



Helping Blind and Disabled People

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Reader Service Roundup

Hello Everyone,

I can't believe that we are already half way through February 2016, where does the time go? I thought I would just write a



note to inform you of all the latest news about the Reader Service.

Our coffee morning in January set the year off with a swing, we held a swift EGM (thank you Stephen for explaining so clearly all the resolutions that needed

to be passed) and followed this with coffee and cake. It was lovely to catch up with so many members. We raised just over £300 from the raffle and donations which more than covered the cost of the morning. Thank you everyone who helped with making this event a success and to those of you that donated raffle prizes. During the morning we announced that we have been nominated as Charity of the Year by

Junction 14. This is a ladies barbershop choir, that, as well as singing for pleasure, enter competitions and sing at various groups, organisations and private functions. A few of us had the



pleasure of seeing them rehearse recently, their musical director, Hannah Washington was full of enthusiasm and the sound of the ladies singing a capella was wonderful. We look forward to working closely with them during this year. For further information, please view www.junction14.org.uk.

On the subject of performances, the Northern Ballet's performance of Swan Lake shall have an audio described performance on Saturday 30 April at 2.30 pm with a touch tour from 12.00 pm until 1.15 pm. Milton Keynes Theatre are also supporting Disabled Access Day on 12 March. Between 10.00 am and 12.30 pm their 'venue access champions' will be in the piano bar to discuss audio described performances, and also have information about induction loop necklaces and Sennheiser headsets, both of which amplify sound. Free refreshments will be provided. Then at 2.30 pm there will be an audio described performance of Hobson's Choice. There will be several touch tours running at 10.30 am, 11.00 am and 1.00 pm. Access Booking 0844 871 7677.

For those of you who enjoy listening to novels, from 12 – 28 February, Milton Keynes Central Library are holding a sale of audiobooks at very competitive prices. They also are selling DVDs and CDs. If anyone is interested in discussing literature, there is a reading group for VIs held on the second Thursday of the month between 2.00 pm and 3.00 pm at Milton Keynes Library.

Also on the subject of Arts, there are places available at the Eye for Art group. This is held on the first Thursday morning of the month, they enjoy arts and crafts and sometimes take trips to art galleries. Please contact me if you would like further information.

We would like to thank everyone who donated money to us over the year. As you know, we are always looking for new ways to raise extra funds, we are a growing charity and we can't rely solely on grants from the Council. Walnut Tree Community Shop who share their profits between ourselves and the charity Rethink, very kindly gave us a cheque for £2500. If you could take any unwanted items to the shop we would be very grateful. The address is 4 Fyfield Barrow, Walnut Tree, MK7 7AW 01908 607666. A big



thank you Paula Varey who is our shop representative and to Gloria and all the team at the shop.

We are always looking for new ways to fundraise, if you have any ideas, or would like to join our fundraising group, we would love to hear from you.

Another way we plan to fundraise this year is by encouraging members, family and friends to support us through:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/mkreaderservice

The idea is whenever someone wants to buy something online they go through this website and then a small percentage of the cost of the products come to us. They have over 2700 retailers involved including John Lewis, Tesco, Amazon.co.uk and M&S. Please contact me if you would like further information.

If anyone would like to donate through our localgiving site, they are running a 'Mad March Match' campaign from 1 March until 31 March. They will match up to £1000 received by each charity.

www.localgiving.com/miltonkeynesreaderservice

On the note of fundraising I would like also to thank Mick and Gill Dunne at the Maltsters Arms who raised £73.30 by having one of our donation boxes on their bar – Thank You! If anyone else would like to take charge of one of our collection boxes, I have plenty in the office!

Our next training day is on 5 April, if anyone knows a friend or family member who would be interested in joining us, please ask them to give me a call.

Caroline Pearson, one of our Management Committee members is going to help resurrect our Talks Project. If anyone belongs to a society or a group who you think may be interested in hearing about us, please let me know. This is a great way to publicise all the different services that we offer and sometimes leads to new service users and volunteers.

We have some future dates for your diary:

Saturday 2 July – AGM and Coffee Morning (10.00 am – Noon)

Thursday 27 October – Coffee Afternoon (2.00 pm – 4.00 pm)

I am away next week but at work on Monday 22 February, if you leave a message, I will get back to you as soon as possible.

My contact details are:

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Best wishes,

Karen

