

PCA SUPPORT GROUP

Newsletter

Welcome to the PCA Support Group Newsletter

Issue 2 May 2008

Welcome to the second issue of the PCA Support Group Newsletter. We aim to keep you up to date with our quarterly meetings, any relevant news and make sure you are aware of the date of the next meeting. If you would like to give us any feedback about the format of the newsletter or the meetings please do not hesitate to get in touch using the contact details provided, we would be delighted to hear from you.

PCA Support Group Meeting 7 March 2008

The second PCA Support Group meeting was held in the seminar room of the Dementia Research Centre. The venue was not perfect as it was small and caused some disruptions to colleagues, however, it was central and easily accessible for those attending.

Psychology Research Fellow, Susie Henley presented an exhibition of products from the Royal National Institute

of the Blind (RNIB). Attendees were able to try some during the presentation and people shared their experience of using them.

After a very tasty lunch, Psychology Research Fellow, Sebastian Crutch updated us on the work he had carried out on the PCA factsheet. We then divided into small groups to record attendee's personal experiences of PCA for inclusion in the 'Giving People with PCA a Voice' booklet.

(Below) staff and participants attend the second PCA Support Group meeting at the National Hospital in March



News

Terry Pratchett, the bestselling fantasy author, recently announced he has been diagnosed with PCA. Pratchett, 59 who refers to his diagnosis as “an embuggerance” pledged £500,000 at the annual Alzheimer’s Research Trust conference to help find a cure.

Resources Available

The RNIB provides information about audio description of TV programmes as well as other elements of the arts.

Audio description exists for the cinema, theatre, DVD, live sporting events as well as museums and galleries. It is worth visiting the RNIB website or contacting their helpline to request further information about what is available.

Audio description is free, although you need digital, Sky or Virgin Media TV. Support is available to help those with sight difficulties.

For audio described theatre performances, trained describers prepare and perform a script commenting on the set, costumes, body language, facial expressions and physical movement of the performance. This information is received through a discreet headset during the pauses in the performance.

‘In Touch’ BBC Radio 4 is broadcast on Tuesdays between 8.40pm and 9pm. It covers a range of issues relevant to blind and partially-sighted people.

Next PCA Meeting:

Friday 18 July 2008, Royal London Homeopathic Hospital Conference Suite,
60 Great Ormond Street, WC1N 3HR: Invitations will follow this newsletter.

Contact Us:

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Useful links and contact numbers

www.audiodescription.org.uk – general information on audio description

www.bbc.co.uk/info/policies/audiodescription/index.shtml - a list of audio-described BBC programmes

<http://www.officiallondontheatre.co.uk/access> - audio-described London arts events

Tel: 020 7557 6751 - an audio bulletin of access-related events in London

Tel: 020 7557 6700 – to sign up for the free London area guide

www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/factual/intouch.shtml - In Touch website

Resource List

This is a list of companies or institutes offering support or products to help those with sight difficulties. Please note we are not endorsing these companies.

General resources / products

Royal National Institute for the Blind, 105 Judd Street, London WC1H 9NE, 020 7388 1266, resource@rnib.org.uk, www.rnib.org.uk

Torch Trust for the Blind, Torch House, Torch Way, Northampton Road, Market Harborough, Leics. LE16 9HL, 01858 438260, info@torchtrust.org, www.torchtrust.org

Keep Able, 08705 202122, homeshipping@keepable.co.uk, www.keepable.co.uk

Cobolt Systems Ltd, 01493 700172, cobolt@compuserve.com, www.cobolt.co.uk

Nottingham Rehab Supplies, 0845 120 4522, customerservice@nrs-uk.co.uk, www.nrs-uk.co.uk

Local Resources

Local Council resources

www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/HealthAndSupport/WhosWhoInHealthServices/DG_403766

Surrey Association for Visual Impairment (SIVA) www.surreywebsight.org.uk

Screen-reading / voice recognition / information technology

Software Express, 0845 22 55 005, sales@softwareexpress.co.uk, www.softwareexpress.co.uk

AbilityNet, Freephone 0800 269545, enquiries@abilitynet.org.uk, www.abilitynet.org.uk

Audio description

Vocal Eyes, 020 7375 1043, enquiries@vocaleyeyes.co.uk, www.vocaleyeyes.co.uk

Remote door opener

J & J Security, contact John Bitran, 0800 458 5253, recommended by Stanley and Myrtle Ellis.