

# Volunteering News

## What's new here at Sight Support Derbyshire?

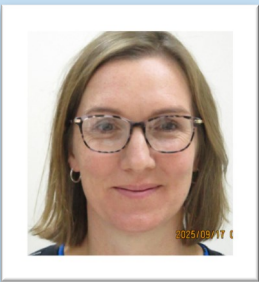
Hello to all our valued volunteers! I'm really pleased to get these newsletters started for you, and hope to do so each quarter.

We have had a few staff changes recently including myself *Fiona Bateman* as the new Volunteer Coordinator. My role is to attract, train, and retain volunteers, and to do

my best to ensure you know how appreciated and valued you are.

I have three young children who keep me very busy, but when I do get a quiet moment I love to sew and spend time in the garden.

I'm really looking forward to working with you all, hearing more about your experience of volunteering with us and how we can support you to keep doing what you do best!



## Upcoming Events / Volunteer opportunities

### Christmas Jingle & Mingle

We would love to show how much we value & appreciate all our incredible volunteers, so please join us for a Christmassy morning tea on



**Wednesday 10th December 10am-12pm**

Derby Head Office

Please RSVP to 01332 287005 or email

[fiona.bateman@sightsupportderbyshire.org.uk](mailto:fiona.bateman@sightsupportderbyshire.org.uk)

Volunteers needed for the newsletter mailout!

10-12th November,

9.30am-3.30pm

Derby Head Office

(Please RSVP)

Drinks & biscuits provided



Our current volunteer opportunities can be found here:

<https://sightsupportderbyshire.org.uk/support-us/volunteer/current-opportunities>

## Spotlight on a Volunteer (or two!)

In this newsletter we are lucky to shine a spotlight on not just one, but two of our wonderful volunteers. I hope you find these stories as inspiring as I did! Let me know if you would like to nominate a volunteer for future spotlights.

Let me introduce Sheila, who is such an asset to the Adult Social & Leisure Group. She makes sure things run smoothly, chats to those who come, makes refreshments, and is an excellent sighted guide when out and about on events. She makes such delicious cakes, which are enjoyed by all. I'm looking forward to sampling your baking Sheila. Thank you for all that you do!



"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

~Gandhi

## Spotlight on a Volunteer (or two!)

**Charlotte** is a befriending volunteer, and I asked her a few questions about her volunteering journey.



**Linda & Charlotte**

### **What inspired you to start volunteering for Sight Support Derbyshire?**

I've always enjoyed being around people, learning who they are, and making a difference. I wanted to do something meaningful in my community, and when I learned about Sight Support Derbyshire, I was drawn to the idea of supporting people who might otherwise feel isolated or struggle with day-to-day tasks. It felt like a small but real way to make a difference.

### **What does a typical day look like when you're volunteering?**

Each visit is a bit different depending on the person I'm supporting. With Linda, I might open her post, organise her fridge, help her make calls, and sort out any paperwork she finds difficult to manage. But most of all, we have a cuppa and put the world to rights - it's lovely just spending time chatting. We've also had some fun shopping trips and are planning to go to a Christmas pantomime together.

### **What impact have you seen from your volunteering?**

I've seen how powerful simple human connection can be. For the people I visit, it's not just about practical help - it's about knowing someone genuinely cares. And personally, I get such a sense of purpose and fulfilment from it. I count both Linda (and Norman who I also volunteer with) as my friends now.

### **What does being part of the Sight Support Derbyshire community mean to you?**

It means being part of something bigger- a community built on care, respect, and understanding. Everyone involved genuinely wants to make life better for people with sight loss, and it feels good to contribute to that.

If you have any feedback on these volunteer newsletters or would like to talk to me about anything related to volunteering then please email me at [fiona.bateman@sightsupportderbyshire.org.uk](mailto:fiona.bateman@sightsupportderbyshire.org.uk) or call me on 01332 287005.