

SRSB

Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind

INSIGHT

Summer 2012

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SHEFFIELD

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our latest newsletter where we have plenty to tell you about. We would really like to hear from you on the type of articles you enjoy reading in this newsletter. Please give us a call to let us know on **0114 272 2757**.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Annual Meeting

On Wednesday 18th April we held our first public annual meeting for many years at Sheffield Town Hall, hosted by the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Councillor Dr Sylvia Dunkley, as one of her Charities of the Year. Over 100 people attended to hear clients, volunteers and staff tell their story about some of our services and all the presenters did really well, despite their nerves, which didn't show. The event concluded with afternoon tea and the chance for people to chat to staff and trustees. We plan to make this an annual event and will focus on some of our other services next year.

Summer Raffle

Unless you have requested otherwise, 2 books of tickets are enclosed for the Summer Raffle. Tickets are £2.50 per book – if you can sell them please put the money and the ticket counterfoils in the enclosed plastic bag and return to us by Thursday 15th June. If you or your family are able to sell extra tickets please call us as we always need to sell more tickets. If you are not able to sell any tickets then don't worry as we appreciate that not everybody is a salesman but please do **NOT** return unsold tickets to us as we do have to pay postage for the FREEPOST envelope if you use it.

Even just putting a stamp on the Freepost envelope will help us by saving us the postage costs.

Limbrick Centre – Computer Course

Alan Thorpe worked very hard to secure the funding for this course originally and also to maintain it over the last four years but funding for the next course, starting in September is now at risk. In order to maintain the course we need 6 people to sign up now for the next course. Use it or lose it!

Please do not let this course come to a close. Contact Alan Thorpe to register an interest and to see if the course will answer your computer needs. Telephone Alan on **0114 220 7007**.

The course is delivered at the Limbrick Centre in Hillsborough and is specifically targeted at people with a visual impairment.

You still need to be able to see a computer monitor using the magnification and accessibility aids that are built in to the Windows operating system. If you are using your computer and can see the screen now, this course is for you.

Many people have already successfully completed the course and surprised themselves with how much they can do. This includes typing letters, using the internet and email etc.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee

We will be celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee at the Activity Centre every day during the week from 28th May to 1st June with our own indoor street party. Our Mappin Street Centre will be decorated in red white and blue, we will have entertainers each day and a traditional roast beef dinner with Yorkshire pudding will be served. People attending are invited to make a hat and a prize will be awarded for the best hat each day. The competition will be judged by local dignitaries. We hope that you can join us on one of the days, 10:30am to 2:30pm. If you want to join us for one of the days then please contact **SRSB** to book your place and you can also bring a guest. There is a charge of £3.75 for the lunch, guests £5.

Tai Chi

Tai Chi needs you ...

The Tai Chi group which meets every Friday afternoon at our Mappin Street Centre has been very popular with participants over the last two years. People find it an excellent way to relax; it also increases circulation and improves balance. This class is suitable for people of all mobilities.

The group is funded by the Learning and Skill Council but we now need new members to make sure we can secure funding to run the group in the coming year. If you want to find out more or join the group then please contact **SRSB** as soon as possible.

Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

This is starting to change to Personal Independence Payment (PIP) with effect from April 2013.

We have been working with other blind societies across the country who support visually impaired people, as well as with RNIB, to campaign for proper recognition of the needs of visually impaired people in the proposed criteria for the assessment of people's needs in relation to PIP. Many thanks to the large number of people who have contacted their MPs on this issue. Steve Hambleton, our General Manager, together with a few constituents recently met with Rt. Hon. Nick Clegg, MP to highlight the concerns about the assessment criteria, which in our opinion do not properly take account of the needs of blind and partially sighted people, including the risks to their personal safety. Mr Clegg has subsequently relayed these concerns to Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Rt. Hon. Iain Duncan Smith, and Maria Miller, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for Disabled People. We are now awaiting their responses. Hopefully, as a result of this and other MPs being approached with these concerns both in Sheffield and across the UK, the assessment criteria for PIP will be adjusted when they are finally published in the autumn.

