



Volunteer's Voice.

Issue 24 –Summer 2023



Bury Society for Blind & Partially Sighted People. Registered charity 1102525

Would you believe it? Summer is fast approaching and with it many of our regular annual summer events. Any help is appreciated – many hands make light work! So, the more people can volunteer, the better and we can spread the load. Have a look at the dates and events below to see if anything fits in with your busy lives and if you can help.

Events Coming Up:

The following events will need your help to take stock to the venue, set up the stall, people to run the stalls and others to pack up and bring back to the centre – Can you help on any of these dates?

Sunday 21 May – Prestwich Clough Day, St Mary's Flower Park, Bury New Road, Prestwich M25 1AW. 12.00-17.00, set up from 10.00am

Sunday 28 May – Ramsbottom Duck Race/1940's weekend. Set up from 10.00am. If you can't help out on the day, maybe you would like to buy a numbered duck in the hope you might win the race which will take place on the day. Tickets on sale from Reception, £2.00 per duck – all proceeds go directly to Bury Blind Society.

1-7 June is Volunteers' week: A time to celebrate you, our volunteers and to promote volunteering.

Tuesday 6 June – Mike Newman, MBE, from Speed of Sight. Masonic Hall, Bury. Come along and listen to Mike's truly inspirational journey as the fastest blind man in the country! Mike will also be talking about his charity, Speed of Sight providing driving experiences for people with disabilities. Tickets are £18 for visually impaired and £20 for guests. Ticket includes two course meal. 6 for 6.30pm start. Tickets available via our website or at the Centre.

Saturday 10 June – Bury VCFA are promoting all volunteering in the Millgate Shopping Centre. We have booked a stall and would welcome volunteers to come and share their experiences as a BBS volunteers to encourage others to join us! 10.00am-15.00.

Wednesday 14 June - Fathers' Day stall in the Millgate. 10.00-16.00.

Sunday 25 June - Prestwich Carnival, St Mary's Park, St Mary's Road, Prestwich M25 1GG. Set up (to be confirmed if we can set up the night before) 7am-8am, all cars to be off site by 10am start. End of day 7pm.

Sunday 2 July – Tottington Big Day Out, Crompton Meadows, Beryl Avenue, Tottington BL8 3NG. 10.00-7pm.

Saturday 8 July – Hawkshaw Gala, from 10.30am. Starts at 12.00 noon - 4.00pm.

Check out the Volunteers' Notice Board, in the corridor at the bottom of the stairs In the Centre, for specific roles and to sign up. Thanks!

Volunteer Opportunities:

Some of you have asked about the can collections we used to do, but many people no longer carry cash so income from this source has been drastically reduced. So, we are inviting you to maybe train to use the card reader machine, which will be available for anyone interested every Thursday morning in the centre in the hope this will increase income from casual donations.

Volunteers Drivers wanted: Do you know anyone who would like to help out on a time to time or regular basis as a driver? As more clients are wanting to attend the centre or visit local support groups for VI's, we are short of help in this area. Sometimes is just once a month, or standing in for one of our regular drivers. Please spread the word!

Activity Buddies: We are looking for volunteers to accompany members to other activities and support them initially until they are comfortable with attending by themselves. This can involve organising Ring & Ride, or catching a bus prior to attending the activity. If you are interested in helping with this much needed, short term support, then please contact Jill.

Why Do You Volunteer?

We recently were involved in an event over at The Bury Art Gallery supporting the voluntary sector for the Bury 'Let's Do It' Strategy. This was a collaboration of all sectors to produce a 5-year plan for the whole of Bury – and as we all know; the voluntary sector and its volunteers play a big part in this! For the event we submitted a number of video clips and quotes from a selection of volunteers. One volunteer was feeding back on being involved in the recent Ten Pin Bowling sessions, and it really struck a cord with us.

'When I volunteered I hadn't realised how much fun it would be and the friends I would make. Seeing the skill of our clients at the bowling, and how rubbish I was (which, in all honesty I don't think was down to the Sim Specs we had to wear!), it really made me appreciate the challenges they face every day.' I'm so glad I am helping out in some small way.