Devon in Sight
Your local sight loss charity

100 YEARS
1925 - 2025

In Vision

The magazine of Devon in Sight

Summer 2026 Issue 47



FREE

Recommended donation of £3

Hello from your Devon in Sight team!

Summer 2026 - Issue 47

Contents

Have your say...	3
Chief Executive's Welcome	4 - 5
News Features	6 - 9
In the Spotlight!	10 - 11
Community Fundraising News	12 - 15
Race Across Devon	16 - 17
Living Well with Sight Loss	18 - 19
Supporting Us	20 - 21
Assistive Technology Clinics	22 - 23
Introducing HumanWare	24 - 25
Our Services	26 - 29
Age UK	30 - 31
Guest Article - MoorVision	32 - 33
TPT 'Works for Me'	34 - 35
Access to Work Update	36 - 37
Brain Teaser Feature	38 - 39

Editor:
Sarah Small

Contributors:
Richard Pike
Grahame Flynn
Tessa Barrett
Mandy Darling
Louise Millington
Lisa Gould

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Our Helpline 01392 876 666

Lines are open between 10am and 2pm, Monday to Friday

Have your say...



As you may know, Devon in Sight is now under new management. Meaning changes are taking place, including a new editor for **In Vision** magazine!

This is a very exciting time, but among all the new plans and big ideas, there's one thing we want to keep front and centre - YOU.

We believe it makes sense to ask you, our reader, what you would like us to cover next, as we want to make sure the stories we are telling are the ones that actually matter.

We would love to know...

What's one thing you would like to hear more of?
Is there someone you would love for us to interview?
What do you think is missing from In Vision?
Or any other ideas you want to share!

You can let us know your thoughts by:

Sending us an email -
marketing@devoninsight.org.uk

Or by completing our online form -
Follow the QR code.

Feedback Form

You are also welcome to send us a letter, addressed to Devon in Sight -
Our address can be found on the back page of your magazine.

Chief Executive Officer's

Welcome



Welcome to the Summer Edition of In Vision Magazine.

It is a huge pleasure to be writing this as the new CEO of Devon in Sight. Since arriving at the charity in March and taking over on the 1st of April (no jokes please!), I have been amazed and inspired by what I have learnt about the charity and how it helps so many people, in so many ways, across our wonderful county. As someone who is only at the very beginning of my education into sight loss, I am acutely conscious of the need to tread lightly until I understand far more about the issues and the community we serve.

It would be very easy when joining an organisation that has celebrated its 100th anniversary, to simply continue what we have been doing in the past and assume that it will continue to serve our clients well. However, the world is changing at a dizzying pace, with new technologies transforming how we live our lives, do our work and interact with each other. It makes sense therefore to use this opportunity to undertake a review of how we operate as a charity to ensure we continue to serve all of our stakeholders well. The review is already well underway and includes the services we provide, the way we deliver our services and how we can ensure that the charity is in a financially sound position so that it can continue for the next 100 years and beyond.

"Change can be exciting, empowering and transformative"

Many people don't realise that as an independent charity, we do not receive any funding from central or local Government, and we are not affiliated in any way with some of the other larger charities such as Guide Dogs or RNIB. Instead, we rely solely on the generosity of our supporters and our fundraising efforts to keep the wheels turning and that is a challenge that has been getting harder in recent years and is a trend that we expect will continue.

As this review proceeds, you may start to spot differences in what we are doing which we hope you will appreciate. Change can be unsettling, and sometimes a little frightening, and it is therefore understandable why we instinctively shy away from it. However, change can also be exciting, empowering and transformative and this is a future that I would love to see for Devon in Sight. I will be working tirelessly with the wonderful team at the charity to bring about this change and will provide more detail in future editions of In Vision. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at one of our educational or fundraising events over the coming months.



Richard Pike
Chief Executive Officer

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Brandon Launches His New Book



◀ Photo Credit: Grahame Flynn (Devon in Sight)

▲ Blind Author Brandon Hulcoop at our Paignton Event

Brandon Hulcoop, Sight Loss Ambassador and founder of All Things Dotty, has officially added 'author' to his list of titles, with the release of his first book!

During our Torbay 'Living Well with Sight Loss' event, Brandon shared with Sarah the story behind his debut book. Driven by a lifelong dream to write, and inspired by his grandmother's love for horror, there was really only one genre he could have chosen when he finally put pen to paper!

We would like to share with you a little snippet from Brandon's book, 'When Morning Comes'.

