In Vision

The magazine of Devon in Sight

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Devon in Sight

Your local sight loss charity

Autumn 2026

Autumn 2026 - Issue 48

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Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of In Vision! As you know, Devon in Sight is evolving as a charity, and we're excited to share our latest updates with you. Don't forget we'd love to hear your thoughts on what you'd like to see in future editions, so please do get in touch with your feedback.

This issue is bursting with updates! Here are just a few highlights to look out for:

- **Race Across Devon:** Our flagship event for 2026 has just taken place and was a rip roaring success. Enjoyment aside, the very serious purpose of the event was to demonstrate that a visual impairment need not mean the end of adventures and exciting experiences. It was also intended to raise awareness of the charity amongst the wider public, as well as raising vital funds to support the work we do. We're delighted to say that it achieved all three. A full report on the event can be found on pages 16 - 23.

- **Charity Review Complete:** Richard has now finished his operational review. He says 'The clear message was that Devon in Sight needs to deliver more services - and we are doing just that.' (Read Richard's findings on page 4-5)

- **New HATS Launch:** To expand our services, we are launching the Home Assistive Technology Service (**HATS**). Volunteers will visit clients at home to help them navigate different technology. (Page 10)

- **Join Our Volunteer Team:** We are piloting new ideas on how to combat isolation. If you, or a loved one, want to join our growing volunteer team, see pages 30 - 32 for more information.

- **Upcoming AGM & Big Announcement:** Join us at our AGM to hear about our future plans and a major announcement. Voting members can also book themselves a 10-minute 1-to-1 with our CEO, Richard Pike, to share their views. (Pages 38 - 39)

A message from our CEO

In the Spring issue of In Vision, I said that it was necessary to ensure that the charity was well positioned to meet the needs of the people we serve for the next 100 years. The review has highlighted that there are a lot of changes needed at the charity if we are to even survive as an organisation, let alone meet the growing and changing needs of the VI community in Devon.

It is important to state at the outset that I have liaised extensively with a wide group of stakeholders including clients and professional connections and I have also looked at what similar organisations to ours do in other counties around the UK. What is evident, is that with the challenging economic environment affecting many charities as well as individuals, lots of organisations that our clients have historically relied upon to provide vital services have been making cuts to those services.

Devon in Sight has not been immune to those same tough financial conditions and I have had to look very carefully at how we spend the money donated to us. This is in order to ensure we are using it wisely and achieving the maximum impact for every pound generously given. At the same time, I recognise the need to fill the increasing gaps in the services that are opening up. It is difficult to reconcile the need to achieve more, with less money but nevertheless, I am determined that we will roll up our sleeves and do the best job that we can.

The charity faces two big challenges. Firstly, the income we receive has dropped significantly in recent years and does not come close to covering the costs of running the charity. This has meant eating into our reserves which is possible to do only for as long as those reserves last and they are declining at an alarming rate. We are therefore working on plans to increase our fundraising efforts at the same time as looking for other ways to generate income such as through companies and legacies.

The second challenge relates to our service offering. We are looking to alter the way in which services are provided in order to make them more widely accessible to a greater number of people. There is another area however that excites me greatly, and I hope will have the same effect on you.

We recognise that what our clients want and need is the delivery of services to help them live life to the fullest extent possible. The launch of our Home Assistive Technology Service (HATS), is in direct response to being told how important technology is to people at all stages of sight loss and how difficult it is to travel to places in order to access help. Whether it is help with the inbuilt settings on your TV or computer or advice on other devices to make life easier and facilitate greater independence, our goal is to be able to help.

We are looking at a range of other services as well including: a walking buddy service, a befriending service, theatre trips (see the separate article on theatres in Devon providing audio description services) and piloting some social/hobby clubs. Most of these services depend upon us developing a small army of willing volunteers which we are actively seeking now so if you have friends or family members who would be willing to lend a hand, please refer them to the volunteering article in this edition or to our website where there are more details.

I hope that by reading this, you will feel as determined and excited to secure a long term future for the charity as I am. I also hope that you agree with what we are aiming to achieve. It would be wonderful to receive feedback from clients one way or the other as that will help me to stay focused on the things that really matter to you, our clients.

I see Devon in Sight working very much in partnership with our clients and supporting each other through difficult times. At the current time, the charity is facing a very uncertain future, and I hope that you will see from our plans for the future, that it is a charity worth saving. If you are willing to help the charity in our hour of need, it will ensure that we in turn, continue to be by your side, and supporting you, for many years to come.



Richard Pike
Chief Executive Officer

Changes to Our Services

A change is as good as the rest!

As you know, we have been making a lot of changes around here lately! Each and every one of these changes is being made with our clients and community in mind, ensuring you remain at the heart of what we do.

