

Northumberland County Blind Association

Supporting blind and partially sighted people

in-Sight

Summer 2021

The Queens Award for Volunteering

Hello

As you can see from our headline we are so excited to announce that we have won **The Queens Award for Volunteering**. The award is the equivalent of an MBE for organisations and so is very prestigious.

This is purely down to the fabulous work of our Volunteers, who have worked tirelessly through lock down to support clients across Northumberland at a time when they needed us most. So a big **THANK YOU** to you all and we will be celebrating by way of a party for all volunteers once current COVID restrictions allow.

Quote from Mala Janes – Chair of NCBA

‘HUGE congratulations to our amazing Volunteers and all at NCBA especially for the special and extra commendation for our work during the COVID lockdown this past year. As your Chair I am so proud of you and all that you have done’.



New extension of COVID restrictions

As the government has announced an extension to lockdown until July 19th at the earliest, we are following their advice.

So what does it mean for you and services from NCBA?

1. You can make an appointment to see us at our office in Morpeth – face to face with PPE in place
2. All groups and clubs remain closed
3. All community based services remain suspended
4. The Client Connect telephone support service will continue

While we accept that the situation is frustrating for us all, we must all keep safe.

Remember we are only a phone call away if you need us.

For the next three items, please call Barry on 01670 514316 or email barry.frost@ncba.org.uk

Client Connect

One of our main ways of keeping in touch with you is Client Connect. We have a fantastic team of volunteers who will call you from time to time, or on a more regular basis if you would prefer.

Please let us know if any of your contact details have changed.

Get Active

It is not easy to keep as active as we would like, especially during the COVID restrictions, but it is important to try. If you would like some ideas of how to keep active, please get in touch.

Golf Voucher

Lockdown prevented us allocating a 4 ball golf voucher, kindly donated by Morpeth Golf Club for our Xmas draw. If you would be interested in making a donation for this voucher, please call.

Newsletter name

You may have noticed that we have changed the name of our Newsletter from **NOISE** to **in-Sight**. We do hope you like it.

We are also discussing changing the name of our organisation as we feel it doesn't really reflect the work that we do

Consultation is at a very early stage, so if you have any ideas for a new name, please do contact us



'Tablets Aren't Just for Swallowing'

This new technology support service from NCBA is for people who feel left behind in this digital world.

- Would you like to speak with family and friends on a video call?
- Would you like to learn how to order groceries online?
- Would you like to learn a bit more about 'how it all works'.

If you think it will be 'too hard' or that you are 'too old to learn something new', please let us prove you wrong!



useful**vision**

Useful Vision is delighted to announce its summer programme. After a year of restrictions and zoom activities we are so happy to be able to offer children with sight loss and their families across the North East fun and creative activities and family days out. Come and join us for dance, drama, bush craft, nature days, sports and more.

Please see our website for more details or call the useful Vision office on 0191 447 2600.

www.usefulvision.org.uk - We're looking forward to seeing you.

Hannah (Manager) and **Sophie** (Volunteer and Activities Coordinator)

Volunteer Car Service

We are hoping that our volunteer car service will start again when COVID allows. In the meantime we will be contacting volunteers and clients of this service in due course to discuss your needs.

Olivia's Clever Creativity

An eight year old girl set up her own little pop up shop full of items she made herself, to support a good cause. Olivia Stephen's creations were put outside the family home in Mitford for one day with a note encouraging people to 'take what they fancy' and leave a donation in the honesty box.

The socially distanced activity aimed at those out walking, was Olivia's idea as part of the Great British Children's Challenge Initiative. This raised £75 for us.

Thank you to Olivia, you're never too young to help us fundraise!! Could **YOU** help us too? 😊

Staff Matters

Happy Retirement to Susan & Julie

Very sadly it is time for NCBA to say 'Good-bye' to Susan Bennett our Development Coordinator for the Berwick area. Susan has been with us for over 6 years, predominantly coordinating the home visiting service and leading several successful community based fundraising events over the years.



Susan has incredible people skills so it's no surprise she has been a very popular member of the team with staff, volunteers and clients and we'll all be sad to see her go.

She says: "After thinking I would never work again with my brain injury and sight loss, NCBA took me on and gave me a job I loved. I will find it

incredibly difficult to walk away but after 6 wonderful, memorable years, I retire with friends for life.”



Julie Swan our Energy & Technology adviser is also taking early retirement. Julie has been key in the launch of our new digital support services to clients and brought with her a host of experience from many years of work for the sight loss sector. She will be a big miss to us all.

Julie says “It has been an absolute pleasure working for NCBA. The Team are wonderful, wholly dedicated to supporting the VI community across Northumberland. Despite Covid restrictions, thanks for the great memories.”

Contact Us

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