to meet group leaders and members, and chat about our progress and the terrain to come. Not that our hearts didn't sink, just a bit, to learn that we were approaching a particularly steep set of hills, after our Witney stop!

We were very lucky with the weather. It rained overnight, whilst we were staying in Wallingford on the Friday night, but by the morning only a gentle drizzle remained. That cleared quickly, as we sped into Didcot for coffee with Pam, Dorothy, Peggy and Olive. The rain was also apparently heavy in North Oxfordshire on the Saturday morning, but by the time we reached the "reception committee" in Witney,

it was beginning to dry out. The wind was very gusty on the Sunday, but fortunately it was mostly behind our backs, helping us up some of those steep Cotswold Hills.

Our biggest challenge was mending a puncture on the last day. Try as we might the tube refused to stay up. Still, we'd been fortified with tea and cake at Peggy's house in Bicester, so when we finally fixed the puncture, we sped quickly to the pub in Stanton St. John, for a late dinner, before returning the last few miles as the light finally drew in.

There were several very memorable episodes to the journey: Enid jumping athletically onto my bicycle for a photo, after tea with Ron and herself in Bodicote; the first "pit stop" at Norman's house in Thame to get us off to a great start; cakes and a tour of Wallingford Castle with Deborah and Mo; unprompted donations from other diners whilst having coffee with Joy in Wantage; a sumptuous barbeque with Mary and Roger in Charlbury; and numerous sightings of wildlife ranging from red kites over the Chilterns, to deer and hares in the Cotswolds.

All in all, it was a wonderful experience. Once again, I'd like to thank everyone who helped us on our way, encouraged us when we were flagging, and kindly sponsored us. My next challenge is to cycle around the coast of Britain if you're interested, I'd be happy to tell you about it!



Beer, buns and banter

A snapshot of George and Eric's visiting partnership

One of the first things I heard about OAB that really impressed me was the Home Visiting Scheme. I knew of many other groups around the country who organized for volunteers to visit people, but I thought that as a small, local charity, OAB's would be a bit more special. Thing is, having worked here for just over six months, I hadn't actually gone to see any of these volunteer partnerships; that all changed two weeks ago, when I went to see George and Eric.

A father of four, and grandfather to six, for the last twenty-five years George has suffered from Macular Degeneration, a condition which has become considerably worse over time. Like many other people with MD, George was very concerned that he wouldn't be able read anymore, something which was particularly troubling to George since he still works hard to enrich his life however he can (he learnt Italian in his 70s). Things started looking better last year, however, when OAB put George in contact with Eric.

Eric, who already helped OAB by sending out the taped version of this newsletter, was happy to read with George for a couple of hours, once a week. Having met a few times for a chat, George and Eric agreed that each week's edition of

New Scientist should be the fodder for their relaxed reading sessions; meetings which would usually be accompanied by a beer, some tea, and a scone.

One year later, and both George and Eric are really happy they met. As they both say, their time together offers them a chance to discuss the news and items in each magazine in a friendly, jovial way; far more interesting than simply reading on their own.

Unfortunately, at the moment, we are only able to run the Home Visiting Scheme in Oxford, one of the reasons that some people have seen us as a little Oxford City-centred in the past. However, we really want to change this and, now that we have the new base in Banbury, it is our plan that, within a few years, more visually impaired people like George across the whole county will be able to share some of their day with a volunteer; not just in Oxford.

If you know anyone that can help, by volunteering or funding, then please let us know, you can call us on 01865 725595.

Thank you,

Ben Allcock (OAB Fundraiser)



The Oxfordshire Association for the Blind

OAB

Registered Charity No. 273559

Summary Annual Report and Accounts 2007-2008 *(Subject to Audit)*

Profile

**Annual
reports**

**Our
finances**

**Annual General Meeting 2008
Tuesday, 2nd September at 2.00pm
at the
North Oxford Association Community Centre,
Diamond Place, Summertown,
Oxford, OX2 7DP.**

OAB "We're here to help"

The Oxfordshire Association for the Blind was established in 1877, since when it has a proud record of 130 years, supporting, informing, equipping and enabling blind and visually impaired people throughout the county.

