

News Update

May 2017

The following article has been taken from the Worthing Herald report on our launch event Wednesday 24th May 2017.



Sight Support Worthing is the new name for a very old charity. Worthing Society for the Blind has served the town for more than 100 years and has a wonderful headquarters in Rowlands Road. Worthing Mayor Alex Harman cuts the cake to officially launch the new name, Sight Support Worthing. The charity's brilliant work continues under the new name, which was officially launched this afternoon by Worthing Mayor Alex Harman. Chairman Barry Ward said the Board of Trustees wanted to move away from the word blind as a lot of people had said it was putting them off approaching the charity for help. "They weren't blind. They had been diagnosed with a significant sight condition that could not be corrected but they weren't blind," he explained. "Many of them felt quite resistant to the idea of approaching what they saw as a society that was helping blind people. "We wanted a name that said on the tin what we do and we believe that the new name does exactly that. "We feel quite

strongly that there are a number of people out there who could benefit from our service



but don't, either because they don't know about us or they have got the wrong idea of what we are about, who we support and how we do it." The new name is part of a wider campaign to raise the charity's profile to ensure people with a diagnosis that means they are going to lose a significant part of their sight are at least aware that the charity is there to help them if they want support.

Representatives from a number of organisations that work with the charity were at the official launch, held at the headquarters, to help spread the word. Frances Pritchard, Headquarters Manager, said: "The Board is trying to increase awareness of the charity and ideally increase the membership, which is currently about 350. "The charity supports anyone in Worthing with a significant visual impairment - very few of our members are totally blind. "Therefore, we have selected a name that we think better represents what the charity is aiming to do, i.e. to provide support to those with a visual impairment."

Dates for your diaries

Mon 29th May – Office closed, Spring B/H

Monday 5th June – Members Forum

Sunday 11th June – Sunday Drive CANCELLED

Monday 12th June – Enhanced Vision Demo at
the drop-in morning

Thurs 15th June – Corpus Christi Carpet of
Flowers at Arundel Cathedral

Wednesday 21st June – Swap With Me Event

Friday 23rd June – RNIB Online Today

Mon 26th June – Midsummer Fundraising Event

Friday 30th June – Tandem Rides on the Prom

Tuesday 4th July – Rotary Bingo

Saturday 26th August – Fiddler on the Roof

Monday 28th August – Office closed B/H

Monday 2nd to Friday 6th October – Mini break

Monday 5th June – Members Forum

10.30am Please do try and come along to find out about our future plans and to have your say! Transport will be available for this event but please let us have your name as soon as possible if you intend to attend.

The guest speaker will be a representative from Wiltshire Farm Foods who deliver meals free of charge throughout the UK.

I've heard they may even bring some samples, let's hope they do!

Enhanced Vision Drop In Morning

Enhanced Vision will be with us on Monday, 12th June, during the regular drop in morning. Items for demonstration will include a variety of low vision products with various screen sizes and magnification levels. Products come in desktop, portable, and computer compatible versions. Please come along between 10am and 12.30pm to see what's available.

Trip to Arundel Cathedral for the Corpus Christi Carpet of Flowers at Arundel Cathedral on Thursday 15th June (this commemorates the Last Supper on the day before Jesus' crucifixion, as described in the Bible)

The event price will be £4.00 and the bus will be leaving the Headquarters at approximately 9.15am.

If you are interested in this event please let us know as soon as possible.

Theatre Trip - Fiddler on the Roof

Chichester Festival Theatre Saturday 26th August 2.30pm Matinee Event Price: £30

If you are interested in this event please call or pop into the reception. Tickets are available on a first come, first serve basis and are payable in advance. There are plans to stop off after the show for something to eat and we hope to have more details of this soon.

RNIB & Sight Support Worthing Bus Campaign - 'Swap with me' event

On Wednesday 21st June 2017 we will be running a "swap with me" event at the Worthing bus depot. This event will be focused on helping our bus drivers understand our needs & for us to understand theirs. If you're interested in being part of the event Frances is looking for volunteers!

If you would like to come along to this event or to know more, please give us a call.

RNIB Online Today – will be with us again on Friday 23rd June from 11am – 3pm.

Technology can make life easier if you have sight problems, but knowing where to start isn't always easy. RNIB Online Today is here to help! Why not come along to this session and see what a difference technology could make to you.

Monthly Classical Music Afternoons

Come and join us for an afternoon of popular classical music, nothing too heavy just lots of favourites with the occasional rarity thrown in – a bit like Classic Fm! These music sessions are held one Tuesday afternoon a month from 2pm - 4pm with a break for refreshments and a chat!



Midsummer Fundraising Morning

Our midsummer fundraising morning is being held on Monday 26th June from 10am – 12pm, with approximately 36 places available for members (and partners).

You will need a ticket to come along to this event and these are now on sale, costing £2.00, which includes entry, cake, savouries and a drink, and a lucky prize draw number. There will be some transport available for the extra cost of £3.00.

