

## NYSTAGMUS NETWORK (UK) NETLETTER

September 2006

### Freeware for blind and visually-impaired people

<http://www.screenreader.net/> have freeware for blindness and visual impairment special needs throughout the world. (it is free only to individual blind people for their personal use at home: it is not free to organisations.)

The inspiration for ScreenReader.net came from two blind people in Peterborough UK and Sensory Software Ltd in Manchester. They say that they see talking computer as the gateway to literacy, learning, work and financial independence for blind people and their mission is to make the blind-friendly talking software available worldwide.

If ScreenReader.net is to survive and flourish, it needs grassroots partners who will promote its use, encourage training and support for local users and contribute in cash or kind towards ongoing development costs.

ScreenReader.net welcome local partners and project developments.

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### How brave are you?

Are you daring enough to jump out of a plane? Then skydive for Action for Blind People to raise vital funds for their work. If you raise a minimum of £385, you get to jump for free! To find out more, please visit:

<http://www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk/Support/events/skydive.asp> because the only way is down!

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*The following information was taken from e-access bulletin, To subscribe to this free monthly bulletin: email [eab-subscribers@headstar.com](mailto:eab-subscribers@headstar.com) with 'subscribe eab' in the subject header. For further information go to <http://www.headstar.com/eab>.*

'e-Access'06,' hosted by E-Access Bulletin and supported by RNIB, Scope and RNID, is the UK's leading annual event on access to all technologies, including

internet, PCs, mobile phones and digital TV and radio, by people with disabilities.

The conference focuses on how digital technology is enabling people with disabilities to achieve greater independence. It also looks at the problems people face with access to technology. The keynote speaker is BBC Presenter Peter White and sponsors include BSkyB, BT and Ford.

Places cost 195 pounds plus VAT for public sector, 295 pounds plus VAT for private sector and 145 pounds plus VAT for small charities and non-profit bodies (turnover below £300,000). For more information and to book your place, please visit: <http://www.headstar-events.com/eaccess06/>

### **Google Research Labs Launches Accessible Search Service.**

Search engine giant Google has launched a service that prioritises its search results according to the accessibility of web pages it finds. In addition to standard search criteria, Google Accessible Search (<http://labs.google.com/accessible/>) is designed to rank pages according to how much graphic content they contain and how easy they are to navigate using keystrokes only.

Read the complete article at [www.headstar.com/eab](http://www.headstar.com/eab).

### **Voice Activation Software Offers 99 Per Cent Accuracy**

A new product from voice technology developer Nuance, Dragon Naturally Speaking 9, offers unprecedented levels of voice control over PCs and handheld devices.

The product ( <http://fastlink.headstar.com/dragon1>), which removes the need for keystrokes and mouse movements, is claimed by Nuance to be 20 per cent more accurate than the product it replaces, taking accuracy levels to around 99 per cent.

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### **Contributions**

Please send contributions, ideas or links for the NetLetter to Gill Taylor at [gill@taylors.uk.com](mailto:gill@taylors.uk.com).