HUNTINGDONSHIRE SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

REGISTERED CHARITY 202573

NEWSLETTER - WINTER 2019

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.

8 ST MARY'S STREET
HUNTINGDON
PE29 3PE

THE CENTRE INCLUDES THE OFFICE, SHOP AND EQUIPMENT ROOM

Telephone: 01480 453438

Email: info@huntsblind.co.uk
www.huntsblind.co.uk
facebook: /huntsblind
twitter: www.twitter.co.uk/@huntsblind

WE HAVE STAFF AVAILABLE FROM 10.00 am to 3.00 pm

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

Here to help:

Manager	**Erika Brown**
Administrator/Finance Officer/ IT Advisor	**Emma Martin**
Social Activities Co-ordinator	**Andrea Murphy**
Social Activities Co-ordinator/ Fundraising Co-ordinator	**Rachel Sutherland**
Outreach Worker (north)	**Vicki Jones**
Outreach Worker (south)	**Jenny McInnes**
Eye Clinic Liaison Officer	**Vicky French**

Welcome to our latest newsletter.

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Annual General Meeting in September – it's great to have members, volunteers and staff come together and reflect on the services and support the Society provides. For those of you who weren't able to attend I wanted to echo the thanks expressed by our President, Hugh McCurdy and our Chairman, Peter Bucknell to all the volunteers and staff for their commitment and hard work. Thank you also to all our members for your ongoing support.

I am sorry to report that our Fundraising Coordinator Wendy Underwood left the Society at the end of August. Wendy and her husband David have been incredibly supportive of the Society for many years and it was a pleasure to see Wendy channel her energy and enthusiasm in raising funds for the Society. We wish Wendy and David all the very best for their future life in Suffolk.

I'm delighted that the Fundraising Coordinator post has been taken by Rachel Sutherland – one of our existing team members. Rachel will be continuing with her role as Social Events Coordinator as well as taking on the fundraising role. She has already made her mark on several of our coffee mornings and run a very successful auction and quiz evening. Rachel has lots of ideas for fundraising events and is keen to hear from any members and volunteers who would like to get involved so please do get in touch.

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and catching up with the latest Society news and information on what's coming up in the next few months. As usual we've also included new product information and advice and input from other voluntary and statutory organisations which we hope you find useful. And of course don't forget to have a go at the quiz!

With very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Erika
Manager

SOCIETY NEWS AND NOTICES

Member News

Birthdays

We would like to send our best wishes to all members celebrating a birthday in December, January, February and March. Members celebrating a **special birthday** in the coming months are: Margaret Woodhead, Pam Chatfield, Bryony-Anne Peck, John Wells, Rona Butler, Carole Shire, Simon Crisp, Joyce McCall, Colin Jones, Lily Crawford, Roy Gaunt, David Brown, Richard Morris, Dawn Kelly, & Doreen Claxton.

Deaths

We are very sorry to report the deaths of the following members: Margaret Brzeski, Tony Patrickson, Vic Jarrett, Sheila Phyo, Sheila Major, June Scott, Irene Gilder, Terry Jackson, Douglas Hookham, Sheila Downing, Robert Todd, Janet Evetts, Phyllis Carson, Eileen Smith and Connie Andrews.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society's Annual General Meeting took place on 10 September. One of our Trustees Clare Stimpson resigned from the Board mid-term for personal reasons. We very much appreciate Clare's support and input whilst she was a Trustee.

The Board welcomed two new Trustees – Judy King and Moira Penney. The Board of Trustees was appointed as follows:-

President	Hugh McCurdy	Trustee	Chris Mosley
Chairman	Peter Bucknell	Trustee	Brian Worthington
Treasurer	Frank Newton	Trustee	Nick Ruston
Trustee	Angela White-Horan	Trustee	Judy King
Trustee	Darren Fletcher	Trustee	Moira Penney

Thank you to all who came along to the meeting and thanks also to the Trustees for their ongoing support.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OFFICE AND SHOP OPENING

Please note that the office and shop will be closed for Christmas/New Year from 12.30pm on 24th December until 10am on Thursday 2nd January 2020

MESSAGE FROM VICKY FRENCH

Eye Clinic Liaison Officer, Hinchingbrooke Hospital

Hello everyone

To those who are patients of the Eye Clinic at Hinchingbrooke Hospital I thought it would be useful to update you with regards to the current service.

We reassure you that as a patient of our Eye Clinic unless you have been discharged, the clinician that you saw will have made a request for you to be seen again within a certain period of time. Due to the backlogs in our service we are currently experiencing difficulties seeing patients within our usual timeframes, and so it is likely that your next appointment will be delayed.

Please accept our apologies for this delay. We would like to reassure you that we are working hard to reduce this backlog. If you have any concerns, or if you experience any deterioration in your condition, please see your GP or Optometrist as soon as possible. If your condition has changed and has become urgent, they will contact us and we will see you in our emergency eye clinic.

