



NoISe

Issue 105
Spring 2019

NoISe (Northumberland Information Service for People with Vision Impairment) is the quarterly newsletter of the Northumberland County Blind Association.

A Message from our Trustees

Many of our supporters will know that The Big Lottery has been an important source of funding for NCBA.

Unfortunately, this has now come to an end and as a result of this we can no longer fund the paper publication of NoISe (it costs over £3,000 per year to print and post).

We recognise that this is an important source of news for our service users and supporters; we are considering how best to communicate with everyone in the future and will keep you informed.

Now the Big Lottery funding has ended we have a significantly reduced income.

We are looking at a number of options to reduce our overheads and have already undertaken and implemented significant cost savings in this area, whilst maintaining our essential services.

Staff, volunteers and Trustees are working very hard to pursue all avenues of opportunity; and we are hopeful that some of our grant applications will be successful.

However, as Trustees we should let you know that the worst scenario is that the charity only has operating funds to last until the summer of this year.

Consequently, we are asking for any offers of support such as hosting a fundraising event or making a donation, however big or small. If you feel you can assist in any way please do contact us at info@ncba.org.uk or call on 01670 514 316.

We would like to thank all of our volunteers and staff – without whom NCBA wouldn't exist or be able to provide the excellent resource it does for blind and partially sighted people in Northumberland.

Please do contact us as soon as possible if you can help in any way.

Fiona (Chair), Chris, Doris, Loraine, Mala and Zeta.

THE TRUSTEES.

Listen In

Morpeth Talking Newspaper produces a FREE fortnightly newspaper magazine which is distributed to sight impaired local residents by a team of volunteers. The newspaper was started in 1990 by Morpeth schoolgirl Katey Rescigno as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award and has been produced ever since! The Newspaper is produced at the premises of CONTACT in Morpeth.

We have 8 different local reading groups and we like to think that each group has its own style and character which it brings to its own edition.

Our editions are based mainly on the Morpeth Herald, but also introducing articles from 'Inside Morpeth' and other publications, a 'Dates for your Diary' section and other local news. Our listeners are mainly from Morpeth or Pegswood but we also have listeners in Ashington and Blyth Valley.

If you would like to receive regular audio files (memory sticks) posted free to your door or know someone who would please get in touch with **Barbara Ross**, on **07718 989 566**.

Our Activity Group is looking for new participants! Recent trips out include Sunderland Glass Centre, Seaton Delaval Hall and Holy Island. Call June if you are interested in joining in.



Registered charity No: 110286

Reiver House Activity Group

Meet monthly on a Wednesday

**Day trips out to various venues around
Newcastle and Northumberland**

**An activity group for visually impaired
people and their friends**

**EXPLORE NEW
PLACES!**

**MAKE NEW
FRIENDS!**

HAVE FUN!

**For more
information
contact:**

June 01670 862554

Northumberland County Blind Association

Reiver House, Staithes Lane Morpeth

Tel: 01670 514316

www.ncba.org.uk email: volunteer@ncba.org.uk



Minibus pick-ups from

Ashington

Reiver House

Cramlington

Steps in the Right Direction

NCBA started working with RNIB last year to bring **Living with Sight Loss** courses to Northumberland. Originally billed as Confidence Building courses, they have now grown to venues outside our building (Weaver's Court in Alnwick hosted our November sessions) and we are looking to schedule further sessions across Northumberland.

We know from feedback gained after each course that in many ways the subjects covered have made a huge difference to the participants. So much so that a new support group has been established with a remit to carry on the support and camaraderie developed from attending the Living with Sight Loss courses. Before Christmas 2018, some of the members met up at the Old Ash Dene pub in Ashington for a Christmas Lunch, which went down well with all those who attended.

The group have named themselves **Stepping Stones**, they feel that the course is a stepping stone for themselves to a new life in which they have more self-confidence.

They are interested in anything that helps people living with sight loss lead a more independent life and will be booking speakers or going to events that reflect this.

Andrea Poulter, a previous participant in the Living with Sight Loss course, has started up a **SocialEyes** group for people living Cramlington and the group will meet every month on the second Tuesday from 1pm to 3pm at Cramlington Community Centre, East Farm Terrace, Cramlington NE23 1DT. If you are interested in attending call **Andrea** on **07412 707575** for more information.



