# Retina UK E-Newsletter - July 2021

## Steve Bate Podcast

Our latest **[Podcast features gold medal winning Paralympian and Retina UK Ambassador Steve Bate MBE](https://anchor.fm/retina-uk/episodes/In-conversation-with-Steve-Bate-MBE-e13vc20%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**. He chats with Head of Fundraising, Deborah Laing in the run up to the 2020 Paralympics in Tokyo. Good luck Steve. We'll be rooting for you.

**Can you donate your day?**

Can you donate your day to help support our team of runners in this year’s Virgin Money London Marathon?

Whether you can raise a smile at our cheer point or you’re a dab hand with a DSLR and can photograph our team, join us on 3 October! Find out more at [**www.RetinaUK.org.uk/londonmarathon-volunteer**](http://www.retinauk.org.uk/londonmarathon-volunteer).

**Take steps with Team Retina UK**

A place in the world’s largest half marathon has unexpectedly become available. Join us on **12 September 2021** for the **Great North Run**. Hurry, we’ve got just one place available and you’ll need to register by **Sunday 25 July** – visit [**www.RetinaUK.org.uk/great-north-run**](http://www.retinauk.org.uk/great-north-run)

The **Virgin Money London Marathon** have extended this year’s deadline for registering. If you’re a keen runner and you’d hoped to take on the world-famous 26.2 miles on **3 October** – now is your chance. To apply for a place, visit: [**www.RetinaUK.org.uk/londonmarathon**](http://www.retinauk.org.uk/londonmarathon).

**Spring Appeal**

A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to this year’s Spring Appeal. Together you have raised £20,250.21, which will be used to fund some of the most promising researchers investigating potential treatments for inherited sight loss. You can learn more about the importance of medical research, as well as some background on two talented PhD students funded by Retina UK, on the appeal page of our website: [**www.RetinaUK.org.uk/SpringAppeal2021**](http://www.retinauk.org.uk/SpringAppeal2021).

**Sight Village**

On **Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th August 2021** we will be attending the Sight Village Information and Technology event at Queen Alexandra College (QAC), Birmingham.

To book a timed slot at this event, please visit the relevant link below:

* [**Tuesday 17 August (AM), 9.00am - 12.30pm**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sight-village-information-and-technology-event-tuesday-17th-august-am-tickets-159657099683?aff=ebdsoporgprofile)
* [**Tuesday 17 August (PM), 13.30pm - 17.00pm**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sight-village-information-and-technology-event-tuesday-17th-august-pm-tickets-159838530347?aff=ebdsoporgprofile)
* [**Wednesday 18 August (AM), 9.00am - 12.00pm**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sight-village-information-and-technology-event-wednesday-18th-august-am-tickets-159841952583?aff=ebdsoporgprofile)
* [**Wednesday 18 August (PM), 12.30pm - 15.30pm**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sight-village-information-and-technology-event-wednesday-18th-august-pm-tickets-159842217375?aff=ebdsoporgprofile)

If you require any further information or have any questions, please email: **sv@qac.ac.uk** or call: 0121 803 5484.

**Unlock Genetics**

The summer edition of Look Forward introduced our new Unlock Genetics website, which was launched at our Annual Conference in April. The site is designed to provide high quality information on genetic testing and counselling for families affected by inherited sight loss.

If you missed the Conference, you can watch our presentation which gives a broad overview about Unlock Genetics (<https://youtu.be/B923XundC9g>), or just visit: [**www.RetinaUK.org.uk/genetics**](https://retinauk.org.uk/unlock/unlock-genetics/).

**Dates for your diary**

**Peer support local groups**

Our local peer support groups are continuing online with the next meeting scheduled for **Scotland**on **Thursday 29 July**. Michael Gilhooley (clinical lecturer in the department of Genetics, Institute of Ophthalmology University College London and Moorfields Eye Hospital) will introduce the technique of optogenetics and its potential for development into a treatment for IRDs.

Our next **London**meeting will be on **Saturday 25 September**.

More information is available on our website: [**www.RetinaUK.org.uk/groups**](https://retinauk.org.uk/information-support/retina-uk-local-peer-support-groups/).

**Information and support events**

We have taken the difficult decision to postpone all face-to-face events for the remainder of the year. We will therefore not be holding the events previously communicated (London in September and Cardiff in October) and holding online / virtual events instead.

More information will be available soon on the [**events page of our website**](https://retinauk.org.uk/information-support/retina-uk-events/).

**Helpline and talk and support**

From 1 January to 1 July our helpline calls and emails were up almost 50% on the same period last year. If you have any questions or would like to talk to someone living with inherited sight loss, please get in touch. We’re here to help.

Call our Helpline 0300 111 4000 or email helpline@RetinaUK.org.uk. Monday to Friday 9.30am to 9.30pm.

An audio version of this newsletter is available on our website: [**www.RetinaUK.org.uk/publications**](https://retinauk.org.uk/information-support/publications/).