When you do receive your appointment please ensure you attend or contact us to rearrange because if you fail to attend you could be discharged back to your GP or Optometrist. Thank you for your patience.

And as always if you have any queries or questions about Sight Loss Registration please contact myself, Vicky French (Eye Clinic Liaison

Officer) either by phone or email - 01480 416416 x3190 or victoriafrench@nhs.net

Eye Clinic display cabinet

The Society's display cabinet at the Eye Clinic has had a revamp and refresh. If you would like to purchase any of the goods on display please contact Hunts Blind or speak to Vicky French who will pass on your details to the office.

REACHING OUT WITH OUTREACH

The Society's outreach workers Vicki Jones and Jenny McInnes are the first main contact for new members and they respond quickly to referrals. Referrals come from various sources such as Sensory Services, hospitals and doctors, but can also be made in person or by family and friends.

During the initial home visit, Vicki and Jenny assess each individual's needs and ascertain the level of support they require. Often, emotional

support is essential at this early stage of diagnosis and Vicki and Jenny provide this on a one to one basis for as long as necessary. Vicki and Jenny promote the social side of the society. They encourage members to participate in clubs and events and refer them to the social team. Attending these social events has a positive impact on members' wellbeing and can help to reduce feelings of isolation.

They look at how to best provide appropriate practical support with visual and mobility aids which they subsequently take to the member's home for them to try out. These aids include lighting, magnification, machines for talking books, talking clocks and kitchen equipment etc. They work closely with Vicky French, Eye Clinic Liaison Officer at Hinchingbrooke and guide members through the registration process, making referrals and supporting members at the Low Vision Clinic and other appointments if appropriate. They liaise with Sensory Services, Social Workers, Occupational Therapists, Disability Information Service Huntingdonshire (DISH), RNIB, Age UK, Blind Veterans etc to ensure that the members are receiving the correct level of support. An example of this would be contacting Age UK to arrange grab rails and installation of other safety equipment as quickly as possible.

Vicki and Jenny conduct a comprehensive benefit review, as often members are unaware of their entitlements. They will apply for Attendance Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, Carer's Allowance, ESA, Pension Credit and other housing benefits if appropriate. They support each application fully from filling out the forms, all the way through to appeals and tribunals if necessary. Successful awards make can make a huge difference to members' financial circumstances. They will also apply for Blue Badges, Bus Passes, Blind Person's Tax Allowance and any other allowances that the member is entitled to.

The Outreach Worker's support is an ongoing process and needs led.

We understand that circumstances can change and you may be experiencing new challenges and difficulties such as:-

- Deterioration of sight
- Difficulty maintaining independence at home
- Feeling isolated

- Afraid of falling at home or when out
- No longer able to read correspondence

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you are facing any of these challenges. Our staff team is here to support you and Vicki and Jenny would be happy to discuss any changes in your needs.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES REPORT by Rachel and Andrea

In August we saw the return of one of our favourite entertainers Ray Carter who performed brilliantly at all four clubs. It was great to see so many members dancing and singing along to the old classics.

September has to go down as one of the quietest months we've had at all four clubs. You could hear a pin drop while David Wallwork and his daughter Catherine gave a captivating talk about the charity work they do in Sierra Leone. David and Catherine would like to thank members for their kind donations which totalled £332 and for a special watch kindly donated by one of our St Neots members. As a thank you, Hunts Blind was given a wooden art plaque made by some of the villagers which the charity visits in Sierra Leone.

In October, St Neots club visited 'The Highway Man' in Eaton Socon and enjoyed a lovely lunch.

St Ives club had a great afternoon bowling at St Ives Leisure Centre. Congratulations to Robert who took this year's trophy home.

Ramsey group bowled and enjoyed tea

and cake at Lakeside Lodge in Pidley. Well done to Kath Burell, a first time bowler, who won the coveted trophy.

Huntingdon club also visited Lakeside Lodge. Congratulations to this year's winner, Barb.

November is the month when our charity shop comes to the clubs offering a selection of gifts, Christmas cards as well as large print calendars and diaries for members to purchase. Ramsey club also had a talk by the manager of Warboys Day Centre who talked about the services the centre provides. The Day Centre provides transport, a two course lunch and often entertainment or trips out for a nominal fee.

Our **Christmas party** which will be held at Wood Green Animal Shelter in Godmanchester on 10th December is a great way to start the festive season. We are looking forward to welcoming nearly 160 of our members and carers dressed in their finest festive gear. Charlie Chaplin will be providing the entertainment and promises to have us singing and dancing to some of our favourite tunes. For those of you who have booked to come along and requested transport we will be in touch with you early December to confirm details.

The itineraries for the 2020 social groups have now been confirmed and copies will be forwarded to club members. In the meantime here is a taster of what's coming up in the next few months.

