

# News Letter

Accessibility Made Easy



Visual Access NI



Telephone: 02890 755005

Winter 2010

## Welcome

Welcome to the second edition of the Visual Access NI 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.

## Computer Training

Why not contact us for all your Computer needs whether buying a PC, CCTV, software, or you may need some computer training



## Inside this issue

- Welcome
- Computer Training
- Social Inclusion
- New TeleMouse
- Optelec ClearReader+
- Izoom Software
- Belfast Lough Sailability
- Season Greetings
- Useful Telephone Numbers



Department for  
**Employment  
and Learning**

[www.delni.gov.uk](http://www.delni.gov.uk)



Visual Access NI



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Part funded by the Disablement Advisory Service (D.A.S)

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# **Social Inclusion for individuals with a Visual Impairment Reception at the Long Gallery Parliament Buildings**

Individuals with a visual impairment are one of the most socially and economically marginalised groups in our society.

Consequently they can be socially excluded and isolated from many of the broad range of social relations and networks (that would be considered the norm) within the community.

Additionally, they will generally have inadequate material resources and also face many barriers when it comes to trying to participate in economic activities which, it is accepted, are of value to society as a whole.

Visual Access NI is committed to assisting those with a visual impairment to overcome such problematic issues. To illustrate our services we would like to invite you to a morning reception in the Long Gallery at Parliament Buildings, Stormont. (details below)

At the reception Visual Access NI will both display and demonstrate a broad range of equipment - "Accessible Technology" products including Optelec CCTVs, and Screen Readers (Jaws, Zoomtext and Izooms). A range of "low technology" equipment will also be on display e.g. high visibility keyboards, magnification aids and much more.

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Such products not only assist the visually impaired individual to acquire potentially life-changing skills but subsequently helps create greater confidence and, hence, social inclusion within the community.



**Visual Access NI warmly invites you to join us on  
Monday 14 February 2011**

**9.30am – 12.00noon**

**The Long Gallery**

**Parliament Buildings, Stormont**

**Please phone Mr Tommy Hughes at  
Visual Access NI on 02890 755005 to  
confirm your attendance**

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

## TeleMouse

£85.00

A powerful portable hand-held digital reading aid designed for people with low vision. It gives back independence to people who have difficulty reading small print. With the aid of this ergonomic and easy to use product, people who suffer from low vision can enjoy reading everything from a favourite magazine to the latest author, and can easily view everyday items -- from food labels to prescription bottles. Its compact size – only slightly larger than a standard computer mouse makes it very comfortable to handle. In addition to full colour display, RM (Reverse Mode) function gives you the option of viewing black on white or white on black. Compatible with any TV using video input.



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## TeleMouse Cordless

£99.00

The Wireless TV Reader is a powerful, portable, hand-held digital reading aid designed for people with low vision.

The size of a computer mouse, it connects directly to any TV/monitor with video input in seconds, allowing you to read newspapers, magazines, recipe cards and even medicine labels easily and wirelessly. With optional USB converter, it can also work on computer!!



### Specification

- Compatible with any TV/monitor using video input.
- Viewing modes: full colour, Black and white, high-contrast positive, high-contrast negative
- Zoom in/out digitally
- Magnification (on 20" monitor): 20x (up to 70x digitally)
- Freeze & D-freeze current image
- Wireless tech: 2.4GHz
- Unique guiding wheel mechanism
- Rechargeable battery lasts 5-6 hours
- Wireless, light, convenient, ergonomic and easy to use
- Size: 130 x 69 x 64 mm
- Includes Docking Station

# ClearReader+ Reading System

High-tech portable reader offers low vision and blind people instant text recognition and audio playback by converting printed text-to-speech

Optelec Limited a Company based in Watford, England, is a world leader in innovative and life-changing assistive technologies for visually impaired people introduces its latest solution, the portable Optelec ClearReader+, an intuitive reading system in a sleek and retro design. To read any printed text by dictation, the Optelec ClearReader+ combines ease of use with high quality multilingual voice output and fast text-to-speech recognition technology.