We will continue to keep you up to date with the change to PIP as and when there are any further announcements.

Welfare Benefits

Many benefits are in the process of change or may change over the next year or so as part of the coalition government's drive to save money.

If you receive notice of proposed changes to your benefit and need to discuss them then please contact us to ask for advice from one of our Community Advice Officers.

TacMap™

TacMap is a new company based in Sheffield. Patricia Dieng, Director would like to introduce you to a new and unique tool they design and produce: "We look after inclusive communities and aim to make public and private buildings a better place for people with visual impairment. Our product has been developed over the past 3 years at Sheffield Hallam University and in collaboration with **SRSB**.

We are experts at producing portable tactile building plans to enable the users to find their way around indoor and outdoor spaces. TacMap is available in Braille and raised large print. It offers equal opportunities for blind and partially sighted people enabling them to acquire information about how a building, an individual floor or a room is laid out before their visit. It allows them to use the facilities with more confidence, independence dignity and safety. TacMap can represent a wide range of buildings and venues and aims to help the users to find strategic points such as entrances, exits, fire exits, receptions, toilets, lifts, stairs, evacuation points,

dining areas, cash machines, and specific rooms... each represented by tactile symbols, textures, Braille abbreviations and large prints. Each plan is personalised with a tactile route indicating scaled distances between 2 points, for example the reception and the lift and showing the user which direction to follow once inside the building."

Steve Hambleton commented "TacMap™ is a tool which can be used alongside white canes or guide dogs and has the advantage of enabling visually impaired people to discover their surroundings. People I know who have used TacMap™ think it is an innovative and simple tool which gives them confidence and independence in their everyday life. The system has been praised by users for giving a better sense of the environment than using voice direction."

Patricia: "I will undertake afternoon training workshops at SRSB where the system will be demonstrated for a couple of hours in sessions at the end of May and in June. These sessions have been organised to teach people how to use TacMap. SRSB's building is already equipped with our system so you can take a look and have a feel at our tactile guide available at the Equipment Centre.

We hope to equip as many places as possible with our system in order to make buildings and facilities useable by visually impaired people. If you would like to register for a workshop session or to recommend a building to

equip with TacMap, please contact **SRSB**. For more information about TacMap and the services we offer please visit our website www.tacmap.co.uk. A web designer has recently redesigned the TacMap website to make it accessible to VI users and compatible with screen reader programs such as Jaws.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you and to meeting you very soon."

Café VIPS - Service with a smile

Don't forget that if you are in town you are very welcome to call in for a coffee or a bite to eat. We have a varied menu with plenty of specials on offer.

Sewing Required

One of our volunteers Pat Roe is an excellent seamstress and in the past has made many items for **SRSB** to sell as a fundraiser. She has made aprons, throws, and doll carriers, cushion covers, arm covers for sofas – you name she can do it. Pat has offered to do mending and alterations for our clients – all she asks for is a donation to **SRSB**. If anyone has any sewing they need doing or indeed anything they want making then please give us a ring.

Cairn Home

We currently have a vacancy at Cairn Home which is our residential care home for elderly people with a visual impairment.

Following our last inspection by Care Quality Commission the home was rated as "Excellent." If you are considering residential care or this is something that you might require in

the future and would like a look around then please contact the manager, Kevin McGrath, on **0114 266 1536**.

100th Birthdays Congratulations

Many congratulations to Gladys Rushton, Hilda Broomhead, and Lily Harris (resident at Cairn Home) who all celebrated their 100th birthdays recently.

Intruder Alarms

Do you struggle to know if/how you have set your burglar alarm at home? One of our clients recently let us know about an alarm she had fitted which provides voice feedback to let you know how it has been set. Previous alarms with speech have been relatively expensive but pricewise this is much more in line with other alarms.