ST NEOTS SOCIAL GROUP

Methodist Church Hall, Berkley Street, Eynesbury, St Neots.

	Venue, Activity & Time
Mon 13 January	Sing – along – with – Leslie, 2-4pm
Mon 3 February	Bobby Scheme Talk, 2-4pm
Mon 2 March	Lunch Out, 12-2pm

RAMSEY SOCIAL GROUP

Bury Village Hall, Bury (Ramsey).

	Venue, Activity & Time
Mon 20 January	Sing – along – with – Leslie, 2-4pm
Mon 17 February	Quiz, 2-4pm
Mon 9 March	Lunch Out, 12-2pm

ST IVES SOCIAL GROUP

St Ives Methodist Church Hall, The Waits, St Ives.

	Venue, Activity & Time
Wed 22 January	Sing – along – with – Leslie, 2-4pm
Wed 19 February	Quiz, 2-4pm
Wed 18 March	Lunch Out, 12-2pm

HUNTINGDON SOCIAL GROUP

Great Stukeley Village Hall, Great Stukeley

	Venue, Activity & Time
Mon 27 January	Quiz, 2-4pm
Mon 24 February	Sing – along – with – Leslie, 2-4pm
Mon 30 March	Lunch Out, 12-2pm

Please note that in the event of severe weather conditions clubs may need to be cancelled at short notice. We will obviously do our best to notify everyone concerned at the earliest opportunity but if you are in any doubt then please phone the office.
Thank you for your understanding.

There was a big turnout for the **Walking group** in October and a beautiful autumnal walk around St Ives Meadows was enjoyed by all.

It was fantastic to have some new members join us and we hope to see you again in December for our walk around Alconbury Weald.

Please contact Rachel in the office if you would like more information about the group.

The Arts and Crafts group have also been very busy making wind chimes from metal washers; cork notice boards with members' favourite sayings and door hanging Christmas decorations.

Sports and Social Group

The sports and social group visited Grafham Water in October where members had an opportunity to climb the indoor rock wall and try their hand at archery. Some were natural climbers who scaled the wall in super fast time. Those who chose not to climb the wall were given the option of being hoisted to the top.

A great deal of concentration was needed for archery and there was a fantastic competitive spirit amongst everyone. Overall the afternoon was full of laughter and fun. Great to see new members turn up and hope to see you back in January.

If you are interested in joining any of our social groups and activities please phone Andrea or Rachel on **01480 453438.** Transport can be arranged if required.

Theatre Group update from Sharron Kelsey

Our theatre group visited the Cambridge Arts Theatre in August to see Willy Russell's 'Educating Rita'. Stephen Tompkinson (looking very different from his days in DCI Banks with his long hair!) and Jessica Johnson both gave excellent performances in this amusing and heart-warming comedy.

We visited again in October and filled the two front rows to see the exciting thriller 'The Lady Vanishes' with a brilliant cast including Gwen Taylor and Andrew Lancel of Coronation Street fame. A small number of the group arrived early to join the Touch Tour which took us onto the stage to get a closer look at the set and props and were given an interesting insight into the story and the special effects, without giving too much away!

We have nothing further booked at the moment and we await the brochures for the 2020 season to make our next choice. If you are interested in joining the theatre group and would like any information, please contact the office.

SOCIETY GROUP HOLIDAY 2020

Monday 8th June – Friday 12th June 2020

For 2020 we shall be staying at Warner's new landmark hotel, Studley Castle in Warwickshire. The hotel has been renovated and beautifully restored to a very high standard with modern additions complementing the original buildings. As with all Warner's hotel's there is a wide range of daytime activities including a swimming pool and spa on site. A cabaret dinner is provided in the evening and you have the option of going on two day trips, provided by Warners, to the Cotswolds and Stratford upon Avon.

If you are interested in going, although the rooms have been filled, the Society will have a waiting list in case a place comes up at the last moment. Please let the office know if you are interested.

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Coffee mornings

Thank you to everyone who came along to our fundraising coffee mornings held in All Saints Church in Huntingdon. These have been very popular and supported brilliantly by members, carers, volunteers and the general public. We are delighted to announce the grand total raised for the year was £2312.00.

Thank you to everyone who supplied delicious cakes and savouries for the refreshments stall and to all volunteers who helped with the running of each of the events. Thanks also to all the crafters who have been tremendously supportive throughout the year.

The Huntingdon coffee mornings will return in March 2020 at All Saints Church:

Wednesday 11th March
Wednesday 8th April
Wednesday 13th May
Wednesday 10th June
Wednesday 8th July
Wednesday 12th August
Wednesday 9th September
Wednesday 14th October
Wednesday 11th November

The auction and quiz evening held in October was a great success and raised £866. Local companies generously donated wonderful auction prizes. Friends, members and volunteers donated raffle prizes. Special thanks to Andrea, who was our fantastic Quiz Master. A great evening was had by all.