"And every night, soldiers vanish one by one."

"The scars of war will never fade. But some wounds go far, far deeper than the flesh.
David Wallis is a normal man, living with his wife. Until he joins the British army. Until he agrees to fight for his country in the Second World War.
War breeds ghosts. But on Drake's Island... the ghosts were already waiting.
Corporal David Wallis has survived the horrors of France - the screams, the gunfire, the blood. But nothing could prepare him for what waits off the coast of Plymouth. Sent to defend the ancient fort of Drake's Island, David and his men expect a quiet posting - instead, they find the dead still walking its grounds. Fog rolls in thick and heavy. Voices whisper from the tunnels. The graves beneath the island stir...
And every night, soldiers vanish one by one."



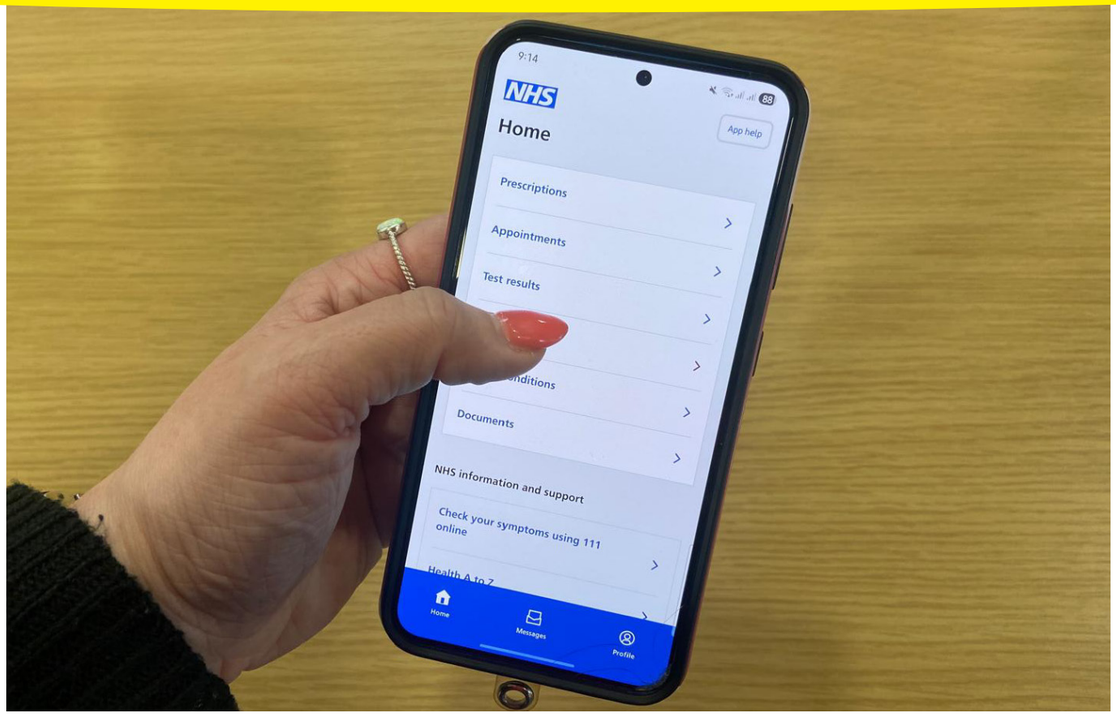
You can purchase Brandon's book 'When Morning Comes: A Ghost Story' online at Amazon, or from him directly, at one of our Living Well with Sight Loss Events.

Order your copy today!
Available from Amazon:

Kindle Download £5.99 or Paperback £12.99

The NHS App

The NHS app allows you to handle all your healthcare needs in one place.



▲ Photo Credit: Sarah Small (Devon in Sight)

▲ Image of the NHS app home screen

For those of you with a smartphone or tablet, the NHS App is a great tool for managing your health. It serves as a direct link to your GP surgery.

Why download the app?

The app is a convenient way of accessing your healthcare needs when it suits you, bypassing the long phone queues and the tedious hold music.

With just a few taps, you can:

- Order repeat prescriptions quickly and easily.
- View your health records and get test results faster than waiting for a letter.
- Contact your GP to explain an enquiry, request a call-back, or book an appointment.
- Manage your preferences, such as organ donation decisions and viewing your NHS number.
- Access NHS 111 online for urgent medical advice.