The alarm is made by a company called Visonic and is available from Dale Harrison on **0114 258 3791** who we understand gave very good service when installing it for the lady who let us know about it. The Visonic alarm may be available from other alarm installers

Scams

We have been reminded recently of a Mobility Equipment Scam. Companies are trying to sell equipment at inflated prices. Salesmen try various tactics: -

- cold call at people's homes, or
- phone until the customer agrees to a visit,
- imply they have connections with Social Services
- generally pressurise until people give in

Whatever people are selling, please be careful about letting uninvited or unwanted callers into your home.

You can always ask to see callers ID. If have any doubt about callers from Social Services you can call them on **0114 273 4709**.

If you feel you have been targeted in this way please report any incident to Consumer Direct on **08454 040 506**.

Nystagmus Network: Wobbly eyed bear gets website

From humble beginnings as a raffle prize Northwick, the bear with nystagmus, now has a website so that he can reach a wider audience and build on the success of his book and audio CD. The website at <http://www.northwickbear.com> will appeal to children affected by nystagmus and their parents, as they try to understand this complex eye condition.

This new website showcases the resources that are available to enhance the understanding of nystagmus. There are three stories about Northwick which can be downloaded. A gallery of images pictures, illustrations and photos of Northwick in action. Links to the Nystagmus Network website provide access to free resources like the popular story cards for schools and hospitals, also to the online shop where the original "Tales of Northwick" book and CD and greetings cards can be purchased.

Richard Wilson chairman, Nystagmus network, said:

"Like so many people with nystagmus, Northwick is a resourceful bear who makes the most of the latest technology. It was only a matter of time before he branched out with his own website. We love it and we hope everyone else will too."

The team behind Northwickbear.com are; John Sanders, who writes the Northwick stories, has nystagmus and is information and development manager for the Nystagmus Network. Graphic designer Brian George creates the Northwick illustrations. Brian, together with his brother Les and colleague Mark created the website.

Tales of Northwick regularly appear in Focus the quarterly newsletter of Nystagmus Network. The charity encourages research into and raises awareness of nystagmus (a complex eye condition characterised by involuntary movement of the eyes). There are also a range of resources for schools and hospitals to help parents and their children understand what it is like to have nystagmus.

For more information about nystagmus network contact; John Sanders, Information and development manager, telephone: **02920 45 42 42** or **0845 634 2630**, email:

john.sanders@nystagmusnet.org
website: <http://www.nystagmusnet.org>

Hearing Loss – Lip reading

There is now a Lip Reading class which takes place at **SRSB** every Tuesday afternoon from 2 to 4pm.

If you are interested in attending or want more information please contact Mandy Rodgers on **0114 246 8031**.

Laundry Point

Laundry Point provides a specialist service to anyone that needs support with their laundry.

They provide a range of flexible and tailored services including changing bedding, curtains and cushion covers, allowing the individual to maintain standards of cleanliness and hygiene in their home.

There are a range of specialist treatments available for laundry that is heavily soiled or that requires specific attention.

Laundry is collected from the person's home. It is returned washed, ironed and folded, or on hangers ready to put away.

Contact Jason Jesson on **0114 266 6000** for more information

Blue Badge Renewals

We must advise anyone who has a Blue Badge for parking to check the expiry date. Please pass this information on to any other people you know who may be affected.

It has been brought to our attention that people with Blue Badges will no longer be sent a reminder when the badge is due to run out. Further, one of our clients was told that the new badge could take 28 days to arrive so we must advise people to check expiry dates and to apply for renewal in good time.

Anyone who is registered as Blind/Severely Sight Impaired is entitled to a Blue Badge.

More information can be found at the website <http://digbig.com/5bftde>

The badges are now issued nationally although you can apply through First Point at Howden House, or you can download an application form or pick one up at any of the First Point centres listed below. You will need to have proof of identity (passport, birth certificate) and address (utility bill, bank statement). You will also need a passport sized photo. The fee for renewal is now £10.

