

Walsall Society for the Blind

**For every
generation**



**A world
of
support**

A Year in Review

2015 - 2016 Edition 111

Annual Report and Summary Financial Statements 2015/2016

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Officers and Members

President: Sir J. A. Hawley KCVO, K.St.J,TD,JP,MA

Vice Presidents The Worshipful The Mayor of Walsall
Angela Underhill, The Lord Bishop of
Lichfield, The Rt. Reverend J. Gledhill,
D. J. Mace, D. I. Pepper FCA,
M. L. Griffiths

Chairman J. H. Cooke JP

Vice Chairman D. Smith

Treasurer J. Whitehouse

Chief Executive A. J. Reed

Members *S. Ahmed, M. L. Stanley, *R. Thompson,
*J. E. Harris, *K. Merchant, R. Meere,
C. J. Hawley, MA,ACMA, *I. Pearson.
WALSALL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH
COUNCIL, Councillors: T. Jukes,
P. Washbrook, S. Harris (Education)
S. Wood (Adult Social Care)

Board of Directors Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer,
M. L. Stanley, R. Meere, *R. Thompson,
*J. Harris, *Dr. M. Hodgson, A. M. Elliot,
*E. Smith

Joint Management Centre for the Blind and Partially Sighted
Committee J. H. Cooke, M. L. Stanley,
Councillors: T. Jukes, P. Washbrook

Auditors Bakers

Bankers HSBC Plc

Investment Advisors EFG Harris Allday

*Visually Impaired Person

Mission Statement

Founded in 1885, The Mission of Walsall Society for the Blind is to provide information, support and friendship to all visually impaired people in the Borough of Walsall. The Society serves 1,266 Blind and Partially Sighted people resident in the Walsall Metropolitan Borough, to whom we offer the following:

Charitable Services

Social Activities Centre - Offering over 140 places per week
Community Officer - Offering information, advice and home visits
Resource Base - Offering information, equipment and training
Talking Newspaper and Magazine Service - Audio entertainment

Contracted Services

Eye Clinic Liaison Service - Based at Walsall Manor Hospital
Registration Officer - Offering information, advice and support
Transcription Service - Provision of alternate formats

Staff Positions

Chief Executive Officer	Amanda Reed
Personal Assistant to CEO	Jayne Jones
Finance Officer	Sue Thompson
Community Officer	Dilys Chrabaszcz
Social Activity Centre Co-ordinator	Jackie Wilkinson, Joanne Grinsted, Janet Humphreys
Talking Services Manager	Keith Corbett
RILS & Community Eng. Officer	Les White
Operational Support Officer	Claire Evans
WTN Engineer	Barry Moseley
Eye Clinic Liaison Officer	Janet Porter
Domestic Assistant	Brian Grace
Brailist	Ruth Gibbons

Chief Executive Officer's Report

As another year goes by, we find ourselves busier than ever.

Requests for information, support and friendship increased, as we dealt with 3,500 community cases, 3,000 enquiries at Reception, 2,200 Social Activity Centre placements and over 10,000 WTN and Magazine publications, not bad for a year's work.



The year did get off to a rocky start, as our contracts with Walsall Council, for the Eye Clinic Liaison Officer (ECLO) and Registration Information and Liaison Officer (RILS), came to an end and were terminated.

Following a re-evaluation by Walsall Council, the contracts went out to tender. This was a position we had never been placed in before, as we had to compete with other organisations, in order to try and win back the contracts.

With support from Helen Smith, for Action for the Blind, we submitted our tender and after a nervous wait, were informed at the beginning of July that we were successful in our application. For the first time the contract was given to us with a guarantee of 3 years, with the possibility to extend to 4 years. A good result!

Feeling confident, we then applied for a new contract to deliver Empowerment, Engagement and Decision Making, unfortunately missing out to the original provider. However, we were not deterred, as we then tendered for the Transcription contract, in which we succeeded, 2 out of 3, we were proud of our success.