HSB 200+ Club Results

August
1st prize - £25, R Breeze
2nd prize - £15, D Gutteridge
3rd prize - £10, G Hillyard

September
1st prize - £25, M Sneath
2nd prize - £15, P Kofie
3rd prize - £10, G Cousins

October
1st prize – £25, R Breeze
2nd prize – £15, R Breeze
3rd prize – £10, C Marheineke

November
1st prize - £25, T Buist
2nd prize - £15, M Depasquale
3rd prize - £10, G Cousins

Congratulations to all prize winners and our thanks to members of the 200+ club for your continued support.

If you or a friend or neighbour is interested in joining the Society's 200+ club please complete and return the form provided on the back of this newsletter. Shares cost £12 each and participants have a chance of winning a cash prize each month.

DONATIONS WANTED FOR OUR CHARITY SHOP

Our charity shop welcomes donations of good quality bric-a-brac, wool, books, used stamps and printer cartridges.

Unfortunately we are unable to accept clothing or second hand electrical items.

The next bucket collection at Morrisons in St Ives will be on Friday 13th December. If you're able to help with the collection please contact the office.

Christmas cards now on sale

We have a lovely collection of Christmas cards available to purchase from our charity shop at just £3.00 per pack. Every purchase helps to raise funds for Hunts Blind so please do consider popping into the shop and buying your cards from us this year.

AmazonSmile – fundraising while you shop!

With Christmas fast approaching many of you will be buying your gifts on Amazon. The Society is now registered with AmazonSmile which means you can now support Hunts Society for the Blind each time you make a purchase on Amazon.

AmazonSmile is the same as Amazon - same products, same prices and same service. It is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favourite charitable organisation every time you shop, at no cost to you.

To shop at AmazonSmile go to the smile.amazon.co.uk from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. On your first visit to smile.amazon.co.uk you need to select your charity, this will enable Hunts Blind and other charities to receive donations from every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.co.uk.

Amazon donates 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees). Support a charitable organisation of your choice by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.co.uk.

VISIT OUR RESOURCE ROOM

Come and visit our resource room, open Monday – Friday 10am – 3pm where you will find a display of the stock we hold and some examples of products that are available to order.

New products

Communiplayer

Dance like no one is watching! Catch up on your favourite podcast. Lose yourself in a great audiobook… The brand new RNIB Communiplayer is small, portable and capable of helping you do all these things. Designed to look and feel similar to the best-selling RNIB Communiclock, this USB memory stick player is easy to use and can be easily moved from room to room, or even into the garden shed.

The Communiplayer has black casing, a white underside and large, tactile white buttons which contrast with the casing. A USB memory stick can be stored in the underside of the unit. It can bookmark approximately 20 USBs and has built-in Bluetooth for remotely connecting to devices, such as smart phones or tablets, allowing you to play music, podcasts or audiobooks. The Communiplayer has a built-in rechargeable battery which lasts up to eight hours, is supplied with a Mini-USB to USB charger cable and retails at £34.99 ext VAT.

Whistling Microwave Kettle

The microwave kettle has a lid which opens all the way for easy filling as well as an easy pouring spout. The whistle is very clear. The kettle holds up to 1.25 pints (739ml) of water and the handle stays cool to touch even after the water has boiled. The kettle is 17.5cm high x 17.5cm wide. The whistling microwave kettle has been recommended by Hunts Blind member Keith Daines and is available from Cobolt Systems Ltd. It is priced at £19.95.

Tea Tool Tea Bag Squeezer

Don't make mess – make tea! Designed by a doctor who couldn't bear the drips created when transferring a soggy tea bag from mug to bin, Tea Tool is a simple solution. Pop a tea bag in the cage, place it in your cup and pour the hot water in; give it a stir and press the plunger to squeeze the bag. Squeeze the bag several times and the tea is ready. The tea bag is ready to throw away and there is no mess.

The Tea Tool was recommended to us by Greg Smith, a Hunts Blind member and is available to purchase from various outlets including Lakeland & Amazon. The Teal Tool is priced at £4.99

Update on the Ramble Tag

In our summer newsletter we introduced the Ramble Tag guidance aid. Hunts Blind has kindly been given a Ramble Tag for the walking group to try out. If you would like to try before you buy your own Ramble Tag, please contact the office. The Ramble Tag is priced at £21.00 and is available online at: rambletag.co.uk. Our walking group will continue to use the Ramble Tag, providing lots of valuable feedback to the designer and supplier.

The Reveal 16 and 16i are the latest electronic magnifiers from HumanWare and both are available on a special offer for a limited time only.

Reveal 16 - normally £2395 - now £1795

Photographs look clear and crisp with Reveal 16. Enjoy catching up on those family photos again, reading your post, newspapers, books and magazines. Use the distance camera to look out at the world around you. Reveal 16 is space saving too, it folds down easily to store away when not in use.

