

# FOCUS



## WINTER 2024

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## **Laura's Letter**

Well, it is time for our final Focus of the year, which has come around very quickly!!

Once again, we have had a busy few months in the Society and it has been a hive of activity as the team and our members get ready for the Christmas Show. The building has been full of music from the dancers and choir which has been lovely to hear and be involved in.

We had our AGM in October – We welcomed a new Board member Kenneth Uka at the AGM. Our new name change was agreed and moving forward will now be known as Sight Support & Social Hub

Please remember that ALL members are welcome to come along to the Society especially during the colder winter months – even if you do not wish to take part in the activities just come down for a cuppy and a chat in a nice and warm environment and we may even be able to tempt you to stay for a home-cooked lunch!

We are also gearing up for our Christmas Lunches which we are holding on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December these lunches are open to all Members but we do

need you to book and there is further information later in the focus.

I am sure the Members will also join me in saying thank you to our Board of Directors who give up their time freely to support myself and the Society, this is very much appreciated.

I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all our Members for your continued support during this year and to my amazing team – Ainslay, Jenni, Helen and Nicky for working hard to help us deliver our activities and support to our Members week in and week out – they are invaluable team!

So that leaves me with just wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and we hope to see more of you in the New Year!

Best Wishes  
Laura

## **NAME CHANGE**

As mentioned in my opening letter at the AGM in October it was agreed that we would change our name from Dundee Blind and Partially Sighted Society to **Sight Support and Social Hub**. It was decided that this new name covers everything we

do and highlights, that as well as offering help and support, we are also a social hub for all our members to come to and take part in activities, have lunch or just simply have a natter and a cup of tea.

Over the coming months we will be rebranding the Society with our new name but I'd like to re-assure you that the name will be the only change. Everything we already offer will stay the same and you will still be greeted by our lovely staff if you pay us a visit.

If anyone would like to have a chat about the upcoming change please give us a call.

## **YOUTH AND PHILANTHROPY INITIATIVE (YPI)**

In 2008 the Wood Foundation introduced an initiative that was to be delivered in Scottish education. Over the years YPI has engaged more than 350,000 young people who have taken responsibility for £7.6m of charitable giving.

Each school is responsible for directing a grant of £3,000 to a local charity championed by its students through a unique programme of teamwork, research and competition.

This year we have been visited by 3 separate groups of pupils all from Monifieth High school. Each group has visited the Society and engaged with our members, finding out about the services we offer and how it benefits everyone, and joined in with some of the activities. Group one joined in with the seated dancing, group two got very competitive with the games and the third group explored their musical talents with the fun drum.

It is fair to say that it has been a wonderful experience for both pupils and members. For the pupils they have found out about the various eye conditions our members have and the impact it has on their daily lives, and for our members it has been a delight to see them taking time to share their individual experiences.

The next step is for each group of pupils to prepare a presentation for a panel of independent evaluators who will then decide who wins the competition. The winning group receives prize money which is given to their chosen charity.

This year we have had 3 fully engaged and keen groups of pupils who have even borrowed some of our simulation glasses to use as part of their presentations.

We are keeping our fingers crossed that we are selected to receive some of the money as that

would be a wonderful outcome, especially as each group have been a delight to have in the Society.

## **DBPSS & NESS**

### **Drop-in sessions**

We will be continuing our collaboration with the Ness drop-in sessions in the New Year, with the first session aimed at giving you help with IT and technology, which may be a great help indeed if Santa has bought you anything new for Christmas and you need a little bit of help.

The dates for the drop-ins are:

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025** - ICT accessible technology

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025** – Benefits and Concessions

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025** – ICT accessible technology

## MAGIC MOMENTS

We are still having our visits from some of our smallest friends and their mums. The Bairns Group arrange for local mums to bring their young babies down to the Society for a sing song and a play. It is lovely to hear all the different voices, young and old singing all the familiar nursery rhymes and one of our lovely members Sheila, who is always in fine voice, can remember verses long forgotten.