The Social Activity Centre continues to thrive thanks to Joanne, Jackie and Janet and their team of dedicated volunteers.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Through meetings with the Social Activity Representatives each quarter, we have the opportunity to discuss and make suggestions for the Social Activity Centre and plan a timetable of activities through the year. Whilst retaining their autonomy, each group raise their own group funds and each finance their own Christmas activities, buffets, outings and entertainment.

Walsall Talking Newspaper (WTN) and Magazine Service, managed by Keith Corbett, said goodbye to Sharron Wainwright, after 21 years of volunteering for WTN. As we said goodbye to the popular Chatterbox spot from Sharron, we said hello to Reach Out, a new spot created by WTN volunteer Jane, who carried through the transition of both features seamlessly, with Reach Out being well received by our listeners.

Moving forward within the Society, Claire's role of Operational Support Officer has grown, as she has introduced new ventures and services into the Social Activity Centre.

In his role as Community Engagement Officer, Les continues to make and maintain contact throughout the year, with those registered with a sight loss within the Walsall Borough. Ensuring that individuals are safe and well and ascertaining if they are in need of any additional services.

This ongoing support has allowed us to accomplish so much, helping us achieve our mission of providing information, support and friendship through the services we deliver, to those with sight loss, their families and carers across the Borough of Walsall.

