



BucksVision
Visual Impairment Charity

**Spring/
Summer
2025**

Newsletter



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NEW OrCam Read 3.



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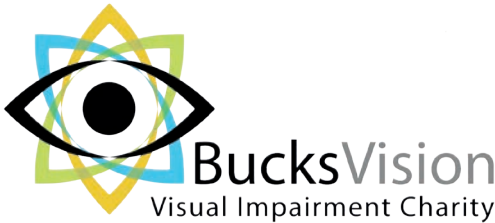
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Opening Hours

Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm

Charity Registration No. 1147814



Welcome

Steve Naylor, Chief Executive

Welcome to our Spring/ Summer 2025 newsletter.

The last few months have been very busy, with one of the most popular experience days that we have run to-date, to *Only Fools and Horses - The Musical*.

You can read about our forthcoming experience days on page 15. As you will see, we have a wide variety, aimed to reach as wide an audience as possible. We know from the feedback that we receive that these trips make a real difference, helping people to feel less isolated and alone.

When I joined BucksVision ten years ago, one of the first charities I spoke with was Milton Keynes Reader Service. They have provided a range of support services including readers, shoppers and facilitators (companions to attend events) to

people across MK and we have worked together closely over the years.

Following the departure of their Services Coordinator last year, BucksVision supported MK Reader Service's volunteers and service users, to ensure "business as usual". As they were considering their options, we were able to reassure them that BucksVision could incorporate their services into ours.

Milton Keynes Reader Service has now closed, but we are delighted to continue their good work and will be delivering the service going forward. I want to thank their management committee, volunteers, and service users, all of whom have been hugely supportive of the change.

Other news:

We were sad to say farewell to two long serving and fondly

remembered volunteers, Alan Stevens of West division, and Ruth Lowe of Marlow division, who passed away recently.

Alan and Ruth had volunteered with BucksVision for many years, contributing hugely to the charity.

As you know, we rely on our volunteers to help people across our local area and are so grateful to them and all of you who generously donate your time to support our work.

Thanks so much to all of you who support us in some way, whether that is through donations or the very generous giving of your time, we very much appreciate it.

New Fundraising Manager

We were sad to say farewell to Ruth Proudfoot in March, who has been our Fundraising Manager for the last two years. We wish Ruth well and are pleased to welcome her replacement, Beth Sawyers.

Beth has worked in fundraising



for many years, most recently with Carers Bucks.

“I’m so excited to join the amazing team at BucksVision! With 10 years of experience in fundraising, specialising in community, corporate and events one of the things I love most is meeting new people in the local community.

I can’t wait to get started, connect with everyone and contribute to the fantastic work BucksVision does!”

Milton Keynes Committee Update

After many years of devoted service Sharon Dunn stood down as Chair of the Milton Keynes Committee at our September AGM.

The thanks of all members and volunteers within Milton Keynes, go to Sharon for all her hard work and we wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

After a short period without a permanent chair, Ian Taylor, one of our trustees took over the role in February this year.

Ian has been a volunteer for eight years and a trustee for the last three. Previously Ian was a Fire Officer for over 30 years and ran St John Operations in Buckinghamshire up until 2012.

Ian's aims within the Milton Keynes Committee are to improve governance, recruit volunteers and expand the range of opportunities for our visually impaired members.



Hitting the ground running Ian has already appeared on the Three Counties Radio breakfast show appealing for volunteers.

Resource Centre at Milton Keynes Has Moved!

Find us - Room G24, Gloucester House, 399 Silbury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes.

We are in the same building as MK Sensory Services.

Meet us - For advice and support, trying equipment, or just to chat.

Drop-in - Wednesday 10am to 2pm

Or call for appointments on Wednesday or Friday
Tel **01908 395498** or Mobile **07707 365902**

Milton Keynes Reader Service to close after 37 years

Milton Keynes Reader Service is being wound up after 37 years of support to the visually impaired in the new city.

On Friday 21st March a celebratory event was held at the Age UK Building at Peartree Bridge to remember the successes of the service and to thank volunteers and staff, past and present for their efforts.

Paula Suchy, Chair of the service gave an emotional speech remembering all staff, volunteers and members and covering the life of the service.

