

Giving Insights

Autumn
2026



Volunteers Denise, Cherrill, Mary and Moira at our Dragon Boat Race stall, supporting our new Wellbeing In Sight appeal - Page 3

MySight York

live well with sight loss

Registered Charity No. 1159188

YorView is the newsletter of MySight York

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

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Hello and Welcome.

Hello, and welcome to the first issue of Giving Insights, celebrating everything you - our members and supporters - make possible. MySight York couldn't exist without you, and your generosity helps our members live happier, healthier, better-connected lives.

Inside, you'll meet Fred, about to start sixth form and finding community through VI golf, and Margaret and Clive, whose Digital Vision journey shows how technology eases everyday life. There's also Wellbeing in Sight, our appeal protecting mental health and wellbeing services; an invitation to join the Friends of MySight York, our new community for supporters; and news of accessible legal services from Ison Harrison solicitors.

MySight York is an independent charity; donations fund more than 90% of our services. Last year, over 500 people received advice from our Equipment and Information Centre, more than 700 hours of companionship came through Befriending, and over 800 received Eye Care Liaison Officer support.

We hope you enjoy this offering. If you value our work, please consider a gift via the enclosed form, through our website, or by contacting us via phone or email. We remain grateful to all who've given. Thank you.

Become a Friend of MySight York

Wellbeing In Sight: Please support today

We're launching a new appeal, Wellbeing In Sight, to protect our services supporting mental wellbeing. A third of people with sight loss experience significant mental health challenges, and nobody in York should face this alone. As one member told us: "I've never known people care so much. They've helped me through something that could have led to depression and isolation."

Wellbeing in Sight will secure our Befriending service, more than 20 Social, Sporting and Peer Support Groups, and Talking Space, our specialist counselling service, which provide over 3,000 hours of support yearly. It will also fund a redevelopment of our Activity Room, making it safer and more accessible.

We need to raise £90,000 this year, and we're asking every friend and member to give what they can, so nobody in our community faces crisis alone.

Become a Friend of MySight York

We've established the Friends of MySight York to celebrate the generosity of our supporters and

the life-changing difference it makes. We hope you'll consider joining today.

Friends receive an invitation to a spring celebration, an annual report showcasing their impact, and the option to be listed among our valued supporters.

Become a Friend by making a regular gift of any size, via the enclosed form, our website (www.mysightyork.org > Fundraising > Make A Donation), or by contacting us directly.

Here's what your gift could make possible each year:

- £3.33 a month funds an inclusive exercise class.
- £7 a month funds two specialist vision assessments.
- £13.50 a month funds six ECLO appointments, providing expert support at diagnosis.

Anyone who has remembered us in their Will is invited to join too; if you have, please let us know.

Every service we offer is free to access, made possible by people who choose to give. Your support keeps that true today and helps it stay true tomorrow.

Margaret's Story

From Teaching to Tech: Margaret's Story

Our new Digital Vision project is already helping members use technology that keeps them connected and independent. Margaret and Clive know this better than most. Long-standing supporters of MySight York, and now regular donors themselves, they kindly agreed to share their story.

Margaret's Perspective

I first visited MySight York four years ago, and the rest is history.

My first experience was through the group discussion sessions. I immediately got support and information, then got set up with the talking books. People clearly matter to MySight York, and although that first visit wasn't counselling, for me it was very therapeutic. It reminded me that I matter.

Before that, I could see perfectly well, and I could still drive. Eventually, macular degeneration won the battle on my left eye. Right now, I know you're sitting in front of me, and that you've got a head and shoulders, but I can't see the detail of your face.

Coming to terms with sight loss, knowing it's here to stay, is an incredibly hard experience. I remember sharing that with Deb and Bex in the Equipment & Information Centre, and it was such a relief to know I could pick up the phone for somebody to talk to and that help was at hand.

I've been a teacher all my life and got through my career without touching a computer. I was so proud of that, but technology is now an integral part of modern life, and I have a lot of catching up to do. But I won't have to do it alone. MySight York have set me on a steady route, with an appointment each fortnight, and I'm getting more confident each time. It's making life so much easier, and I'm now starting to teach Clive how to use his phone too.

I think we've got to keep MySight York running, because it keeps us running. I'm sure we're not alone in that. They're a charity, so by way of thanks, we've started making a regular gift. We hope you'll consider joining us with any amount you feel able to give.

Clive's Perspective

I first joined Margaret out of curiosity, to learn why she loved coming here so much. When we arrived, I realised how well she got on with the people working here, and that social inclusion is at the heart of everything MySight York does. It's a real community, and that's hard to build from scratch, and even harder to hold onto.

The skills Margaret has gained, like being able to use her phone, have given her much-needed independence. It's helped me too. We can spend time apart, doing what we enjoy, without the anxiety we once shared. Margaret can pick up the phone and get in touch whenever she likes; it's worked out brilliantly.

Without MySight York, I feel we'd lose a lot of valuable experience that people really rely on, and how do you rebuild that? They take you by the hand and work alongside you to negotiate the challenges you're experiencing, and that's an incredibly rare thing. It's vital we keep it.

We need everyone getting involved, giving what they can, and every gift counts. If you're able to,

please consider joining us in giving regularly. It can make a world of difference for someone in our community.

A regular gift, big or small

Margaret and Clive give by Standing Order each month. It's a simple, dependable way to ensure we are there for you year after year. Please consider joining them by setting up a regular gift, either online or using the Standing Order form enclosed. If you're a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid means we can claim back an extra 25p for every £1 you give, at no extra cost to you.



Image of Margaret and Clive in our Equipment and Information Centre exploring mobile phone with our Sight Support Advisor, Bex.

