

Warwickshire
Vision Support



Making a Difference



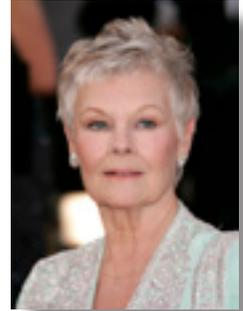
*"Supporting visually impaired people
in Warwickshire & Coventry"*

Your local charity for local people



Although I was not born in Warwickshire, my connection to Stratford upon Avon and my love for the Royal Shakespeare Company has meant that Warwickshire has played an enormous part in both my personal and professional life.

I first became associated with Warwickshire Vision Support when I was approached to write a foreword to the Catalogue for the Warwickshire Talking Book Service more than 15 years ago. Like many other people, I knew family members and friends living with sight loss who missed the written word and who felt cut off from so much of our rich culture.



DAME JUDI DENCH

Sight loss changes the way we live. We see proud independent people gradually losing their confidence and withdrawing from life - shopping, visiting family and meeting friends becomes more challenging as our sight deteriorates. This is when we most need help and support and Warwickshire Vision Support is there to help us.

The number of people living with sight loss is increasing at an alarming rate. There are now more than 15,500 people living with permanent and uncorrectable sight loss in Warwickshire.

These people need our support to enable them to continue to live full and independent lives.

Warwickshire Vision Support has been providing that support for more than a hundred years. From initial assessments and rehabilitation services, through to advice and information, access to essential resources, and, of course that essential social support that so many people living with sight loss need so much.

On a personal level, many of you will have heard of my own struggle with sight loss. My recent diagnosis of age-related macular degeneration has brought its own challenges. But I am a firm believer that with the right support we can continue to work, continue to explore our world and continue to live life to the full.

"Why not join us at Warwickshire Vision Support and make a real difference?"

Judi Dench

About Warwickshire Vision Support



Warwickshire Vision Support, formerly known as Warwickshire Association for the Blind, is a local charity that has been supporting visually impaired people in Warwickshire and Coventry since 1911. With more than 3,200 service users and over 300 volunteers, Warwickshire Vision Support provides Statutory Rehabilitation Services and Charitable Support Services across the county.

We run an extensive network of Vision Support Centres and Social Clubs across Warwickshire. Each activity is tailored to the needs of its service users with a focus on promoting independence. Our goals are to help people to maximise their remaining vision and to enable them to develop the skills and confidence to get the most out of life.

In addition to these location based services, we provide Home Visitors to support people in their homes and IT training programmes to enable people to take advantage of the power of the Internet. We also hold regular Magnifier sessions across the county to ensure that our service users are able to continue using their sight for as long as possible.

Warwickshire Vision Support is contracted by Warwickshire County Council to provide Rehabilitation and Registration Services to people living with sight loss.

"The Vision Support Centre helps me to keep in touch and up-to-date"



ROBERT HARE
RUGBY

Rehabilitation Service

Supporting people who have recently lost their sight to acquire new skills and to help those who face life changes that impact on their sight loss

Rehabilitation Services facilitate the development of new skills to enable people to maintain their independence. This includes:

- Getting out and about safely
- Using public transport

Vision Support Centres

Providing advice and information, equipment and exhibitions, social support and access to all our services locally in seven locations across Warwickshire

The seven Vision Support Centres are located in the larger towns of Warwickshire and in the centre of Coventry.

Based in existing community resources and operating for one morning or afternoon each week,

Home Visitor Service

A befriending service supporting 100 people living with sight loss to maintain their independence.

Home visitors read mail and help to manage correspondence.

We can provide regular visits to help keep abreast of correspondence or ad hoc

Social Clubs & Groups

Our 14 Clubs are attended by over 200 people

Many visually impaired people in Warwickshire live in small villages with limited public transport.

We run 14 clubs and groups across Warwickshire providing a wide



- Safely moving around the home
- Cooking and making hot drinks
- Using household appliances safely
- Support with communications.

Warwickshire Vision Support provides this service and maintains the Register of Blind and Partially Sighted People in Warwickshire on behalf of the County Council.



we are able to reach the largest number of people whilst keeping costs to a minimum.

The Centres provide access to advice and information; a comprehensive display of specialist equipment for visually impaired people; opportunities to learn

about new technology; to keep abreast of local services; and, help to navigate the benefits system.

Perhaps most importantly, they offer an informal support network for those who are often living in isolation.



visits to address specific issues. Alternatively, volunteers may read newspapers, magazines or books or help unpack groceries and monitor the “use by” dates on food in the fridge.

For many, the Home Visitor Service is a connection to the outside world and an opportunity to share a cup of tea and a chat.



variety of entertainment, social activities and support to our 200+ regular club members.

Each club has a geographic

catchment area, provides door-to-door transport to the venue and sets its own programme to suit its members.

Eye Clinic Support Desk

Providing a crucial point of support for visually impaired people at the point of diagnosis

By providing information and advice at the point of diagnosis we hope to highlight some of the support services you may choose to access.

Interactive Technology Programme

Helping visually impaired people to use computers, tablets and mobile phones

This innovative programme seeks to break down the digital divide and enable visually impaired people to maximise the potential of the Internet.

Participants learn which device

My Guide



Supporting visually impaired people to keep fit and access their local community

In partnership with Guide Dogs, we are providing volunteers trained in sighted guiding to help people isolated in their homes to get out and about to improve their physical fitness and participate in local community activities.

Warwickshire Vision Magazine

The only countywide magazine for visually impaired people in Warwickshire

Available in large print, Braille, email and high quality digital audio, Warwickshire Vision provides information, news and special



This approach creates an essential link between the health, rehabilitation and care services and tries to reduce the sense of isolation and vulnerability

people may experience. Currently available in Warwick and Stratford, we hope to extend this service to other eye clinics across the county.



best suits their needs and provides the skills to access health, social and commercial websites for managing daily life.

Established with the support of the Department of Health's

Health & Social Care Volunteering Fund, this programme provides individualised training in the use of computers, tablets and smart phones.

Shoppa Hoppa



Weekly shopping trips that promote choice and independence

In partnership with Back & 4th Community Transport we are providing transport and volunteers to help visually impaired people in Mid Warwickshire to go to a supermarket to do their own shopping.



interest articles on a wide range of issues of value to our members.

The magazine is published three times each year

Our activities are only possible thanks to the selfless contribution of our team of 300 dedicated volunteers who donate thousands of hours of their time to support people living with sight loss.

Serving all people with sight loss in Warwickshire & Coventry



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