Over the following pages, we share the progress we're making. Having taken the feedback some of you have provided, we are actively refining our services to better serve you. Look out for refreshed Chit-Chat Calls, a revamped format for our Sight Loss Speaker Seminars, our brand new online resource library and the exciting addition of group outings.

Telephone Event Updates!

Chit-Chat Calls



Over the last few months, we've been trialling new platforms to host our Chit-Chat Call service. Unfortunately, this caused quite the headache for everyone involved, but we are officially back on track!

You may remember, not so long ago, that we held these calls weekly. Due to a dip in interactions at the time, we decided to hold them less often. On reflection, this often caused confusion and didn't quite work the way we had hoped.

We are making a change! Your Chit-Chat Calls will now be held **every week**! Join your host and moderator, our very own CEO, Richard, **every Wednesday at 10:30am** to discuss anything and everything (within reason).

Join the conversation: **01392 878 806**

Please note: From September, you will be required to enter a pin to join the call. Please contact us on **01392 876 666** for more information.

We look forward to speaking to you soon!

Sight Loss Speaker Seminars

Our Speaker Seminars have previously been held on the second Tuesday of each month, these seminars were hosted as a live telephone event. We thought it was time to give them a little make-over.

Introducing: VITAL Podcasts - VI Talks About Life!

The concept is the same, but the way we share them is changing. You'll still get the same great speakers and interesting topics, but now you can listen on-demand at a time that works for you.

'What if I have a question for the speaker?' I hear you ask. We have that covered... you can share your questions with us prior to the podcast being recorded, and we will be sure to get you those much-needed answers.

VITAL Podcasts will be available on our website, Spotify, and Apple Podcasts - making them easily accessible through your smart speaker or mobile phone.

We will be sharing more on this very soon! Check out our website, social media channels and the next edition of In Vision to learn more. Scan the QR code to subscribe to our mailing list for regular updates.

Everything You Need...

Introducing Our Brand-New Digital Resource Library

Navigating a new sight loss diagnosis, or learning to adapt to changing vision, naturally brings a wave of questions. From discovering the right assistive technology to looking after your emotional well-being, finding trustworthy advice shouldn't feel like an uphill struggle.

That's why we are delighted to introduce our new Online Resources Library. Designed as a comprehensive hub for anyone living with a visual impairment, it brings together expert guidance and practical tools. We have gathered information from a variety of trusted sources across the UK and beyond, making it easier for you, your family, or your support workers to find exactly what you need in just one place.

What's Inside?

Assistive Technology
Explore practical guides on screen readers, magnification software, smartphone accessibility features, and clever smart-home devices that simplify daily tasks.

Educational
Informative media and guides covering vision condition overviews, braille literacy resources, and practical techniques for adapting your learning or workspace.

Finance
Clear, jargon-free advice on navigating disability benefits, concessions, budgeting tools, and financial planning tailored for life with sight loss.

Inspirational Talks
Uplifting podcasts and video talks featuring stories, insights, and experiences shared by others in the blind and low-vision community.

All In One Place

The Teen Edit
Content curated for young people navigating sight loss. Covering study hacks, social life, technology, self-advocacy, and preparing for higher education or work.

Mental Health & Wellbeing
Mindfulness practices, self-care strategies, and trusted wellness guidance to support you through everyday challenges.

Just for Kids
Fun, accessible audio stories, sensory play ideas, and educational videos designed to keep young minds curious, included, and entertained.

General Resources
A handy mix of reference guides, local support networks, and everyday independence tips.

The Library is Now Open!
Our new library is now officially live, and we will continue to add fresh articles, audio, and videos regularly. Since we're just getting started, your ideal resource might not be here yet - if so, tell us what you're looking for and we'll do the research for you!

Scan the QR code to start exploring today!

Or open your internet browser and head to:
www.devoninsight.org.uk/online-resource-library



HATS Off

We Launch Our Home Assistive Technology Service

We want to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone who has responded to our recent feedback request. Between survey forms, phone calls, and chats with our CEO, over 70 of you have reached out, so far!

If there's one message that came through loud and clear it is that social connection and tech support are the top priorities.

Technology can be tricky and as it advances some of us can feel lost, confused and left behind. This is why we have designed our brand new service that offers help in the home for your technology needs - HATS (Home Assistive Technology Service)



Whether you need help with:

- Setting up a new tablet or smartphone
- Learning how to video call friends and family
- Navigating online shopping
- Or just general help with your gadgets

Our volunteers will be on hand to guide you step-by-step, at your own pace, in the comfort of your own home. They will offer answers to your questions and leave you feeling far more confident in your tech abilities.

If you or someone you know could benefit from a HATS home visit, please get in touch with our team today on **01392 876 666** to learn more about this brand new service.

If you're already comfortable with technology, why not share your skills? Flip to page 32 to learn how you can support others by joining our team of volunteers!