The Oxfordshire Association for the Blind

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

- Telephone 01865 725595
- Fax 01865 725596
- E-mail: vision@oxeyes.org.uk
- Website: www.oxeyes.org.uk

Opening hours 9-5pm Monday to Friday (24 hour message service)

Patrons:

The Rt. Hon. The Countess of Macclesfield : The Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, Mr Hugo Brunner

Vice-chairman:
Prof. Adrian Hill

Chairman:
Mr John Hewitt

Vice-Presidents:
Prof. Anthony Bron
Prof. Adrian Hill

Hon. Treasurer:
Mr David Warr

Executive Committee:

Prof. Adrian Hill, Mr Desmond Pimm, Mr Nigel Parsons, Prof. Anthony Bron
Mr Simon Cruden (co-opted), Mr John Hewitt, Mr David Warr, Mr Tony Barringer, Mr Sean Rainey

Director: Colin Cure

Fundraiser: **Ben Allcock**, Accounts: **Michael Ling**, Group Welfare Officer: **Mary Gregory**
Home Support: **Dr Marian Small**, Senior Sight Advisor: **Judith Wood**, Information Worker: **David Thompson**
Administrator: **Teresa Bennett**, Volunteer Manager: **Ana Novakovich**, Banbury Co-ordinator **Janet Payne**

Honorary members:

Mrs Mary Gregory, Mr Mike Miles, Mr Clive To, Mr Mike Edwards, Mr Chris Croft MBE, Mr Horace Holifield
Mrs Sue Brown, MBE; Mr Ron Sears, Mrs Enid Busby, Mrs Frankie Cummins, Mrs Lotti Perry
Miss Fiona Campbell, Mr Redmond and Mrs Kathleen Lawson

Life Members

Mr Mike Alexander, Mr John Andrews, Mrs Lorna Arnold, Miss Margaret Barker, Miss Judy Baron
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This report is edited by Information and Publications Worker at OAB, David Thompson
and recorded by Radio Cherwell Hospital Radio in Oxford
Telephone 01865 225522 website - radiocherwell.com

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Chairman's annual report

I was honoured to have been elected Chairman of the Trustees last year and am pleased to introduce this year's Annual Report to Members.

My sense is that the Association - after a difficult period without a permanent home, for instance - is now starting to pick up momentum in a number of ways and that this should have a very beneficial effect on those who we are here to help, the people of Oxfordshire with visual impairment. We have, for instance, stepped up our recruitment of volunteers, improved our presence in the north of the county and strengthened our connections with Social and Community Services, Action for Blind People, the Eye Hospital, the RNIB and organisations helping blind and partially sighted children.

We have strengthened our team in areas of volunteering, fundraising and at Trustee level. Colin Cure, our Director, would I know, agree with me that the

team is dedicated, hard working and committed to the cause. I am truly grateful to all of them and thank them on your behalf. Space precludes me from naming everyone individually so I hope that in thanking Colin and his team, and my predecessor (and still Vice-Chairman, fortunately) Adrian Hill, and our other Trustees, they realise how heartfelt my thanks are.

We still have major tasks ahead of us - notably developing Bradbury Lodge in order to be able to provide a working place to show the technology and aids which can enhance daily living, reaching out everywhere in the county to provide the help necessary to the estimated 10,000 Oxonians who have a visual impairment, and ensuring that we have the financial resources to make a difference to our fellow citizens. By working together, I am sure we can achieve great things.

John Hewitt, Chairman.



Treasurer's annual report

The net movement in funds in the year of £75,398 needs to be divided into three areas: unrestricted and restricted funds, and the Archer Fund.

Unrestricted funds have no restrictions on how the income is to be spent, other than the purposes of the charity. These funds made a surplus of £10,451. During the year there was a one-off transfer to the Premises Fund of £8,462 which related to the previous year. There was also a loss on the revaluation of investments of £7,943 but investments must always be viewed long-term.

Restricted funds show income that has been received with stipulations on the activity that it must be used on, together with the expenditure incurred on that specific activity.

Examples include the Premises Fund for the refurbishment and extension of Bradbury Lodge, and the extension of our services to the Banbury area.

