



# ModernEyes

An Independent Magazine  
For  
Visually Impaired People in Gloucestershire

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Sharing news, views, comments,  
information and technology

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### *EDITORS' NOTE*

Well, we have another varied selection of items for you again this month. We do hope you find something of interest.

We have now decided that we must get the print copies produced by a printer as we are sending out more than is practical to print on a home

computer. We hope those of you who receive the print copy like the new style.

And, following on from that, please read the first item!

Once again, a big thank you to all of you who have sent in donations, whether cash or 'in kind'. As you know, we have no official funding and so we are really grateful for your support.

And, on behalf of the researchers at Reading University, a big thank you to all of you took the time to fill out their transport questionnaire. The information they receive will be very useful to their project.

*Viv and Sue*

***SPONSORED EVENT***

**SPONSORED TRIATHLON**

**This is an early warning message!**

**Now I have been going to the gym for quite some time (Sue!) I am going to do a sponsored indoor triathlon to raise some funding to help us continue producing ModernEyes. The actual distances to be covered on the rowing machine, bicycle and treadmill have yet to be arranged. I intend to attempt the triathlon in October, once my exams are out of the way!**

**The event will take place at the gym at Stratford Park Leisure Centre and anyone will be welcome to come along and give their support. It will also be an opportunity for us to publicise ModernEyes and for you to meet your editors.**

**This is just to warn you that it is going to happen and to ask you to consider asking people to sponsor me. Sponsor forms and more information will be sent out later.**

**We do hope you will be able to support this event.**

***ELECTRONIC VOTING***

## OBJECTIONS RAISED OVER E-VOTING TRIAL.

**(E-Access Bulletin, May 2002)**

**Objections have been raised about the inaccessibility of one of the electronic voting trials held alongside the recent local council elections.**

**The Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions held a series of e-voting pilots in nine local authority areas in England – Bolton, Chester, Borough of Crewe and Nantwich, Liverpool, Newham, Sheffield, St Albans, Stratford upon Avon and Swindon.**

**The trials included internet voting from home, voting kiosks and mobile text messaging.**

**In Sheffield, 36% of those who voted did so electronically through the Sheffield e-Vote 2002 gateway**

**Website: <http://www.votesheffield.com>**

**However Julian Scarlett, web design officer for the education department at Sheffield which was not involved in the pilot, told the international Web Accessibility Initiative**

**Website: <http://www.w3.org/WAI>**

**email list recently: “Although I applaud the project [for] those who find traditional voting methods hard to access, I am dismayed at the accessibility of the site; no alt text, no table summaries, no natural language declaration for body text, no labels for form elements, absolute font sizes.”**

**The Sheffield trial was run with private sector partners BT and Election.com. Charel Aoun, technical director of Election.com, admitted that the web gateway used to access the online voting system wasn't run through the standard accessibility checker, Bobby,**

as there was no time. However, he told E-Access Bulletin that the voting engine itself was accessible.

“The engine conforms to WAI guidelines up to level 3 – in this pilot we missed a couple of details but it definitely is level 2. The project was a pilot and we’ll take on board any glitches and work to improve them in future.”

Meanwhile, disability organisation Scope

Website: <http://www.scope.org.uk>

is calling for feedback on the accessibility of the postal ballot or e-voting pilots during the local elections for a report commissioned by the Electoral Commission.

Telephone: 020 7619 7252/3

Email: [campaigns@scope.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@scope.org.uk)

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## *SHOPPING*

### SHOPPING OUT LOUD

(E-Access Bulletin, May 2002)

A voice-activated shopping centre has been added to the services offered by Freedom Network

Website: <http://www.freedombox.info>

a US-based internet portal aimed at people unable to use graphical user interfaces.

Online book shop Amazon is among retailers allowing Freedom Network subscribers to search, register and search their sites using their voices. Subscribers will also be able to receive sample audio tracks and customer reviews.

In a statement Freedom Network chief executive Mike Calvo, himself blind, said: “The launch is an important first step in our efforts to bring the products and services of our many online retailers to the blind and disabled in an environment where accessibility is guaranteed”.