Reveal 16i normally £3395- now £2795

Reveal 16i is a smart connected magnifier which is intuitive to use. Reveal 16i's stunning features include scrolling text on the screen with the option to listen to text being read to you. Reading is enjoyable and relaxing. Browse the internet, shop on-line and check your emails all with such ease.

Offers available until 31st December 2019

TECH CORNER

In October the Society held its first smart phone and tablet advice day in conjunction with the RNIB tech team. Members were able to book a one to one appointment to discuss training requirements or problems they were experiencing with their devices. Feedback from members was very positive and as a result we have booked a further tech advice day which will be held on Thursday 5th March 2020. If you are thinking of purchasing a new device and are unsure what your options are or what would be best suited to your requirements then please book an appointment. A selection of smart phones, tablets and kindle will be available to try on the day. Appointments will be 45 minutes each and available between 10am – 4pm. Please contact the office if you would like to book an appointment and feel free to bring a friend or family member with you.

If you have a question about any tech device or would like some advice then please get in touch. We will find the best way to support you.

Echo Buds – wireless earbuds with Alexa

Echo Buds work with the Alexa app to stream music, play Audible audiobooks, make calls or check your calendar. With Bose active noise reduction technology and sealed in-ear design which limits background noise and a customisable fit for better sound. Advanced microphones give you access to Alexa allowing you to order a taxi or a take away, all hands free! You can switch to 'pass-through mode' to hear what's going on around you without having to take out your earbuds, double tap to toggle between the two or just use your voice. Access other assistants; Siri or Google Assistant from a supported device, just press and hold your earbud.

New skills are being added to Alexa all the time. Discover them in the skills section of the Alexa app or the visit the skills store.

The EasyReader app

Enjoy RNIB's Talking Books and talking newspapers with the EasyReader app. RNIB worked with Dolphin to ensure the app is tailored to readers with a visual impairment or dyslexia. The app offers a simple interface and access to downloaded content in one place, on a smartphone or tablet. EasyReader is available on both iOS and Android devices. All you need to do to start accessing a wealth of literature, news and educational materials is to download the EasyReader app and have an account with RNIB. If you're already registered on RNIB Overdrive, RNIB Newsagent or RNIB Bookshare, then you can use the same login details to access content on the EasyReader app.

New users can create an account with RNIB by calling the Helpline on 0303 123 9999. Get the EasyReader app from the iOS App Store or the Google Play store.

New Book Group

The Society, in conjunction with Huntingdon Library, has recently set up a new book group which meets at Huntingdon library on a monthly basis. The group chooses an audio book to download onto their smart device and will listen to the first chapter together before going off and listening to the rest of the book at their own leisure. The group meets up again at the end of each month at Huntingdon library to discuss the book.

The book group is in a pilot phase and if successful will hopefully be rolled out to other libraries throughout Huntingdonshire. If you have a smart device and are interested in joining the group, please contact Emma.

Loan Sharks

If you have borrowed money from a loan shark you haven't broken the law, they have. If you are worried about this talk to your debt adviser or call the confidential number 0300 555 2222.

Remember loan sharks often:

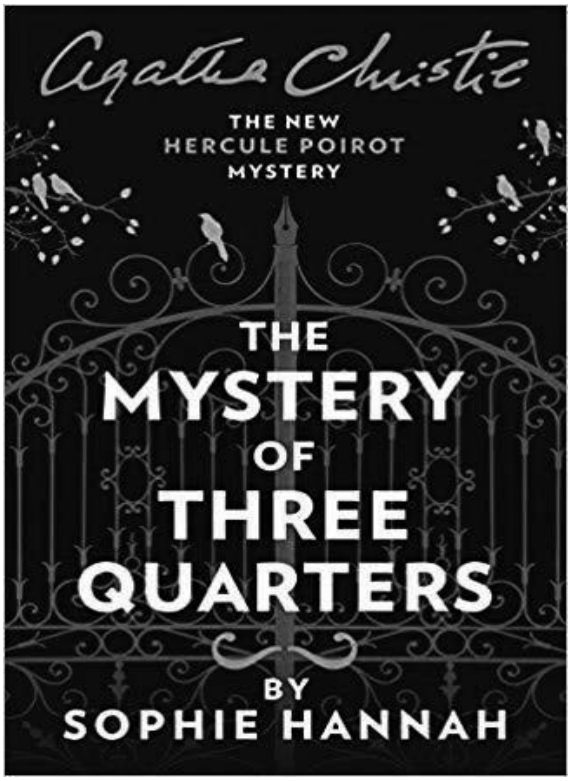
- Offer you a cash loan but do not give you any paperwork
- Take your benefit or bank card as security on the loan
- Don't tell you when you will finish paying
- Increase the amount you owe even if you are making regular payments
- Threaten or use violence to get money from you.

