

Nov / Dec Newsletter 2021

100
1921 - 2021

4Sight
vision support



Featured in this newsletter:

- 'Visions of Hollywood' 100th Anniversary Ball
- Queen's Award Presentation
- Christmas gift ideas



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CEO's Message

Dear Members,

It gives me great pleasure to say Happy 100th Birthday!

We have been celebrating this incredible achievement of 100 years of service as a charity with numerous activities – find out more on pages 3-5.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our staff, volunteers, trustees, supporters, donors, and friends, for their incredible hard work, dedication, support, and kindness, without all of you we would not be where we are now, and because of this, we hope to be here for the next 100 years for anyone that needs our support across the county.

Not only have we celebrated our centenary anniversary, but we also had the incredible honour of being presented with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. We were delighted to welcome Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex, Mrs Susan Pyper, on the 8th November and celebrate with many of our volunteers. Read more on page 6.

I look forward to joining many of you at the Seaford College Choir Christmas Concert on the 13th December (details on page 13). **And with that being said I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year as we head in to 2022.**

Kirstie

Kirstie Thomas - Chief Executive

Update your details

Don't forget to let us know if you have moved to a new house or changed your phone number recently, so that we can continue supporting you.

Newsletter format & feedback

Did you know we produce the newsletter in a variety of formats - large print, Braille, email, and audio on USB or CD.

If you would like to receive our newsletter in a different format, or have any feedback about the format you receive e.g. paper type, please contact Karen McLachlan on: **01243 828 555.**

We are 100 !

For 100 years and without interruption, 4Sight Vision Support or West Sussex Association for the Blind as it was originally called, has been supporting blind and sight impaired people living across our county. During our 100 year history we have seen significant changes from our way of life, employment opportunities, methods of communication and the growth in technology.

We were recently delighted to announce our 'Future Services Plan' for 2021 and beyond. This includes a Health and Wellbeing Service, new online social clubs and peer support groups, a dedicated Accessible Technology Specialist, a dedicated Vision Support Service for Children, Young People and Families as well as help with accessing benefits including the completion of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) forms.

We look forward to supporting those with sight loss across West Sussex over the next 100 years.



Current staff came together at Head Office in October to celebrate with a 100th Birthday Party with fizz, a quiz, and of course a 100th birthday cake!

They included the longest standing staff members Annie Taylor, Sight Care Advisor, Sonia Balshaw, Finance Assistant and Finance Manager, Melanie Adams, all who have been with the charity for over 20 years.

Thanking staff for their hard work, dedication and support, CEO Kirstie Thomas reflected on some key achievements from the last 100 years and highlighted the future services plan.

A generous local baker, Lauren's Cakes, kindly donated the stunning cake to help us celebrate.

'Visions of Hollywood'

100th Anniversary Ball

A glittering 'Visions of Hollywood' Fundraising Ball was held on Friday 29th October at the Hilton Avisford Park Hotel, near Arundel. Guests included current and former staff, volunteers, Trustees, clients and members, corporate supporters, plus friends and family.



The dress code was Hollywood glamour: on arrival guests posed for photos by a gleaming red Cadillac, then followed the Hollywood 'stars' to a drinks reception with film soundtracks playing. When it was time for dinner, guests walked down the red carpet lined with paparazzi to take their seats, and were greeted and entertained during dinner by the rat-pack style singer. The occasion provided the very best of Tinsel Town style dancing and entertainment with live music provided by 'What the Funk!'



Tickets to the Ball, plus fundraising on the night including a raffle, auction, Hollywood stars game, and a wheel of fortune game have so far raised nearly **£13,000** and CEO Kirstie Thomas was delighted with the total.

“ The Ball was not only a wonderful celebration but also a thank you to all who have supported our work over the last century. I enjoyed speaking to the guests on the night, who all said what a fabulous evening it was, and how hard the fundraising team has worked to make it such an overwhelming success. The funds we have raised will help us to provide our future services for both children and adults across West Sussex as we head into our next 100 years. ”



We would like to thank everyone who generously supported the Ball including guests who bought tickets, joined the auction, bought raffle tickets, made donations and played the Hollywood games.

We would like to thank the many prize donors, those that supported the games and our corporate event sponsors:

- Rayner
- Barnham Opticians
- Brandabble
- Arun Business Partnership
- Sims Williams Estate Agents
- SRP Design and Print
- Passmore Glass
- Southdowns Water

Presentation of The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Back in June, we were delighted to announce that we had been honoured with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK. This prestigious Award aims to recognise outstanding work by volunteer groups to benefit their local communities.