**We are proud that we continue to provide
all of our services, free of charge.**

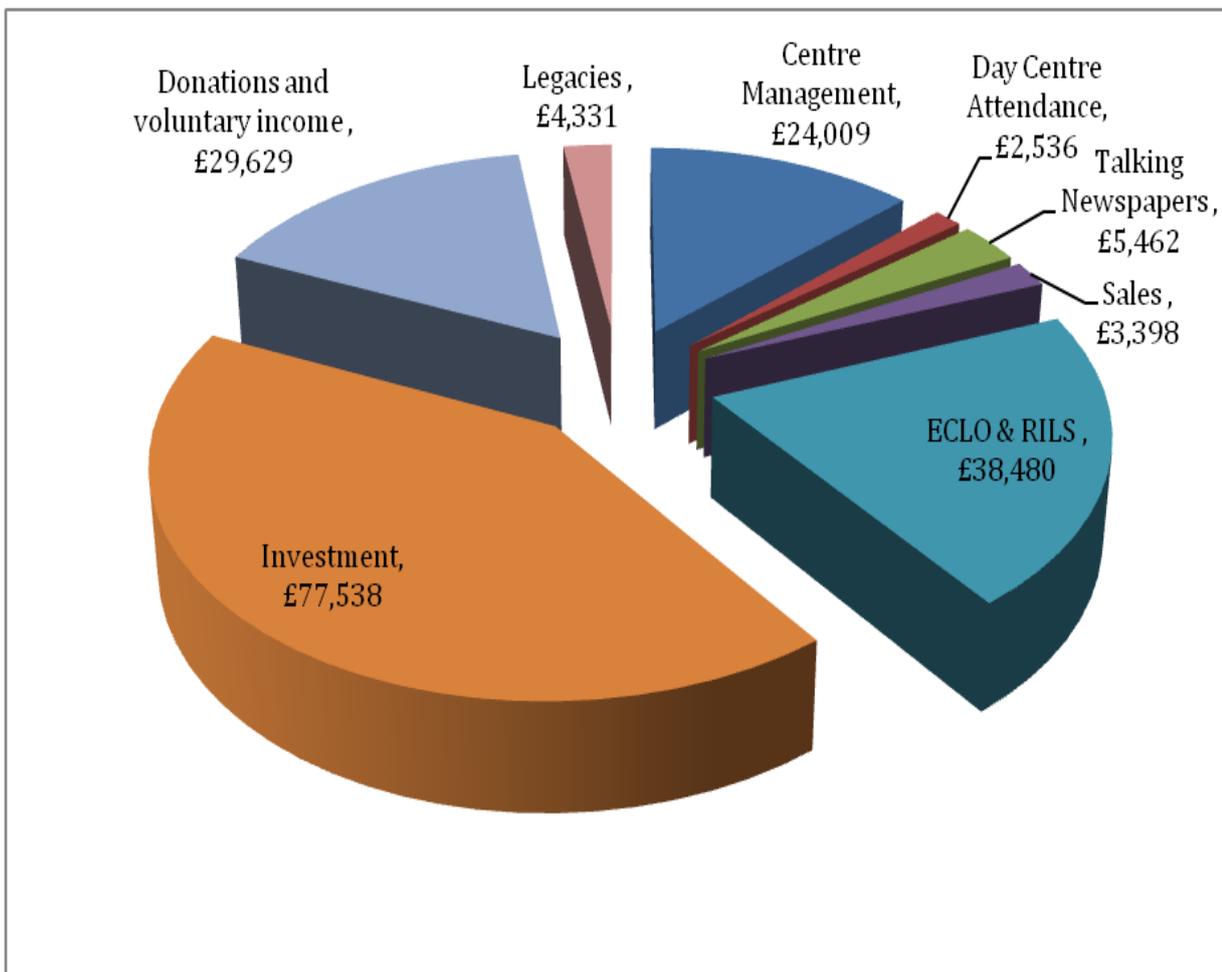
Amanda

Treasurer's Report

Income

Our total income for the year was £183,679 compared with £182,953 last year. We saw an increase in donations and legacies of £9,331 and a loss of £10,758 when the Befriending and Support grant income ceased.

Income by Source – year to 31 March 2016



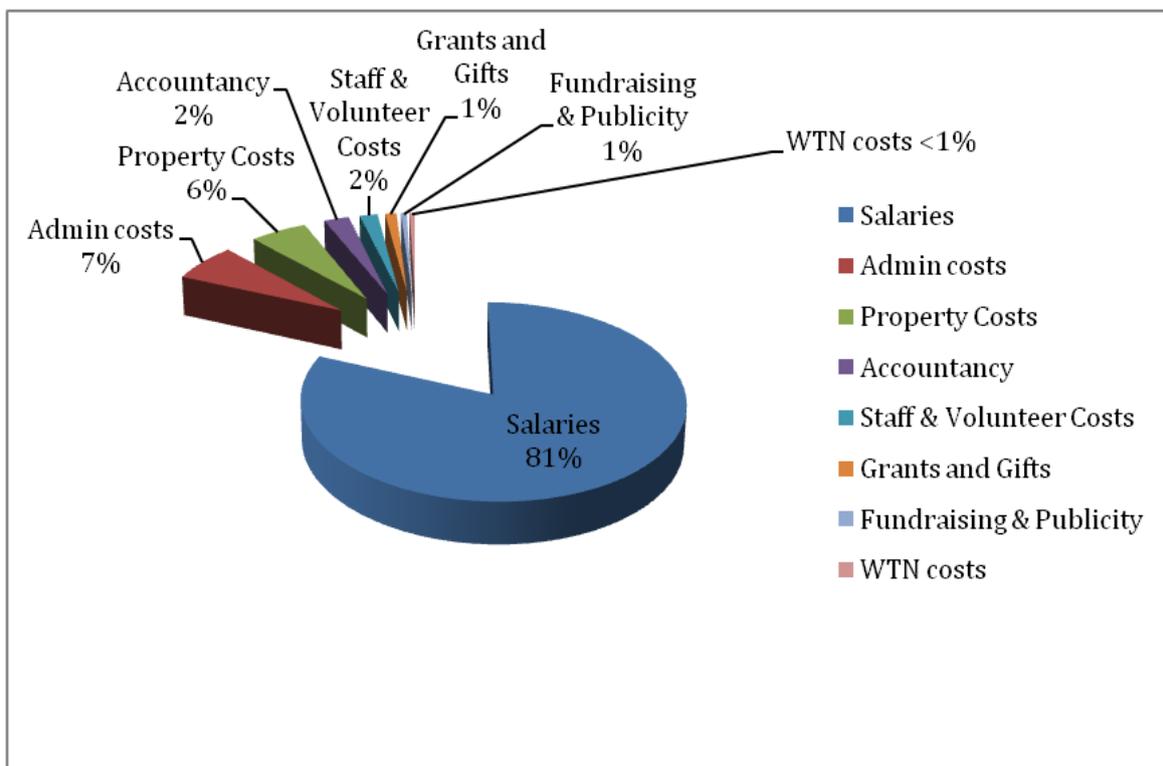
We wish to thank all who support the Society and the families of those who donate to us in memory of their loved ones. Thank you to Walsall Council for their continued support.