Junction 14 Singers gave a splendid performance including a round that everybody joined in with. Stephen Harrison performed his party piece the Benny Hill Classic, Ernie the fastest Milkman in the West.

The service formally closed on March 31st 2025.

Most of the services and volunteers are continuing through BucksVision. Lisa Nancollas is continuing to coordinate the work from Meadowcroft and can be contacted by email on **lnancollas@bucksvision.co.uk** or by telephone on **01296 48755**.

Spreading Festive Cheer: A Christmas

The festive season is always a special time at BucksVision, and last year was no exception!

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters and volunteers, we were able to raise vital funds while spreading plenty of Christmas cheer.

A huge thank you to the Great Missenden Rotary Club for including us in their Santa Float around Great Missenden. Our enthusiastic team of elves joined Santa on his rounds, collecting donations and enjoying the

festive spirit. It was a magical evening, and we are so grateful to the Rotary Club for their support.

We were also delighted to be chosen as the charity partner for KM Commercials' Santa Truck, which lit up the streets of Aylesbury. Not only did KM Commercials help us collect donations, but they also generously matched every pound given, doubling the impact of everyone's kindness. Their support made a huge difference, and we can't thank them enough!



Christmas Round-Up



Our Christmas Raffle was another huge success, raising nearly £2,000! This wouldn't have been possible without the many wonderful businesses who donated prizes and the fantastic supporters who purchased tickets. Thank you all for getting involved and helping us raise these much-needed funds.

We are so grateful to everyone who played a part in making Christmas so special for BucksVision. Your generosity helps us continue supporting people with sight loss in Buckinghamshire and beyond.



Meet Joyce Bannister

BucksVision member, Joyce has led a full and adventurous life for 82 years, with a range of interesting jobs, from being the youngest typist at Lloyds of London insurance brokers at the age of 15, to power washing chicken sheds on farms in South Africa! Joyce and her husband also lived in Crete for five years and have travelled extensively.

In 2015/16 she started noticing black spots in her eyes which rapidly became floaters, and she was diagnosed with age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

Joyce's biggest frustration with this diagnosis was she couldn't see where she was going when she was driving. The hospital assured her that her eyesight was good enough to drive but she didn't agree so voluntarily gave up her driving license.

Joyce describes losing her sight as experiencing the full A-Z of

grief. She has lost something so important to her life as an adventurer and now struggles with travel and doing many of the things she previously enjoyed because her vision is so limiting.

However, she was introduced to BucksVision a few years ago and began attending the High Wycombe social and craft clubs.

Joyce described the impact this has had on her life as immense—not only does it mean that she gets out to meet people, but she also has “the biggest laugh going” at the craft sessions and “generally makes something of some use!”

She enjoys having coffee and cake with other people with vision loss who have had similar experiences to her. She also enjoys the music sessions and learning new things when there are guest speakers. In fact, she enjoys it so much, she wishes it was twice a week!



Joyce is a member of the BucksVision High Wycombe committee and feels it's important to advocate for the member's needs and wishes at the meetings.

Joyce is hopeful that the world will continue to evolve into a place that is inclusive of

disabilities including sight loss but, in the meantime, she is determined to be a strong person for her husband and to continue enjoying life!

Bucks Integrated Sensory Service

It is back to the classroom for three of the BISS workers, Janine, Molly and Nicola! Janine and Molly, who support clients with hearing loss in Bucks, have been working hard to learn BSL (British Sign Language).

Janine and Molly work with profoundly deaf clients who use BSL as their main language, so learning this skill will help them to communicate with their clients. Janine and Molly have been studying since last year and are approaching their assessments to gain a recognised qualification.

In addition, Nicola (as pictured overleaf) is nearing the end of studying for the Vision Rehabilitation Specialist foundation degree FdSc at Birmingham City University.

She tells us about her experience.

“I joined the BISS team as a Sensory Support Worker in 2018

when BISS were under contract with Action on Hearing Loss (RNID). The role was to provide practical help with equipment, for people dealing with sight loss, hearing loss and dual sensory loss. I supported the visual rehabilitation specialists and the hearing officers and attended joint visits to people out in the community.