Our amazing team of dedicated volunteers and their hundreds of predecessors have always been at the heart of our work. It is particularly profound to receive the Award in this our 100th Anniversary year, especially after the recent challenges we have faced. In this respect, we were doubly honoured to receive an additional 'Special Recognition – Covid 19' Commendation, awarded to those who provided impactful support to the community in response to the pandemic.

4Sight Vision Support is one of only four charities in West Sussex to receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service this year.

The Award was created in 2002 to celebrate The Queen's Golden Jubilee and recipients are announced each year on 2nd June, the anniversary of The Queen's Coronation.

On Monday 8th November, representatives of 4Sight Vision Support including staff and volunteers, as well as local and regional VIP's attended the Award presentation at our Shoreham Centre.



The award was presented by The Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex, Mrs Susan Pyper, Her Majesty The Queen's representative in the county. Mrs Pyper was welcomed by CEO Kirstie Thomas and Chairman Norman Boyland.



After bestowing the award, the award crystal and certificate were accepted on behalf of 4Sight Vision Support by long-standing volunteers Gill Calderhead, Jean Hall and Margaret Russell, all of whom had also been heavily involved with keeping in touch with members throughout the pandemic.

Thanking Mrs Pyper for the award, Norman Boyland said,

“ We simply could not function as effectively and reach as many people living with sight loss across the county without the tireless support of our volunteers. ”

After the ceremony, Mrs Pyper spent some time speaking with volunteers and staff about their roles, and in particular the support offered during the pandemic. The event closed with a celebratory lunch.



In May 2022, two volunteers will also attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace (depending on any restrictions at the time), along with other recipients of this year's Award.

Services Update

If you would like advice or support, or wish to book an appointment, please call us on 01243 828555. Our telephones are manned Monday-Thursday.

We currently have no plans to change our Covid safe measures to ensure we do our bit to protect our vulnerable members. Our team will continue to wear masks and maintain social distancing, where possible, during appointments. Our staff also continue to test twice-weekly, and our increased cleaning and sanitising procedures remain in place.

Our services and support include:

- Low Vision service
- Accessing benefits
- Accessible Technology Service
- Children, young people &

Families support
and much more.

Please do get in touch with our friendly team of staff & volunteers if you have any questions or to request support.

We are here to support you.

How we contact you

We have recently become the victim of a cyberattack where some of our data was copied. Although no financial data was accessed, some personal contact details such as names and contact details may have been affected, although we are confident that there is a minimal risk to you all.

We would like to reassure you that this has been reported to the appropriate authorities and measures put in place to ensure that this does not happen again. To reassure you we wanted to remind you of how & when we would contact you to ask for any donations/monies.

- We may contact you to ask for payment of goods already received
- We will never ask you for donations over the phone unless you have contacted us first requesting to donate.
- Our email addresses are enquiries@4sight.org.uk and fundraising@4sight.org.uk
- Our website is 4sight.org.uk
- Our phone numbers for donating are 01243 828555 & 01243 838001.

RNIB Talking Books Alexa Skill

In August this year, The RNIB Reading Services became available to access purely with your voice with an Alexa smart speaker.

“Alexa, open RNIB Talking Books” and just like that, you have access to one of the largest audio libraries available.

Please note – you have to be a registered RNIB Library user to be able to access the RNIB Talking Books Skill.



Passenger Assistance App

Many of us are already aware that we can book railway passenger assistance in advance via phone, email and a web form, but the launch of the app earlier this year now enables you to book assistance in a more convenient way. The app allows you to:

- Request to book assistance for your rail journey
- Manage your customer profile
- View your travel history
- Browse rail journeys via the online journey planner

Sky Q Voice Guidance

In May this year, Sky introduced voice guidance, Sky Q's built-in screen reader. It is refreshing to see one of the biggest broadcasting companies taking stock and ensuring that their set top boxes are usable for those who rely on screen readers. The Voice Guidance feature provides users with audio feedback as they navigate Sky Q's menu system, which includes program guides, recordings, settings, etc.

Windows 11

Accessibility features in Windows 11 are worth the latest upgrade, with enhancements of familiar features such as the Windows Magnifier or Narrator, a development of speech recognition as well as the potential to use apps from other platforms such as android.

