



Pictured: Will Blades receiving golf tuition from golf pro Mark Rogers. See page 14 for more details.

# MySight York

live well with sight loss

Registered Charity No. 1159188

# YorView is the newsletter of MySight York

MySight, Ground Floor,  
84-86 Walmgate, York YO1 9TL

**What3words:**


///formed.record.type

**01904 636269**

**hello@mysightyork.org**

**www.mysightyork.org**

 [facebook.com/mysightyork](https://facebook.com/mysightyork)

 [@mysightyork](https://twitter.com/mysightyork)

 [linkedin.com/company/mysightyork](https://linkedin.com/company/mysightyork)

YorView is published quarterly. It is available in large print, braille, audio (USB or CD) on Alexa and at [www.mysightyork.org](http://www.mysightyork.org)

Editor: Barbara Fairs

Chief Executive: Scott Jobson

## From the editor...

Hello and welcome to the Spring edition of YorView.

We are delighted to be welcoming two new members of staff, Katie Rees and Will Evans who have both written a small piece to introduce themselves on pages 6 and 18.

On page 5 you will find information on the York Talking News service, including how to join. Alternatively, if you would like to know more about this service there is a workshop being held at West Offices on 12th March.

Deb gives us a round up of mobility aids and canes on pages 10 and 11 and there are updates from Tanya on volunteering and Helen on the Eye Clinic Liaison service on pages 8 and 9.

Louise has information on our current regular activities on page 12 and Vicky updates us on the many different strands of the Community Connect project on pages 13 -15.

Bex has information on how to use technology to help with navigating around in daily life and there is an invitation to come along to our Vision Zone open day on 5th Mach. We also have listings of audio described performances in York and beyond so, whatever your interests, we hope you will find something to enjoy in this newsletter.

Barbara

## In this issue

### 4 From the Chief Executive

Scott Jobson gives the view from the Chief Exec's office

### 5 York Talking News

### 6-7 News in Brief

- Welcome to Katie
- Support Groups
- Henry Moore Foundation - Beyond the visual exhibition
- Office Closure dates

### 8 Volunteering Update

Tanya springs into action with volunteering training.

### 9 Eye Clinic Liaison Service

Helen reminds us of how to access the ECLO service.

### 10 New in the E&I

Deb updates us with the latest equipment and some old favourites.

### 12 Regular Activities

A round up of all the regular groups and activities.

### 13 Community Connect - Arts projects

Update on the Stamford Bridge Tapestry Project.

### 14 Community Connect - Health and Wellbeing

Vicky talks about Blind Golf and Chair based exercise.

### 15 Community Connect - Upcoming Events

An invitation to learn more about sight loss and a trip to Sight Village.

### 16 Tech Update

Bex talks about Google Maps.

### 17 Audio Described Performances

Details of shows in York and Leeds.

### 18 Fundraising News

Welcome to Will and hear his plans for fundraising.

### 20 Invitation to Vision Zone 2026



As we move into spring 2026, I feel a real sense of renewal and shared purpose across our organisation. A new year always brings fresh energy, but this one comes with growing confidence about what we can achieve together and a determination to build on everything you have helped us put in place.

More people than ever are coming to us for support, advice and connection. Whenever I see the phones ringing, appointments full and groups busy, I am reminded just how vital MySight York is to our community. The trust that so many of you place in us means a great deal, and I am incredibly proud of the care, skill and compassion our staff and volunteers show every day.

As demand grows, so does my ambition for what we can offer. I want us to reach further, respond quicker and keep improving the quality of support available to

anyone adjusting to life with sight loss. We are constantly looking at how we can strengthen partnerships, develop services and make the greatest possible difference.

I also think it is important to remind people that we are a charity. We are not statutory or emergency services, and we do not receive any government funding. What we provide exists because of donations, fundraising and the generosity of our supporters. Quite simply, without that help, we could not do what we do.

If you volunteer, attend activities, donate, or encourage others to support us, thank you. You are part of every success and every life changed.

To help us take the next steps, I am delighted that two new colleagues have joined the team. You can read more about Will, our new fundraiser, elsewhere in this newsletter. He will be working closely with our brilliant supporters to secure the income we need for the future. I am also very pleased to welcome Katie, who is helping us better understand and demonstrate the impact of our work, so we can learn, improve and show the difference your support makes.

Thank you for being with us at the start of another busy and hopeful year.

Scott

### York Talking News

It's a free monthly audio news magazine for anyone who is blind, visually impaired or print disabled in any way.

It is currently available via memory stick, Alexa and smart speakers and on our newly designed YTN website <https://yorktalkingnews.mytn.uk>

- To sign up for your free memory stick, please telephone Sue on 01904 652650
- To listen via the website select How to Listen and use the TNF Web Player which is embedded.
- To listen via Alexa, directly or through Siri on an Apple device, you will need to set this up just once.

To do this say:

“Alexa, enable Talking Newspapers.”

Once this set up is done, you can listen any time you like by saying:

“Alexa, ask talking newspapers to play York Talking News.”

When using Alexa you can give further commands such as:

Alexa play, pause, stop, next track, previous track and cancel.

Go on, give it a try, it's free!

We are always pleased to get your feedback.

Our email address is [yorktalkingnews@gmail.com](mailto:yorktalkingnews@gmail.com) or you can call Sue on 01904 625650

There will also be a workshop to raise the awareness of York Talking News to a wider audience through identifying other organisations and individual people that may be interested in their services.

The event will be in West Offices on the 12th March between 10 am and 12 midday where you will be able to meet some of the volunteers and readers who use their services who will tell their stories of why they volunteer or use the service.

The event will be Hybrid for anyone who wishes to attend online.

The event is intended to promote the benefits of the Talking News services beyond the traditional readership of blind, visually impaired and older people. Those with other impairments such as a learning disability, learning difficulty (dyslexia etc), mental health and neurodiverse (autism, ADHD, etc) may also benefit.

Anyone wishing to attend just needs to contact the Access Team on: [cycaccessteam@york.gov.uk](mailto:cycaccessteam@york.gov.uk) and they will respond to you to identify your preferred way of attending and any reasonable adjustments you require.

## News in brief

Welcome To Katie

Hi everyone!  
I'm Katie and  
I'm absolutely  
delighted to  
be working for

MySight York as the new Impact  
and Finance Officer.

I've had a fantastic first month -  
everyone has made me feel so  
welcome and I am learning a lot  
about how the charity works and  
all the wonderful people who are



involved each day. I look forward  
to meeting many more of you  
over the coming months. My role  
involves understanding the great  
work which is being done here,  
how it benefits our members and  
helping to tell those important  
stories to our supporters. My  
role also covers the day to day  
management of finance functions.

To get in touch, contact me on:

[katie.rees@mysightyork.org](mailto:katie.rees@mysightyork.org)

### Support Groups

#### Local Macular support groups

Across our region there are  
several support groups held in  
Easingwold; Driffield, Leeds,  
Richmond, Scarborough, Selby  
and York who meet throughout  
out the year. To find out more  
information about the group closer  
to you, please contact the Macular  
Society on 0300 3030111

#### York Hospital Glaucoma Support Group

Currently there are no support  
group meetings planned at York  
Hospital this year, however, as  
soon as we have any news,  
we will advertise them in future  
newsletters.

### My Macular and Me webinars

Each month the Macular Society  
hosts a new webinar where  
experts in macular disease  
discuss the latest in treatments,  
research and answer your  
questions.

The webinar takes place on the  
3rd Tuesday of every month  
at 7pm. You can catch up on  
previous webinars covering  
many topics such as updates  
in treatments for macular  
degeneration presented by York's  
Professor Richard Gale.

Visit <https://www.macularsociety.org/support/events/webinars/>

to register for the next webinar in  
the series or catch up on previous  
webinars.

## News in brief

Henry Moore Foundation, 74 The  
Headrow, Leeds

Beyond the Visual Exhibition  
running until 19th April 2026

Beyond the Visual is the UK's  
first major sculpture exhibition in  
which blind and partially sighted  
practitioners are central to the  
curatorial process and make up the  
majority of participating artists.

The exhibition demonstrates that  
blindness is no barrier to creating  
ambitious, significant sculpture and  
brings together 16 international  
artists, including both historical  
works from Henry More and Barry  
Flanagan and more contemporary  
works.

The exhibition aims to show the  
importance of touch, sound and  
scent. Every object in the exhibition  
can be touched. Dark grey carpeted  
areas indicate that a sculpture is  
within arm's reach.