Chapeltown

Chambers Court, off Cowley Lane.

Open 9 am to 5pm - Monday to Friday

Hillsborough,

The Mall, off Langsett Road.

Open 9am to 5 pm - Monday to Friday

Crystal Peaks,

1-3 Peaks Square, Waterthorpe.

Open 9am to 5pm - Monday to Friday

Bus Pass Renewal

Many people's bus passes are due for renewal soon. If you are registered visually impaired then contact SRSB to arrange for this to be done.

People with Senior Citizen passes will need to contact South Yorkshire Transport with confirmation of their identity and address.

Audio Described Performances at Sheffield Theatres.

If you would like further information on audio described performances listed below or to make a booking, please

contact the Ticket Office or call
0114 249 6000.

More information can be found at
<http://digbig.com/4mkda>

May Wonderful Town
 Doctor in the House
 Grease
 Betrayal

June The Lady in the Van
 42nd Street
 Birds of a Feather

July Dreamboats and
 Petticoats

August South Pacific

Do bear in mind that our Culture Club
is organising trips to some of these –
see further below for more details.

RP Support and Information Group

Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP) is the name
given to a group of hereditary eye
disorders that affect the retina.

This group continues to grow with
regular enquiries coming from people
who have heard the good feedback,
often people who are out of town and
also family and friends of RP sufferers.
Our next meeting is on 9th May and
we are really lucky to have Graeme
Black, Professor of Genetics and
Ophthalmology coming along from
Manchester's St Mary's Hospital. He's
renowned for his research into RP and
has written a number of articles on the
subject. We are expecting a lot of
interest both from clients and
professionals and we already have a
couple of consultants from the Eye
Department at Royal Hallamshire
Hospital attending the event.

Glaucoma Support Group

We are currently making plans for a
Glaucoma Support Group and whilst
the first meeting is likely to be late
August or early September we would
like to hear from you if this is of
interest. Mr Simon Longstaff,
consultant at Royal Hallamshire
Hospital will be the first speaker.
If you are interested please contact
Joanne at **SRSB**.

BWfB

British Wireless for the Blind

Here's some publicity info from BWfB
about their new product, Sonata Plus+
Internet Audio Player.

For the last three years we have
listened to the feedback from our
Sonata recipients and now we are
pleased and proud to announce the
release of the new Sonata Plus+
Internet Audio Player. It looks the
same, feels the same and sounds the
same and still gives access to a whole
host of content from worldwide radio
stations to newspapers, magazines,
podcasts and books. Inside the box,
however, the electronics and wireless
are totally different.

The requirement to have a sighted
helper to set up the wireless
connection is now gone. The new unit
has an inbuilt speech chip, meaning
that the internal menu structure is now
accessible by audio programming.
Not only can a visually impaired
person set up their own wireless
connection, but it can be done in many
locations because the Sonata Plus+
now has the ability to store many
different wireless passkeys.

To keep in line with currently available text to speech software Sonata Plus+ also now has the facility to change the speed and pitch of speech playback. Users will now be able to choose from various settings.

To keep in line with health and safety the Sonata plus+ also now uses a power reducing adapter, instead of a direct 240 volt lead, from which the unit receives and operates with only 5 volts.

Finally the biggest change of all is the facility to play from both USB stick and SD card. Sonata Plus+ has two USB and one SD sockets from which the user can play from up to 32 gigabyte sticks or SD cards and can also use USB devices to playback from.

The new Sonata is available free to people who meet the BWfB criteria. People who qualify would be on means tested benefits, and not have a radio or cassette already.

To find out more please call BWfB on **01622 754757** and ask to speak to John or Luke.

