

In memory of  
**Judith Selena Taylor**  
1935-2016



Despite losing her sight at the age of one as a result of measles, Judy attended mainstream school until the age of nine. She then attended Bristol Royal School before passing a scholarship for Chorleywood College, a grammar school for girls with little or no sight.

Although no other blind person had been accepted at a teacher training college at that time, Judy was determined to teach. Supported by her headmistress, Judy obtained a place at St Gabriel's Teacher Training College in London.

After qualifying as a teacher she taught in a secondary school for girls in Rugby for three years. From there she moved to The Parks County Secondary School in Belper, where she taught for 12 years before leaving to have her first child.

She returned to teaching, holding a number of posts and qualifying to teach students with visual impairments and also learning difficulties. In 1987 she was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to blind people in Derbyshire.

In 1991 Judy became Fundraising Manager for the East Midlands Guide Dogs for the Blind, covering Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire.

After her retirement, Judy became a trustee for Sight Support Derbyshire and remained so until she sadly passed away. She also became involved with fundraising, for example organising a coffee morning (photo right). In addition, Judy was instrumental in setting up a lunch club in Duffield for local visually impaired people – an opportunity for people to come together to give and receive mutual support. In Sight Support Derbyshire's Centenary Year Judy was involved in the '100 Years and Still Serving' project, exploring the joint heritage of Sight Support Derbyshire and the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War 1. As part of this she read World War 1 poetry to the participants (photo above).

Judy did so much during her life to help others with a visual impairment and will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

