

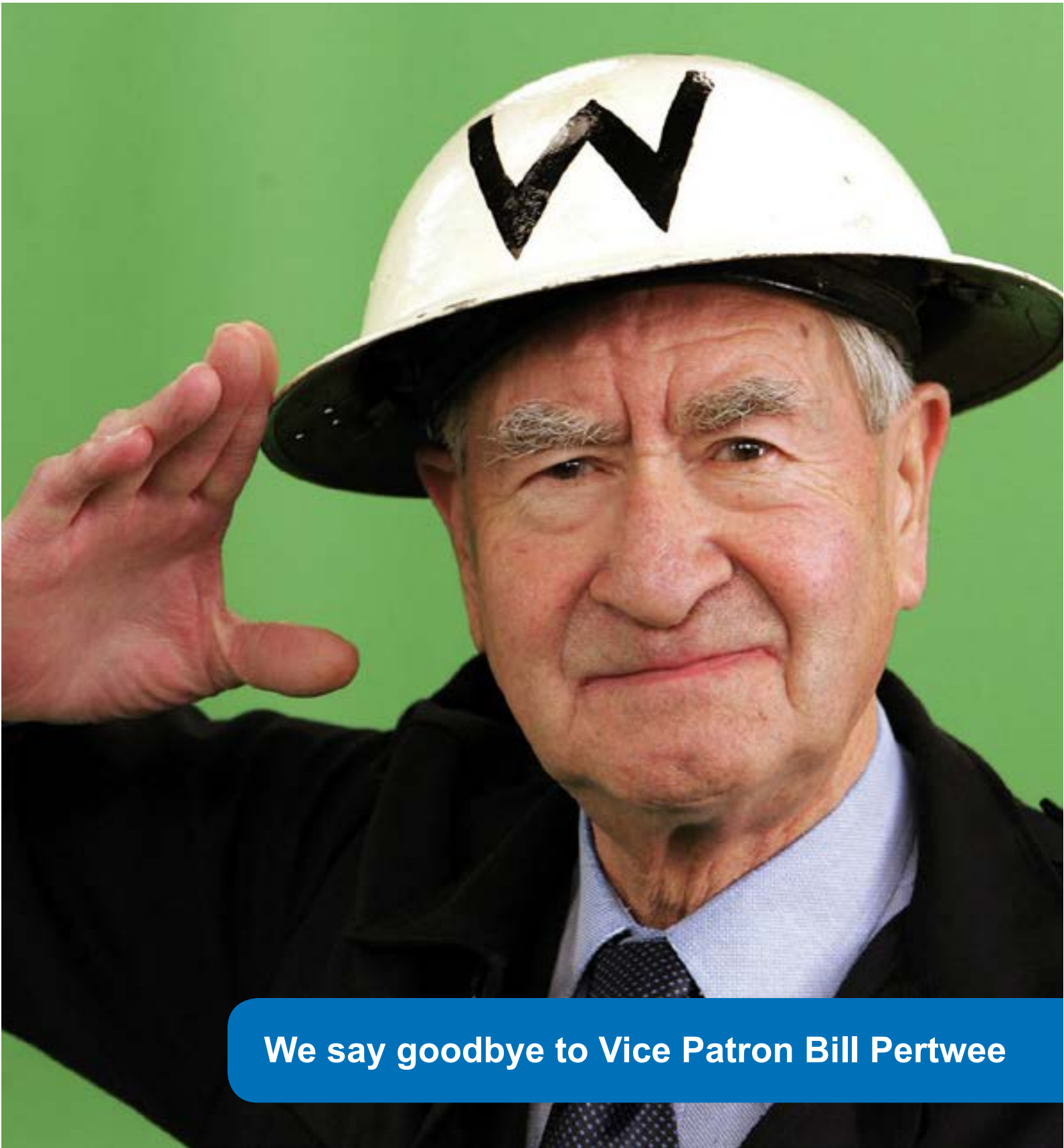


Devon in Sight

Your local sight loss charity

Newsletter

Autumn 2013 Issue 9



We say goodbye to Vice Patron Bill Pertwee

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The South West
Sensory Consortium

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A Message from the Chair of Trustees

“It has been a real pleasure to see the organisation grow over recent years...”



It has been a real pleasure to see the organisation grow over recent years, and to have worked with such a strong team of staff, trustees and volunteers. I have also been able to keep in contact with many of our service users at the various roadshows and fundraising events we have held this year – it's always good to hear about the issues you face, the ways we support you already, and the ways in which we can improve our services.

Small charities are always facing challenges and the last year seems to have been no different. While we have strong foundations there continue to be lots of financial and operational issues to address to secure a strong future for the organisation but with our great team of staff, volunteers and trustees I am in no doubt that we will achieve it.