I must say this is one of my favourite days of the month so if you would like to come down and join in the fun just give us a phone.

Our next get together will be on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00am.



## **Autumn Poem**

### **Autumn**

**Scarlet berries are endless red,  
And wheat making things like cakes and bread.  
Brightly coloured leaves fall down  
Red and yellow, maybe even brown.**

**The tall trees are like a giant's fingers  
There are delicious piles like cumin and ginger.  
The leaves are like a falling feather,  
The leaves are different shades of leather**

This poem was written by Freddie aged 10, who many of you know as Helen's son. He is a regular helper at the Society during the school holidays and his poem was selected to appear in the young writers' publication. Well done Freddie, he's a poet and he didn't know it.

## **Christmas Hamper Raffle**

We are so pleased to be able to hold our Christmas Hamper Raffle again this year!!

Last Year we were extremely fortunate to receive enough donations to make up multiple prizes. If any of you would like to make a donation towards the hamper it would be greatly appreciated.



Raffle Tickets are £2 each, available from reception. You got to be in it to win it!

## **Donations**

I am delighted to say we were visited by Rebecca Jackson Hunt (Deacon) and Mike Hardie (Clerk) from the Cordiners (Shoemakers) of The Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee who make donations every year to charities based in Dundee of their choice, and once again they have very generous decided to give us of £500. Ainslay accepted the cheque on behalf of the Society, which will be used for the benefit of our members.



# **CHRISTMAS LUNCHESES**

**Tuesday 3rd December (number dependant)**

**&**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

**12pm-3pm**



**(Photo of Christmas dinner)**

**Melon or Soup**



**Turkey, Gammon or Steak pie  
with all the trimmings**



**Strawberry & White Chocolate Gateau  
or Triple Chocolate Gateau**



**Tea/coffee and mince pies  
followed by**

**A wee sing and ceilidh**

**£15.00**

**\*\* Must be pre-booked, please call us  
to book your place**

## **CHRISTMAS SHOW**

If you have visited the Society during the year you will have maybe had the opportunity to hear the wonderful Drum Fit and the lilting voices of our choir, or you may have seen the Line and Seated Dancers. For months now our members have been practicing hard to take part in our annual Christmas Show and this year has been no exception.

I for one have enjoyed listening to them rehearsing and I would now like to invite you to come and join us for our “Christmas Extravaganza”. Tickets are on sale for £5 per person which includes a festive light buffet and mince pies washed down with refreshments.

The fun starts at 12 Noon on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December so “roll up, roll up” and reserve your space so we know how many mince pies to buy!

**Dundee Blind & Partially  
Sighted Society  
Presents**

**A  
CHRISTMAS  
EXTRAVAGANZA**

**Friday 13th December  
12.00 noon**

**£5.00 per ticket  
Includes refreshments**



## NESS Christmas Fayre

On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November between 10am – 4pm, Ness will be holding a Christmas Fayre at St Leonard's & St Fergus Church, St Leonard Place, Dundee, DD3 9HU.

There will be a variety of stall, raffle prizes and refreshments.

For more information contact NESS on 01382 721455



## **Winter Holidays**

Please note:

The staff will be on annual leave for the period;

12pm, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December  
To  
9am, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January

We will be back in the office on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025. This may seem like a long break, but it is one of the only opportunities in the year when we can all have a break at the same time.

