

# **OAB Newsletter**

**October 2007**

## **Has it been six months already?**

It only seems like yesterday that I arrived at OAB, writes Colin Cure. How time flies. It's been an eventful six months and I'm very grateful for all the welcome and support that I've received. I continue to be impressed by the dedication and hard work of the trustees, staff, volunteers and groups. I hear on a daily basis from people who are grateful for the work of everyone concerned.

The biggest event recently for us has been the AGM. It was great to see such a large turnout and I'd like to thank all those who worked to make the meeting such a success. We were particularly grateful to Miss Susan Downes, Consultant Ophthalmologist, for her very informative talk about Macular Degeneration.

There were some important changes made at the AGM, which I'd like to relate:

Our President, Philip Awdry, and one of our Vice-Presidents, Professor Derek Wade, are stepping down. We thank Philip and Derek very much for all of their excellent support to the organisation. A new President will be elected during the year by the trustees. Professors Adrian Hill and Anthony Bron are kindly staying on as Vice-Presidents.

As required by the Constitution, Professor Adrian Hill has stepped down as Chairman of the Association, after 3 years in the position. I would like to express particular thanks to Adrian, who has guided me helpfully through my induction to the organisation. Adrian is still very much in support, as he has been elected as Vice-Chairman. This position was vacated by Mr Nigel Parsons who, fortunately, is still with us as one of our governing body of trustees.

# Some useful information

**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!



**Wallets shortage!**

If you receive this Newsletter on audio-cassette tape please don't forget to return it in the wallet it came in.

Remember to turn over the address card in the clear sleeve and pop it in the post!

The wallets are incredibly expensive to replace and we are running very short of them!



## 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](mailto:vision@oxeyes.org.uk) ● Web site [www.oxeyes.org.uk](http://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**  
Sight Advisory Desk **Judith Wood** Volunteer Manager **Liz Hunter** (*Tues. and Thurs.*)

*Your Newsletter is written, compiled and edited by David Thompson*

Our new Chairman is Mr John Hewitt. I'm delighted to welcome John, who brings a wealth of experience in business and fundraising. If I've learned anything in the last 6 months (you may be pleased to hear that, actually, I've learned an awful lot!) it's that we are entirely dependent on the generosity of our supporters, and fundraising is essential to our ability to continue to provide the services that people require.

Sadly, however, we have to say goodbye to our long serving Treasurer, Mr Chris Brand. Chris is helpfully, still 'in the background' providing advice to us on a range of issues. In his place, Mr David Warr has been elected as Treasurer. As well as his financial capability, David also kindly assists us with advice on building issues and computer support.

Miss Judy Baron is also standing down after many years as a trustee and a past Chairman of the Association. Pleasingly, Judy is still offering her help as a highly valuable administrative volunteer. We're very grateful to all of our volunteers. Many visit visually impaired people in their homes, but others assist us with a variety of tasks, from office work to fundraising.

Finally, we can now keep 'in touch' with our very own radio

expert. Mr Tony Barringer has been elected as a new Trustee. Some of you may know of Tony as one of the founders of the BBC Radio 4 programme for visually impaired people, "In Touch". We're delighted to welcome Tony, who also brings to the table his knowledge as a trained accountant.

Quite a bit of change then, as the organisation goes from strength to strength. Once again, I'd like to thank everyone who does so much to support our services to blind and partially sighted people. I know that there are many more of you to meet and I'm looking forward to doing so. By the way, I'm partial to tea with milk, please!

With good wishes,

Colin.



## Stop press!

We now have our "easier to see" large print calendars and diaries in stock. They are going out quicker than you can say Oxfordshire Association for the Blind so order yours now, before we run out completely.

Call Teresa on  
01865 725595



# Andrew Morley's last post

*Gravity begins at home my brother*

## Farewell and thank you

This is the hardest column I've had to write, but I've procrastinated long enough!

Having spent the last two years at OAB, I am moving on to pastures new. It has been an amazing experience for me, and I have had the chance to meet some very special, inspiring people. For example, Laila Allen who jumped out of a plane at the age of 78 to raise money and Irene Priestley who trekked through the Peruvian mountains and was the only visually impaired person in the group. Also, volunteers such as Ben Allcock who performed the amazing feat of climbing the height of Mount Everest on an indoor climbing wall in 5 hours 48 minutes.