I thoroughly enjoyed the role, meeting different people every day and seeing the difference our service made to people's lives. I was fortunate to have been able to shadow very experienced rehabilitation workers on many visits. Therefore, I was able to observe how people were supported to become independent, confident and achieve their goals. As a result, I decided that I wanted to become a qualified Visual Rehabilitation Specialist.

Unfortunately, Covid struck in 2020, and this put everything on hold. This was disappointing for me; having found something I

e (BISS) updates

was passionate about. However, in 2022 the BISS contract was taken on by BucksVision. They have supported me to undertake the Vision Rehabilitation Specialist foundation degree FdSc at Birmingham City University.

Over the last two years I have studied alongside a great group of like-minded people. These studies have covered orientation and mobility, low vision, safety and independence, including wheelchair mobility, daily living, communication skills and braille.

This course has been a fantastic learning curve and opened my eyes to the difficulties faced by people with sensory loss. I am approaching my final exams in May and although I will be sad to finish the course, I am looking forward to using my new skills to support people to live the best way possible.”



We wish Janine, Molly and Nicola the very best with their ongoing studies!

Spring into Action: Help Brighten Lives for People with Sight Loss

As the days grow longer and the sun shines brighter, we're launching our Spring/Summer Appeal and we need your help!

For many of us, spring and summer are seasons filled with outdoor adventures, time with loved ones, and a renewed sense of energy. But for people living with sight loss, longer, brighter days don't always mean greater independence. Everyday tasks can still be challenging, and without the right support, isolation can increase.



At BucksVision, we work to ensure that no one with sight loss feels alone. Whether it's helping someone access

specialist equipment, providing vital social groups, or training volunteers to offer support, your generosity makes a real difference.

How You Can Help

£10 could fund an experience day ticket, helping someone feel connected

£25 could contribute towards specialist equipment, improving independence

£50 could help train a volunteer befriender to support someone feeling isolated

This spring and summer let's make sure no one with sight loss is left behind. **Every donation, no matter the size, helps us continue our vital work.**

Donate Today

Fill out the form included with a cheque or call **01296 487556** to give a gift that will change lives.

Thank you for your support—together, we can make this season brighter for everyone!

BucksVision Experience Days 2025

– A Year of Discovery and Fun!

Our Experience Days are one of the highlights of the BucksVision calendar and we're thrilled to share our 2025 schedule so far, with plenty of variety, history, laughter, and good food along the way!

We kicked off the year in March with a fantastic trip to the Milton Keynes Theatre, where members enjoyed the hilarious musical *Only Fools and Horses*.

In **April**, we're heading to the beautiful **Sulgrave Manor**, the ancestral home of George Washington. We'll explore the manor house and enjoy a guided tour of the peaceful gardens.

May brings a visit to the **Chiltern Open Air Museum**, where members can explore historic buildings set in picturesque countryside, with time to browse and relax.

In **June**, it's time to unwind over a lovely lunch at **The Boatman in Windsor**, situated right on the river—perfect for a summer

catch-up and great food in a beautiful setting.

July takes us to the **Chiltern Valley Winery and Brewery**, where we'll enjoy a guided tour (with tastings included!) and learn about how their award-winning wines and beers are made.

In **August**, we'll be taking a trip underground into the mysterious **Hellfire Caves** in West Wycombe—full of fascinating history and hidden stories to uncover!

And finally, **September** is still open—so if you've got a great idea for a day out, we'd love to hear it!

Whether you're a history buff, a foodie, or just looking to connect with others in a fun and relaxed setting, there's something for everyone

Keep an eye on your emails and post for more details as each event approaches, and don't forget to get your suggestions in for September!

Our 2024 / 2025 Impact

Over the past financial year, the BucksVision staff team in Meadowcroft, Aylesbury—alongside our incredible volunteers—has been working harder than ever to make a difference in the lives of people with vision impairment.

