



Newsletter

Summer 2026

I'm delighted to introduce myself as the new CEO of Sight Support Derbyshire. It's been a pleasure getting to know the charity, and I want to thank Claire Winfield for her dedicated leadership and support during the handover. I know many of you will join me in wishing her every happiness for the future.

I've already met many colleagues, volunteers and some of the people we support, and I've been struck by the warmth and commitment across the charity.

I've worked in disability and housing charities for many years, and I'm excited to bring that experience to Sight Support Derbyshire as we develop our services, grow our partnerships, and champion the rights and independence of people with sight loss.

Thank you to those who have welcomed me into their homes — I've really valued hearing your experiences. Over the coming months, I'm looking forward to meeting more people through our services, groups and activities. If you'd like to get in touch with me, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for the warm welcome — I'm thrilled to be here.

Kathy

Sensory Tech Day 2026

Our annual event dedicated to showcasing the latest in technology for people living with sight loss is taking place on Wednesday 13th May at the Post Mill Centre, South Normanton. With over 15 exhibitors, plus the opportunity to get help with your own tablet smartphone or laptop, it promises to be a great day. Call in between 10.30am and 3.30pm to talk to the experts. Sight Support Derbyshire staff will also be on hand to offer help and support. Refreshments can be purchased from the 'Post Mill Pantry'.

Getting out and about

As we move into spring and summer, now is a great time to get out and about. Our new Spring/Summer 2026 activity calendar is now available and includes canal boat trips, museum visits, café meet ups, gardening talks and more. Visit our website to find out more or call Victoria in the Derby office. If you haven't been to one of our activities before, why not give it a try? We have staff and volunteers to support at the activities and everyone is very friendly.

Befriending support available

If you are over 50, living with sight loss and feeling isolated or alone, have you thought about joining our Befriending Project? We have trained volunteers ready to offer befriending support at home. Having someone call in for a chat once a week can make all the difference. Phone the Derby office for more information.

Would you prefer to receive this newsletter via email?

Some people find it easier to receive their newsletter by email – if this is you, let us know: enquiries@sightsupportderbyshire.org.uk

Fundraising Update

Summer Raffle

Fancy a day at the cricket, a meal out or an extra £250 in your pocket? Enter our Summer Raffle for just £1 a ticket and you could be lucky! With £250 donated by local company Lubrizol (who have also very kindly helped pay for the printing of the tickets) and other prizes donated by Denby Pottery, Derbyshire County Cricket Club, Longbow Venues and more, you could be treating yourself this summer. Closing date 29th June 2026. Tickets enclosed or buy here: <https://sightsupportderbyshire.org.uk/donate/enter-summer-raffle-2026/>

Raising money for Sight Support Derbyshire – for free!

Did you know, you can raise money to help local people living with sight loss without it costing you a penny?

Movement for Good

Take a minute to nominate us for a 'Movement for Good' award, from the Benefact Group, which may just win us £1,000 or £5,000! Visit: <https://movementforgood.com/draws/1000#charitySearchForm> enter our registered charity number or name (1080986 – Derbyshire Association of the Blind Ltd), fill in a few more boxes then click the 'Nominate this charity' box – and that's it!

Easyfundraising

If you or anyone you know shops online, please sign up to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/sightsupport> Every time you shop via Easyfundraising with over 8,000 registered retailers (from John Lewis to Asda, Currys to Iceland) they will make a small donation to Sight Support Derbyshire at absolutely no cost to you!

Information Days Calendar 2026

Events are 10.30am until 1pm (except where marked *)

Hill Street Baptist Church, Swadlincote, DE11 8HL	Tues 14 th April
SENSORY TECH EXHIBITION. Post Mill Centre, Market Street, South Normanton, DE55 2EJ	Wed 13 th May * 10.30am – 3.30pm
St Thomas Centre, Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield, S40 3AW	Wed 10 th June * 12.00noon - 2.30pm
Erewash CVS, Granville Avenue, Long Eaton, Notts, NG10 4HD	Tues 14 th July
Medway Community Centre, New Street, Bakewell, DE45 1DY	Tues 8 th September
Broadway Baptist Church, 166 Broadway, Darley Abbey, Derby DE22 1BP	Wed 14 th October
Assembly Rooms, Hill Top, Bolsover, S44 6NG	Thurs 5 th November
St Joseph's Church Hall, Butterley Hill, Ripley, DE5 3LW	Wed 25 th November

Any changes to dates or venues will be updated on our website at:
www.sightsupportderbyshire.org.uk

Sight Support Derbyshire is here for you

Helpdesk number: 01332 292262

Email: enquiries@sightsupportderbyshire.org.uk

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

Website: www.sightsupportderbyshire.org.uk

Facebook: @SightSupDerbys