Accessible for Everyone

Mandy Darling, our Community Engagement and Fundraising officer, has been using the app and highly recommends it, noting that it works in conjuction with screen-reader technology, making it accessible for people with sight loss.

Getting Started

If you are aged 13 or over and registered with an NHS GP surgery in England, you are eligible to use the app.

Simply head to the App Store (Apple) or the Google Play Store (Android) and search for “NHS App”. Once you’re set up, you can even use the app to search for reliable information on various medical conditions and treatments!

Author: Tessa Barrett

For **more information on useful apps** call us today:

Our Helpline 01392 876 666

Lines are open between 10am and 2pm, Monday to Friday

BBC Spotlight

Forever advocating for accessibility



◀ Photo Credit: Grahame Flynn (Devon in Sight)

▲ Mandy Darling being interviewed by BBC Spotlight

Always the first to celebrate a win for accessibility and inclusion!

On Wednesday 25th March 2026, Devon in Sight were featured on BBC Spotlight! Our very own Mandy Darling was sharing her thoughts on Exeter airport and the amazing work they do to support visually impaired passengers.

Mandy is a member of the Passengers with Reduced Mobility Group (PRM Group) at Exeter Airport. She brings invaluable lived experience on travelling with a visual impairment and offers advice to the airport on how they can best support those with sight loss.

Director of All Things Dotty, Brandon Hulcoop, was also featured, expressing his concerns when travelling with no sight, and what it would mean to him if more people understood his experiences.



Brandon said “Getting members of staff to blindfold themselves and try to navigate an airport, it makes people feel exactly the way we feel, and to be honest, that’s absolutely blinking terrified!”

Exeter airport really are taking the lead on making their facilities accessible to all. As part of their commitment, they have also collaborated with Guide Dogs UK to train their staff on being sighted guides for passengers.

We love that the BBC have truly shone a ‘spotlight’ on accessibility and inclusivity.

The hightlights from Mandy’s recent PRM Group meeting:
Rising Demand: More passengers than ever are seeking assistance, and staff are stepping up to meet the need!
Innovation: We’re seeing exciting updates like talking toilets and a refreshed virtual tour.
Independence: The goal is clear - ensuring everyone can travel as independently as possible.

Author: Sarah Small

Community Fundraising



◀ Photo Credit: Honiton & District Lions Club

▲ Honiton Lions Bucket Collection

Many people generously give their time to raise precious funds for our charity. We would like to say a big thank you to all our fundraisers.

Honiton & District Lions Club

Lions Club International has a strong affinity with sight loss. We were delighted to receive a letter from our friend Brian (The Lion) Richards, the Melvin Jones Fellowship (MJF) President, of Honiton and District Lions Club on 24th March. The Honiton Lions gave us a donation of £2,000 following bucket collections, selling draw tickets and from their central funds.

Special recognition must go to Lion David Richard who conducted bucket collections throughout the year.

Our Community supporting people living with sight loss in Devon!



◀ Photo Credit: Grahame Flynn (Devon in Sight)

▲ Grahame with Rod Walsom in Freemason's Hall, Exeter

St. Thomas Lodge Exeter No. 4198

St. Thomas Freemasons Lodge was formed in 1920 by members from various other Lodges who wanted a Lodge representing the area of Exeter called St Thomas. To qualify to be a member you had to live or have a business in St Thomas.

On the evening of Wednesday 18th March 2026, Devon in Sight's outgoing CEO Grahame Flynn was pleased to receive a donation from Rod Walsom of St. Thomas Lodge.

We would like to thank everyone at St. Thomas Lodge for their donation of £500 towards our services.

Community Fundraising

Our Community supporting people living with sight loss in Devon!



◀ Photo Credit: Emily Bennett

▲ Emily Bennett in Specsavers

Emily takes on the Great West Run

On Sunday 24th May 2026, Emily will be taking part in the Great West Run to raise money for Devon in Sight.

Emily says 'Through my work as an Optometrist in Specsavers, I see first hand the impact that sight loss can have on people's lives. It's not just about vision, it can affect independence, confidence, mental health, and daily activities that many of us take for granted.

Devon in Sight provides vital support, advice, and resources to help people adapt, stay independent, and feel less alone. The work they do genuinely makes a difference to so many people and families.'

If you would like to sponsor Emily you can do so via her Just Giving page at **www.justgiving.com/page/emily-bennett-1**

Scan to Donate

Have you ever considered fundraising for us? We would love to hear from you.

To find out more contact **Mandy** today!