Treasurer's Report

Expenditure

Costs incurred this year were £226,553 compared with £243,529 in the prior year. Salaries form the largest share of our expenditure, which has been reduced again, by £8,122 compared with the prior year.

Expenditure by cost – year to 31 March 2016



Result for the year

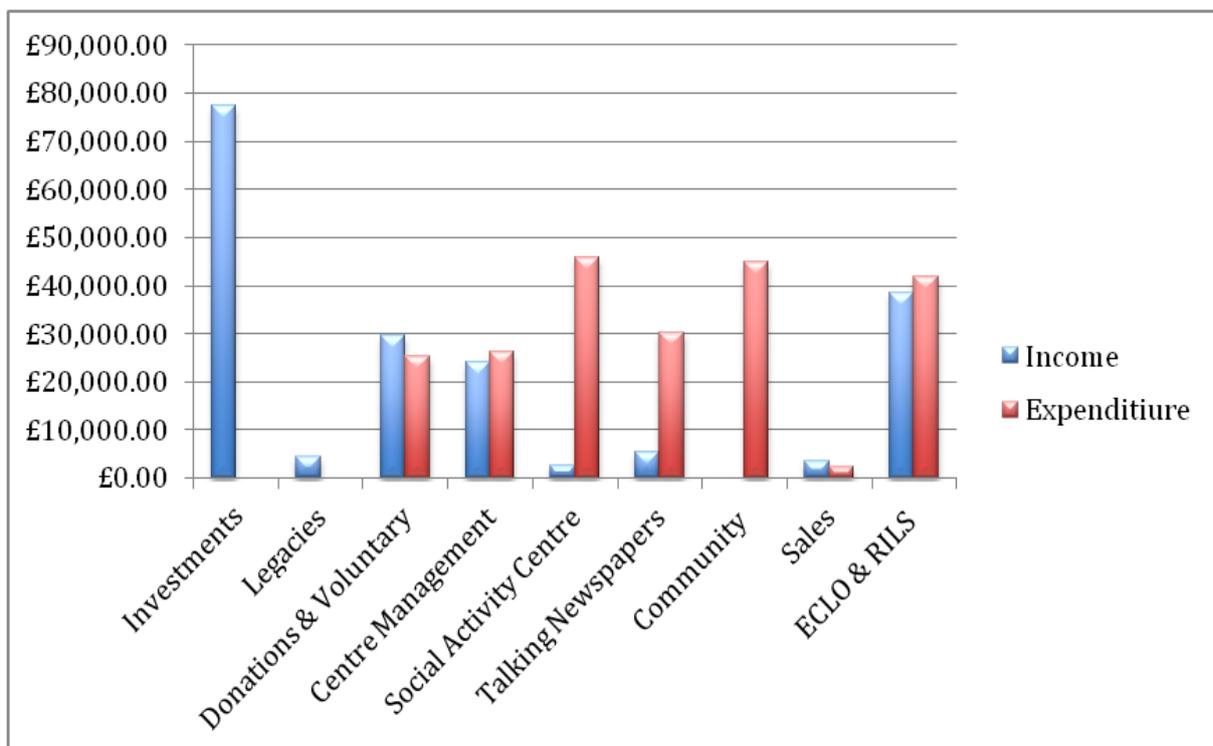
Once again, our expenditure exceeded our income by £42,874, compared with £60,576 last year. Whilst we try to continue to maintain the level of support and guidance we offer to Blind and Partially Sighted individuals, their families and carers, within the Borough of Walsall.

