

Issue 76
June 2024

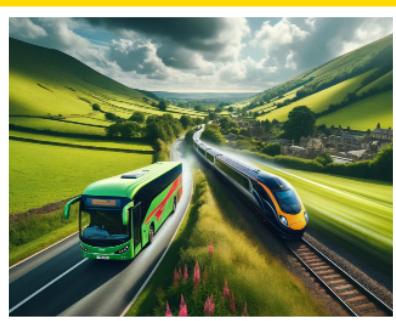
large print
edition



Our Office
31 Scott Street,
Keighley, BD21 2JH



Guide to Voting
page 3



Travel Concessions
page 4



sight airedale

Charity Number 1080245

your local sight impairment charity since 1907

seefact

Distributed to 453 Friends of sight airedale

**Looking for a gift for someone
with sight loss**



Saturday 13 July 10.00am to 1pm

Summer Coffee Morning

Come and join us for our first Summer Coffee Morning on Saturday 13 July from 10am to 1pm in the Lena Anderton Meeting Room, 31 Scott Street Keighley.

We will have a New 2 U Stall, Second Hand Equipment Stall, Raffle and Audiobook Sale.

You will also have the opportunity to look round and order items from our Daily Living Shop which houses products designed to make life living with sight loss easier.

31 Scott Street, Keighley, BD21 2JH

helpline 01535 602354

**Monday - Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm
Office Hours - Mon - Thu 9.30am to 3.00pm**



about seefact

Welcome to the June 2024 edition of **seefact**. This year, we will host our annual open day in July to take advantage of the summer weather. So join us on Saturday, July 13, from 10 am to 1 pm.

On Saturday, September 14, we will be holding a sight information day. More information to follow,

With the Government announcing a General Election on July 4, we've compiled a guide on how to vote—see page 3. If you care for someone and work from April 2024, you gain additional employment rights; learn more on page 3.

the legal bit

- If you no longer wish to receive information from us, let us know and we will delete your name from our mailing list
- We use your information to send you **seefact** magazine three times a year
- We will not pass your information onto any third party. You can read about how we protect your privacy on our website
- Any views expressed do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of **sight airedale**
- All information is accurate at the time of going to press. Reference to any service does not imply recommendation

If you want to take advantage of the Summer weather and get out, see our article on page 4 about travel concessions for the visually impaired.

If you want to know what all the fuss about AI or Artificial Intelligence is, read our article on page 6 to learn how it can help visually impaired people.

So we hope you all have a great summer, and we will see you in the October edition of **seefact**

Antony & Annette

*Also available in
Large Print, Audio
CD, Braille and Email*

team **sight** airedale

Editorial Team

Antony Horner and Annette Gregory.

Volunteer Proof Reader

Jean Horner



ADMISSION

£1

INCLUDES
REFRESHMENTS

VISIT OUR DAILY LIVING SHOP AND
DISCOVER OVER 150 SPECIALLY
DESIGNED ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR
ORDER TO SIMPLIFY LIFE WITH
SIGHT LOSS

- **New 2 U Stall**
- **Second Hand VI Equipment Stall**
- **Raffle**
- **Audiobook Sale**

SUMMER COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 13 July 10am - 1pm

Lena Anderton Meeting Room
31 Scott Street, Keighley



sight airdale

registered charity no 1080245

Improved Employment Rights for Carers'

From April 2024, if you work and care for someone needing long-term care, you'll gain new rights under the Carer's Leave Act 2023. You'll be entitled to 1 week's carer's leave every 12 months, paid or unpaid, at your employer's discretion. The leave is for planned events like hospital appointments.

The Act covers caring for a spouse, partner or civil partner, child, parent, household member, or someone reasonably relying on you for care.

The person must have a disability or illness/injury requiring at least three months' care, or age-related needs.

Additionally, from July 2024, flexible working rules change, making it easier for carers to negotiate arrangements.

For more information, contact Carers Resource on 0808 50 15 939 or visit www.carersresource.org/carers/employment-education/employment-advice/

Voting in the General Election

The government have announced that a General Election will take place on 4 July 2024. Since May 2023 you will need to produce photo ID to vote in person. The following type of Photo ID will be acceptable. Passport, Driving licence (including provisional licence), Blue Badge, Certain concessionary travel cards

If you don't have any of these ID items, you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate from Bradford Council. An alternative is to apply for a postal vote which is now open to anyone over 18 and on the electoral register. For more information, contact Bradford Council Electoral Services at 01274 432287.

You can also get the following help when you are at the polling station, this includes:-

- someone to read out the candidates on the ballot paper
- to be shown a large print ballot paper
- to use the Tactile Voting Device
- someone to help mark the ballot paper with your decision, either someone who has accompanied you or the polling station staff
- to be assisted in moving around the polling station

If you would like to make a request for additional support please email electoralservices@bradford.gov.uk or call 01274 432287.



