

Wakefield District Sight Aid

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President: The Lord St Oswald Company No. 7432897 Registered Charity No. 1140483

Hello everyone and welcome to our first newsletter of 2022!

I hope this newsletter finds you keeping well and having enjoyed the festive break. Big thanks to everyone who came to our Christmas lunch at the Theatre Royal, and special thanks to the Community Choir Wakefield who entertained us so brilliantly, and to Crocodile Sisters for their amazing food.

We are very grateful to those who have been able to complete and return our annual customer care survey. We've had 114 responses to date and, of those who answered the question, "How would you rate our service out of 10?" 98% of people rated us as 8 or above, with 72% of people rating us as 10 out of 10. We are delighted with these results, and would like to remind everyone that if you are interested in receiving a home visit or finding out more about any of our other services, please ring the office and we will be very happy to help.

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who bought raffle tickets and gave additional donations. I'm delighted to let you know that the raffle and donations raised a total of £1,674.50. All prize winners have been contacted and all prizes have been distributed. Thank you again for your support.

Please remember that the newsletter is available in large print, Braille, audio CD or USB stick, or by email. Please contact us to request a different format. If you receive the newsletter in an audio format, please don't forget to return the padded mailing envelope, and your USB stick (if you receive one) to us so we can use them again. You can unsubscribe at any time by contacting the office on 01924 215555 or admin@wdsa.org.uk.

With warm wishes,

Hayley Grocock (CEO)

Fundraising appeal

January is always a time of reflection as we start to prepare our annual report and accounts for the previous year. Once the figures have been audited, we expect our income to be around 24% less than the previous year.

It cost around £72,000 to keep the charity running last year, but our income was around £17,000 less than that. For six out of the last eight years, we have raised less funds than we need, and this is not sustainable.

Competition for grant funding is more fierce than ever, because so many charities have struggled to survive during the Covid pandemic. In 2021, we applied for over £75,000 worth of grant funding, but only 22% of it was awarded. The previous year, we applied for a similar amount, and were awarded 50%, which shows what a difference a year makes. Some funds have reported being over-subscribed by over 1,000% in 2021.

Unlike other charities, we have never charged a membership fee and we remain committed to being accessible to everyone, never excluding anyone from any of our services on grounds of ability to pay.

We have been serving people living with sight loss in our community for over 150 years, and we want to make sure we are here in the decades to come so we can help more people just like you.

If every person who receives this newsletter donated just £2 a month (£24 a year), our funding deficit would be wiped out.

With £24, we can:

- Staff our telephone helpline for two hours
- Pay for a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check for a volunteer (full cost including VAT is £19.20)
- Buy refreshments for one of our coffee mornings
- Pay our office rent for a day and a half
- Pay towards the petrol required for our Sight Loss Advisor to get to home visits

We do not receive any funding from central Government, or from other sight loss charities. We are very grateful for the kind support of Wakefield Council,

with whom we have a grant funding agreement which helps towards the costs of our home visiting service and the delivery of our Living Well with Sight Loss courses. We rely on fundraising to cover the rest of our costs.

If you would like to make a regular gift, you can do so by standing order using our bank details below or by contacting the office for a standing order mandate to send to your bank. You can also make a one-off donation by cash, cheque or BACS. If you are a UK taxpayer, you can increase your donation to us by 25% at no extra cost to you, simply by completing a Gift Aid Declaration (available by contacting the office on 01924 215555).

Bank: Barclays Bank Plc
Account: Wakefield District Sight Aid
Sort code: 20-89-68
Account number: 73031519

A gift in your Will is a wonderful way for your legacy to live on by ensuring we can support people living with sight loss for generations to come. We can send you more information about how to do this should you wish.

Thank you for your time and kind consideration of our fundraising appeal. Every penny really does count and we are so grateful for your support.

What's on at Wakefield District Sight Aid

All our events up to the end of June are shown on the calendar on page 7. Here is a summary of what's coming up:

Horbury coffee morning 10.00 – 12.00 on the second Tuesday of the month (held in the café at The Cluntergate Centre, Cluntergate, Horbury WF4 5DA).