I am particularly pleased to be handing over the role of Chair to Elizabeth Hubbick, who has already made a strong contribution as

a trustee over the last 12 months and who brings to the role many years of experience in the voluntary sector within Guide Dogs and as a Justice of the Peace. I am also delighted that we have been able to appoint Grahame Flynn as our new Operations Manager. Grahame has already made his mark on the charity and together I am sure they will provide both fresh ideas and strong leadership in the coming months and years.

I am also delighted to have worked with a number of new trustees who have joined the Board during the year including Chris Sumner, Richard Shuker and Steve Buckell. Sadly, Steve Buckell's commitments with Action for Blind People have changed meaning that he will not be able to continue in the role. Sam Legg has also made a great contribution to the Board but has had to stand down due to her work commitments.

It was very sad that Bill Pertwee passed away earlier this year. Bill had been a Patron since October 2011 and was keen supporter of our work. Our Tavistock Roadshow in November 2012 had a World War II theme and Bill was more than happy to come along and share his memories of the classic BBC television comedy, 'Dad's Army'. We are particularly grateful to our other patron Lady Devon for her continued support as Patron and for nominating us as Powderham Castle's charity of the year in 2012.

Although I am standing down as a Chair and Trustee I will continue to encourage and support the organisation and, in whatever way you are involved, I hope you will continue to support the great work that Devon in Sight does for people with sight loss.

So many thanks to all of you that have supported me personally over the last few years, and the work of Devon in Sight.

I wish you all the very best for the future.

Gwyn Dickinson MBE

Operations Manager Update

Grahame Flynn

“It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change.”

Charles Darwin (1809-1882)



My stepfather is always saying, “Evolution not revolution!” Change for the sake of change isn’t helpful to anyone. However, I said in the last newsletter that I would listen to your views and those of the staff, volunteers and fellow professionals in the field of Visual impairment and Health & Social Care.

The staff and volunteers who run our Resource Centres and Volunteer Visiting Service are inspirational. You just need to read the features in this newsletter to hear about the difference that we make to people’s lives. We are highly regarded by our partner agencies but there is always room for improvement.

Our public face is very important. Following a recent survey of members regarding our corporate identity, the newsletter and website I have made changes to deal with the problems you were experiencing. I hope that you like the results.

My vision for the charity is simple. Devon in Sight should be a **‘Centre of Excellence’** for people affected by sight loss in Devon.

The reality is that we can only achieve this by being smarter in how we deliver our services and market them. We also need to have sustainable funding streams.

We are governed by Charity, Health & Safety and Company Law and I wish us to demonstrate best practice in all that we do. I have established working groups of staff and key volunteers for the core areas of our work. The groups also have Trustee representatives so our Board members have a clear understanding of our work, particularly from those working at ‘the coal face’. These groups have identified areas where we can improve, and the work coming out of these groups will also inform our Fundraising and Marketing Strategies for the coming year.

Our fundraising through Trusts and Grants is hampered by our inability to provide hard factual information about the ‘good’ that we do. We are currently working on an outcomes framework that can help us evidence our work. This will increase our chances of securing funding through the Big Lottery Fund and GP Commissioning Groups.

The departure of Ben Gavan our Outreach and Activities Worker and our temporary Administrator Jessica Deacon was very sad but I am pleased to say that Jennie Benham has joined us as Administration Co-ordinator and is proving invaluable. She brings administration and marketing skills from her work at St. Margaret’s School.

It is with sadness that we see the departure of our longstanding Chairman, Gwyn Dickinson MBE at our AGM in October. We wish her luck and thank her for her guidance, particularly in the field of Macular Disease. Our incoming Chair Elizabeth Hubbick will bring a wealth of experience from her work at Guide Dogs, as a Magistrate and her work in employment law.

You will see that I have given over our cover to the late Bill Pertwee our Vice Patron. We pay tribute to Bill in this issue.

In the next newsletter I will share with you how Devon in Sight fits with the [National UK Vision Strategy](#) and our work as part of the [South West Sensory Consortium](#).

Thanks for reading!

A new look for Devon in Sight

by Julian Garner

You may have noticed that we have introduced a new logo and branding for the charity. The previous logo was introduced two years when we renamed and re-launched the charity, and really helped us to raise the profile of our work.

However, a number of issues have been raised about the logo by our service users and staff team, so we have now refreshed it to address these points and to ensure it complies with good practice within the sector.

You will also notice a new look and feel to our newsletter and website (www.devoninsight.org.uk) which aims to make our information easier to read and navigate. We will change our other literature as they run out.

“Thank you to all of you that highlighted the need for change, and those that helped design and test the new look”.