I'd like to also mention the people who enable OAB to tick. They may not do the most spectacular things but what they do is equally important. Step forward Red and Kath Lawson who manage the static box scheme throughout Oxford and beyond. They always go the extra mile to help and their organization and dedication makes them a privilege to have

around. They also help OAB in many other practical ways, not just fundraising. In the same vein I'd like to thank Tammy Bond, Carol Constable and Michael Edwards for helping at every street collection they possibly could, no matter what the weather. Last but not least I would like to say a big thank you to David Stratton who has managed the static box scheme in Banbury, and also suggested a small collecting box idea of his own that we have now implemented successfully.

While I'm getting all mushy I would also say what a fantastic experience it has been to work with such a special team. I have learned a great deal from just being around David Thompson for example, and the redoubtable Mary Gregory was always on hand to let me know what I was doing wrong! Everyone is dedicated to OAB and I felt inspired to raise money for such an important cause. I only have to think of Judith Wood counselling somebody who has received some traumatic news to know that it is vital that OAB exists to provide services such as this.

I am really pleased that OAB is entering into what is I'm sure going to be a really exciting time of development. When I joined in May

2005 OAB was still renting premises and now with Bradbury Lodge as a springboard I know that OAB will continue to expand it's service provision to reach as many of the estimated 10,000 in Oxfordshire who could benefit from the help, information and equipment OAB can offer.

Thank you to all of you who have supported OAB, both with your time and generous donations.

## Companionship and support

All part of the service!

Another one of the essential services OAB provides is, of course, the Home Visiting Service. I popped along to meet Katy Talati and her volunteer visitor Thomas Bewley. Katy moved to Oxford 10 years ago. She said: 'Over the years I have had a lot of help from OAB. They have provided me with useful equipment and three wonderful volunteer visitors. I am still friends with my two previous visitors and I now have Thomas who is a marvellous reader!'

Thomas Bewley, Katy's current volunteer, finished full-time work two years ago and has now embarked on an exciting new career as an actor. He has just finished appearing at the Edinburgh Festival. 'Now I am an actor my work is part-time by definition!' He said. 'I have been a VSO worker in the past and throughout my life have

come into contact with visually impaired people. Since finishing full-time work I decided to join OAB's Home Visiting Service and I enjoy meeting Katy every week. I also work as a reader so I get to practice regularly which is great for me.'

I was very impressed by the two fascinating people I met and it really showed me how important it is that the scheme keeps operating.

If you would like to find out more about it, you can contact Volunteer Manager Liz Hunter on 01865 725595.

## Its goodbye from me

Finally I'd like to sign off with an important reminder for everyone. OAB was set up in 1877 to help local blind and visually impaired people. Now, here we are 130 years down the line *still* helping the people of Oxfordshire who are living with sight problems.

As you will probably already know, OAB is a truly independent charity working in the community. As such, it relies on the generosity of friends and supporters for the majority of its income.

As we are a smaller organization without national coverage we sometimes get lumped in with other, larger charities and I have encountered this phenomenon quite regularly, especially fundraising out

on the street. Quite understandably, people will say: “are you ‘the blind’” without being aware of exactly who we are and what we do, which is something we are working to change.

Hence this article – we want everyone to know who we are and exactly what we do. We are very proud of our long record of service to visually impaired people and we are now in a period of exciting change and growth that should go some way to rectifying this situation. I know I am probably preaching to the converted here, but I think it’s quite important. The more people who know exactly who we are, the more people we can reach with our services and help!

Ultimately we are *your* Oxfordshire Association for the Blind – dedicated to you. Please tell anyone you know who might not know about us, but who could benefit from knowing about us!

It has been problematic in the past when people have generously intended to send us a donation, or even leave us a gift in their will. Although the much-needed funds are intended for OAB, we receive the cheque, but have problems as it has the name of another organization on it.

This is a very big issue for us, and one I felt the need to raise – to help us to keep helping you.

