



*Sports and social group for Vision impaired people*

**Chair's report  
Annual General Meeting  
9th February 2008**

This AGM marks 5 years since City Synergy was started and sees the group in good health and looking forward to the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead

We chose the word Synergy because it described the benefits of achieving things together. Throughout members and volunteers have contributed to our many and diverse activities with mutual respect and friendships developing.

The success of City Synergy is something of which we can all be proud and I want to say a big thank you to everyone who has been part of our journey to date

I particularly want to thank Committee members and volunteers for their hard work and commitment through the last year. In preparing this report it was exciting to recount so many enjoyable events and other achievements.

It has been good to resume the walks programme, and we are indebted to Valerie for not only leading these but also doing the research beforehand that makes the visits so interesting, during 2007 we visited Seaford, Steyning,

Bramber, Beeding, Shoreham and Littlehampton, We also arranged a couple of longer walks, one along the undercliff from Saltdean to the Marina and the other from Ditchling Beacon to Lewes (organised by Sue Joseph)

Outdoor activities rely heavily on the weather and we have been very fortunate (with the exception of the Shoreham outing) to have had dry days, The Ditchling walk in particular coincided with one of the few days of fabulous warm summer sunshine during the year.

We were not so fortunate with the weather for our summer picnic on the beach. The evening turned out to be blustery and cold with rain in the air, however City Synergy members are made of tough stuff and we went ahead regardless in typical stoical good humour.

One of the highlights of the summer was a double header in June with a visit to the Argus offices at Hollingdean in the afternoon and to the Proms at the Dome in the Evening

The Argus visit followed receipt of £1,000 from the Argus appeal, this money enabled us to commence some craft courses with Spiral in the autumn, I am very grateful to Chris Dutton for her work in co-ordinating these courses

In September we had a visit to Portsmouth Maritime dockyards where amongst others we enjoyed a tour of the HMS victory and a boat trip round the harbour, thanks to Keith for organising the trip

At the end of the year we were able to plan our most ambitious Christmas programme to date, this started with Lunch at the Lura Restaurant and included a concert organised by the Singing for pleasure choral group where City Synergy members were a sizable part of the audience.

A new venture was the Pub Crawl and Carol Singing evening in the Hanover area where we were joined by friends from the Brighton Morris for a memorable evening

On New Years Eve, we went to the Pantomime at the Theatre Royal, In spite of a number of people being unwell this was well attended and we had the usual fun. the Christmas programme concluded with a party in the new year

At the last AGM we welcomed Ruby, Shirley and Keith onto the committee, together with existing members and volunteers they have contributed generously to the planning of the programme of which the activities mentioned above constitute some of the highlights.

A special word of thanks also goes to Chris & Jonathan who do so much for City Synergy including opening their home for events like the fireworks evening as well as for the committee meetings. The amount of work that goes into catering for these and other events is tremendous and I want to express gratitude on behalf of us all.

It has been great to welcome a number of new members to City Synergy during the year as well as welcoming

Remy as a volunteer. We have continued to develop links with other organisations and to publicise our activities through the website and other means, this has helped people to become aware of the existence of City Synergy.

Our contacts with ESAB, The Eye Hospital, Low Vision Clinic and others are a benefit both ways; many people newly diagnosed with sight loss are advised of our existence and given the opportunity to get in touch.

In this coming year we hope to make fresh efforts to gain new members and volunteers. We also face a challenge by way of fundraising as we will discuss later in the meeting.

Once again, thank you to everyone for making this another enjoyable year and here's to 2008

Paul Gillett  
Chair  
January 2008