You Asked For It!!

Not only are we introducing HATS, we have gone one step further!

We are teaming up with Devon County Council Adult Learning & Skills, to develop a brand-new training program, exclusively tailored for blind and partially sighted people.

What to Expect

These friendly, interactive sessions are hosted in small groups of just six people, ensuring you get plenty of direct, personalised support. You'll be working on your own familiar devices, whether that's a smartphone, tablet, iPad, or laptop, so everything you learn applies directly to your daily life.

Each two-hour session is tailored to the needs of the group, designed to build both your digital skills and your confidence in a fun, social environment. Absolutely all abilities are welcome; whether you've only ever turned on a device or you're already a fairly confident user, there is no minimum skill level required to join.

Help Us Test the Pilot!

To start with, we are looking for a small group of learners with basic IT knowledge to act as pilot testers. Your feedback will help our tutors understand key needs and shape future sessions.

Interested in joining the pilot or signing up for future sessions?
Call our team today on **01392 876 666** to register your interest!

You Are Invited!



Once again, it has become clear through your feedback that there is a desire to do more group outings, one of the most popular options being a trip to the theatre!

We've listened, and we are delighted to invite you to a matinee performance of Cinderella at the Theatre Royal in Plymouth on Thursday 17th December 2026.

Plymouth's annual pantomime is always a grand extravaganza of the highest quality. This year boasts a star-studded cast featuring singer and actor Will Young as the Fairy Godfather and Ross King as Buttons (oh yes he is!).

Trip Details & Accessibility



The performance we will be watching will be audio described. For those who wish to use them, audio description headphones will be available.

Transport to the theatre has been arranged, in the form of a 52-seater coach. We are planning two pick up locations, one from Exeter St. Davids train station at 10am, and one from Newton Abbot train station shortly after (also convenient for Torbay residents).

The performance will begin at 12:30pm and is due to run for approx. 2 hours. We have currently reserved seats in the Royal Circle for anyone who would like to join us.

How to Book

We have temporarily reserved a block of tickets, but we need to confirm final numbers with the theatre very quickly. Please contact us as soon as possible to reserve your spot!

Price: £30 per person
(this will include both coach travel and theatre ticket).

Need extra time? If you are interested but need a bit more time to arrange a guide or local transport to Exeter or Newton Abbot, please get in touch with us anyway so we know to hold a place for you.

We really hope this daytime winter outing appeals to you! If there's enough interest, we would love to organise more trips of a similar nature throughout 2027.

Not based in South Devon? Rest assured, we're looking into theatres right across Devon. However, the availability of audio described performances is far more limited than we would have hoped! We are still working on it and will, of course, keep you updated.

Oh yes we will!!



If you would like to reserve your tickets, don't delay, call us now on:

01392 876 666

Lines are open 8am to 2pm, Monday to Friday

New Roles, New Goals

As the seasons change, so does our team.

June and July have been all about change, and it doesn't stop at our services, our team is changing too.

Lisa Gould

Lisa first joined Devon in Sight in September 2025 as Mandy's Access Assistant, providing essential visual support for our Community Engagement and Fundraising Officer.

While working alongside Mandy, Lisa assisted with applying for trusts and grants and proved to be quite the asset in this area. As a result, we thought it would be a shame not to put those skills to good use, and we were delighted to appoint her as our official Grants Officer in June 2026.



▲ **Lisa Gould**

Lisa said "I have really enjoyed working for Mandy as her Access Assistant and I'm now excited to start in my new role as Grants Officer, helping to secure the vital funding we need to support to the visually impaired community across Devon".

Keith Brokenshire

Keith joined the Devon in Sight team in June 2026. Taking over from our lovely Lisa, to provide visual support and assistance to Mandy Darling.

Keith's career has been quite the journey, spanning everything from retail to high-tech engineering. He's managed stores for Oddbins, M&S, and Asda, worked in IT designing cars, and spent time out in the field as a hands-on technician. Ultimately, his technical expertise led him to the Met Office, where he managed and supported five of their supercomputers.

Keith's commitment to the charity sector is evident in his work with Devon Carers, where he focused on empowering and supporting unpaid carers. More recently, he has dedicated his time to fundraising for local causes, including Hospiscare Exeter, Rowcroft Torbay, and the Children's Hospice South West. He is also a passionate volunteer, having supported over ten children's camps with CHICKS (now Go Beyond).

"I originally entered the charity sector after caring for my terminally ill mum, an experience that inspired me to completely change my career path. I am a great believer in 'everything happens for a reason', which has luckily led me to working with Mandy and the team at Devon in Sight."



▲ **Keith Brokenshire**

In his spare time, Keith plays walking rugby for Topsham RFC, loves spending time in the garden growing (and eating!) his own vegetables, and enjoys going to the theatre - especially the Minack in Cornwall, which is actually where he proposed to his wife... on stage!