There are two main reasons for the net movement of funds on the restricted funds showing a surplus of £65,665. The grant for the Banbury project was received up-front and much of the expenditure has still to be incurred. Conversely, some monies relating to Bradbury Lodge were received after claims had been prepared based on expenditure incurred in the previous year.

The Archer Fund is registered with the Charity Commission as a subsidiary charity and therefore the accounts are shown here for the first time. This Fund has investments and the trust deed states that income from these are to be forwarded to the Wantage Blind Club.

The accounts cover the first complete financial year that the Association has been in its new premises, that the new Director has been in post and other vacancies filled. It has therefore been able to focus on its services without the detraction of planning

and moving into new premises.

Exciting new initiatives such as expanding our service into the Banbury area has been made possible by obtaining specific funding.

The Association's plans include further improvements to its services and further premises works to help achieve this, but additional

funds will be needed – the Premises Fund will currently only meet a fraction of the cost of the proposed extension to Bradbury Lodge, funding for the Banbury scheme is for a limited period, and the cost of further improvements and extensions to our services need to be financed. ■■■

Director's annual report

As the Chairman, John Hewitt, has indicated, this year the Association has striven hard to consolidate the important work that we do in providing information, advice, equipment and volunteer visitors to people who have visual impairments and their carers, and to support the excellent clubs and groups for blind and partially sighted people around the county.

We have also been pleased by the development of our joint working with Social and Community Services, the Eye Hospital, the Low Vision Services Committee, and other voluntary organisations like the Macular Disease Society, Age Concern and RNIB. We have

progressed our plan to extend our services by: setting up a new service in Banbury; linking with Action for Blind People to bring a Mobile Resource Centre to several towns; and running small group courses in independence skills at our Centre in Oxford. We are looking forward to the development of Bradbury Lodge, for which the plans have been drawn up and presented for planning permission.

I would like to thank all of the Trustees, Staff and Volunteers for their hard work and dedication, which I witness on a daily basis, and to all of those people who support the work that we do. ■■■

Statement of Financial Activities 2007/2008

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Total	Subsidiary Fund Archer Trust	2007/08 Total Funds	2006/07 Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds	157,029	131,037	288,066	285	288,351	300,511
Incoming resources from charitable activities	11,955	0	11,955	0	11,955	17,528
Other incoming resources	0	4,353	4,353	0	4,353	0
Total Incoming Resources	168,984	135,390	304,374	285	304,659	318,039
Resources Expended						
Cost of generating funds	34,396	0	34,396	0	34,396	(47,608)
Charitable activities	87,756	90,847	178,603	751	179,354	(278,091)
Governance costs	6,850	0	6,850	0	6,850	(15,557)
Total Resources Expended	129,002	90,847	219,849	751	220,600	(341,256)
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources Before Transfers	39,982	44,543	84,525	(466)	84,059	(23,217)
Gross transfer between Funds	(21,588)	21,122	(466)	466	0	0
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources	18,394	65,665	84,059	0	84,059	(23,217)
Gains/(Losses) on Revaluation	(7,943)	0	(7,943)	(718)	(8,661)	1,811
Net Movement in Funds	10,451	65,665	76,116	(718)	75,398	(21,406)
Funds Brought-Forward	323,464	75,167	398,631	8,786	407,417	420,037
Funds Carried-Forward	333,915	140,832	474,747	8,068	482,815	398,631

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2008

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Total	Subsidiary Fund Archer Trust	2007/2008 Total Funds	2006/2007 Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets						
Tangible Assets	202,780		202,780		202,780	200,252
Investments	46,772		46,772	8,068	54,840	54,715
Total Fixed Assets	249,552	0	249,552	8,068	257,620	254,967
Current Assets						
Stock	8,578		8,578		8,578	9,870
Debtors	4,177		4,177		4,177	17,195
Cash at Bank and In Hand	77,472	140,832	218,304	751	219,055	126,682
Total Current Assets	90,227	140,832	231,059	751	231,810	153,747
Current Liabilities						
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	5,864		5,864	751	6,615	10,083
Total Current Liabilities	5,864		5,864	751	6,615	10,083
NET CURRENT ASSETS	84,363	140,832	225,195	0	225,195	143,664
NET ASSETS	333,915	140,832	474,747	8,068	482,815	398,631
REPRESENTED BY:						
Unrestricted funds	333,915		333,915		333,915	323,464
Restricted funds		140,832	140,832	8,068	148,900	75,167
Total Funds	333,915	140,832	474,747	8,068	482,815	398,631

Thanks to our supporters

Abingdon Town Council
All Souls College
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for the Blind
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Mr Robin Winter

Hooray! Henley social group for you

If you live in the Henley area and would like to get out a bit more why not try the Henley VIP Group?

