



visibility

Summer 2006

Welcome to Visibility's Summer 2006 Newsletter!

In this edition you will find out about our Community Health Team and also learn about our Go! project's plans for the next few months.

There is an invitation to our August Drop in Day where Humanware will be available with the latest on their aids and equipment. Humanware are also offering Visibility newsletter readers a discount on their Colour Pocket Viewer – more details inside.

Sadly, you will also learn about the death of one of our most liked and respected directors, Tom Anderson who died earlier this year.

There is an introduction to new faces at Visibility, Nuala Boyle our fundraiser and Charlie Barker who is managing a new project based in our office.

We have some good news from our bowling team and an update on the latest fundraising venture undertaken by Visibility staff and friends.

Finally, we are delighted to announce that Visibility's annual report recently won second place in the national competition organised by the National Association of Local Societies for Visually Impaired People. Fiona Sandford, CEO was presented with the certificate at the annual conference held in Chester during July.

As always, if you have any ideas, suggestions or comments on any aspect of Visibility, please contact Fiona Sandford, Chief Executive.

Hello from HumanWare and Invitation to Visibility's Open Day!

Monday 7th August, 11am to 3pm
Visibility, 2 Queens Crescent, Glasgow

As sponsors of Visibility's summer newsletter, Lucy Naismith, Scottish Area Representative from Humanware would like to invite you to meet her at the above event. Lucy will bring along a range of electronic magnifiers, including the MyReader – the world's first Low Vision auto reader. She will also have a ScannaR, which scans in books or letters, and reads them back to you – all just by pressing one button! David Logan from Visibility's New View project will also be there to talk about low vision aids.

Humanware's portable products, such as the Colour Pocket Viewer and Max TV glasses will also be on display. HumanWare are currently running a promotion for all Visibility members, offering £50 off a Colour Pocket Viewer and free delivery on our Max TV glasses. Simply mention Visibility when placing your order. If you'd like further information on any Humanware products, please either call Humanware's free phone number 0800 587 2589 or fill in the tear-off slip on the back of the enclosed brochure. HumanWare will be making a small donation to Visibility for each enquiry received.

Visibility Friends take part in the Great Scottish Walk 2006

On Sunday 18th June 11 friends and staff of Visibility took part in the Great Scottish Walk in Edinburgh to help raise funds for Visibility. The walk was 12 miles, 6 miles and 1 mile and all Visibility starters reached the finish line in Meadowbank Stadium still smiling despite the drizzle, and having raised a fantastic £1000 between them.

The event, which is open to walkers of all ages and abilities, celebrates its 10 year anniversary next year so why not come and join us for a fun and hopefully sunny day in 2007!



Visibility walkers!

Glasgow Community Care Providers Forum – Visibility hosts new project

Glasgow Community Care Providers Forum is a new membership association for voluntary and private organisations providing community care services within Glasgow. The Forum was established over 3 years ago and since the outset, Visibility has had a strong commitment to the Forum and is represented by Valerie Breck who has the role of secretary on the management committee.

Charlie Barker is the newly appointed Development Manager. Charlie is delighted that Visibility has agreed to host the Forum for its first year by providing office space and organisational support.

The Forum's key objectives are to consult with and gather opinions of members, represent those views at strategic level, negotiate with Glasgow City Council and organise regular information and consultation events. If you are interested in receiving further information about the Forum please contact: Charlie@visibility.org.uk

Congratulations to Go Bowlers!

Congratulations are due to the GlasGO! Bowlers on a successful Ten Pin bowling championship in Crewe.

Three teams from the GlasGO bowlers were invited down to the championship which in itself was a fantastic result!

Huge congratulations to all and well done to everyone involved in the day.



Go bowlers

News from GO!

The Go Adult committee have organised a day trip to Cumbernauld Outdoor Centre for off road driving/ archery/ paintball shooting/ JCB manoeuvring/ tour of the birds of prey. The date for this exciting event is 19th August, please contact us if you would like to take part.

We are also proposing two more day trips this year and we want to know what you think of the ideas:

- A trip to the Metro (Europe's largest shopping and leisure centre) in Newcastle for a day Christmas Shopping sometime during mid November.
- A tour of the Royal Yacht Britannia and lunch in Edinburgh sometime during September or October

Although weekly activities have now stopped for the summer – some events keep going! Go Adult drop in days are on the first Monday of each month (mid-day to 3pm) and Go Adult Quiz runs on the second Monday of each month from 1pm to 3.30pm.