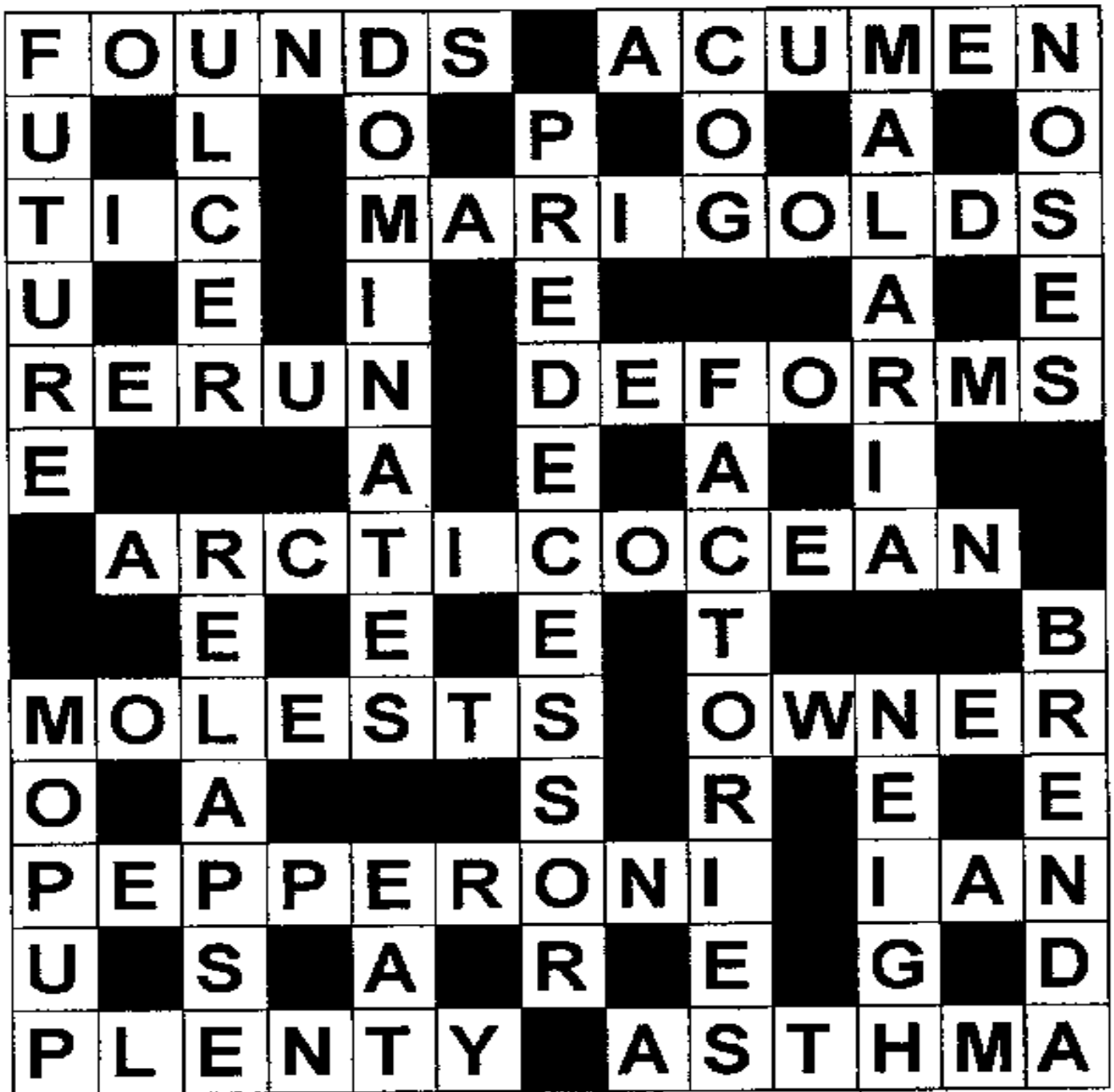
Raffle tickets are now on sale for £1.00 per strip of 5 tickets and there will also be a tombola stall on the day.

We will be happy to receive your donations towards the raffle and tombola as soon as you can bring these in. Food items will need to be well in date on 26th June. Sadly we cannot accept bric-a-brac items this year.

Thank you for your continued support for our fundraising events and we look forward to seeing you on the day.



Solutions Crossword 35



Unfortunately the **Sunday drives** with a pub/restaurant lunch will be unable to continue as we no longer have an available driver for them but we will still be running the drives with Barry & Cherry with a stop for a picnic and we will still contact you all on a rotational basis so that everybody gets a turn.

National Glaucoma Awareness Week runs from 12th – 18th June 2017.

The focus this year is on the importance of having your eye pressure tested. Raised eye pressure can lead to irreversible damage to the optic nerve, leading to loss of vision. It's estimated that 600,000 people in the UK have glaucoma, with half of these with the condition undetected.

If you would like more information regarding glaucoma please contact us as we have leaflets and points of contact available.

Join our monthly draw! The monthly prize draw winning numbers for April were 24, 72, 15 and 37. Congratulations to our winners Dennis Peel, May Seaman, David Martill and Dawn O'Donnell.

Many thanks to all members of the monthly prize draw for their continued support.

To contact us about any of the items included in this publication

You can telephone: **01903 235782**

(Leave a message if we are not available & we'll get back to you as soon as we can)

Email: **info@sightsupportworthing.org.uk**

Or pop in to 48 Rowlands Road Worthing BN11 3JT between 9.30am and 4pm Monday to Friday.



Due to space and resources some items in this newsletter may have been edited accordingly. The information it contains was accurate to the best of our knowledge at the time of going to print.