On the Buses

With summer approaching, you may be looking forward to a day out. This article will explore the Bus travel concessions available to Blind and Partially Sighted people living in North and West Yorkshire and Lancashire.

Bus Travel

Blind Persons Travel Pass (Bus)

Eligibility: Available to West Yorkshire residents who are (or are eligible to be) registered Blind or severely Sight-Impaired. Entitles you to travel free anytime in West Yorkshire and free off-peak travel anywhere in England.

Disabled Persons (Travel Pass in West Yorkshire) Bus Pass

Eligibility: West Yorkshire, North Yorkshire and Lancashire residents who are (or are eligible to be) registered Blind or Partially Sighted.

West Yorkshire: Free off-peak travel within West Yorkshire.

North Yorkshire: Free travel within North Yorkshire and York any time of the day except between 6 am and 9 am. Some journeys are exempt from this restriction; you should check with NYCC before travelling.

Lancashire: Free off-peak travel within Lancashire - A flat fare of £1 per journey on local bus travel within Lancashire before 9.30 am.

Note: All local authority passes allow free off-peak travel on a bus anywhere in England. Off-peak is defined as 9.30 am to 11 pm on a weekday, all day Saturday, Sunday, and Public Holidays. Certain journeys or services are subject to different rules; you should check with your local authority before travelling.

Companion Pass

Companion passes (not available in Lancashire) allow a companion to travel with you for free or at a discounted rate.

West Yorkshire

Mode of Travel: Bus and Train

Eligibility: Have a Blind Persons Travel Pass or a Disabled Persons Travel Pass and receive one of the following benefits for at least 12 months:

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- Higher Rate Care Disability Living Allowance
- Higher Rate Attendance Allowance
- PIP - Enhanced Daily Living
- PIP - At least 10 points on the 'Planning and following a journey' activity

A companion is entitled to the same concessions as the Blind/Disabled Travel Pass holder, but only when they travel together. The companion does not receive their own card and cannot use the disabled person's card to travel without them being present. The companion does not need to be the same person for each journey; however, they must get on and off the bus or train at the same time as the pass holder.

North Yorkshire

Mode of Travel: Bus

Eligibility: You are Sight Impaired (Partially Sighted), Severely Sight Impaired (Blind), or You need additional support because of your disability; North Yorkshire accept receipt of the following benefits as evidence.

- Higher Rate Mobility or Care Disability Living Allowance
- Higher Rate Attendance

Allowance

- PIP - Enhanced Daily Living or Mobility component

Cross Boundary Travel

Certain local authorities have reciprocal agreements that allow cross-boundary bus travel but not travel within that local authority. North and West Yorkshire have reciprocal agreements with North Yorkshire and York, West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA), South Yorkshire, East Riding of Yorkshire and Hull, and North and North East Lincolnshire (North Yorkshire).

Your companion can travel for free on a return journey from Keighley to Skipton but not from Skipton to Grassington. If travelling to a non-participating authority, such as from Leeds to Manchester return, your companion is entitled to free travel for the Leeds to Manchester part of the journey but not the Manchester to Leeds part.

**Thank you to Keighley Playhouse
for their help in printing this
newsletter**

For details on future performances
at the playhouse visit

www.keighleyplayhouse.co.uk



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How to Apply

West Yorkshire - Blind Persons Travel Pass/Disabled Persons Travel Pass

- Phone: Bradford Council Travel Concessions Department - 01274 438723
- Email: transport.concessions@bradford.gov.uk
- Online: <https://www.wymetro.com/tickets-and-passes/blind-disabled/>

North Yorkshire - Disabled Persons Bus Pass

- Phone: 0300 131 2131
- Online: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/public-transport/bus-and-travel-passes/disabled-persons-bus-pass>

Lancashire - Disabled Persons Bus Pass

- Phone: Now Card - 0300 123 6737
- Online: <https://www.nowcard.org/apply/disabled-persons-application/>

More Information

A more comprehensive version of this article which includes train travel is available on our website at <https://bit.ly/disabledbustravel>

With a little help from an AI

Over the past few years, you will have heard the term AI or Artificial Intelligence. But what is AI, and how can it help people living with sight loss? In this article, we will look at some of the applications of AI and how it is helping people with sight loss regain their independence.

What is AI

AI or Artificial Intelligence is a technology that allows computers to learn from data, recognize patterns, and make decisions or recommendations based on what they have learned. Products such as Alexa or Siri use AI to recognise human speech and carry out commands. For people living with sight loss, AI can help identify objects in both images and the real world, read text aloud, and help navigate surroundings.