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month, in the Morris Tate Room behind the Hospital in Henley.

Transport to and from the meeting is provided, and once there you get a glass of Sherry!

There is regular and varied entertainment, for example a singer or musician, sometimes someone comes and gives a talk and on occasion we look at new equipment that can make our lives easier.

Then we have tea and cake, a quiz and draw a raffle. So if you are interested please contact Michael Pooley 01491 628284. ■■■

We want to tell people about social groups in their area so why not tell us about yours and we can let others know, Call Dave or Colin on 01865 725595

The Banbury Society for the Visually Impaired

Meet every other Tuesday at the People's Church, Horsefair. Please contact Enid Smith, Group Organiser on 01295 269568. ■■■

Don't forget

Here we are in midst of wind, rain and general gloom that is the traditional British Summer! So I am reminded to tell you not to forget to order your diaries and calendars for next year! We are taking orders now and so get in touch with us as soon as possible. You can call Teresa on 01865 725595. ■■■

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Executive Alarms Ltd., 26 Kelburne Rd., Cowley, Oxford

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



Dreaming Spires Ten-pin bowling

writes Kevin Pamphilon

We have just finished the winter tenpin bowling league, at the end of which the Dreaming Spires B team made up of Nicola Pamphilon, Jeremy Saint, Jonathan Mitchell and Paul Bambrook, finished 3rd in their league and qualified for the finals in Sheffield.

At the finals the day went well with all the bowlers picking up strikes along the way. In the evening there was an awards dinner where the team found out that they had finished 3rd which is a great achievement. (Editors note : Kevin Pamphilon picked up an award for one of the best bowlers over the league phase, so it is congratulations to one and all!)

I would like to thank Ken Bambrook, who is a sighted bowler for all of his help over the past year, without which it would be much more difficult to play. For example he helps with the score and assists the bowlers find the correct bowl.

We have just started the summer league and have 4 pairs teams entered and so far it is looking very promising

We regularly play at the Bowl Plex in Oxford near the Kassam Stadium and always welcome new members, no experience necessary!

For more information about ten pin bowling, please can you contact Kevin Pamphilon, Club Captain on telephone number 01869331778.

Stars welcome VIP's

Summertown Stars AFC is an Oxford based children's football club that was established in 1974. The club has over 400 registered players and runs boys and girls teams for ages from under 7 through to under 18.

Summertown Stars has now set up a team for visually impaired players (VIP's). Jo Kalies is the club's disability officer and she has successfully put together a small group of visually impaired players. Training sessions are held every 3 to 4 weeks.

If you are visually impaired and are interested in taking part in these fun sessions, then please contact Jo Kalies on 07867 646503 or Paul Chamberlain on 07813 591586. Why not have a look at their new web-site: www.summertownstars.org.uk.



VIBNO

Visually Impaired But Not Old

A social group for people 18–50 which meets on the first Tuesday of the month alternating between a meeting at a pub and doing something else the next month.

If you are a VIP aged between 18 and 50 and want to socialise and have fun come and join us.

Contact Nicola Pamphilon 01869 331778 or E-mail flashnp@aol.com



Giving more effectively and more easily!

by Michael Ling, *OAB Accounting Officer and Guru*

Gift Aid

Gift Aid is a scheme to enable tax-effective giving by individuals to charities in the United Kingdom. It was originally introduced in 1990, and substantially revised in April 2000.

Gift Aid allows individuals who are subject to UK income tax to complete a simple, short declaration that they are a UK taxpayer.

Any cash donations that the taxpayer makes to their favourite charity, (OAB of course), after making a declaration, are treated as being made after deduction of income tax at the basic rate, and the charity can reclaim the basic rate income tax paid on the gift from Revenue and Customs.

