SIGHT SUPPORT RYEDALE

Newsletter

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2026

sightsupport ryedale

COMMUNITY FUND

Digital Unite

Community First Yorkshire

A note from our Chief Officer

What a fantastic summer it has been at Sight Support Ryedale! It has been wonderful to see so many members enjoying our activities and excursions, including visits to Ryedale Folk Museum, Scampston Hall Walled Garden and The Scarborough Fair Collection.

Our Gardening Club and Arts and Crafts groups have been busy, while our Digital Braille sessions have continued to support members explore new technology and discover how it can support greater independence.

Looking ahead to Autumn...
There is certainly plenty to look forward to...

On Monday 21 September, we will be hosting our 'Raising Awareness of Sight Loss Across Ryedale' event at Norton Hive as part of National Eye Health Week.

We will be joined by a range of organisations and professionals, with demonstrations, talks and information about sight loss and local support. **Everyone is welcome, so please come along.**

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) takes place on Monday 19 October, giving us a chance to reflect on the past year and to celebrate our achievements.

And before we know it, we'll be preparing for Christmas!
Thank you, as always, to or members, volunteers, staff and supporters. It has been wonderful to see our community going from strength to strength.

Victoria

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

You're invited to our Annual General Meeting (AGM).

We are delighted to invite our members to our Annual General Meeting (AGM) - a special opportunity to reflect on the past year, celebrate our achievements and look ahead to the future.

The AGM brings together our members, staff, volunteers, trustees and supporters to celebrate another year of supporting people with a visual impairment.

It's also a chance to hear about our plans for the future and, most importantly, for us to hear your views.

The day will include the AGM, followed by entertainment and light refreshments. There will also be plenty of time to catch up with other members and volunteers.

"Please come along to our AGM. It's a chance to celebrate everything the charity does, but also to share your views and tell us what you would like to get from Sight Support Ryedale.

We want to hear from you, so let's get together, celebrate and have a fun day."
Victoria Dean, Chief Officer.

Event Information

When: Monday 19 October, 12.30 – 3.30 PM

Where: Pickering Memorial Hall Potter Hill, Pickering YO18 8AA

If you'd like to attend or require transport, please email **enquiries@sightsupportryedale.org** or call 01653 698 860.

OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

ARTS & CRAFTS
Thursday 1 October, 1 - 3
Norton Hive Library and Community Hub, Malton. Cost: £10.00

BRAILLE WORKSHOP
Monday 5 October, 10 - 12
Norton Hive Library and Community Hub, Malton. Cost: FREE

FRIENDSHIP GROUP
Monday 5 October, 11 - 3
Norton Hive Library and Community Hub, Malton.
Guest Speaker: Leisa Burniston, Next Steps. Cost: £5.00

FRIENDSHIP GROUP
Thursday 8 October, 1 - 3
Middleton and Aislaby Village Hall, Pickering.
Guest Speaker: Ruth Farndale, Author of 'Simply My Best Animal Stories' and 'The Secret Life of Kaisers Mum'.
Cost: £5.00

DANCE AND MOVEMENT
Monday 12 October, 11.45 - 12.45
Kirkham Henry Performing Arts Centre, Malton. Cost: £6.00

ARTS AND CRAFTS
Thursday 15 October, 1 - 3
AHH Studio Collective, Malton
Activity: Create a wet-felted poppy with local textile artist Serena Partridge.
Cost: £20.00
Please book your place in advance to secure your space.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday 19 October, 12.30 - 3.30
Pickering Memorial Hall
Potter Hill, Pickering YO18 8AA
Cost: FREE

GARDENING CLUB
Wednesday 21 October, 10.30 - 12.30
Norton Hive Library and Community Hub, Malton.
Activity: Preparing for winter.
Cost: £5.00

FRIENDSHIP GROUP
Thursday 22 October, 1 - 3
Middleton and Aislaby Village Hall, Pickering.
Activity: The Fair-Trade stall.
Cost: £5.00

