

VISUAL ACCESS Newsletter

Telephone: 028 90 755005

Spring 2010

Welcome

Hello and welcome to the first edition of Visual Access Newsletter. This **FREE** Newsletter has been produced for Visually Impaired people to keep them informed and up to date on relevant issues and events across Northern Ireland. We also have a section bringing news on new products and technologies to help people with Sight Loss.



Lisa, Jim, Mark and Elaine at Visual Access

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We want you, our readers, to get involved with the magazine. So, this is your opportunity to highlight issues and events that are of interest to visually impaired people.

Computer Training

Enhanced Training for Employability

The Enhanced Training for Employability course, funded through the NI European Social Fund Programme, was developed for students who are unemployed and with disabilities. The aim of the course is for



Danny, Jim and Oran at Visual Access

students to develop both ICT and personal development skills to equip them with the necessary qualifications and skills to access the employment market and further training.

Twelve students have just successfully completed the first 18 month programme and a further twelve have just embarked on the next one.

Each student, on completion of the course will be proficient in basic keyboard skills, MS Word, specialised software, Email and the Internet. If you would like to be considered for our reserve list or need further help or information please contact Visual Access NI Ltd on 02890 755005.



Department for
**Employment
and Learning**

www.delni.gov.uk

Re-launch of Shop Mobility

Sighted guide support at Royal Victoria Hospital

Two initiatives have recently been introduced at the Royal Victoria Hospital. Both projects aim to help people visiting the hospital site to find their out patient's clinic or ward. For people with a sight loss accessing the RVH site can be difficult and stressful so please take advantage of these new services.

In January the Belfast Trust launched their Volunteer project at the Royal Victoria Site. Volunteers are now located at the Falls Road Entrance to assist visitors and Patients with their journey through the hospital. The Falls Road Entrance is one of the easier entrances to access using public transport and the route to Low vision and Ophthalmic Clinics is fairly straight forward from here.

Towards the end of 2009, The Shop Mobility Service at the Royal Victoria Hospital expanded their support service to include a sighted guide service for people with severe sight loss. in conjunction with Belfast Trust Sight Support Team, sighted guide training for the RVH Volunteers has been completed and you can now request sighted guide support through Shop Mobility.

In order to ensure that a Shop Mobility Volunteer will be ready to meet you when you reach the Royal, it is advisable to contact the Shop Mobility Unit at the RVH prior to your visit or appointment. So give them a ring on 02890 310923 to arrange for your sighted guide volunteer to meet you on arrival.

New iZoom 3.0 Screen Magnifier & Reader

The new iZoom 3.0 Screen Magnifier & Reader represents a leap in screen magnification technology. iZoom's patent-pending ClearPoint font smoothing maintains crystal clear text quality regardless of zoom level. iZoom makes viewing web pages and emails easier than ever with SmartAlign, our new patent-pending technology which doesn't require you to scroll horizontally over and over to read paragraphs extending beyond the screen.



You can carry your iZoom Screen Magnifier & Reader on a portable thumb drive and use it on any Windows compatible PC without administrative privileges or installation. Although most schools, libraries and public clusters prevent installation of any kind, most screen magnifiers require installation...which means you can't use a computer you want to. iZoom is the only professional screen magnifier for PC's which allows you to use any computer, any where without licensing or installation issues. iZoom works equally well on laptops and desktops.

Best of all, iZoom Screen Magnifier & Reader is affordable! At about half the price of most professional screen magnifiers, iZoom is without question the best value for your money priced at £250.00.

New iZoom USB 3.0 Screen Magnifier & Reader

Ever had to check your email or surf the web at a computer other than your own? At a hotel, library, school, co-workers or family members computer? Most professional screen magnifiers today offer a USB version, but all of them require administrative privileges to install some software before they can run. Odds are if you're using a public computer, you won't be granted installation rights. Moreover, a computer can be a very personal possession and others won't appreciate you installing software on it.

iZoom USB is Portable. We mean it! Attach it to your keychain and carry it with you where ever you go. Walk up to any Windows compatible computer and plug it in. Within a few seconds, it'll start up. It's that simple. No installation! No administrative rights needed! No License restrictions! It just works. iZoom is without question the best value for your money priced at £299.00.