If you have any other queries / questions relating to accessible technology, please contact Dan on 01243 828 555.

Daily Living Aids & Gift Ideas

Christmas will soon be here and below are a few suggested gift ideas from the products available for purchase / order at our Resource Centre.

If you would like any more information on any of the products listed below, or any other products available please contact Beau on: 01243 828555

Large Print Playing Cards - £2.50

Jumbo Print Playing Cards - £7.20

Large Print Scrabble - £36

Easy-to-See Dominoes - £14



Diaries & Calendars 2022

To help you keep track of things as we usher in the New Year we have a range of calendars and diaries:

A5 VIP Pocket Diary - £6.25

Big Print Desk Diary - £9.20

Big Print Wall Calendar - £6.00

Big Print Foldaway Calendar - £6.50

Big Print Pocket Diary - £6.75



For the following items please call the fundraising team on: 01243 838001

100th Anniversary Pin Badge - £5

Celebrate our 100th birthday with us with a limited-edition pin badge. The daisy design was chosen for its special connection to sight loss - meaning 'the days eye' or 'the eye of the day'.

Sussex Rambles Book - £7.99

(in standard print only)

Written by volunteer Jane Aston, enjoy exploring local walks across West Sussex with this wonderful book inspired by walks taken on by the rambling group.

Summary of summer trips

Thanks to the National Lottery Community Fund, members, carers and volunteers enjoyed a variety of events this summer. Here's a little bit of what we got up to.

Children's Fun Day Out at the Aldingbourne Trust

Our day started with visiting the animals and walking around the farm. The donkeys and a pony came up to us so we could stroke them over the fence. After our picnic lunch, we enjoyed making new friends in the many play areas, made a mess with the sand and water, and got lost in the maze! Our day ended with a den building competition in the woods.

Horsham Day Trip to HQ, Bognor

Horsham members travelled to Bognor Regis to our Head Office, providing a great opportunity to speak with Front Line services staff, have a demonstration of daily living aids, and meet other people from the Horsham area. A fish and chip lunch was followed by a trip to the seafront and ice cream to finish the day off in true seaside style!

Relaunch of the Chichester & Arun Walking Group

The Walking group set up before lockdown, enjoyed its first walk in late August with several original members and new faces too, joined by a group of new Sighted Guides. They included a walk around the Bishop's Gardens, Chichester City's Roman Walls, and a visit to the Novium Museum where we enjoyed a short talk and members were able to handle Iron Age artefacts. The day finished off with a lovely lunch at Chichester Festival Theatre Café.



Online Clubs this Winter

Virtual Clubs will continue to be available and are accessed via the Zoom video and teleconferencing facility over the internet or by phone. For further details about the clubs or for assistance with using Zoom – please call Naomi on 01243 828555.

November 2021

Tuesday 23rd November
11am-12pm

History Discussion Group

A lively group which has covered a variety of topics during the past months including: George Frideric Handel, the Norman Matilda's, and the Indian Mutiny of 1857.

December 2021

Thursday 2nd December
11am-12pm

Christmas Quiz

Come and join the festive fun – 20 questions with volunteer Ray as our friendly Quizmaster!

Monday 6th December
11am-12pm

Chatterbooks

Members share their love of books and chat about their latest favourites!

Wednesday 15th December
2pm-3pm

Virtual Tech Club

Hosted by our Accessible Technology Specialist – bring your tech queries and share hints and tips with your peers.

Tuesday 21st December
11am-12pm

History Discussion Group

January 2022

Thursday 6th January
11am-12pm

Virtual Quiz

Monday 10th January
11am-12pm
Chatterbooks

Wednesday 12th January
2pm-3pm
Virtual Tech Club

Tuesday 25th January
11am -12pm
History Discussion Group

Fundraising News

Congratulations to our 200 Club Winners

September: Ray from Bognor Regis, Number 113

October: Mrs Smith from Bognor Regis, Number 95.

November: Mrs Burtenshaw from Burgess Hill, Number 177.



Thank you Bognor Regis Town Football Club and Chichester Communities!

We raised a fantastic £251 collecting at Bognor Regis Town Football Club and an equally fantastic £170 collecting in Chichester City Centre on Saturday 25th September, during National Eye Health Week. Thank you to the 'Rocks' community, Chichester District Council, our volunteers and everyone who kindly donated or stopped to talk to us.

