

VOLUNTEER'S VOICE!

SUMMER 2017

The Newsletter for Beacon Volunteers



Volunteers Afternoon Tea June 6th 2017

A lovely afternoon was had by all with some Delicious sandwiches & cakes for everyone to enjoy. (We would have loved to put in a photo of the food but it all got eaten!) We thought you might like to see some of the photos of the event



Lorraine Furness was presented with her Volunteer of the year award. Lorraine helps to train new volunteers as well as helping in the craft room



Pat Stenson was recognized for her work at our Stourbridge branch where she helps with activities such as craft, games & talks & pat has been with beacon since 2011



Retailer of the year was Stephen Keenan. Stephen is a volunteer at the Halesowen charity shop. He also helps out with Pete on the Beacon Bus, helping out at events, fundraising and helping to raise the profile of the Beacon. He has volunteered since November 2015.

Special recognition went to Mary Martin who was unable to attend on the day. Mary comes in to help within the fundraising and marketing department, helping to count the money that is donated in the collection boxes. Mary has volunteered for over 24 years.



The Deputy Mayor with some of the volunteers

Our Entertainers for the afternoon –

Sedgley Ukulele Band



Our Bloxwich Shop are looking for help on Fridays & Saturdays

And Penkridge Charity shop is desperate for helpers on any day.

If you are interested in helping at either of these sites please contact Rachel Shaw on 01902 880111 or Becky Sinar on 01384 440333



Help is needed in the Beacon Coffee bar & Restaurant on Tuesdays & Wednesdays - Could you Help?? It's a great way to meet some lovely people!

We are also looking for the following:

Sight friendly volunteers needed to encourage and support as many organisations, places and people as possible to become officially 'Sight Friendly' by working with a team to help organisations gain and maintain a 'sight friendly' award.

Community Voice volunteers required to engage with local communities who are currently underrepresented (BME communities) in our service user population and provide the general population with a greater understanding of sight loss and eye health by attending meetings/doing talks at different community groups and organisations

If you are interested in participating please contact Donna Gordon on 01902 880111



My name is Garry Jones & I've been volunteering one day a week at Beacon since Mid December 2016

I live in Gornal & am semi retired with a science background working as a Path Lab Technician & also as a Business management administrator.

I was looking on line for volunteering & giving something back to the local community & Beacon 'popped up'.

I thoroughly enjoy interacting with the people who come into Beacon & after a little initial uncertainty it is really good to hear about their lives & backgrounds, how sight loss has impacted on their lives & how they achieve their independence & confidence. It is very rewarding experience.

Telephone Befriending Service



As many of you will know we set up 'Link Line' a telephone befriending service last November. We currently have 9 volunteers making befriending calls to 24 service users living with sight loss that are isolated within the community.

We now have some more clients waiting to be matched up with a volunteer to receive befriending calls on a weekly basis. This can be flexible and can be done from home at your ease.

If you're interested in helping out with the Link Line project and wouldn't mind making a weekly call please do get in contact with me either by email: bsinar@beaconvision.org or telephone Sedgley: 01902 880111 or Stourbridge: 01384 889885



For those of you who were not aware LOW VISION is now located downstairs in the charity shop. Why? After many years of carrying out assessments in shared shop space, we have

created a separate assessment room to the shop. This means if someone needs daily living items then the door is always open and they don't have to wait. It also allows the 1000 plus customers who purchase from our charity shop every week to also access our assessment services/purchase or refer to their family members/friends.

Our offer- is and will always be sight loss; however we know that it is all about ability so we are introducing aids/adaptations for everyday living to support people with mobility.

How to book an assessment – initially bookings will be taken by John and when Johns not there bookings can be taken through reception.

Opening times- Assessments at present will be Mon- Fri 9- 4.30 Shop will be open Mon- Sat 9- 4.30 with the exception of Thursday which will be 9-8.

If you would like to volunteer to help John within the Low Vision department, then please get in touch with Becky or Rachel.

Further details and photos of the new shop to follow.....!!!
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Beacon Centre



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