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## *HOME AND GARDEN*

### LUMINOUS LIGHT PULL

Ever have trouble finding the light cord in the dark? Then invest in a luminous light pull. The light bulb shaped handle charges itself up in the daylight and then glows throughout the dark wee small hours.

Cost: £12.95

Telephone: 0870 241 1066

Website: [www.iwantoneofthose.com](http://www.iwantoneofthose.com)

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### GARDENING GADGETS!

Technology and design have done more to help disabled gardeners than anything.

“I USE ROBOTS TO CUT MY LAWN”, says Fred Waldon. His website is a show case for inventors of gardening equipment and new products. This award winning equipment research is also used in the website run by THRIVE, where there is a database of over 160 tools suitable for elderly and disabled gardeners.

Website: [www.carryongardening.org](http://www.carryongardening.org).

Fred Waldon’s website offers advice and information on gardening for disabled people. And, on a lighter note, to encourage new inventions he hosts the Annual International Golden Shed Awards

Website: [www.fredshed.com](http://www.fredshed.com)

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**WRITING COMPETITION****WIN AN E-BOOK READER**

**E-Access Bulletin is offering VI writers the chance to win the latest in e-book reading hardware and software.**

**First prize in our writing competition is a 'Victor' e-book reader, worth more than £300, donated by VisuAide**

**Website: <http://www.visuaide.com>**

**Victor reads a new kind of CD talking book which allows for fast, easy navigation. Runners-up will each receive a set of 10 classic e-books on CD, worth around £100. Winners will also be published in a future issue of the bulletin – now with 3,000 readers worldwide and translated into five languages!**

**Entries should be between 500 and 800 words long and address the theme “keeping in touch with technology.” The topic could cover online relationships, the pace of technological change, how technology has changed your life, or imagining what life could be like in the future.**

**The closing date is Friday 26 July 2002 and the results will be announced in the August issue of E-Access Bulletin. Please send entries to competition organiser, Phil Cain**

**Email: [phil@headstar.com](mailto:phil@headstar.com)**

**Telephone: 01273 231 291**

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**BENEFITS and FINANCE****NEW BENEFIT RATES FROM APRIL 2002**

**Benefit rates are increased every April. Here are details of some relevant to blind and partially sighted people.**

## **INCOME SUPPORT RATES FOR PENSIONERS**

**Some pensioners will become entitled to Income Support, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit for the first time because of new increased rates.**

## **EARNING LIMITS**

**Earning limits for some benefits have changed**

- **Invalid Care Allowance – £75**
- **Therapeutic earnings limit – £66**

## **INCAPACITY BENEFIT**

- **Short term lower rate – £53.50**
- **Short term higher rate – £63.25**
- **Long term rate – £70.95**

## **SEVERE DISABILITY PREMIUM**

**Single – £42.25**

**Couple (one qualifies) – £42.25**

**Couple (both qualify) – £84.50.**

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## **STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**My name is Mrs Petula Davis and I am the Visiting and Publicity Officer for the Revenue and Benefit Section of Stroud District Council. The section deals the administration of Council Tax, Business rates and Rent benefit and Council tax Benefit and also Council Tax discounts.**

**My job takes me out and about the district visiting people in their homes who are housebound due to age or impairment, but I also visit the recently bereaved to help with the completion of our benefit forms. As original documents must be seen, I have a portable photo copier which I take with me on all visits so that documents remain with the person I visit.**

I also give talks to interested groups about Housing and Council Tax Benefit and Council Tax discounts. If you would like more information about these benefits and discounts or need a visit to help with our forms contact the Customer Service Helpline

Telephone: 01453 754 865

Email: [revenue.services@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:revenue.services@stroud.gov.uk) Website: [www.stroud.gov.uk](http://www.stroud.gov.uk)

The website not only includes the Council @ work, but loads of information for people living, working and visiting the Stroud District. There are Frequently Asked Questions and Answers on a number of subjects including benefits and council tax.

