

VI TALK

England & Wales · Charity number 1165629

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2016-02-17

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Objects: THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL INCLUSION AMONG VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED FROM SOCIETY OR PARTS OF SOCIETY, AS A RESULT OF BEING VISUALLY IMPAIRED BY: DEVELOPING A SUPPORTIVE AND INTERACTIVE SOCIAL NETWORK FOR SAID PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Disability
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-02-16	£4,307	£4,214	-	-
2024-02-16	£1,226	£2,146	-	-
2023-02-16	£3,462	£1,822	-	-
2022-02-16	£4,297	£1,129	-	-
2021-02-16	£1,708	£1,451	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
JOANNE LOUISE FISHWICK	Chair	2016-01-31
Kay Leanne Dear		2024-08-26
Lacey Marie Owens		2022-10-18
Samantha Dawn Lever		2017-02-13

VI TALK

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Accounts

Chairs report 2025

The past year has been successful for VI Talk. All Facebook groups have continued to grow and our presence across other social media platforms has grown. The only thing that has changed is that we took the decision to leave X or Twitter. We didn't feel that it was serving us in any significant way and after watching some other VI charities leave, we discussed leaving and decided that concentrating on the other platforms would serve us best.

We have continued to offer weekly Zoom chats for peer support and friendship and we were lucky enough to receive funding from The Ulverscroft Trust to cover another year of QiGong and Wellbeing sessions. Our popular book group still meet on the last Monday to discuss the monthly suggestion.

In March 2024 we ran our first dance weekend and the feedback was so lovely and positive that we decided to do it all again. This wouldn't be possible without Jeanie who gives up her time to support everyone. Some of the comments from last year "Jeanie has the patience of a saint." "I've done something that I never thought I'd ever do." Jeanie doesn't just rock up and teach these weekends. There are weeks if not months of planning as to which dances would be suitable. I'm the guinea pig who spends many hours being put through my paces. There is a lot of laughter. In October 2024 we ran our first wellbeing weekend, offering QiGong, meditation, a sound bath, restorative Yoga, a seafront walk and some reflexology and hand massage for those who wanted it. Funding from TPT enabled us to run this weekend. We know that people would like breaks in other areas of the country but the wonderful Cliffden volunteers make it possible for us to provide these weekends. We are very grateful to Jules who coordinates the volunteers and to the volunteers themselves who I'm sure some of whom never envisaged dancing round the summer house. We are always open to new ideas for our weekend breaks.

Sam has continued as treasurer but does much more than look after the money. Sam admins all groups and schedules for Instagram. She is one of the Zoom facilitators and sometimes covers other Zoom sessions. Sam has become adept at updating our website as well. Considering she came to the team claiming to be hugely untechy, she has amazed us all and herself. Sam also fights with Mail Chimp every month to make sure our newsletter goes out to the mailing list. As the only member of the trustee team

with some sight, Sam is a great support to us all. Sam is also one of our first aiders and I'm sure she will agree with me when I say we are extremely glad that we have never had to put our skills into practice.

Lacey has become our secretary and takes the minutes at our bimonthly meetings. She also admins all groups and facilitates Zoom chats. Lacey is a supportive member of the team and is quite often the one who goes off to research things like DBS checks for the team. As the youngest trustee, Lacey's thoughts and opinions are greatly beneficial. Sam and Lacey also help me with emails, answering queries, ploughing through funding possibilities and posting info to FB.

Kaukub and Kay are our newest trustees but have met the challenges with professionalism and enthusiasm. They both admin groups and recently Kay has been checking out Blue Sky as an alternative to X. Kay volunteers for her local sight loss charity and Kaukub works as a social worker. They both bring lots of skills to the board of trustees. Kay also schedules across social media.

As well as the trustees we obviously have our lovely team of volunteers. Dawn has continued to volunteer after leaving the board and facilitates most of the QiGong and wellbeing sessions with Pat. Dawn records the QiGong classes for me to put on our Audio Boom channel so that more blind and partially sighted people can get the benefit from this gentle mindful movement. Marie puts together our monthly newsletter. Maxine creates the social media planner for the team. Helen teaches crochet on Zoom several times a week.