VOLUNTEERS

We currently have around 160 active volunteers on our books of which 30 are also our clients with sight problems. Our volunteers do a fantastic job supporting the work we do in so many different ways. We use volunteers to help on reception, in our Equipment Centre, in our Activities Centre, in our Library, with Computer Training, telephoning clients and a wide variety of general administration duties – that is just some of the tasks that volunteers help with in our centre.

In addition we have volunteers who help people get out and about to do their shopping, to read their correspondence or just to be a friendly face/voice popping in for a chat. And finally we have our volunteers who help with fundraising in so many different ways including collections, at fundraising events, etc.

People help us in so many different ways that we cannot list them all here but we just want to say **Thank You** to everyone that supports us whether it be at occasional events, every week or in some cases every day of every week. Your contribution is highly valued and we could not deliver all of our services without your support. In any one year the time committed by our volunteers is equivalent to us employing another 12 full time members of staff, something that we could not afford to do.

If anybody has a little bit of time to spare and would like to support us then please contact our Volunteer and Training Co-ordinator, Dyane Midgley. Alternatively, if you don't feel able to help us yourself then please pass this on to somebody who you think might be able to spare a bit of time. We particularly need more volunteers to visit people at home.

ACTIVITIES CENTRE

Our Activities Centre operates every day, Monday to Friday with people arriving from 10am onwards, going home again at 2:30pm. There are a range of activities and occasional short outings as well as a cooked lunch available. We may be able to

offer minibus transport for a door to door service. This is an opportunity to get out of the house one day per week and make some new friends. You will also have the opportunity to access other facilities in our centre such as our Equipment Centre, Library, Computer Training, Health & Beauty Room, Café etc.

We currently have vacancies on some days. If anyone is interested in attending to find out if it would be suitable for you then please contact Olwen at **SRSB**.

Minibus

You will probably recall that last year we had one of our minibuses stolen and written off by joyriders but following a successful fundraising appeal we were able to order a new minibus. We had hoped that this would have been delivered by now but there has been a delay which is outside the control of both the minibus converter and ourselves. However, it should be with us within the next few weeks, looking very smart in our new livery.

Now we just need to raise some more money to replace one of the other minibuses that is starting to show signs of wear and tear.

HOLIDAYS, TRIPS AND OUTINGS

Creative Travel

We regularly have holidays organised with Creative Travel. A group of people is going to Llandudno in June, although this holiday is now fully booked.

We are planning for a further break in the autumn and would like feedback on what people would prefer. If you are interested in the holidays then please contact Olwen at **SRSB** to discuss the options.

Day Trip

This year we have a day trip arranged to Scarborough on Friday 6th July.

Coaches leave at 8:30am prompt from the Pond Street Interchange and return at approximately 7:30pm. You will need to make your own transport arrangements to and from the Interchange. There is a non-refundable booking fee of £5 per person, to be enclosed with your booking slip. These must be returned to us by Friday 15th June.

Please note all the conditions detailed on the booking form enclosed with this newsletter. People on the trip must be able to go around independently or bring a guide with them.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

In January we took a very full coach up to Leeds to the annual theatre event organised by Action for Blind/RNIB. The West Yorkshire Playhouse hosted the audio described performance of Annie. Everyone enjoyed the day and for many of the children it was their first taste of theatre, so the touch tour and inclusivity of the event really made it special for them.

We held an Activity/Craft day in March to enable us to get the children to produce some art work for the annual Children's Art Festival organised by

the Rotary Club. **SRSB** has had its own display for the last few years with some pieces then being displayed at Art in the Gardens and at the Octagon. We were really pleased with the tactile artwork the children have produced and we're now looking forward to going to the exhibition next month at Ponds Forge to see it all on display.

We also held an Easter Party in April where we had a disco, games, competitions and everyone enjoyed themselves.

We have another Activity/Craft day organised for later this month. This session we're looking at designing a glasses cloth for a competition that Martin Kemp Opticians are running.

We have also already booked our Summer trip to Bridlington in July and have further events and activities planned throughout the year.