Make a Will scheme success

We're really pleased to report that our first Will Workshops and Make a Will Scheme were a great success, with thanks to local solicitors Kreston Reeves. So far we have raised £1,245 with more donations still to come.

We are extremely grateful to our supporters, who notified us as part of this scheme, that they who will be leaving us a gift in their Will. This means that we are able to better plan for our future.

Thanks to everyone who supported this initiative, we hope to build on it for next year.

Seaford College Chapel Choir Christmas Concert - 13th Dec

Join us for this delightful Christmas choir treat at St Mary de Haura Church in Shoreham, 1pm- 2pm. Tickets are just £5pp and include festive refreshments. Prebook your ticket now by calling the team on: 01243 838001.



Recycle with us!

Just a reminder that we can now recycle various items to raise funds for our vital services.

The following items can be put in the envelope enclosed with this newsletter:

- Stamps
- Old or foreign coins
- Mobile phones
- Jewellery

If you have any of these other items, please drop them off at the Charity's Head Office in Bognor Regis, or at the Shoreham Vision Support Centre open Monday to Thursday from 10am – 2pm:

- Stamp collections
- Ink cartridges
- Cheese packets

If you have any questions, or would like to recycle your old car please call us on 01243 838001 or visit www.4sight.org.uk



Team Updates

Our Fundraising Manager, Chloe Neilson-Hopkins, went on maternity leave at the end of August this year. (Congratulations to Chloe and her family on the birth of baby Robin on 29th September – such happy news.)

Julie Branson, who joined us earlier this year as Fundraising Officer, has stepped up to cover Chloe's role for the next few months.

We also recently welcomed the following staff to the fundraising team:

- Erin Mallory, Trusts and Grants Officer
- Miles Townsend, Fundraising Officer (maternity cover)
- Tina Mansfield, Fundraising Assistant (maternity cover)

Julie, Jess, Erin, Miles and Tina look forward to speaking with you and supporting you with your fundraising over the coming months.

My Donation

I would like to make a one off donation of:

☐ **£29** - Could enable Tara to carry out a Low Vision Assessment, supporting each member to find a magnifier which makes it easier to complete daily tasks.

☐ **£15** - Could enable Naomi to run one of our virtual clubs, bringing members together to talk all things musical, discuss the latest book or get tech advice.

☐ **£8** - Could enable us to send one of our informative newsletters, available in large print, audio or Braille, to 15 members.

☐ Other amount: £

I enclose a cheque made payable to **4Sight Vision Support** ☐

OR

I would like to make a regular donation by standing order of £

every: ☐ month ☐ quarter ☐ year.

Please complete these details:

Bank Name: _____ Branch: _____

Bank Address: _____

Sort code -- Account Number

Name of Account holder: _____

I authorise the payment on: _____ (date of 1st payment) and thereafter on the same date each month/quarter/year as stated above.

You can cancel this at any time by contacting your bank directly.

Our bank details: 4Sight Vision Support at CAF Bank Ltd. Account No: 00029420, Sort Code: 40-52-40

Signature: _____ Date: _____

My Details:

Title: _____ First Name: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

Gift Aid it

Boost your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate!

☐ I am a UK taxpayer and I would like 4Sight Vision Support to treat this donation and all donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years as eligible for Gift Aid.

☐ I do not pay sufficient tax / do not wish to Gift Aid my donation.

I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/ or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please notify us of any changes to your name and address, or if you stop paying sufficient Income / Capital Gains tax or if you wish to cancel this declaration.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Keeping in touch

By making a donation the details you provide will be stored on our database. They will only be used to process and contact you in relation to your donation. In the future we would like to let you know about the vital work we do for people living with sight loss and opportunities to support us. We will never sell or share your data and we promise to keep your data safe and secure.

Please tick the boxes below to tell us all the things you would like to hear about and how you would prefer to hear from us:

☐ Volunteering

☐ Post

☐ Future Events

☐ Email

☐ Campaigns & Appeals

☐ Telephone

☐ Leaving a gift in my Will

☐ Please don't send me anything new

Please return this form, along with any cheques to:

Fundraising Team, 4Sight Vision Support, 36 Victoria Drive,
Bognor Regis, West Sussex, PO21 2TE

Internal use only: Received by: Date received:

Processed onto CL by: Date: Thanked by: Date: