



SITE

Supported Integration Training and Employment

SITE eNewsletter June 2017 Issue 91

Welcome to your June edition of the newsletter and although May was a month to remember for many June promises to be big on accessibility. In this issue we have the latest from Apple, Google and local events and opportunities that relate to the sight loss community.

Any comments, contributions welcome, just send to info@sitescotland.org
Visit the [SITE website](#) for all your information needs and why not join us on Facebook and Twitter to keep up to date on all the news you need to stay ahead.

Contents:

Section 1: News Update

Section 2: Tech Talk

Section 3: Events and Training

Section 1: News Update

Book Blethers At The Mitchell

The second 'Book Blethers' event will take place at Glasgow Libraries' Resource Unit, The Mitchell Library, Granville Street entrance, G3 7DN).

The event is on Wednesday 14 June 2017 with the following sessions:

Session 1 - 2.00 to 3.30 p.m.

Session 2 - 4.00 to 5.30 p.m.

[Read more.](#)

Technology Intern – Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire

North Lanarkshire has a track record in innovation in technology and linking this to promoting independent living and keeping people safe through a combination of people response and technology including information websites as well as hardware and smart applications. The development of this technology has brought about new ways for people to overcome barriers in daily life. The intern will support the work we are doing in encouraging the use of smart technology throughout our services. We are looking for an imaginative individual to investigate apps and services that are available and to catalogue these so they may be accessed by our front line staff. The intern will also build partnerships with universities who are developing approaches in this exciting area. By the end of the project it is hoped that the internship will expand the use of universal Apps within a health and social care context and help establish a partnership with a university working in this field.

If you would like to discuss this opportunity with the employer prior to submitting your application, please contact: Morag Dendy Manager Adult Services (Mental Health Addictions and Disability) tel: 01698 332075
Completed applications to be forwarded by 10am on Thursday 22 June 2017 to Naomi Waite naomi@inclusionscotland.org
[Read more.](#)

Artlink Accessible Events June/July 2017

Full listings of gallery and library events designed for individuals with sight loss have just been released.
[Read more.](#)

University of Birmingham develops revolutionary eye drops to treat age-related blindness

Scientists at the University of Birmingham have developed a type of eye drop which could potentially revolutionise the treatment of one of the leading causes of blindness in the UK.
[Read more.](#)

Funny Things Happen!

We had a great response to a recent list of things that blind people can't do so in the same vein here are some funny things that have happened to some of our members.

1. On holiday in the Greek island of Rhodes we had a family apartment with me as the only member who was losing my sight. Anyway, I went in to the bathroom and felt something under my training shoe and so bent down to pick it up.

As I bent down I thought it was probably something either a member of the family had dropped or the cleaner missed.

I picked it up and could gauge it was roughly 4 inches long and it was wriggling!

I brought it nearer my eyes to get a closer look given my failing sight and quickly dropped it in the wash hand basin and turned on the very hot tap.

Yes you have guessed correctly it was a small grass snake and if I had sight I would have screamed the apartment down.

I could have sworn when I turned the tap off a small head appeared from the plug hole and then again I might have been hallucinating.

2. I usually have a good memory, much like a lot of blind people, but when you can't remember what you did with that £20 note you have a little panic. I did not want to alert my better half I was as a little forgetful so I had a long think wondering what had happened to the £20 note. I can tell you it is not too pleasant going through your wheelie bin after dark to see if was there with some receipts I threw out - I did not realise the amount of food our family throws away and how quickly it rots and seems to leap in to your hand. Got the £20 note too!

3. Taxi drivers are brilliant. Indeed a lot of taxi drivers just want to tell you about their old grannie who lived in a croft on an island somewhere off the west coast of Scotland - thoughts of St. kilda come leaping into my brain. She was 'partially blind and lived on her own' the driver stated. Clearly he was not up on the current jargon of sight impaired or severely sight impaired - then again why should he.

Obviously he noted I was blind but apart from that I am able to walk, jump, hop etc. So why does he want to grab me around the waist to help me out of the cab!

The same thing happens when I get in to the cab and I have to keep the driver back with my long cane.

Funny but embarrassing.

Section 2: Tech Talk

Apple: Latest Announcements

Apple, held the 2017 World Wide Developers Conference yesterday, and introduced the next version of iOS, a new speaker, and new Macs and iPads. There were some accessibility features that gained a brief visual mention that were not covered.

These included:

Type to SIRI

Siri's assistant has been voice-enabled since the iPhone 4S. But for those who are deaf or deaf-blind, this feature was largely out of reach. A new feature will allow users to type in their questions for Siri and receive text replies. This may be especially handy for controlling devices with HomeKit support.

expanded braille editing

This could go in a couple of different directions, including braille input or use of the on-screen braille keyboard. One notable bug involves editing words and adding letters to these words, which then get expanded into contractions against your will. Perhaps things like this will get some attention?

Redesigned Invert colours

This is an updated take on dark mode, which is designed to help people use their phones in bed among other places. Some low-vision users have also benefited from changes like this, depending on their type of visual impairment.

New accessible ATM app

A new app that helps blind and visually impaired users track down accessible ATMs has been launched.

The free LINK ATM Locator lets users search for cash machines that have a range of usability features, including: audio assistance; wheelchair access; free-to-use ATMs; £5 note dispensing; mobile phone top-up. Now if the cash was free that would be something!

[Read more.](#)

Virgin Launch Accessible In-Flight Entertainment System

An in-flight entertainment system designed for passengers who are blind or visually impaired has been launched by Virgin Australia Airlines on two models of aircraft from its fleet. The new

interface includes voice prompts, simplified screen layouts and larger icons, as well as allowing visually impaired passengers to easily access flight information, such as the time and distance remaining to their destination.

[Read more about the new in-flight system at Virgin Australia's website.](#)

Google Demonstrates Android O Accessibility

Google's IO conference, the place where developers go to learn about what's coming up next in Android, has spilled the beans on some forthcoming TalkBack improvements in Android O.

The conference highlighted several improvements coming in the next version of Android, which will likely be released this autumn.

[Read more.](#)

Just Press Record By Open Planet Software

Just Press Record is a simple, professional audio recorder that brings the ultimate convenience of one-tap recording and instant syncing via iCloud to all your devices. Perfect for capturing ideas, thoughts and memos on the go. With speech to text transcription, high quality audio playback and effortless sharing via Notes, Messages, Mail or any of your favourite apps that support audio or text, Just Press Record really is a great recording app.

An ideal tool for musicians, journalists, businesses, students, lecturers, audio professionals, podcasters or anyone who needs to capture audio at home, in the studio or on the move.

New for iOS 10, Just Press Record lets you transcribe your spoken words into text. Turn your recordings into handy text that scrolls along with your recording as it plays back. Tap on the single-line, scrolling transcription to display the entire formatted transcription in a much larger view.

Available for iOS 10, watchOS 3 and macOS.

Last but not least 'Just Press Record' is Made in Scotland!

Cost: £4.99

Section 3: Events and Training

Every Monday - Open Door at SITE. 10:30-12:00 where we can help with your technology issues - call to book a place.

June

11-17 June, Diabetes Awareness Week 2017

October

12 October World Sight Day

SITE is a Disabled Persons User-Led Organisation (DPULO)

SITE is a charity registered in Scotland. Charity No. SC 036056.

Registered address:

SITE, The Renfield Centre, 260 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4JP

Subscribe

If this email has been forwarded to you by a colleague or friend you may wish to subscribe yourself. You can do this simply by visiting :

<http://www.sitescotland.org/>

© 2017 SITE