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## *SIGHT VILLAGE 2002*

### SIGHT VILLAGE

Don't forget that Sight Village this year runs from

16 – 18 July 2002

It takes place at Queen Alexandra College, Birmingham

Telephone: 0121 428 5050

## *TECHNO NEWS*

### HAND-HELD LABEL READER

CVIP Limited have introduced a handheld label reader which can be used in many ways, cataloguing CD's, Videos, labelling groceries with expiry dates, medicines with dosage.

**The Label Reader is easy to use, operated by three buttons and includes volume control and automatically switches off. It requires 2 x AA batteries (supplied). The Talking Barcode Label Reader comes with 50 labels.**

**Cost****Reader – £150****Extra labels – £15 per sheet of 50****Telephone: 020 8420 1338****Email: [iki@cvip.co.uk](mailto:iki@cvip.co.uk)**

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**TALKING VIDEO RECORDER**

**A Talking Video Cassette Recorder is available from NBCS for the low price of £89.95 for the mono model and £109.95 including carriage for the stereo model.**

**Spoken output makes this VCR the most user friendly model available to VIPs. You cannot confirm your settings audibly or use VideoPlus.**

**Rod Carne****Telephone: 01278 764 766**

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**VOICE DIARY IMP**

**Voice Diary IMP is a small, powerful personal organiser with 4 Mb memories, giving over 90 minutes recording. It uses three triple A batteries. No loss of data or time/date when changing batteries as the clock runs on n independent battery lasting several years. There are three different models.**

**Telephone: 020 8420 1338****Email: [iki@cvip.co.uk](mailto:iki@cvip.co.uk)**

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***COMPUTERS, GAMES and  
the INTERNET*****PANDA ANTIVIRUS TITANIUM  
ANOTHER KIND OF ANTIVIRUS SOFTWARE**

**This claims to be super simple to operate whilst offering high levels of protection. It is easy to install and updating is easy. You do need to register the software, which can be a bit tricky. There is a standard web form to fill in and you need to create a username and password. Once installed, the software will immediately need updating from the Panda site = quite normal for antivirus software. Once the initial update is completed it is wise to carry out a full system scan. This will check all your drives and check whether there are any viruses present. If any are found they will be cleaned away and then the program will check incoming and new files.**

**You can configure the software to update and scan your PC according to your requirements. Updates are free for the first year and then a year's updates will cost about £17. The program itself costs £24.**

**Telephone: 0870 44 45 640**

**Website: [www.pandasoftware.co.uk](http://www.pandasoftware.co.uk)**

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**HAL/SUPERNOVA V.5 ON THE WEB**

**As not all of you are Dolphin users, we have added a separate section at the back of the mag with some useful tips and hot keys for you to try.**

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**BT OPENWORLD**

**This is the broadband service from BT. You pay £29.99 per month for broadband access, with no internet access charges. Broadband will allow you to download ten times faster than a conventional line and you can surf the net and have speech calls at the same time on one line.**

**For more information contact BT**

**Telephone: 150**

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## DB TECHIES

**A new mailing list has been set up for deaf blind computer users and for those who use equipment that assists them to communicate with others in the sighted hearing world.**

**DB Techies is a mailing list that was started for deaf-blind people by James Gallagher who says that it is not just for deaf-blind people but for blind, deaf and partially sighted people as well. This DB Techies mailing list is a place where people can talk about new equipment that can make life a bit easier, about technical troubles with equipment or software and what is new on the market. To subscribe, send an email to**

**Email: [dbtechies-subscribe@topica.com](mailto:dbtechies-subscribe@topica.com)**

**Website: <http://www.topica.com/lists/dbtechies>**

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## SECURITY PROBLEMS WITH WINAMP

**A note in 'Talking Computers' this month is warning us of some security problems within Winamp.**

**The code inside Winamp apparently contains a bug that could allow computer viruses to be concealed within MP3 files. In a report in the New Scientist, experts said that the flaw showed that computer viruses could be a potential danger to sharing music over the internet.**

**The virus is apparently activated when the MP3 file is played in Winamp. It can then infect other MP3 files found on a hard disk or network, making the computer perform unauthorised tasks.**