We would also like to thank our website company Daneswood who have adopted us as their charity partner and re-developed the entire website as part of their support for us, and Spice Graphics who helped produce a new logo and brand identity in just a few weeks.

Please do keep sending us your feedback so we can continue to improve our services for people with sight loss, and their carers.



Old logo



New logo

Bill Pertwee Tribute

by Grahame Flynn

Just as our last issue was going to press we learned the sad news that our Vice Patron Bill Pertwee had passed away. Bill was very proud of his association with Devon in Sight.

Bill Pertwee made his name as the irascible ARP Warden Hodges in the 1970s BBC sitcom ‘Dad’s Army’.

Bill became vice-patron of our organisation when we were called the Devon County Association for the Blind in 2011 and was instrumental in helping us to re-launch ourselves as Devon in Sight.

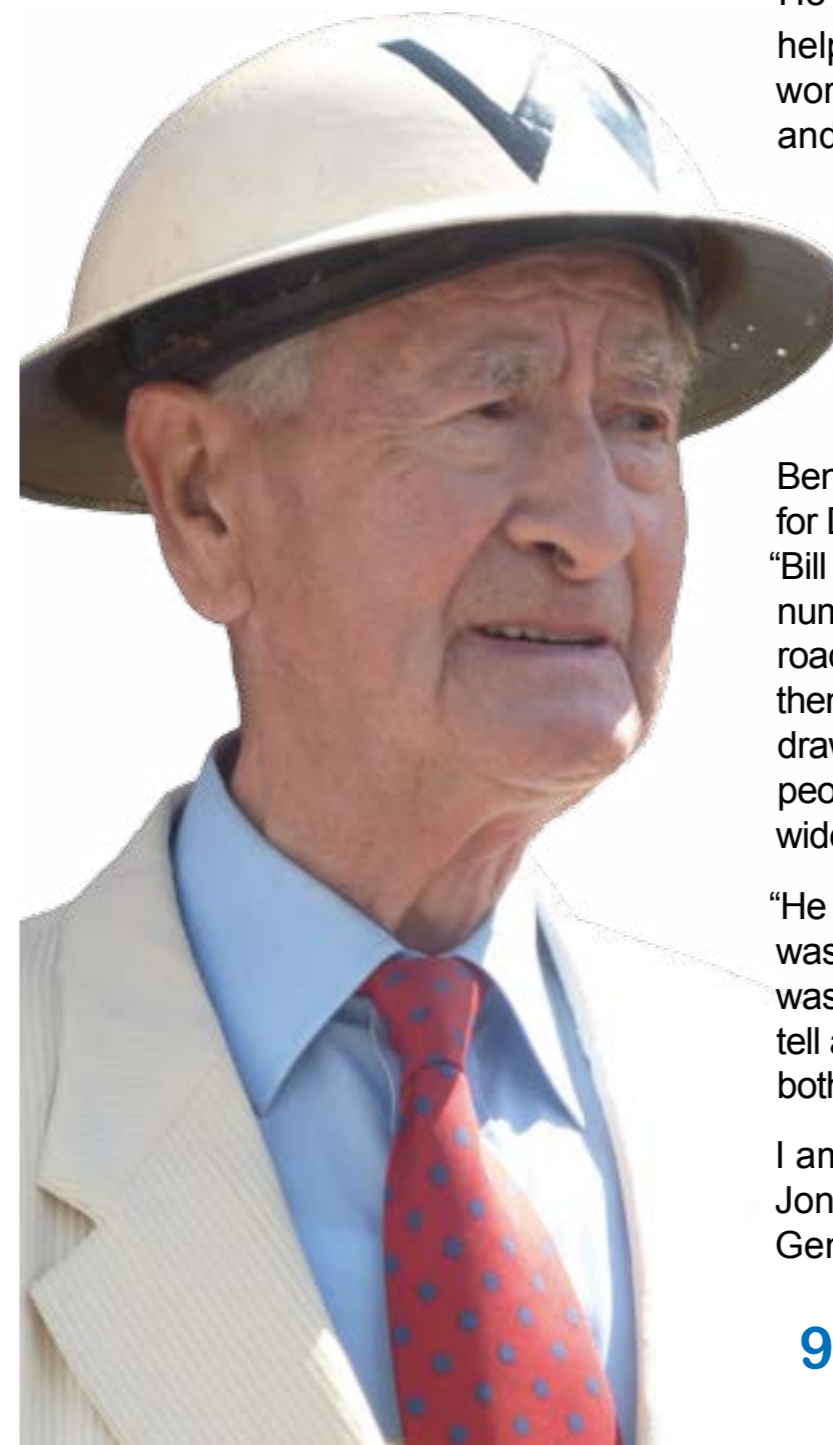
He was a great supporter of the charity, helping to spread the message about our work with people with visual impairment, and appeared at a number of our events, most recently a road show at Tavistock in November last year.