If you think you may have borrowed from a loan shark call the England Illegal Money Lending Team hotline and talk to them in complete confidence. They will discuss with you any worries you may have and will listen, give information and offer advice on your particular situation. They will help you make sense of what is happening and will explain the choices you can make to help you take back control from the loan shark.

Call: 0300 555 2222.
Text: 07860022116 with your message.
Email: reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk
Report a loan shark online at: stoploansharks.co.uk

STOPLOANSHARKS
Intervention . Support . Education

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S POIROT -THE MYSTERY OF THREE QUARTERS by Sophie Hannah



Returning home after lunch one day, Hercule Poirot finds an angry woman waiting outside his front door. She demands to know why Poirot has sent her a letter accusing her of the murder of Barnabas Pandy, a man she has neither heard of nor ever met. Poirot has also never heard of a Barnabas Pandy and has accused nobody of murder. Shaken, he goes inside, only to find that he has a visitor waiting for him - a man who also claims to have received a letter from Poirot that morning, accusing him of the murder of Barnabas Pandy. Poirot wonders how many more letters of this sort have been sent in his name. Who sent them, and why? More importantly, who is Barnabas Pandy; is he dead, and, if so, was he murdered? And can Poirot find out the answers without putting more lives in danger?

To listen to this eAudiobook from RB Digital you will need to create an account with an email address and password on the RB Digital page. https://cambridgeshire.rbdigitalglobal.com/#/discovery/eAudio

Please ask at the library if you need help to use this service.

Read a Little Aloud at Huntingdon Library

Enjoy a cup of tea, relax and listen to the library volunteers reading and discussing a range of literature for adults.

The next event will be on Tuesday 10th December 2019 10:30–11:30 am – all welcome.

LIVING PAINTINGS

Fancy a stroll through the countryside, sensing your way through the fields and woodland? Perhaps instead, you would prefer to find a moment's absorption and peace in a work of art? Then welcome to Living Paintings, where their unique tactile and audio adapted titles create a feast for the imagination.

Living Paintings specialise in bringing the visual world to life for blind and partially sighted people across the UK. Living Paintings is a national charity operating across the UK and providing a free postal, educational lending library service to anyone who is blind or partially sighted. The service is completely free to access for those who may benefit from it and they currently have more than 15,000 library members, ranging from children at home, to schools and adults.

Each one of their titles comprises a comb-bound selection of raised tactile images accompanied by an audio guide, in either USB or CD format, which is read by an actor or familiar voice. This includes a visually rich description of how to explore the tactile pictures with the fingers and information about the context of the raised image – time and place.

Living Paintings' library collection covers a wide range of subjects from history and art to the natural world and so much more. They have resources for many interests and ages, from young children exploring their selection of picture books, to adult members enjoying diverse offerings at their leisure. Some of Living Paintings' most popular books for adults explore British birds and their habitats and paintings from The Royal Collection, introduced by HRH Prince Charles himself!

If you think you might like to get your hands on these and their many other titles, why not try out the Living Paintings library – it is completely free to join. To contact Living Paintings call 01635 299 771 or email library@livingpaintings.org.

What are you waiting for, there is so much to discover!

CAMBRIDGESHIRE CHOSEN TO PILOT NEW SCHEME TO HELP ISOLATED RAF VETERANS

Cambridgeshire has been selected as a pilot county for a new project aimed at supporting RAF veterans who face loneliness and isolation.

The RAF Benevolent Fund, the RAF's leading welfare charity, has launched a Community Engagement Worker scheme to help older RAF veterans get involved in their local communities. The scheme comes in response to research carried out by the Fund which highlighted these challenges as issues which most concern the older generation of RAF veterans.

Pete Ashcroft, Welfare Projects Executive at the RAF Benevolent Fund, said: "The Community Engagement Worker project is just one measure we have introduced to tackle the issue of loneliness and social isolation among older veterans. Other new initiatives include a Telephone Friendship Group service and group wellbeing breaks.

"This year marks the RAF Benevolent Fund's centenary and we are asking the public to help us reach out to the members of the RAF Family who may have fallen off the radar and let them know, we are here to help. We want to ensure every RAF veteran, no matter how long they served, receives the support their service to their country deserves."

The Community Engagement Worker will get to know the social activities, groups and associations across Cambridgeshire and work with individuals to understand what the barriers are to them becoming more socially engaged and help them to overcome that, from attending a veterans' breakfast meeting with someone for the first time, to establishing activities where none currently exist.

Matt Rowe, 49, is the Community Engagement Worker in Cambridgeshire. He said "There are an awful lot of veterans who are not on the radar. The East of England has a large percentage of RAF veterans living here and it is important to get in touch with those veterans to provide support where needed. The Fund is there for everybody, for the whole RAF Family."

The pilot scheme will run for two years and also covers Norfolk, Suffolk and Lincolnshire.