Staying Grounded Through Golf: Fred's Story

Fred is 16 and will soon start sixth form to study Music, Art, and English Literature. He's been involved with MySight York for ten years, ever since a bowling trip brought him into the fold.

Alongside piano lessons held at MySight York headquarters (Fred describes himself as "very musical," with a soft spot for rock) Fred is now a regular at our monthly VI golf sessions.

"I've always wanted to try golf, so I thought it was brilliant that VI sessions were available" The sessions, Fred says, have been "really, really helpful." and have "definitely built my confidence." "I'm not massively sporty, but I really enjoy the golf. It's become very important to me."

Fred is quick to highlight the social benefits. "You connect with brilliant people experiencing a similar situation, and there's definitely a sense of community around it." That community, and the routine it brings, matters too. "It's a really helpful grounding point," he adds. "We all need that."

Asked how we should involve more young people living with sight loss, Fred's answer was simple:

"Just ask what they enjoy, and the activities they want to share with other people in their situation. It's so important to consult young people directly."

Fred goes on to highlight a gap that our Wellbeing In Sight appeal is designed to close. 'It would be fantastic if there were more sessions, as I have to take time out of school to attend. And more coaches, for when you really need that one-to-one support.' And without VI golf? "It would be a huge shame. I'd miss socialising, the chance to meet new people, and the fun of playing."



Like many activities, golf sessions are oversubscribed two-to-one, with no funding for extra places. Your support can change that, giving young members like Fred the one-to-one coaching they value, at a time that works them, with shorter waits to get started. A gift today can help make that possible.

Your Legacy in York

A gift in your Will is one of the most meaningful ways to support people with sight loss in York and build a sight loss friendly city. Around a third of our services are funded through gifts in Wills, and we're grateful to all who remember us. Gifts in Wills make a lasting difference. They have secured our permanent home on Walmgate, upheld dignity and independence via our Equipment & Information Centre, and strengthened Befriending, improving thousands of lives across York.

To remember us, just pass our name and charity number (MySight York, Registered Charity No. 1159188) to your solicitor. Leaving even 1% of your estate still leaves 99% for your loved ones, ensuring they're cared for.

If you've included us in your Will, please let us know; we'd love to thank you and welcome you as a Friend of MySight York (page 3).

Will-writing That Works for You

We're partnering with Ison Harrison, a respected Yorkshire firm, to offer Will-writing services accessible to people with sight loss. Their team is training with

us to ensure every stage is accessible, and members receive a 10% discount. Affordable home visits are available, and free monthly drop-in clinics run from Walmgate, with no obligation to give. The next clinic is October 2nd.

We're approaching our 50th year, growing and working toward a York where every person with sight loss can live fulfilling, connected lives. Remembering us in your Will carries that forward. If you're considering a gift or want a clinic slot, please get in touch.

Special thanks to Bob Shead and Eleanor Tew, who very generously remembered us in their wills, helping to secure the future of services at MySight York.



Image of members celebrating outside MySight York's Walmgate headquarters.

Get involved, Successes and Thanks

Other Ways to Help

There are many ways you can support our fundraising efforts, including:

- Asking your local shop to host a Pink Elephant collection box
- Becoming a fundraising volunteer
- Donating sensory items for tombolas
- Sharing your experiences of MySight York in newsletters

Please contact Will, our fundraiser, on 01904 731127 or at will.evans@mysightyork.org to discuss.

Roaring Success at the Dragon Boat Race

Our stall at the 2026 race was an historic success, with more than £280 raised and over 100 engaged with our work. A huge thank you to Moira, Denise, Cherrill, Emily, Mary, Nick, and Tiger, who all worked so hard to make this possible. Particular thanks to Wendy, our newest fundraising volunteer and a star in the making; her warmth and natural ability to encourage support were so greatly appreciated.

Thank You

To all who have recently contributed their time, money, or items for stalls,

please accept our sincere thanks, and that of more than 1,700 people living with sight loss in York. It is only through your generosity that our work is possible.

Sincere thanks also to the charitable trusts and foundations who have recently supported our work, including: Awards for All, Bettys and Taylors Group Community Fund, The Charles & Elsie Sykes Trust, England and Wales Blind Golf, The F.M. Müller Will Trust, Gay & Peter Hartley's Hillards Trust, Hospital Saturday Fund, The National Lottery Community Fund, North Yorkshire Sport, QFUTURES Community Fund, Sylvia Waddilove, Two Ridings Community Foundation, Ulverscroft Foundation, York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority, York CVS.

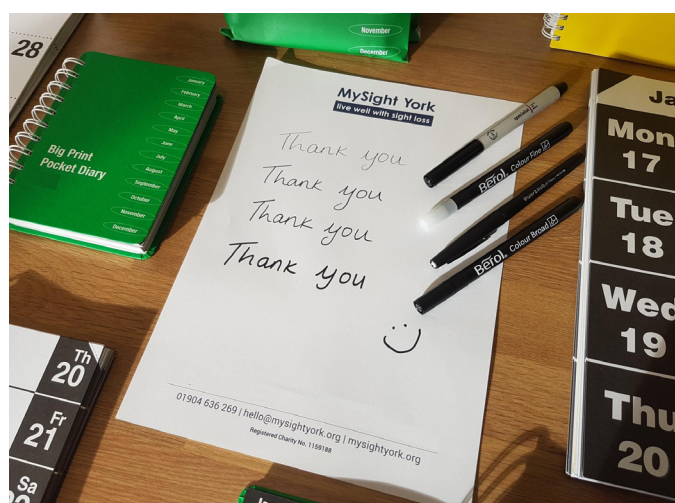


Image of written messages of thanks and a smiley face.