

CHAIRMANS ADDRESS 2019

Hello members and guests I would like to welcome you all to this the 11th AGM of Sight for Wight (previously IOW Society for the Blind)

As you are all probably aware I am standing down after 4 years as Chairman of this very important society. For those of you that were in attendance at the last AGM you possibly remember I gave a detailed address on a month to month basis of progress made during the previous 12 months. I don't intend to do that again at this time. I would like to highlight a few things then hand over to our new Chairman Sue Bungey and our CEO Miriam Tong to explain the way forward.

Lisa Hollyhead our financial officer has proved to be very able the accounts procedures have been completely overhauled and are working much more efficiently for the benefit of the society, also Lisa has saved us a considerable sum of money by negotiating with various suppliers.

The Admin side of the Society has improved immeasurably. Financial controls and accurate budget forecasts are now in operation. Also the restructuring of staff responsibilities, have enabled the Society to be run more efficiently.

Various Volunteer team updates and social gatherings were arranged during 2018, all those who attended really appreciated the efforts made by both staff and Trustees.

The forming of 2 distinct Fundraising Committees. One Board driven, and one with volunteers plus staff involvement, have proved to be very successful with different events organised or attended. One very different and positive event was a gin tasting evening organised by myself and a neighbour of mine. This helped to raise a considerable sum of money for the society. Unfortunately some attended events weren't as successful as others, but without trying we wouldn't know that. Obviously that helps us plan for future events at specific locations. I will still be organising regular quizzes at the Waverley in Carisbrooke. These are proving to be well attended. The last one was on Feb 7th.

Dress for Less is going from strength to strength all thanks to Debbie Durbridge the Manager and her dedicated volunteer staff.

I'd like to say how pleased I was with the Story Writing competition in December at the Riverside Centre. This event helps to spread the Society's name island wide and generates interest from schools and businesses. We were very fortunate that 2 acts donated their time to help make the evening such a success. They were Huxley the magician and the Melodic Choir, who also donated part of their proceeds from 2 other concerts to the society. We also

had 3 volunteers come forward to offer their time for a future innovative project that our CEO will mention later. Many thanks to Chris Cane and all the volunteers plus the staff, who attended the event and worked behind the scenes to help make it such a success and enabled us to raise £1572

Finally I would like to thank the staff, our CEO and the Board for all their support during my tenure. I will still be remaining as a Trustee and volunteer also I will be retaining my place on various sub committees.