You are invited to step onto the  
carpeted areas to touch, listen to  
and even smell the artwork that is  
in the centre of each area. Audio  
descriptions explain more about how  
you can engage with each artwork.

Gallery assistants are stationed  
throughout the exhibition wearing  
yellow jumpers to answer any  
questions you may have and help  
with locating the artworks and using  
the audio guides.

Each artwork has several sound  
points with audio description of each  
work. The sound points are marked  
by yellow circles on the floor and  
can be accessed by scanning the  
QR code or using a hand held audio  
player.

Entry to the Exhibition is free and  
there is level access to the building  
from Cookridge Street with a lift to  
the ground floor. Braille and large  
print versions of descriptive text  
about the exhibition are available at  
the welcome desk.

**MySight York will be closed on the following dates:**

**Wednesday 25th March**

**Friday 3rd April - Wednesday 8th April**

**Monday 4th May - Bank holiday**

**Monday 25th May - Bank Holiday**

### Spring into Volunteering!

Spring is an ideal time to pause, reflect, and look ahead with a fresh outlook. It might be just the right time for you to try something new!

First though, we want to offer our thanks to all our volunteers for your unwavering commitment throughout the long, dark winter months. Your dedication has ensured that groups, activities and vital befriending services continued no matter the weather, and we truly couldn't have done it without you – so thank you!

Like you, I'm looking forward to the brighter warmer months and also the new connections and projects they bring along the way.

Over the last three months we have delivered three volunteer training days and provided refresher sessions for some existing volunteers too. We're especially grateful to two established volunteers for their help with delivering this training, Glynis and Mary.

Firstly, to Glynis, for spending time with us to not only share her personal experience of living with sight loss and for providing a great introduction to tools that enable her to live well and independently. Secondly, Mary for

sharing moments from her long and varied voluntary career as well as tips to being a great befriender.

Together Mary and Glynis have provided an incredible 39 years of volunteering so far! We are incredibly grateful for your ongoing dedication, support and input – thank you!

Along with growing the team it's important that we create moments to build a more rewarding and connected experience for our volunteers.

This year we'll be hosting regular social events for volunteers aptly named the 'Monthly Mingle'. They will be held on the last Friday of every month in the Activity room between 11.00am and 1.00pm. They are relaxed, informal gatherings so that you can drop in, unwind with a cuppa and get to know some of your fellow volunteers.

Space is limited to 12 Volunteers each month so do let Tanya know if you would like to attend.

We are always looking for friendly, approachable people to take on a weekly or fortnightly visit to clients in our Home Visiting service. Please let Tanya know if you would be interested.

The ECLO Service at York Hospital Losing some or all of your vision, or being told you have an eye condition, can feel overwhelming. At moments like this, practical help and emotional support can make a real difference. That's where the Eye Clinic Liaison Officer or ECLO comes in.

### Who is the ECLO?

Helen Flett is the ECLO in York and supports many people each year through face-to-face or telephone appointments, helping them understand and adjust to life with sight loss.

Helen is employed by us at MySight York but works within the eye clinic at York Hospital to support people affected by sight loss, acting as a bridge between medical care and the wider support services that can help you live well with sight loss.

Here's how Helen can help you:

- Understand your eye care journey
- Understand your diagnosis and the condition you have
- Talk through how you're feeling about changes in your sight
- Give you information about benefits, employment, aids and equipment.
- Explain the process of certification and registration of visual

impairment, which can unlock extra support and benefits

- Signpost you to local and national organisations that support people with sight loss

### Who Can Speak Helen?

If you have an eye condition and are under the care of York Hospital's Ophthalmology clinic, you, your family, or your carer can ask to speak with Helen. You do not have to be registered as visually impaired to receive support, the service is there to help anyone affected by changes to their sight.

### How to Access the ECLO Service at York Hospital

At York Hospital, Helen provides support by appointment only. Here's how to make contact or get referred:

#### 1. Ask at Your Clinic Appointment

When you attend your eye appointment, ask your clinician to arrange an appointment. You can also ask at the Eye Clinic reception desk when you arrive.

#### 2. Contact Helen directly

Phone: 01904 721 858

Email: [helen.flett3@nhs.net](mailto:helen.flett3@nhs.net)

Appointments are usually available Monday to Friday between 9am and 3pm.