Stepping Stones Xmas Lunch

Company reveals a Braille e-reader to improve access to books for blind people

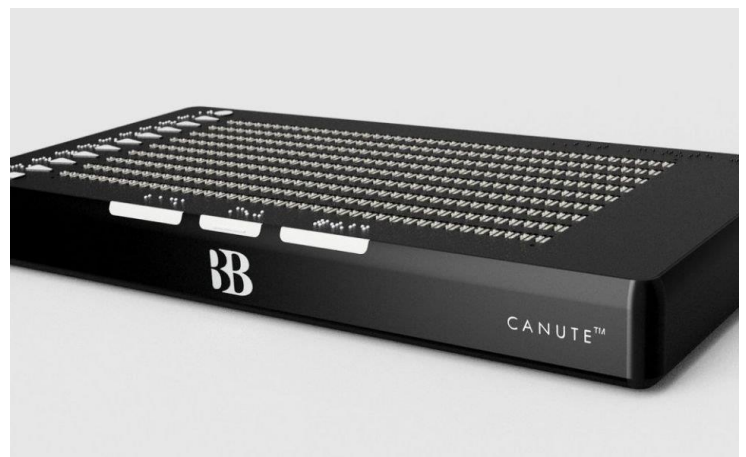
Article published on City A.M., Michael O'Dwyer, 14 January

A British company is set to launch an e-reader for blind people with the aim of making digital Braille books a practical alternative to their bulky print counterparts. Bristol Braille Technology spent six years developing the Canute 360, which it hopes will make Braille e-books "affordable, practical and enjoyable". The new e-reader can display up to nine lines of raised Braille dots simultaneously, the company said, a major step forward on existing devices that display only a single line.

The firm showcased the desktop device, which weighs 2.8kg and is expected to go on sale later this year, at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas. The device will be "about the price of an expensive laptop", said Stephanie Sergeant of Vision Through Sound, a company providing technology training to blind people and which worked with the developers of the e-reader.

"Eighty per cent of blind people who work are Braille users but the reason that the use of Braille has fallen is because of the cost," she added. "We are trying to make sure the cost of the Canute is as low as possible."

The technology has been welcomed by the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), a leading sight loss charity. "All too often we hear that Braille is on the decline, and people are being discouraged from learning it," said Claire Maxwell, senior product developer for Braille at RNIB. "We are committed to reversing this trend, and welcome new Braille technology devices to the market, which can support people in developing their braille literacy skills."





SocialEyes

Registered charity No 1102836

CRAMLINGTON

Cramlington Community Centre

Meet on second Tuesday monthly

1pm - 3pm

A support and social group for visually impaired people, together with their friends within the local community

HAVE FUN!

MAKE NEW FRIENDS!

For more information please contact:

Andrea

07412 707575

Northumberland County Blind Association

Reiver House, Staithes Lane, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 1TD

Tel: 01670 514316 www.ncba.org.uk email: volunteer@ncba.org.uk



Fundraising Events Coming up in 2019

NCBA are busy planning some fundraising events for the next few months, the calendar is rapidly filling up. Our first street collection is scheduled for **Friday 8th February** in Morpeth from 10 to 2pm, with staff and volunteers filling hourly slots across 6 sites throughout the town. Other street collections will be held in **Berwick** (10th May), **Hexham** (6th Sept) and **Alnwick** (6th Dec). Anyone who can give some of their time to help us on those dates would be very welcome. There is also a bag pack scheduled for Morrison's in Morpeth on **Friday 29th March**, again any help we could receive there would be appreciated. **If you have any fundraising ideas or would like to get involved with our fundraising team (either in Morpeth or your own local area), please get in touch!**



Thank You 

NCBA would like to say a heartfelt thank you to the following people and organisations for their generous donations:

Mrs D M Laidler	-	£100.00
A & A Meakin	-	£100.00
Morpeth Lions	-	£100.00

Your commitment to helping people with a visual impairment living in Northumberland is sincerely appreciated.

Xmas Fundraising activities raised £398.53

A Christmas Fayre was held on 26th November, raising £398.53.