Call our freephone helpline 0800 169 2942 or for more information visit: www.rafbf.org Twitter: https://twitter.com/RAFBF

CAMBRIDGESHIRE GUIDE DOG FORUM

Dates for the Cambridgeshire sight loss forum for 2020 are 19th February, 19th May, 21st August and 19th November at Parkside Fire Station, Cambridge. 12pm to 2pm.

You do not have to be a client of guide dogs to come along, sessions are for anyone with sight loss, including friends and family members. Forums are inclusive and are put on to share and provide information enabling people who are blind or partially sighted to have a voice and raise concerns in a positive manner directly to change makers.

Contact Jackie Cook at cambridgegdforum@gmail.com for more information.

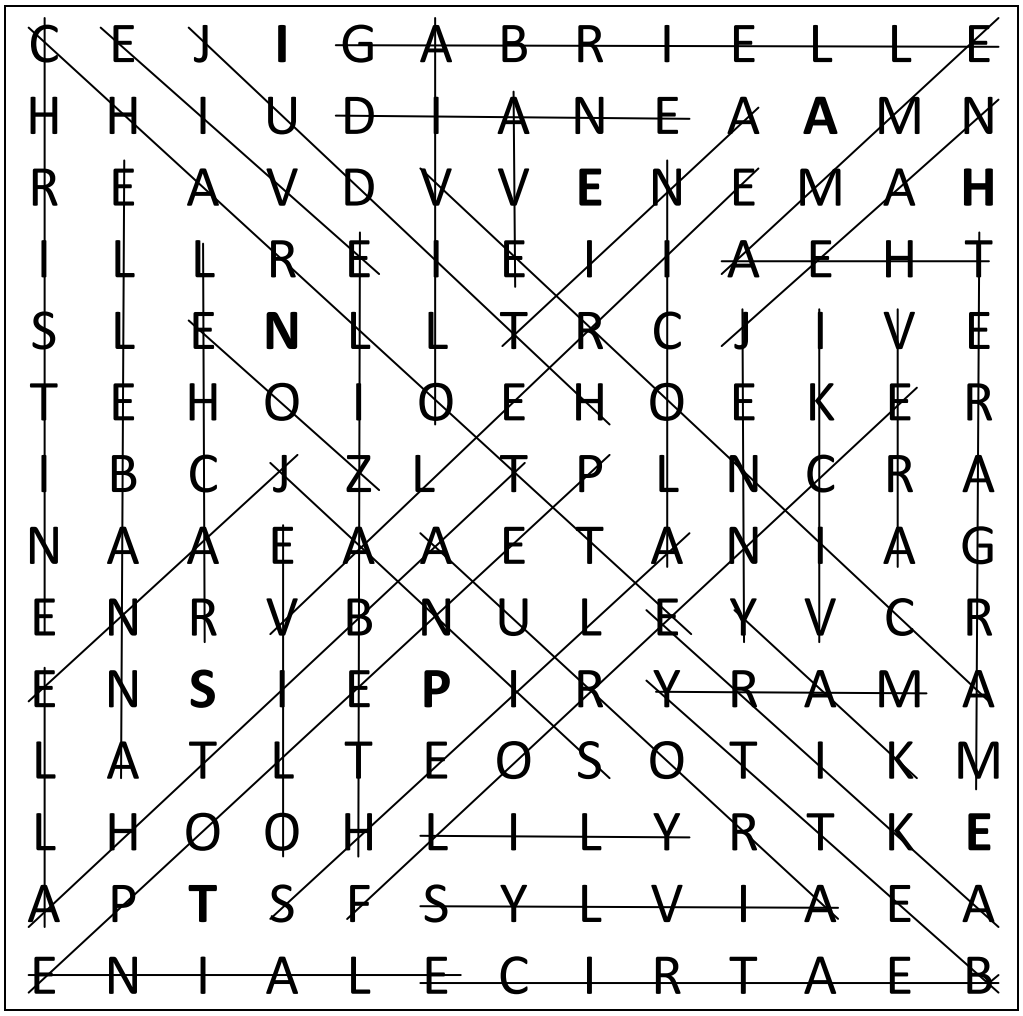
HUNTINGDONSHIRE TALKING NEWSPAPER

We are very grateful to The Talking Newspaper who record our Society newsletter onto CD so if you would like to receive it in this format or you would like the weekly Hunts Post then please contact us at the **Hunts Society for the Blind on 01480 453438.**

SUMMER 2019 QUIZ RESULTS

Thank you to all who submitted answers to the summer quiz. The winner is Jo Manning.

Answers to Summer Quiz



Unused letters spell - STEPHANIE

HSB 200+CLUB

This is a scheme to raise funds for Huntingdonshire Society for the Blind and for us to give all our supporters the chance to win money prizes every month.