# New in the Equipment and Information Centre

Deb updates on the latest equipment and reminds us of some old favorites that may be new to you!

Dealing with moving objects and people, changes in light and shade, varied terrain, hazards and obstacles in your path, navigating and finding your way around can make getting out and about difficult.

Symbol and mobility aids can help you to navigate your environment with a sense of security and confidence. There are four common types of canes, each of which are made from light aluminum tubing which is coated with a white reflective coating and can be folded away and put in a pocket or bag when not in use.



Symbol canes are not classed as a mobility aid as they do not make contact the ground. They are smaller than other types of cane and act as a visual sign to make

people aware that you have low vision and can be very helpful in busy places.

Guide canes are longer and extend from the floor to your waist when held by the wrist, used for gathering information from the ground they can be used for scanning for kerbs and steps. They can be used diagonally across the body for protection, warning the user of obstacles immediately ahead.

Long canes are typically swept back and forth across the ground to scan for obstacles and extend from your mid sternum (breast bone) to the ground.

Training in the use of guide and long canes with a qualified rehabilitation officer is always advised to make sure that you are using the right cane for your needs and that you are using it safely when travelling. Your local sensory team will be able to help.

York YorSensory 01904 202292

North Yorkshire 0300 131 2131

East Yorkshire 01482 888830

Walking canes/ sticks help with balance and give more stability and support and are available with a variety of sizes and handle styles. White sticks identify that you also have a visual impairment.

Red/white striped canes If you have a hearing impairment as well as a visual impairment red stripe can be added to you cane to signify this to others.

New Ambutech rolling ball coloured tip 10.00 ex VAT

Now available to order in seven colours: Purple, pink, blue, green, orange, red and black



Pharo cane light £21.00 ex VAT

For use with guide canes and long canes, this rechargeable cane light produces 40 lumens of bright white light to help illuminate your path and make you more visible.



New from Partially Sighted Society £12.00

A new winter beanie style hat to keep you warm with a logo featuring the distinctive yellow visual impairment symbol with the words "Visually Impaired Please Be Aware", helping raise awareness for other people while keeping your head warm when you're out and about.



If you would like to explore any of this equipment, or would just like some general advice on living well with sight loss, please call to book an appointment with Bex or Deb on 01904 636 269.

## Regular Activities

We offer a wide variety of groups and activities which run either weekly or monthly. Whether you prefer meeting in person or by phone, we have something for everyone.

Support with MySight - If you're new to sight loss, or simply need a supportive space, this group is for you. Meets every other month on the first Monday afternoon. In person only.

Esme's Friends – Our support group for anyone who experiences visual hallucinations as a result of sight loss (also known as Charles Bonnet Syndrome). Monthly.

Hybrid Discussion Group or Telephone Discussion - Topics often include a thread connecting back to lived experience with sight loss. On the second Wednesday morning, of every other month, alternating with each other. Upon occasion, guest speakers are invited.

Accessible Board Games - run by MySight York volunteers, at the MySight York premises. Accessible dominos, cards, chess and much more. Monday mornings, weekly.

Knit and Natter - A friendly group for those who love to knit (and natter). Twice a month.

Audio Book Group - The group discusses a different book each session. Monthly.

Telephone Quiz - No prizes, just an enjoyable way to spend time with friends, old and new. The last Friday of the month.

Chair Exercise - run by Xercise Haxby at MySight York premises. Thursday, weekly.

Chair Tai Chi - run by UK Tai Chi via Zoom, at MySight York premises. Weekly. (This group is currently full, please contact Louise to be added to the waiting list).

VI Tennis - run by a York Disability Tennis Network qualified coach, held at the University of York, York Sports Centre. Supported by MySight York volunteers. Weekly.

VI Golf – Hosted at York Golf Club, players follow the same rules as all golfers, with a few minor adjustments. Booking is essential. Monthly.

Cuppa and a Chorus – Hosted at The National Centre for Early Music. Come along and enjoy a varied selection of songs. Large print and braille song sheets available. Booking is essential. Monthly.

If you are interested in joining any of our groups, or require further information, please contact Louise [louise.calpin@mysightyork.org](mailto:louise.calpin@mysightyork.org) or call 01904 636269.