Michael our only male member of the team facilitates Zoom chats but is a source of tech support for me when I need it. Jane stepped down from the board due to personal reasons but is hoping to continue to volunteer helping with some of our fundraising. Jane has described VI Talk as small but mighty and I think this is true. The team give their time for free and often work well into the evening to make sure people are supported.

We have decided to continue to run 2 face to face events each year and later this year we hope to run an arts and crafts weekend at Cliffden with a festive theme. It thanks again to Thomas Pocklington Trust that we can provide these events.

We do also run quizzes throughout the year and before Christmas teamed with St Vincent's past pupils association to run a festive quiz. These are always hugely popular and this year we're planning

a battle of the specialist schools, where a team from as many VI schools past and present will join a quiz night to see who wins. Sadly our festive market didn't go ahead last year but it is my hope that with some forward planning that it will be resurrected this year. This raises funds for VI Talk but also offers the chance for small business owners who are mostly visually impaired to showcase their wares. It's a lovely way to approach the festive period. I say this every year but I am as always proud of the team who work tirelessly to break down social isolation, provide information and create a safe and supportive environment for blind and partially sighted people, their families and friends. We are a tiny charity with no paid staff. Some of us have other jobs, voluntary roles and families to support but we still meet the challenges with compassion and empathy every day of the year.

VI TALK Financial Report End of Year Summary 16th

February 2025

Balance Brought Forward from 2023/2024 £9,240.43

INCOME FOR 2024/2025

Donations (various sources) £ 587.00

GRANTS

Thomas Pocklington Trust £3,180.00

Ulverscroft Trust £ 540.00

TOTAL INCOME FOR 2024/2025 £4,307.00

EXPENDITURE FOR 2024/2025

Equipment (PA SYSTEM) £ 169.99

Website £ 444.00

Domain Name £ 36.00

Audio Boom £ 94.80

Buffer £ 249.66

Zoom Licence (X2) £ 311.76

VI TALK Phone top up £ 40.00

Travel £ 158.20

Accommodation £ 831.98

Trustee expenses £ 104.88

Dance weekend (Lunch)	£ 517.40
Wellbeing weekend (Lunch)	£ 455.95
Wellbeing weekend expenses	£ 130.00
Wellbeing Zoom meetings	£ 540.00
Festive Quiz Prize	£ 6.20
Public Liability Insurance	£ 123.20
<u>TOTAL EXPENCES FOR 2024/2025</u>	<u>£4,214.02</u>
<u>Balance carried forward to 2025/2026</u>	<u>£9,333.41</u>

VI TALK

England & Wales - Charity number 1165629

Accounts

Chair's Report 2024

As always it has been an interesting year for VI Talk. There have been some changes along the way. We now only run general chats for friendship and peer support on Wednesday evenings. However Pat who provides our wellbeing chats on the first Monday now also runs an hour QiGong session on the third Monday. This has been well received, with the sessions being recorded and put on our Audio Boom channel for those who missed the session to have a go.

In August 2023 Dawn sadly made the decision to step down from the board of trustees. I know this was a tough decision to make. She is still on hand to offer advice if needed and she still helps out with the wellbeing and QiGong sessions if I can't be there. Dawn still updates our helplines that we post in all groups in December. Sam is still treasurer and her skill set grows every year. Sam does a lot of admin work for VI Talk. She covers all groups in particular the book club and gardening. Sam still uploads the monthly newsletter to Mail Chimp and puts events and other information on the website. Sam updated her first aid training this year as we had taken the decision to start face to face events again. Sam is always willing to have a go at new things. Between us Sam and I put together the books for our Christmas countdown and post one each day during the lead up to Christmas. Sam makes sure that all relevant invoices, receipts and other information is printed out and held securely.