**The full article can be found at**

**Website: [www.newscientist.com](http://www.newscientist.com)**

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## VIRUS HOAX

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**An email hoax posing as a virus advisory is surfing across the internet on a wave of PC-user naivety. The fake advisory warns users of the file  
Jdbgngr.exe**

**Purportedly a virus that damages a computer's system two weeks after first infecting the PC.**

**The hoax has been forwarded by users who believe they have been infected and need to tell other victims to clean out the virus.**

**In reality, it is part of the Java software installed on all Windows systems. If deleted, its absence could cause some Java applets and Javascript to stop working.  
To confuse matters, a virus known as**

**W32.Efortune**

**Actually does infect the Java debugger manager file. However, this virus has failed to spread widely.**

**This is not the first time a system file has been the target of a hoax. If you ever get an email that tells you to send it out to as many people as possible it is most probably a hoax. Just delete it!**

## ***TUTORIALS***

### **JOHN WILSON'S UPDATED LIST**

**John Wilson has updated his list of tutorials. They are all written from a no monitor, no mouse situation using the keyboard, as screen reader with speech synthesiser or a screen magnifier or Braille display.**

**The full list now includes:**

- **VIP's introduction to computers – 2 C90 cassettes**
- **Audio playing, copying and sound editing from the keyboard – 4 C90 cassettes or plain text file**

- **Accessing the internet from the keyboard the Windows way: Vol 1 – plain text file**
- **Accessing the internet from the keyboard the Windows way: Vol 2 – plain text file**
- **Microsoft Word 97 and 2000 from the keyboard – plain text file**
- **Microsoft Excel 97, 2000 and XP from the keyboard – plain text file**
- **Using ABYY Finereader 6.0 from the keyboard with speech, to read print – plain text file**
- **Using Textbridge Pro 98 from the keyboard with speech, to read print – plain text file**
- **Using Omnipage Pro 10.0 from the keyboard – plain text file**
- **Using Type Reader Pro 6.0 from the keyboard – plain text file**
- **Using Textbridge Pro 9.0 and Millennium from the keyboard – plain text file**
- **Using Read Iris Pro 6.0 from the keyboard – plain text file**
- **Nero Burning Rom 4.0 and 5.0 from the keyboard – plain text file**

**John Wilson**

**Telephone: 0113 257 5957**

**Email: [jwjw@onetel.net.uk](mailto:jwjw@onetel.net.uk)**

**Website: <http://web.onetel.net.uk/~fromthekeyboard>**

***NEWS FROM RNIB***

### **CHANGE IN HOURS**

**RNIB Customer Services are no longer open on Sundays for telephone orders. You can always place an order by email**

**Email: [cservices@rnib.org.uk](mailto:cservices@rnib.org.uk)**

**Monday/Tuesday – 8.45am – 6pm**

**Wednesday – 10.00am – 6pm**

**Thursday/Friday – 8.45am – 6pm**

**Saturday – 8.45 am to 4.30 pm**

***TV AND RADIO NEWS***

**ITV DIGITAL**

**ITV Digital is now in administration. A buyer has not been found and it looks likely that it will be sold off in parts.**

**All the pay to view services have ceased but the free to air services will continue for the time being.**

**If you are a monthly subscriber it would be a good idea to cancel your direct debit.**

**If you have paid for one year in advance, it is unlikely that you will get your money back.**

**The channels still available on ITV Digital are:**

- **BBC1**
- **BBC2**
- **ITV**
- **ITV2**
- **ITV News**
- **Channel Four**
- **Channel Five**
- **BBC Choice**
- **BBC Four**
- **BBC Parliament**
- **BBC News**
- **CBBC**
- **CBeebies**
- **QVC**
- **Ntl**

- **ITV Sports**
  - **Film Four**
  - **Holiday Channel**
- 

## SKY DIGITAL NEWS

**New channels this month:**

**917 – Jazz FM**

**The Racing Channel is now free to air**

**At the Race is another free to air racing channel**

**914 – RTE2 FM**

**915 – Lyric FM – classical music**

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## AUDIO DESCRIPTION

**Sky is still broadcasting a limited number of programs on Sky One and some of the film channels with audio description.**