Join us in welcoming Keith to the Devon in Sight team and congratulating Lisa on her brand new role.

Race Across Devon

On Saturday, 18th July, under the blazing summer sun, nine brave teams set off on an epic adventure for the inaugural Race Across Devon, in aid of Devon in Sight!

The premise was simple, but the challenge was huge: each team, made up of one visually impaired participant and two guides, had to navigate across our beautiful county using sheer determination, teamwork, and a whole lot of creativity.

Blessings, Tuk-Tuks, and Tandems!

The day kicked off at the Bishop's Palace in Exeter with a blessing and a send-off from Bishop Mike. From there, it was a beautiful chaos as teams scattered in every direction imaginable!

Teams headed all the way east to Sidmouth, west to Plymouth, north to Ilfracombe and south to Brixham. It's safe to say they had every corner covered!

By Land and Sea: Competitors used an adventurous mix of transport to gain valuable points in an attempt to be crowned the winners! They rode tandems, jumped on local ferries... even a tuk-tuk made an appearance!

Nine teams, countless miles, zero barriers - Devon had never seen a race quite like this before.

A Record-Breaking Result

For a brand-new event organised in record time, the energy and generosity of everyone involved has blown us away.

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that the first ever Race Across Devon raised a staggering:



£5,310!

Every single penny goes directly towards supporting visually impaired people across Devon, it will help us continue developing our services and carrying out the work we do.

Looking Ahead: Race Across Devon 2027!

If you thought this year was exciting, just wait. Race Across Devon was such a resounding success that plans are already underway for 2027! The aim, to make it bolder, bigger and better - with more teams, fresh routes, and brand-new challenges.

Want to take on the challenge in 2027?

You can register your interest now!

Got a smartphone? Scan the QR code and complete the online registration of interest form.

Want to speak to someone? Give Mandy a call on **01392 878 804**

Prefer to email? Send Mandy an email with the subject 'Race Across Devon 2027' to Mandy@devoninsight.org.uk

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A massive thank you to our incredible racers, generous supporters, sponsors and wonderful volunteers who made this event unforgettable. Over the next few pages, we share images of Race Across Devon 2026, enjoy!

Race Across Devon - Continued...

Race Across Devon 2026 would not have been the huge success it was if it weren't for the incredible people who chose to participate.

Here they are folks... our fabulous teams!





Brave Hearts



Eyes on the Finish



Sightseers



The Devon Racers



The Eyes Have It



Vision Impossible



Wobbly Eye Wayfinders



Eyeconic



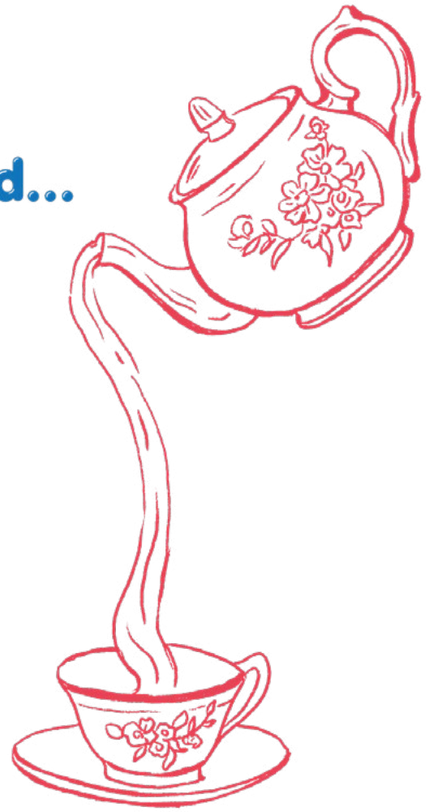
Blind Faith

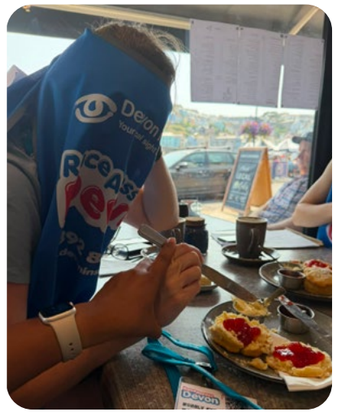
Race Across Devon - Continued...

When in Devon...

One of the challenges our teams absolutely aced was to indulge in a cream tea... the 'Devon way', of course!

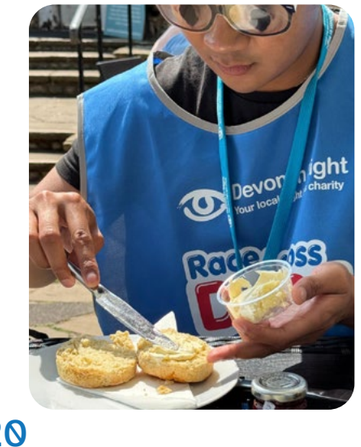


































Race Across Devon - Continued...



