

Eye Chat Weekly.

Issue 290 – Friday 12 April 2024



Welcome to this week's quick update giving you news, views and information. Contact Alex or Jill in the office, to offer us your article, or email admin@buryblindsociety.org

Plenty happening so we'll give a quick update here with more details in our full VI Link newsletter, due out at the end of the month.

We're Hiring! Would you like to join our small, dynamic staff team? We are looking for an enthusiastic, committed Development Worker. Interested? For details and an Application Pack go to our website, www.buryblindsociety.org, email admin@buryblindsociety.org or phone Alex on 0161 763 7014.

Wednesday was our User Forum. We were delighted to welcome some new faces as well as established ones. As attendance appears to have dropped we were keen to seek opinions on if it was still useful. Delighted to say, the feedback was very positive with all agreeing it's a great way to find out what's happening throughout the week at the Centre and to meet other groups. Here's a couple of key highlights:

1. Friday Lunch: Carole and Mags have suggested an Olympic Medal table with a twist! They are going to select 20 countries competing and set up a Lucky Dip for groups to pick a country. Each day throughout the games, the chart will be on display. At the end of the games there will be a prize for the winning Country/Group! The result will be announced at the Olympic Themed lunch in August.
2. Healthy Living Thursday: From May, the Healthy Living Group will be meeting monthly with Ananché Jeffrey providing 'Life Coaching themed' sessions. In response to demand, the other weeks will be developed to cover areas such as Crafts, Knitting, Easy Cooking and Gardening. Watch this space!
3. An issue highlighted was the variety of tasks Group Leaders/volunteers are having to deal with. Agreed to review support e.g. ensure correct 'buddying up support' for client, clear task per volunteer eg. setting up refreshments, register, possibly look at a member of staff collecting monies from groups as not all volunteers feel comfortable with this.
4. Kitchen/Health and Safety: Where possible, until serving drinks, keep shutter down to minimise noise in the Lounge area. Only people preparing drinks/food to be in the kitchen at any one time.

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5. Wednesday Walk/Talk & Run sessions: despite the rain, going well. For the future, looking at a possible 'Fun Sports Day' type event.
6. Ananché & Jixie had spent some considerable time researching into setting up a Bury Blind Society Book Club. They presented their ideas which were amazing and Jixie had even designed a logo of a Bee reading a book for the 'BBS Bees Book Club'! Everyone agreed it was a great idea and looked forward to hearing more about it. Looking to launch in May.
7. Bernard mentioned that it was the 50 years anniversary of the Glaucoma Association and agreed to submit an article for the forthcoming newsletter.
8. Carl Harrison, Regional Manager NW will be joining this month's Macular Group session.

If you've not got your name down for our Ten Pin Bowling Competition yet – do so now! £5 for 2 games. Tuesday 16th April, 5.30pm for 6.00pm Hollywood Bowling, Bury.

Note: Gardeners' Question Time: Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have had to postpone this event.

Coming Up this week in the Centre:

Monday 15th April:

- 10.30am-12.00pm - Drop In at the Centre (Small Lounge area).
- 10.00am-11.30am – MEGs Group. (Large Lounge)
- 1.30pm Fun Music Session – all welcome.

Tuesday 16th April:

- Centre closed for Drop In. Open for Appointments only.
- 11.00am-1.00pm – No Ten Pin Bowling today as Tournament in the evening.

Wednesday 17th April: (Low Vision Aid Clinic – appointment only)

- 10.30am-12.00pm – Drop In at the Centre.
- 1.30pm-2.30pm – Walk & Talk (or Run!) Group, Bury Athletics Ground.
- 1.30pm-2.30pm – Macular Group: Carl Harrison (Macular Society Regional Manager) joining the group this week.

Thursday 18th April:

- 10.30am-12.00pm – Healthy Living Group: join Mags & gang.
- 1.00pm-2.30pm – Thursday Afternoon Group: Bingo with Bridie this week!

Friday 19th April: 11.30am-2.30pm: Full cooked lunch with Carole & Mags. Please book before Thursday to secure a place.