So, if you do intend to give us a donation, please ensure that any

cheques are made payable to either Oxfordshire Association for the Blind, or simply OAB. We really appreciate your help in this matter, and remember, spread the word! Thank you and Goodbye!

## ...and its good-bye from him!

by colleague (formerly)  
and friend (presently) David Thompson

Andrew Morley has been a fantastic asset to OAB. His energetic, warm, bright personality and wonderful sense of humour have touched everybody that has met and worked with him.

During his time with us as Community Fundraiser he has worked tirelessly and effectively to help Oxfordshire Association for the Blind raise the funds to keep on helping the blind and visually impaired people of Oxfordshire. Of course not forgetting his labours helping OAB in every other department, no task too big, small or smelly, for example he was often seen with his sleeves rolled up peering down our drains and keeping them working!

It has been a pleasure and an honour for me to meet Andy. Seldom have I met a person of such fun and warmth. He is a selfless person who always goes that extra mile to help a person in need.

We all thank him for his excellent efforts and wish him well for the future. Next time I meet you Andy it’s my round!



# OAB Chairman's annual report

Professor Adrian Hill's final annual report of his chairmanship

In this year, the 130th anniversary of our foundation in 1877, we have much to celebrate, for example on 20th November 2006 our new home 'Bradbury Lodge' was officially opened by our patron the Countess of Macclesfield. We are exceedingly grateful to the Bradbury Foundation for financing the purchase of the freehold of this property and for making a significant contribution towards the costs of its refurbishment.

I'm pleased to report that during the move into the Lodge there was minimal disruption to services and I thank all the staff and the many volunteers who enabled this to happen. In particular, I'm most grateful to those trustees who gave considerable time to assist with management of the charity following the departure of three staff.

In the last six months of the year we were most ably supported by Tim Streatfeild who, at very short notice, agreed to become our temporary Director until we were in a position to appoint a new full-time Director. In March 2007 we welcomed Colin Cure as our new Director who has brought a wealth of experience from working with visually impaired people for many years. We have filled the other vacancies with two part-time staff.

We have an ever increasing number of referrals and enquiries for help, to which we can respond with an ever increasing range of services and technical aids. For example, in our resource room at Bradbury Lodge we have almost every device that is made to help visually impaired people, ranging from gadgets to identify the colour of the clothing you wear, or talking food-can covers to enable you to distinguish that tin of beans from the can of cat food, right through to electronic aids of closed circuit television magnifiers, optical scanners that will electronically read printed text and present it back as synthesised speech, and, of course, special software to enable sight impaired people to use a computer and send their own e-mails.

If you think you might benefit from any of these aids why not visit us so that we can show you what equipment is available but, more specifically, let us hear of your difficulties and goals so that we can help to identify your own personal needs. It's best to phone first so that we can set time aside to see you because our referrals and enquiries for help are currently averaging 1,500 a year.

Remember, this information and advice is also available to carers to

help lighten their load of looking after someone with sight loss. We are here for you all.

At the Oxford Eye Hospital, which has now moved from the old Radcliffe Infirmary to its new building at the John Radcliffe Hospital, we have a regular presence at all outpatient clinics to help patients deal with the unwelcome news that their sight has become so impaired that they would benefit from registration. Our presence has resulted in a very good relationship with all the medical staff, nurses and optometrists. For the year under review 1,254 patients were seen by our member of staff there, 498 of whom received vital counselling; a service which the hospital has persistently refused to provide.

When I started my chairmanship three years ago I announced that Social Services had accepted our proposal for an Early Intervention Scheme to provide home visits to newly registered people within days of their registration. We continue to receive funding for this scheme, the aim of which is to identify and minimise risks in the home. We contact all our referrals from Social Services within 24 hours and arrange a home visit within 4 days. The scheme is exceedingly well received by all clients and, at the same time, we have assisted Social Services to reduce their waiting times for seeing more vulnerable clients. During the year, over 120 such home visits were made by us

to newly registered people and, at the request of Social Services, we have made about 270 detailed telephone reviews of people who have been registered for some time but have not been in touch with Social Services for several years. This, I believe, is an excellent example of collaboration between the voluntary sector and statutory services. Long may it continue!