Reading

If you have to ask a friend or relative to read letters to you then AI can help. Seeing AI, an app for both Apple and Android phones, allows you to take a photograph of a document and then have it read out to you. Or you can chat with your documents, for example you can ask a hospital

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appointment letter what time your appointment is, or an electricity bill how much it is and when you need to pay it. AI can also summarise long documents such as magazine articles.

In addition to reading printed documents, seeing AI can also read handwriting, this is not as accurate as reading printed materials and depends on how neat and legible the persons handwriting is to start of with. But does allow you to get the gist of a document.

Object recognition

Imagine you have an assistant permanently on hand who can tell you what things are. Is the tin you're holding Cat Food or Baked Beans? Or have a photograph described to you. The latest generation of AI apps allow you to take a photograph of an object, or scene and have it described to you. You can even ask questions, for example you could take a photograph of your desk and ask where your glasses are. Object recognition is available in both seeing AI and BeMyEyes.

Problems with AI

While artificial intelligence has advanced rapidly over the past few years, there are still potential problems with it.

- Inaccuracy and Errors - AI systems can make mistakes. Sometimes, they might misinterpret voice commands, provide incorrect information, or fail to recognize objects correctly. For example, a voice assistant might misunderstand a request to call a friend and instead call the wrong person. This is known as Hallucinating.
- Privacy Concerns - When you use an AI tool you are also helping to build the AI tool, it will upload your data to its servers for processing. It may also use the data or information you give it to help expand its knowledge. So you should think carefully about using such tools for sensitive data such as bank details.

Sometimes you still need a Human

BeMyEyes is a free app for iOS and Android that connects visually impaired users to sighted volunteers or customer service reps. Users can call for on-demand assistance by sharing their phone's camera view, allowing the sighted person to describe the user's surroundings and provide guidance.

If you'd like to see a demonstration contact Antony on the helpline.

seefact supporters news

For £1 a week

You can make a difference to the lives of local sight impaired people

Like many charities we have seen a fall in income due to the pandemic

- **Your £1 a week will help us to continue our work, supporting local people living with sight loss now and into the future.**

To make a one off or regular donation visit our website at www.sightairedale.org.uk and click on the Donate Now button or call our helpline to learn how to set up a standing order

WHY NOT GIVE A HOME TO A LOOSE CHANGE BOX



**Small change
Makes a big difference!**

100+ Club

For £10 per year you could win £15 in our monthly prize draw. To join either:-

- Call into the office, Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm or Post a cheque made payable to sight airedale
- Join via bank transfer - Please call the office for our bank details.

Drawn on the 2nd Monday of every month. Winners will be notified

how we make a difference

Our Social Centres in Bingley and Keighley, award winning virtual events and Talking book library with over 2,000 titles on MP3/CD and memory stick help alleviate isolation and loneliness.

We provide support to local sight support groups in Ilkley, Burley-in-Wharfedale and the Airedale Macular Society

We help people retain their independence through our daily living shop, magnifier assessments and technology information service*.

We give people the opportunity to learn new skills through our one-to-one computer classes and Braille for Beginners course.

We keep sight impaired people informed about important issues through our free newsletter, available in five different formats.

*We want to be sure that there is someone available to give you the best service we can. Please ring our helpline to make an appointment for the shop, magnifier assessments and technology information service.

how

Donations can be made in cash, cheque, monthly standing order or Online. You can help your donation go further by signing a Gift Aid form.

Take home a Home Box and fill it with spare loose change.

Join the 100+ club £10 per year and the chance to win a £15 monthly prize and entry to the Christmas Draw.

Our volunteers provide an invaluable service in allowing us to deliver our services. We are always interested in hearing from people who want to join our team of volunteers.

Be a Bucketeer at our Store collections

Do you know a business that would take a Humpty Dumpty counter box?

Remember us in your Will so that future local sight impaired people may benefit or consider an “in memoriam” donation in remembrance of a loved one.

Social Centres and Support Groups

Keighley Sight Support Group

1.30pm to 3.30pm, First and Third Thursday of the Month. Lena Anderton Meeting Room, 31 Scott Street, Keighley. Transport available

Bingley Social Centre - Currently not running

1.30pm to 3.30pm, First and Third Wednesday of the Month. Little House, Bingley. Transport available.

Airedale Macular Society

12.00pm to 2.00pm, First Thursday of the Month (except June and December), Livery Rooms, North Street, Keighley. Transport is not available

Ilkley - INSIGHT Group

10.00am to 12.00pm, First Thursday of the Month. Clarke Foley Centre, Ilkley. Transport can be requested

Burley-in-Wharfedale Hockney Group

2.00pm to 3.30pm, Fortnightly on Thursdays. St Mary Parish Centre. Burley and Menston residents can request transport

For more information on any of these groups, please call our helpline.