Jane has had some personal issues this year, so has struggled to fulfil some of her trustee responsibilities. Jane did however take a large role in our 2023 festive market. Once I had created the Facebook group which we decided to trial Jane did a lot of the admin work. She was also responsible for organising the raffle which as always was a huge success. I'm always blown away by the generosity of our members and friends. For another year I didn't need to do any grant applications. With support from me, Jane also runs our monthly book group over Zoom. The trustees are supporting Jane in the hope that she will be able to remain as a trustee going forward.

Lacey has continued to admin all Facebook groups particularly wellbeing and lifestyle. Along with Sam she still facilitates Wednesday evening chats. Lacey is also happy to cover wellbeing or QiGong if Dawn or I can't. Lacey is enthusiastic and supportive.

She has taken on some secretarial jobs since Dawn stepped down and takes minutes at all trustee meetings and circulates them to the other board members and saves them to One Drive. Lacey also helps with emails and other enquiries on social media. I'm hoping that Lacey will join us at upcoming face to face events.

Maxine and Kay are still supporting with social media, with Maxine still putting together the monthly planner. We are now using Buffer to schedule across all social media platforms. This is a paid service but accessible for everyone who needs to use it. Kay also admins some of the Facebook groups and created some posts for the music group during our countdown to Christmas.

Marie decided to stop facilitating Zoom chats but she does still put together the monthly newsletter. As a consequence Michael has signed up as a volunteer and is helping with some Wednesday evenings which is a great support to Sam, Lacey and myself. Kaz stepped away from facilitating Zoom chats as well due to other commitments.

Helen is still running the crochet group over Zoom and Messenger. She has had some new members which is wonderful.

As I said earlier we have made the decision to start running face to face events again and Sam and I are well into the throws of organising a 3 night break at the Cliffden Hotel in Teignmouth.

Jeanie who ran our dance classes over Zoom has offered to give up her weekend to teach the participants. I am really pleased to be getting back into offering something different.

Unfortunately the Zoom dance classes weren't very well attended, so Jeanie and I took the decision along with the other trustees to stop offering this service.

Fundraising

I've already touched on the festive market but in more detail, we had previously used a Facebook page as the platform for our stallholders but this proved to be difficult for some people. This year we agreed to trial using a Facebook group instead. I set this up just before the event and the stallholders were invited to join the group in preparation. We always run the event over a couple of weeks and during this time the stallholders post about their products. Lots of people joined the group to browse the stalls and there was a much better feel about this event, with stallholders supporting each other and encouraging members to support the stalls. It is heartwarming to see how many people support this event, whether that is paying

to have a stall, purchasing goods from stallholders, attending the Zoom presentations or buying raffle tickets. This year Sam was away but before she left for her holiday she helped me to schedule lots of posts across all platforms to encourage support for the stallholders but also support for the raffle which brings in much needed funds to the charity. Jane, Lacey, Dawn and I ran the rest of the market and there is a real buzz. We are always tired by the end but always enthusiastic to do it all again next year.

We do other smaller fundraisers during the year and this usually consists of a quiz night, sometimes a Tropic or Park Lane party along with a raffle. We are so lucky that people like Nancy from Tropic are often happy to hold a Zoom party and give us a percentage of their commission. This is very generous and very much appreciated by all.

I say this every year but I am extremely proud of the VI Talk team. We continue to strive to offer professional services and to break down social isolation. Through the work we do as volunteers we are I feel creating safe spaces where blind and partially sighted people, their families and friends can as our tag line says share ideas, information and support.