A huge thank you also goes to the following organisations who have collectively raised £105.69 by continuing to support us with counter collection tins:

Lollybomb (Cramlington)	£10.21
Lollo Rosso (Morpeth)	£13.07
Jed Butchers (Hexham)	£11.89
Greens Opticians (Morpeth)	£5.33
Specsavers (Hexham)	£48.54
NCBA (Morpeth)	£16.65



Northumberland County Blind Association would like to thank the friends and family of Moira Gibson who passed away late last year for their generous donation of £121.29 and the friends and family of Etta Lewis for their generous donation of £150.00.

Leave a Legacy Gift in your Will

Leaving us a gift in your Will, however large or small, will help to provide a range of support services to people who are registered blind or partially sighted living in Northumberland.

By remembering us in your Will you can help to ensure that our services continue into the future.

We recommend that you seek professional advice when drawing up your Will. We do not provide financial or legal advice. If you wish to find a solicitor please visit the following website:

www.lawsociety.org.uk or telephone **0870 606 2555**.

For further information on how to set up a personal legacy account, visit the following website: **www.cafonline.org/my-personal-giving**. The Will site provides a complete online service for writing a Will at **www.thewillsite.co.uk**



Congratulations to our 100 Club Prize Winners

100 Club	1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
November	E Yarwood	T O'Keefe	G Phillips
December	R Godfrey	A Spiers	D Allen
January	K Yule	P Wilkinson	M Dickinson

The 100 Club is a great way to donate money to the NCBA whilst at the same time entering a draw with cash prizes for 3 lucky winners every month. Shares in the Club are only £12 and 50% of Club funds will be distributed as prize money.

If you wish to participate, please fill out the application form and return, along with a cheque / postal order for your 100 Club shares to our address above. You can also make a bank transfer using the details on the form.

Have you lived with sight loss for a while but unsure of what support there is for you? **Join our**



Living with Sight Loss Course

Confidence Building

**Every Wednesday from
27th Feb 2019 until 20th Mar 2019
From 1 pm to 4 pm
at NCBA, Reiver House, Staithes Lane, Morpeth,
Northumberland, NE61 1TD**

Gain confidence and knowledge through interactive workshops and talks. Share experiences, advice and support and hear how others have overcome the challenges of sight loss.

The course is run in conjunction with RNIB

RNIB Supporting people with sight loss

For information contact
01670 514316

Northumberland County Blind Association
Reiver House, Staithes Lane Morpeth NE61 1TD

www.ncba.org.uk email: info@ncba.org.uk

Registered charity No 1102836



Make a difference – support our services

The Northumberland County Blind Association is a registered charity and depends on outside help for many of its activities. We are greatly helped by our team of volunteers as well as many people that support us financially. If you would like to help by: volunteering, fundraising, making a donation, being actively involved with one of our committees, making a bequest, joining our 100 Club, please contact us on 01670 514316.

If you pay income tax, your donation can be worth 25% more to us just by completing and enclosing the slip below with your donation:

“I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ to NCBA. I am a UK tax payer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.”

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ **Postcode:** _____

Signature _____ **Date:** _____

Please call **01670 514316** or email **info@ncba.org.uk** if you would like to contribute an article or make a comment on anything you have read in this newsletter.

NoISe stands for “Northumberland Information Service for people with vision impairment”. NoISe is a free publication that is produced in large-print, Braille, audio and via email. We aim to give you news about NCBA and useful general information. To the best of our knowledge all articles are correct at the time of going to print. If you know someone who would be interested in receiving NoISe or if this newsletter is inappropriately addressed please let us know.

Dates for your Diary

Orcam Demonstration Day

Wednesday 13th March
10.30am to 2.30pm

Low Vision Drop-in Day

Thursday 11th April
10am – 2pm

**Please see the enclosed
leaflets for more details**

NCBA Easter Fayre

** April
Reiver House
10.30 – 2.30pm



pixabay

Address

Reiver House
Staithes Lane
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 1TD

Contact Us

Telephone: 01670 514316
Email: info@ncba.org.uk
Website: www.ncba.org.uk



@ncba_volunteer



www.facebook.com/NcbaReiverhouse



Registered Charity Number: 1102386