DANCING FOR FUN
Monday 26 October, 11.45 - 12.45
Norton Hive Library and Community Hub, Malton. Cost: £6.00

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

BRAILLE WORKSHOP
Monday 2 November, 10 - 12
Norton Hive Library and Community Hub, Malton. Cost: FREE

FRIENDSHIP GROUP
Monday 2 November, 11 - 3
Norton Hive Library and Community Hub, Malton.
Guest Speaker: Ruth Debney, Yorkshire Building Society.
Cost: £5.00

FRIENDSHIP GROUP
Thursday 5 November, 1 - 3
Middleton and Aislaby Village Hall, Pickering.
Guest Speaker: Ruth Debney, Yorkshire Building Society.
Cost: £5.00

DANCE AND MOVEMENT
Monday 9 November, 11.45 - 12.45
Kirkham Henry Performing Arts Centre, Malton. Cost: £6.00

ARTS AND CRAFTS
Thursday 12 November, 1 - 3
Norton Hive Library and Community Hub, Malton. Cost £10.00

BRAILLE WORKSHOP
Monday 16 November, 10 - 12
Norton Hive Library and Community Hub, Malton. Cost: FREE

FRIENDSHIP GROUP
Monday 16 November, 11 – 3
Norton Hive Library and Community Hub, Malton.
Activity: An insight into the world of Charity Shops. Cost: £5.00

FRIENDSHIP GROUP
Thursday 19 November, 1 – 3
Middleton and Aislaby Village Hall, Pickering.
Activity: An insight into the world of Charity Shops. Cost: £5.00

DANCE AND MOVEMENT
Monday 23 November, 11.45 - 12.45
Kirkham Henry Performing Arts Centre, Malton. Cost: £6.00

EXCURSION: SHOPPING TRIP – DESIGNER OUTLET, YORK
Thursday 26 November, 11 - 2.30
Cost: £15.00

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

CHRISTMAS LUNCH
Tuesday 1 December, 12 - 3
Best Western Forest and Vale Hotel, Pickering.
Cost: £30.00
**Please secure your place by paying in full by Friday 6 November.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE
Monday 7 December, 1 – 3.30
Norton Trinity Methodist Church, Malton.
Cost: £5.00

Please note that all excursions must be booked a month in advance, with a 50% deposit required to secure your place.

The Christmas Lunch is an exception as it must be ordered and paid for in full by Friday 6 November.

Payment is the only way to confirm and secure your place on excursions.

CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Wednesday 23 December
OPEN

Christmas Eve
OPEN until 12 PM
(telephone only)

Christmas Day
CLOSED

Monday 28 December
CLOSED
(in lieu of Boxing Day)

Tuesday 29 December
OPEN

Wednesday 30 December
OPEN

New Years Eve
OPEN until 12 PM
(telephone only)

New Years Day
CLOSED

Monday 4 January
OPEN

Please call 07956 340 829 when it's telephone service only.

Digital Inclusion

We continue to deliver Digital Inclusion at various venues throughout Ryedale.

Our friendly Digital Inclusion team can help you build confidence with everyday technology.

At our drop-ins, you can get support to:

- Set up and use mobile phones and tablets
- Connect safely to Wi-Fi
- Download and use apps, including NHS and GOV.UK
- Find and use accessibility apps and features
- Stay connected with family and friends
- Navigate websites and find the information you need

No question is too simple and support is provided in a friendly, relaxed environment.

DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS

SIGHT SUPPORT RYEDALE OFFICE
Monday 5 October, 10 - 12
Monday 2 November, 10 - 12
Monday 16 November, 10 - 12

MALTON LIBRARY
Tuesday 27 October, 10 – 12
Tuesday 24 November, 10 – 12

PICKERING LIBRARY
Thursday 1 October, 10 – 12
Thursday 5 November, 10 – 12
Thursday 3 December, 10 – 12

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HELMSLEY
Monday 5 October, 10 - 12
Monday 30 November, 10 - 12

Thank you (as always) to everyone who has signed up to be a Digital Inclusion Champion and offered their time and skills. It's really appreciated.