Here's what we've achieved together:

- **1,034 referrals** received for BucksVision's support from **89** different individuals and organisations.
- **1,043 referrals** made to **111** organisations, ensuring people receive the right assistance.
- Partnered with RNIB to deliver two in-person *Living Well with Sight Loss* courses and one telephone group, supporting **33 attendees** in building confidence and independence.
- Organised **10 Experience Days**, offering enriching activities for **101** of our members.
- Raised over **£184,000** to fund vital services for people living with sight loss.
- Facilitated and supported **44 befriending relationships**, providing companionship and practical assistance.
- Recruited **22 new volunteers** and continued supporting our amazing **230 existing volunteers**.
- Conducted **100 appointments** at our Resource Room, helping individuals explore and access life-enhancing equipment.
- Hosted **234 sessions overall** in our Resource Room, including volunteer training, drama workshops, courses, meetings, and our much-loved monthly Sunshine Club.

Top-Selling Products in Our Resource Room

Our Resource Room continues to be a vital hub for accessible products and support. Last year's most popular items included:

1. VIP Diaries Large Print Wall Calendars
2. VIP Diaries Large Print Diaries (A6)
3. Partially Sighted Society VIP Lanyards
4. Cobolt Anti-Glare Glasses
5. RNIB Thick Black Pens
6. VIP Diaries Large Print Desk Diaries (A4)
7. Optelec Ruby XL HD Electronic Magnifier
8. Partially Sighted Society Sun Visors
9. Partially Sighted Society Lapel Badges
10. HumanWare Explore 12 Electronic Magnifier

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our success—whether through volunteering, donating, or using our services. Your support helps us continue empowering people with sight loss across Buckinghamshire.

A Lifetime of Giving Back – Millie's Vol

This month, we're honoured to share the story of Millie Rowe, a long-standing BucksVision volunteer whose journey into volunteering started decades ago—and whose dedication continues to this day at the age of 85.

Millie's first encounter with sight loss came early, when three of her six siblings developed Juvenile Macular Degeneration in their teens.

At just 12 years old, she was asked to read aloud—something she didn't fully understand until her mother explained: "They cannot see to read themselves." It was a moment that stayed with her.

Millie grew up in Southwest London and became involved in a sports club for the blind in Victoria. There, she built lifelong friendships, enjoyed countryside rambles (often in South Bucks), and even celebrated her 18th

birthday with club members during her first-ever flight—a trip to Jersey in a Dakota plane!

She met her husband through the club. He later trained as a piano tuner and became involved in launching the *Sound News Milton Keynes* talking newspaper.

Millie supported the project as a reader, regularly travelling to Dunstable to have tapes duplicated and posted with help from her brother—also visually impaired and founder of *Enterprises by the Blind*, now known as *Sight Concern*.

In 1969, Millie and her husband moved to Milton Keynes for work, and for many years she drove him to clients all over the countryside, even as far as Wales.

Following his passing in 1995, Millie continued to find purpose through volunteering.

In 1998, she stepped back from the talking newspaper but began

unteering Story

visiting members through the Bucks Association for the Blind (now BucksVision).

Today, she continues to support groups like Partridge Club, Eye for Art, and a book group, helping however she can, despite some of her own sight challenges now beginning to emerge.

“While my eyes are still good, I will do all I can for the friends I’ve made during my volunteering years,” she writes.

Millie’s story is one of resilience, kindness, and quiet strength. She’s lived a life surrounded by people with lived experience of sight loss—and has never stopped giving back.

Inspired by Millie?

If you’ve ever considered volunteering, there’s no better time to start. Whether it’s offering a lift, lending an ear, or simply being there—your time can make a world of difference.

Get in touch on **01296 487 556** or email **volunteering@bucksvision.co.uk** to find out how you can get involved.

Leaving a Legacy of Support: Gifts in W

At BucksVision, we are dedicated to supporting people with sight loss, helping them live independent and fulfilling lives. While there are many ways to support our work, one of the most meaningful and lasting ways is by leaving a Gift in your Will.

A legacy gift, no matter the size, ensures that we can continue providing essential services for

years to come. It allows us to offer practical advice, specialist equipment, social groups, and befriending services—helping people with sight loss stay connected and independent.

Why Leave a Gift in Your Will?

Writing a Will is one of the most important things you can do to take care of your loved ones



and the causes close to your heart. After ensuring your family is provided for, leaving a gift to BucksVision means you can help future generations of people with sight loss live with confidence and dignity.

