

Walthew House

See Hear Stockport 2018 – our biennial equipment and information event will take place on **Tuesday 18th September** between 10am and 3pm at Walthew House.

The photos right and below were taken at our 2016 event and show exhibitors and visitors in the busy halls.



The 2018 event will feature over 30 stands – including companies exhibiting equipment for people with a sight or hearing loss; organisations providing information and support for people with a sight or hearing loss; new equipment at the Walthew House Resource Centre and refreshments. Sighted guides and a British Sign Language interpreter will be available on the day.



A full list of exhibitors is available on our website at www.walthewhouse.org.uk or from the office on 0161 480 2612/ fax 0161 477 4441. If you need a lift to and from the bus or train station, let us know, we'll be happy to help.

We've had a busy summer at Walthew, starting with the launch of our Stockport Treasure Trail. The trail takes in our town centre's landmarks, focusing on making the trail a tactile experience for people with sight loss. We've had great fun exploring the trail with different groups of people, including friends from Christ Church Stockport and visitors from their sister church in the USA. The photo right shows the group, providing sighted guides for Walthew House members, coming down the hill from St Mary's Church.



Copies of the trail are available from the office at a cost of £6.99.

Meanwhile members of our youth club were invited to a Harry Potter 'Meet the Cast' Evening at the Plaza Theatre. As well as being able to ask questions of the Fat Friar, Colin McCreavy and other stars of the films, we were allowed an exclusive group photo – right - with the cast!



Thanks to Sean and June, who provided sign language interpretation on the night.

Our recent trip to the Apprentice House at Quarry Bank Mill was a great success. The photo right shows Pat bending down to touch and smell the lavender in the garden, with Sue, one of the volunteers at the Mill.



The trip was organised with the help of Liz, one of our volunteers, who also volunteers at Quarry Bank, and Walthew House provided sighted guides, and sign language interpretation for the day. The photos right and below show the group in the kitchen



at the Apprentice House and enjoying a picnic lunch in the lovely sunshine.

Let us know if you'd like to be added to our contact list for events and activities in future.

We enjoyed a visit from Australian tandemers Peter and Cheryl Meers and took them for a quick tour of the Peak District. Peter runs a similar group to our own tandem group for people with sight loss, so it was great swap stories and tips.



The photo above right shows Brian and Brendan - who is holding Paxton, a wriggly and rather heavy guide dog puppy - and Peter and Cheryl just about to set out cycling for the day.

As well as supporting young people with sight or hearing loss through our youth club, we work alongside the local education service and the young people they support. One of their students, Charlie, joined us last term to practice kitchen skills



and also had the opportunity to record a piece for Stockport Talking Newspaper Association. Charlie is pictured above with volunteer Vincent in the recording studio at Walthew House.

Our calendar of events is filling up for the autumn now...

On Thursday 13th September 1pm - 4pm, librarians from **Stockport Libraries** will be visiting Walthew House, ready, willing and able to join you up to Stockport Libraries. One ticket accesses all 16 Libraries and a wide array of online resources. Bring along your Smartphones, Tablets and Laptops and library staff will load up apps and talk you through the many services they offer.

Our own **Walthew House Tech Team** volunteers will also be on hand to help with any general technology related queries you might have.

The **Turners and Loxley Art Challenge Exhibition** runs from 16th September to 14th October at Stockport Art Gallery. This is an excellent exhibition of small canvasses and well worth a look, and proceeds from the exhibition support Walthew House.

The Walthew House **Annual General Meeting** takes place on Friday 21st September at 7.30pm, with refreshments from 7pm. All welcome.

We have a **Table Top Sale** on Saturday 22nd September 9am to 11am. Tables are £7.50. Contact our new fundraiser Shannon Gorman to book.

We're taking part in the **Stockport Parade of Light**, which is part of a series of events in Stockport commemorating 100 years since the end of World War One. On Monday 15th October, Katherine Rosati from Stockport Council is coming in between 11am and 1pm to make lanterns with the art and craft group, and everyone is welcome to take part.