**It seems that a 'D' will be added to the programme menu for all that are audio described. All very well if you can see the 'D'! RNIB are working on a digibox which will be more accessible to VIPs. It is hoped that a talking digibox will eventually be available.**

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## NEWS FROM RNIB'S 'GET THE PICTURE' CAMPAIGN

**(UPDATE, June 2002)**

**Jeremy Paxman, a keen supporter of the campaign, said, "If digital TV can provide inter-active services, hundreds of channels and access to the internet, why can't it provide the simple solutions which will allow the two million people in the UK with a sight problem to enjoy programmes as well? It is time that the Government intervened".**

**RNIB believes that:**

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- **blind and partially sighted people have a right to full access to television**
- **digital television sets should carry the facility for a separate sound channel for audio description and accessibility features for text manipulation and non-visual navigation**
- **people with sight problems must not be excluded from additional services such as teletext, shopping, banking, health and citizenship which are likely to be available on digital television**

**RNIB is calling for:**

- **the Government to ensure that the next generations of digital TV sets, set top boxes and Electronic Programme Guides are made fully accessible**
- **manufacturers to ensure that audio description receiving technology (a second sound channel) is built into all digital receivers**
- **the Government to raise targets for audio description to at least 50% on all digital platforms**

**RNIB Campaigns Team  
Telephone: 020 388 1266**

***HOBBIES, SPORTS AND  
LEISURE***

## **HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE**

**Now, for all you Harry Potter addicts, some news!  
'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' is now available from  
RNIB's Customer Services. This is the first time that VIPs have been  
able to buy or rent the audio described version of a film on the same  
day as their sighted friends and family.**

**Telephone: 08457 023 153**

**New videos are being added to the list all the time. Call to request a catalogue.**

## ***COMMUNICATIONS***

### **NEW CELLULAR PHONE**

**A new cellular phone with speech recognition, called the HP Journada 928 should be available soon. With this device you will be able to convert text to speech or vice versa and use voice commands to call people in your phone directory.**

**Also, you will be able to access menus and control them with your voice.**

**The product has been developed by Phonics Speech Solutions.**

**We will try to find out some more about this for next time. If anyone else has heard more about it, please let us know.**

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### **RNIB RESEARCH INTO MORE ACCESSIBLE MOBILES**

**RNIB is carrying out research to find which mobile phones would be most suitable for VIPs and have reported that at last manufacturers are now aware that 15% of all users cannot read the screen!**

**Telephone: 08457 023 153**

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### **BT UPDATE**

**The BT Update magazine that comes with your telephone bill is available in alternative formats, namely Tape, Large Print and Braille.**

**Telephone; 0800 800 150  
Monday to Saturday, 8am to 6pm  
NOTE FROM VIV**

I have managed to receive two tapes, so far, of BT Update which is very useful but it is very hit and miss whether they send me a copy or not. I have had to ring up two or three times. Don't be fobbed off if the person you are speaking to denies that alternative formats exist. If they do ask to be put through to the Disability and Elderly Team. I will let you know if my next tape comes through unprompted but I'm not holding my breath!

**... AND FROM SUE!**

I, too, have been trying to get Update on tape. I rang on a Saturday at 8.50 am and was told the person I needed to speak to was not available on Saturdays. However, someone did call the following Monday and assured me that I would receive Update on tape in future. We wait to see what will happen. It would seem logical that, if they send out a phone bill in an alternative format then all other information would be sent out in that format or the nearest available.

**... AND A FURTHER NOTE FROM VIV**

I would like to hear from anyone else who has tried to access information in alternative formats; whether you have had similar problems or everything went smoothly.

The other Businesses I'm having trouble with at the moment are the Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society who again state alternative formats are available but they need to investigate further when you ring up to place your order.

The other one is Marks and Spencer – again I have had to phone up each time to request a tape after receiving a print copy of their financial magazine.

