

Issue 4  
2018

# ViewPoint

THE EBS NEWSLETTER

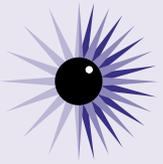
## Chief Executive's Message

Hello everyone.

For those of you who were unable to be at our AGM on 14th September, I thought I would just give a quick sum up of what I spoke about then – sorry if you thought you would escape it, but I promise this is a much shortened version! If you would like a copy of the full version, please let your WO or the office know. The AGM is a necessary event which we have to hold to satisfy the Charity Commission, so apologies to those who lost their social afternoon and had to sit through the AGM instead! It was a very good tea though which I hope you enjoyed and thank you to all who attended.

**Home visiting by the team of Welfare Officers has continued to provide a valued and essential service to EBS members. 3,574 home visits were carried out, reaching an average of 70 people a week, many of whom live alone.**

**The Resource Room provides a professional and important service to members and to those who come looking for support and solutions – some of these go on to become EBS members, and some do not. There is an increasing need for our Resource Officer, Mark, to research new low vision strategies most appropriate to a particular situation, and to keep up with the rapidly**



**changing technology. This takes time which we ask our members to understand.**

**Our many activities continue to be enjoyed by our members and I hope that you will all take advantage of them to ensure that we keep them going. There's something for everyone on a daily basis with active sports, outings, gentle exercises, and social afternoons of all types.**

**Finally, although these continue to be challenging times in terms of uncertainty around funding and commissioning, EBS remains in a strong position to support its members. We are fortunate in our excellent team of volunteers, trustees and staff, who individually and collectively make EBS a great organisation to belong to.**

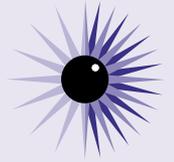
**We are looking forward to 2019, and continuing to do all we can for you, the members.**

*Deirdre*

## **EBS Table Sale**

Each year we have three days fundraising in the Arndale Centre, selling handmade knitted toys and dolls, blankets, hats and mittens, and many other items which have been made for us by EBS members, friends and volunteers. This is a very important part of our fundraising so PLEASE come along and support it, and do some Christmas shopping at the same time.

We will be there on Monday 12th November, Tuesday 13th November and Wednesday 14th November from 10.00am until 3.00pm. Please help us by spreading the word.



## Win-A-Car

EBS has been allocated our day to sell tickets for the annual Win-A-Car competition in the Arndale Centre, and this year it is Monday 12th November. Please do buy your tickets from us, and tell your friends, neighbours and families to do the same. As it is the same day as our Table Sale, you can do both at the same time!!

Thanks in advance for supporting us.

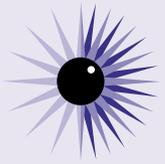
## Power Cuts

We have been contacted by UK Power who are very keen that you should know about the help they can offer. Please read the article below that they have asked us to include in the ViewPoint.

**Would you, or your family, benefit from free help during a power cut?**

UK Power Networks owns and maintains the cables delivering electricity to homes, schools and businesses in South East and East of England as well as London. Their teams of engineers fix any problems with the electricity lines and cables, keeping the lights on and powering many essential services. Although power cuts are rare, they do still happen and can be particularly worrying for people in vulnerable circumstances.

UK Power Networks has a Priority Services Register, which provides vital help and support to vulnerable people during any power cuts. You can apply to be on the register if you rely on power for medical



needs, or need extra assistance for another reason such as having mobility aids, refrigerated medicines or having communication needs for those who are hearing or visually impaired. The services are also designed to support families where people are living with autism, ADHD, developmental conditions and/or temporary life changes.

Being on the register does not mean your power can be restored quicker but it will mean that UK Power Networks customer services team will know about your needs and can arrange extra support during a power cut while engineers restore supplies to your home.

**If you are on the register, you can access free extra services including:**

- A 24-hour priority phone number
- A dedicated team who will keep you updated during a power cut
- Tailored support such as home visits, hot meals, advice and keeping your friends and relatives updated
- In certain circumstances, a generator or a stay in a hotel (including transport)

**You can apply at:**

[www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority](http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority)  
and the website includes a Browse aloud function.

**Alternatively you can email:**

[psr@ukpowernetworks.co.uk](mailto:psr@ukpowernetworks.co.uk)

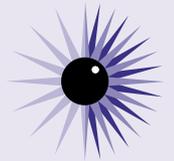
If you prefer a large print booklet or audio book this can be requested also.