**VI Talk Financial Report End of year Summary 16th
February 2024**

Balance Brought forward 2023/2024 £10,161.14

INCOME for 2023/2024

Donations £ 602.63

Fundraising £ 623.00

TOTAL INCOME FOR 2023/2024 £1,225.63

EXPENDITURE

(Wellbeing Zoom) £ 375.00

Festive quiz £ 25.87

Quiz prizes £ 5.96

Postage £ 6.29

Grin £ 15.00

Phone top up £ 20.00

Zoom licence £ 287.76

Equipment £ 110.35

Website domain £ 444.00

Audio boom £ 88.76

Buffer	£ 115.30
First Aid	£ 222.00
Travel	£ 112.05
Accommodation	£ 318.00
Total expenses for 2023/2024	£2,146.34
BALANCE carried forward to 2024/2025	£9,240.43

VI TALK

England & Wales - Charity number 1165629

Accounts

As always it has been an interesting year for VI Talk. There have been quite a few changes along the way. We still have 10 Facebook groups and have a presence on Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter. Twitter has been a little challenging with accessible apps being prevented from running. We are still running Zoom chats twice a week and our wellbeing and book group each run once a month and continue to be popular. We still have our crochet club on Zoom and messenger group. We have also started online dance classes once a week. Jeanie who is a visually impaired dance instructor has kindly offered free Zoom classes to those who would like to take part. The classes are designed for anyone to take part, no partner required. As Jeanie says, it is about having fun moving to music and improving not only our physical wellbeing but our mental and emotional wellbeing too.

The team, Lacey was one of our moderators on Facebook but in October she became our 4th trustee. Lacey is our youngest trustee and it is wonderful to have her input on projects or issues raised. Lacey is enthusiastic and supportive. Since becoming a trustee she has gained an internship with Look, a charity which she has volunteered for for quite some time. Since volunteering for VI Talk Lacey has grown in confidence and is a valued member of the trustee board. Lacey is an admin on all Facebook groups, helps with emails and facilitates Zoom chats. Lacey has been working on our wellbeing group and encourages conversations.

Sam has stayed on as treasurer and was supporting Lacey and Kay as moderators on Facebook. She continues to support Kay but as 3 of the trustees now work fulltime, Sam takes a lead role in monitoring all 10 Facebook groups during the working week. Sam does a great job of making sure charity finances are look after. She also helps with

monthly updates across social media and schedules for Instagram. Sam also uploads our monthly newsletter to Mail Chimp and she is heard to say that she considered herself not very good with technology. She has proved herself wrong learning how to upload blogs and events to the website. Sam makes sure all paperwork is up to date and held securely.

Dawn has a lot of commitments outside of VI Talk but still supports the other members of the team with her wealth of knowledge and lived experience. Dawn continues to facilitate some Zoom chats on Monday evenings and is very proactive in our kitchen group. Dawn helps to keep emails up to date and when technology allows, she updates the directory on our website. Dawn is a kind and supportive member of the team.

Although our financial year ends in February I wanted to mention our newest trustee Jane. Jane joined the board to help with specific tasks. Jane has been running our book group on Zoom and is our resident fundraiser. Jane describes Vi Talk as small but mighty which is a huge complement. Jane has a background in law, she has excellent organisational skills. She has an understanding of the equality act and other legislation which is beneficial to blind and partially sighted people. I'm sure Jane is looking forward to supporting the other trustees and organising projects that match her skillset and qualities.

Kay also acquired an internship with her local blind society where she had been volunteering. Kay still helped with social media where she could and now her internship has finished, Kay is taking on some extra social media work which help Jo and maxine enormously.

Maxine continues to produce the monthly social media planner and work on social media throughout the week.

Kaz still facilitates Zoom chats on Mondays and although they have become quieter Kaz along with Dawn still opens a chat on Monday evenings in case anyone needs them. Helen has continued to run the Zoom and messenger crochet groups and we get excellent feedback from the participants.

We have taken on a new volunteer this year, Marie came on to facilitate some of the Wednesday Zoom chats which she had been attending. Marie is enthusiastic and very knowledgeable when it comes to technology. Marie has written some blogs for us about Android and has also prepared some cooking podcasts along with Dawn and Jo to try and encourage and support others in the kitchen. Marie has recently taken on preparing the monthly newsletter and she has given it a new feel which is great.