“He gave his time freely and willingly and was a staunch supporter of our charity”.

Ben Gavan, outreach and activities worker for Devon in Sight, remembering Bill said: “Bill very generously supported us at a number of events, including our Tavistock road show, which had a World War Two theme, and his appearance there helped to draw the crowds and promote our work with people with visual impairment to an even wider audience.

“He gave his time freely and willingly and was a staunch supporter of our charity. He was kind, amicable and always willing to tell a story and share his experiences of life both in front of the cameras and behind.”

I am pleased to say that Bill’s son Jonathon will be attending the Annual General Meeting in October.



News in Brief!

Devon in Sight visits Powderham Castle

Devon in Sight stepped back in time recently when they visited Powderham Castle, one of England's oldest family homes located just outside Exeter.



Congratulations to our Chair of Trustees

Congratulations to Gwyn Dickinson MBE on becoming Patron of The Macular Society.



Artist's latest work for Devon in Sight on show

Registered blind artist Barrie Goodfellow and his wife Janet took three weeks to prepare his latest work to go on show at St Margaret's Church's annual flower festival in Topsham.



Devon in Sight heads north to Barnstaple

Devon in Sight hosted a road show with the See Hear Centre in Barnstaple, providing a one-stop-shop for people with a visual impairment to find out about the services, organisations and equipment available to them. Well done Ben!



Farewell to Ben and Jessica

Outreach and Activities Worker Ben Gavan and Office Administrator Jessica Deacon have now both said farewell having come to the end of their contracts.



Devon in Sight welcomes new Administrator

Jennie Benham joined us in July as our new Administration Co-ordinator. Jennie has been working as Marketing Director at St Margaret's School, Exeter.



For detailed reports please visit: www.devoninsight.org.uk

Charity Run

Angela Hookings from the West of England Eye Unit at the RD&E. raised £363.75 for Devon In Sight in the 5k Michelmores Charity Run. Picture courtesy of the Express & Echo.



Royal visit

Operations Manager Grahame Flynn was presented to HRM Duchess of Cornwall at The WESC Foundation in Exeter which was opening a new house for visually impaired young people.



Time to tee off again!

22 intrepid golfers and one guide dog gathered at the Sampford Peverell Westcountry Golf Academy for a day of golf tuition!



It's movie time in Dartmouth!

Amanda Woolley represented Devon in Sight at the Flavel Centre, in Dartmouth where there was a showing of "the Best Exotic Marigold Hotel" with audio description and subtitles.



Organiser David Wright said "although this was only the third special event for visually impaired people we've held in recent years, we hope to organise more, and appreciate the support of Flavel Trustees in supporting this free event."

Meanwhile, it is worth asking about audio description for films on general release at your local cinema as some of them are audio described and the Flavel and other cinemas will supply headsets. One participant spoke of how he's been able to enjoy films again now that audio description fills in some of the missing bits for him.

Resource Centres

Our centres offer a range of equipment and training to help people adjust to their sight loss.

Equipment includes

- Electronic & Optical Magnifiers
- Lighting
- Talking clocks and watches
- Kitchen equipment
- Mobiles & Telephones
- Eyeshields
- Large Print Stationery

Other services include:

- Information & Support
- Low Vision Clinics
- Skills for Seeing
- Employment Hub
- Assistive Technology

Resource Centre - Topsham

Station House • Holman Way • Topsham
Devon • EX3 0EN

Hours of opening

Monday to Friday, 10.00am to 4.00pm

Monday afternoons - Appointments only

We close every 3rd Thursday of the
Month for staff training



Colin Hoskins
Resource Centre
Advisor



Nanette Bolton
Resource Centre
Advisor

Tel: 01392 876666

Email: resourcecentre@devoninsight.org.uk

Resource Centre - Totnes

In association with Optima Low
Vision Services.

Hours of opening

Most Tuesdays and Wednesdays,
9.00am to 4.30pm



Amanda Woolley
Resource Centre
Advisor

Tel: 01803 864218

Email: amanda@devoninsight.org.uk

The RNIB Vocal Talking Bathroom Scale

If you need to keep an eye on your weight this battery operated **Talking Bathroom Scale** will announce your weight in either metric kilogram/grams or imperial pounds/ounces in a natural female English voice. Your weight is also shown on the LCD display with the digits standing about 1 inch high. You can easily switch between four different languages: English, French, German and Spanish with adjustable volume. The maximum weight is 24 stones, 330 pounds or 150 kg.



To weigh yourself place the scale on a hard, flat surface, press briefly and sharply with your foot in the middle of the platform. The display will show 0000 and the scale is now initialized and ready for use – it will greet you with a friendly “hello”. Stand on the scale and remain as still as possible. When the weight stabilizes, it will be shown on the screen and announced in the language chosen. The scale will automatically turn off four seconds after you step off it.



