

I would like to welcome you all to our November 2019 Annual General Meeting for Sight for Wight.

My name is Sue Bungey and I am honoured to have been appointed Chair in February 2019. I would like to introduce the Trustees:

Chris Biles

Christina Conroy, who also serves as Vice Chair and Treasurer

Jacque Gazzard

Laura Gooljar

Ruth Hollingshead

John Moore

Paul Rutherford, ex Chair

As trustees, we are responsible for governing the charity and making decisions about how it should be run. Some are reasonably simple, some complex with far reaching consequences. We have to be accountable to the Charity Commissioners, our beneficiaries and all who have an interest in the charity. We always have to act in good faith and in the interest of the charity and adhere to our core objectives, which are:

- Providing support and information to Islanders affected by sight loss.
- Supporting services and activities to Islanders affected by sight loss.
- Promoting wellbeing to Islanders affected by sight loss.
- Promoting avoidable sight loss to the wider Island community of all ages.

This, in particular, is part of our 2020 vision and Miriam Tong, CEO, has had great success in trialling this imaginative and educational idea in several island schools.

An AGM is an ideal time to review the past year and to consider opportunities for the future. We owe a debt of gratitude to all those who have supported the charity since its inception in 1895 and all those who continue to help, who promote the positives of the organisation and ensure that it is fit for purpose, as we move forward.

During 2019 we have continued to explore ways of accessing new funding streams and enjoyed many social events. I can think of the visit of the High Sheriff, Geoff Underwood, in May, who donated £500 from the High Sheriff Fund. Our recent, very successful Murder Mystery evening and the Waverley quizzes, always an evening of keen competition! In December we have our awards celebration for our Short Story Competition, the entries are up again and it is always such an enjoyable evening.

Our website provides a fount of information and is easy to use and we are also making more use of social media. Our marvellous Newsletter is beautifully produced, always full of news and photos and the amount of activities it records is truly astonishing. An incredible record of the valuable work Sight for Wight achieves.

Our Community Interest Company, Dress for Less, under the leadership of Debbie Durbridge and her supportive, hardworking team of volunteers, make sure the shop is always well-stocked and attractively displayed. They have just held their second successful fashion event and there is a developing number of loyal customers.

We are very aware of the external and internal forces affecting us and keen to invest in a way forward to keep the Society financially sound, so that we may carry on supporting our key objectives. With that in mind, we are organising a strategy day in January for all trustees and staff, so that we may all be invested in our way forward.

My thanks, as always, are due to the Trustees, for their support, which I have really appreciated and their many hours of volunteering, generously given.

My thanks to Miriam, as CEO; her team consisting of:

Chris Cane

Susan Earley

Jasmine Edwards

Lisa Hollyhead

Laura Jasper

Janet Parker

Sue Young

You all put in so much commitment and many extra hours of your own time, donated to Sight for Wight, the Trustees would like to thank you all.

Last but by no means least, my grateful thanks to all our volunteers, without whom we couldn't provide our member services and our impressive range of activities. They are a vital asset, who donate enormous amounts of time and energy into supporting Sight for Wight.

Thank you.