

MySight York - Volunteering Extra (Winter 2021)

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your hard work, dedication and commitment to helping MySight York and our clients. I know some of you read our main newsletter but just in case you haven't read it yet, I want to reiterate the message of my article in the main newsletter 'Thank You'. All of the staff at MySight York really value your hard work. During the pandemic we haven't had as many opportunities to say thank you in person. I am extremely proud of our group of volunteers. I know it has been difficult either not being able to volunteer, or volunteer in a different way during the pandemic. Hopefully it won't be too long before we can meet face to face as a group and say thank you in person. Until then please join us on our Zoom or telephone socials.

Catherine Bamford, Volunteer Manager

A Message From Scott - Is it Really Nearly Christmas Again?

Ordinarily we would be seeking to fundraise throughout this festive period, via bucket collections or choir singing but alas, the pandemic put paid to that earlier in the year (with licenses, permits, risk assessments). That said, the world is definitely opening up again and we have a new fundraiser (Jenny Allott) joining the team to help steer us through the new ways of raising income for our services.

I foresee, that in 2022, we diversify fundraising volunteer roles to help

make a real difference in our community, by raising awareness about the work of MySight York.

If you are a confident public speaker, you could help us reach out and engage community groups, local business and schools...to fundraise on our behalf.

Fundraising volunteers are always such brilliant ambassadors, telling people about our great work, and the lasting impact we have on the lives of blind and partially sighted people. Fundraising has always been competitive but it is now more than ever. I'd really welcome new and creative ideas of raising income, perhaps a digital solution, perhaps you have a novel idea or have seen

an idea that might work for us? Whatever happens in 2022, volunteers will be at the very heart of it. So I'd like to personally thank you, for sticking with us and for changing with us when needed the most.



Photo of Scott and Catherine saying thank you

Volunteer Training and Supervision

We will be contacting all volunteers over the next couple of months to carry out volunteer supervision meetings. If you haven't already done so you will be receiving a short supervision form which we would be grateful if you could complete and return to your supervisor. Of course if you want to discuss your volunteering beforehand please contact your supervisor or Catherine.

Within the next couple of months we will be asking all Keeping In Touch, Home Visitor and Activity volunteers to attend a short safeguarding course. The safeguarding course will comprise of 2 parts, completing City

of York Councils 30 minute on-line training course which we would like you to complete before 4th January followed by a group session in January or February to discuss how safeguarding relates to MySight York's activities.

We have always felt that some training should be mandatory and safeguarding is definitely a topic we feel should be compulsory. If you have done a similar safeguarding training course elsewhere within the last 3 years then you will not need to complete the council session but will however need to carry out the session discussing its relevance to MySight York.

If you have any suggestions for other training that you would like to see please let Catherine know and we will do our best to see if it is something we can offer.

If you have any questions about the training please contact Catherine

Volunteer Spotlight

What I enjoy about the Volunteer Socials is finding out what you have been up to. One of the highlights from the last Volunteer Social was listening to one of our volunteers, Mary, tell us about when she went flying. I quickly asked Mary to write a short piece for the newsletter. Here is what she wrote.

‘Saturday morning 10am the telephone rings. “Are you free today? Plan A isn’t working, so onto Plan B. I need to check the weather though, so if all OK, I will text you in an hour.” That’s how the day started.

Three and a half hours later my nephew, Leon and his passengers arrived from Chester in a Piper Alpha 28 at Full Sutton airfield. We headed into Pocklington for lunch, and then afterwards back to the airfield. Soon thereafter, courtesy of Air Leon, I took to the skies and within three minutes, we were circling over York. My horizons had truly expanded.

As a home visitor and KIT volunteer, I like to use the same analogy. Over the many years I have been a MySight York volunteer, I have been privileged to get to know clients, staff and fellow volunteers.

“Look over the nose of the plane. Can you see the Minster?” “Where?” I said. I couldn’t! It was right there below me. The view from a plane gives you a different perspective, and so does being a volunteer. You gain an insight into other’s people’s lives and I feel it an honour to be allowed to do so. Along the way, I have made some lovely friends too. Covid and lockdowns have curtailed activities, but it has also opened up opportunities. We might not have

met each other yet – perhaps that’s still to come? I hope so’.



Picture of Mary on the wing of a plane

Christmas Party

We are holding our Christmas Party via zoom and telephone again this year. See the back of the newsletter for dates.

We had so much fun last year seeing all the Christmas Party Hats we have decided to hold the competition again. Also making a return will be the best (keep it clean please) joke. So don your best hat and find a joke and join us. Can anyone beat

Martin's hat from last year?



Picture of Martin in last year's winning hat

Dates for your diary

Volunteer Christmas Party

15th December (Wednesday), 2-3pm
via Zoom

17th December (Friday), 10am-11am
via telephone

Volunteer Socials

26th January (Wednesday), 2-3pm
via Zoom

27th January (Thursday), 2-3pm via
telephone

9th March (Wednesday), 2-3pm via
Zoom

10th March (Thursday), 2-3pm via
telephone

Please let us know if you would like
to attend any of these dates

General Volunteer Enquiries, Home Visiting Service

Catherine Bamford, Volunteer
Manager

01904 731122

volunteermanager@mysightyork.org
(Tuesday to Friday)

Fundraising

Scott Jobson, Chief Executive
01904 731121

Scott.jobson@mysightyork.org
(Mon to Fri)

Keeping In Touch / Activities

Vicky Smith, Community Involvement
Officer

01904 731124

vicky.smith@mysightyork.org
(Mon to Fri)

Community Activities

Christian Waite, Activities and
Volunteer Coordinator

01904 731127

Christian.waite@mysightyork.org
(Mon to Thurs)

Home Connections

Deb Wheller, Early Intervention and
Sight Loss Advisor

01904 731125

Deb.wheller@mysightyork.org
(Mon to Fri)

Main Office

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MySight York

live well with sight loss