£26.99 (excluding VAT)
£32.39 (including VAT)

To order or for further information
please ring Nanette or Colin at our
Topsham Resource Centre on:

Tel. 01392 876666

'Not just a shop!'

by Andrew Howard, Devon in Sight Press Officer

Devon in Sight's Resource Centre in Topsham is so much more than just a shop, according to one client who has been visiting it for well over a decade.



Devon in Sight Resource Centre volunteer Celia Bartlett demonstrates a voice memo recorder to visitor David Gailey

David Gailey, from Exmouth, is a former engineer with Gillette, and travelled the world with the firm, working in Kenya, Egypt, Pakistan, India and Europe.

But one day, 20 years ago, he noticed his sight was getting poor, and was sent to the world-renowned Moorfields Eye Hospital in London. But six months later, he was registered blind, with retinal dystrophy, a condition affecting the photoreceptors at the back of the eye.

He stayed on at work for three years after he was first registered blind, before eventually taking a disability pension and moving to Exmouth.

He found out about Devon County Association for the Blind, as Devon in Sight was then called, through a friend who worked with talking newspapers, and he has now been visiting the Topsham charity for 14 years.

"It's come on in leaps and bounds since then," he said. "It's much better now than the old office it used to be, which was crowded and cramped, this is a wonderful improvement".

"The way I look at it, it's much more than a shop or a resource centre for equipment; it goes beyond that, with the Volunteer Visiting Services, for instance, which are a good example of what Devon in Sight does.

If you want to know a telephone number, or where to go for help, ring up the resource centre and they'll get back to you and tell you who to call. It's like with learning to use my computer, I rang up the resource centre and they put me in touch with Action for Blind People, who sent a volunteer out to help me.

I see the resource centre as more than a shop where you can buy things, you can get advice, and there are courses. There is the Low-Vision Clinic too, of course and access to Rehabilitation Officers from the Sensory Team."

"Losing your sight is very traumatic, so it's great to be able to speak to people at the centre who understand what you're going through."

The charity's resource centre was officially relaunched after a major refurbishment in July 2011 by the charity's then vice-patron, the late Bill Pertwee, of Dad's Army fame.

A centre of excellence to help people with sight loss to lead more independent lives, it showcases a wide range of equipment from talking watches and microwaves to the latest high-tech reading machines.

There is also a wide range of information available on sight-loss issues, and the centre runs assistive technology days with Action for Blind People, as well as an employment hub, which helps people move into employment.

For people with macular disease, the centre also runs regular eccentric viewing and steady eye technique training events.

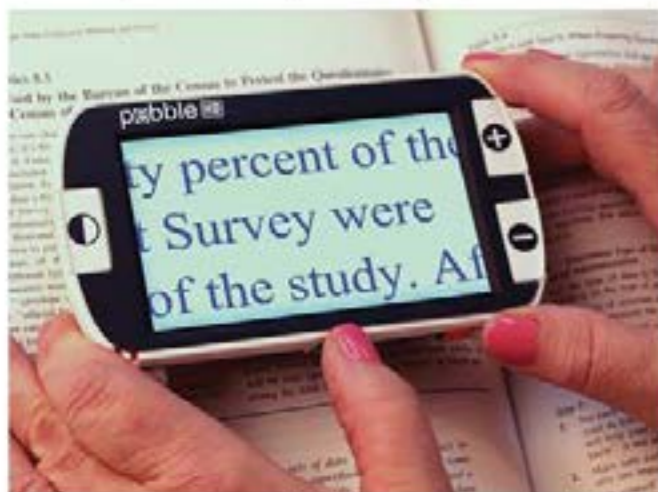
There is a sister Resource Centre in Totnes, where Devon in Sight works alongside Optima Low Vision Services in Ford Road.





The Only Hand Held Magnifier You'll Ever Need!!

Pebble HD's small lightweight design makes it your perfect companion. Carry the Pebble in your pocket, handbag or clip it to your belt. Handy and easy to use just when you need it. Pebble HD boasts a new HD camera providing a crisp, clear, colourful, high definition picture.



NEW DESIGN

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- Adjustable brightness with lights on/off feature
- 28 colour select modes
- Real time clock and calendar

Visit our Resource Centre today to try the NEW Pebble HD
01392 876666 - www.devoninsight.org.uk

Action for Blind People's Employment Hub at Devon in Sight



Action for Blind People have set-up a pilot Employment Hub at Devon Insight in the computer suite which started in March 2013 and runs fortnightly.

The aim of the Employment hub is to assist people with sight loss who are seeking to move into employment.

