



Sports and social group for Vision impaired people

**Chair's report
Annual General Meeting
3rd February 2007**

2006 was a challenging year for the group, but once again members, committee members and volunteers alike have risen to the challenges and we have continued to be able to run such successful activities throughout the year.

I would like to thank you all for your support of City Synergy and for the contribution you make to its success, we have always sought to be a member led group and your views and ideas are greatly valued and contribute significantly to our planning

I would like to thank the committee, and volunteers who contributed during the year for all their hard work and commitment. I want to particularly mention Mick and thank him for his contribution as founder chair through to May when he stood down from the position. The committee agreed that Goalball, which Mick used to provide through City Synergy, would now be run independently and Mick is working on setting up the organisation to allow this to happen. We wish Mick well as he seeks to develop Goalball alongside a number of other activities and will continue to support these through the City Synergy website and other publicity.

Our activities have been as diverse as ever, they have included a trip to Chessington World of adventures, and a walk along the Thames with an audio tour presented by Christina's brother Toby.

We had anticipated the Chessington trip to be mainly of interest to younger members, in the event it was the over 50's who proved the most intrepid, an honourable mention going to Rose who described one of the rides as amongst the most scary experiences of her life

The Thames walk lived up to our reputation of extreme events with signal failures requiring us to find our own way by bus half way across London

More local outdoor events included a visit to Drusillas, Woods Mill nature reserve to enjoy bird song, Bluebell woods in Spring, World War 2 trenches at Whitehawk, a tour of the Earthship at Stanmer Park, special thanks should go to our drivers and particularly to Valerie Lee for driving the mini bus on a couple of occasions, I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere wishes to Valerie for a continuing recovery.

In the autumn we enjoyed a murder mystery evening and bonfire events at Chris & Jonathan and I would like to warmly thank them for hosting and organising these as well as a successful pampering day at the beginning of the year

The most madcap however was our entry in the Kemp Town Carnival Bed push, to say we were out of our

depth and under-prepared is an understatement, we had no idea of the pace of the event or that it involved a three point turn around a bollard in a narrow street, special tribute must go to Jackie Campbell for her stoical achievement as the farmer's wife being pulled by three blind mice and managing to hang on for grim life.

Our traditional events including the Pantomime, Barbecue, Dyke Walk and Christmas Dinner once again proved a big success, in all there were over 20 events organised and I hope this provided something for everyone and that you enjoyed them as much as we have in organising them.

Aside from the activities, 2006 saw the publication of our new leaflet which we have distributed to a number of locations in the City, several of us were also involved in a committee run by the council to design key fobs that would be used to enable us to hear bus information at bus stops.

The City Synergy web site has proved a useful tool to keep people informed of our activities and we were short listed at the Brighton and Hove Web awards.

Looking ahead to 2007, we are always seeking fresh ideas and welcome your feedback, getting new volunteers also remains a challenge and we will soon need to get some additional funding. We are also hoping to resume our walks programme and are working with Spiral to develop workshops that will offer the opportunity to try out different arts and craft activities

City Synergy is strong because of each of you, our guests comment on the amount of love and mutual support there is in the group and I on behalf of the committee would like to thank you for that.

Paul Gillett
Acting Chair
January 2007