



Newsletter

July 2022

Here comes the sun...!

Welcome to the summer edition of our newsletter.

In this edition, we bring you a news update about our new social activities programme, an update on what our young people's group has been up to, and information about the importance of making a Will.

In the last newsletter, we told you about our plans for the Sensory Tech Day. It was held on 18th May and we had a great turn out. Thank you to everyone who came along to find out more about what the latest technology for visually impaired people has to offer. Feedback was very positive:

"The event was brilliant, showing some of the amazing technological equipment that can help people with sight loss maintain their independence. All of the stalls and the four presentations were interesting and informative. Thank you SSD for a worthwhile day."

At every VIP information event, we have a range of some of the latest equipment and technology solutions. It is worth phoning us to find out about our next event near you.



Thank you to OcuPlan for sponsoring this edition of our newsletter

Children and Young People's Residential

Thanks to the generosity of The Kentown Wizard Foundation, we have, for the first time, been able to provide our children and young people's group with the amazing opportunity to go on a residential trip together. In the Easter holidays, 11 children attended Whitemoor Lakes Activity Centre for a fun-packed 24 hours away from home.

Activities included: an assault course; time around the campfire singing songs, telling jokes and toasting marshmallows; zip wire; abseiling; and canoeing. As well as the organised activities, the children made good use of the games room playing table tennis, pool and table football before breakfast! They also enjoyed teaching each other card games and of course the fun of sleeping over with their friends!



Feedback from the children, their parents and staff at the activity centre shows how beneficial the trip was for our youngsters.

"I didn't think I would be able to sleep in a room with other people but I did!"

"I can't believe he's doing so much, he looks so happy and is giving everything a go, thank you." (Parent)

"I have never come across a group that are so inclusive of each other, for such a wide age range they help and work with each other." (Whitemoor staff)

"I am proud of myself - I did the zip line!"

Social and Leisure

Our new Social and Leisure Project Worker, Alison Strathearn, joined us in April. She has already held some activities in Chesterfield and Derby, including a coffee morning with quiz, and a trip to the theatre.

People who have attended events say how much they enjoyed getting out, and how useful it was to meet other people with sight loss:

“It was lovely to meet others in the same boat as me. Talking about some of the difficulties, and being able to have a bit of a joke with others has been good.”

There are now plans for museum visits and bowling. During the autumn, there will be further trips to Derby Theatre to watch Jekyll and Hyde and Wind in the Willows, coffee/social mornings, telephone groups and many other activities.

Most activities are planned in community venues and will move around the County so that as many visually impaired people as possible can take part.

Unfortunately, we cannot provide transport but we do try to make sure venues are easily accessible by public transport.

Alison is putting together a rolling calendar of events that will be updated regularly, with the latest version available on our website. <https://sightsupportderbyshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Calendar-to-August-2022.pdf>

You can also opt to join the activities mailing list, and that way she can keep you informed of upcoming events.

She recently did an interview with Derby talking Newspapers. If you missed it, you can listen to the interview via our website.

https://sightsupportderbyshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Interview_Sight-Support-Derbyshire-Events-Coordinator.mp3

Over the summer, Alison is arranging further coffee mornings around the county. Some are in local cafes and three are planned at our Head Office on Vernon Gate, Derby. You are welcome to attend either independently or with a spouse/friend etc.

Parking is available for the Head Office events, and there is a bus that stops outside the Greyhound pub on Friargate.

Please call Alison on 01332 292262 for more information and to secure your place, as numbers will be limited.

Dates:

Tuesday 16th August 10.30am – 12.00 noon

Tuesday 30th August 10.30am – 12.00 noon

Wednesday 21st September 10.30am – 12.00 noon

Fundraising Update

Ey Up Mi Duck Raffle!

A huge thank you to everyone who entered our 'Ey Up Mi Duck Raffle 2022'! The raffle has raised a fantastic £2,470 thanks to your generosity. The winning ticket number was 37402 netting a first prize of £250, kindly donated by Newmedica. All winners have been notified.

Charity of the Year (COTY)

We are so grateful to Belmayne Independent Chartered Financial Planners in Dronfield who have chosen us to be their COTY, alongside three other local charities. On 14th May, they

held a Charity Ball in Sheffield that raised a fantastic £3,071 for Sight Support Derbyshire! There was some competitive bidding in the auction, which included a painting by our Chair of Trustees, Martin Wilson and a tactile wooden bowl entitled 'Every Cloud' created especially for the event by Derbyshire visually impaired artist, Chris Fisher, also known as 'The Blind Woodturner'.

Not content with organising a fantastic Ball, one of the Belmayne Partners took on a gruelling 112-mile bike ride with friends the following weekend adding another £1,000 to their total! We really can't thank them enough for going the extra mile for Sight Support Derbyshire!