If you have an emergency over the Christmas period please contact;

438300 (Social Work Department)  
307964 (Out Of Hours Team – only contactable evening and public holidays)

**“A very Merry Christmas to one and all from everyone at the Society”**



## **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1 – MARITIME FORCE (10)**
- 7 – SIDE BY SIDE (7)**
- 8 – FEEL WITH THE FINGERS (5)**
- 10 – DRINKS COOLER (3)**
- 12 – FORMAL (6)**
- 13 – WITH LITTLE NOISE (5)**
- 14 – LIMA'S COUNTRY (4)**
- 15 – SCOTTISH LOCK (4)**
- 16 – DEPARTING (5)**
- 17 – RESENTMENT (6)**
- 18 – DYNAMITE (1,1,1)**
- 20 – CROWBAR (5)**
- 22 – EASILY BENT (7)**
- 23 – GET MARRIED (3,3,4)**



## **CLUES DOWN**

- 1 – ISLAND IN THE MED (5)**
- 2 – SEVERE, INTENSE (5)**
- 3 – SOYA BEAN CURD (4)**
- 4 – D-DAY BEACH (4)**
- 5 – PLACE OF RESIDENCE (8)**
- 6 – USA FOOTBALLER AQUITED OF MURDER  
(1,1,7)**
- 9 – COWER IN FEAR (6)**
- 11 – AMERICAN CAR MANUFACTURER (9)**
- 12 – TRY HARD (6)**
- 13 – QUARTER OF A CIRCLE (8)**
- 18 – MIKE ....., BOXER (5)**
- 19 – AVAILABLE FOR RENT (2,3)**
- 20 – JOKE (4)**
- 21 – MEASUREMENT OF LENGTH (4)**

## WORD SEARCH

S	A	L	I	O	E	V	I	L	O	K	E
T	N	K	L	I	M	N	E	H	I	R	U
A	R	O	R	N	L	S	O	R	K	S	I
E	K	H	D	A	W	I	N	E	H	C	W
C	H	D	S	P	G	A	W	A	A	I	A
U	M	G	O	A	L	E	M	B	E	D	S
A	L	N	L	V	W	P	N	P	O	E	P
S	Y	E	R	I	O	H	U	I	Y	R	I
N	K	V	M	O	V	H	T	O	V	I	R
W	S	O	P	O	C	I	O	U	H	U	I
O	I	S	C	T	N	E	F	R	O	K	N
R	H	N	E	D	C	A	E	E	T	M	S
B	W	K	K	E	H	E	D	R	I	E	I
G	K	Z	M	B	B	H	C	E	O	D	A

## **WORD SEARCH – BOTTLE IT!**

**ASPIRINS**

**BEER**

**BROWN SAUCE**

**CIDER**

**INK**

**KETCHUP**

**LEMONADE**

**MILK**

**MOUTHWASH**

**OLIVE OIL**

**SHAMPOO**

**VINEGAR**

**VODKA**

**WHISKEY**

**WINE**

# So-Duko

			8	2	4	1	6	
4	1	7	3	9		5		2
6	2							3
		5	2				1	
	4					7	5	
	6			1	5			
	5				2	6		
1								
				3				8

# CROSSWORD SOLUTION

## Puzzle Time

C	O	A	S	T	G	U	A	R	D		O	
A		C		O		T		W		J		
P		U		F		A	B	R	E	A	S	T
R		T	O	U	C	H		L		I		
I	C	E			R		S	O	L	E	M	N
	H		Q	U	I	E	T		I		P	
P	E	R	U		N		R		N	E	S	S
	V		A		G	O	I	N	G		O	
G	R	U	D	G	E		V			T	N	T
	O		R			J	E	M	M	Y		O
P	L	I	A	B	L	E		I		S		L
	E		N			S		L		O		E
	T		T	I	E	T	H	E	K	N	O	T

# So-Duko

5	9	3	8	2	4	1	6	7
4	1	7	3	9	6	5	8	2
6	2	8	1	5	7	4	9	3
7	8	5	2	4	9	3	1	6
2	4	1	6	8	3	7	5	9
3	6	9	7	1	5	8	2	4
8	5	4	9	7	2	6	3	1
1	3	2	4	6	8	9	7	5
9	7	6	5	3	1	2	4	8



## **DUNDEE AUDIO NEWS**

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