Treasurer's Report

Our investment income, legacies and donations, are used primarily to fund the Social Activity Centre, Talking Newspaper and Magazine Service, Community Support and Transcription Service.

As we have seen, the level of legacies and general donations has not been sufficient, to fully fund all services Walsall Society for the Blind continues to offer, hence the deficit arising for the year.

Income & Expenditure – year to 31 March 2016



Society Assets

The investment income we receive each year, is generated from our investment portfolio and is managed by an independent broker.

The income received represented 42% of our total annual income.

The cost of our investments was consistent at £1.2 million and were valued at £1.8 million at the year end.

Treasurer's Report

Society Reserves

We are required to hold sufficient funds to cover between 9 months and 2 years' costs at any time, which we hold in a Development Fund, at £1.2 million.

The closing unrestricted funds for use by the Society, stand at £664,691.

Summary

Whilst there is a continued strain on funding, the Trustees believe that the Society has sufficient funds to continue to support the visually impaired people of Walsall.

The Trustees also express thanks to the Chief Executive Officer and her dedicated team of personnel and volunteers, who have managed to provide continued support in these challenging times.

A complete set of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016 is available from the Society in various formats, on request.

Statement of Financial Activities

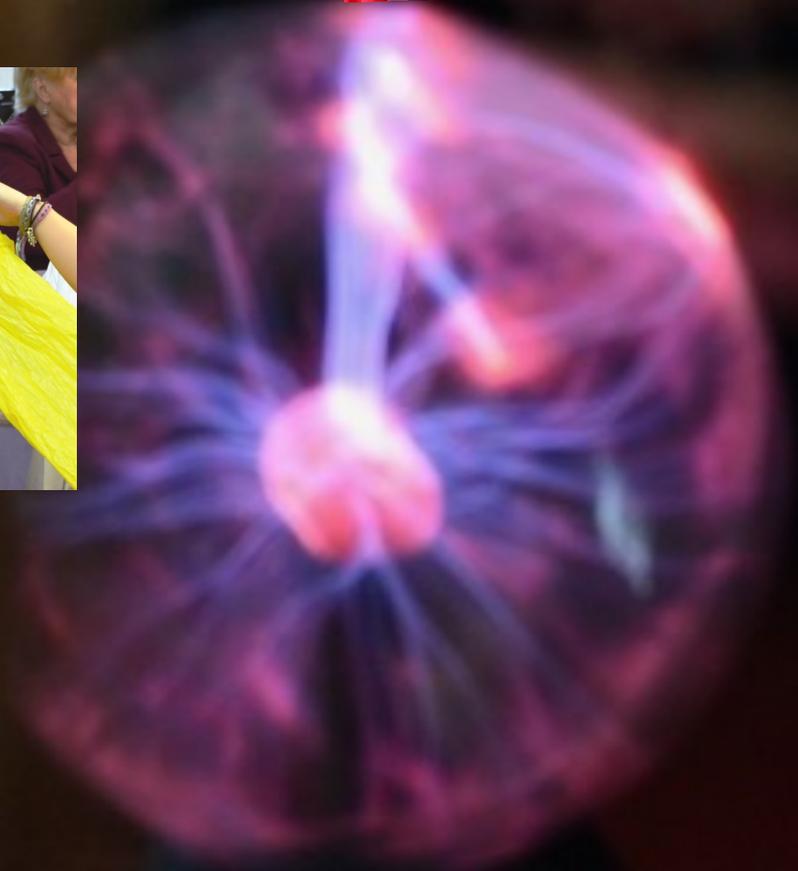
Year to 31 March 2016

	2016 £	2015 £
Incoming Resources		
Voluntary income – donations	33,296	31,637
Legacies	4,331	0
Grants & contracts	65,116	73,753
Sale of living aids & equipment	3,398	2,568
Investment income	77,538	74,995
<u>Total Incoming Resources</u>	183,679	182,953
Resources Expended		
Charitable activities	196,942	212,030
Fundraising trading expenditure	0	3,668
Cost of generating voluntary income	29,611	22,440
Governance costs	0	5,391
<u>Total Resources Expended</u>	226,553	243,529
Net outgoing/incoming resources	(42,874)	(60,576)
Realised and unrealised gains on investment assets	(90,129)	121,769
Net Movement of Funds	(133,003)	61,193
Fund balance transferred	(0)	(0)
Fund Balances at start of the year	1,998,024	1,936,831
<u>Fund Balances at end of the year</u>	1,865,021	1,998,024

On Saturday 9th January 2016, we held our Annual Children's Party, for families from all over the Walsall Borough.