Call: **01392 878 804**

Email: **mandy@devoninsight.org.uk**

Double the Distance



Mission accomplished!
Delia has outdone herself and walked 203 miles in just 22 days an amazing feat! She is a true inspiration and we cannot thank her enough for her support, and her dedication to fundraising for us.

If you would like to congratulate Delia on her incredible accomplishment, you can still donate to her fundraiser. Head over to her Just Giving page - **www.justgiving.com/page/delia-kennedy-2026**.

Scan to Donate

Again, we want to say a massive thank you to Delia for her unwavering support.

Race Across Devon - Miles Better

Calling all readers, we need your help!

On Saturday July 18th, Devon in Sight will be running our flagship fundraising event for 2026.

Based on the hugely successful BBC1 show, Race Across the World, Race Across Devon will involve 10 teams, travelling around Devon using various modes of transport, completing surprise tasks along the way, all whilst visiting well known landmarks in the county.

Each team will include a visually impaired contestant, who will be accompanied by a sighted guide. Travel is permitted via bus, train, bicycle, boat, on foot, even horseback! Or by any other means, **with the exception of a car**. Bonus points will be awarded for using the more unusual methods!

Race Across Devon will commence at the Bishop's Palace in Exeter, with the Bishop of Exeter providing a blessing. The 'finish line' will be back at Exeter Cathedral, with a surprise dignitary greeting the returning teams and awarding the winner's trophy!

Beyond raising funds to support the ongoing work of Devon in Sight, the aim of this event is to demonstrate that people living with a visual impairment can still engage in exciting and demanding physical challenges. Showing that nothing, sight loss included, should prevent anyone from following their dreams. We are anticipating a large amount of press and media coverage of this exciting event.

Supporters will be able to track the progress of the teams in real time throughout the day, and for those who are able to join us at the start or finish line, we'd love to have you there cheering on our contenders!

We will, of course, devote pages in the next edition of In Vision to tell you all about the event. We wish all of our teams the very best of luck!

Calling All Readers

We would love your suggestions... let us know your favourite landmarks, or those you think of as most iconic, across the county. The teams will be awarded bonus points for different landmarks, dependant on the difficulty of reaching them.

Contact Mandy with your suggestions!

Call: 01392 878 804
Email: Mandy@devoninsight.org.uk

If you, or someone you know, would like more information about taking part in our Race Across Devon challenge, we would love to hear from you! Again, contact Mandy on the details provided above.



[The image shows Trish Sail, one of our inspirational Sight Loss Ambassadors who lives with a visual impairment, taking part in the BBC's Race Across the World series with her good friend Cathie Rowe.]

Living Well with Sight Loss Events 2026

Helping you maintain your independence and live life to the full



◀ Photo Credit: Sarah Small (Devon in Sight)

▲ Tessa Barrett, Head of Services, at our Paignton event

In March 2026, we started this year's schedule of Living Well with Sight Loss Events in Paignton and we continue to tour the county until October.

Devon in Sight's Living Well with Sight Loss Events are an ideal opportunity to meet with our partners in Health & Social Care, the Charity Sector and Community Groups all of whom can help you on your sight loss journey.

Exhibitors usually include Rehabilitation Officers from the Sensory Teams, Low Vision and Daily Living Equipment Suppliers, Blind Clubs, Talking Newspapers, The Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service together with local and national charities such as Blind Veterans UK.

Living Well with Sight Loss Event Schedule 2026

Our Living Well with Sight Loss Events are free* to attend and refreshments will be provided.

North Devon & Torridge Event
Tuesday 19 May 2026 (10am-2pm)
Westward Ho! Baptist Church
42 Nelson Drive, Westward Ho! EX39 1LQ

Plymouth & South Hams Event
Thursday 11 June 2026 (10am-2pm)
Totnes Civic Hall, Market Square, Totnes TQ9 5SF

Exeter & East Devon Event*
Thursday 15th October 2026 (10am-4pm)
The Annual Devon Sight Loss Conference & AGM
The Exeter Rougemont Hotel, Exeter

*** The Exeter Event is held as part of The Devon Sight Loss Conference & AGM and has a small fee to help cover costs.**

Registered clients of Devon in Sight will automatically receive an invitation to the event in their area. Please register your interest in attending these events by ringing the helpline.

To **register your interest in our events** please call:

Our Helpline 01392 876 666

Lines are open between 10am and 2pm, Monday to Friday

Supporting us

How can you support our work?