The **Optelec ClearReader+** allows a visually impaired person to listen to any kind of printed material at the press of a button within a matter of seconds. Access to printed documents such as magazines, newspapers, books or a letter from a friend has never been easier. Portable and battery powered, the Optelec ClearReader+ assistive technology device can be used anywhere at home, at school or at work making it ideal for reading a recipe in the kitchen, reading a book in your favourite chair, reading today's newspaper in the garden or reviewing bills.

With only five controls, the **Optelec ClearReader+** is one of the most intuitive and user-friendly reading devices available for those with low vision, affected by retinal eye diseases such as age-related macular degeneration. To operate, simply switch-on, release the camera arm and place reading material beneath the high resolution camera.

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Additionally, the **Optelec ClearReader+** is easily customised to read text at different speeds, in up to twelve different languages and up to twenty-three different voices.

## Key Features

- ◆ Camera: High resolution camera with state-of-the-art wide angle optics and integrated object lighting.
- ◆ Text recognition: High quality multilingual text recognition for the user to click and read in a few seconds.
- ◆ Voices: Support for 23 voices. Choice between male, female and different dialects including Indian-British.
- ◆ Battery and Power: Integrated Li-ion battery for five hours of continuous use.
- ◆ External Buttons and Controls: Forward/backward, play/pause, reading speed, scan, volume, on-and-off.
- ◆ Connections: Headphone and mains power/recharging.
- ◆ Foldable carry handle and built-in stereo speakers.



## **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.

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## **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 £300.00.



**Belfast Lough Sailability** is based in Carrickfergus is currently equipped with six specially constructed Disability Friendly Access Dinghies for beginners and a recently purchased Skud Paralympics Class Boat for the more advanced Sailors. They also provide all the necessary safety equipment to ensure that they have a safe and pleasurable experience.



The Group has grown rapidly over the last two years and is exceptional in that it provides an activity not only for the Disabled Individual but for the whole family unit. Indeed some of the Group Members, who themselves have Disabilities, have gone on to gain Coaching Awards and are now passing on their skills. One such member is Steve Frecknell Vice Chairman of the Group, a wheelchair user and 2012 Paralympics hopeful, he said "I joined the group back in 2001 and since then I've gained my Royal Yachting Association Keel Boat Instructors Certificate and a considerable amount of on the water experience. It's a great feeling being able to give something back to the sport that really has changed my life."

The proposed purchase of the Sea Rover will allow Sailability to provide full on the water support from the Sailors carers, supporters and families. It will also give Steve Frecknell and his fellow volunteers a stable Wheel Chair friendly platform to coach from and also the ability to provide that vital safety cover for all the sailors. For further information or help please contact Mr Nigel Thompson on 07966387574, or visit our website at [www.belfastloughsailability.com](http://www.belfastloughsailability.com)

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**Visual Access NI**

**We would like to wish  
all our readers a  
Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year**

from

All the Staff at

**Visual Access NI**



[www.visualaccessni.co.uk](http://www.visualaccessni.co.uk)

# Useful Telephone Numbers

Belfast Trust (The Everton Complex)	02890 566045
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
South Eastern Trust (Rowan Centre Lisburn)	02892 607746
South Eastern Trust (Downshire Hospital)	02844 616915
Southern Trust (Moy)	02887 784832
Southern Trust (The Conifers)	02830 250800
Guide Dogs for the Blind	08453 727402
NI SENSE	02893 362792
Disability Action	02890 297880
The Macular Disease Society	01264 350551
International Glaucoma Association	01233 648164
Royal National Institute of the Blind	02890 329373
Retinitis Pigmentosa	01280 821334
Diabetes UK	02074 241000
Age Concern	02890 245729
Equality Commission for NI	02890 890890
Access to Work (D.A.S)	02890 252222