Fundraising, Jane organised another successful festive market and raised more than enough to purchase this years Zoom licences. Jane has also organised quizzes, sometimes just for fun but always well received and enjoyed by all. I know she has even more plans for this year. It is due to donations and Jane's hard work fundraising that we haven't needed to apply for any grants this financial year. This shows I think how much our members recognise how hard we work and appreciate the support and services we offer.

We are still not running face to face events but instead making great use out of our Zoom licences and social media. We have toyed with some ideas but for now we have put these to one side to consider as we move forward. As always I am hugely proud of our small but dedicated team. We work quickly to find resolutions when problems arise and although small, each person brings different skills, qualities and lived experience. We all strive to provide

information, support and to break down social isolation for blind and partially sighted people.

END OF YEAR REPORT FOR 2022/23

VI Talk Financial Report End of year Summary 16th February 2023

Balance Brought forward 2021/2022 £8,520.51

INCOME for 2022/2023

Donations (various) £2,698.72

Fundraising £763.68

TOTAL INCOME FOR 2022/2023 £3,462.40

EXPENDITURE

Events £432.46

Flowers £15.83

Zoom licence £287.76

Website domain £30.00

Audio boom £74.29

Laptop set up £28.30

Postage £9.14

Hootsuite £499.99

Web maintenance £444.00

Total expenses for 2021/2022 £1,821.77

BALANCE carried forward to 2023/2024 £10,161.14

VI TALK

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Chair's report 2022

It has been an interesting year for VI Talk. As Covid restrictions eased, we wondered if we would still need to run zoom chats and if we would return to running face to face events. Every few months we reviewed our position on face to face events and up to now the decision has been made to wait. Whilst some people are happy to get out and about, others are still nervous and as it costs a substantial amount of money to run events, we would need to be sure that they would be well attended.

The zoom chats have been as popular as ever regularly attended by 10 to 12 people. The chats are lively and supportive. We have continued to run our book group once a month. Our wellbeing sessions with Pat have been attended by a small group, but we felt that although it costs £30 per session for two hours, it is worth it. The pandemic has left many people with mental health and wellbeing issues.

The messenger chat for our members with dual sensory loss dwindled, so we left it open for the small number of members to pop in from time to time if needed. Our crochet club run by Helen has gone from strength to strength. So much so that we have found that we needed to give Helen a Zoom channel of her own, as she was being asked for one to one crochet sessions and also to run more than two group sessions a week. The crochet group also have a Messenger chat where they can exchange patterns and offer support between zoom sessions.

The team

The team has changed slightly with Justine stepping down as a trustee. Other than that the team remains the same, small but extremely dedicated.

Dawn, still organises and updates the web directory. She uploads guest blogs to the website. She Admins all groups, but plays a strong role in VI Talk in the kitchen. Dawn has recently recorded her first cooking feature to try and help others become more confident. Dawn also carries out some of the day-to-day running of VI Talk, Despite working full time, Dawn is a supportive member of the trustee board and of the wider team. She has a wealth of knowledge to share with others due to her lived experiences as a visually impaired person but also because of her profession as a rehabilitation officer. Dawn also runs some of our Monday evening zoom chats which are now general and flourishing.

Sam, still runs our Facebook book club and plays an active role in gardening and nature. Sam supports Lacey and Kay as moderators of some of our Facebook groups. As treasurer Sam makes sure all invoices, payments and spreadsheets are up to date, saved securely and she also makes sure accounts are accurate. Sam supports Helen with the running of the crochet group, and during this past year has started running zoom chats with Lacey. Sam has great organisation skills.

At our last AGM we were recruiting for Facebook moderators and Lacey and Kay who were both members of the existing team agreed to help. This has worked really well. Lacey as I've already said still runs zoom chats and Kay still helps with LinkedIn and Twitter three days a week. Maxine has continued to help with social media and she has continued to create a social media planner once a month for the other members of the team to follow.