◀ Photo Credit: Zahar2000 (Getty Images)

Devon in Sight has been supporting people affected by sight loss for over 100 years. We are your local, independent sight loss charity.

People can often be mistaken in thinking that we are part of a larger organisation, such as the RNIB or Guide Dogs, however, that is **not** the case. We are an independent charity, we receive no statutory funding and we rely on the generosity of donors to continue providing our services, including this magazine.

Your financial support helps us make a tangible difference, and helps empower more people living with sight loss to live fuller, more independent lives.

Together, we can continue to offer vital services that positively impact those living with sight loss, and ultimately realise our vision to make Devon a sight loss friendly county.

Our community supporting people living with sight loss in Devon

There are many ways to make a donation:

Friends of Devon in Sight

Our Regular Giving Scheme **'Friends of Devon in Sight'** is a great way to support us. You can give as little or as much as you would like with a monthly direct debit. **Please ask for more information.**

Donate by cheque

If you prefer you can also make a one off donation by cheque made payable to **'Devon in Sight'** and send it to **Devon in Sight, Splatford Barton, Kennford, Exeter EX6 7XY.**

Donate using your card

We can take card donations over the telephone. Just call us on **01392 876 666** to do so.

Donate by BACS (Bank Transfer)

Name: **The Devon County Association for the Blind**
Sort Code: **30-80-37**
Account No: **62326768**

Make a Lasting Legacy

If you would like more information about leaving a gift in your will we can send you our 'Making a Lasting Legacy' information.

Donate by Text

Text 'SIGHTLOSS' followed by the amount you wish to donate.
For example to donate £10 text **'SIGHTLOSS 10'** to **70490**
(You will be charged your donation amount
+1 standard network rate message)

Scan the QR Code

You can scan the QR code with your mobile phone to donate through Just Giving.

SCAN ME

Assistive Technology Clinics

Check out the latest in Assistive Technology with Sight and Sound Technology



◀ Image Credit: Sarah Small (Devon in Sight)

▲ A robotic hand touching the centre of a golden interface

On Wednesday the 15th April we were joined at the Devon in Sight offices, not only by our friends from Sight and Sound, Iain Kennedy and Stefanie Davies, but a group of our wonderful clients.

The day offered a brilliant opportunity for visitors to consult with the experts on the latest assistive technology, participate in live demonstrations, and gain hands-on experience with a variety of equipment.

Don't worry if you missed out on our first technology clinic, as Iain and Stefanie will be back with us in June.

To find out more about this event, or to book your appointment, please call us on 01392 876 666.

The important information:

Date: Tuesday 23rd June 2026

Time: 10am to 3pm
Appointment only
(Each appointment will last one hour)

Location: Devon in Sight
Suite 3
Splatford Barton Business Park
Kennford
Exeter
EX6 7XY

These events are booked on a first-come, first-served basis and spaces are limited.



To book your Assistive Technology Clinic Appointment ring**:**

Our Helpline 01392 876 666

Lines are open between 10am and 2pm, Monday to Friday

Humanware™ see things. differently.

Hark Ai and Explore range of Low Vision products



If you would like a free demonstration of our products, Stuart Ling, your local HumanWare representative is happy to visit you at home or at Devon in Sight – call Freephone **0800 587 2589.**



Hark Ai reads barcodes - place a tin or packet under Hark Ai and it will read the barcode and the product name and contents to you.

Hark Ai reads handwriting - listen to handwritten letters and greeting cards.

Hark Ai provides an instant summary of the contents of letters and bills.



Hark Reader reads printed text from letters to books and magazines.

Low Vision - if you have low vision try our **Explore** range of portable magnifiers with three different units to choose from.

When you are out and about, pop **Explore 5** into your pocket or bag; use **Explore 8** to read the newspaper at home and enjoy watching your favourite TV programmes from the comfort of your favourite armchair using **Explore 12.**



Explore 5



Explore 8



Explore 12

Call Freephone 0800 587 2589 or visit www.humanware.com

Assistive Technology Feature

App of the Issue

Technology is constantly evolving, from the latest smartphone to your very own AI assistant. Here at Devon in Sight, we want to guide you as best we can when it comes to all things tech!

While we would refer you to the experts for your more complex technological needs, we thought we would share some of our favourite and most trusted apps with you!

Be My Eyes!

How it works:
Designed for accessibility, blind and low vision users can request help from a sighted volunteer for instant support.

be my eyes

Volunteers are notified, through the app, that a user has requested help. Once a volunteer accepts the request, a live audio-visual connection is established between the two parties.