## Community Connect - Arts Projects

At the beginning of the Community Connect project's life, member and consultant, Jade Puckering, identified access needs at a local museum within her community.

'The Battle of Stamford Bridge Tapestry Project Museum' then approached MySight York on recommendation from Jade. Ann Chatten, Volunteer Lead for the Tapestry, describes the museums' journey all the way through to their most recent 'Sight Loss Friendly in York' status award.

"We made the approach with a view to providing a better experience and more inclusive offer for visitors with varying degrees of sight loss. MySight York, with Jade, provided a training session to help us, as volunteers, adapt our space in terms of furniture, location and lighting, how to assist visitors respectfully and effectively, and provide additional practical resources such as tactile examples, clearer drawings, and descriptive information in large print and a braille.

Once more confident, we invited a focus group of people with sight loss. This was invaluable in helping us to assess how we could further improve our offer, as well as providing an audio-described video about the tapestry. We are grateful to MySight York, and all the focus

group for their time and patience in assisting us, and also to Jade for explaining her level of sight loss, and providing her unique point of view on how we could improve our offer. We are grateful for our newly awarded 'Sight Loss Friendly in York' Status."

Jade adds "It makes me happy that, through my recommendation, the Tapestry Museum made the approach and that, together, we were able to make a local community venue more accessible. I do feel more confident in making these approaches and working with my local community as a result of this work."

The Tapestry can be visited from 10am to 2pm on Tuesdays. Group visits are also possible on Wednesdays by prior arrangement. Volunteers are on hand upon arrival. Teas, Coffees and biscuits are also available, there is also an accessible toilet, the museum is on street level.

Location: Platform 66, The Old Station Club, 24 Church Road, Stamford Bridge, York YO41 1DG. There is a car park and the number 10 bus stops directly opposite the building. Please call ahead for any questions and additional information on access needs 07947 336934 between 9am and 6pm.

As part of Community Connect, York Golf Club has been working with us to offer Vision Impaired Golf sessions, funded by England and Wales Blind Golf (EWBG) and The National Lottery Community Fund. This takes place on the last Wednesday of every month. Sessions will run from 2pm – 3pm, with an optional tea or coffee available from 1pm – 2pm.

To book your place as a VI golfer, or to express interest in volunteering as a caddy, please contact: [Vicky.colombi@mysightyork.org](mailto:Vicky.colombi@mysightyork.org) or call 01904 636269

MySight York warmly welcomes both returning and new participants to take part in this rewarding and inclusive sport. York Golf Club offers both outdoor and indoor experiences, dependent upon the weather.



Pictured: Kevin, Xercise Fitness Haxby being handed his award.

Xercise Fitness Haxby have recently received their 'Sight Loss

Friendly in York status.

Kevin, manager of the gym and instructor for our MySight York Chair Exercise class, has attended our Sighted Guided Training. Furthermore he has assessed his gym for accessibility, with our support, taken on new clients with sight loss, received and responded to focus group feedback for his chair exercise sessions and has piloted an online chair exercise group with members with sight loss. Many congratulations to Kevin and the team. Kevin said, "My depth of knowledge has increased, more importantly my understanding of what it means to be partially sighted has increased. Greater understanding means it's easier to interact. The additional skills gained will help me be more confident when interacting with partially sighted clients"

One participant said, "The chair exercise is not just exercise and fitness, it's all about the development of wellbeing. You feel better when we've been together. We are better leaving than when we arrived."

To join the chair exercise please contact: [louise.calpin@mysightyork.org](mailto:louise.calpin@mysightyork.org) or call 01904 636269, please note that you may need to be entered onto our waiting list.

### Living Well with Sight Loss Course

Date: Friday 6th March and Friday 20th March 2026

Time: 10:30am – 2:30pm

Location: MySight York Premises

Description: Share experiences of sight loss with others in similar situations and get practical advice and information. These free, informal courses aim to help you increase your independence, boost your confidence and connect with others to share experiences.

Through our sessions you'll get practical advice, information and guidance on organisations, products and services out there to help you. Lunch provided.

Booking Essential (where you are welcome to invite a plus one).

### Sighted Guiding for Friends and Family

Date: Friday 17th April

Time: 12noon – 1pm

Location: MySight York Premises

Description: Discover practical tips to confidently guide a friend or family member with sight loss, enhancing their independence in everyday settings, perfect for those needing occasional support in changing light or diverse environments. Booking Essential



Photo of a volunteer guiding a client using sighted guiding skills.

