



The newsletter of the
Wilberforce Trust

Wilberforce insight

Autumn 2014



YORSIGHT

Part of the Wilberforce Trust

A new banner for sight support in Yorkshire

The Wilberforce Trust trials its sight support activities, from the Low Vision Service to Visual Awareness Training to name just two services, under a new banner, **YORSIGHT**

The Wilberforce Trust and its forerunners, beginning with the Yorkshire School for the Blind in 1833, have been supporting people with sight loss in and around York for over 180 years and have continually modernised over time to ensure they keep delivering services required for people with a visual impairment.

In recent years services and activities extended to visually impaired people with other disabilities. The Wilberforce Trust is well known as a quality provider of housing for people with a visual impairment and other disabilities alongside providing care packages for the tenants of the houses. However the Wilberforce Trust has so many more services that people with visual impairments can access, but often do not associate them directly with us.

To reinforce its visibility as a major provider of support for people with sight loss in Yorkshire, and to provide the basis for an extension of these services now and into the future, the Board of Trustees of the Wilberforce Trust is considering incorporating the

other services it provides, outside of housing and care, under a new banner **YORSIGHT**. This is to help people identify with the other services. The first activity to trial the **YORSIGHT** banner and carry the name will be a major conference, 'Vision in the Future', at the National Railway Museum in October (see page 4).

Other services which may move under the **YORSIGHT** banner initially are Visual Awareness Training, the Low Vision Service, and Rehabilitation Services provided by qualified and experienced Rehabilitation Officers and Occupational Therapists. Awareness campaigns and specific fundraising activities may also be associated with **YORSIGHT**.

Wilberforce is currently carrying out research with customer groups, consulting people in Yorkshire to make sure that new services are tailor made to individuals with sight loss. Please let us know of your own experiences and how you could be better served to meet your own needs and aspirations, and if **YORSIGHT** may be able to assist you.

**Charity
Art Auction
York St John
University
11 October 2014**

Local and artists
with a disability,
including sight
loss
Drinks reception
and auction
7.00pm
Viewing from
12.00 noon on the
day.

*Further details
see page 3*

YORSIGHT
Conference 'Vision in the Future'
National Railway Museum, York, 16 October 2014

Chief Executive's Comment



3 Events/fundraising

A major Wilberforce fundraising event - a charity auction with art by artists local and with a disability



4 Events/people

A Wilberforce YORSIGHT conference 'Vision in the Future'. New Wilberforce executive managers



Living & Learning

Living & Learning

Pop-up sensory room adds to animals, music, craft and cooking sessions

Insider

Insider

St Peter's School pupils tell of their experiences as volunteers in Wilberforce supported housing

The Wilberforce Trust

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The current political and economic climate has created a health care environment in which charities find it increasingly difficult to operate. Wilberforce is no exception but it has also provided the opportunity for the executive team and Trustees to re-examine the services provided and restructure our operations, even create new services, a process which has been going for Wilberforce and its forerunners in York for over 180 years, and continues.

Creation of the 'pop-up' sensory room in the Wilberforce Living&Learning Zone is one example of a much-needed facility in York which Wilberforce has been able to create, with some very welcome help from our local supporters Sainsbury's and York City Council.

Really exciting is the trial of the Wilberforce YORSIGHT banner. As you can read on the front page of this issue of *Insight*, this is to help people identify with the services which Wilberforce provides to people with sight loss in York and further afield in Yorkshire, of which they often seem not to be aware. Also really exciting is Wilberforce's first own major conference, *Vision in the Future*, which will be staged under the YORSIGHT banner on 16 October.

Another stimulating development is the York and North Yorkshire Eyecare Forum, formed last year by Wilberforce and other organisations working to promote eye health and supporting VI people; the number of organisations has grown in number in the past few months and they are doing collaborative work looking at what services can really enhance people's lives.

We are pleased also that this year more people became involved in *National Eye Health Week*, so raising its profile. The next 'big day' for Wilberforce is a charity art auction (see opposite) at which we aim to raise money to help support the many developments I have spoken about; this is just two days after the 2014 *World Sight Day*.

Finally, Wilberforce tenants tell us they had a lovely summer, many of them supported by our staff to take a holiday and really enjoy the holiday places that are embracing facilities, here and abroad, to help people with VIs.