If you pay Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax, then by signing a gift-aid form we can claim money from the Revenue and Customs based on any donations or membership fees that you send to us – so long as the amount you pay in tax is at least equal to the amount we claim.

The Government has also protected us from losing out by the reduction in the standard rate of income tax. 19

This means that for every £ that you give us, we can currently claim an extra 28p. Your membership of £5 will therefore be worth £6.40 to us.

So if you are a taxpayer please complete the gift aid form on the next page and let us claim a further 28% on top of each contribution we receive.

Standing Order

If you want to make regular payments to us, why not take advantage of a standing order with your bank?

This can be used to make regular payments whether weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually.

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 standing order on the following page, but please remember to send this to OAB and *NOT* to your bank.



Membership and donation

Important

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

Member

(£5.00 annually)

Friend

(£20.00 annually)

Life Member

(£250.00)

Donation

£..... please show 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**

1877-2007

*Helping blind people
for 130 years*

Registered Charity 273559

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:

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.....Post Code

Please pay to **CAF Bank plc,**
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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 of200.....

**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



Poets Corner

Back by popular demand!

To start us off a prize winning poem from the poetry competition at the Vision 20:20 conference of May 2008. Judged by the poet John Hegley

Designer Patch/ Fashion Accessory

“Hi Jo, you look like a pirate!”
I’m a girl and I hate this patch,
which is black.

“Hi Jo, you look like a Cyclops!”
I’m a girl, say it again,
if you want a whack on your
back.

“Hi, Jo you look like a- ”
– fill – in – this – space –
I’m a girl and I hate,
this black patch on my face.

I’m a girl who wants sequins,
patterns, and pink,
A girl who wants satins,
velvets, and mink,
I’m a girl who wants diamonds,
sparkle, and glitter,
Not a girl whose patch,
will make her feel bitter.

I’m a girl of six,
who wants to look cool,
Respect I’m a girl,
not a masculine fool.

Let me design one
with spaceships and rockets,
Not something embarrassing
I hide in my pockets,
Let me design one
with butterflies and fishes,
Let me create one
from my own dreams and wishes.
Then people will tell me
I look like a flower,
I’ll say “I know”
if I have this will power.

I’ll wear it with pride mum, from
eight until four,
But please let me choose one,
it means so much more.

Joanna Bagwell (14 years, but six
when I wore a patch)

If you would like to share your poetry please
send a copy to us or you can e-mail it to us at
information@oxeyes.org.uk

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

Clubs and groups for VIPs in Oxfordshire

Abingdon & District Macular Group

Daphne Baker 01491 835157

Banbury Society for the Visually Impaired

Enid Smith 01295 269568

Bicester Friends of the Visually Impaired

Mrs Peggy Clarke 01869 242290

Carterton Social Club

Rosemary Gibbens 01993 846825

Chipping Norton Friends of the Blind

Mary Gregory 01865 725595

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

O A B 01865 725595

'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 Joy Ripley 01235 763112

Secretary Hazel Aldred 01235 765849

Witney Area Visually Impaired Group

Mary Sitch 01993 811687

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 01235 549395

VI Team

Beverley Downs

Kate Laybourne

Nigel Lewis

Elizabeth Jones

Meg Jones

Dorothy Hazell

Helen Fallaize

Serena Glistler

Sue Miles

Manager

John Fearn-Webster

Out of hours social services, emergency freephone 0800 833408.

The chairman and
executive committee invite you to the
Annual General Meeting
of the
Oxfordshire Association
for the Blind

at 2.00pm on
Tuesday 2nd September 2008

at the
North Oxford Association
Community Centre,
Diamond Place,
Summertown,
Oxford, OX2 7DP.

Car parking available call 01865 725595 for more details

RSVP

Please write your name on the dotted line and return to

Colin Cure, Director
Oxfordshire Association for the Blind,
Bradbury Lodge, Gordon Woodward Way,
Abingdon Road, Oxford, OX1 4XL.

Or

Telephone : (01865) 725595

Or

e-mail : vision@oxeyes.org.uk

Iwill attend the A.G.M.