We were delighted to be joined by 18 families, who received a warm welcome from our volunteers and staff. We had a buffet lunch and the opportunity for families to get together and have a chat. We all enjoyed some fun with Sublime Science, who with the help of the children performed lots of exciting experiments. The Mayor of Walsall came to join the party and handed out presents.

We cannot wait for the next party!!!!





***There are almost
2 million people
in the UK living with
sight loss, with almost
25,000 blind and partially
sighted children in Britain,
that is equal to 2 in 1,000
children.**

***Statistics
from RNIB**

**Our dedicated
Community Team
offers emotional and
practical support
and a wealth of
information for the
whole family.**



Social Activities Centre

“Do you know an older person with impaired vision due to age?”

Are they suffering from loneliness and Social Isolation?

These were the questions we asked Clients, Doctors, Opticians and Consultants, as we reached out into the community, to help reduce social isolation.



Social isolation, can affect both young and old alike. Reaching out to others, making contact and communicating, aids social interaction and helps people retain active involvement with others.

We offer the opportunity to come along and be part of our Social Activities groups, make new friends and join in with our many activities.

You do not have to be registered blind or partially sighted to attend our groups and we are also here to help, advise and link you to other services and groups to further grow your network.



Offering a safe, relaxed and welcoming environment, enjoy a hot meal on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, for just £3.95 per meal. We also have a Tuesday evening ladies group and a group on alternate Thursdays. Transport can be provided care of Ring and Ride at £1- £2 per journey.



With regular entertainment, quizzes, bingo and crafts, there really is something for everyone. So don't miss out, come along and join us.

All our services are free of charge.



Our loyal volunteers keep the Society functioning day in, day out.

Without their commitment, time and support, we would not be able to provide the many services that we do.

In the last 12 months our volunteers have provided 4,333 hours of their time, over many areas including, the Social Activity Centre, Walsall Talking Newspaper and Befriending, this equates to a whopping value of £30,115.00!!!





From Clients and Staff, we would like to say thank you to each and every volunteer, for everything that you do, each day throughout each year.

On Tuesday 22nd December 2015, we held our Volunteers Annual Party. With plenty to eat and drink, we relaxed and enjoyed the soothing tones of entertainers Miss Fortunes, who sang classics from the 1940's.

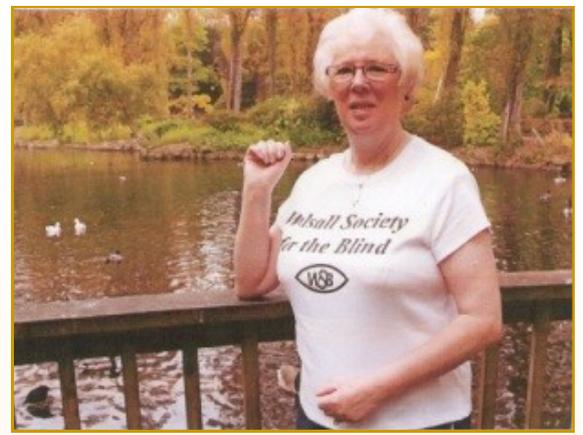
What a lovely way to end the year.