**The number to call should you experience a power cut is 105.**

# We are celebrating!!

The Resource Room will be 10 years old at the end of October! Having officially opened its doors back in 2008 this aspect of the work of EBS has seen a lot of change over the years. Not just in personnel, but also the sorts of equipment available to our members and the way in which we work. The Resource Room is open whenever the Centre is, and we no longer operate a drop in day –please be aware that Mark may be busy with another member or even be visiting someone in their home to install or demonstrate equipment. ALWAYS BOOK AN APPOINTMENT so as not to have a wasted journey.

Alongside the usual examples of Visual Aids and Equipment (talking clocks, liquid level indicators, magnifiers, etc.) we are now able to demonstrate other devices that you may not have heard of, like Miracast dongles. Mark is more than happy to research other items that may just be the solution to a specific problem/issue you may have. All you need to do is ask! Please make an appointment with Mark to see if there is anything that might help you to live more independently.



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## Diary Dates

**Win-A-Car** – Monday 12th November 2018

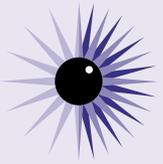
**Table Sale** – Monday 12th November  
to Wednesday 14th November 2018

**Polyphony Concert** - Sunday 16th December 2018

**Office closes for Christmas** – Friday 21st December  
2018

**Office Reopens** – Wednesday 2nd January 2019

**Activities start again** – Monday 7th January 2019



## Christmas Poem

EBS member, Jack King has sent in this lovely poem at our request. We're sure you will enjoy it as much as we did.

### Christmas As it Used to Be

I remember Christmas as it used to be,  
Lit candles clipped on a Christmas tree,  
With gay paper streamers, baubles, hung,  
On dark, dark branches, ancient carols sung.

Lamplight spilling warm on snow,  
Windows all around aglow,  
Happy people snug within  
Let the merry time begin!

Simple things for simple folk  
The Christmas cracker's printed joke,  
Everybody thinks it's funny,  
At least that makes it worth the money.

How much is plenty? How much too much?  
How much too little? Don't think on such,  
Why spoil the dancing? Why spoil the song?  
Christmas like summer won't last very long.

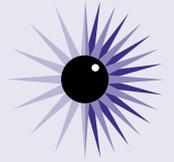
How welcome the turkey brought in on a plate,  
The sight is so tempting that no-one can wait,  
Who gets the wishbone has the right to three wishes,  
Then follows the pudding, a king among dishes.

So, Christmas, though simple, was always good cheer,  
And so it went on, unchanged year on year,  
It's not the same now when we all have so much,  
That we turn up our noses at turkeys and such.

Christmas and snow, Christmas and snow,  
Reindeer and carollers. Where did they go?  
Where are the snows of yesterday?  
Safe in my memory locked away.

Christmas As it Used to Be

*Jack P King*



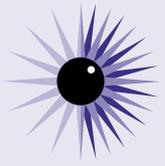
## Tried and Tested bargains

We have a number of items available for a donation. These are all 2nd hand and have been tested to make sure they are safe to use. We currently have, among other items, a number of Daisy Players (£25), USB MP3 players (£20), Twist Lights (£15) and stand magnifiers (£10). Do come along to the Centre if any of these items sound like they may be useful to you. Your Welfare Officer will also have a list of items that are available and will be able to give you a suggested donation amount for each item. We really want these items to benefit our members so do not hesitate to ask if you need anything specific. If we've got it, you can have it!

Please also remember that there are also a number of great gift ideas available to purchase through our various suppliers. These range from practical items to help around the home (eg. liquid level indicators, needle threaders, Nimble craft cutters, talking tin lids), technology (electronic magnifiers, USB MP3 players, tablets, mobile phones and DAB (digital) radios), games (large print cards, Scrabble, Connect 4, dominoes and Rubiks cube) and puzzle books (Sudoku, word-search and crossword) all in large print format. Order now to ensure delivery before Christmas.

### **EBS Opening Hours:**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday	9.00 to 4.00
Wednesday	9.00 to 1.00
Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays	Closed



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# **CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT**

**Sunday 16th December at 7.45pm**

# *Christmas*

**ALL SAINTS' CHAPEL**

**POLYPHONY VOICES IN HARMONY**

**Tickets £5.50**

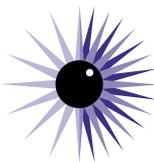
**Obtainable from Bonners Music Store  
& Eastbourne Blind Society**

**Doors open 7.00 pm**

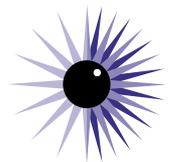
**Concert with interval contact details  
[www.sovereignpolyphony.com](http://www.sovereignpolyphony.com)**

**Tickets at door £6.50**

**Champagne raffle & evening bar**



**Proceeds to  
Eastbourne Blind Society**



Disclaimer

Any items mentioned in this newsletter are for information purposes and their inclusion does not imply their suitability for anyone.

Edited by Deirdre Dean and Mark Simmons