A Lasting Impact

Legacy gifts have already helped us expand our services, improve our facilities, and reach more people in need. Your gift could help fund:

- ✓ More befriending services to reduce loneliness
- ✓ Specialist equipment to help people with daily tasks
- ✓ Training for volunteers to offer the best support possible

How to Leave a Gift

Leaving a gift is simple. If you already have a Will, you can add a gift with a short amendment called a **codicil**. If you don't have

a Will yet, a solicitor can guide you through the process.

Find Out More

If you would like to know more about leaving a gift in your Will, we would love to hear from you. There is no obligation, just the opportunity to find out how your generosity could make a real difference.

Your legacy could transform lives. Thank you for considering leaving a gift that will support people with sight loss for generations to come.

For more information, please contact **reception@bucksvision.co.uk**

Thank You to Our Generous Funders

We are incredibly grateful to the following charitable trusts and foundations, who have recently funded parts of our work:

- Boshier Hinton Foundation
- The Carrington Charitable Trust
- Dentons Charitable Trust
- Stockwell/Cliffe Charitable Trust
- The Mulberry Trust
- The Doris Field Charitable Trust
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- The Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust
- Dorothy Hay-Bolton Charitable Trust
- Fairhive Thriving Communities Fund
- The Blakemore Foundation
- Arnold Clark Community Fund
- The Rothschild Foundation
- The Christos Lazeri Foundation



A Special Thanks to National Lottery Players

Thanks to #NationalLottery players, we are able to support over 3,500 people through our Advice and Information Service. Your support truly changes lives!

Acknowledgment for Fairhive Thriving Communities Fund:

Our home support and befriending project received funding from the Thriving Communities Fund, a grants scheme for community projects run by Fairhive. If you would like more information about the grants available, please call the Grants Officer on **01296 732600** or email **tcfgrant@fairhive.co.uk**

We deeply appreciate all our funders for believing in our work and helping us continue to support our community. **Thank you!**

Hospital Optometry and the Low Vision Clinic

Hospital Optometry and the Low Vision service by Rosalie Davies, Low Vision Clinic, Aylesbury

According to RNIB statistics, there are currently 2 million people in the UK living with sight loss, with 320,000 of those registered as blind or partially sighted.

I work as a hospital Optometrist for Bucks Healthcare Trust—this includes Stoke Mandeville, High Wycombe and Amersham hospital. We run a Low Vision Aid (LVA) clinic, which can be accessed via referral from your local Optometrist or GP. The purpose is to ensure you are getting the best out of the vision you have and access to practical and emotional support.

This involves undertaking an assessment of your day to day living and areas in which you may require some further support. Secondly, a check to ensure you are wearing the most up to date prescription in your

glasses. We will show you some magnifiers and teach you the best way to use them. We have many different types and powers, suitable for different tasks and levels of vision.

Our lovely ECLO (eye clinic liaison officer) Laura works with us in Stoke Mandeville for the RNIB. If you are referred and attend a low vision appointment, we may introduce you to Laura should you require any further support.

We really appreciate the work BucksVision do and recommend booking an appointment at their resource room to see the amazing range of low vision aids they have.

It is important to note that you should continue to see your local Optometrist regularly and attend any hospital appointments you have in the eye clinics. This is the best and quickest way for us to receive a referral should you need, and we look forward to seeing you.

Join BucksVision as a Trustee and Make a Difference



BucksVision is looking for passionate and dedicated individuals to join our Board of Trustees and help shape the future of our charity. We are particularly keen to hear from those with lived experience of sight loss, hearing loss and/or a fundraising background, as we work to enhance our services and expand our impact across Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes.

Why Become a Trustee?

As a Trustee, you will play a vital role in ensuring that BucksVision continues to provide high-quality support and opportunities for people with sight loss. You'll contribute your skills and experience to help us make strategic decisions, maintain financial stability, and identify opportunities for growth.

Who Are We Looking For?

- We welcome applications from a diverse range of backgrounds, but we are particularly looking for Trustees who:
- Have lived experience of sight loss or hearing loss and can help shape our services from a first-hand perspective.
- Have fundraising expertise, whether in grant applications, corporate partnerships, or donor engagement.
- Are passionate about supporting the local sight loss community and making a tangible impact.
- Are keen to network, share ideas, and contribute to strategic discussions.