Meet Angie Ansell

I'm originally from Devon, from a small village on the coast, and I worked in catering all my working life as a chef and cook before retiring at 66.

In 2022, I suffered a stroke which left me severely sight impaired. This led me to Sight Support Ryedale, where I've really enjoyed taking part in the activities and excursions. They get me out of the house, give me the chance to meet different people and, most importantly, have fun.

Becoming a volunteer as a Digital Champion is my way of giving something back to Sight Support Ryedale for all the help, support and friendship they've given me.

It's also a great way for me to keep up to date with technology, although I'm still learning too, as there are always new things coming along!

I can support members with a range of everyday digital tasks, including setting up and using the NHS App, paying bills, online shopping with services such as Amazon and Morrisons, and applying for things like bus passes and Blue Badges.

Our next sessions at the Sight Support Ryedale offices are:
Monday 5 October, 10 - 12
Monday 2 November, 10 - 12
Monday 16 November, 10 - 12

Come along and meet Angie, who'll be on hand to answer your digital inclusion questions, offer helpful advice and help you get more confident with technology.

What support do we offer?

Wellbeing Service and IAG Drop-ins
We want to make sure that all our members know what support is available, how to access it and which service is right for you.

Our **Wellbeing Service** and **Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)** drop-ins are both here to support you, but they work in slightly different ways.

Wellbeing Service – Ongoing Support.
This service is designed for people who may need ongoing support rather than a one-off piece of advice.
This might be because you have a number of support needs or would benefit from working with a member of our team over a longer period.
Together, we can look at what is important to you, identify your individual support needs and develop a support plan. We can work with you to address your needs and support you towards greater independence and wellbeing.

IAG Drop-ins – short-term support when you need it.
Our IAG drop-ins take place across Ryedale and offer practical, short-term support when you have a question or need advice.

No referral or appointment is needed, just come along.

We can help with things such as:

- Blue Badge applications
- Benefits and services
- Problems with phones or tablets
- Equipment and technology
- Advice about living with sight loss
- Signposting to other organisations and services

You may only need one visit, or you can come back when you need further advice.

Which service is right for me?
Not sure which service is right for you? Get in touch and we can help you find the right support. You don't have to work it out alone. We're here to help.

Hark AI Loan

For more than 36 years, HumanWare has been providing solutions to help people with low vision enhance their independence, making reading easier again. From product labels on the supermarket shelf and restaurant menus to sitting down and reading a good book.

Humanware are pleased to support Sight Support Ryedale with the loan of Hark AI.

If you haven't heard of Hark AI you will be amazed at the difference it can make to your daily life. Hark AI is the simplest reading machine, providing reading independence within seconds.

Hark AI reads handwriting
At the press of a button Hark AI will start reading handwritten letters, birthday and greeting cards from family and friends, describing any images on the card.

Hark AI reads printed text
Enjoy reading books and magazines along with letters arriving in the post, listen as Hark AI describes any images.

Hark AI reads barcodes
Place a tin or packet under Hark AI and it will read the barcode on food packaging, providing the product name and contents along with cooking instructions if they are included.

Hark AI also provides language translations
If you would like more information on the Hark AI or the range of low vision magnifiers, please call (freephone) **0800 587 2589** or visit **www.humanware.com**

Come along to our National Eye Health Week event on Monday 21 September for a demonstration of Hark AI.

Volunteer with us

Volunteers are at the heart of what we do, and as a small charity, we simply couldn't provide all the support and activities our members enjoy without them. We're always looking for friendly, enthusiastic people to join our volunteer team. There are lots of different ways to get involved, so whether you have a few hours to spare regularly or can help occasionally, we'd love to hear from you.