For the annual subscription of £12 per share you will be entered in twelve monthly draws and grand draws twice a year. Last year we raised over £1200 for the society and gave equal amounts in prize money.

If you would like to join please complete the form below and enclose payment or come and visit us at the shop/office.

……...

Please complete and return to Huntingdonshire Society for the Blind at: 8, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, Cambs PE29 3PE.

Name……

Address……

Postcode……..……Tel No ……

In the event we are unable to contact you please give the name of a beneficiary ……..……Tel No..……

I wish to apply for…….shares, at £12 per year, in the 200+club

I enclose £……cheque/cash, payable to Huntingdonshire Society for the Blind.

Signed……Date……

Office Use only

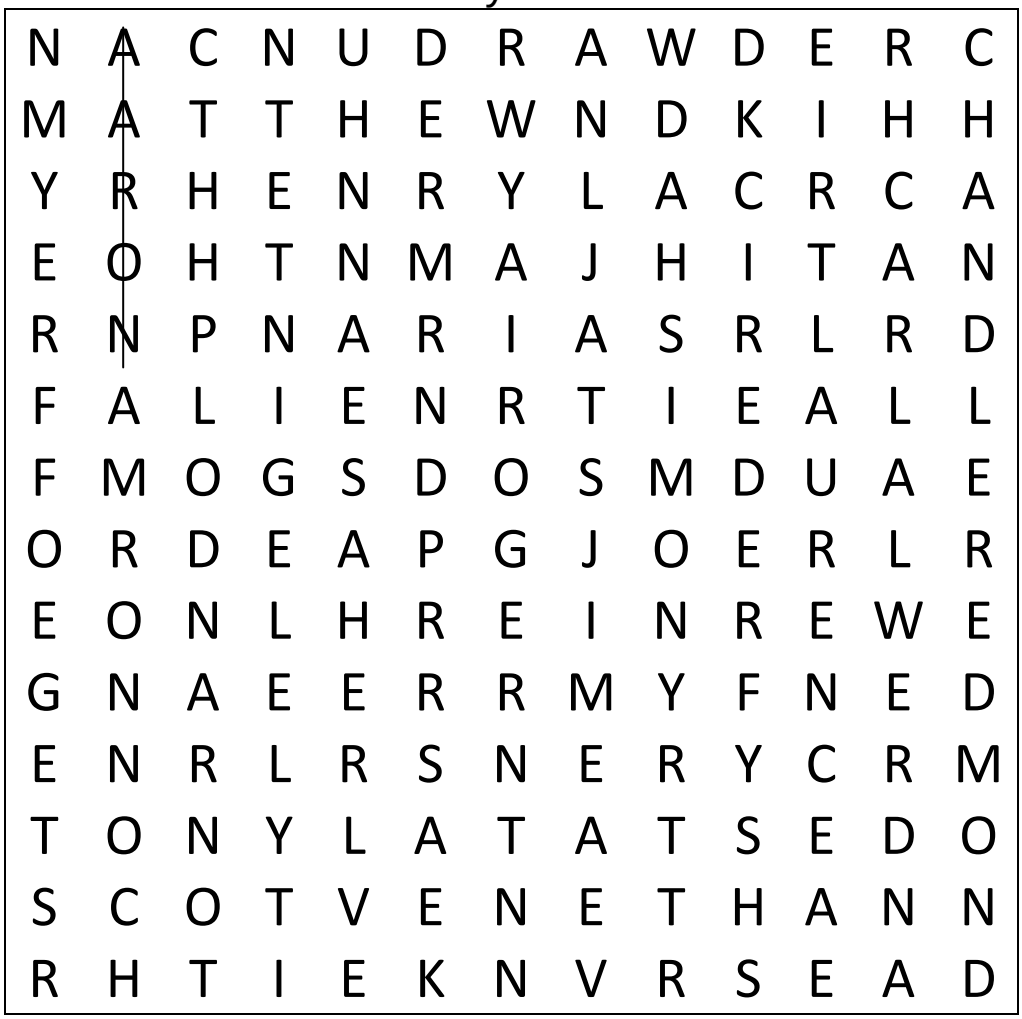
200+ Club number issued ……

Date of first draw …….

Date of reminder ……..

WINTER QUIZ

When completed, this word search of boys' names has 9 unused letters which spell another name. There is a prize for the winning entry. Entries need to be returned to the office by 1st March 2020.



~~Aaron~~	Edward	Henry	Laurence	Roger
Allen	Edmond	Ian	Lester	Scot
Andrew	Ethan	Ivan	Matthew	Sean
Carl	Frank	Jake	Nathan	Simon
Chandler	Frederick	Jerry	Nigel	Stan
Christopher	Garret	Jim	Norman	Tim
Connor	Gerald	Keith	Randolph	Tony
Duncan	Geoffrey	Larry	Richard	

Unused letters spell _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Name…….

Contact Number……