It's not just companies who choose to fundraise for their chosen COTY. We are delighted that both The Derby and District Oddfellows and Derby Daybreak Rotary Club have also decided to raise funds for Sight Support Derbyshire this year.

Our Chair, Martin Wilson, gave a talk about our work at the Oddfellows coffee morning recently. They are only 3 months into their fundraising and have already raised a fantastic £600!

Derby Daybreak Rotary Club are raising money for our Hospital Advice and Support Service. Having kicked off their fundraising with a stall at the Little Eaton Carnival on 2nd of July they have many other activities planned including a treasure hunt, quiz and Open Day. As well as raising funds for us, they also wish to extend a warm invitation to anyone wishing to join their club. For more information email secretary@derbydaybreak.org.uk

If you or someone in your family works for a local company or is a member of a Rotary, Oddfellows, Soroptimists, Women's Institute etc. perhaps you could nominate Sight Support Derbyshire as their next COTY? It's a fantastic way to raise

vital funds as well as raising awareness of our work. We can help by providing information, attending coffee mornings, giving talks and promoting events on our website and social media.

Facebook Fundraisers

“I can’t begin to imagine what it must be like to lose your sight so for my birthday this year I’m asking for donations to Sight Support Derbyshire”.

A new way of fundraising which has become more popular in recent years is Birthday Fundraisers. Many people would prefer their friends and family to make a donation to a favourite charity rather than buy them another scented candle or box of chocolates! This is very easy to do on Facebook where you can set up a ‘Birthday Fundraiser’ so that friends and family can make donations as well as send you Birthday messages. Over the past 12 months we have received a wonderful £540 from Facebook Birthday Fundraisers and with Facebook covering the processing fees every penny donated comes straight to Sight Support Derbyshire.

Preparing for the future

Over the past couple of years, many of us have had to simply focus on getting through each day of the pandemic. As things are now returning to some kind of normal, we can begin to look to the future again and make plans.

One thing many of us can be guilty of ‘putting off for another day’ is making plans for what happens when we are no longer around. A recent survey showed that this is very common – a staggering 49% of the UK adults questioned in 2021 said they don’t have a Will in place. That means almost half of all adults have no guarantee that their future wishes will be carried out.

The only way to ensure that those we love and care for are provided for when we die, be they grandchildren, close friends, places of worship, or valued charities, is to have a valid Will.

Sight Support Derbyshire volunteer, Len, previously worked with local solicitors for over 40 years, specialising in Will writing. *“I can say from many years’ experience that having a professionally prepared, up-to-date Will is really the only way to ensure that your wishes are carried out. Without a valid Will, things can very quickly become complicated. Having a Will means you can make sure those you care about most will be provided for.”*

If you have not yet made a Will or would like to change your Will, we have a useful booklet containing information on why you need a Will, where to start, things to think about etc. which we would be happy to send out to you. We also have information about a Free Will scheme that Flint Bishop Solicitors are kindly offering to our members and supporters. Please contact us using the details on the back page of this newsletter to request a “Your Will – Your Gift for the Future” booklet or further information about how to obtain a Free Will with Flint Bishop Solicitors.

Making a difference with a legacy

After making sure family and friends are provided for, some people choose to leave a gift to charity in their Will. This may be a charity that has benefitted them or their families, or simply one they have supported for many years.

“Dad decided to leave a gift in his Will to Sight Support Derbyshire, as his way of saying ‘thank you’ for all the help he had received. It’s a comfort to me to know that through this gift,

Dad is helping other people who are facing sight loss like he did.”

As well as the peace of mind of knowing that your legacy gift will be helping a favourite charity long into the future, there are other advantages. Leaving a legacy to charity can reduce the inheritance tax payable on your estate. It is also a way of giving to charity which doesn't impact on your current finances.

As a local, independent charity, we are so grateful to all those people who choose to make a gift to Sight Support Derbyshire in their Will, however large or small. Legacy gifts have helped us to run our Children and Young People's, and Hospital Advice and Support Services. Every gift really does make a difference.

“I never thought that I would regain my independence after my diagnosis of severe sight impairment but Sight Support Derbyshire have helped bring back the old me again!”

Sight Support Derbyshire is here for you

Contact Us:

Helpdesk number: 01332 292262.

We are there from 9am to 4.00pm, Monday to Thursday.

Email: enquiries@sightsupportderbyshire.org.uk

Website: www.sightsupportderbyshire.org.uk

Search **@SightSupDerbys** to find us on Facebook and Twitter.

Address: 2a Wentworth house, Vernon Gate, Derby, DE1 1UR