### MySight York Coach Trip to QAC Sight Village North East (Exhibition of Assistive Technology)

Date: Tuesday 2 June 2026

Time: Meet for 9am, coach setting off at 9:30am from York, departing Leeds 2.30pm

Location: Leeds - Royal Armouries

Description: This is a full-day excursion. Transport is free, but donations are welcome. Admission to the exhibition is free. Discover the latest types of technology, equipment and support services available to people with sight loss.

Booking is essential for you and a plus one! For meeting point location and to book a space on the coach, please call: 010904 636269.

## Navigation

Following on from the theme of mobility on page 10, I wanted to tell you about the benefits of Google Maps.

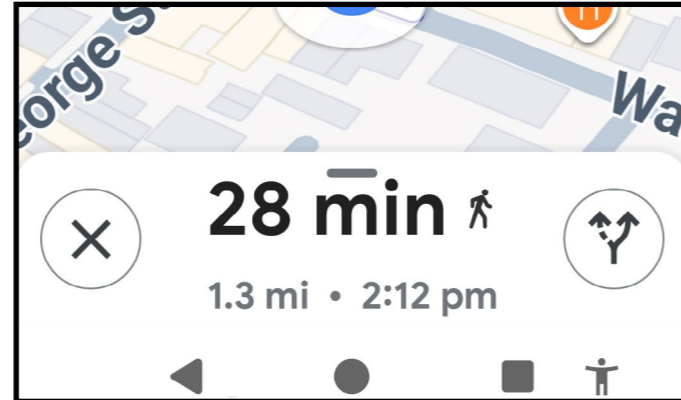
Google Maps is one of many wayfinding apps available. This is a free app which is available on both Apple and Android devices. It does require an internet connection but maps can be downloaded for use offline.

With Google Maps you are able plan and save journeys by inputting a postcode, address, place name or just look for something nearby. You can type your search or use your voice, using commands like "Navigate me to (place) on foot". Once your destination is selected you can get directions for your journey. Your directions will be spoken out to you and will notify you about turns ahead of time. You can also set Google Maps to give you more detailed and frequent audio announcement whilst using walking navigation.

If you get a little lost or turned around whilst following your route, Google Maps will automatically re route you to your destination.

Google Maps also works alongside Google Gemini. If you have Gemini activated as your voice assistant, you can ask:

"Hey Google, Navigate me to (Place) on foot"



Google maps will estimate your travel time based on the average walking speed.

This will start navigation to your chosen destination with spoken directions. It will announce arrival at destination.



If you would like to learn more about how to use Google Maps please call 01904 636 269 to book an appointment.

Audio Described performances of theatre shows give a live verbal commentary to those assist those watching who have a visual impairment.

The audio describer will give descriptions of the setting, costumes, characters, facial expressions and action to add to the show's dialogue and help to fill the gaps. This commentary can be heard via headsets provided by the theatre or, at York Grand Opera House, you can use the Mobile Connect service with your own phone. To book headsets at the Grand Opera House call 0333 009 5399, no booking is required to use Mobile Connect app.

## Grand Opera House Audio Described Shows

Death on the Nile, Saturday 7th March 2.30pm

Bluey's Big Play - all dates are in March

Thursday 19th 10am

Friday 20th 10am

Saturday 21st 10am, 1pm, 4pm

Sunday 22nd 10am, 1pm, 4pm

2.22 A Ghost Story, Saturday 4th April 2.30pm

Come From Away, Saturday 18th April 2.30pm

Legally Blonde, Thursday 23rd April 7.30pm

Fawlty Towers - The Play, Saturday 23rd May 2.30pm

For information on audio description and pre-show touch tours at York Theatre Royal contact [boxoffice@yorktheatreroyal.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@yorktheatreroyal.co.uk) or call 01904 623568.

## York Theatre Royal Audio Described Shows

The Secret Garden - The Musical, Wednesday 1st April 7.30pm

Royal Shakespeare Production of Hamlet, Saturday 18th April 2pm

The Psychic, Saturday 16th May 2.30pm

Northern Ballet's production of Gentleman Jack at Leeds Grand Theatre will be an audio described on Saturday 14 March at 2.30pm, with pre-show notes starting at 2.15pm. A free Touch Tour Insight Talk will take place at 12.15 – 1.30pm on the same day.