Race Across Devon was not your ordinary fundraising event. This wasn't just about raising money, this was about raising awareness.

With almost 55,000 people living with sight loss across Devon, we wanted to show the people in our county that it should never be a barrier to adventure! We think our fearless competitors proved exactly that!

At the finish line every single one of the teams shared how much they enjoyed taking part, telling us they had the most fun, some even saying they cannot wait for 2027.

We wanted to celebrate not only the team that achieved the most miles, but also the team that raised the most funds.

So here it is, the moment you have all been waiting for, the winners of Race Across Devon 2026!

Winners: Eyeconic



Fundraising Champions: Sightseers



More Great News!

Kilometres to Kindness



You may have already seen or heard about the incredible challenge that Huxter and Davy Opticians have set themselves throughout 2026, we wanted to give you an update on their amazing efforts so far!

At Devon in Sight, we are constantly inspired by the extraordinary ways in which our community come together to support people living with sight loss. The team at Huxter and Davy Opticians set the bar truly high for 2026 with an ambitious goal of collectively running, walking, and cycling 10,000 kilometres over the course of the year.

Why 10,000 kilometres?

Across Devon and Cornwall, an estimated 10,000 people are registered as blind or partially sighted. The team at Huxter and Davy made a heartfelt commitment to cover one kilometre for each of those individuals, the funds they raise will be shared between ourselves and iSight Cornwall.

We want to extend a massive thank you to the whole team at Huxter and Davy for their incredible energy and dedication so far, they really are turning kilometres into kindness, and we couldn't be more grateful!

The total raised by the Huxter and Davy team so far is: £711

There is still time to donate, scan the QR code, or head to: https://justgiving.com/page/huxter-and-davy-3

Ella Takes on Bristol!



We want to take this opportunity to say a big, big thank you to Ella Morgan for running the AJ Bell Great Bristol Run in aid of Devon in Sight.

Ella told us that during her training she had a knee injury which slowed her down, but she still managed to finish in less than 3 hours, which we think is very, very impressive!

Congratulations to Ella on completing her half marathon challenge, and for raising a grand total of **£318!**

Emily Smashes Her Target



Emily took on The Great West Run to raise funds for Devon in Sight. After thinking her fundraising was complete, there was one final, anonymous donation of £1000.

Emily was blown away when we told her, she said "WOW!! That is amazing, that has seriously made my day, thank you so so much! How incredibly generous!"

Emily well and truly smashed her target of £500 and managed to raise a brilliant **£1,525!**

Do you have what it takes to do your very own fundraising challenge?

If you would like to know how to get started, contact us today!
Give Mandy a call on **01392 878 804**
Alternatively, you can send an email to: mandy@devoninsight.org.uk

Eyes on the Jackpot

We call that a win-win!

Introducing “Eyes on the Jackpot”. Our brand new monthly prize draw!

At Devon in Sight, everything we do is driven by our amazing community. Over the past few months, we’ve been exploring new ways to keep our vital support services growing, and many of you kindly suggested introducing a formal membership fee. While we love how eager our community is to help, we know that every household situation is different. We want our support to remain open and accessible to absolutely everyone, without any fixed costs or mandatory fees.

So, we have come up with a way to raise funds that we hope you will agree, is far more exciting and way more fun!

Cue ‘Eyes on the Jackpot’

How It Works

- **The Rules Are Simple:** There are 1000 numbers available, and each one costs just £5 per month.
- **Multiple Entries:** Players can purchase more than one entry per month (e.g. £5 for 1, £10 for 2, £15 for 3).
- **Number Assignment:** Numbers are randomly selected and assigned to the player once they have signed up.
- **Your Number(s):** Once assigned, players keep the same number(s) every month for as long as they stay in the draw.
- **Cancel Anytime:** There is no long-term commitment, and your direct debit can be cancelled at any time.
- **Important:** Players must be 18 years or older (in compliance with UK gambling law).

Win Big While Doing Good

We believe in giving back to the people who support us. That’s why 40% to 50% of all ticket sales will go straight back into the prize pool, the highest payout ratio of any local charity draw in Devon!
As the number of players grows, so do the rewards. When we reach our goal of 1,000* numbers in the draw, our monthly prize pot will look like this:

Top Prize: £1,000

2x Runner-Up Prizes: £250 each

3x Bonus Prizes: £150 each

If everyone in our community entered into the draw, then invited a friend or family member to do the same, this would cover 25% of our annual operating costs. Not only could you win a meaningful amount of money each and every month, you will also be supporting the work of Devon in Sight! We call that a win-win!