Through the users rear facing camera the volunteer can see the item or subject the user needs assistance with, then they can provide the visual description of said item/subject.

Apps Fact Sheet

We have created a fact sheet containing an extensive list of useful apps, which can be found through our website - Scan the QR code for more information. Alternatively, you can call us on 01392 876 666 to request your printed copy.

Health & Wellbeing Feature

Chit-Chat Calls

Community and connection is extremely important to us here at Devon in Sight. Our Chit-Chat call aims to bring people from all walks of life together. All while providing a safe space for you to discuss the things that matter most, with the people who truly 'get it'.

Chit-Chat Call Schedule

May 2026
- 10.30 - 11.30am Wednesday **6 May 2026**
- 10.30 - 11.30am Wednesday **20 May 2026**

June 2026
- 10.30 - 11.30am Wednesday **3 June 2026**
- 10.30 - 11.30am Wednesday **17 June 2026**

July 2026
- 10.30 - 11.30am Wednesday **8 July 2026**
- 10.30 - 11.30am Wednesday **22 July 2026**

Please note we have new number for Chit-Chat Calls.

Calls to our Chit-Chat line are charged at your standard network rate (though they are typically free if you have inclusive 'geographic' minutes for 01 numbers in your mobile or landline plan).

Each call lasts one hour, starting at 10:30am and finishing at 11:30am.



To join the Chit-Chat Call ring:

01200 480 174 *

*Calls will be charged at your standard network rate

Supporting You Feature

An Overview of Our Services

Devon in Sight offers a range of holistic services for anyone affected by sight loss who live or work in Devon.

Our four key areas of service are:

Information, Advice and Guidance
- Providing you with the information you need
- Offering a range of valuable resources
- Sharing the latest news through In Vision magazine

Independent Living
- Supporting you with equipment and technology that can help you be more independent in your home
- Our employment hub in partnership with Thomas Pocklington Trust supports people into work
- Our Living Well with Sight Loss events take place each year all across the county, a host of exhibitors join us to share their knowledge

Health & Wellbeing
- We host our twice monthly Chit-Chat calls
- Offer advice on healthy lifestyle choices
- Provide Information on local events
- We provide emotional support, which can be a phone call, or in some cases formal counselling

Influencing Change
At Devon in Sight we always advocate for inclusion and accessibility and we want to be a voice for the blind and partially sighted community.

Sight Loss Speaker Seminars

Scan the QR code to explore our full library of speaker events

Our telephone-based seminars invite you to hear from a wide range of guest speakers, from healthcare professionals to community partners, all from the comfort of your own home.

At the end of each call, we open up the conversation to our listeners, this is your opportunity to ask any burning questions you may have for our speaker.

Tuesday 12 May 2026

'Digital Voice'



▲ Harriet Keeling

Harriet Keeling, has worked for the BT Group as a Technical Adviser for 8 years, she will be joining us to guide our listeners through the digital switchover with practical advice. As someone born with cataracts and living with nystagmus, she brings a unique first-hand perspective.

Our Guest Speaker is **Harriet Keeling, Technical Adviser, at EE Communications.**

To join our **Sight Loss Speaker Seminars** call:

01200 480 174 *

*Calls will be charged at your standard network rate

Tuesday 9 June 2026

'Introducing Scrivens'

Many of our readers may remember Chime Hearing Services. Following their closure, Scrivens is now the local provider for NHS hearing care. You can now find both your hearing and eye care services under one roof. Scrivens will be joining us to provide more information on the work they do and the services they offer.

Our Guest Speakers are **Lesley Anne** and **Stuart**, from **Scrivens**.

Tuesday 14 July 2026

'Meet Richard Pike - Devon in Sight's new CEO'



▲ Richard Pike

Richard Pike formally joined Devon in Sight on 23 March 2026 as our new Chief Executive Officer. This is your opportunity to hear a little about Richard's career to date and his motivation for joining our team.

Our Guest Speaker is **Richard Pike, Chief Executive Officer, Devon in Sight.**

Age UK Devon

“Let’s change how we age”



◀ Photo Credit: Sarah Small (Devon in Sight)

▲ Grahame Flynn (Left) and Sarah Gunn (Right)

For our March 2026 Sight Loss Speaker Seminar, host Grahame Flynn was joined by Sarah Gunn, Advice & Wellbeing Manager from Age UK Devon.

