

Volunteering News

April 2026

Hello and welcome to Volunteering News! I recently did a walk in the countryside around Derby. It was a beautiful day, and the views and sunshine were glorious to see and experience. I was reminded that for many of our service users their experience of life is very different, as they navigate living with sight loss.

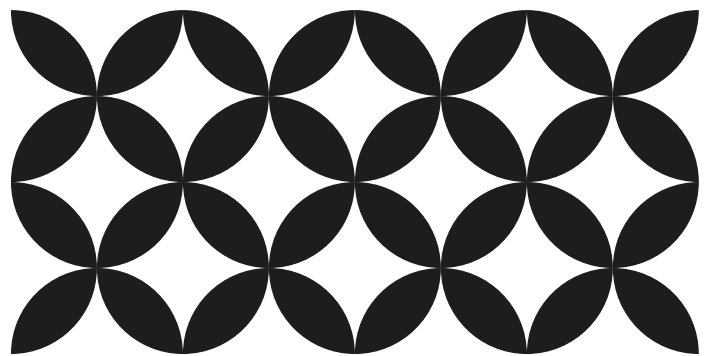
Here at Sight Support Derbyshire we believe that losing your sight should not mean a loss of independence, confidence, or connection to the world. Every day we walk alongside people affected by sight loss, providing practical, emotional and social support. But we can't do it alone! We are so thankful for each and every volunteer, and for your generosity and commitment to building a more inclusive world.

Fiona Bateman
(Volunteer Coordinator)

Welcome new volunteers!

I'm delighted to introduce some of our newest volunteers! It has been wonderful to meet each of you, hear something of your journey so far, and see your enthusiasm to make a difference as part of the Sight Support community.

- **Assma Akhtar**, Befriending
- **Lynda Browett**, Befriending
- **Karen Beveridge**, Befriending
- **Teresa Hall**, Fundraising



Spotlight on a Volunteer

Congratulations to our very own Martin Wilson (Chair of the Trustees) who on the 18th March was honoured with a High Sheriff of Derbyshire Award for his service to the community over the past 23 years.

Thank you for all that you do for the Sight Support Derbyshire community Martin. You're an inspiration to us all!



Small change? BIG impact



Teresa & Garry, part of our Box Collections Team

Despite the challenges that an increasingly cashless society brings to a charity, over the course of 2025-26 our box collection team have helped raise an impressive **£3,795!**

We would like to acknowledge and express our sincere thanks to all our volunteers involved in box collecting (as well as the unsung heroes who have donated their spare change). Every penny counts and contributes to the important work we do here at Sight Support Derbyshire.

Get Involved

For many people volunteering can feel a bit daunting, especially where it may involve a regular, ongoing commitment. If you are in a particularly busy period or looking for something more flexible there are so many ways that you can get involved, in and around your every day life. Here are a few ideas I've had, and I would love to hear any ideas you may have.

- Buy or sell summer raffle tickets.
- Hold a cake sale at work.
- Join our community outreach efforts and put up a flyer on a community noticeboard in your village / town, when you're on the school run or walking the dog.
- Share a post on your Facebook page / Whatsapp community.
- Donate a voucher / raffle prize.
- Share our mission with friends and family. Perhaps they might like to volunteer in their free time.
- Invite us to speak at your local WI, U3A or other community group.



Upcoming Events

VOLUNTEERS' WEEK

Volunteers' Week is an annual UK-wide event held from **1st - 7th June**, to recognise and celebrate the contributions of volunteers.

As part of this event we would love to show our appreciation for you at our

Celebration Coffee Mornings

Wednesday 3rd June 10.30am

Dobbies Chesterfield
4 Highwood Way
Balborough Links
CHESTERFIELD, S43 4XN

Thursday 4th June 10.30am

Sight Support Derbyshire Head
Office
2A Wentworth House
Vernon Gate
DERBY, DE1 1UR


As part of Volunteers' Week we will be attending the **South Derbyshire Volunteer Fair on 2nd June 10am - 2pm.**

If you are free we would value your support to talk to those considering volunteering with us. Please let me know!

We Are **ATTENDING**

Heading to the event? So are we, come and speak with us! Discover a range of volunteering opportunities and learn about the value and benefits they can bring.



 **Tuesday 2 June 2026**

 **10.00 AM - 2.00 PM**

 Greenbank Leisure Centre, Main Hall, Civic Way, Swadlincote, DE11 0AD



SUMMER RAFFLE

Tickets for our Summer Raffle are now available and we have some fantastic prizes to be won! Prizes include £250 kindly donated by Lubrizol, a set of beautiful Denby nesting bowls, a family adventure day at Mount Cook Adventure Centre, tickets to Derbyshire Cricket Club, a tour of the White Peak Distillery, tickets for Snow White at Derby Arena, a signed Derbyshire Cricket Bat and vouchers for the Houseboat Restaurant in Derby, Longbow Venues and Bespoke Inns.

Tickets are still just £1 and the odds are much better than the National Lottery!

Buy your tickets here:

<https://sightsupportderbyshire.org.uk/summer-affle-2026/>

or contact us at the office for paper tickets.

Keep in Contact

Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any feedback on these newsletters or any aspect of volunteering at Sight Support Derbyshire. I love hearing from you, and welcome opportunities to learn and improve.

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