



SITE eNewsletter November 2017 Issue No. 96

Bet you are all glad Halloween is over so we just have the annual Guido Fawkes - Parliamentary plots and conspiracy event and dark nights to look forward too!

In your November eNewsletter Hamburgers, Nougat and Accessible Travel and much more.

Please email any questions, comments, articles and news leads to [info@sitescotland.org](mailto:info@sitescotland.org)

Contents:

Section 1: News Update

Section 2: Tech Talk

Section 3: Events and Training

Section 1: News Update

Voyage Of Discovery - Accessible Travel Report

People with access needs still face numerous barriers when booking and undertaking travel, but existing and emerging technologies are crucial to making the process more accessible, research claims.

The new report found that while advancing technologies such as voice recognition, artificial intelligence and virtual reality are being used by some companies and hotels to make travel more inclusive, website accessibility and use of mobile devices – for tasks such as managing bookings – are still fundamental for travellers with access needs.

The study, 'Voyage of discovery: Working towards inclusive and accessible travel for all', was commissioned by travel technology consulting firm Amadeus and carried out by Ilunion, a consulting firm owned by ONCE, the Spanish National Organisation of the Blind.

[Read more.](#)

Vote For Glasgow goalball!

Glasgow goalball has been selected to try and receive support from the aviva community fund. they need 1000 votes to be in for a shout to be awarded some funding, we would be grateful for your support

[Vote for Glasgow Goalball here.](#)

'Call for Evidence' launched to help make voting more accessible. The UK Government is gathering public opinion to find out how accessible the country's electoral system is for persons with disabilities.

The Call for Evidence was launched online by the Cabinet Office to collect information about direct experiences of voters with disabilities in elections.

The document claims that responses will "help identify if current mechanisms to support disabled people to participate in the democratic process are sufficient," as well as identifying good practice from the Electoral Services Team in elections.

The deadline for responses, which can be sent via email or post, is November 14.

[Read more.](#)

Consumer Voices

A consumer reviews website focusing on products to assist independent living will be launched in spring next year by national research charity Rica, with reviews written by disabled consumers. The new site, named Rate it!, is being funded by the Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning (DRILL) programme, and will be shaped by responses to a recent Rica survey, plus upcoming focus groups and user-testing.

[Read more about Rate it! at the DRILL website.](#)

Scottish Union of Supported Employment (SUSE) Annual Conference – 5th December 2017

This is a period of profound change in the employability sector. In the next few years there is an opportunity to transform the life chances of people with disabilities or long term conditions in Scotland. It is more important than ever

that the voices of our members and the people they serve are heard. The SUSE Annual Conference is your opportunity to come together with colleagues in the sector and shape the agenda as we move forward.

[Read more.](#)

## Section 2: Tech Talk

How to buy a hamburger without losing your self-esteem.

By Mel Poluck.

When the CNIB (formerly the Canadian National Institute for the Blind) opened its community hub last summer in Yonge St., Toronto, it set its ambitions high.

“We moved in, sat down and thought ‘how can we make this neighbourhood the most accessible in Canada?’” says CNIB’s Kat Clarke, Specialist Lead (Toronto), Advocacy and Government Relations (Ontario).

“The closest intersection to us wasn’t accessible, so we advocated to the [local council] to make it more accessible, which they’ve done,” says Clarke.

Now, a CNIB pilot aims to take local accessibility a step further using simple technology. ‘ShopTalk: BlindSquare Enabled’, allows blind and visually impaired people to find their way around the interiors of shops, cafés and other businesses in the neighbourhood via an app on their phone.

Small Bluetooth devices (‘beacons’) are mounted on the wall of the premises, near the door. When the user is in range, the app picks up on the Bluetooth signal, then speaks directions to the user. These directions use the clock-face method, such as: ‘Upon entrance, washrooms are at nine o’clock’. The directions also orientate users with distances, like ‘forward five metres to counter.’

[Read more about ShopTalk: BlindSquare Enabled at the CNIB website.](#)

## Screen-reader Research

A screen-reader user survey is being conducted by non-profit accessibility organisation WebAIM, to help inform web developers and content producers. All screen-reader users are invited to complete the survey, which covers users’ preferred screen-readers, mobile apps and accessibility of social media sites. The survey closes at the end of November.

[Find the screen-reader survey at the WebAIM site.](#)

EasyReader for iOS and Android

Dolphin has released the Android version of their EasyReader app.

EasyReader is a free accessible reading app for dyslexia, low vision & blindness.

[Read more.](#)

Neatbox and Welcome App - SITE Apps Club

At the October SITE Apps Club meeting Gavin Neat founder of Neatbox, informed members of the Beatbox and the new Welcome App his company has developed.

Gavin explained the history of Neatbox and the continued drive to focus on access and inclusion for everyone and their environments through assistive technology.

Neatebox

Pressing a button, at a Pedestrian Crossing, is easy unless you can't find or reach it. Neatebox's "Button" app presses the button for you at a pedestrian crossing purely by you downloading and running the free app and standing next to the button you want to press.

[Youtube Video – Pedestrian Crossing Test](#)

"Welcome" is a new app from Neatebox which helps customer service teams provide a five star level of service to any person with a disability on entry to their store. Promoting equality as its core purpose and accessibility in customer service. Listen to the videos below for

[Youtube Video – Neatebox Welcome App](#)

[Read more at the Neatbox website.](#)

If you are interested in the latest accessible apps? Then why not join the Apps Club on Facebook.

To join the apps club you just have to search Facebook for SiteAppsClub all one word and then you can select it from the results and send a request to join.

The monthly SITE Apps Club meeting is free to all to attend so why not come along to the November meeting on Wednesday 29 November at 10:30 at Venue: Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Partnership

201, West George Street, Glasgow G2 2LW.

To book your place just email Fraser at [fraserfleming@sitescotland.org](mailto:fraserfleming@sitescotland.org)

Android - Food For Thought!

The latest version of the Android Operating System is Android 7 Nougat, which will become available for more devices over the coming months.

Android O is available in beta form, and will be released later this year. Meanwhile, Marshmallow is version 6.x, lollipop is 5.x, KitKat is 4.4.x, and 4.3, 4.2 and 4.1 are all Jelly Bean.

If your device is running anything older than Jelly Bean, then unless you've simply never updated the software it's unlikely that an update will be available. The manufacturer probably doesn't support this device any longer.

### Section 3: Events

#### November

7 November SCQVI 2017 Conference, 9.45am, Dewars Centre, Perth

11 November Visual Impairment Sports Day, Scotstoun Leisure Centre, Glasgow

#### December

5 December 2017 Scottish Union of Supported Employment (SUSE) Annual Conference

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