Age UK is a charity that supports older people (50+) in the UK. They provide information, advice, and practical services to help you live well. From navigating benefits and later life planning to tackling loneliness and offering home help, transport, and digital inclusion assistance.

Sarah gave an overview of the support and activities that Age UK Devon provides for people over 50 in the county.

You can listen to this programme on our website - www.devoninsight.org.uk - under ‘News’.

Information & Advice

- **Social Care:** Guidance on finding care homes, getting help at home and funding options.
- **Income:** Personalised entitlement checks and practical help with applying for benefits.
- **Your Home:** Staying warm, home adaptations and fall prevention.
- **Scam Awareness:** One-to-one advice sessions to help you avoid the risk of being scammed.

Support at Home

(£24.50 per hour - minimum of 1.5 hours per week)

- Accompanying you to appointments
- Light household tasks and practical support
- Shopping and collecting prescriptions
- Friendly companionship and conversation
- Help with paperwork and daily errands
- Support to stay active and connected

Other services are also available, including foot care, ear care and a variety of social activities. To find out more about the full range of services available from Age UK, you can contact them directly on the number provided below.

To speak with **Age UK Devon** please call:

Telephone 0333 241 2340

The Helpline is open between 9am and 3pm Monday to Friday

Guest Article Feature

The SEND White Paper

SEND - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Introduction and Background

The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) system in England has been under significant pressure for over a decade during which successive consultations, committees, papers and plans have failed to secure affordable but effective education for children with SEND.

The 2026 SEND White Paper "Every child achieving and thriving" aims to overhaul these systems, addressing legal inequalities, high tribunal rates, and strained Local Authority budgets, creating more inclusive and sustainable, long-term support.

Key Aspects

- To focus on mainstream and inclusive education by shifting the burden of responsibility for many children from Local Authorities to schools.
- For all secondary settings to have a support/inclusion base.
- To introduce new 'National Inclusion Standards' (not yet set).
- To introduce an "Experts at Hand" of specialist support.
- To offer a two-tier approach with statutory ISPs – Individual Support plans, managed and funded by schools; and statutory Education and Health Care Plans EHCPs – managed and funded by Local Authorities.
- To only offer EHCPs to children who fit into one of 7 pre-defined categories of disability.

Key Concerns

ISP Concerns

- Lack of uniformity across schools.
- Entirely dependent on the skill of school staff.
- No mention of what legal rights are to appeal, or how complaints would be handled.
- Adding huge pressures to schools, already under significant strain.

EHCP Concerns

- Nationally Defined Specialist Provision Packages with their own eligibility rules will govern EHCP allocation.
- Many children are not going to fit neatly into a category but may have lesser needs but across many categories.
- EHCP provision no longer based on need.

Further Education Concerns

Very little guidance for young people over 16.

Funding concerns

The proposed £1.6 billion mainstream funding averages out at approximately £48,000 yearly for an average secondary school and £14,000 for average primary school. Schools have stated that they cannot possibly provide ISP support on this funding.

Specific Concerns for Children with Visual Impairment (VI)

Very few of the secondary school inclusion bases will be for children with VI. These more generic inclusion bases may not be suitable for a child with VI.
Over 50% of children with VI also have other additional needs and are unlikely to fit into any specific category but may have needs across them all.
The paper proposes to remove the rights of the SEND tribunal to name a particular school which could impact very negatively on children with VI who may need specialist placements.

Further information:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/every-child-achieving-and-thriving

Author: Laura Hughes - MoorVision CEO



‘Works for Me Project’ Update



◀ Photo Credit: Drazen Zigic (iStock)

▲ A person receiving work training and support

‘Works for Me’ is a service dedicated to supporting our clients in pursuit of paid employment or for those seeking a change of career. It is provided in partnership with Thomas Pocklington Trust (TPT).

Our Head of Services, Tessa Barrett, and previous Chief Executive Officer, Grahame Flynn, were recently asked to share their experiences during a national forum, organised by Visionary, regarding our partnership with Thomas Pocklington Trust.

Tessa explains, “Visionary is the umbrella membership organisation for sight loss organisations in the United Kingdom. We were delighted to be invited to share our experience of the programme during an online forum with Visionary Members, alongside Jeff Page, Head of Employment and Maria Moorhouse, Employment Co-ordinator from the Thomas Pocklington Trust.”