The Ridings coffee morning 10.00 – 12.00 on the first Monday and third Wednesday of the month (held in The Garden Kitchen, Upper Mall, The Ridings, Wakefield, WF1 1DS – opposite TKMaxx). Please note that although there is plentiful disabled parking at The Ridings, it is not free of charge. The nearest car park to the Garden Kitchen is the Red Car Park, which has a direct lift down to the Upper Mall. There is on-street parking nearby where Blue Badges can be used. The nearby Council car parks also offer up to 2 hours free parking for non-Blue Badge holders.

Younger members social group (YMSG) 17.00 – 19.00 on the fourth Thursday of the month (held at Calder & Hops, 60 Northgate, Wakefield, WF1 3AP).

OXSIGHT Clinics, 09.30 – 14.00 on the fourth Tuesday of the month (at our office at 35 Peterson Road, Wakefield, WF1 4DU). The clinics give people with central vision loss the chance to experience the benefits of OXSIGHT Onyx for themselves and learn more about the technology, guided by one of their expert consultants. To make an appointment or find out about future dates, please email care@oxsight.co.uk or call 01865 580255. Visit www.oxsightglobal.com for more information about the latest revolution in smart glasses for the low vision community.

Equipment Demonstration and Advice Days

Our next two Demo Days will be held from **10.00 – 13.00 on Monday 14th March and Monday 27th June** (not 20th June as previously advertised), Monday 14th November. **Please note the slightly earlier start and finish times.** All Demo Days will take place in **the Garden Kitchen, Upper Mall, The Ridings, Wakefield, WF1 1DS – opposite TKMaxx.**

Living Well with Sight Loss course (LWwSL)

If you are newly diagnosed, feel nervous about navigating the world at the moment, or just feel that now is the right time for you to start getting out and about more, this course allows you to meet and share experiences with people in similar situations, aims to boost confidence and deliver practical advice and useful information and resources available across the Wakefield and Pontefract area.



Living Well with Sight Loss is made possible with the kind support of Wakefield Council and our next course will run from **10.30 until 15.00 on Thursday 31st March and Thursday 7th April.** Please contact the office on 01924 215555 and we will be happy to give you more information and register your place.

Richard said, “Living Well With Sight Loss provides a really valuable signpost to facing the future with positivity. The course is packed with information which has genuinely improved my life.”

Fish & chip lunch outing, Wetherby Whaler Empire Outwood, 12.00 – 14.00 on Wednesday 23rd March

Come and join us for a fish & chip lunch at the Wetherby Whaler Empire Outwood, 550 Leeds Road, Outwood, Wakefield, WF1 2DX!



We are delighted to offer a three-course meal for just £12.25 per person. Choose from the following:

Starter – homemade soup of the day or fruit juice

Main – haddock, plaice or scampi and chips, all served with bread and butter and Yorkshire tea or coffee

Dessert – ice cream or sweet of the day

If you prefer to have the main course only, this is available at £9.50.



There are vegetarian/vegan/gluten free options and all dietary requirements can be catered for, so please let us know your needs when booking.

All are welcome, including sighted companions. Parking is plentiful and free, and the 110 bus from central Wakefield and Leeds stops very close by on Leeds Road.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please ring the office on 01924 215555 to book your place!

Wakefield Visually Impaired Group

The group runs fortnightly on a Monday evening at 19.00 at The Red Shed (Wakefield Labour Club), 18 Vicarage Street, Wakefield WF1 1QX. For more information, please contact Alan Rayner on 01924 365357. The next meetings are on Monday 21st February and Monday 7th March.

Macular Society Wakefield Support Group



The Macular Society Wakefield Support Group runs on the first Tuesday of the month from **12.30 – 15.30 at Wakefield Town Hall, Wood St, Wakefield WF1 2HQ.**

For more information, please contact Joan Talbot on 01924 826501.

Yorkshire Cancer Community

Yorkshire Cancer Community is a small patient-led charity providing support and information for cancer patients, their carers and people who work in cancer services. They cover all of Yorkshire, but are based in Wakefield.

Cancer

Screening saves lives by prevention and early detection

Making cancer an everyday conversation

Awareness of unusual and persistent changes

Reduce risk with a healthy active lifestyle

Take action now against cancer

They help patients and carers find out about support groups, what help is available and can put them in touch with other patients who may be going through something similar. They have an informative website, an online chat group and quarterly newsletters. They also run Cancer SMART, a project to raise awareness of cancer and promote the uptake of screening. Our name sums up our key messages.