Philippa

Art Auction

A Wilberforce charity art auction, featuring works from professional artists with a local connection and professional artists with sight loss and/or other disabilities, will take place in York on 11 October. Some of the art to be auctioned is shown on this page but there will be about 30 pieces auctioned during the evening.

The event is in Quad South Hall, York St John University.

An unusual item is a genuine original piece of fax art sent by David Hockney from his Malibu home in the USA to a childhood friend, Michael Powell, in the UK in November 1988. Michael, a relative of a Wilberforce manager, has donated this item, depicted below, to the auction.



The auction is a unique opportunity to purchase some wonderful pieces of art and donate to a worthy cause at the same time. 100% of proceeds will go to the Wilberforce Trust.

Entry to the auction, and a drinks reception preceding it, is by ticket costing £10, this including a catalogue and entry for viewing from noon on the same day. To get a ticket to attend the event phone 01904 760037 or email enquiry@wilberforcetrust.org.uk.

You can bid by attending the auction of course, but if you are unable to attend the auction and would like to leave your maximum bid, pre-auction bids can be accepted by post and email until midday on 10 October 2014. Postal bids should be sent to: Anne Parkinson, Wilberforce Trust, 49 North Moor Road, York YO32 9QN. Email bids should be sent to enquiry@wilberforcetrust.org.uk. These advance bids should include the bidder's name, address, lot number and lot title and maximum amount bid.

All the art to be auctioned, with brief details of size and the artist and a guide price, is on the Wilberforce website: www.wilberforcetrust.org.uk.





YORSIGHT Conference Part of the Wilberforce Trust **Vision in the future**

A one day conference, 'Vision in the future', has been organised under the **YORSIGHT** banner of the Wilberforce Trust for professionals working in the fields of eye care.

At the National Railway Museum, York, on Thursday 16 October 2014, the one day conference will feature four key speakers:

Liz Greenwood, NHS England
Influencing eyecare services for the future

Ian Jordan, FADO, MFDO, FBDO, CL
You smell green and look like a giraffe! Help!

Sal Cooke, Director, JISC TechDis
Making the most of what you have, even though you didn't know you had it!

Richard Hanson, Consultant Ophthalmologist, York District Teaching Hospital
Medical update

Registration and Coffee 09:15 – 09:50

Cost of the conference is £45, including refreshments and a buffet lunch.

For further information or to book a place, contact Jane Drake at Wilberforce on 01904 760037 or email j.drake@wilberforcetrust.org.uk.

Wilberforce supporter Sainsbury's named store of the year

Sainsbury's store in Micklegate, York, has been named 'Convenience store of the year' by the supermarket chain. Opened early this year, the store chose the Wilberforce Trust as a charity of the year and began by the staff collecting £1,000 with a bag pack then has made substantial contributions of equipment to the Wilberforce pop-up sensory room in the Living&Learning Zone.

New managers join executive team

Two new managers have joined Chief Executive Officer Philippa Crowther and Finance Manager Carianne Dodsworth on the Wilberforce executive management team since the previous edition of Insight.

Marilyn Bentham joined as Operations Manager; Alan Francis-Truett is Compliance & Quality Manager.

Marilyn Bentham, a qualified social worker, is initially overseeing both supported housing and rehabilitation services of Wilberforce. Before joining Wilberforce Marilyn was Service Manager for Physical Disabilities and Sensory Impairment at the City of York Council.

At a national level she has represented local authorities on the Department of Health long-term neurological conditions advisory group and sat on the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services national working group for physical conditions.

Alan Francis-Truett was previously independent Quality and Compliance auditor, visiting services to establish compliance with legislation, policy and procedures, for a large national provider of nursing and social care in residential settings. Prior to that Alan was a Regional Manager for Community Integrated Care in a West Yorkshire local authority.

Before moving to Yorkshire from southern England Alan had roles as Contract Manager for a local authority, Business Improvement Manager for a small family run care home and domiciliary care agency, Quality Assurance and Business Development Manager for an organisation with 17 care homes in the UK, Quality Monitoring Manager for a County Council and Sheltered and Supported Housing Manager for a housing association.