What's Involved?

- Attending Board meetings every other month (in Aylesbury). Helping to guide the strategic direction of BucksVision.

- Supporting key areas such as fundraising, governance, and service development.
- Using your skills and experience to help improve and strengthen the charity's work.
- Engaging with volunteers, members, and stakeholders to support our mission.

No Trustee Experience? No Problem!

You don't need to have been a Trustee before—we provide training and support, if you're passionate about making a difference and have skills to offer, we'd love to hear from you.

Get Involved

If you're interested in becoming a Trustee or would like to learn more, please get in touch.

Together, we can continue to make BucksVision a supportive and empowering charity for people with sight loss. For more information, contact us at **reception@bucksvision.co.uk**

Sarah's Exceptional Year in Tennis!

We caught up with BucksVision Milton Keynes member, Sarah Fortescue, who had some exciting news to share!

"I had another amazing year of tennis in 2024. I achieved one of my goals for 2024 by qualifying to play at the Wimbledon Finals Tournament. The venue is first class, and I felt very proud and privileged to play there.

I was invited to enter the European Championships in Poland. A great opportunity to visit a country I had never been to before. Partnered with a Polish player, I was proud to win a silver medal in the Women's Doubles tournament.

Success followed in the final tournament of the year, winning the Women's Doubles championship.

My main aim for 2025 is to qualify for the Wimbledon Finals Tournament and to win a trophy, as that would fulfil my ultimate tennis ambition.

Training requires dedication, and I have been supported by many people in lots of different ways, including BucksVision MK. I am very grateful to each one of them.

Tennis has made a huge difference to my life. It not only helps with my physical fitness but has given me so much self-confidence.

If I can inspire anyone to have a go at something new when they might be doubtful or think it may not be for you, give it go and see. You may find a new activity and have lots of fun along the way!"



Tribute to Ruth Lowe

It is with great sadness that we in the Marlow Division announce the death of Ruth Lowe, aged 92.

Starting in the late 1990s she served as a longstanding Trustee of BAB, as BucksVision was previously known, then as Chair of Marlow Division and also, for so many years, as a very loyal Committee member.

Her lifetime achievements are all the more remarkable, as at a very young age she was diagnosed with polio and consequently had to endure self-isolation for several years. Despite this, she exceeded all expectations of the doctors, by walking again, going on to marry, raising two children Suzanne and Stephen and working locally. She was also a devoted grandmother and great grandmother.

Spending her early years in Cheshire and later moving to Ibstone and then Stokenchurch, she was an inspiration to all who knew her. This despite constant



joint pain and later in life, coping with sight loss due to macular.

She was well known in her community, former Chair of the local WI group and in later years she enjoyed attending the Day Centre at Stokenchurch.

BucksVision was always very close to her heart. At her 80th birthday she asked that instead of gifts, donations be sent to BucksVision. In May 2002, as part of Queen Elizabeth's Golden

Tribute to Alan James Steven

Jubilee tour, she was invited to represent BucksVision at a celebration in Higginson Park, Marlow, at the unveiling of the Olympic rower, Steve Redgrave's statue.

Ruth often talked about that afternoon and the honour she felt to represent BucksVision.

In June 2003 a visually impaired reading group was started at Marlow Library, with Ruth and other BucksVision members part of that very first meeting. With everyone listening on then tapes, but now memory sticks from Calibre, the group is still going strong, now held in Bourne End Library. Ruth was such a vital and valued part of that group for so many years.

She was regularly able to attend club meetings up to 2018, but in 2020 caught COVID whilst on a hospital stay, recovered and after rehab in Amersham, spent her final years in Lent Rise Care Home in Burnham.

Ruth in so many ways was truly amazing! Her cheerfulness, in the face of constant pain and sight loss; her interest in everyone; her ability as Chair to deliver a full AGM report without recourse to notes, but with total recall; her ability on car trips to assist the driver, in spite of her sight loss, by knowing exactly where they were on the journey and navigating always correctly!

Ruth will be very sadly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her and always remembered with love in the Marlow Division and beyond.

