

Nystagmus Network: Netletter November 2007.

This is the first issue of a revived netletter. Previous issues were created by Gill Taylor with the technical aid of her son, John, who has nystagmus.

NN would like to thank her for all her energy and commitment. It will be a hard act to follow.

Celebration: December Focus.

Louise Bashford is in line for a sports personality award for her achievements in swimming and running. Not bad for a teenager but Louise has nystagmus, so maybe it's time to rethink those negative attitudes to sport and wobbly eyes. In the December Focus, you can also read about problems getting large print, two new books and the Government Access to Work Scheme.

Christmas Cards.

These are already selling very well. It is only mid November and there needs to be real push so that all the orders can be delivered in time for posting.

The children's colouring cards are new and exciting. Co ordination practice is involved which is a bonus, but the activity is fun, creative and satisfying, and a glue pen and some glitter will allow for some real Blue Peter individualised productions.

Open Day.

Paul White is already planning the next Open Day in late Spring/early Summer in 2008. Venues across the Midlands are being considered, and he would be grateful to hear of any sponsorship offers at info@nystagmus.co.uk

Websites.

Both sites are up, running and you may find new features. Both Forums remain active and varied. Issues include diagnosis, contact lens use, registration, as well as more light hearted posts.

The websites are at <http://www.nystagmusnet.org> and <http://www.nystagmus.co.uk>

Freeview with Audio description!

Curry's website now has a Freeview set top box which delivers both digital TV and audio description. Once plugged in, it receives the signal through your aerial. It is made by Logik, and has two scart leads sockets. The website doesn't mention the audio function.

There is a limited supply of these boxes, so if you want audio description you may consider this box, and, at the same time, demonstrate the need for such equipment.

The box and remote control are easy to use but if your sight is limited you may need help for the installation. RNIB Home Technology Volunteer Service may be able to assist. Contact 0845 604 2341 or email g1volunit@rnib.org.uk

Curry's reference is LDR V3 (note space).

Direct link to Curry's

website:http://www.currys.co.uk/martprd/store/cur_page.jsp?BBVSessionID=@@@@807220516.1194025778

Do check that you have access to Freeview. A post code may be generally accessible but have dead areas.

Right to Read.

This has been Right to Read Week. Please encourage everybody to sign the declaration on Right to Read at www.rnib.org.uk

VISION2020.

Vision 2020 is both an international and national organisation dedicated to eradicating preventable blindness, and improving the lives of those with impaired vision by the year 2020.

Vision2020uk acts as an umbrella body and has just produced the draft of a Strategy Document which is intended should be the tool through which future Government policy will be decided for anyone with a visual impairment.

The text can be found in the Library section of the website at <http://VISION2020uk.org.uk> .

There is also a feedback sheet, and if you have the energy to read the 34 pages, please give your response. This is a draft and it can be strengthened. If you feel that it doesn't address your concerns, then make this clear. The next stage will be to convert strategy to action.

Thumbnail.

This is the first of a series of brief sketches of members of the Committee of NN as well as members. They are real people!

The first is from John Sanders, editor of Focus, who has nominated Tim Horsley, Chair of NN for the next letter.

--Joining the NN committee over 20 years ago changed my life in more ways than one. For the first time I met other people with nystagmus and that helped my confidence enormously. I also learned a lot from being on the committee, especially during my years as chairman. That experience was invaluable when I decided to switch from being an employed to a self employed journalist. Working from home certainly beats commuting. Having nystagmus inevitably stops me from doing some things, but I aim to take a glass half full view of life. So, over the years, I've hitch-hiked round Europe, skied and canoed, sold cockles and mussels on several Butlins holiday camps and still ride a bike. Which all goes to show that having neither a driving licence nor a GCSE in maths is much of an obstacle in life.

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