WALSALL SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND



**Margaret
(centre) with
Amanda Reed,
Chief Executive
Officer and
Keith Corbett,
Talking Services
Manager**

Walking, for Walsall Talking News



On Tuesday 27th October 2015, Margaret Hampton donned her walking shoes, to take on a 3 mile fundraising walk through Walsall Arboretum.

Margaret who is a Charity Champion, took part in the walk, in honour of her Mother and Father and to help raise money for Walsall Society for the Blind, a charity close to her heart.

Loving Daughter Margaret said her Father Sidney Pugh was a member of the Society and her Mother Edith was a volunteer, who served meals at the Society well into her 80's.

Margaret contacted the Society and offered us a book of poems called 'All Together' for us to read out on our Talking Newspaper Service. The book was gratefully received and the poems were read out on our publications.

As a keen walker, Margaret has raised thousands of pounds for a host of different charities and wanted to raise funds for us in recognition of our interest in the book, which was the work of many members of the Walsall Ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and as a thank you for the care given to her parents.

We would like to thank Margaret and her close friends and family for their donations, raising £225.00.

Walsall Talking Newspaper and Magazine publications are packed with local news, items of interest, The Peoples Friend, Reader's Digest and much more. If you would like any of the publications, please do get in touch with us and we will be happy to help.

Gifts and Donations

The Royal Naval Association

We are honoured to have been chosen as Local Charity for this year, by the Bloxwich R.N.A. Branch.

Their first event held in aid of the Society was a Charity evening, held Friday 2nd October 2015 at Colebatch's Club, 699 Bloxwich Road, Leamore, Walsall.

The event raised £500.00 in support of our work and we would like to say thank you to everyone who helped to organise the event, purchased tickets and gave their support.

We are extremely proud of our association with the R.N.A. and thank them for their support and for choosing us as their local Charity.



Cheque presentation from the Bloxwich R.N.A Branch to Chief Executive Officer of the Society, Amanda Reed.


THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION.
PRESENTS
A CHARITY EVENING
ON BEHALF OF
SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND.
GREAT ARTISTS
OUR FRED
ALSO
DEBBIE DEE
FRIDAY 2nd OCTOBER 2015.
7-30pm-TILL LATE.
COME ALONG AND GIVE YOUR SUPPORT.
ADMISSION - £1-00 - TICKET.
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM ALAN BOWN.

Support throughout
central vision loss


Macular Society

Walsall Macular Support Group

Meets Monthly Third Monday
11am to 1pm

Walsall Blind Centre, Hatherton Road, Walsall, WS1 1XS

For further information please contact:

Neal 07717 192 513



Helpline 0300 3030 111
www.macularsociety.org
help@macularsociety.org

Registered Charity Nos 1001198, SC042015 Scotland, 1123 Isle of Man.
Macular Society is the trading name of the Macular Disease Society.

POST A4MY-B 0615

Tea & Tech

February 17th 2016 saw the introduction of the Tea & Tech group. A lottery funded project, managed by W'EYES.

Do you have sight loss? Interested in technology, but never used a computer, mobile phone or tablet before?

Maybe you struggle to use different forms of technology or are just experiencing issues and need advice because of failing eye sight.

Come along to our **free** Tea & Tech group. Have a chat and a play with the latest gadgets, equipment and software, see how this can be set up and accessible for those with sight loss.

Feel free to bring along your own device if you have one.

Groups are held every fortnight on Wednesdays, at 10.30 am and are held at Walsall Society for the Blind.

**Please call Dee on: 07814 262895
for more information or to confirm
an interest.**



W'EYES is an impartial charity run by and for the benefit of blind and partially sighted people in the Walsall area.

Memories

As the years come and go,
it is with sadness, that we lose friends
we have made over time.

They will always
be remembered fondly,
with happiness
and never forgotten.





Walsall Society for the Blind
Hawley House
11 Hatherton Road
Walsall. WS1 1XS

Helpline Number
01922 627683



email: hawleyhouse@wsftb.co.uk



www.walsallblind.org
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Created and published by Jayne Jones