Our Home Visiting Scheme in the city continues to grow in strength with an excellent dedicated team of some 55 volunteers who frequently visit and support the most vulnerable clients of whom we are aware. We are continuing to seek funding from various sources to extend this service to the rest of the county.

It is an undisputed fact that any charitable organisation cannot succeed without a strong team of dedicated volunteers. If you have a desire to help, I can assure you that we can find a role for you. This ranges from home visiting support, transport help, help in the office or telephone reception, general maintenance of the building, or even help in keeping our small herb garden free from weeds. To those volunteers who currently provide this help we are extremely indebted because you are the means by which the OAB not only survives but continues to meet the growing demands for the services we provide. You are the life-blood of the organisation and I thank you all from

the bottom of my heart.

There still remains the considerable challenge of fundraising. Our patron, Lady Macclesfield, has kindly agreed to help us with raising funds for the day to day running costs by setting up a Patron's Circle of friends. But I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those individuals who have given so generously during the year. We have benefited financially from a variety of different sponsored projects such as a world record climb that was the equivalent of climbing Everest non-stop in a few hours, and a sponsored walk by one of our visually impaired members along the challenging Inca Trail in Peru. And we were also very pleased to be one of the beneficiaries of an excellent concert in the Town Hall by the Radcliffe Infirmary Orchestra.

As mentioned at last year's AGM, our next project is to replace the temporary accommodation housing our resource centre by building an extension to Bradbury Lodge. Unfortunately, because the wheels of planning are so slow, I don't have anything concrete to show you on this front, but by the New Year we hope to have the plans approved and we will start a major capital appeal to complete this work. There is already one person amongst you who has made a most significant contribution towards the capital fundraising for this project and it would be excellent if others would feel able to do likewise.

This year sees the end of my three years as Chairman and I thank all the trustees for their considerable support. It has been an extremely eventful three years with continued growth in the number of service users. It is my belief that your charity is now in a much stronger position from which to meet the aspiring needs and interests of all visually impaired people in the county.

You have an excellent team of dedicated staff and volunteers whose aim is to identify and, where possible, create opportunities that enable people with sight loss to have a better quality of life. OAB exists solely to support visually impaired people of all ages in Oxfordshire but, to achieve this, we need your continued help, both financially and also by letting us know your priorities for the services we deliver. ■■■

## Christmas is coming....

Don't forget the present that could make all the difference. For example a talking watch or clock so you never have to hear "What's the time" again!

What about a set of talking kitchen scales or talking bathroom scales, or even both!

For more information or to order call Teresa on 01865 725595. ■■■

# Age Concern Oxfordshire

Readers might be interested to hear about Age Concern Oxfordshire. The Director recently visited their offices in Abingdon and was very impressed by the work that they do. They, like OAB, are an independent charity. They work with older people over 50 and their carers to help them to :

- Lead happy, active and fulfilled lives as independently as possible
- Speak up for and communicate their needs
- Receive and provide care, in a safe, secure and welcoming environment

They can be contacted at:

St. Edmund's House, 39 West St.  
Helen's Street, Abingdon, Oxon.,  
OX14 5BW. Tel.: 01235 849400 Fax:  
01235 849449. ■■■

# New Magnifier at OAB

We are delighted to announce the arrival of the new Compact pocket video magnifier in the resource centre. It offers a bright and sharp image quality. A full colour, 4.3-inch wide screen offers a variable magnification up to 10 times, in a wide range of high-contrast viewing modes including semi-colours.

