

# Bury Society for Blind & Partially Sighted People



## Volunteers' Voice



Issue 20 - June 2021

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Hello and welcome to our Celebratory Issue of Volunteers' Voice! This week, 1-7 June is Volunteers Week, a great opportunity to thank all our wonderful volunteers for their support, past, present and future! What a challenging time we have all experienced during the past 12 months, it certainly has made us even more aware of the vital role volunteers play in both our Charity, and within the Community as a whole.

We are taking baby steps in opening up the centre but hope you still wish, and are able, to volunteer with us going forward. Circumstances have changed for many of us so we understand you might not be in a position to support us now. If this is the case, we would like to thank you for all you have done for us in the past and wish you well. Please contact us so we can update our records accordingly.

For those of you who are ready and able to start back, do let us know, as there are some roles emerging. Whilst our 'Daily Drop In' will still remain closed for the foreseeable future, here's a taster of some of the immediate roles!

### Can You Help?



#### **Walking Group**

Can you help our Lead Walker, Michael, in supporting clients on a monthly walk?

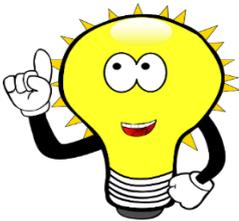
## Drivers

Transport is a major issue for many of our clients currently, and now we are restricting to one passenger per vehicle it's even more of a challenge! Can you help?



### Reminders:

sending out reminders, links via text/phone calls/letters for appointments, groups and events.

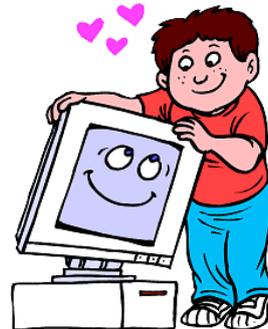


### Fundraising Ideas:

Our Fundraising Committee are looking for new ideas for fundraisers and events as the world of fundraising has changed – why not come along to a meeting and have a chat & see if it's for you?

### Computer based tasks:

Are you comfortable with spreadsheets/database/word?  
We are looking for volunteers to help update spreadsheets, graphs, database cleansing.



### Newsletter:

Is there a budding journalist lurking inside you? Would you be interested in collecting articles/interviewing people? Or maybe you would prefer being involved in the preparation and production side of our newsletters, including recording, copying etc.





### **Tech Facilitator:**

With all this 'Zoom' talk, our Group leaders would really welcome some support in 'bringing people in from the Waiting Room', telling people to unmute as well as setting up the meetings. Have you become an expert over the past 12 months?? Why not use that skill to support in this varied role.



### **Fundraising: we are looking for people to set up or help run a stall:**

- **Friday 25 June** – Bury market stall, Bric-a-Brac sale.
- **Saturday 26 June:** Age UK Bury Fun Day at Clarence Park, stall
- **6/7 July:** Hate Crime awareness event, The Met. Puppy Game and Brailist for demo.
- **25 July** – Tottington Family Fun Dog Show – doggy related stall!
- **22 August** – Stall at Tottington Conservation Club.

There are many other emerging roles but this certainly gives you a taster and, hopefully, shows:

**WE NEED YOU!!**



If you would like to be involved in any of these roles, please do get in touch with Diane, or leave a message and we will get back to you. Due to the pandemic, we do have new COVID Induction training to complete and relevant PPE equipment to issue. This is prior to re-starting, so booking a 'Return to Volunteering session' is essential for both your personal safety and others.

### **Even during a Pandemic - What a Difference You Make!**

During the last year, some of you have been acting as phone friends. Through your monitoring reports, we've been aware if clients have had to go into hospital, subsequently liaising with agencies to ensure extra support is in place to return home; kept informed of changes in circumstances e.g. Moving or going to live with relatives; we've been informed of new or deteriorating ailments and been able to give extra help. In short, you have helped us to keep our clients safer.

In addition, supported by volunteers, we have engaged with over 1600 clients and families through our monthly VI Bulletin, keeping people informed of news and health updates. We have received amazing feedback from clients regarding both the bulletin and the phone calls saying what a difference it has made, keeping in touch, but also knowing that others are thinking of them.

A huge thank you to you all. Stay safe and well, and we look forward to seeing you all very soon. Don't forget you can register to receive our Volunteers' Voice or VI Link , preferably by email to help us save costs but if you are not on email we will gladly post to you, just forward your email to [admin@buryblindsociety.org](mailto:admin@buryblindsociety.org) or phone 0161 763 7014 and ask to speak to the duty member of staff.



Di and all at Bury Blind Society.