Little Sparklers

Little Sparklers continues to grow with us having 3 new babies starting to attend in the last couple of months. Recent sessions have included baby massage, music sessions and a visit to 'Play Arena' play centre. Last year we nominated one of our 'sparklers' Layton Holmes for the 12 days of Christmas campaign that Sheffield Star were running in conjunction with 'Help a Child Have a Chance' a charity which has previously helped us. We were really pleased that Layton was chosen and despite only asking for a day out for Layton and his family the charity decided to let him take all his friends from Sparklers along. They agreed to fund a trip to Sundown

Adventure Park for the whole group which we are planning to organise for sometime in June.

We meet weekly every Wednesday at Mappin Street and once a month we visit the hydrotherapy pool at Norfolk Park School.

Actionnaires

Sheffield Actionnaires continues to be popular. It is a free multi-sports club for visually impaired children. The main group for 8 to 16 year olds meets every Sunday at Westfield School Sports Centre between 10am and 1pm. There is now a group for 4 to 8 year olds which meets on the last Sunday of each month but which should be meeting twice a month from September

Each session includes 2hrs 'dry' sport/activity followed by swimming. Activities over the next few weeks include bowling, yoga, martial arts and street dance.

SRSB staff are actively involved with Sheffield Actionnaires linking in some of our Activity Days with their parents' meetings. Further information from Joanne Ardern at **SRSB**.

CULTURE CLUB

We've had four trips so far this year to the theatre. In January we saw The King and I, February Legally Blonde and March the Sound of Music and the brilliant Fun of the Fair. We had around 24 people attending every performance. We've got further theatre trips booked for the rest of the year including performances of Wonderful Town, Birds of a Feather,

Grease, South Pacific, Dreamboats and Petticoats and Chicago.

We also had our first outing of the year last month when we visited the Hepworth Gallery at Wakefield. We had an excellent verbally descriptive tour by one of their staff members which really brought the gallery alive for the clients. Everyone commented on the quality of the tour and despite our disappointment at only being able to touch one of the indoor sculptures we all agreed it was an enjoyable, informative day.

In April we went to The National Arboretum Memorial at Lichfield, and in May we visit Quarry Bank Mill. We have a number of trips organised for the rest of the year including Harewood House, Music in the Gardens, Tatton Park Flower Show, Doddington Hall and Haworth. If you are interested in any of these events or wish to put your name on the Culture Club mailing list to ensure you don't miss out on future events please contact us at **SRSB**.

STUDENT LINKS

SRSB always welcomes students as they are of great benefit to us as well as taking with them a much deeper understanding of the issues affecting visually impaired people.

Since our last newsletter 3 medical students, Chu-Hai Wong, Ben Lee and Toby Ma, completed their placements with us and they all found the placements very rewarding and informative.

Two Occupational Therapy students, Kirsty Grant and Charlee Wise have

also just finished their placements which has broadened the range of activities available in the Activities centre.

Charlee - Occupational Therapy Student - I have completed a 13 week placement at Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind, based within the Mappin Street Centre. During my time at **SRSB**, I have spent time creating and completing an exercise program for clients. I worked closely with six clients over an eight week program with a goal to help them improve their confidence, mobility and independence within the centre, their home and in the community. The group was greatly received by all the clients and the clients who took part provided some excellent feedback .

The placement has been an excellent learning opportunity to increase my own knowledge on the impacts of living with a visual impairment. Overall a successful placement and I would like to say thank you to everyone (staff, volunteers and clients) for being incredibly friendly and making it a great place to work.

Kirsty - Occupational Therapy Student
During my time at **SRSB** I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to facilitate a cooking group for some of the clients who attend the activity centre on Wednesdays. Over 6 weeks I worked with 4 clients to create a series of tasty meals whilst working towards the goal of improving client's confidence and independence in the kitchen. The group provided me with the

opportunity to learn more about the challenges that clients face living with a visual impairment, but also the fantastic things they can achieve in spite of this.