The Parade will take place on 11th November starting at St. Mary's Church at 6pm and processing to the Art Gallery. Please let us know if you would like a sighted guide.

Our annual **Quiz Night** takes place on Saturday 10th November. It's a great night, with a subsidised bar and tickets are £5.00 including a cold buffet.

We're holding a **Christmas Fair** on 17th November from 12 noon to 3pm. There will be lots of Christmas themed stalls and mulled wine and refreshments will be on sale.

Our **Carol Service** will be on Sunday 9th December at 3pm, led by the Revd David Brewster from St Matthew's Church Edgeley. The service will be signed as usual, and the words to the carols

will be available in braille and large print. Refreshments will be served after the service.

Christmas Dinner is on Tuesday 11th December. Tickets are £6.50, including a glass of wine and entertainment.

In other news ...

Stockport Libraries now offer a bigger and better eBook and audiobook download service in partnership with Greater Manchester Libraries and Borrowbox.

With the BorrowBox Library app, you are able to browse, borrow and download international titles by your favourite authors from the comfort of your own home or when you are out and about. It's free and easy to use, all you need to do is download the app. To do this, simply open the app store on your device, search for Borrowbox and download. You can also download the Borrowbox mobile app if you want to use it on your phone.

Once you have installed the app, search for Stockport Libraries in the 'Library' field, and log in using your library membership card number and 4-digit PIN.

Using BorrowBox means the doors to your library never close.

For further information search:

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/ebooks-and-audiobooks/borrowbox-ebook-audiobook>

In our last issue we mentioned **Sightline**, a charity that has been providing a peer-based helpline (0800 5872252) since 2002.

Sightline has now launched a new Telephone Befriending Service, which aims to reduce social isolation amongst people facing any degree of sight loss, and boost their wellbeing. This is how the service works:

- Referral – you need to complete a referral form – available from Sightline on 0800 5872252 and return it to Sightline
- A letter is sent by Sightline to the referred person explaining how the service works

- Sightline's co-ordinator calls the referred person to support the matching process
- Sightline matches the person with a befriender and an initial call plan is agreed with all parties
- Sightline tells the referrer when the service will start
- Weekly befriending calls start on the agreed time and day, but can be skipped if either party is away
- Befrienders use a specially designed automated call system so phone numbers are kept confidential
- After three to four weeks the initial call plan is reviewed
- Plans are regularly reviewed to ensure satisfaction, and progress towards befriending outcomes
- If there are serious concerns for someone's immediate safety, Sightline call their GP or emergency contact. One of these must be provided as a condition of receiving the service.
- Calls are recorded, with a sample reviewed for quality and training purposes, but all remain confidential.

Further information is available email at www.sightline.org.uk or my emailing info@sightline.org.uk

A few words of thanks...

Thank you to the Key 103 Cash for Kids, The Peter Kershaw Trust, the Lee and Bakigian Family Trust, the St James's Place Foundation and The Woodroffe Benton Foundation for their continued support. Walthew House currently receives over a third of its annual budget from grants from charitable trusts, many of which support us year on year with contributions to our work generally and to specific projects. We are tremendously grateful for this invaluable support.

Local organisations also regularly support our work, and we would like to thank the Carver Theatre, Stockport Lamplighter, Rotary Club of Stockport, and Varifocals Choir for their recent donations.

Our See Hear event is being supported by the Ulverscroft Foundation and the new Stockport Local Fund funded by Stockport Council and which is supporting community projects throughout the borough. Walthew was one of the first charities to receive a grant and we attended the launch at the Town Hall –

pictured right with other grant recipients on the grand staircase. Finally we are grateful for donations in memory of: Keith Bleakley, Thomas Finnegan, Brenda Sykes and Brenda Whitnall.



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 Walthew House Supports People in Stockport who are Blind, Visually Impaired, Deaf or Hard of Hearing, or who have Dual Sensory Loss. Registered Charity Number 1167749. Registered Company number 09306241.

Walthew House News is available in large print, Braille, on audio CD, by email and as a British Sign Language DVD.

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