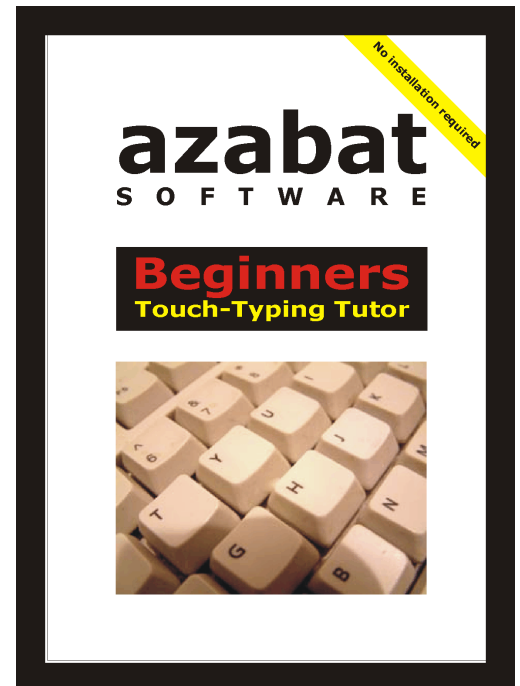
Featured Products

Acrobat Typing Tutor

Learn to touch type, practice your typing skills and improve your speed and accuracy. Designed for blind and visually impaired beginners.

- lessons (letter drills)
- 7 exercises (word drills)
- explore the keyboard mode
- check your progress
- extensive help and tutorial

£30.00



PenFriend

Easily record, and re-record, information using this versatile, pocket-sized, easy-to-use product and the self-adhesive labels. You can instantly play back the recordings anywhere simply using the PenFriend no computer required.



£54.99

A black rectangular banner with a white, horizontally-oriented oval shape in the center. The text "Free Prize Draw" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font within the white oval.

Free Prize Draw

If you would like to receive your free copy directly from Visual Access NI in your preferred format i.e. Audio CD, Braille or Large Print please contact us by telephone: 02890 755005 or email mil@visualaccessni.co.uk.

When you register with Visual Access NI to receive further copies of the magazine you will be added into a free prize draw and 2 lucky people will win tickets for great night out in Belfast, which includes a fantastic show with Don McClean (American Pie) at the Waterfront.

Sight Village Ireland

Queen Alexandra College organises QAC Sight Village events at venues in Birmingham, London, Scotland and NEW for 2010 will be in Cork and Dublin in the Republic of Ireland. These are premier European events showcasing technology, support and services for people who are blind or visually impaired. Exhibitors from throughout the world take part and we welcome many thousands of visitors, including people who are blind or partially sighted, professionals, business people and family members.

Admission is FREE

Sight Village Ireland

The Oriel Hotel in Cork on 11 & 12 May 2010

The Burlington Hotel Dublin 14 & 15 May 2010

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Useful Telephone Numbers

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Belfast Trust (The Everton Complex) | 02890 566000 |
| Belfast Trust (The Bradbury Centre) | 02890 912190 |
| Homefirst (The Beeches Ballyclare) | 02893 349797 |
| Homefirst (Wilson House Broughshane) | 02825 863800 |
| Homefirst (Community Services, Magherafelt) | 02879 365000 |
| Homefirst (Rathlea House, Coleraine) | 02870 347880 |
| Southern Trust (The Rowan Centre Lisburn) | 02892 607746 |
| Southern Trust (Downshire Hospital) | 02844 616915 |
| South Eastern Trust (Moy) | 02887 784832 |
| South Eastern Trust (The Conifers) | 02830 250800 |
| Guide Dogs for the Blind | 08453 727402 |
| RNIB Northern Ireland | 02890 329373 |
| NI SENSE | 02893 362792 |
| Disability Action | 02890 297880 |
| The Macular Disease Society | 01264 350551 |
| International Glaucoma Association | 01233 648164 |
| Retinitis Pigmentosa | 01280 821334 |
| Diabetes UK | 02074 241000 |
| Age Concern | 02890 245729 |
| Equality Commission for NI | 02890 890890 |