I would like to pursue this access of information issue in connection with the DDA – Disability Discrimination Act – so if you have any similar experience of good or bad practice then I would like to hear from you.

***HOLIDAYS and COURSES***

**GOING ON HOLIDAY**

**This new publication from RNIB gives ideas and suggestions for holidays at home and abroad for VIPs. There are RNIB Hotels, plus specialist hotels for VIPs and mainstream hotels. They do warn to be prepared for problems in mainstream hotels, such as poor lighting etc, but suggest that if you let the hotel know about your visual impairment beforehand it will prepare them in advance and they can then offer assistance.**

**Telephone: 08457 023 153**

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### **SHORT BREAK IDEA**

**If you are looking for somewhere for a short break there is a cottage currently available for long and short term breaks on a self-catering basis.**

**Barbara Scott**

**Telephone: 01278 782 142**

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### **LITTLE TORCH**

**Little torch is part of the Torch Trust. The Torch Trust is an organization of Christian Fellowship with many groups across the country.**

**Little Torch is a Holiday Centre for VIPs offering Christian hospitality especially for the visually impaired. It is situated in the village of Hurstpierpoint, nine miles north of Brighton. The village has a long history and boasts lots of character. There are pleasant walks in the surrounding countryside and the position of the house gives picturesque views over the fields to the South Downs.**

**Little Torch is managed by Gail Witaker who lives on site with her three children. The aim of the Ministry of Little Torch is to give a relaxing holiday sharing God's love and encouraging spiritual refreshment.**

**The house provides double, single twin bedded and a couple of family rooms. All rooms have washing facilities.**

**They are able to offer downstairs rooms with wheelchair access. There is a large lounge with grand piano and a loop system for those who have difficulties hearing. The sun lounge which faces south opens onto the well kept garden. There is a peaceful chapel dating from the early nineteen hundreds.**

**Full board is provided which includes early morning tea brought to your room, breakfast, lunch, dinner, supper and all refreshments. Catering for special diets is possible by prior arrangement.**

**During spring and summer outings are arranged including trips to the coast, National Trust properties, beautiful gardens and shopping. Transport is provided by mini bus and wheelchairs are available if required.**

**During the year special weeks are provided for those interested in walking, tandem cycling, computing and music. There are also Easter, summer, Autumn Thanksgiving and Christmas house parties. Torch Fellowship Groups are welcome as are other Church Groups.**

**Torch House  
Hallaton  
Market Harborough  
Leicestershire  
LE16 8UJ**

**Telephone: 08707 700 272**

**Little Torch  
4 Hassocks Road  
Hurstpierpoint  
West Sussex  
BN6 9QN**

**Telephone: 01273 83 22 82  
Email: [gail.witaker@sagehost.com](mailto:gail.witaker@sagehost.com)**

## THE SOUNDS OF NATURE IN AUTUMN

**A four-day course has been arranged for VI naturalists. Explore the Dorset countryside and listen to and record the sounds of nature. The course is being run at the Kingcombe Centre, Dorchester.**

**21-25 October 2002**

**Cost - £135 for VIPs**

**£80 for sighted partners  
acting as guides.**

**Telephone: 01300 320 684**

***OUT AND ABOUT***

## THE STRING OF PEARLS GOLDEN JUBILEE FESTIVAL

**New guides for VIPs in audio and large print have been produced by the String of Pearls Golden Jubilee Festival, in conjunction with RNIB.**

**The guides provide information on the Festival, which is bringing together more than 80 of the nation's greatest buildings and institutions, which lie along the River Thames from Windsor to Woolwich, in a programme of over 400 events for the Golden Jubilee. These include open days, exhibitions, talks, concerts, tours and children's activities offering unprecedented levels of access to Britain's social and cultural heritage.**

**The guides feature complete listings information, providing a short summary about each venue with dates, times and admission prices.**

**The audio guide is made up of four 90-minute tapes in a user-friendly pack with Braille labelling on each cassette. The large print guide is an A4 sized 140-page spiral bound booklet. A free disabled access guide is also available. Guides cost £2 each**