I would like to say a BIG thank you to the clients at the centre, who shared their experiences and offered their advice and kindness. **SRSB** staff and volunteers have welcomed us into the organisation, making us feel part of a something that is valuable and much loved by clients. I would recommend this placement to any health care student and I know that my learning from the time I've spent at **SRSB** will aid me in my future – for which I'm truly grateful.

LEISURE EVENTS AND SPORT

Monthly Social Evenings

Every month, usually on the third Thursday from 7:30pm to 9:30pm with entertainment and supper provided. Transport is usually available. To book your place, please contact Olwen at **SRSB**. There is a charge of £3.50 per person to attend the social plus £1.50 if we provide transport.

Yoga

Would you like to take up Yoga?

Carol Scanlon is a volunteer guide for our Sheffield Visually Impaired Walking group. She is also a qualified Yoga teacher and has taught yoga for a number of years. If there is sufficient interest Carol has offered to do Yoga lessons at Mappin Street, for which there will be a token charge. Yoga, as we all know, is aimed to unite the mind, the body, and the

spirit. It helps you become more aware of your body's posture, alignment and patterns of movement. It makes the body more flexible and helps you relax to feel fitter, be more energetic, be happier and peaceful. If you are interested in joining the classes please give us a call.

Goalball

South Yorkshire goalball team are still looking to recruit some more players. They have had some games recently but are looking for new blood to up their game! The training sessions take place at English Institute of Sport (easily accessible from the tram). Sessions are fortnightly from 4pm to 6pm on Tuesdays.

Players of all abilities are welcome, and they will soon train you up to tournament standard. We currently have 'Novice' and 'Intermediate' teams. Who knows we may soon have Great Britain players – the sky's the limit.

For further information please contact Kyle Crossland at **SRSB** or the coach Kathryn Fielding, kathryn@achievepotentials.co.uk

Archery

Just two Sheffield Archers attended the British Blind Sport National Championship at Lilleshall in April. Les Culf won the Gents VI open class with a score of 963. This was a new personal best for Les. Michelle Whalley won the Lady's VI open Class with a score of 934. Congratulations to both Les and Michelle.

COMPUTER TRAINING

For people who find it easier to attend our Mappin Street Centre for computer training or for those who need additional magnification or speech packages to enable them to use a computer then please contact **SRSB**.

EXHIBITONS

Please call in and visit the forthcoming exhibition at **SRSB**. Whilst here, you are also welcome to have a look around our centre, check out the Equipment Centre and get refreshments or lunch in our café.

Optelec, Dolphin, Guide

Friday 25th May from 10am to 3pm
Optelec will be exhibiting their range of electronic magnifiers (CCTVs) at our Mappin Street Centre, accompanied by Guide demonstrating their accessible computer software.

Calibre Audio Library

Calibre Audio Library brings the pleasure of reading to people who have sight problems, dyslexia, or other physical disabilities through a subscription-free, nationwide postal service of recorded books.

They offer a choice of over 8,500 titles, fiction and non-fiction, recorded unabridged by professional actors and broadcasters.

New titles are added frequently to the library stock and there are regular newsletters to members as well as a quarterly magazine containing news, book reviews and articles of interest.

No independent confirmation of eligibility is required.

They are looking forward to meeting many of you when they come to visit **SRSB**'s Mappin Street Centre on 1st August but, if you would like more information about their service, call the Membership team on **01296 432339** or visit www.calibre.org.uk

Sight Village

This annual exhibition of specialist products and services for blind people, held in Birmingham each year, is always a popular event. This year we are organising a trip there on Tuesday 17th July 2012. Transport will cost £5, payable at the time of booking. To book please telephone **SRSB** as places are limited.