Ready to Grab Your Lucky Numbers?

The first ‘Eyes on the Jackpot’ draw will be taking place at the end of October.

If you would like to subscribe to our monthly draw, give us a call on **01392 876 666** to register your interest. Alternatively, scan the QR, complete the sign up form, then towards the end of September you will be sent an email with a sign up link!

*Should we reach 1,000 supporters, we will look to increase the amount of numbers on offer.



Supporting Us

Leaving a Gift to Devon in Sight

Author: Richard Pike, CEO

As you will have read in my CEO introduction, as well as the letter I recently sent to all clients, Devon in Sight has been finding it increasingly difficult to access enough money to keep providing our services as well as developing new ways to support the VI community across Devon.

In a very uncertain economic environment, this is a challenge that lots of charities are facing, and for the first time in decades, more charities are closing than opening. We are therefore working hard to find new ways of attracting funding so that we are not too dependent on one particular source of income.

Over the years, Devon in Sight has benefitted hugely from gifts left in the wills of clients, and this is something we hope more of our clients will consider doing in the future. We are in the process of creating partnerships with a number of solicitor firms around the county who will provide a free or subsidised will writing service for clients of Devon in Sight.

To help us launch this service, we would love to hear from anyone who has already included a gift to Devon in Sight in their will. Knowing this will help us immensely with our long-term planning, hopefully the very long term! If you are also willing to share in your own words why you chose to leave a gift, we would love to feature a couple of brief testimonials in an upcoming promotional leaflet.

If you are willing to share this information with us, we would be incredibly grateful. Please rest assured that if you prefer to keep your gift private, your information will be kept completely secure and strictly confidential within the charity.



Devon in Sight has been supporting visually impaired people across Devon for over a century.

The only way we can continue to do so is with funding, donations and fundraising events.

If you would like to know more about how you can support us, please call us on **01392 876 666.** Alternativley you can send us an email to enquiries@devoninsight.org.uk.

If you would like to make a donation to the charity, you can do so by following any of the options below:

Become a Friend 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. If you would like more information on becoming a friend, contact us on **01392 876 666**

Donate Using Your Bank Card

We can take card donations over the telephone.
Just call us on **01392 876 666** to make your donation.

Donate by BACS (Bank Transfer)

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

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!

Exciting Opportunities

Volunteering Roles

"You may find that making a difference for others makes the biggest difference in you."

Would You Like to Make a Real Difference?

Volunteering with us is an incredibly rewarding way to connect with others. It's an opportunity to meet new friends, develop transferable skills, and explore hobbies while delivering essential support to people affected by sight loss.

We Need You!

As a charity, we rely on the incredible generosity of our volunteers to make our work possible. Your time is invaluable, whether you can spare a couple of hours a week, or are looking for a bigger commitment, you will be directly empowering those who need it most.

Could You Be the Friendly Voice Someone Needs?

Experiencing the first stages of sight loss can feel overwhelming and sometimes lonely. That is why we need befrienders and mentors. We particularly welcome people from the sight loss community to step into these roles, as lived experience is a powerful tool. It offers authentic hope, practical tips, and deep empathy to someone walking that path right now.

Are You Passionate About Accessible Technology?

Technology opens up the world. Smartphones, tablets, and screen readers keep us connected to loved ones and big ideas. But learning to use them can be tricky. If you enjoy using accessible tech, you could become a technology assistant. You will guide others to master their gadgets and regain their digital independence.



Do You Enjoy Bringing People Together?

Social connection is vital for our well-being. We are looking for enthusiastic group leaders to run our local meetups and activity clubs. If you love organising events or simply making people feel included, this role is perfect for you.

Why Not Help Others Get Out and About!

If you are the sort of person who enjoys taking part in different activities, whether it be heading to the theatre or trying for a strike at bowling, why not share those experiences with someone who may need a helping hand? We are on the look out for 'Event Companions'. Volunteers will be paired with a visually impaired person to support them in attending social outings. You don't need any special experience, just a friendly face, a pinch of enthusiasm, and a little spare time.

Would You Prefer to Help in a More General Way?

You do not need specialised skills to change a life. We also need generous people for general volunteer roles. This could include helping out at local events, assisting with administration in our office, or providing guiding support. Every small task keeps our charity moving forward.

How to get started:

We provide full training and continuous support for every single role. If you want to join us, or if you know someone who would make a fantastic volunteer, please get in touch today. Together, we can ensure that no one faces sight loss alone.

Get in touch:

Please call us on **01392 876 666**
Alternatively, you can email us at **enquiries@devoninsight.org.uk**
You can also visit our website:
www.devoninsight.org.uk/supporting-us/volunteering

Volunteering

HATS: Home Assistive Technology Service

We are thrilled to launch our brand new Home Assistance Technology Service (HATS), and to make it a success, we are on the search for a team of volunteers!