Ways you could volunteer include:

- **Drivers / Bus Buddies:** support members get to activities and provide passenger support - fortnightly or on an ad-hoc basis.
- **Fundraising:** support at fundraising stalls and events, bake for fundraising activities, or join our small fundraising focus group and help shape future activities.
- **Gardeners:** support our members enjoy gardening by supporting fun activities such as weeding, planting and potting, while helping to keep our shared garden looking beautiful.
- **Befriending**: make a difference by giving members a friendly phone call or helping with shopping or everyday tasks.
- **Sighted Guides:** support members at activities, events and excursions.
- **Admin Support:** lend a hand with occasional tasks, such as preparing and posting newsletters.
- **Digital Champions:** support members build confidence with technology, including setting up phones, tablets and laptops and using accessibility features.
- **Arts and Crafts:** support members take part in creative activities and enjoy trying new projects.

Whatever your interests, skills or experience, there's likely to be a way for you to get involved. You'll be making a difference to our members while meeting new people and becoming part of our friendly volunteer team. If you're interested, we'd love to have an informal chat about how you could get involved.

Please email: enquiries@sightsupportryedale.org or call 01653 698 860.

Please make a donation

Your donation can help improve the lives of people living with sight loss across Ryedale. Your support helps us provide friendship groups, social activities, wellbeing support, specialist advice and accessible days out – helping people feel less isolated, build confidence and live more independently.

Every donation, whatever the size, helps us continue this vital work. If you are a UK taxpayer, you can also boost your donation by 25% through Gift Aid, at no extra cost to you.

To make a one-off or regular donation, you can set up a standing order using:

Account name: Sight Support Ryedale
Account number: 26393068
Sort code: 05-03-43

If you would like to discuss donating or find out more, please email enquiries@sightsupportryedale.org or call 01653 698 860.

We're on EasyFundraising

Shop online and support us at no extra cost.
Did you know your everyday online shopping could raise money for Sight Support Ryedale - without costing you anything extra? Simply use Easyfundraising (an app) when shopping with thousands of retailers. A small donation comes to us each time you make a purchase, including when you shop for essentials, holidays or Christmas gifts.

You can use the Easyfundraising website or app and even set up an alert to remind you when you're shopping online. One of our Digital Champions can even help you get set up. Getting started is quick and easy. Scan the QR code below to begin.

Alternatively, use this link to join.
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ssryedale

Celebrating Achievements

Lydia Wrightson wins women's visually impaired tennis title.

We're thrilled to celebrate an incredible achievement by our Activities Coordinator, Lydia Wrightson, who has been crowned the women's B4/5 visually impaired tennis champion at the national finals of Play Your Way to Wimbledon.

After thousands of players took part in the qualifying stages, Lydia progressed through the county and regional finals, to reach the national finals, played on Wimbledon's iconic Aorangi Courts.

Lydia has been playing visually impaired tennis since she was 14 and, now aged 24, her hard work and determination has once again earned her the national title.

Reflecting on her victory, Lydia said:

"It's an amazing feeling and means so much to me.

I came second about four years ago, so winning this time feels incredibly special.

I've worked hard to get back to the final and I'm so proud to have brought home the trophy.

It's a memory I'll treasure for the rest of my life."

What an incredible achievement! It's fantastic to see you showing that nothing can hold you back. We're so proud of you and everything you've achieved. Well done, Lydia!

GET IN TOUCH

Sight Support Ryedale

Norton Hive Library & Community Hub

86 Commercial Street, Norton, Malton

North Yorkshire, YO17 9ES.

Telephone: 01653 698 860

Email: enquiries@sightsupportryedale.org

Website: www.sightsupportryedale.org

Like our Facebook page

Follow our Instagram page

Find us on LinkedIn

Search: sightsupportryedalenew

Charity Number: 1170013

If you would like this Newsletter in any other format, including large print, please let us know.