To book, or for more information, call the theatre's access line on 0113 205 3899.

## A Warm Welcome

Hello! I'm Will Evans, MySight York's new Fundraiser, and it's a pleasure to have the chance to



introduce myself so early in my tenure (I started early February). I'm from York originally and, following a few formative years working with charities in the South of England, I've returned to be closer to family and – I hope – to play a role in supporting a city that gave me so much in my earlier years.

It's a privilege to have the opportunity to work with MySight York. I'm a firm believer in the power that local charities have to empower and improve lives, and since joining I've been blown away by the impact of our work. From our Equipment & Information services, to the citywide Community Connect project, we punch well above our weight for an organisation of our size. And that's thanks to you – our members, supporters, and volunteers, without whom our work simply wouldn't be possible.

## Festive Highlights from Louise

Our Christmas Tree at York Minster's Christmas Tree Festival was wonderfully received throughout December, with many sharing warm comments and thoughtful feedback. Its "Bigger, Brighter, Bolder" theme highlighted how simple adaptations can make a meaningful difference for people with sight loss, and the decorations (handmade by our talented Knit and Natter group) brought that message to life beautifully.

We're also delighted to share some fantastic news: after seeing our tree at the Minster, Portland Fuel generously donated £500 to support our work. Their kindness is a brilliant boost and a lovely recognition of the impact our tree made.

Additional thanks to our Knit and Natter group, who also made items to decorate Sarah Scott's room at Treasurer's House. Again, we received such wonderful feedback from those who visited.



## Looking Ahead

Over the coming months you can expect to see more of MySight York (and our iconic pink elephants!) in and around York. Dates for your diary include:

- York Hospital, Friday 8th May. Join us at The Hub (outside Ellerby's restaurant) between 10am-2pm for our information and knitting stall. If you have soft or knitted items to donate, please get in touch.

- York Pride 2026, Saturday 30th May. Join us at York Knavesmire between 11am-6.30pm to celebrate diversity and take part in our raffle and teddy tombola. Great prizes up for grabs.

- West Bank Park Summer Fair, Sunday 30th June. Join us in the centre of Holgate between 1-4pm. Entertainment, community stalls, and tasty refreshments on offer.

All proceeds help ensure more people in York can live well with sight loss.

## How You Can Help

Your support for MySight York allows us to expand and improve our essential services and activities, and gifts of all sizes make a real difference to the lives of our members. For example, £25 enables someone newly diagnosed with sight loss to meet

our Eye Clinic Liaison Officer at York Hospital, whilst £50 pays for an expert reading assessment, enabling a blind or partially sighted person to explore ways to help them enjoy reading again.

All gifts are gratefully received, and we hope you'll consider making a regular contribution to allow us to plan for the future and provide sustained support to our members.

You can make your donation today:

- Online: Visit [www.mysightyork.org/fundraising/make-a-donation/](http://www.mysightyork.org/fundraising/make-a-donation/) and click 'Donate Now'. Alternatively scan the QR code below.



- Via text: Send MYSIGHT to 70085 to donate £3 a month, or MYSIGHT followed by a donation amount (e.g., MYSIGHT3) to 70490.

- By cheque: Send your cheque in the post to MySight York, Ground Floor, 84-86 Walmgate, York, YO1 9TL.

If you would like to be involved in fundraising in any capacity then please contact me directly on [will.evans@mysightyork.org](mailto:will.evans@mysightyork.org) or by calling 01904 731127.

Thank you!

# Vision Zone 2026

## Vision Zone 2026 Solutions for Low Vision



Would you like to find out more about assistive technology?

No matter what your sight loss condition we are here for you.

Gain hands on experience with electronic magnifiers, reading machines, desktop and much more to support your hobbies, and day to day activities. Whilst you're at home or out and about. Our professional consultant Paul Bartley will be available to answer all your questions.

Come along to MySight York

84 – 86 Walmgate, York, YO1 9TL

Thursday 5th March 10am to 3pm

No booking required, just drop by!

**MySight York**

live well with sight loss

**0800 1456115**

**[www.lowvisionshop.co.uk](http://www.lowvisionshop.co.uk)**