**Send a cheque made payable to 'String of Pearls' to**

**String of Pearls Golden Jubilee Festival**

**1 Hobhouse Court  
Suffolk Street  
London  
SW1Y 4HH**

**General enquiries about the guides  
Telephone: 020 7665 1540**

***'READING'***

## **RIGHT TO READ CHARTER**

**RNIB has developed a Right to Read charter that they are trying to encourage as many people as possible to sign up to. They want as many VIPs, members of the public, celebrities and authors to sign. Below is a text of the charter.**

### **Right to Read Charter**

- 1. I support RNIB's Right to Read Campaign and believe that blind and partially sighted people should be able to read the same material as sighted people, at the same time and at no extra cost.**
- 2. I support RNIB's call on the UK government to abolish VAT (value added tax) on audio books to bring them into line with print books.**
- 3. I support RNIB's call on the UK government to establish a £20m Right to Read fund which will open a world of books for people who can't read standard print**
- 4. I support RNIB's call on libraries to increase their use of inter-library loans of accessible formats and build up their stock of large print, Braille and audio books to at least 5% of all stock by 2010.**

**This charter is available on RNIB's website.**

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

**As well as this charter RNIB is also producing postcards raising awareness about the campaign. The postcard highlights the current discrimination and should be sent to your MP. The postcard asks your MP to write to Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP, Secretary of State for**

**Culture, Media and Sport to set up a £20 million Access to Reading Fund, in conjunction with the devolved administrations of the UK so that everyone has the Right to Read.**

**Please support this cause and sign the charter and send off a postcard.**

**If they believe that VIPs have the right to read the same material at the same time at the same cost then RNIB is simply asking that they sign the charter and send off a postcard.**

**To get copies of the post card, to find out more about the campaign or for copies of the report please contact RNIB Campaign hotline**

**Telephone: 020 7391 2123**

**Email: [campaign@rnib.org.uk](mailto:campaign@rnib.org.uk)**

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## **THE CHURCH AND BLINDNESS**

**This charity has been working in conjunction with RNIB to research the need of VI churchgoers to have access to Braille and large print books on a variety of religious subjects.**

**RNIB is producing a new Braille edition of The Book of Common Prayer, due to be ready during June, to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee.**

**Mrs Rosemary Curtis of The Church and Blindness is interested in hearing the views of VIPs on the availability – or lack of it – of large print bibles and books.**

**Publishers, libraries and bookshops need to be made aware of the market for these products – “same book at the same time at the same price” (Right to read charter).**

**For details of the brailed Book of Common Prayer**

**Customer Services**

**Telephone: 08457 023 153**

**Mrs Rosemary Curtis**

**Telephone: 01963 220 512**

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Email: [vip@church4blind.org.uk](mailto:vip@church4blind.org.uk)

Website: [www.church4blind.org.uk](http://www.church4blind.org.uk)

### *USEFUL WEBSITES*

#### STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Website: [www.stroud.gov.uk](http://www.stroud.gov.uk)

Lots of useful information for Stroud and district, including clubs. Societies, events etc

### *FOR DOLPHIN V.5 USERS*

#### USING HAL/SUPERNOVA ON THE WEB

The VIRTUAL FOCUS provides keyboard access to applications without a keyboard interface, including web pages and html help. The virtual focus is selected automatically by the screen reader for html screens so you don't need to swap between different cursor types.

When you reach an edit area, such as a search box, just press ENTER or SPACEBAR to interact with the application. As soon as you tab out of the box again Supernova/Hal automatically reverts to the auto virtual focus. You can cycle between all the controls on a page such as edit areas and buttons by pressing LEFT CONTROL PAGE UP and LEFT CONTROL PAGE DOWN to go back again.

Moving around the page is simple. You can tab from link to link as normal or use the UP and DOWN CURSOR keys to move from item to item. The software also allows you to jump directly to or move between specific areas.