It has a collapsible grip handle and with the camera located at the centre of the Compact+, positioning over reading material is more like using a traditional handheld optical magnifier. It has a built-in rechargeable battery and the facility to use standard off-the-shelf AA rechargeable batteries. For further information or to arrange an appointment to look at "The Compact" call David Thompson on 01865 725 595. To request a brochure call Optelec on Freephone 080 8090 8090. ■■■

## Since the last newsletter Oxfordshire Association for the Blind has received donations in memory of

Mr George Bloom  
Mr John Peedell  
Mrs Mimi Lyons  
Mrs B.K. Weedon  
Mrs Olive Webb

Freda Booth  
Ethel Fisher  
Mr Bailey  
Alice Carter  
Aileen Parker

Mr Albert Brice Palmer  
Mrs Catherine Hood  
Sir James Lindsay  
Mr John Arthur Peedle  
Mr Joseph Patrick Kelly



# OAB Information Technology Demonstration Day

You are invited to attend a free exhibition on 2nd November 2007 from 10.00am to 3.30pm at the Four Pillars Hotel, Abingdon Road, Oxford, demonstrating what equipment and technology has to offer visually impaired people irrespective of age or previous experience. So why not come along? You may find just the thing to make everyday living easier.

## Here the exhibiting firms describe their services:

**Steve Bennett from Dolphin Computer Access will be on hand to update and advise you on all the latest speech, magnification and Braille developments from Dolphin. New to version 8 with Vista support? Come along and evaluate both for yourself. Got a product support question? Why not pop along and talk over your queries face to face. Looking to find that perfect combination of Supernova speech and magnification features to suit you? Talk to Steve, who will happily guide you through the full selection. There is even a portable USB Pen version, so you can take your favourite Dolphin software and preferred settings, where ever you go.**

**Whether you are looking for an accessible mobile phone solution or are a mobile phone novice, why not stop by and meet Smart Hal, Dolphin's newest screen reader for Windows Smartphone's.**

**[www.YourDolphin.com](http://www.YourDolphin.com)**

**Tel. 01905 754 577 or 0845 130 5353**

**Professional Vision Services provide equipment for people with partially sight and for those who are blind. We will be exhibiting the following products in Oxford and look forward to meeting you!**

■ **Magnilink ZIP, a new folding CCTV with a 17 inch flat screen, comes in a bag and works from batteries and mains electricity.**

■ **Strix portable CCTV 7 in screen comes in bag and has autofocus for reading both close up and distance.**

■ **Nemo is a portable CCTV (handbag size).**

■ **Magnilink Student is a CCTV that works with a laptop.**

■ **Magnilink OCR an optical character reading portable scanner works via a laptop.**

■ **The Penguin black and white, a basic CCTV. New price £1095.00**

■ **Vision Reader reading machine, (speaks the written word) for books, letters, newspapers etc.**

# **Queen Alexandra College**

Queen Alexandra College, QAC, is located in a quiet suburb of Birmingham, where students have the opportunity to gain the skills and experience that will enable them to fulfil their individual potential.

Students aged 16 to 63 can join the College for a short period of work preparation, social rehabilitation and vocational tasters. Alternatively, they can take a longer, individualised programme of training, leading to a vocational qualification. A wide range of NVQs are available in service and technical skill areas with a particular focus on Information and Communication Technology.

On 2nd November Ray Piggott from the college will bring information about the QAC education and training programmes including advance2work, a new concept for supporting people with disabilities into employment. The Advance2work team of experienced Employment Advisers provide support, advice and training, opening doors to new work opportunities throughout the UK. Ray Piggott from the College will also be demonstrating the UltraCane, ultrasonic mobility device as well as the immensely popular range of Revolution Advantage Graphite canes, including lightweight seven piece symbol canes and support canes.

# **Computer Room Services**

Computer Room Services supply a wide range of equipment, software and services, including Computer Games, Hardware Peripherals, mobile phones, note takers/PDAs Braille displays, Organiser software, Computer tutorials, General computer software, Audio Software, Audio hardware (accessible Radios etc.), and Computer Screen reading software. They provide Talks and Zooms from Nuance, and Mobile Speak Pocket and Mobile Speak Smart Phone. These products enable mobile phones to provide speech and magnification. The Nuance products work on Symbian based phones, and the Codefactory offerings give access to Windows Mobile and Pocket PC based phones and PDAs.

They also supply screen readers: e.g. Window-Eyes from GW Micro is a world leading screen reader and provides speech and Braille access to any Windows computer.

They can provide the Book Courier and BibleCourier. These are a Talking MP3 player and text file reader, and talking Bible respectively.