We are looking for friendly volunteers to support our clients with their day-to-day tech needs. By no means are we looking for the next tech genius, just someone with enough confidence on a phone, tablet, or computer to help others make the most of their devices.

For many people living with sight loss, especially those living alone, setting up a new device or navigating tricky settings can turn a useful tool into a frustrating barrier. As a HATS volunteer, you'll help turn those obstacles back into independence. Whether that's setting up a new device or tweaking accessibility features. More than that, you'll be helping someone stay connected to the world beyond their doorstep.

How you can help:

If this sounds like you, we would absolutely love to hear from you!

Or if you know a friend, family member, or neighbour who'd be great at this, please share this article with them. The more volunteers that join us, the more people we will be able to support.

If you, or someone you know would like more information on our HATS volunteering role, contact us today!

To find out more about volunteering for Devon in Sight, call us on:

01392 876 666

Lines are open 8am to 2pm, Monday to Friday

Volunteering

The Next Generation

On Monday, 13th July 2026, we were delighted to welcome Chloe Whitaker to Devon in Sight for a week-long work placement.



▲ Chloe Whitaker

Chloe applied after spotting our work placement being advertised at her school. She completely blew us away in her interview and we couldn't wait to have her on board!

With Chloe keen to explore marketing, we put together a hands-on plan to help her develop her skills. She hit the ground running, tackling everything from reviewing and updating our literature to designing promotional materials for upcoming events. On top of that, she compiled a contact database for local organisations, researched accessible mobile apps for visually impaired users, and even wrote her very own In Vision article (Check it out on the next page)!

Here's what Chloe had to say about her time with us:

"I can't thank the lovely Devon in Sight team enough, for being so welcoming, and giving me the opportunity to gain valuable experience at their charity.

I enjoyed every second of it and was fascinated with how they put their clients, and accessibility, at the heart of everything they do. The team are all passionate about providing the best support for their clients and raising awareness about sight loss. Having not known much about visual impairment beforehand, I feel that after just one week of work placement, I have left with a whole new perspective."

App of the Issue

In a world where so many applications are filling up your app store, it can be overwhelming to choose the right ones. That's where we come in! Helping make the process much easier for you.

Here at Devon in Sight, we aim to help our clients use the latest technology to their advantage, by sharing some of our favourite and most trusted applications.



Soundscape

How does it work?

Soundscape uses 3D spatial audio to help blind and vision impaired people independently navigate their way around an urban environment.

The key features of this application consist of the following:

- Audio Beacons which allow users to stay on track by following sound which guides them to their chosen landmark or specific destination
- Directional narration which describes exactly which direction the user is facing, whilst announcing upcoming intersections, streets and nearby points of interest as they are approached
- It is also possible to explore the route and location before beginning a journey, avoiding any unexpected surprises and allowing the user to be well prepared for their trip.

If you would like to give this application a try, you can download it using the QR codes below:

Apple Play Store

Google Play Store

Author:
Chloe Whitaker

Join the Community

Do you use Facebook? Do you often find yourself scrolling Instagram? Or are you more of a LinkedIn kind of person? Whichever social media platforms you use, we have got you covered!

Not only do we have our regular Facebook page, we have recently created a group called 'Devon in Sight - The Community'. The aim of this group is to bring people from the visually impaired community together. This is a space to connect with others, share news, updates and event details. Everyone is welcome!

If you just want to keep updated with the work we do, like and follow the Devon in Sight Facebook page - to find us just search for 'Devon in Sight'. On this page, we share regular updates and news, inbetween each new issue of In Vision.

If you tend to find yourself using instagram more often than you do Facebook, join us there! Once again, on our feed we share what we have been up to and much more.

For the professionals - If you work with us or join us at our events, why not connect with us on LinkedIn? Just search Devon in Sight.









Living Well With Sight Loss Event

We Are Off to Barnstaple

The event designed with you in mind!

Firstly, we would like to sincerely apologise for the cancellation of our previous Westward Ho! event. We know many of you were looking forward to joining us, but we took the hard decision to cancel due to a very limited number of registrations. Since then, we have been working hard behind the scenes to organise a fantastic new event for you.

We are thrilled to announce that our Living Well with Sight Loss event has been rescheduled and we will be heading to **Barnstaple**!

Mark your calendars for Monday, 21st September. Join us between 10am and 2pm, as we bring together a fantastic team of exhibitors, all on-hand to support you!

On The Day...

Whether you are looking for practical advice, the latest assistive technology, or simply a chance to connect with others, this event is designed with you in mind!

We are working with a brilliant lineup of exhibitors and partners, including assistive technology companies, local support and community groups, vision services and fellow charitable organisations, all offering support, advice and guidance.