More information can be found at www.yorkshirecancercommunity.co.uk.

Locally, Macmillan Cancer Support have an information hub on Floor D of Pinderfields Hospital, Wakefield. If you or a loved one has ever had cancer, you can use their services. They can help with benefits, advice on reducing your financial outgoings, assist with any grants you may be eligible for as well as providing advice about all aspects of cancer. They are open 10am - 4pm Monday to Friday (no appointment needed) or you can call them on 01924 546072.



Opening hours

Our phone number is 01924 215555. The office is open 09.30 – 13.30 Monday – Thursday (answerphone operational outside of these hours).

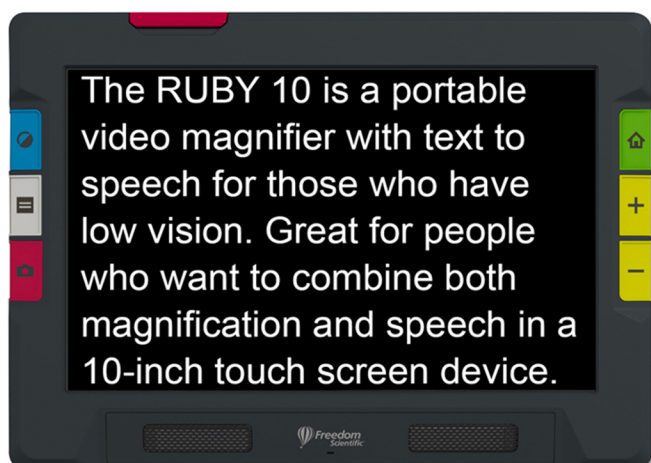
Calendar of events March – June 2022

March	April	May	June
1 Tu	1 Fr	1 Su	1 We
2 We	2 Sa	2 Mo Bank Holiday	2 Th Bank Holiday
3 Th	3 Su	3 Tu	3 Fr Bank Holiday
4 Fr	4 Mo Ridings	4 We	4 Sa
5 Sa	5 Tu	5 Th	5 Su
6 Su	6 We	6 Fr	6 Mo Ridings
7 Mo Ridings	7 Th LWwSL	7 Sa	7 Tu
8 Tu Horbury	8 Fr	8 Su	8 We
9 We	9 Sa	9 Mo	9 Th
10 Th	10 Su	10 Tu Horbury	10 Fr
11 Fr	11 Mo	11 We	11 Sa
12 Sa	12 Tu Horbury	12 Th	12 Su
13 Su	13 We	13 Fr	13 Mo
14 Mo Demo	14 Th	14 Sa	14 Tu Horbury
15 Tu	15 Fr Good Friday	15 Su	15 We
16 We Ridings	16 Sa	16 Mo	16 Th
17 Th	17 Su	17 Tu	17 Fr
18 Fr	18 Mo Easter Mon	18 We Ridings	18 Sa
19 Sa	19 Tu	19 Th	19 Su
20 Su	20 We Ridings	20 Fr	20 Mo
21 Mo	21 Th	21 Sa	21 Tu
22 Tu OXSIGHT	22 Fr	22 Su	22 We Ridings
23 We Lunch	23 Sa	23 Mo	23 Th
24 Th YMSG	24 Su	24 Tu OXSIGHT	24 Fr
25 Fr	25 Mo	25 We	25 Sa
26 Sa	26 Tu OXSIGHT	26 Th YMSG	26 Su
27 Su	27 We	27 Fr	27 Mo Demo
28 Mo	28 Th YMSG	28 Sa	28 Tu OXSIGHT
29 Tu	29 Fr	29 Su	29 We
30 We	30 Sa	30 Mo	30 Th YMSG
31 Th LWwSL		31 Tu	

NEW - Ruby 10.



Portable video magnifier with the convenience of optional text-to-speech! Perfect for those that have “bad” days.



Available with or without text-to-speech



The **RUBY 10** video magnifier has a 10-inch touchscreen and three dedicated cameras. The **RUBY 10** can magnify letters, magazines, labels, and photos. The swing-out arm allows you to view items in your hand and write. When extended, on the speech model, the arm also enables full-page OCR. With a touch of a button, you can scan pages and have them read aloud to you. The third camera is dedicated to seeing objects at a short distance such as signs and menus on a wall.

Freephone: 0800 145 6115 for a FREE home demonstration or for more information.