Tribute to Alan James Stevens

A former Chairman of BucksVision, West Division, Alan sadly passed away at the end of January at the age of 82.

Prior to volunteering with BucksVision, Alan worked as an Engineer throughout his working life but felt that he could

give something back to his local community once he retired.

In 2013, Alan became a volunteer driver and helper at West Division's club meetings in Princes Risborough, quickly becoming a committee member and Vice Chairman before taking over as Chairman from Jim Giffen in 2015. He diligently served in this role until stepping down due to ill health in May 2024.

Alan enjoyed his time as Chairman helping with West Division, it gave him great pleasure to help other people. He took his responsibilities seriously but also had a fun side, enjoying a joke and a pint as well as the occasional whisky.

He enjoyed the simple things in life, and nothing pleased him more than spending time with his family. He loved a good spread and seeing people enjoying themselves.

At Christmas time he made sure that everyone who attended our



lunches received a little bottle of spirits and an assortment of chocolates. It was a nice gesture and something that we all looked forward to.

The funeral was held at the Chilterns Amersham Crematorium on 26 February 2025 and attended by BucksVision CEO, Steve Naylor and members of the West Division Committee.

Our condolences go to Alan's widow, Sue, his two daughters Gina and Sarah and his two granddaughters and grandson.

Aylesbury Blind & Visually Impaired Members Club

Aylesbury Blind & Visually Impaired Members Club is run entirely by volunteers, who arrange fortnightly Thursday afternoon meetings for members in Aylesbury and surrounding areas, at the Mormon Church in Thame Road South, Aylesbury, HP21 8TS.

They have one hour's entertainment, mainly musical singalongs, which are followed by sandwiches, cakes and a drink. At the end there is a free raffle.

They have special teas at Easter and Christmas and a lovely, very popular cream tea in June! In late November, members thoroughly enjoy a Christmas lunch at the Golf Club in Halton Woods.

Transport can usually be arranged with either volunteers or taxis.

If you would like to go along and have a really good afternoon, contact Mrs Beryl Lucas on **01296 424330** or Mrs Sue Sanders on **01296 630740**.



Whether you are experiencing macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy or cataracts; you can regain your independence with the help of HumanWare's simple and easy-to-use assistive technology.

Chris Moreton is your local HumanWare Representative who will be happy to visit you at home or at BucksVision to demonstrate our range of solutions to help you enjoy reading again. Contact BucksVision on 01296 487556.



Hark AI reads handwriting - listen to letters, birthday and greeting cards from family and friends. Hark AI will read handwritten text and provide descriptions of any images.



Hark AI scans and reads barcodes - the magic of Hark AI doesn't stop with handwriting, it also reads barcodes. Place a tin or packet under Hark AI and it will read the barcode on the product and then read out the name and contents.

Hark AI translates documents - you can now listen to text in your preferred language.

If you have low vision and are looking for an easy to use electronic magnifier why not try our **Explore** range. Three different products to choose from, pocket size, to sitting watching your TV from your favourite armchair.

Explore 5



Explore 8



Explore 12



**For more information call HumanWare on
Freephone 0800 587 2589 or visit www.humanware.com**

Useful Contacts

NHS Volunteer Responder Scheme – 0808 196 3646

Volunteer support with shopping and hospital transport.

Bucks Integrated Sensory Service – 01296 479 970

Practical support for people with sight loss in Buckinghamshire.

Milton Keynes Sensory Service (formerly SARC) – 01908 401 135

Practical support for people with sight loss in Milton Keynes.

RNIB – 0303 123 9999

Advice and support with all aspects of sight loss.

Macular Society – 0300 3030 111

Information and support for people with macular conditions.

Glaucoma UK (formerly IGA) – 01233 648 170

Information and advice for people with Glaucoma.

Eye Casualty – 01296 315 939

A telephone triage service for patients concerned about sudden changes in their sight.

Age UK

Support for older people to help them achieve and maintain independence and wellbeing.

Buckinghamshire – 01296 431 911

Milton Keynes – 01908 550 700

BucksVision, 143 Meadowcroft, Aylesbury, HP19 9HH

01296 487 556

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