

TAMESIDE BLIND ASSOCIATION

4 Wellington Parade, Dukinfield, Cheshire, SK16 4LE

Registered Charity No. 504063

Trustees Report 2007/8

Trustees: - Chair	Mr. Kevin Cowan
Secretary	Mrs. Margaret Carter
Treasurer	Mr. Ray Carter
Membership Secretary	Mrs. Beryl Williams
Trustee	Mr. Gordon Collinge

Mr. A. Bradburn was the independent examiner of our accounts.

Firstly as Chair I'd like to thank the staff, volunteers and trustees for their efforts this past twelve months and to all our members for their continued support.

As you will be aware the Association secured a new Big Lottery grant for five years under the Reaching Communities round of funding which commenced in February 2008. This enables us to continue to develop our existing services and begin new ventures and initiatives in order to promote independent lifestyles. The previous Big Lottery funding was successfully signed off by the Big Lottery

It has been a year of transition and reflection for the Association beginning with a review by the Charities Commission. This was a very useful exercise for the trustees to ensure we are acting in the best interests of the charity and are up to speed with the ever changing world of guidelines and responsibilities. The Charities Commission stated in their review "The general impression, reinforced at the visit, was of a charity that already had some of the characteristics of an effective charity."

In addition the trustees started to plan for the future. We looked at our role and profile in the community, how we could collaborate with other local organizations to further our aims and what we could do to move the Association forward. It is a massive undertaking and the Trustees have spent a lot of time and effort on this.

We identified areas that needed specific skills (income generation, campaigning, publicity etc) to implement our vision and drew up new roles to be added to the Trustees. These roles were then advertised and the secretary, treasurer and chair attended a trustee recruitment event. In addition the chair has attended many other events with the aim of attracting new trustees with the skills and passion to help us achieve our aims.

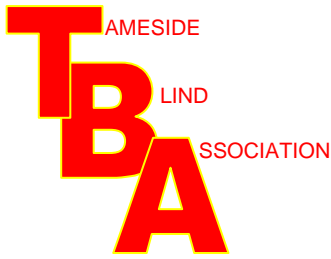
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Email :- tba@tamesideblind.org.uk
Web Site :- www.tamesideblind.org.uk



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Unfortunately it has proven to be much harder than we anticipated. The charity sector is finding it increasingly difficult to attract the kind of trustees they desire, indeed in some cases attracting trustees full stop.

Although this has been frustrating we have continued to pursue our aims and are hopeful of attracting trustees with skills and ambition in the future.

Over the year we have held and attended meetings and events with the Big Lottery, Health and Social Care, POPPs, T3SC, nalsvi, Tameside Elders, Vision First, Ashton Sixth Form College's Respect Day and New Charter amongst others.

Discussions were held on matters ranging from transport and governance to accessibility and volunteering.

We have complied with government statutory requirements over the year.

Trustees of Tameside Blind Association

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