Kaz has continued to run zoom chats on Mondays Jane is still running our monthly book group on zoom. She researches which books we will read, publicises the choice for that month and keeps track of who will be attending. Jane is also our resident fundraiser, and since our last AGM she has organised a very successful festive market and raffle and on the first weekend in April ran a zoom quiz and raffle as a small charity fundraising can be extremely difficult. There are so many charities applying for the same grants and especially after Covid times are tough for a lot of charities. James fundraising has made a huge difference to VI Talk. Money raised enables us to purchase zoom licenses, keep our Audio Boom channel going, keep our website updated and much more.

As I said Helen's crochet club has gone from strength to strength and she has improved many blind and partially sighted peoples crochet skills and started some on their journey.

We are always happy to listen to our members and when we were asked for a wellbeing group, it was discussed and left for us to think about. When we were asked by other people, we launched VI Talk wellbeing and lifestyle. This takes us to 10 Facebook groups, and in the first couple of days, we have already had 45 people ask to join the new wellbeing group.

Covid has left people needing to take better care of themselves, Physically, mentally and emotionally. Hopefully providing a space for blind and partially sighted people to share their challenges, coping strategies and hints and tips will go some way to helping.

we are still producing a monthly newsletter and we are still always on the lookout for interesting people to interview.

One of our main objectives has always been to break down social isolation. our Facebook groups and zoom chats are definitely helping. We have no idea what the next year will hold for us but we will continue to listen and to offer services and support in line with the needs of blind and partially sighted people. I'm proud of every member of the team who has a different set of skills, they each bring something unique to VI Talk

VI Talk Financial Report End of year Summary 16th February 2022

Balance Brought forward 2020/2021 £5,352.67

INCOME for 2021/2022

Donations £2,790.76

Fundraising £ 460.51

Grants £1,045.90

TOTAL INCOME FOR 2021/2022 £4,297.17

EXPENDITURE

Events £300.00

(Wellbeing Zoom)

Sundries £54.43

Grin £15.00

Phone top up £20.00

Flowers £19.43

Zoom licence £264.51

Equipment £35.98

(Headphones)

Website domain £372.00

Audio boom and Skype £102.41

Total expenses for 2020/2021 £1,129.33

BALANCE carried forward to 2022/2023 £8,520.51

VI TALK

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Accounts

Chair's Report VI Talk AGM 2021

It's safe to say that this past year has had its challenges for everyone. When we were told that we were going into lockdown we had to cancel our York event. We were lucky in that we didn't lose too much money. As a charity we wanted to support our members as much as possible and it was decided that we would purchase a Zoom license. We began recruiting more volunteers to help facilitate chats 3 times a week and Justine, Kaz, Lacey and Molly joined the team. These were well received and at times we had 20 attendees chatting about all manner of things but also offering peer support to each other. We are continuing to run our Zoom events and have had some funding approved by TPT to allow us to run more mindfulness, meditation and wellbeing sessions. We ran a few of these during lockdown and they were well received.

Our Facebook groups continue to grow and are full of diverse and interesting posts and comments. We have continued to connect and interact with individuals, charities and organisations on Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter. Maxine has been joined by Kay and between them they help Sam and Jo post regularly across all these platforms. The trustees also put regular interesting posts on the Facebook groups. Our book club run by Sam is always popular and we have taken Jane on to facilitate a monthly Zoom book group where attendees discuss a chosen book.

Sadly Ian who had run the online blog and Tracy who had produced our monthly newsletter had to step down due to other commitments. Dawn has taken on proof reading and uploading the blogs to our web site and Chris records them for Jo to put on the audio boom channel. Jo puts together the newsletter, then Sam uploads it to Mail Chimp. We are looking for a volunteer to produce and upload the newsletter.

Helen another new volunteer has been helping Sam to run a messenger chat every Tuesday evening. This is a text chat so our members with dual sensory loss can chat but also support each other. Helen also runs a twice a week crochet club and this has proved very enjoyable and successful. Sam assists Helen with this.

Jane and Dawn ran fundraising events for us last year and people joined them on Zoom to shop with Park Lane jewellery, Body Shop and Party Light. Jane had benefitted from the Zoom chats so much that she wanted to raise enough to pay for the next year's license and she exceeded expectations. We had our first payment from Amazon Smile and are always grateful to people who support us either through Amazon or Easy Fundraising.

