

## News

### July 2022

#### A few words from CEO, Susan Hoath

I hoped that by now we would be looking ‘back’ on Covid but as we enter our third summer with people still struggling with Covid, I will start instead by hoping sincerely that this finds you well and safe.

Writing this in mid-July, we are still catching up with so much of the work and projects that were either delayed or stopped completely during the peaks of the pandemic. Our plans to develop the new centre for sight loss in Leicester Forest East have been put back several months as have many of the other new projects we hoped to introduce, but now we’ve got a dedicated Manager to focus on services specifically targeting our members – in fact most of this Member News will be taken over by Rebecca and her team!

We want to hear from our members about the activities and networks that you would like to see in the future. A questionnaire is also included with this mail out which you can complete and return. Thank you for your feedback.

I continue to be extremely proud of all that we achieve every single day so I’d like to take this opportunity to thank everyone; every member of staff and volunteer and supporter, who forms part of the Vista Team.

This year our **AGM** will be held slightly later on **Thursday 24th November**. The delay is to allow for the

implementation of a new internal finance system and for our new auditors to undertake a slightly more in depth audit. More details will follow in our next letter.

## **Welcome to Rebecca Hogarth**

Hello, it's great to have recently started at Vista as Member Services Manager. My previous roles have been to increase access and engagement within the arts, so this is new and different in many ways and I'm looking forward to developing the services on offer to Vista members. Within member services currently is the Digital Dynamos team and the Virtuactivity programme, as well as eye screening in the community on our touring van. As we look ahead to create more opportunities to engage with each other, please have your say by completing the survey enclosed. Here is what's coming up:

## **Digital Dynamos**

### **Do you need some support to use your technology?**

Our Digital team are here to help you become more digitally savvy, to get the most out of assistive technology in your day to day living and to stay socially connected.

You can book a 1 to 1 session or try one of our regular groups:

- **All things Apple**
- **All things Android**

- **All things JAWs** (a screen reader program for Microsoft Windows)

## **Ask the experts**

If you'd like to find out more about this service, please contact Ian, Vista's Digital Dynamos Coordinator on **07715 078845**.

The Virtuoactivity programme continues to run over the summer, offering an array of activities to take part in at home, as well as a way of connecting with others. The sessions run on Zoom, and are also accessible via landline.

- Coming up is gardening
- Laughing yoga
- Tai Chi
- Chair-based exercise
- Information sessions from Guide Dogs
- Retina UK
- Diabetes UK

**You can see the full list of activities on the events page on our website:**

**[www.vistablind.org.uk/virtual](http://www.vistablind.org.uk/virtual)**

All the sessions are free and if you need support to access the sessions on your device, please get in touch via **[virtualbooking@vistablind.org.uk](mailto:virtualbooking@vistablind.org.uk)** or by calling Vanisha on **07715078811**.

## **Transport project**

Vista has recently been successful in securing funding from the Department for Transport as a pilot project in their programme to “Tackle loneliness through Transport”. The project will look at several initiatives to improve accessibility to transport for local people with sight loss. Our members regularly tell us that lack of accessible transport is one of the biggest barriers to taking part in activities and engaging in our local communities. The first outcome will be a mailing about local transport options, in accessible formats, to all people registered with sight loss locally or receiving support from Vista. Look out for this coming through your door later this summer.

**Vista is a charity and all our services for members are funded by donations.**

Our **Firewalk** in May was a great success, raising over £10,000 and seeing several members braving the coals! Could you join our next event?

**Fancy making a splash for Vista?**

On **Saturday 3rd September** we will be holding our first **open water swim** at Six Hills. Guides will be available to assist members wanting to take part.

## **Bright for Sight**

on World Sight Day, **13th October**, we are asking people to wear bright colours and donate to Vista. You can get your school, workplace, club or organisation involved.

**Help us support more people like you** – as a member of Vista you will know how vital our support can be. One way you can help us to still be here for our members of the future is to leave a gift to Vista in your will. For more information about leaving a gift to Vista please talk to your solicitor. Whatever amount you are able to leave can make a big difference. You can also find out more information about leaving a legacy from the fundraising team.

**[Fundraising@vistablind.org.uk](mailto:Fundraising@vistablind.org.uk)**

**0116 249 8801**

**[www.vistablind.org.uk](http://www.vistablind.org.uk)**