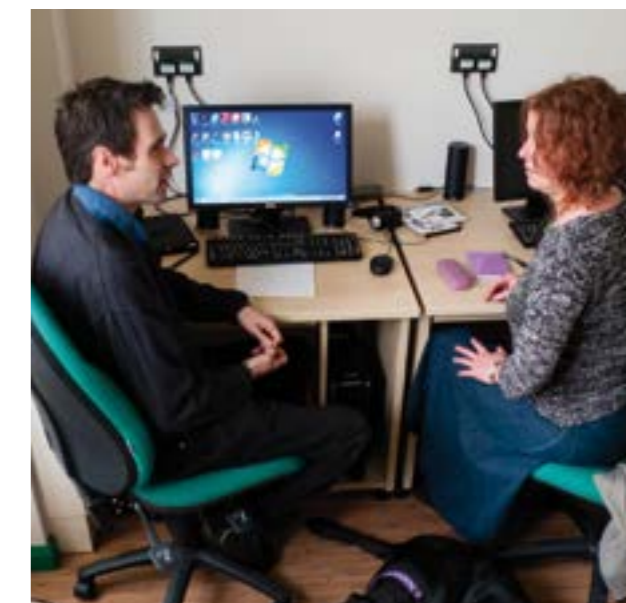
At this Employment Hub, Action Employment and Assistive Technology colleagues/volunteers support visually impaired job seekers in relation to using and accessing the computers for a range of employment specific tasks. For instance, job seekers are supported with their:

- job search
- CV writing
- cover letters and job applications
- ongoing review of their action plans.

This enables job seekers to progress in their job search whilst, at the same time, having the opportunity to become more familiar and confident in using Assistive Technology for this purpose, in a friendly and supportive environment.

This forms part of a change to the way in which Action for Blind People are delivering their employment provision – a combination of Pre-employment courses, and Employment Hubs.

The Employment Hub takes place on the **2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month** with a morning and afternoon session being offered on these days. The morning session is scheduled from 10.30am to 12.30pm and the afternoon session from 2pm to 4pm.



To access this service, clients need to phone the 'Action for Blind People' office to check availability and book a time slot.

**Action for Blind People
Tel. 01392 458060**

Volunteer Visiting Service

The Volunteer Visiting Service in Mid-Devon and Torbay carefully matches volunteers to people with sight loss supporting them to live independently in the community.



Volunteer Visiting Service Mid-Devon

Tiverton, Cullompton, Crediton
and surrounding districts



Sue Snell
VVS Co-ordinator (Mid-Devon)
Tel: 07580 787 308
Email: sue@devoninsight.org.uk

Volunteer Visiting Service Torbay

Paignton, Brixham
and Torquay



Cherrie Crook
VVS Co-ordinator (Torbay)
Tel: 07972 286 061
Email: cherrie@devoninsight.org.uk

VVS update from Torbay

by Cherrie Crook, VVS co-ordinator

Hi everyone, I hope that this very hot weather has not been too much for you and you are managing to stay cool in the shade.

We held our Summer Get Together for our clients in July which was a lovely afternoon and I must thank our Volunteer Ali and her friend for providing the excellent musical entertainment. This event is supported by our volunteers who help provide transport and a lovely tea and raffle for our clients. So my thanks go to our Volunteers for everything they do to make this event happen. Unfortunately we had to close early this time as the room was so hot and there wasn't any air circulating and I was concerned that I was going to faint!

In June I took part in the Action for Blind course "Living with Sight Loss" at Paignton Library, which was very well supported. I also took part in the "Finding your Feet" two day course in July at the Cliffden Hotel in Teignmouth as well. These are great courses I feel; so if you are invited to take part please give some serious thought to this as it is a good way of meeting new people and learning a great deal of useful information.

I was also very lucky to spend time with our Volunteer Peter and his client, Charles, on a beautiful sunny morning recently. Peter and Charles have been meeting every two to three weeks under the Volunteer Visiting Scheme for the past two and a half years.

It was a true privilege to have coffee with them at the Livermead Cliff Hotel in Torquay and to witness their lovely relationship first hand.

Unfortunately we are always short of Volunteers and I always have a long list of clients waiting for a visitor. If you know of anyone who would like to spend quality time with someone who is visually impaired then please pass our Newsletter on to them, for them to read what a great opportunity this is.



We have also been holding more Level One and Level Two My Guide Training sessions in conjunction with Guide Dogs for our volunteers and members of the community in this area. If you know of anyone who would like to attend this excellent training on guiding please contact me as we are happy to arrange these events for all.

If you would like to volunteer with us in Torbay or receive a volunteer from us please contact me on

Tel. 07972 286061

Our Sailing Weekend

by Ian White and Julian Garner

Ian White lives in Paignton with his guide dog Kinta and has been supported by our Volunteer Visiting Service for a number of years.