Go Youth are organising a trip to Cumbernauld outdoor centre, this time on 5th August. Come along and enjoy some exciting off road driving, archery and paintball shooting.

Go Teens recently discussed how they wanted to develop the project. There was discussion around simply meeting up to socialise, rather than lots of focused events and bringing a friend along to be part of the group. Tabassum Sarfraz (Go Group Worker) has taken the Teen participants feedback and will be organising some new events.

The next event for Go Teens is off road driving, archery and paintball shooting at Cumbernauld outdoor centre on the 15th August. Get in touch if you would like to attend.

Visibility's New Fundraiser

Nuala Boyle joins Visibility as our new Fundraising Manager. Nuala has had a long track record in raising funds through the European Union and is looking forward to working with Visibility. Nuala will be concentrating on corporate and trust fundraising as well as sourcing funds through public sector grants. She is keen to develop links with businesses in the West of Scotland and beyond to make them aware of the services provided by Visibility and to encourage their support. If you are aware of any companies which would be interested in learning more about and potentially supporting Visibility, contact Nuala on 0141 332 4632.

Visibility's Community Health Team

Two of Visibility's best known projects - Community Liaison and Health have merged into one project. Visibility's new Community Support Team is made up of Shelagh Palmer, Mary Reilly, Kerrie Brown, Paul McArthur, Susan Campbell and Celia Traynor. The merging of the teams has enabled Visibility to offer our services to a greater number of individuals and community projects. The new team will continue to provide existing services, including information and emotional support to people in hospital settings, in their own homes and over the telephone. If these services are of interest to you, please get in touch.

Peer Support– we need your help!

Visibility's is planning to introduce Peer Support Sessions over the coming months. The first sessions will be in East Dunbartonshire before extending to other areas. The sessions will provide an opportunity for people to share advice as well as support each other, whilst receiving information about topics related to visual impairment. Examples of issues that may be covered are leisure, cooking, daily living skills, independent travel and benefits.

To make the sessions a success, Visibility would greatly appreciate your input on which subjects would be most helpful. If you are interested in attending or can offer suggestions for possible sessions, please telephone the team on 0141 572 0746.

Tom Anderson MBE

Tom Anderson was one of Visibility's directors who sadly died in April this year. Tom was well known in the world of visual impairment. Blind since early childhood, his wisdom and insight will be sadly missed by everyone who knew this modest man.



For many years Tom was Deputy Superintendent of Physiotherapy at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, receiving an MBE in 1993 for services to physiotherapy and the NHS.

Tom was a prolific and accomplished Braille reader – the speed at which he could read was both impressive and inspirational. Over the years he contributed a great deal to numerous charities and groups for visually impaired people.

Tom had a lifetime passion for sport. He was a past chairman of the Rex Blind Parties, an organisation established in 1937 to ensure that blindness was not a barrier to the enjoyment of football.

In common with many blind friends from his days as a pupil at the Royal Blind School in Edinburgh, cricket was Tom's main sporting passion. His old transistor radio would always be with him when there was a test match in progress. Tom was also a keen participant in sport and until his illness was an active member of the Blind Bowlers Club in Renfrew.

Tom Anderson was one of life's gentlemen. He was an inspiration to those of us who had the privilege of working with him. The care and support Tom bestowed on his friends was only surpassed by the love and pride he radiated for his family. He will be missed by so many. Tom is survived by his wife Anna, his two daughters and his much loved grandchildren.

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A Big Thank You to Visibility Volunteers

The annual Sound-Site Exhibition took place on 4th and 5th May 2006 at the Central Hotel in Glasgow. This is a big event in Visibility's calendar as we provide sighted guides which enables people attending this event the opportunity to visit stands with exhibitors from all over Britain who display and demonstrate a wide range of products and services for people with a sensory impairment.

Visibility relies on support from volunteers to deliver this valued and greatly appreciated service to people affected by sight loss. The contribution and commitment from the volunteers is very much appreciated by both Visibility and the people who make use of the guiding service.

We would like to thank the volunteers and students from Guide Dogs for the Blind who offered their support at this year's event and also to Visibility's volunteers who offered support at our own stand, positively promoting Visibility's range of services.



**For more details on any aspect of Visibility please contact 0141 332 4632 or write to
Visibility, 2 Queens Crescent, Glasgow G4 9BW**

Visibility is the trading name of GWSSB (formerly Glasgow and West of Scotland Society for the Blind). GWSSB is a company, registered in Scotland limited by guarantee with its registered office at 2 Queens Crescent, Glasgow, G4 9BW. Registration Number: SC116522 Scottish Charity Number: SCO 09738