Justine joined us as a Zoom facilitator but also expressed an interest in becoming a trustee should one ever be needed. When we found out that Katie was pregnant, we interviewed Justine and she became our Secretary. Justine still facilitates Zoom chats, she takes minutes and keeps our online files organised. Justine looks after the music, sport and travel FB groups but also admins the main group and resources. Justine regularly keeps us laughing with her sense of humour. She has quickly become a valued member of the team and is looking forward to helping at her first event when lockdown is relaxed.

Katie had a difficult year last year with lots of scans and medical appointments throughout her pregnancy. She continued to help with Zoom chats and to admin our arts & crafts group as often as possible. Katie had her baby boy Jayden in December and due to personal circumstances has had to step down from being a trustee. We will stay in touch with Katie as she has become a friend and if she ever feels she has time to commit to VI Talk in the future, we would consider a trustee application if a vacancy should arise.

Sam has taken on more responsibilities over the past year. As she is the only trustee with useful vision sam has been instrumental in supporting the other trustees when Facebook has been inaccessible in part to screen reader users. Sam is still Treasurer and prepares accounts for each meeting. She assists Jo with the monthly FIT update and she gathers the FB group numbers for every meeting. These are helpful for funding applications. As I said Sam runs the book club and assists Jane and Jo on the book group on Zoom. Sam keeps all printed files up to date and organised. She fights with Mail Chimp to upload the monthly newsletter and she has also started doing some admin work on the web site. Sam who thought she wasn't very techie has proved herself wrong and is a valuable and supportive member of the team. At the AGM last year sam was waiting for the opportunity to do her training to become our official first aider. This has now been completed.

Dawn admins our kitchen group which is quite busy. She also admins the main group and resources. Dawn helps with funding applications when needed and she looks after our web directory which is full of charities and organisations offering services and support to blind and partially sighted people. Dawn along with Justine and Jo conducts interviews and I think the one we got most excited about this year was the opportunity to speak to the actor Richard Hawley

who play Johnny Connor on Coronation Street and is playing the part of someone who has Charles Bonnet Syndrome. Dawn helps to facilitate Zoom chats and is a wealth of help and support when people contact us about services and support. I know Dawn is looking forward to being able to organise face to face events again, something she helps and contributes to hugely. We are a small but dedicated team and encourage and support each other to complete tasks or when things don't go exactly according to plan. We will continue to look for interesting people to interview, to make sure our groups are as safe, welcoming and inclusive as possible. As both Dawn and Jo will be working full time from April, we will be looking for moderators to help with the busier Facebook groups. As the longest serving trustee after Jo, Sam will be their point of contact if they need support. We are a very small charity but it's wonderful to know how much support we have from other organisations. Funding is never easy and Thomas Pocklington Trust have continued to support us and tell us how encouraging they are of what we have achieved. On a personal note I want to thank each member of the team regardless of how big or small their role is. We are making a difference in some way to the lives of blind and partially sighted people and will continue to do so into the future. Volunteering is rewarding but takes effort and commitment. I'm proud of each member of the team and appreciate the care and enthusiasm which they bring to their roles.

VI Talk Financial Report End of year Summary 16th February 2021

Balance Brought forward 2019/2020 £5,095.48

INCOME for 2020/2021

Donations £1,039.03

Fundraising £ 26.91

Refund for accommodation £ 642.00

TOTAL INCOME FOR 2020/2021 £1,707.94

EXPENDITURE

Events £ 180.73

(arts and craft supply's)

Sundries £ 377.36

(first aid course £165.00

£143.88 Zoom licence

£15.00 phone top up

£53.48 gifts for speakers)

Equipment £ 368.00

(new phone)

Printing £ 24.09

Website domain £ 354.00

Audio boom and Skype £ 146.57

Total expenses for 2020/2021 £1,450.75

BALANCE carried forward to 2021/2022 £5,352.67