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES AT SRSB MAPPIN STREET CENTRE

Equipment Centre

Following the departure of both Nicky and Sylvia as notified to you in our last newsletter, Jacqueline Juden joined us towards the end of March and is settling in well, getting to know some of you and also all the products we sell. When you are in our Mappin Street Centre please call in and say hello to Jacqueline. She will be delighted to help you choose the product that suits you best.

We continue to add new products to the Equipment Centre. The range of products is too large to list here so for further information please telephone us or call in any weekday between 8:30am and 4:30pm.

If you have any suggestions of products that you would like us to stock then please let us know.

Used Equipment for Sale

Video Magnifiers (CCTV's)

We have various video magnifiers for sale ranging in price from £25 to £900. Two of these have a flat screen that can also be used as a computer monitor, avoiding the need for 2 screens on the desk. If you are not sure whether you would make full use of one of these magnifiers then we can arrange for free loan equipment on a trial basis. Please call in to our Mappin Street Centre to see if any of these might be suitable for you.

Optelec CleaReader

We have an ex-demo model for sale. This scans and reads out documents, letters, bills, etc. and has the option to save the text to a file on a USB pen drive to transfer documents to a computer. The list price of this is £1695 which we have reduced to £900 including 12 months warranty. For a demonstration please contact Kyle Crossland in our Library.

If anybody thinks that this may be suitable we may be able to arrange a short loan period if you want to try one at home before deciding whether to purchase one.

Other Equipment – We also have various other smaller items of used equipment such as big button phones available at bargain prices. Please enquire in our Equipment Centre.

SRSB Library and Information Centre

Just a reminder that we have a library well stocked with audio books as well as a few braille or large print books for

loan. Some of the audio books are available on CD but the majority are still on cassette tape although we are trying to change over to CD as quickly as we can. If you have any audio books on CD that you don't need any more we would be very grateful for any donations. Please contact Kyle at **SRSB**

Health and Beauty Centre

Just a reminder that we have a chiropodist, hairdresser and others who offer services in our Health and Beauty Centre. If you have an appointment you can book the next one at the same time to be sure you get the date you want. Please contact Carol on Reception at **SRSB** for more information or to make a booking.

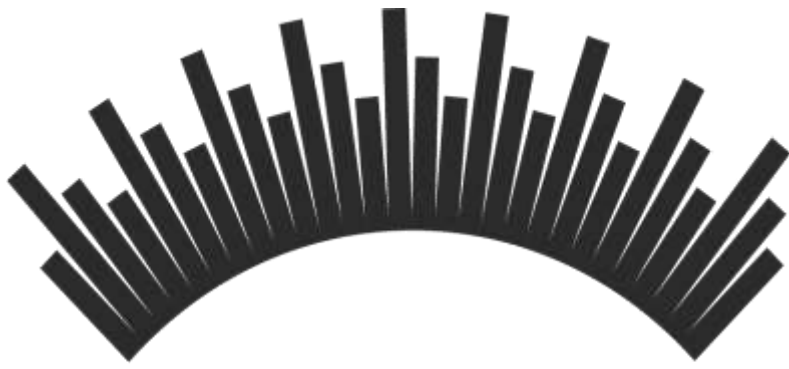
NEWSLETTER

We would be delighted to hear from you with articles for inclusion in our newsletter or ideas for things that we could cover in future editions. Please contact us at **SRSB** by either telephone or e-mail.

This newsletter is available in a variety of formats including audio format on CD, braille, by email, or print in the font size of your choice on a variety of different coloured paper. If you are struggling to read this newsletter then please contact us to discuss an alternative format.

CONCLUSION

Don't forget, we are **here to help** you. If we can't do something ourselves we almost certainly know somebody who can – Just contact us at **SRSB**, Making a Difference in Sheffield.



SRSB

Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind

Making a Difference in Sheffield



SRSB is a Visionary organisation



TEL: 0114 272 2757 | FAX: 0870 706 5171 | Email: info@srsb.org.uk | www.srsb.org.uk