Exhibitors on the day will include:

- Age UK Devon
- Age Well North Devon
- All Things Dotty
- Barnstaple Macular Support Group
- Devon in Sight
- Disability Together
- HumanWare
- North Devon Talking News
- Optelec
- Scrivens
- SpaMedica
- Thomas Pocklington Trust - Employment Hub
- Vision Aid
- Vision Express Barnstaple - showcasing one of the most popular devices on the market: The Meta Glasses!

Enjoy a Cream Tea on Us



You may have noticed, we love a cream tea here at Devon in Sight, and to make this event even more enjoyable, those who register to attend will be invited to join us for scones with cream and jam! What's not to love?

Reserve Your Place Today

While the event is free to attend, spaces are limited to ensure everyone gets a chance to comfortably speak with exhibitors and enjoy the afternoon.

Please note: Places must be booked in advance.
Contact us today if you have any questions about this upcoming event, or to book your place! We look forward to welcoming you.

If you would like to book your place at this event, please call us on:

01392 876 666

Lines are open 8am to 2pm, Monday to Friday

Devon in Sight AGM

Thursday 15th October 2026: Save the Date!

More Than Just a Meeting: Why You Won't Want to Miss This Year's AGM!

Think Annual General Meetings are all long speeches and polite nodding? Think again!

Join us on **Thursday 15th October 2026** for the Devon in Sight AGM. This year we're doing things a little differently, we've designed the day to be truly useful, packed with excitement, and, above all, a whole lot of fun. Whether you're curious about new tech, looking for hands-on support, or just want to enjoy the social element of the day, we are hoping there will be something for everyone!

What's on the Agenda?

Exhibition, Gadgets and Gizmos

Step into our exhibition space, which will be open between **9:30am and 12:30pm**, here we will be joined by a whole host of exhibitors! You will have the opportunity to speak with the experts, and even get the chance to try out the impressive Meta Glasses. Plus, if you have a mobile phone or tablet that you cannot get your head around, make sure to bring it along! Our friendly tech team will be on hand to offer one-to-one support with your own gadgets, helping you get the absolute best out of your tech.

The Future of Devon in Sight

We have some big, exciting announcements to share about the direction in which the charity is heading. You'll hear directly from our team about our big plans for the future, and how we're expanding our support. Want to chat about it in more detail? You'll have the opportunity to meet Richard, CEO of Devon in Sight. Voting members will also have the chance to book an informal one-to-one with him! Not a voting member? No problem, call us today to sign up.

It Is All Fun & Games!

We believe good conversation starts over good food, so a complimentary lunch will be provided for all attendees. Make sure you also bring along your thinking caps, as during the afternoon we will be hosting a fun-filled quiz, complete with fantastic prizes to be won.

Eyes on the Jackpot!

While you're with us, don't forget to drop by the registration desk to sign up for our monthly draw, 'Eyes on the Jackpot'. It's a simple yet brilliant way to support the charity every month while giving yourself the chance to win cash prizes! (More info can be found on pages 26-27)

Save the Date and Book Your Spot

Date: Thursday 15th October 2026
Time: 9:30am - 4:00pm
Tickets: £10 per person (Ticket cost covers the full day, including lunch)
Location: The Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter EX4 3AT

Tickets must be booked in advance. Please call us on **01392 876 666** to register today!

Come for the updates, stay for the tech, and enjoy a fantastic day out. We can't wait to see you there!

To find out more, or to book your tickets for our AGM, please call us on:

01392 876 666

Lines are open 8am to 2pm, Monday to Friday

Answers

The main question is... How did you do?!

The wait is officially over. It's time to reveal the answers to our Summer In Vision multiple-choice challenge!

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



Don't forget to let us know what brain teasers you would like to see in future issues of our magazine.

Whether that be more multiple choice quizzes, crosswords, sudoku etc.

You can let us know by:

Sending us an email: Marketing@devoninsight.org.uk

Calling our helpline: **01392 876 666**

Brain Teaser Feature

Riddle Me This...

Time to think outside the box for this issue's brain teaser. Put your riddle knowledge to the test...

1. What begins with T, ends with T, and has T in it?

2. What can you catch but not throw?

3. I cannot be used until broken, what am I?

4. I am an odd number. Take away one letter, and I become even. What am I?

5. If there are three apples and you take away two, how many apples do you have?

"The less of them you have, the more one is worth"

6. What can you hold in your left hand but not in your right?

7. What starts with a P ends with an X and has hundreds of letters in it?

8. I'm not alive, but I grow; I don't have lungs, but I need air. What am I?

9. What can fill a room but takes up no space?

10. If you drop me I'm sure to crack, but give me a smile and I'll always smile back. What am I?

Don't forget, we will share the answers in the next edition of our In Vision magazine!

Can't wait? You can do the quiz online by scanning the QR code

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

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