

update

Welcome to the latest, new-style Royal Blind Society newsletter.



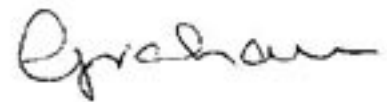
Graham Booth,
Director of the
Royal Blind Society

This newsletter is for everyone associated with the Royal Blind Society. Whether you are a guest who has stayed with us, a supporter, or someone who has an interest in our work, we hope that this newsletter will keep you in touch with the RBS.

Please use the enquiry form included with this newsletter to ask about booking a holiday break or to find out more about how you can help support our work. Please also let us know what you think of the newsletter, and the sort of things you would perhaps like to see included in future editions. We intend to produce two issues each year.

Thank you for all your support of the Royal Blind Society and our work.

All best wishes,



Graham Booth,
Director

Holidays to create memories



The Royal Blind Society offers specialist holidays to visually impaired individuals and groups.

This spring the Bradbury Hotel in West Sussex celebrates more than 8 years as a specialist hotel, in fact we will have been open for 100 months in July, so in a way we are viewing this summer as our centenary!

The Belmont Hotel is the only hotel in Wales offering holidays specifically to guests with sight problems. Situated on the seafront in Llandudno in North Wales, it has been welcoming

blind and partially-sighted guests for over 25 years.

We believe that our hotels are special places. We pride ourselves in the memories that we have given to the many guests who we have hosted over the years, often allowing our visually impaired guests to have the kind of high quality, comfortable, and stress free holiday that they may have difficulty experiencing elsewhere. ●



Bradbury News

Guests can enjoy a break at the Bradbury Hotel at any time of year. Don't forget that in addition to a traditional weeks break in the summer we offer many other options to enjoy a relaxing break, including Winter Warmer breaks in the Autumn and "Turkey and Tinsel" in the run up to Christmas – complete with Santa, and Ivor with his merry elves! Discounts are often available for early booking.

We can also offer short breaks of 3, 4, 5 days – either as a stand alone break or added as additional days on to your weeks holiday (subject to availability).

Free transport for groups!

For a party of 9 booking for 7 Nights at full advertised rate we are offering free return transport up to 60 miles to the hotel [return 120 miles]. Please contact us for journeys longer than 120 miles.

Group Organisers. If you have not experienced the



unique Bradbury Hotel hospitality we would be please if you would come and enjoy a 1 night complimentary stay (subject to availability) for yourself and a guest. View the hotel and sample the wonderful cuisine.

Please call the reservations team on 01903 770339. ●

Belmont News

The Belmont Hotel can accommodate up to 45 guests, all in well-appointed en-suite bedrooms. The facilities and amenities that our guests enjoy are first class, and include full orientation on arrival, half board accommodation, specialist facilities in each bedroom, and evening entertainment.

The resort of Llandudno, is a wonderful base for an enjoyable holiday.

The town has a lovely Victorian feel to it, yet offers some of the best shopping opportunities in North Wales, along with the superb beaches of Llandudno Bay.

Snowdonia, Anglesey and Llangollen are all popular trips with our guests.

The Belmont offers a warm welcome to guests with sight problems, along with family, friends and guides, and of course guide dogs. For further information please telephone 01492 877770. ●

A range of holiday options

You may be familiar with the Royal Blind Society's hotels in West Sussex and North Wales, but did you know that we offer a wide range of other quality holiday choices, including;

- Holiday by air or sea to Jersey & Guernsey, with a choice of 7 selected hotels across both Islands.
- Coach holidays to 14 holiday locations in England and Scotland, available from over 650 local pick up points.
- Self-catering holiday



homes in 37 seaside locations, many with accessible units. Do-as-you-please holidays with so much to do.

To book any of these holidays, or for further details, please call our Leisure Services Office on 01827 722574 or contact by e-mail at peterhards@royalblindsociety.org ●

A gift to the future

We are enormously grateful to those who have included a gift to the Royal Blind Society in their will. Leaving a legacy to help those who will struggle with visual impairment in the future is a tremendous gesture.

Three years ago Miss P, a regular holiday guest, left us a gift of more than £10,000. This formed a significant part of the £300,000 funding that enabled us to add a new lounge and five new guest rooms to the Bradbury hotel.

More modest gifts too can have a significant impact, helping us keep hotel accommodation in good repair or, through our grants programme, helping individual blind and partially sighted

people who are experiencing particular hardship. For example a bequest of £1250 will on average enable us to fund six grants for visually impaired people on very low incomes, or transform the life of a visually impaired child through the purchased of a computer and magnification software.

Please contact us if you would like to discuss including a gift to the Royal Blind Society in your will. ●

Achieving the “impossible” ... changing lives

The Royal Blind Society has helped many hundreds of people through its grants programme. Through modest grants we can have a potentially huge impact on the lives of those struggling to cope with their sight problems.

One example is George in Stafford, whose visual impairment adds to the challenges he faces due to other disabilities. George suffered years of frustration, unable to find any aid that would allow him to read. He was moved to tears when eventually he found a sophisticated video magnifier which, linked to his television, enabled him to read for the first time in many years. George was able to purchase this life changing aid thanks to support from the Royal Blind Society. ●



The Shepshed Auto Spares cyclists at Whitehaven before starting their 138 mile sponsored ride from the Irish Sea to the North Sea.



Nigel and Karen Garry, who have raised more than £350,000 through store collections in six years.

Thank you – we couldn't do it without you!

The work of the Royal Blind Society is only possible thanks to the help and support of many volunteers and donors - those of you who kindly give your time and money in support of our work.

Our grants programme in particular relies on this income to give vital support to those struggling to cope with the additional costs and challenges of their visual impairment.

We are hugely grateful to all who have provided crucial financial support to our work for a number of years. Nigel and Karen Garry and their committed team of collectors for example have raised more than £350,000 over a period of six years! Our grateful thanks to them, and of course Nigel's

guide dog Teal who is a vital part of the team.

We also have more than 700 supporters who help with a regular monthly donation by Direct Debit. This provides a vital base of financial support for our work, which is very much appreciated.

Many thanks also to all who run, walk, swim, cycle or challenge themselves in other ways to raise funds, we are enormously grateful for all your efforts. Every penny you raise makes a difference. ●

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