

[www.faceblinduk.org.uk](http://www.faceblinduk.org.uk)

# Face Blind UK : News

## News News News

### Face Blind UK

- Set up in 2014
- By & for people with prosopagnosia (face blindness)
- UK based
- A Community Interest Company
- Aiming to raise awareness
- Aiming to create a national network
- Aiming to provide information and support
- Join us now!

[www.faceblind.org.uk](http://www.faceblind.org.uk)

## Face Blindness in the News

Gradually the word is spreading and prosopagnosia or face blindness is becoming better known.

Face Blind UK has been working to get stories into the newspapers. In March 2015 there were articles in The Times, Huffington Post Lifestyle and the Daily Mail .

They took as their focus the experiences of Bob Cockshott, who has acquired prosopagnosia following a stroke and is one of Face Blind UK's

directors. It highlighted the fact that this is a condition that doesn't just affect the individual but everyone around them.

### Why is this important ?

Rather like dyslexia some 40 years ago, as a neurological disorder, prosopagnosia is a condition that it's difficult to explain. However, when others understand what it's all about, it can make all the difference.



**Bob Cockshott and family**

There's a long journey ahead, but we've made a start. So if you spot an item in the paper, let us know and we'll help to spread the word.

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## Quizzically Different

Have you tried the quiz on the Face Blind UK website? - it's one of the most popular pages

[www.faceblind.org.uk/quiz](http://www.faceblind.org.uk/quiz)

It's a list of experiences and difficulties common to many people with face blindness. It's aim is to get people to think about whether they are one of the many people (1.2 million in the UK) who are face blind, but not yet diagnosed.

**Produced by and for people with prosopagnosia**



The door is now open for UK patients to ask their GP to log 'prosopagnosia' on their records

## It's Official - Prosopagnosia on GP listing

Face Blind UK, working with a local GP, has succeeded in getting 'prosopagnosia' on to the listing of long term conditions used on GP records, so that it now has it's own NHS 'Read Code' F481M !

This means that the fact that you are face blind can be included as an ongoing condi-

tion on your medical records.

In some instances the GP will ask for a letter from a research institute to confirm that you have prosopagnosia, while others will accept self-reporting.

We hope that this will inform GPs, as well as prevent mis-diagnosis of dementia when we

fail to identify a photo of the prime minister!

### NHS Choices

Alongside this development, in 2014 Bournemouth University, got face blindness listed on NHS Choices website for the first time.

So at last, it's official, and 'prosopagnosia' is on the medical map.

*"a very watchable psychological thriller, with an interesting twist"*

## Did you See? *Film: 'Faces in the Crowd'*

**Faces in the Crowd** (2011) screened on TV, is a thriller now available now on DVD.

Starring Milla Jovovich, as a woman living with face blindness following an attack by a serial

killer, who she's then unable to identify.

To make things interesting, the film uses different actors for the same people to convey Milla's confusion.

The impact of the ever-

changing faces of the actors playing the same roles maybe lost on those with prosopagnosia themselves, but should give others some insight into the challenge of living with face blindness.



Working around face blindness

## TOP TIPS from ... a manager with prosopagnosia

Working as a manager means multi-tasking and working with a team of others; with face blindness there's an extra challenge, My top tips include:

- Have name badges that can be read easily
- Entry-phone systems for visitors really help
- Ask for an attendee list ahead of meetings
- Greet EVERYONE - You'll be seen as a great networker!
- Practice making eye contact - but try not to glare!



## Research Update from: *Goldsmiths*

### Brain Awareness Day Thursday 30th April

Goldsmiths are hosting an evening including a public lecture on the study of the brain, a marketplace with stands and a chance to talk to others, and finishing with a Question Time panel discussion.

**Starts 6.30pm - 9.30pm Close.**

Face Blind UK are delighted to have been invited to provide a stand on living with prosopagnosia, and members will be on hand.

It's **FREE** to attend, but you'll need to request a ticket. Being held at the Ian Gulland Lecture Theatre of Goldsmiths College, New Cross Road, London,



**Goldsmiths College - Brain Awareness Day**

we hope to see you there Further information following the links from - [www.faceblind.org.uk/news](http://www.faceblind.org.uk/news)

## Book Review: ... *Strategies for Parents ...*

'Understanding Facial Recognition Difficulties in Children: Prosopagnosia Management Strategies for Parents and Professionals' is a publication that's part of the JKP Essentials series.

Nancy Mindick provides parents, teachers, and other professionals with an accessible explanation of the different types, causes, and characteristics of prosopagnosia. She suggests

ways to recognize the signs of facial recognition difficulties in children, and offers specific ideas for ensuring that they are properly supported in their learning and social development.

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*“needs to be read and understood by all who look after children“*

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## Twitter Trends

The Internet provides the quickest and most effective way of sharing information.

You can follow us on Twitter [@faceblinduk](https://twitter.com/faceblinduk)

to keep track of events, news, publications and research related to prosopagnosia.

We have 40 followers so far, so click 'Follow' to help us spread the word.



**Follow us on Twitter**

So far we've tweeted about new home security systems which identify friends, games to help children develop face recognition, Dr Who's prosopagnosic episode, and free talks to attend.



**Face Blind UK**

**Face Blind UK** is a new Community Interest Company, set up in 2014 as a national organization for people with prosopagnosia (also known as face blindness). This neurological condition affects over 2% of the population, approximately 1.2 million individuals across the UK.

The organisation is run by people with first hand experience of prosopagnosia. It aims to raise awareness, recognition and understanding of face blindness (prosopagnosia), and to provide services to people who have face blindness, including information, networking and support.

## Face Blind UK Open Day - 1st July

Face Blind UK will be hosting a day of talks, networking and information sharing on 1st July 2015.

The event is being held at Birkbeck College, London, which is kindly providing a room for us to meet in, for free.

### Thank you!

We're just starting to plan the programme for the day, so suggestions, requests or offers of help gratefully received.

We're hoping to provide teas and coffees, but with limited funds we'll be asking people to bring sandwiches

We'll keep you informed as plans develop, but you're welcome to reserve a place now by emailing:

[info@faceblind.org.uk](mailto:info@faceblind.org.uk)

## Letters to the Editor

We'd like to make sure that we give space for your own -



- ◆ Experiences
- ◆ Top tips
- ◆ Book & film reviews

So please send your comments and contributions to

[info@faceblind.org.uk](mailto:info@faceblind.org.uk)

We will collate these to put on to the website alongside this issue, or as an item for the next newsletter.

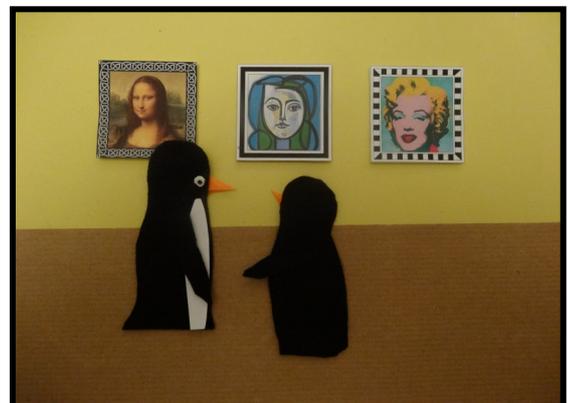
## We're on the Web

[www.faceblind.org.uk](http://www.faceblind.org.uk)

Check it out,

join the mailing list and

let us know what you'd like to see on the website.



"Well they all look the same to me..."

**Produced by and for people with prosopagnosia**