Finally, they offer a variety of PC support and training solutions, from one to one teaching over the phone or on site, to PC support and maintenance, either remotely, or again, on-site. ■■■

Advertisement

## Complete Security Systems



## Executive Alarms Ltd.

Est. 1990

Free site surveys

24 Hour Customer Support

- CCTV, Intruder Alarms ■ Service Contracts
- Access Control & Entry Systems
- Grille Bars ■ Signs ■ Fire Alarms
- Grilles, Locksmiths, Safes, Extinguishers

# 01865 435 435

[www.executivealarms.co.uk](http://www.executivealarms.co.uk)

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

## Caring for carers

If you are a carer living or working in Oxford the Oxford Carers centre is here to help, Our contact details are

Oxford Carers Centre,  
174a Cowley Road,  
Oxford, OX4 1UE.

01865 205192

Fax 01865 242569

email [info@carerscentre.co.uk](mailto:info@carerscentre.co.uk)

The work of the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind is assisted by funds from the Vale of the White Horse and South Oxfordshire District councils.

## Free Demo Disks

As you may know we have several computers at OAB with programs on them that enable VIPs to use them. These are known as access software. One of them is called Guide and all you really need to do is learn your way around the QWERTY keyboard to use it. Another is called Supernova and this is a program that has two elements to it. Firstly it can magnify the characters on the screen. Secondly you can have voice feedback, as you type the voice speaks whatever you enter, and when you access menus or dialogue boxes these are spoken by the program. I have demonstration disks of both Guide and Supernova if you would like a copy call David on 01865 725595.

Advertisement



A Pico handheld, electronic magnifier, with charger and case.

One year old, was £500.00 new, owner wishes to sell for £200.00 o.n.o.

Please ring Anjum Pervez  
07727 286299.

# ***Exclusive OAB Christmas cards by Frankie Cummins***

Thousands of robins have flown around the world, bearing greetings from OAB clients and supporters. This year's rather chubby chappy is joined by ever popular camels and three inquisitive cows. And here they are - exclusive and very special Christmas cards, (designed and painted by Frankie Cummins), the sale of which will raise much needed funds for Oxfordshire Association for the Blind.

**Special Offer- a one off deal of 5 packs for the price of 4 - while stocks! last.**

**Collect your cards at or send mail orders to**

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

**Or contact us by**

**Telephone 01865 725595**

**Fax 01865 725596**

**E-mail:vision@oxeyes.org.uk**

**Website:www.oxeyes.org.uk**



Your order

***Remember 5 packs for the price of 4!***

<b>Qty</b>		<b>Size</b>	<b>Cost per pack of 10 cards</b>
	Pack(s) of 'A' "Searching for a star"	8 x 5	£3
	Pack(s) of 'B' "Mother and child"	6 x 4	£2
	Pack(s) of 'C' "Heavenly trumpet"	6 x 4	£2
	Pack(s) of 'D' "Chubby robin"	6 x 4	£2
	Pack(s) of 'E' "The Cattle are lowing"	8 x 5	£3

I enclose a cheque payable to OAB for the sum of £—————

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Telephone.....