Talking Newspapers

Contact

Keighley and District Talking Newspaper

(Keighley News)

Available on MP3 memory stick

Bruce Howden

Keighley (01535) 648644

Craven Cassette

(Craven Herald and Dalesman)

Fully digital recordings

Richard Breare

Skipton (01756) 794298

Pendle Voice

(Barnoldswick and Earby Times)

Available on MP3 memory stick

Jeanette Asby

Nelson (01282) 616566

Ilkley Talking Newspaper

(Ilkley Gazette and Dalesman)

Available on compact disk

Lorraine Hockey

Ilkley (01943) 600869

Talking Telegraph

(Bradford Telegraph and Argus)

Available on MP3 memory stick

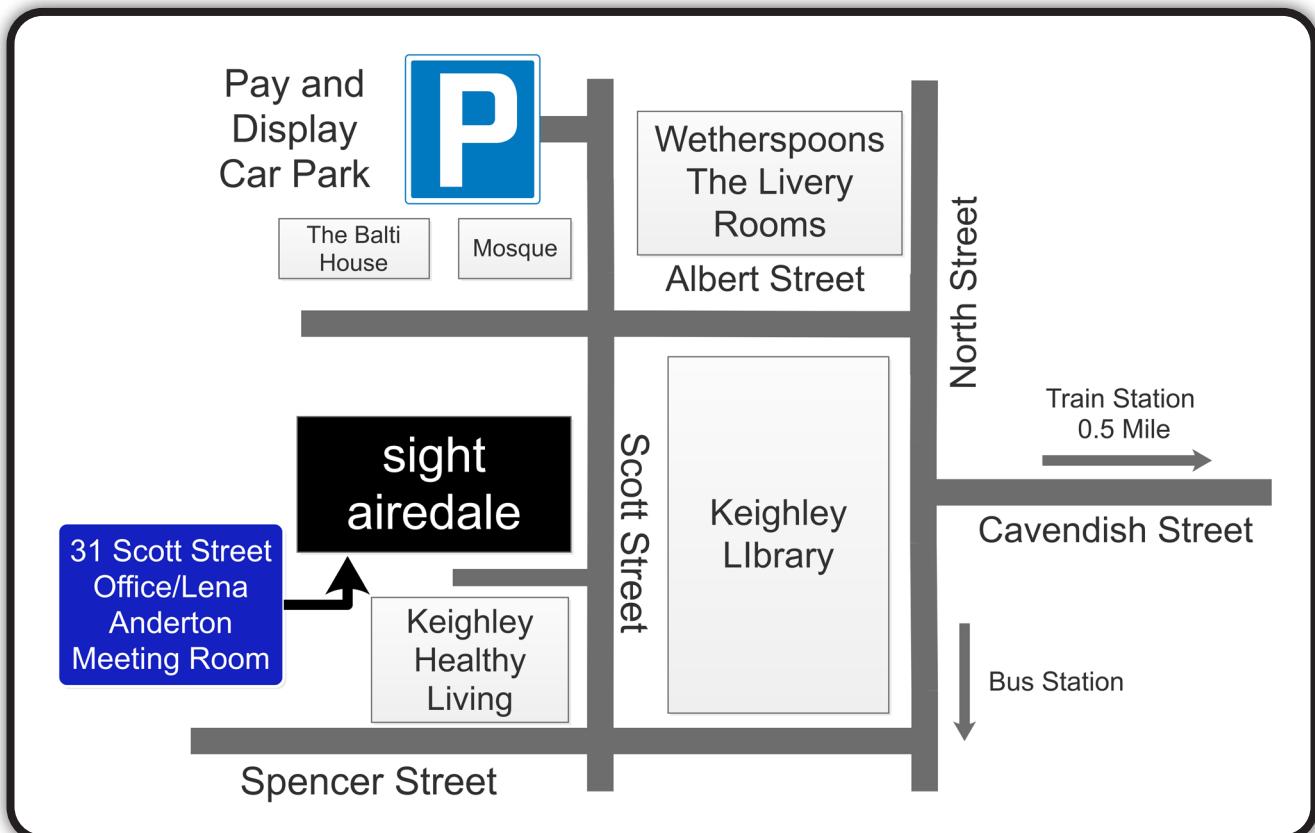
Michael Tomlinson

Bradford (01274) 571074

your local sight impairment charity since 1907

helpline 01535 602354

Registered Office opening hours
Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 3.00pm
31 Scott Street, Keighley, BD21 2JH



For detailed directions to our premises visit

www.howtofindus.sightairedale.org.uk

visit us online

WWW

enquiries@sightairedale.org.uk

www.sightairedale.org.uk



www.facebook.com/sightairedale

www.youtube.com/sightairedale