If you come to a page with a lot of adverts at the top you can skip all those links and jump to the next text area by pressing LEFT CONTROL, LEFT SHIFT and CURSOR RIGHT. LEFT CONTROL, LEFT SHIFT and CURSOR LEFT will take you back to the previous text area.

**You can skip through links by pressing LEFT CONTROL, LEFT SHIFT and CURSOR UP. To go to the previous link press LEFT CONTROL, LEFT SHIFT and CURSOR DOWN.**

**If you hear a link which just says 'click here', you can find out where 'here' is by pressing LEFT SHIFT and NUMPAD ZERO. This will read the complete URL.**

**To sort through links quickly use the LINK NAVIGATOR – ALT then T (for Tools) and cursor down to Dolphin Link Navigator. Press ENTER. Links can be sorted by tab order, recently visited or alphabetically.**

**When you get to a body of text you want to read press NUMPAD PLUS to start DOCUMENT READ. Press PLUS again to pause and the virtual focus will route to the last word spoken by the synthesiser. Once you have paused you can move up and down the lines using the UP and DOWN arrows or left and right one character by using the LEFT and RIGHT arrows. Jus like in Word you can also press LEFT CONTROL and CURSOR RIGHT or LEFT to jump word by word.**

**The page will scroll down automatically as you read. To go back up just press CURSOR UP.**

**Don't forget, if you are using magnification, you can use document read with any of the screen views. Auto lens will magnify one word at a time as you read leaving the rest of the webpage at a regular size. Again, for magnification users, click anywhere on the page with the middle mouse button and then press NUMPAD PLUS to continue reading from there. If you do not have a middle button on your mouse, use the CONFIGURE ACCESS SYSTEM KEYS DIALOG in the Supernova control panel to add an alternative of your own, for example, SHIFT and RIGHT CLICK.**

**The FIND feature is useful for everyone. Press F3 and type in the text you are looking for. Then press ENTER. Your focus will jump straight to it. Press F4 to find the next occurrence of the text and F2 to find previous occurrences. Even if the word is contained in the alt tag text of a graphic your focus will jump to the graphic. Again the webpage scrolls automatically and the magnification tracks with the speech.**

**SOME APPLICATION HOT KEYS FOR HAL/SUPERNOVA V.5**

## MICROSOFT WORD

- Left shift, numpad 4 will read previous word
- Left shift, numpad 5 will read the sentence
- Left shift, numpad 6 will read the paragraph
- Left shift, numpad 7 will announce the text alignment
- Left shift, numpad 8 will announce the bullet style
- Left shift, numpad 9 will jump to the style box

In order to announce the alignment correctly and the bullet list correctly you do need to have the formatting toolbar on view in Microsoft Word. You can select this toolbar by:

- 1 ALT then V (view)
- 2 Select TOOLBARS
- 3 Select FORMATTING

## MICROSOFT EXCEL

- Left shift, numpad 4 will activate the Autosum feature
- Left shift, numpad 7 will read the Formula Bar
- Left shift, numpad 8 will jump to the Formula Bar
- Left shift, numpad 9 will jump to the Name Box

## OUTLOOK EXPRESS

- Left shift, numpad 7 will read message header
- Left shift, numpad 8 will read the full header information

## CLOCK

- Left control, left shift and numpad forward slash

*A LITTLE JOKE ...*

**After the age of eighty, breakfast seems to come every 15 minutes!**

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**(Christopher Fry)**

**Thanks, Joan!**

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***DISCLAIMER***

**All information in ModernEyes is provided in good faith and is, to the best of our knowledge, accurate at the time of printing. We cannot take responsibility for any inaccuracies in material from third parties.**

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***STOP PRESS***

**ORANGE PHONE BILL**

**I (Sue) have just received my latest Orange phone bill in large print! It is photocopied onto A3 paper but it is a good copy and it is a start.**

**So, do keep asking for alternative formats!**

**We are really interested in how companies and organisations are responding to requests for information in alternative formats. If you request information in an alternative format and it is not forthcoming, please let us know and we will see what we can do.**

**RNIB is very keen to make all information available to us in suitable formats, at the same time and for the same cost. So are we!!**

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