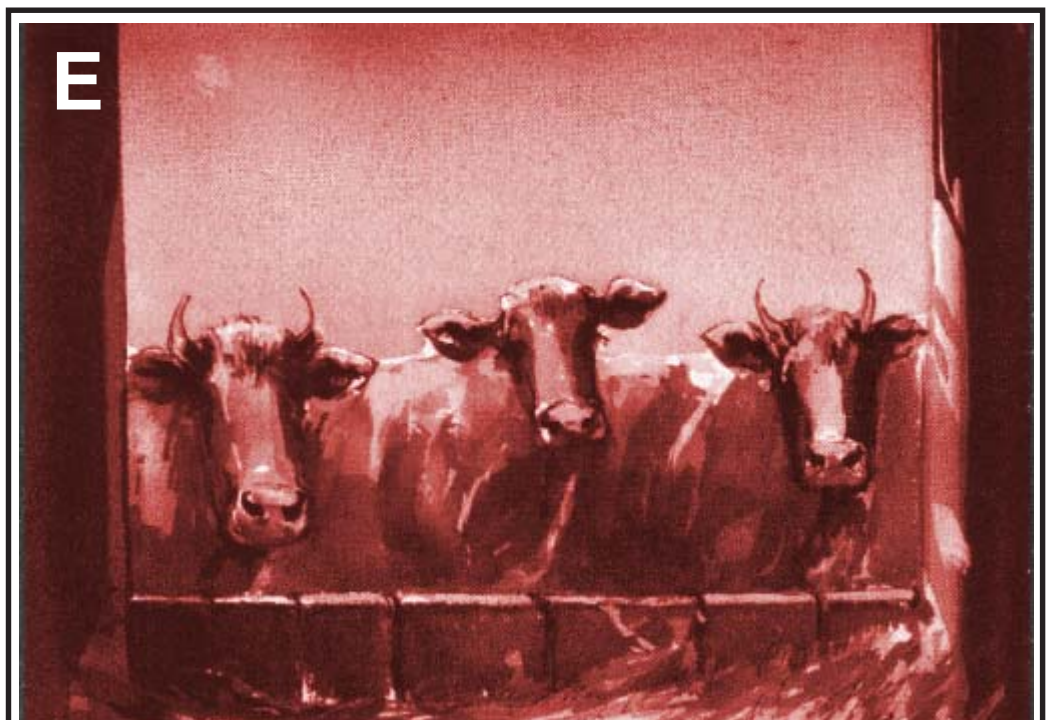
**Special Offer**

**5 packs  
for the  
price of 4**



**Special Offer**

**5 packs  
for the  
price of 4**



# Come and join us!

Do you live in or near Banbury or Carterton and feel interested in joining a friendly, welcoming group for visually impaired people? Come along to our informal get togethers, and enjoy yourself! Both well established groups are currently open to new members, and would love to hear from you.

## 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.

## The Carterton Social Club

Meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 2 – 4 pm, at the Town Hall, in Carterton. Please contact Rosemary Gibbens, Group Organiser on 01993 842998. ■■■

## Dreaming Spires Ten-pin bowling

Are you interested in playing Ten-pin bowling? We play at the Bowl Plex in Oxford, we are a friendly group of people and a warm welcome will be given to you from the team.

For more information contact Kevin Pamphilon on 01869 331778. ■■■

# VIVA

A social group for visually impaired people meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 2.00pm in the North Oxford Association Community Centre, Diamond Place, Summertown, Oxford. Each meeting is different, with a variety of guest speakers and the occasional outing, not to mention the grand Christmas get together, Oh dear, I have! For further details ring Ron Sears on 01865 553063.

# VIBNO

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.

We welcome new members so if you are a VIP aged between 18 and 50 and want to socialise and have fun come and join us. For more information and details of our programme please contact Nicola Pamphilon 01869 331778 or e-mail flashnp@aol.com

# “Oxpots”

Pottery Class for Visually Impaired People meets every Thursday during school term from 1.30pm to 4.00pm. Get back to your creative skills through our weekly workshops in modelling. We have a tutor to help us, as most of us are complete beginners learning a new skill. To find out more ring Margaret Dawes on 01865 558131. ■■■

# 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 HMRC.

If you pay Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax, then by signing a gift-aid form we can claim money from the Customs and Revenue 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.

For every £ that you give us, we can currently claim an extra 28p.

So when you pay your membership of £5 it would be worth £6.40 to us.

Even with the change in the basic rate of tax next April, a £5 member payment would still make a very worthwhile £6.25 for us.

So if you are a taxpayer please complete the gift aid form on the next page and let us claim a further 28% (25% from next April) 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: .....

.....

.....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 the .....day of .....200.....

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** .....



# 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 773502

## 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 Visually Impaired Club

O A B 01865 725595

## 'Oxpots' Pottery Class

Margaret Dawes 01865 558131

## 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 countywide 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**

### Specialist workers

John Fearn-Webster  
Paul Richardson  
Beverley Downs  
Kate Laybourne  
Nigel Lewis  
Elizabeth Jones,  
Meg Jones

### Manager

Hilary Grime

Out of hours social services, emergency freephone 0800 833408.