Ian started losing his sight as result of retinitis pigmentosa and is now blind. Ian is a keen sailor, and earlier this year he took the opportunity to take part in a sailing weekend on the East Coast run by the East Anglian Sailing Trust. He was joined by Julian Garner, the Trusts and Grants Fundraiser at Devon in Sight, who also enjoys sailing.

The East Anglian Sailing Trust (EAST) is a sailing charity based at Levington just outside Ipswich in a marina known as Suffolk Yacht Harbour. EAST organise dinghy sailing for people with visual impairments or physical disabilities, and three cruising events throughout the year on larger yachts.

The East Anglian Sailing Trust (EAST) is a charity near Ipswich. EAST organise dinghy sailing for people with visual impairments or physical disabilities, and three cruising events throughout the year on larger yachts

On Friday morning at just after 10:30am we set sail for Brightlingsea. It was decided that it should be a race. There were 9 boats taking part, each with a visually impaired person on board. Earlier in the week the weather was thought to be unfavourable to make this trip. However, things changed during the last few days and the wind was ideal; North Westerly. It took five hours to reach our destination – we came second in the race - and we were all safely moored on the Pontoon at Brightlingsea by mid-afternoon.

On Saturday we were heading back up the Coast towards the Orwell. Because of the Tide, it meant a fairly early start. The wind had also backed from a Westerly direction to more easterly, making it favourable for our return trip. We cast off around 7:40 am. Again it took roughly five hours to reach our destination, the Royal Harwich Yacht Club on the river Orwell just down river from Ipswich. We sailed all the

way, no engine in either direction, which was truly amazing. Although it was very cold, especially on Friday, a little less so on Saturday. We had no rain on either day, which made it more pleasant. Our Skipper booked our crew in for a meal at the Royal Harwich Yacht Club where we were able to discuss the day's activities.

Julian and I wanted to make a fairly early start on Sunday morning for the drive home to Devon so we just had a short sail back from the Royal Harwich Yacht Club to our starting point at Suffolk Yacht Harbour. We had to do lots of short tacks along the way, before firing up the engine for the final stretch into the Marina.

I like the EAST events because I like being part of a crew on a Cruising Yacht. Although I have done dinghy sailing in the past, it doesn't appeal to me as much. The skippers on these events are very aware of our needs; whilst safety is paramount and is at the top of their list, at the same time, they help VI crew to be involved at whatever level they wish to be, so I get involved with rope work, putting out fenders, helming using an audio compass and keeping the boat clean and tidy.

The EAST Coast may seem too far for some people to travel to, but there are a number of sailing opportunities for people with visual impairments in Devon including the Dart Sailability scheme based near Dartmouth (www.dartsailability.org) and the Disabled Sailing Association in Torquay (www.disabledsailingassociation.org.uk).

Volunteer Visiting Service



If you haven't been sailing before do have a go!

VVS Volunteers

by Andrew Howard, Devon in Sight Press Officer

Dozens of people benefit from our Volunteer Visiting Service in Torbay, but it's not just the clients who stand to gain something from the service...
... it's the volunteers too!



Peter thought long and hard about coming forward after seeing an appeal for new volunteers for the service for people with visual impairment, fearing that committing himself to helping out could lead to others becoming dependent on him.

But his fears proved groundless and now, two-and-a-half years later, he and the charity's client Charles are now firm friends.

Indeed, Peter says that the Torbay VVS co-ordinator, Cherrie Crook, "Hands out friends to people who are called volunteers."

Peter and Charles meet a couple of times a month at the Livermead Cliff Hotel overlooking the seafront in Torquay, and that's where we recently caught up with them over coffee.

Today Peter is helping Charles fill out a form to be returned to Cheltenham racecourse.

Peter says: "There is one area where I let Charles down: he has a lifelong interest in horses, and I think that a horse has four legs and that's all I know!"

"I'm not sure all the ones that I back have four legs," Charles replies with a smile.

"Meeting with Peter is something I look forward to, if only to get out of the house," he adds. "I'm very lucky to have a lot of friends, but many of them are working in the daytime, so it's quite important to me that Peter is available."

The pair are happy to be flexible over the timings of their get-togethers, so they can enjoy holidays or other activities without feeling they have let the other down.

Peter, who has been involved in a number of third-sector roles for many years, saw a poster asking for volunteers for Devon in Sight about three years ago.

"Volunteering is fantastic, because you can do all sorts of jobs and you don't have to have formal qualifications," he laughed, recalling various roles he has had at Relate, the Citizens Advice Bureau and the Torbay Volunteer Service.