Supporting our clients in pursuit of paid employment or for those seeking a change of career

For those who aren’t aware Thomas Pocklington Trust’s **‘Works for Me’** Programme is a free, personalised service helping blind and partially sighted individuals find or change careers. TPT have a team of employment experts keen to offer one-to-one support across Devon. They will provide advice and support that is personalised to suit everyone’s unique style.

One-to-one support, includes:

- Job Prep: Guidance on CVs, applications, and mock interviews.
- Professional Coaching: Free access to career mentors and coaches.
- Specialist Referrals: Links to counselling, rehabilitation, and training.
- Tech Support: IT skill assessments and advice on assistive technology.

We were delighted to share case studies of our clients who have successfully completed the programme.

If you would like to know more about the ‘Works for Me’ programme please give us a call.

For **more information about ‘Works for Me’** please call:

01392 876 666

Our Helpline is open between 10am and 2pm, Monday to Friday

Access To Work

"APPG will focus on hearing directly from groups of disabled people about their experiences of work"



◀ Photo Credit: Stephen Darling ©House of Commons

▲ Sight Loss Ambassador Steve Darling MP

Steve Darling MP and Sight Loss Ambassador for Devon in Sight gives an update on Access to Work.

Access to Work is a publicly funded employment scheme that helps disabled people start or stay in work by offering workplace equipment, money towards travel (if public transport is inaccessible), or an interpreter or support worker.

This scheme is so important for many reasons, especially given that the disability employment gap (the difference in employment levels between disabled and non-disabled people) is almost 30 percent. The Disability Policy Centre has also shown that the scheme can save the NHS an additional £910 per person, per year, compared to if someone with a health condition becomes economically inactive, as well as Universal Credit costs of £7,386. Clearly there is a huge economic benefit to the scheme. Having personally benefited from Access to Work, and spoken to others who have also, I know exactly how life-changing it is.

However, the scheme is currently under threat. This includes shocking delays in the system and damaging underhand cuts. A recent National Audit Office (NAO) report has found that there are more than 32,000 outstanding payments, and that 'systems remain inefficient'. Moreover, the NAO has called for caseworkers to make more consistent decisions, unlike the unfair, unexpected cuts many people have seen to their awards.

For this reason, I am pleased to have set up the New All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Good Work for Disabled People. The APPG will focus on hearing directly from groups of disabled people about their experiences of work, or lack of, and we will be championing a scheme which has been greatly beneficial for so many people and has the potential to transform our economy.

We will therefore use our APPG to keep pushing the Government to be ambitious about creating a country that works for everyone, and to use the Access to Work Scheme as a lever to increase growth in this country, when we so desperately need it.

Author: Steve Darling MP

Brain Teaser Feature

Quiz Time!

Put your thinking cap on and dive into our multiple-choice challenge!

Put your knowledge to the test! Simply circle your answers and keep them safe, we'll be sharing the results in the next edition of In Vision magazine.

1. Which city hosted the olympics games in 2002?
a) Tokyo
b) Beijing
c) Sydney

2. Who directed the Academy Award-winning movie, Gladiator?
a) Ridley Scott
b) James Cameron
c) Steven Soderbergh

3. What is the longest-running Broadway show ever?
a) Les Miserable
b) The Lion King
c) The Phantom of the Opera

4. Which zodiac sign has a fish as its symbol?
a) Aquarius
b) Cancer
c) Pisces

5. Which of the following languages has the longest alphabet?
a) Greek
b) Russian
c) Arabic

6. Which of the following is NOT a fruit?
a) Rhubarb
b) Tomatoes
c) Avocados



7. The fear of insects is known as what?
a) Entomophobia
b) Arachnophobia
c) Ailurophobia

8. In which part of the UK is 'Land of My Fathers' a traditional song?
a) England
b) Scotland
c) Wales

9. Which show famously ended with 'Bye bye, everybody, bye bye'?
a) Animal Hospital
b) Crackerjack
c) Sooty

10. Supermodel Jodie Kidd has represented England at which equestrian sport?
a) Showjumping
b) Polo
c) Horse Riding

Can't wait for the answers?
Get them instantly by scanning the QR code to take the quiz online!

ONLINE QUIZ

Articles for the Blind

Return Address: Devon in Sight
Suite 3, Splatford Barton Business Park,
Kennford, Exeter EX6 7XY



Devon in Sight

Your local sight loss charity

SCAN ME

Sight Support Helpline:

01392 876 666

enquiries@devoninsight.org.uk

www.devoninsight.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1140978.
Company Registration No. 07371472.
Devon in Sight is the working name of
Devon County Association for the Blind
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