"I've been able to do a whole range of things that I could never have done in paid employment. You are given a privileged insight into people's lives which you would never otherwise get."

"I'm very pleased that I contacted Cherrie."

And as he is now what he describes as 'elderly' he is also glad that Devon in Sight has no age limit on its volunteers, unlike a number of other charities, as it concentrates on people's abilities, not their ages.

Charles, who has congenital cataracts and other sight problems, has lived in Torquay since 2000, and has nothing but praise for the support services in the area, from the local hospital, Devon in Sight, Action for Blind and the Sensory Team to the council's services, and the voluntary sector.

He worked for the Royal Engineers for 40 years, until 1999. Not long after he finished work, a visit to the Royal National Institute of Blind People in Birmingham led him to the former Manor House in Torquay, which he describes as a unique rehabilitation centre for people with visual impairment, and he soon settled down in the Bay. Charles was involved with the local visual impairment charity 'Seeing' of which David Nair is the Chairman.

He said: "I contacted Devon in Sight because I needed help for various things. Since meeting Peter we have built up a trusting friendship where I can ask him to read out something I wouldn't ask other people.

"Or it can be something as simple as just getting out of the house and having a coffee, and putting the world to rights. It's something I really look forward to."

Cherrie said: "I'm really pleased that Peter and Charles get on so well, as do all our volunteers and clients. Devon in Sight provides this service because we think it brings so much to the lives of not just the clients, but the volunteers too.

"It only takes a few hours a month to make a big difference to the life of someone with visual impairment, be it reading post, popping in for a cup of tea and a chat, helping write emails and letters, or just going out for a walk together. We give full training and support to all our volunteers and work hard to match them to the right clients.

"The only problem is that there is now a big waiting list of clients and not enough volunteers to go round. We are looking for both men and women from 18 to 80!

"Volunteering is a great way to get out and about and meet new people, and, as in the case of Charles and Peter, to form valuable and long-lasting friendships."

If you are interested in supporting the charity as a volunteer please visit the website or speak to Jennie Benham on 01392 878802



Support from volunteers is vital to our work. Volunteers are active in the management of the charity at Trustee level, help with finance, membership, the Resource Centres, Volunteer Visiting Service and fundraising too.

We have reviewed our Volunteer Management Systems with Volunteering England to ensure that we comply with current best practice. As part of National Eye Health Week we have started a recruitment campaign for more volunteers.

We hope to appoint a Volunteer Co-ordinator and people to help in our Resource Centres, Volunteer Visiting Service, Fundraising and Awareness.

Making a Legacy

If you would like more information about how to leave us a gift in your will, please phone us on 01392 876666 to ask for our information pack.

A gift in your will can help hundreds of people affected by sight loss.

If you are planning to make or change your will, you will want first to provide for your family and friends. But when you have done that please consider including a legacy to Devon in Sight. This could be a share of what is left over, or a specific amount of money. However much it is, it will be carefully used for the benefit of people in Devon affected by sight loss.

What do legacies enable us to do?

Legacies, large or small, are essential for maintaining our services and reaching more people. For instance, three years ago our Resource Centre in Topsham was cramped and inefficient. But in 2010 Devon in Sight bought the building next door and

refurbished and equipped it as the modern spacious area we now have. More than 2,000 people now visit or telephone the centre every year to get equipment and advice, and talk to our friendly staff about anything and everything to do with sight loss.

This enormous improvement to our service was made possible thanks to legacy income which the trustees had set aside over several years. We still need legacies so we can continue to improve and extend our services throughout the county. For instance, a gift of £100 will cover the cost of a member of staff visiting a local club or group, while £6000 will meet the travel costs for our Volunteer Visiting Service for a year.

Thank you, on behalf of all those in Devon affected by sight loss.

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Forthcoming Events

Devon in Sight AGM and Looking Forward event

Wednesday, 16th October 2013

Exmouth Pavilion, Esplanade, Exmouth, Devon EX8 2AZ

10.30am – 4.30pm

We are pleased to announce our review of the year which includes the formal Annual General Meeting. There will also be a number of exhibitors with information and displays of equipment.

Guest Speakers:

Low Vision and Daily Living

Julie Dyer - Principal Low Vision Therapist & Optometrist
Optima Low Vision Services Ltd.

What services do Rehabilitation Officers provide?

Alyson Badnell - Practice Manager
Visual Impairment, Devon Sensory Team

Please note that Registered Members should give 14 days' notice in writing to the Trustees of matters they wish to raise at the AGM meeting and which are not already on the agenda.

If you are planning on coming to the event, or would like to submit questions for the AGM, please call Jennie Benham on 01392 878802.

Dates for your diary

Friday 13 December

The Resource Centres will be closed for a staff Christmas lunch.



Tel: 01392 876666

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